WETASKIWIN REGIONAL PUBLIC SCHOOLS
5515-47 A Avenue
Wetaskiwin, Alberta T9A 3S3
"Inspiring students to become the best they can be"

Regular Board Meeting
Meeting Type: Regular Board Meeting
Date: Tuesday, April 24, 2018
Start time: 9:30 AM
Location: Wetaskiwin Regional Public Schools Board Room

Attendance
Present were:

Trustee
- Lynn Ware
- Leanne Axelsen
- Karen Becker
- Randy Ermineskin
- Barb Johnson
- Jayne Pettifor
- Rhonda Peters

Superintendent
- Terry Pearson

Associate Superintendent
- Rick Hayes
- Brian Taje
- Sherri Senger

Central Administration
- Shannon Dewald

Communications Coordinator
- Sherry Knull

Absent:
Trustee
- Dave Gursky

Call to Order
Board Chair Lynn Ware called the Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees of Wetaskiwin Regional Public Schools to order at 9:30 a.m.

Treaty 6 Land Acknowledgement
Board Chair Lynn Ware began the meeting with the Treaty 6 Land Acknowledgement as follows:
"We acknowledge that we are on Treaty Six territory and we recognize all the many First Nations, Metis, Inuit and non-First Nations whose footsteps have marked these lands."

Approval of Resolution #WR20180424.1001
Moved By: Leanne Axelsen
Agenda

That the agenda be approved for the Regular Board Meeting (2018/04/24) with the following amendments:

- Gwynne School Council Bus (#20180419001)
- Canadian School Board Association Conference Attendance

Carried

Minutes Approval

Resolution #WR20180424.1002

Moved By: Leanne Axelsen

That the minutes for the Regular Board Meeting (2018/04/10) be adopted as presented.

Carried

Summer School Programming

(Wetaskiwin Regional Public Schools will be offering some exciting Summer School opportunities for WRPS students this year. Ms. Karen Elgert, Principal was in attendance to provide the Board with an overview of the summer school offerings scheduled for summer 2018. Ms. Elgert advised that she will have two sites that are offering Summer School courses.

The first site is at Wetaskiwin Composite High School, which will be offering three different courses:

- Calm bundle (five credits) that includes a one credit job preparation course and a one credit work place safety systems course. This course runs from July 3-13, 9:00 am - 4:00 pm. It is attendance/or non-attendance based.
- Social Studies 20-2 (five credits) This course runs from July 3-30, 8:00 am - 12:15 pm. Attendance is mandatory for this course.
- Math 20-3 (five credits) This course runs from July 3-30, 8:00 am - 12:15 pm. Attendance is mandatory for this course.

The second site offering summer school will be at the Mulhurst Camp in the Pigeon Lake area. This site will be offering:

- Calm bundle (five credits) that includes a one credit job preparation course and a one credit work place safety systems course. This course runs from July 3-13, 9:00 am - 4:00 pm. It is attendance/or non-attendance based.
- Physical Education 10/20/30 (five credits) This runs from July 3-13, 8:00 am - 4:30 pm.

The CALM, Social Studies and Math courses have no fee. The Physical Education course has a $100.00 enhanced program fee. The deadline for applications is May 25th, 2018.

Ms. Elgert advised that all this information can be found on the Division website, along with all of the High School websites.

The Board thanked Ms. Elgert for her presentation.

Rhonda Peters entered the meeting at 9:40 a.m.

Randy Ermineskin entered the meeting at 9:48 a.m.
Cory and Heather Rasmuson entered the meeting at 10:00 a.m.

Mr. Cory Rasmuson and Mrs. Heather Rasmuson were in attendance to speak to the Board about the Gwynne School Parent Association (GSPA) school of choice transportation concerns. Mr. Rasmuson advised that a previous resolution was made by the Board and that the Board directed administration to consider the possibility of a Gwynne joint transportation agreement providing there is no extra cost to WRPS. Mr. Rasmuson expressed concern that the Associate Superintendent, Business has not kept him informed as to the decisions made by her related to the WRPS's Gwynne transfer bus contract.

As background to this concern Trustee Ware advised that Mr. Cory Rasmuson and Ms. Kristine Belbeck had previously attended a Board meeting on February 13, 2018 to review the concerns the Gwynne School Council had regarding the cost of their bus contract that provides school-of-choice transportation for students from Wetaskiwin to Gwynne School and at that time. Mr. Cory Rasmuson and Ms. Kristine Belbeck advised the Board that the GSPA would be entering into a new bus contract for the 2018-19 school year which, in their opinion, would significantly impact WRPS.

Trustee Ware went on to say that the GSPA approached the idea of cost sharing this duplicated bus route with the Board years ago. Trustee Ware indicated that the GSPA believes that not only could there be a benefit by sharing cost but that a joint agreement could save fossil fuel and minimize waste. Trustee Ware expressed that in her opinion the co-operative route has been working well for 3 years and that while the GSPA appreciate the collaboration they want a fair division of cost.

