

## Division School Council Meeting Minutes for March 7, 2022

### 1. Land Acknowledgement

- Acknowledge that we are meeting as a School Council on Blackfoot land and give recognition to the Blackfoot people past and present.

### 2. Welcome and Introductions

- 16 participants

### 3. Additions to the Agenda

- 7.2 – Policy on Physical Violence in the Schools

### 4. Approval of the Agenda – Approved and accepted as presented with the additions

- Approved by: C.Y., Seconded by: T.E.

### 5. Approval of the Minutes from January 10, 2022

- Approved by: A.N., Seconded by: S.B.

### 6. Business Arising from the Minutes

- None

### 7. New Business

#### 7.1. Meeting format preference moving forward (in-person and/or Teams)

- With restrictions being lifted, meetings can resume in-person, remain on Teams, or can have the combination. But the challenges with the combination of teams and in-person, is that some cannot hear very well.

#### Discussion:

- one parent, who is a single parent prefers Teams as they can log in at any time with their kids at home.
- some parents would prefer to have the option to have Teams.
- Another parent likes both options, at Chinook, there was a combination, there was technical issues, however having both would be a great option. In-person, there is better conversations and to be inclusive to parents who want to be there to offer both.
- Some parents prefer the in-person conversations, are able to focus better.

#### Take Away:

- S.R. will take this back and look at the technology options look like and see if we can do combination meetings and ensure that it's a good quality meeting to ensure everyone has a voice.

#### Question: where is the in-person meeting?

**Answer:** it is in the Board Office in the Board Room; it comfortably seats 15 people.

#### 7.2. Physical Violence in the school – where are the policies in regard to Physical Violence

- The policies are on the division website: <https://www.lethsd.ab.ca/our-district/policies2>
- The policies are listed in the '500 Students' policies, the information around student behavior and consequences start at 502.1 through to 502.1.11.

### 8. Engagement Fund Discussion (opportunity to share ideas councils have come up with to utilize the funds) – S.R.

#### Discussion on ideas with how Schools plan to use the \$500 grant:

- One parent has children in 3 schools and each school plans on using it on a presentation on mental health and each school at kids age level.

#### Question: When does the grant expire?

**Answer:** The grant expires at the end of the school year (June) and if a school chooses not to use it, that money will not be available any further, the \$500 will be sent back to the provincial government.

- At Agnes Davidson, they are looking at offering Parent French classes.
- There was a suggestion, sometimes an instructor or presentation is more than \$500, School Councils could pool their money together. For example, bring in Bonnie Stelmach could come in and talk/presentation.
  - Bonnie Stelmach has done a lot with Parent engagement and throughout the pandemic, she has a lot of great information on parent engagement.
  - She does presentations on building School Community.
  - <https://intersectioneducation.com/2019/10/15/58-dr-bonnie-stelmach-building-school-communities/>
- Board Leadership offers some amazing opportunities to learn about how Boards and Councils work, how to write grants, Roberts Rules of Order, etc.
- There is a session with Debbie Pushor, March 24<sup>th</sup>, called 'Join the Gentle Revolution'.
  - Tickets are under \$20 each, so if your school is looking to spend those funds and use to see Debbie Pushor, which would be a great use of the \$500.
  - <https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/engaging-parents-the-gentle-revolution-with-dr-debbie-pushor-tickets-269215409537?ref=eios>
- Wilson Middle School is having an engagement evening and are having agencies, sports organizations, Jump Starts, etc.... come into the school and allowing parents to have contact with agencies that they haven't had contact with due to Covid. This is an opportunity for Parents to see what is available, what are the costs, what are the dates.

**Question:** Most of those agencies wouldn't charge for that event, so you can't use the grant for refreshments, so how would you spend the money?

**Answer:** for an event like that, you may not be able to spend the money, but you could have the community even as a jumping point to engage with Parents. It would be nice if you could use \$100 for refreshments as that is how to get people in the door. Alberta Education doesn't allow that currently.

