

## **WMES Parent Council Meeting Minutes - January 24, 2024**

Attendance: Carla Gimber (trustee), Gwynne Orsten (teacher rep), Rachel Green, Sean Latta (principal), Joseph Steeves, Heather MacDonald (assistant principal), Shauna Fankhauser

Meeting called to order at 8:08 pm via Google Meet

Approval of Agenda - motion Joseph Steeves, second Shauna Fankhauser

Approval of November Minutes - motion Shauna Fankhauser, second Joseph Steeves

### **Old Business**

Lighthouse Team - will be invited to our next in person meeting (April) to give a presentation and answer questions from council - Rachel will send a written invitation closer to the meeting

- They are currently collecting drink can tabs to fundraise for a local hospital
- The team consists of 8-9 grade 4 and 5 students and is mentored by last year's members (approximately 25% of eligible students are on the team)

The School Council minutes are much more accessible on the website - thank you Sean

Trustee Report - three key messages (see attached)

1. Nanton School Enhancement Committee is hosting an open house to look at plans February 8 from 6-8 pm
  2. Presentation by the International Education Program - they are looking for local host families
  3. Four day school week - the board needs to have a plan on how to move forward and investigate this potential for the April 2024 meeting; stakeholder surveys will likely be a part of that plan; other area schools already run on this schedule including Champion and Lomond – Rachel will reach out to their school council chair to initiate discussions
- The next Regional School Council meeting will be March 12 and will go over resolutions for the ASCA (Alberta School Council Association) conference and be presented at our March meeting to decide our votes as a school council.

Teacher Report (Gwynne) and Principal Report (Sean)

- Thank you to the school council for the Christmas gifts
- There was great turn out for the Christmas concert, both in person and online; thank you to everyone who attended
- Swimming lessons for all grades and round 2 of Discovery Days have begun
- The grade 4 student led assembly will be Friday, January 26
- The grade 1 student led assembly will be Friday, February 16
- Report cards will come out March 8 followed by parent teacher interviews
- Polar Club started with great attendance, now open to all grades (67 kids played outside in -29!)
- Walking Club has been running during indoor lunch recess
- Safety Patrol had their field trip - skating with the Lethbridge Hurricanes
- Announcement Team to be up and going shortly

## **New Business**

Upgrades to the 4/5/6 playground - the issue with the matting is cosmetic, not a safety problem; we will look into this to decide a course of action in the spring

\$500 parent engagement funds - there are many ways to use this; council will gather options and poll parents to see what they would be interested in

Discussion on the objectives of the School Council is moved to the next meeting

Meeting Adjourned 8:47 pm



## BOARD OF TRUSTEES KEY MESSAGES

Following are the Key Messages from the Board of Trustees Regular Meeting held on Monday, December 18, 2023. Each month the Board Key Messages are shared at School Council Meetings. See your school's website for information about upcoming meetings and agendas.

- 1) **Nanton School Enhancement Committee (NSEC) Presentation** – Greg Graves, Jennifer Jones and Amy Gillespie of the NSEC presented to the board of trustees. The committee desires to unite with community partners to fundraise for the expansion of the Learning Commons area at the new A.B. Daley School. The Board of Trustees approved to support, in principle, the Nanton School Enhancement Committee's learning commons initiative, contingent on financial support (guarantor) from the municipality(ies). For more information please visit our webpage at [NSEC media release](#).
- 2) **International Education Presentation** – International Coordinator, Jas Schmirler, presented an International Education update to the Board of Trustees. Currently there are 78 students enrolled in the LRSD International Education Program. Students are attending from 12 Countries around the world: Austria, Australia, Belgium, Brazil, China, France, Germany, Mexico, Spain, Switzerland, Thailand and Turkey. LRSD is an amazing place for students from around the world to study and learn. The exciting and beautiful location offers great opportunities for outdoor activities and experiences, our students are engaged in academic programming to be successful in school and beyond. The goals for this program are to increase/expand student enrollment and diversifying language markets, recruit host families, create a Student Ambassador program at each school along with Leadership and to create exchange opportunities for local students. Community and Stakeholder involvement is key to making these goals a reality. LRSD is looking for more homestay families to help us grow this program and maintain the education/opportunities for these international students. Homestay placements are carefully chosen and inspected to meet each students unique needs, and offer safe and caring homes that encourage the international student to be part of the family. For more information on this program and possibly becoming a host family, please visit our webpage at [Host a Student](#).
- 3) **4 Day School Week** - At the request of the Board, Darryl Seguin, Superintendent provided the Board with an overview of the exploration to consider a 4 Day School Week. The Board of Trustees moved to develop a plan, including next steps and stakeholder engagement, to be brought forward no later than the April 2024 board meeting for approval. For more information please visit our webpage at [Explore 4-Day School Week Media Release](#).

**Every student, every day.**

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# Trustees Continue to Explore 4-Day School Week

Posted on Dec 20, 2023



Livingstone Range School Division Board of Trustees continue to explore the option of a 4-day school week. Superintendent Darryl Seguin presented information to the Board at their regular board meeting on Monday, December 18, 2023.

In November 2020, March 2021, and October 2022, stakeholders provided feedback around school year calendars, including a modified school week. The Trustees have been actively gathering information on this topic since the fall of 2021.

While no decision has been made about a 4-day school week at this time, the Board of Trustees will continue to consider all factors and implications of a change such as this.

At the December 18 meeting the Trustees passed a motion “That the Board develop a plan including next steps and stakeholder engagement and bring it forward no later than the April Board meeting for approval.”

The date for the April Board meeting is April 22, 2024.

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