Ms. Sherri Senger, Associate, Superintendent Business acknowledged that there was a Board motion made on May 23, 2017 directing her to consider the possibility of a Gwynne joint transportation agreement providing there was no extra cost to WRPS. Ms. Senger explained that during the summer of 2017 she had a number of conversations with Mr. Rasmuson and the bus contractor and determined that a joint use agreement would result in increased cost to WRPS and was therefore unable to enter into an agreement with the GSPA. Ms. Senger brought to the Board's attention that she had reported the results of this consideration at their meeting held on September 26, 2017 and at that time the Board did not direct her to address this matter further. Ms. Senger indicated she was confused as to why Mr. Rasmuson was under the impression she was to keep him informed of anything further when the presentation he made to the Board on February 13, 2018 was to inform the Board that the GSPA was tendering their transportation contract, a contract made by a registered society, and a society which is a separate legal entity from WRPS. Mr. Rasmuson didn't specifically make a request of the Board at the meeting nor was there a Board motion resulting from his presentation. Ms. Senger explained that she took Mr. Rasmuson's presentation under advisement and determined that it would be appropriate to review WRPS's current contract arrangements and make
any changes necessary to ensure that WRPS's 2018-2019 transportation requirements were addressed. Ms. Senger advised the Board that changes have been made. She further explained that in 2018-2019, instead of hiring a contractor who resides in the City of Wetaskiwin to transfer students from Gwynne School into the Wetaskiwin Composite High School in the morning and to transfer students from the Wetaskiwin Composite High School to Gwynne School at the end of the school day, a contractor, who currently provides transportation services on a regular route in the Gwynne School attendance area, will drop off the kindergarten to grade 8 students at Gwynne School in the morning, at the same time picking up the grade 9 to 12 students and then transferring them into the Wetaskiwin Composite High School. At the end of the school day the contractor will pick up the Grade 9 - 12 students at the Wetaskiwin Composite High School, transfer them to Gwynne School, pick up the kindergarten to grade 8 students and continue on their regular bus route.

Trustees questioned why the cost of the 2017-18 contract to bus students back forth from the City of Wetaskiwin to Gwynne School was different between what the GSPA pays and what WRPS pays. Ms. Senger explained that while it would appear that this is one bus route, in fact, it is 2 separate routes, with two distinct contracts. The two separate legal entities entered into a contract to meet their respective needs; it is up to each party to negotiate a price with their respective contractor.

Ms. Senger shared that subsequent to the February 13, 2018 Board meeting she decided to ask other school boards across the province if they have joint agreements with parent funded buses. The responses she received indicated that the only time a parent funded bus is allowed is if it is contracted by a separate legal entity and that there are no cost share arrangements between school divisions and parent funded buses. She went on to further explain that one of the reasons for this is the legal liability the school division would assume if it were to appear the parent funded bus was actually a bus contracted by the school division.

Mrs. Rasmusson asked if a drop off at the Wetaskiwin Composite High School were arranged in 2018-2019 could the contractor hired by WRPS then transport students back to Gwynne School after dropping off the grade 9-12 students? Ms. Senger advised that unless the contractor begins their regular route, transporting kindergarten to grade 8 students to Gwynne School, 15-20 minutes earlier this would not work. If the regular route times stayed the same students transferring from the Wetaskiwin Composite High School to Gwynne School would be arriving 15-20 minutes late for school each day. She also shared that a number of parents of students who ride the regular route to Gwynne School have already expressed concern that the ride times are too long.

Dr. Terry Pearson, Superintendent, spoke up to say that there seems to be some confusion and misinformation circulating related to this issue and offered to meet with Mr. Rasmuson to address the matter at a Board meeting during the 2018 - 2019 school year.
Moved By: Randy Ermineskin
That the Superintendent work with the Gwynne School Parent Association to determine if there are options that could address the transportation of students from Wetaskiwin to Gwynne School, and the pros and cons associated with any option.

Carried

Rhonda Peters left the meeting at 11:05 a.m.

Centralized Budgeting
(Action)
(Issue #20180409001)

Dr. Terry Pearson, Superintendent of Schools advised that the Board had requested information on the following motion regarding centralized budget.

At the March 13, 2018 Regular Board Meeting the Board made the following resolution:
Resolution No. WR20180313.1008
That the Board continue with the Centralized Budgeting process for the 2018-2019 School Year and initiate a review of Centralized versus Site Based Budgeting processes.

As a reference and starting point to the Board review of Centralized vs. Site Based Budgeting see the following:
Resolution # 201511241006 read as follows:
That a centralized budgeting process be used for the 2015-2016 and 2016-2017.