**Question:** The \$250 from the Division to send folks to the ASCA, could that be used for parent engagement? Also, if you didn't use the \$250 last year, can you use last years and this years towards parent engagement?

**Answer (Trustee A.P):** Yes, the \$250 can be used for parent engagement instead of sending parents to ASCA. Need to clarify if that money can be used to spend money on refreshments.

**Clarification (addition to the Minutes):** it has been clarified that the \$250 can be used for refreshments, however the goal is to use it for the engagement of parents. Also, the \$250 is not returned to the Divisions, the schools retain the \$250 and can be use cumulatively.

- School Council Community Engagement Funding from Alberta Education will be a standing agenda item to generate some ideas.

## 9. Trustee Report

- The Board presentation was from Human Resource on hiring practices in the Division.
- Had policy review, policy 303.1 Administration Appointments and 404.3.1 Leaves of Absence
- Communications Officer, Garrett Simmons reviewed the communications plan and that is on the division website, if you have any feedback connect with Garrett Simmons or Genny Steed: <https://www.lethsd.ab.ca/download/221678>
- Committee of the whole dates have been set. These are meetings they are having outside of the Board Meetings, the first one will be March 8, 2022.
- March 29<sup>th</sup> will be the budget debrief.
- Had the first Community Conversations meeting on Tuesday Feb. 10<sup>th</sup>. The Board is hoping to connect monthly with the community. The next Coffee and Chat will be at March 17<sup>th</sup> at the Boys and Girls Club Youth Center, that event will be posted on the Division Website: <https://lethsdcommunityengagement.schoolsites.ca/home/news/post/first-board-of-trustees-community-conversations-event-set-for-feb-10>
- February 1<sup>st</sup> was the annual Town Hall, thank you to all who participated.

- The Board met for 2 days for the annual strategic planning retreat. They review the comments and feedback and the themes pulled from the Town Hall.
- One theme is how to communicate to stakeholders' feedback from Town Hall.
- The next Board Meeting Tuesday March 22nd and the public forum begins at 5pm

**Question:** the public form is March 22nd at 5pm and what is the location for that?

**Answer:** you can connect at 5pm, it's on Teams only at this time. Not sure if they are opening up to in-person meetings. You can access the meeting at 2:30, but if you want to address the board you can at 5pm.

**Comment:** Some parents did go to the Community Conversations and wanted to say thank-you to the Trustees for holding that and encourages to hear their experiences and where they are coming from. Thank-you for having a listening ear. Hopefully there will be green coffee for everyone.

## 10. Alberta School Councils Association

- The ASCA is having their conference April 23 and 23<sup>rd</sup>, the AGM is on the Sunday 24<sup>th</sup>. The AGM is when the resolutions are being discussed and voted.
- There are 4 topics
  - Diploma exam weighting changes
  - Policy reviews for maintenance
  - Restoration for Alberta Council
  - Revise advocacy 12.2
- Every school gets a vote for the resolutions.
- AGM is online, you don't have to travel. The Conference was going to be in-person, but it was changed it to be entirely back to be online.
- The Division pays the registration.
- An individual can carry 10 proxy votes for other School Councils.
- The conference is a great learning opportunity:
- <https://www.albertaschoolcouncils.ca/about/annual-conference>
- <https://www.albertaschoolcouncils.ca/about/annual-general-meeting/meeting-documents>
- Deadline for proxy votes is in early April.
- Some School Council's create committees for the resolution to advocate  
\*\*\*\*\*Thank-you for the division for paying for the registration\*\*\*\*\*

## 11. Reports from Division Committees

### 11.1. Community Engagement Committee (January 13th)

- Has not had a meeting since January
- ICE Scholarship online event was held, it was successful
- Meeting again in 2 weeks
- Everyone is welcome to come to the meetings, they are hybrid meetings, in-person and online.
- The link is on the Division Website for Community Engagement

