

## **Ecole Westlock Elementary School Advisory Council Meeting Minutes**

Thursday January 21st, 2021 virtual meeting via Webex.

**Attendance:** J. Woynorowski, W. Scinski, P. Ouimet, A. Monteath, M. Mandziuk, M. Brown, A. Keyes

**Call to Order:** 5:32pm

**Treaty Acknowledgement-** We honour the many First Nations, Metis and Inuit whose footsteps have marked these lands for centuries. We acknowledge that the land on which we gather is Treaty 6 territory, an ancestral and traditional meeting ground for many indigenous peoples. We honor the presence and contribution of the First Nations, Metis and Inuit people who live, work and learn together in our communities.

**Adopt Agenda:** no changes requested

**Adopt previous minutes:** Adopted

**Principals Report-** Pierre Ouimet -*Division parents surveys were sent out earlier this year, all delivered online with no phone calls. Had increased response through this method. Currently the parent survey has ended and staff and students are now completing surveys. Alberta Education has decided not to do their annual survey this year of Grades 4, 7,9,etc.*

*PD day January 29<sup>th</sup>- site based PD day with a speaker through EDLC, topic is Trauma Informed Classroom. District PD day March 12 will have a similar theme- Navigating Disruption with Connection. Cancelled activities due to Covid- heritage classic hockey game, air guitar/lip sync talent show, CPF family dance, basketball season.*

*Activities still happening- Pink shirt day, science fair-there will be no formal judging. Parent/teacher conference is the 2<sup>nd</sup> week in March- delivery over phone or online. Reading Month- March- will be shortened to the first two weeks. No guest readers will be possible this year-the school is looking at different options to make the Reading Month engaging.*

*Kindergarten registration- hoping to start advertising and taking registrations before spring break. No open house will be possible this year. Hoping to do a video to show classrooms and introduce teachers. Teachers convention February 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> will be online.*

*FNMI (First Nations, Metis, Inuit)- discussion held with district admins. Discussed documents developed over the last 12 years regarding reconciliation. PHRD has a committee regarding FNMI. In regards to aboriginal artifacts/teepees etc we will not be moving forward until more policy etc is developed in regards to reconciliation and our relationship with aboriginal peoples.*

**Trustees Report-** Wendy Scinski- *School Viability- no schools are currently being considered for closure. Fort Assiniboine did not meet the student enrolment criteria. Due to Covid enrolment has been down across all schools. Higher enrolment numbers are expected next year. Budget- the 2019/2020 school year ended with a surplus of \$2 million. Some of this was due to student at home learning from March-June and Vista Virtual having a very successful summer program. When the board learned of this, we asked senior administration to ask principals what might be added to allow more supports to students. The advice was more support staff so an ad was placed for 1 ft Speech Language Pathologist and 1ft Behavior Therapist and a .5 Occupational Therapist.*

*School Year Calendar- The board approved the 2021/2022 calendar for PHSD. The approved school year for next year starts with staggered entries on August 31 and September 1 (due to positive feedback from 2020/2021 staggered start).*

*Mental Health Project- This is a joint project between PHSD, Barrhead Community Living and Barrhead Anglican Church. It is funded through a Covid Mental Health grant. The program is called Together Talk and will focus on providing on-site as well as virtual counselling, as well as group activities to promote mental well being.*

*Insurance- the insurance budget was set at \$800 000 and actual costs came in at \$400 000.*

*Great news!*

*Trustee Elections- September 20 is the cut off date for filing nomination papers. October 18, 2021 will be the election day for trustees. People can get the nomination packages online or they can be picked up at the Regional Office in Barrhead. We will be running ads in the local paper twice a month until September and then they will run the two weeks prior to September 20. I strongly encourage people with a passion for education to run.*

*Trustee Interviews- Trustees will be calling school council chairs as well as various businesses and elected officials to get a broader perspective on what our stakeholders value in education.*

**Friends of Westlock Elementary School report-no report due to no representative present.**

**CPF Report- provided \$500 per FI classroom. Still waiting for feedback form teachers on how money was spent.**

**Old business-** 380 crazy carpets were ordered for the students. A bottle drive was held on January 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>, all proceeds to go towards outdoor sports equipment. \$702.55 raised!

Follow up to the \$500 per classroom pledged by Friends of WES and CPF. Have any of these funds been used yet? Kindness project is starting February. Thank you to Abby Keyes for spearheading the project and making a very informative video to explain the objectives and implementation to the educators. There is also teacher of the month (Feb-May)-this requires nominations. Water bottles have arrived- action plan to sell.

**New business-** Pizza Day is February 2<sup>nd</sup>. Independent Grocers is working with us and has offered special pricing on juice boxes for our pizza day.

**Spruce up in front of school between the flower beds-** gravel or rubber mats. Seating and tables. Will look into picnic tables for there again. *No discussion due to 50 minute time constraint.*

**Teacher Appreciation-** we typically do a potluck lunch at the end of January. This is not possible due to Covid. Pierre is suggesting pizza in the format it is provided to the students (individual box). Suggested dates are January 25 or February 1<sup>st</sup>. We are looking at approx. 49 staff plus custodians. *Will get a budget from Friends of Ecole Westlock Elementary School and proceed with pizza in Covid friendly delivery.*

**Bylaws-** are currently being reviewed and finalized.

**Any comments or suggestions?**

**Next meeting date:** *Not set due to meeting hitting time limit.- Will be May 27 2021 at 5:30pm. Location TBA.*

**Adjourn meeting:**