

Whitecourt Central School Council

Minutes

Virtual Meeting – January 19, 2021

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| Call To Order | 5:32 PM called by Angie Ophus | |
| Approval of Minutes | 1st: Laureen Halloway | 2nd: Carla Hanas |
| Approval of Agenda | In favour: all | Opposed: none |
| Virtual Attendance: Tammy McKeever, Nicole Moir, Linda Wigton, Barb Maddigan, Shereen Trenchard, Laureen Holloway, Angie Ophus, Crystal Shields, Carla Hanas, Teagan Amott | | |

| Reports (Attached) | Time | Notes |
|---------------------------|------------------|---|
| Principal | 5 minutes | <p>(Tammy McKeever per attached report)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Board presentation on January 12, 2021: touched on some of the fluidity for this year. - Soliciting information for School Photos options for next 3years – summary of information will be shared with parents via school messenger – looking for feedback from parents. - Christmas presentations from each classroom went well. - Attendance concerns: varying levels of anxiety from some parents, teachers have been asked to put work into google classroom so that kids can access from home if they are required to be isolating. - Infrastructure funding to be focused on flooring in grade 4 areas, gym floor, and windows by class doors for safety. - Parent questions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o -25C and Bussing: when it is cold, bussing kids will wait in the gym/community centre – enough space to be socially distanced. o Educational Assistance support: there is a process that must be followed by the school administration to seek EA support for individual children, can also work directly with teachers to determine if there are other supports that can be offered in-class. |
| Teacher | 5 minutes | <p>(Nicole Moir per attached report)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Supports for teachers and students: purchasing FN/Inuit/Metis books to support social studies and literacy outcomes. This helps to support learning objectives related to Indigenous peoples. |

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| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Lunchbox program has provided individual lunch packages, accessible for any child who needs it (forgotten lunch, hungry etc) - Breakfast program is going well – prepackaged bags of cheerios or cereal is a big hit with kids. - School has been in contact with the Town of Whitecourt so that individual classes can skate on Rotary Pond. Rink in the school yard does not have the capacity to support the school. - Plans for Professional Development Day on January 31 – focus on literacy. Evaluating reading and writing assessments – working with literacy coach to support these outcomes for kids. |
| Success Coach | 5 minutes | <p>(Teagan Arnott per attached report)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Continuing with Universal programming: PATHS - Rather than individual outreach, focusing more on entire classes. - Mrs. Skipper is sitting on the Wellness Committee which focuses on wellness for both staff and students. - Several programs through Alberta Health Services, and also through grant funding – as a result the Team for Success to be able to deliver programming in other schools across the division, including for those doing online schooling. - Recommendation to reduce information/news regarding Covid – not healthy to focus entirely on sad news. - Ensure kids are getting enough sleep – helps with all areas of life, but especially schooling. |
| Treasurer | 5 minutes | <p>(Crystal Shields)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Crystal has contacted the bank to convert signing authority. |
| Trustee | 10 minutes | <p>(Barb Maddigan per attached report)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Board meetings have had presentations from individual school principals and council chairs. - Approved locally developed courses from Calgary Board of Education for film and media arts at high school levels. - Two motions at last Board meeting regarding reconfiguration or closing of schools, specific to Valleyview, however status quo will be maintained. Trying to get a new school for Valleyview. Community school in Sangudo was also discussed – status quo for this year given constraints with Covid. - Passed a borrowing bylaw to ensure there is monies available if necessary – typically this has not been drawn from. - Discussion regarding information flow from Alberta Health Services to schools regarding tracing information; if required, the Board will contact AHS to request improved communications. |

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| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Board will be having internal workshop on Feb 2 & 3 with guest speakers, also will discuss criteria for replacement Superintendent Andrea. - NGPS and School Local have reached a memorandum of understanding. - Superintendent Andrea is retiring in July 2021: active search for replacement will begin in March 2021. Recruitment will be Canada wide. |
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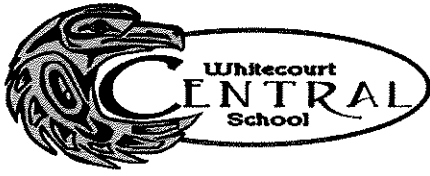
Old Business

- Bank signing
 - Crystal has set up a bank appointment.

New Business

- School Photos - new contract for 2022
 - School will share info via school messenger to solicit feedback from parents.
 - Edge Imaging
 - Smart Photography
 - Lifetouch
- 2021-2022 Draft Calendar
 - Draft NGPS Calendar has been provided; open to feedback until March 5, 2021 learn@NGPS.ca is the email to respond to with any questions/concerns/feedback on the calendar. Board will review feedback and proceed with approval of Calendar accordingly.

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| Next Meeting Date | February 16, 2021 at 5:30PM |
| Adjournment | 6:09 PM |



Minutes

Virtual Meeting – January 19, 2020

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| Call To Order | 6:09 PM Angle Ophus | |
| Approval of Minutes | No minutes from Nov 2020. | |
| Approval of Agenda | In favour: | Opposed: |

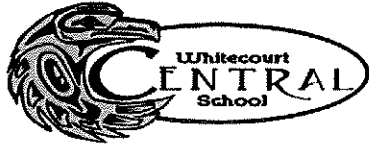
| Reports (Attached) | Time | Notes |
|---------------------------|------------------|--|
| Treasurer | 5 minutes | (Crystal Shields) Nothing to report at this time. |