### 11.2. Division Wellness Committee (January 24th)

- Due to Covid, they had 2 AHS individuals come in and answer questions.
- Talked about the wellness inventory process
- Spoke about grants that are done annual for schools
- Talked about ideas for health champ meetings
- Mental Health capacity building has taken on wellness throw downs for dance, like Tik Tok and create a Division wide encouragement to be active and connect with others
- Community Agency participation and they work with communities to support kids
- AHS Comprehensive Health Coordinator shared the schools healthier together website info and let them know what was going on in the province

### 11.3. Policy Advisory Committee (March 2nd)

- They have finished editing the last policies

- 400.1.1 Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity and Gender Expression – there were some edits
- 404.6 Co-Curricular Grants and Honoraria - some wording changes
- 402.8.3 Employee Assistance and Wellness Programs – some minor wording changes
- Next meeting is on April 6, 2022

**Question:** How do these committees’ meetings work?

**Answer:** People can volunteer to be on the committees to report back to the Division School Council Meetings, this is done in the beginning of the year. But groups like the Community Engagement Committee is open to everyone.

## 12. Superintendent’s Report – Cheryl Gilmore

### 12.1. Town Hall Response Themes

- The purpose was to get feedback and engage the community
- They use the feedback for strategic planning for the next year
- There were 2 broad questions:
  - Question 1: In what ways have we successfully supported student learnings?
  - Question 2: What can the School Division do to strengthen support in Student Learning?
- There were some technical issues this year
- The process was to assign people to rooms and a thought stream polls
- Participants:
  - Community: 15
  - Staff: 41
  - Parents: 70
  - Students: 32
- Some of the themes taken from the feedback are below:
  - Theme 1: Inclusion

**Theme 1: Inclusion**

Subthemes: Diversity, Learning, Supports, Social Supports, Staff

**Successfully Supported Student Learning**

- Programs that support diversity
- Student success because of instructional practices that support individual students
- Staff and universal supports recognized as contributing to success
- Successful connections with community to support families

**How to Strengthen**

- Better practices to support Diversity (anti-racism, LGBTQ+, marginalized)
- Be sure to pay attention to learning gaps, self-regulation, attention to gifted students,
- Continue with intervention/ support for gaps in learning
- Continued attention to programs that support families (Poverty Intervention, Making Connections, community support)
- Classroom assistant allocation

- Theme 2: Wellness

**Theme 2: Wellness**

**Successfully Supported Student Learning**

- Support for mental health that is in place
- Caring and supportive classrooms/ schools
- Strong relationships
- Physical activity; engagement
- Counsellors at elementary

**How to Strengthen**

- Use of universal strategies for supporting wellness/ mental health
- Increase access to outside resources
- Strategies for staff wellness
- Access to counselling

- Theme 3: Pedagogy

### Theme 3: Pedagogy (practice in the classroom)

**Successfully Supported Student Learning**

- Intervention programs (e.g. BOOST)
- Good option classes; teaching strategies; Learning Commons; improved assessment
- Focus on "Thinking Classroom"
- Infusion of Indigenous Ways of Knowing in the curriculum
- Choice of on-line learning and use of TEAMS when pivoted to at-home learning

**How to Strengthen**

- Continue Intervention
- Increased hands-on and experiential learning
- Connect curriculum to real life
- Better information about off-campus opportunities (e.g. Work Experience/ RAP)
- Higher standards
- More Arts and Sciences focus

- Theme 4: Communication

### Theme 4: Communication

**Successfully Supported Student Learning**

- Open lines of communication and feedback opportunities
- Well-informed
- School strategies and creative approaches to keeping students and families informed and connected.

