

WMES School Council Minutes

Date: Thursday, November 4th 2021

In Attendance: Principal Sean Latta, Gwynne Orsten, Amber Peatman, Theresa Peeters, Lauren Billey, Barb Livie, Carla Gimber, Rachel Smith, Brandy McLean, Shannon Zemlak, Brad Toone, Kim Gugala, Sandra Detmers, Jasmine Olsen, Kendra Pittman, Ceri Penner, Joseph & Sherri Steeves, Heather Stonehouse, Liz Sabey.

Approval of minutes from last meeting: Lauren Billey Seconded by: Theresa Peeters

New Business:

-Staff Dinner provided by school council on October 18th was catered by Mary of Mary's Catering. Drinks were generously donated by Shell and Diane of 7th Street Sweets kindly donated sweets to the dinner. Well received by everyone.

-Discussed where we are with fundraising with Mrs. Orsten. Waiting on wall to be built for the outdoor classroom on south end. Ms. Dovell sourced some used bleachers which are now in Claresholm but in need of some repairs estimated to cost between \$300-\$500 which will come out of fundraising. Also requesting fundraising dollars to build new supply shed on North End of school for loose parts. Mr. Oakes at the high school has agreed to have his students build the shed for the cost of the supplies estimated to be around \$3500.

-Swimming is booked for January for K-3 more details to follow.

-Kendra new treasurer for Fundraising committee spoke regarding casino money needing to be used up before we can do another casino. Fundraising committee to meet directly after school council meeting. Will be using funds for outdoor classroom.

-Mr. Latta discussed the 7 Habits/Leader in Me framework the school is currently focused on and presented a 3-minute video explaining the basis behind the

“program”. Seeing leadership as a choice and looking at the whole of each child. The school is moving in this direction and very excited about it. Trying to find a way to keep parents more in the loop about what they’re working on now and not only when things go back to “normal”. Gwynne discussed that they are creating action teams amongst teachers and one group is focused on ways to help inform families on what the school is up to while also adhering to present times/rules. Students are learning to be proactive, choose their own weather, choosing their own happiness, focusing on looking for solutions vs problems and building their circle of control, allowing them to find strategies to help them feel they have control over themselves and their reactions. Lots of feedback already from parents who have heard a lot of these terms follow their children home.

-Christmas discussion will be tabled for next meeting so we have a clearer idea of what restrictions will be closer to that time.

Trustee Report- Carla Gimber

-Expressed excitement to be a new board member covering West Meadows & Stavely Elementary

-Community as a Classroom/School as a Base Camp. Discussed the benefits of place-based programming for students & community.

-Enrollment is up from projections by 49 students (in classroom and virtual)

-One trustee from each ward will be sitting on a board and Carla will be the trustee for Stavely & West Meadow.

-The Board of Trustees elected their new 2021-2022 Board Chair and Vice Chair; Lacey Poytress and Greg Long. Congratulations to them.

Principal’s Report- Mr. Latta

-Discovery Days is going on week 3 now. As students are limited to grade cohorts the choices of activities went from around 10 to 3-4 but despite limitations staff and students are enjoying the extra block of time to explore their passions or try

something new. Hoping to run it 2 more times during this school year with a break between each session.

-Back to “normality” as much as possible with current restrictions and extra-curriculars are a go such as Run Club, Triple Ball and Choir which has 53 students participating.

-Behaviour and illness are up amongst students. Exhaustion as well and it’s been a big challenge even more so than last year.

-Report cards due November 21st will go home on November 26th.

-Remembrance Day ceremony tomorrow with no public. Students are asked to dress their best.

-20-minute reading challenge going well and continuing into this month.

-WIGS aka Wildly Important Goals going very well. Each class picks their own goal which is tracked and monitored and at the end of achieving their class goal they get to ring the WIG bell. Noticing students are really celebrating and excited for the other classes as well. If 14 classes in the school reach their WIG goal the school will have a big celebration as a whole.

-Ongoing concern about school drop offs and traffic around the school. Despite posting it on the school website (some) parents still aren’t adhering to the rules. School council will also reach out to parents and think it’s time to ask the RCMP/Bylaw to get involved. It’s getting dangerous and need to be proactive in preventing something from happening.

-Food provided on Parent/Teacher Conference Day was well appreciated. Too busy eating so didn’t manage to take a picture but it was delicious.

-Amber suggests School Council come up with their own WIG suggestion for the board’s coming school year. Will be taking suggestions at next month’s meeting.

Next Meeting: November 25th @ 8:00pm

Adjourned by Amber @ 8:52pm

