

Ecole Westlock Elementary School

Advisory Council Meeting

November 29, 2011 Minutes

In attendance: Stacy Howse, Amie Brett, Donna Lawrence, Kerri Wiegand, Pam Kawulich, Paula Mielke, Terry Anderson, Dan McDonald, Bev Carter, Margaret Benham, Deb Dubrulle, Latanya Neufeld, Jennifer Bushaw, Scott Letts

1.0 Open Meeting – 7:03 pm by Stacy Howse

2.0 Adoption of Agenda – by Dan McDonald, 2nd Paula Mielke

3.0 Adoption of Prior Minutes – by Latanya Neufeld, 2nd Deb Dubrulle

4.0 Principal's Report – Terry Anderson

- plan to have one ipad in each classroom; great technology especially for special needs learners would respond to touch screens.
- 563 students as of today
- budget in good shape; transitional funds 76K provides funding for 2 program assistants and ½ teaching position to help with Grade 5 and 6
- other staffing news – Mrs. LeBlanc and Mrs Carter will be covering off maternity leaves until the end of June .
- fundraising – magazine sales grossed 53K! Thanks everyone! Question from parents regarding lucrative prizes for kids. WES does not have any input on prizes; they are provided by the company (QSB).
- Grade 1 and 6 teachers experimented with the new progress reports. WES is mandated to use the power school program and are trying to make the transition as smooth as possible. The bottom-line for the school is maintain the excellent communication between staff and parents.
- A reminder - Christmas Break is December 23 – January 9
- Lockdown Feedback – would like input from parents – some students could be terrified of the process. Suggestions included: not including children at all, just practice with staff; practice with staff first and then students; inform parents before and after the practice so they can help prepare their kids; the school is a safe learning environment for kids, so it is a safe place to learn about the need for lock down procedures; school needs to be prepared – the odds of requiring a lock down are better than requiring a fire drill; could provide an opportunity for older kids or stronger/calmer kids to help their classmates (buddy system).

5.0 Friends of WES – Kerri Wiegand

- Coffee, Tea, Hot Chocolate fundraiser brought in \$1,800 enough to fund their existing commitments – Grade 5 ski trip and Grade 6 outdoor education program.

6.0 Old Business

6.1 Breakfast Program – Deb Dubrule

- Need parent volunteers to provide breakfast to the older kids – about 30 minute commitment (8:20-8:50 am).
- Grade 6 students volunteers provide breakfast to the younger kids
- the program provides breakfast to approximately 30 kids
- need to make sure that breakfast gets offered to all kids (ie., wait for late buses), but students need to have breakfast and still get to class in time.

6.2 WES Website

- website continues to grow under Ms. Quong’s leadership and is an excellent resource for parents.
- Look for upcoming events and school news
- each classroom has a webpage.
- The weblinks section has links to all kinds of interesting sites that the teachers and students use at school that would be great to use at home as well (ie. Dreambox, storybird, animot).

7.0 New Business

7.1 PHRD Parent Focus Group

- PHRD consults with parents each during through a focus group.
- Focus group questions were provided. Anyone wishing to contribute to the focus group contact Stacy Howse.
- PHRD also consults with a student focus group – grade 5 and 6 WES students responded to the same set of questions. This was a very productive, informative session.

8.0 Trustee Report

- None available this meeting.

9.0 Next Meeting – January 25, 2012.

10.0 Adjournment – 8:30 pm.

Also – Teacher’s Christmas Luncheon – December 15 – volunteers needed to provide food and help with noon hour supervision. Contact Ami Brett or Paula Mielke.