**How to Strengthen**

- Better communication regarding programs and opportunities for students
- Communication about how learning gaps will be met
- Opportunity for parents to choose feedback topics
- Better listening and response
- More feedback about students progress

- Theme 5: COVID Restrictions

### Theme 5: COVID Restrictions

**Successfully Supported Student Learning**

- Application of restrictions (e.g. masking)
- Prioritizing in-class learning when possible
- Efforts to implement extra-curricular programs

**How to Strengthen**

- Removal of restrictions (e.g. masking)
- Removal of restrictions for extra-curricular and field trips
- Removal of vaccination procedures
- Removal of restrictions on volunteers

### Other Themes

- Board Advocacy for removal/ change of DRAFT K-6 curriculum
- Flexibility
- On-line Learning
- Resources
- Staff
- Organizational Structures (priority for in-class learning, schedules/ breaks/ time)
- Student Engagement (field trips, STEM activities, outdoor activities)
- Technology
- Collaboration (continue to support structures)
- Professional Learning
- Transitions

There is a complete summary will become available on the Division Community Engagement Website <https://lethsdcommunityengagement.schoolsites.ca/home/news/post/division-launches-new-public-engagement-website>

**12.2. COVID Update**

- The Division Website is updated with current practice

**Question:** Can you verify that all restrictions have been lifted?

**Answer:** Yes, but they continue to sanitize and keep some best practices.

**13. Roundtable Reports**

Reports are included with the agenda: an opportunity to highlight a very significant event or for questions from the representatives about information in a written report.

Adjournment @ 7:57pm

**Division School Council 2021-22 Meeting Dates:**

April 4, 2022                      May 2, 2022                      June 6, 2022

**2021-22 Division School Council Representatives**

Chair Shelley Roest

Vice Chair Alison Alma-North

Recording Secretary Marlaina Ditrich

Policy Advisory Committee Alison Alma-North and Jamie Walburger (alternate)

Poverty Intervention Committee Jamie Walburger and Shelley Roest (alternate)

Division Wellness Committee Edna Asem and Carrie Boschman (alternate)

Community Engagement Committee Shelley Roest, Cynthia Young and Jamie Walburger

## Division School Council School Highlights

<b>School:</b>	<b>Wilson Middle School</b>
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### School Highlights:

<p>Live Different – We invited an organization into our building to share and learn about values.</p>
<p>The staff at live different engaged students in an online platform that gave them a voice to talk about what they believe in and what is important to them. It was a great session for all students and staff.</p>
<p>Basketball – We were very fortunate to have a variety of basketball opportunities for our students here at WMS across five teams: senior boys, senior girls, junior boys, junior girls, and club basketball. About 100 students were able to participate in basketball activities on a weekly basis. Congratulations to both of our senior teams, who each won quarterfinal playoff games. Thanks to all of the amazing students here at Wilson for participating in our basketball and athletics programs and were able to participate in many practices, games, and tournaments. We hope to see many of you during badminton season!</p>
<p>Leadership students at Wilson Middle School continue to excel. In the past 4 months they have organized a schoolwide food drive for the food bank. They have created theme days where students dress up and get excited about their school and they continue to spread cheer and positivity through out the building. Leadership students at Wilson Middle School continue to excel. In the past 4 months they have organized a schoolwide food drive for the food bank. They have created a Gratitude Tree and numerous Public Service Announcements. Leadership students have also created theme days where students dress up and get excited about their school and they continue to spread cheer and positivity throughout the building.</p>
<p>Moana Jr. – Lauren</p>
<p>The students in the WMS bands were so excited to have their first band concert in 22 months! In December, we had a successful winter concert where two beginner bands, the grade 6s and grade 7s, were able to share their new talents, and the grade 8 band students got to share their growth as musicians since March 2020. We are currently preparing for our second band concert on March 10<sup>th</sup>. The grade 6 and 7 students are also excited to be able to participate in a band retreat at SABC to help them get intensive practice prior to our performance at the Lethbridge &amp; District Music &amp; Speech Arts Festival at the beginning of April. The grade 8 band students are eagerly awaiting their band trip in May where they will have the opportunity to perform at the Alberta Band Association Festival of Bands. Everyone is so happy to be able to participate in band and musical activities again.</p> <p>Choir -The students in the WMS Choir and Guitar programs have been working hard all year! The choir participated in the Winter Concert in December and are actively working to prepare for our Spring Concert on March 10. We are planning a Choir Retreat for choir members to bond together and additional preparations for our year-end concert.</p>

Guitar students have also been working to learn new songs and work together in groups to create smaller Rockbands. We look forward to joining all other WMS Music Ensembles at our Year End Concert. We hope to see you there!