New Business

- **Raffle**
 - Lauren made motion to spend up to \$150 per basket, Crystal seconded.
 - In an effort to build excitement and wellness with kids – EPIC kit might be interested in building a kit for families (ie: BBQ kit or game kit)
 - School would match funds raised by raffle and then proceeds would all be donated to Whitecourt Food Bank.
 - If EPIC wants to do a basket, then school will also put together a basket.
 - Lauren, Carla and Shereen to coordinate “family night in” basket due before Feb 8, tickets to be sold that week
 - Stitch in Time has WCS logo on file, perhaps a blanket!
 - Nicole and Tammy to coordinate “family night out” basket
- **Easter fundraiser**
 - Lauren made motion to proceed with fundraiser, Crystal seconded.
 - Purdy’s chocolate fundraiser, can be coordinated online, then “doorstop” pick up at the Community Centre.
 - Orders due by middle of March, delivery in time for March 26 before spring break.
 - School to send out link via school messenger.
- **School fundraising options (from Nicole Moir)**
 - Offered as ideas – no decisions made on this item in terms of focus items for fundraising.
 - Soccer nets will likely not work, however moving the soccer posts will be a better option.

- Instead focus on fundraising for new piece of playground equipment (eg: climbing wall or big saucer swing)
- Music program at WCS is excellent – a set of handbells would be an excellent long-term investment to broaden the program.

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| Next Meeting Date | February 16, 2021 following Council Meeting |
| Adjournment | 6:36 PM |



**Principal Report
School Council Meeting
Jan 19, 2021**

- 1. Board Presentation**
 - a. Jan 12

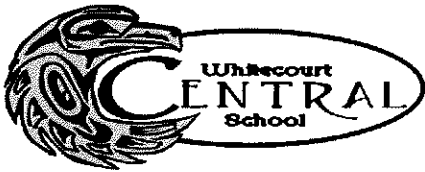
- 2. School Photos**
 - a. 3 companies to choose from
 - i. Smart
 - ii. Lifetouch
 - iii. Edge

- 3. Christmas Countdown**
 - a. good response

- 4. Attendance**
 - a. some concerns
 - b. Google Classroom
 - c. COVID related - chromebook

- 5. IMR Funding**
 - a. flooring in some of the gr 4 rooms
 - b. repair of the gym floor
 - c. windows in classroom doors

- 6. Parent Questions**
 - a. -25 and bussing
 - b. EA support



School Council - January 19, 2021 Teacher Report

- **FNMI Resources**
 - We are looking to purchase some FNMI resources to support the curriculum through literacy. There are 4 sets that include 26 books related to different topics
- **Community Lunch Box**
 - Thank you goes out to the CLB - they have partnered with local business to continue supplying pre-packaged lunches for students in need
- **Breakfast Program**
 - Has been successful - items are delivered to individual classrooms on a daily basis. We have stayed with prepackaged items that can be stored and distributed easily
- **Skating**
 - We have contacted the town about skating at Rotary
 - Many classes are taking advantage of the warm weather and going skating at rotary
 - We can only have 1 class at a time to ensure we are meeting capacity limits of the space
 - Teachers are helping to tie skates as we still can not have volunteers mixing in with our cohorts
- **January 29 - PD Day**
 - Literacy focus with our Literacy Consultant from Jigsaw Learning
 - Using data and moving forward planning

Upcoming Dates

- January 22 - virtual assembly - dress as your favourite food
- January 29 - No School - PD Day
- February 4 and 5 - Teachers Convention - being attended virtually
- February 15 - No School - Family Day



Maren @ Central January 2021

Current Programs Running:

- **PLCs**- Universal programming (every class) that educates on positive mental health.
- **PATHS (Promoting Alternative THinking Strategies)** – Self-control, social competence, positive peer relationships, interpersonal and problem solving skills.
- **Radio host** – Monthly radio interview with a central student to update the community on events.
- **Wellness Committee** - to support staff, different health challenges have been running throughout the year. The wellness committee has been providing incentives to keep staff engaged.

Mental Health Capacity Building:

- Northern Gateways has been fortunate enough to be granted 3 programs/projects.
- Fox Creek to Onoway - in addition to the core schools in Whitecourt, success coaches in Whitecourt are offering programming to online classes and Elmer Elson.
- Enhancement funding year is due to expire in March. We have not heard whether that grant will be extended or not.

Trends:

- Anxiety around COVID (recommend: no news watching, try to discuss things outside of COVID, be honest and have your facts checked by a credible source prior to sharing with your child regarding COVID).
- Crisis around learning from home, lack of motivation, lack of sleep, etc. Be kind to your children and try to model flexibility/adaptability to your children.

****Any concerns or questions please contact:**

Maren Skipper (coach)
maren.skipper@ngps.ca

or

Teagan Arnott (project coordinator)
teagan.arnott@ngps.ca
(780) 262-0466

NGPS

Trustee Report

12 January 2021

Trustees

Linda Wigton, Chair

Barb Maddigan, Vice Chair

Report Items:

1. The Board of Trustees enjoyed presentations and reports from School Council Chairs and Principals, from Sangudo Community School and Whitecourt Central School.
2. Board approved three levelled Locally Developed Courses, entitled Film and Media Arts, acquired from Calgary School Division
3. The Board passed two motions regarding schools in the division:
 - a. To keep the configuration of schools in place in Valleyview, for the 2021-2022 school year.
 - b. To maintain the school in the community of Sangudo in the 2021-2022 school year.
4. The board passed a borrowing by-law, which would allow the division to borrow up to 2 million dollars, should the need arise. This by-law is passed annually in order to ensure fiscal assurance.
5. The Board deferred a previous motion to write a letter to AHS questioning why covid notifications/information was not being shared with divisions. This was to be copied to the Minister of Education. It was decided to defer this motion since at the present time the contact tracing has improved.
6. The NGPS School Board will hold a Workshop on the 2 and 3 of February. This will likely be done virtually, unless restrictions are removed.

Questions?

