

MINUTES

Western Canada High School Parent Council Meeting Monday, March 1, 2023 at 6:30 pm

Chairperson: Karen Savoy

1. WELCOME, CALL TO ORDER AND ATTENDANCE

Ms. Savoy welcomed everyone about 6:34 pm. She declared there was a quorum to hold the meeting with 17 attendees.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Agenda moved and approved.

3. PRESENTATION BY ALBERT CHIENG, STUDENT SERVICES LEADER

-Wellness resources at WCHS.

Mr. Chieng made a brief presentation on health and wellness at WCHS. He stated that WCHS had the goal to be welcoming, caring, respectful and safe. He summarized the WCHS intentional mental wellness strategy. This strategy includes, among other things, educational guidance, emotional support and general well-being. Extracurricular activities include clubs, sports, intramurals, fitness centre, school spirit, and community support events. There are also NEST supports, tutors and homework clubs. WCHS also offers professional services such as counsellors, psychologists and other supports. WCHS offers training and support to its staff. He also discussed strategies for students to manage anxiety.

Mr. Chieng invited any questions on the aforementioned topics be sent to his email and he would try to respond.

4. STUDENT'S UNION REPORT

-Neil He, Ayza Morain, Gillian Veters and Ethan Zhou

The student leaders (Ms. Morain was unable to attend) made their report which included, among other things, programs meant to foster school spirit and feeling of community. There are also a number of events initiated and held by the Student's Union focused on external matters and charities, as well as upcoming events such as culture day.

5. PRINCIPAL'S UPDATE AND Q&A-CARMA CORNEA, PRINCIPAL

-Discussion and Input on Next Year's Budget and School Development Plan

Ms. Cornea presented a number of topics including the 2023 school planning. WCHS will today survey parents on certain planning topics entitled "School Engagement Survey for Parents". This survey is used by WCHS for, among other things, ongoing assessment and review of WCHS's goals and actions.

There are 3 goals which WCHS pursues: literacy, mathematics and well-being. WCHS is focused on high impact strategies. A diagnostic literacy assessment is made in grade 10. An effort is made to overcome barriers in literacy. With respect to mathematics, there is a focus on mathematical communication. Well-being focuses on matters such as resiliency, strategies to reduce anxiety, and encompassing diversity. WCHS tries to personalise its approach for students.

Ms. Cornea provided a summary of the current WCHS budget. WCHS received about \$10.8 million in funding for the current academic year's expenses. The school is running at 100% student capacity. There was a discussion on fees billed for families. WCHS expects to keep the same fees in the next academic year as currently charged. These fees are set forth on the CBE website and are approved by Alberta Education.

Ms. Cornea invited any questions on the aforementioned topics be sent to her email and she would try to respond.

6. SCHOOL COUNCIL REPORTS

(a) Chairperson's Report

Ms. Savoy made the Chairperson's Report and thanked the WCHS administration, staff and teachers for their hard work. She described the parent council annual general meeting held last November and requested people who were interested in volunteering to send her a note. She thanked the parents for their great help with the staff appreciation event held last December. She also referenced the council's Facebook page.

(b) Treasurer's Report

Ms. Savoy presented this Report and reviewed the Council's financial position which was healthy.

(c) Volunteer Coordinator Report

Ms. Savoy presented this Report. Among other things, she mentioned the 5-day staff appreciation events held last December which were very successful and well-received. She invited people willing to be volunteers for these events to send her a note by email.

(d) Special Speaker Coordinator Report

Ms. Savoy presented this Report, including that, so far this year, the Council has organised speakers on post-secondary education, internship opportunities and dual credit programs, and WCHS wellness

resources. In April, there will be an “All About Grad” presentation. Next academic year the Council also hopes to have a presentation by Alberta Health Services. She noted that the Council welcomes speaker proposals from parents.

(e) Key Communicator Report

Ms. Savoy presented this Report. She noted, among other things, that the Key Communicator attended the Council of School Councils Meeting this past January. She also noted that WCHS students have higher than average academic achievement and engagement in the province.

(f) Friends of Western

Ms. Savoy presented this Report. Among other things, an online auction held last November raised about \$20,000. There is also an upcoming casino that requires 40 volunteers.

7. OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

The next Council meeting will be held on April 13, 2023.

8. ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING

Meeting adjourned at approximately 7:30 pm.