Athletics - Wilson is getting ready to start Track and Field, after a two year off. Staff and students are looking forward to going to the U of L Track for our annual Track Meet on May 10, 2022. Badminton ID camps are also just around the corner. Wilson has received a combine \$7,400 in various grant applications and from Parent Council and we are finalizing plans for some outdoor activity equipment orders!

Indigenous education - We've had some very cool opportunities to meet with some important people in the district to build on our knowledge and understanding of Indigenous culture. We've had a chance to put up a Tipi and learn the significance of that process and are in the preparation stages for revealing the Wilson Winter Count!

The Wilson Winter count is a stretched deer hide that we will document important events on, this is something that will help us remember and record memorable moments at Wilson!

### **Participation in Decision-Making and/or Advocacy**

School council decided they wanted to engage families and support their mental health and well being. At the last meeting it was decided that we host a Community Engagement evening where we invite business in the community that support mental health and well being. This will allow families and the community to be supported in registering their students into sports, learn how to get financial support and learn about mental health supports as well.

Event: March 17 – 3:30 -6:30 p.m.

### **Fundraising (Do you have a successful event to share?):**

During our Sept/Oct card fundraiser, we raised just shy of \$22000 for WMS students. Thanks again to the WMS school community and surrounding communities for supporting the students here at WMS. Half of the fundraiser went to year end field trips and the other half went to buying outdoor activity equipment and supporting wellness and opportunities throughout our school communities.

Band/choir fundraisers:

Poinsettia fundraiser (Nov/Dec) – Raised almost \$2300, with all funds going towards each student's individual band retreat or band trip fees. We are doing another plant fundraiser for band from March 22 to April 14, with all funds still going toward grade 8 student trip fees. We are also looking at hosting a choir fundraiser, with details coming out shortly. All of these fundraisers go towards creating opportunities for the youth at WMS and we appreciate all the support!

### **Are there things your School Council is talking about/questions you have for other School Councils?**

WMS family Turkey Bingo via TEAMS over 200 people participated for 8 different prizes. The WMS PE team called the Bingo and it was nice to see so many families engaged in outside school event.



## Best Practices

Our Numeracy committee had the opportunity to work with Richelle Marynowski come in regards to meeting students numeracy needs. As a group the committee continues to use the data from the MIPI to better understand the learning needs of our students and come up with grade level plans to address those needs. Having a dedicated numeracy block has helped to prioritize meeting student needs.

The literacy teachers at WMS have formed three subcommittees, including: book buzz committee, Wilson writes committee, and special literacy events committee. Using these three committees, teachers have met to not only talk about instructional practices, but to also provide ongoing supports, strategies, challenges, and events for the students here at WMS throughout the year (for example, Rocky mountain book club challenge and our recent “Dear \_\_\_\_\_” writing piece).

In addition, a group of WMS teachers will be accessing professional learning in March to look at “disciplinary literacy” and to discuss ways of engaging their students with literacy throughout all subject areas. We have multiple teachers at each grade level being released on separate days to reflect on current practice and collaborate with peers.

Our teachers continue to utilize literacy screeners and assessments (for example, reading assessments such as Fountas and Pinnell Benchmark Assessment System and Heggerty Phonemic Awareness and Phonics screeners) as these assessments help us gather an understanding of where our students are at and to provide them with learning materials appropriate for their current abilities and to identify appropriate areas of growth.