

## WMES Parent Council Minutes

Date: January 27<sup>th</sup>, 2022

In Attendance: Amber Peatman, Theresa Peeters, Amanda Toone, Sean Latta, Barbara Livie, Gwen Orsten, Brandy McLean, Carla Gimber, Kendra Pittman, Jasmine Olsen, Lauren Billey, Kim Gugala.

Meeting commenced at 8:02 pm

Approval of minutes from last meeting: Theresa Peeters

Move to adopt as read: Kendra Pittman

### Old Business:

-Traffic- RCMP is more present so situation seems to be better but not yet a non-issue. Perhaps less issues because of police presence. Will continue to monitor the situation and parent council will post frequent "reminders" on Facebook page and aim for more obvious signage in the staff parking lot.

-WIG for parent council- "Unplugged Week". Lauren and Barb have volunteered to act as event planners and will tie in with fundraising to try to organized a fun event more towards the end of the school year. More to follow.

### New Business:

-There is a \$500 grant available to parent councils to try to increase parent engagement in school which in covid times quite challenging. Looking for ideas and suggestions of ways to reach out and get parents more involved. Will try to have some information ready for presentation during parent/teacher interviews.

-Survey due at end of January regarding food fundraisers in school. Someone from fundraising committee will complete.

-Email received about school photographer and if there is not a local option? School's answer is that the current photographer has always just been rolled over and booked into the next school year as it's something that needs to be booked far in advance. So, if we do want to go local option, we will need to look at booking that into 2023. Parents agree that in the past having a parent volunteer(s) there was nice to help with grooming the kids a bit before it's their turn.

### Trustee's Report: Carla Gimber

Key messages (December)

-Alternative programs being added: Flight Academy & Fire Academy

Key messages (January)

-Grade 1-3 students are needing additional supports in class due to Covid 19 disruptions.

-58 International students are arriving from 12 different countries and the school board is looking for homestay families.

-Inclusive Education Presentation: support of teachers and students.

- Board Meetings will be live streamed starting next month via the LRSD YouTube channel.
- Regional school council is creating a newsletter on a monthly basis and looking for suggestions.

### Principal's Report

- Habit #3: "Put first things first" Make time for your priorities. In school students used an Inukshuk to help them visualize their priorities.
- Literacy Day was a lot of fun and a success. Students were able to pick out a new to them book. Classrooms had separate activities to celebrate literacy.
- Round 2 of Discovery Days starts tomorrow. Still sticking within grade cohorts.
- Outdoor classroom is still being sorted by Ms. Dovell who is seeking help from an engineering company in Calgary. First shed is nearing completion by the highschool students.
- ATA Call to Action Meeting, seeking to remove disciplinary action of ATA. Government is taking away professionalism of teachers as this would take away their voices leading to more privatization of education. Parent support for teachers is vital.
- School was able to add Jenny McKee back as part of the grade 2/3 intervention team to help grade 2/3 students who suffered learning disruptions due to covid 19 shut downs. Working mainly on literacy and numeracy intervention. Still pending decision on Grade 1 Intervention.
- January 17<sup>th</sup> pro-d day was moved to the end of June as teachers wanted to have students face-to-face as soon as possible after the extended winter break.
- June 27<sup>th</sup> last day of school would like to start planning something fun. More to come!
- Covid 19 news/health news. Currently 50-70 kids absent for the last 2 weeks including approximately 20 covid cases or close contacts. The rest of parents aren't saying why kids are absent perhaps still too much stigma surrounding a covid "diagnosis". Teachers are doing their best to catch students up but will become trickier if staff fall ill as the substitute pool is rapidly dwindling.
- Some messages have been going around Facebook suggestion parents email the principal and superintendent to protest the mask rule for grades 4-6. This is disheartening as the staff at school do not make up these rules and are doing the best they can to keep as much normalcy for students as possible. If you see posts like these surfacing it would be much appreciated if you remind them that the school staff do not make these decisions and it would be a better use of time to contact their MLA/appropriate body of government.
- Student Leadership awards and luncheon coming next week.
- The school is in need of clothing for K-2 students to keep at school for when accidents arise. Many parents have heard the call and will bring donations to the school.

Meeting concluded @ 8:58pm