A copy of the Board Strategic Direction (May 24, 2016) was also attached.
Discussion ensued. It was the consensus of the Board that a Committee of the Whole meeting be scheduled during the 2018-2019 school year to discuss site based budgeting verses centralized budgeting.

Rhonda Peters entered the meeting at 11:07 a.m.

Falun School Ball Diamond
(Action)
(Issue #20180412002)

Ms. Sherri Senger, Associate Superintendent: Business indicated that the facilities department has been approached by a community member who has indicated they have started a softball program in the Falun area. They are asking WRPS to repair the ball diamond on the Falun School property in order that it can be used for this program. Total estimated cost of repairs is $6,590.98.

The community member shared that they attended the County of Wetaskiwin Council meeting on March 28, 2018 in order to request a recreation grant which they would use to cover the costs. Their request has been denied.

While there are a number of ball diamonds and skating rinks located on school property it has been the Board’s position to maintain these facilities only when they are needed for school board purposes and maintained to a level which meets Division needs.

Historically, when a community organization and/or a municipality wants to use these facilities and require the facilities to be maintained at a higher
standard any costs related to maintaining these facilities at that higher standard have been born by the community organization and/or the municipality.

Discussion ensued. It was the general consensus of the Board that a joint County and WRPS meeting be organized to discuss a joint use agreement.

Ms. Senger will arrange a meeting with the County of Wetaskiwin representatives.

**Resolution #WR20180424.1004**

Moved By: Barb Johnson

That the Board of Trustees deny the request for funding for the Falun School ball diamond, but will pursue possibilities by working in cooperation with the County of Wetaskiwin to create a joint use agreement.

Carried

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Additional sidewalks
Norwood School

(Section)
((Issue #20180415001)

Ms. Sherri Senger, Associate Superintendent: Business advised that she would provide information as a follow up to the presentation made to the Board on February 27 in which the trustees were advised that the City of Wetaskiwin plans to construct a sidewalk on 56 Ave adjacent to Norwood School. Ms. Senger presented a map of the proposed sidewalk location.

As previously indicated the City of Wetaskiwin has asked that WRPS contribute 50% of the cost of constructing the sidewalks. They believe these new sidewalks would provide safer access and mobility around the school property for students, staff and parents.

Construction of the sidewalk at Norwood School is anticipated to take place the summer of 2019. The City's original plan was to construct a sidewalk running east to west along the north side of the existing fence line. The cost of the sidewalk is estimated to be $57,000. This plan requires a significant amount of work to move existing utilities.

The City has presented an alternative plan which would require the existing fence to be moved south by approximately 1.5 metres. The City has indicated they would cover the cost of moving the fence because this would save them from having to relocate the existing utilities. Moving the fence and constructing the sidewalk approximately 1.5 metres further from the road would mean that the sidewalk will be located on WRPS property. The City has indicated that they would take responsibility for any future repairs to the sidewalk which would be addressed in WRPS's Joint Use Agreement with the City. WRPS would still be responsible for clearing snow.

Regardless of the location the City of Wetaskiwin is requesting that WRPS assume 50% of the cost of constructing the sidewalk.

**Resolution #WR20180424.1005**

Moved By: Barb Johnson

That the Board of Trustees deny the request to pay 50% of the cost to construct the sidewalk. That the Board of Trustees allow the City of Wetaskiwin to move the existing fence, at the City's cost, in order that the sidewalk can be constructed no more than 1.5 meters to the south only if
the City of Wetaskiwin will repair the approach located on the south side of the Norwood School parking lot. That the Joint Use Agreement be revised to include the City of Wetaskiwin’s responsibility to repair the sidewalk.

Carried

Canadian School Board Association Conference
(Action)
(Issue #20180424001)

Trustee Becker requested that that the Board grant her permission to attend the Canadian School Board Association meeting in Halifax on July 4-8, 2018.

Information

Resolution #WR20180424.1006
Moved By: Karen Becker
That Trustee Becker be granted permission to attend the Canadian Association of School board conference in Halifax in July 2018.

Carried

Board Advocacy Committee
(Committee Reports)
(Issue #20180416013)

The Board determined the following topics would be placed as "parking lot" items on the Board Advocacy Committee agenda:

- CA RCSD Hold Harmless Funding
- PUF Funding
- School Fees
- STAR Transportation Agreement
- Option opportunities in schools
- Winfield School New School Construction
- Transportation Funding
- Operational and Maintenance Funding

Carried

WRPS Socio Economic Status Index
(Division Staff Report)
(Issue #20180416019)

Mr Brian Taje, Associate Superintendent: Instruction advised that Alberta Education reports that Wetaskiwin Regional Public Schools has an overall population with below average socioeconomic status. According to the SES Gap Score, at the school authority level, WRPS' PAT at Acceptable 'Achieved' is greater than its 'Predicted' score and a positive result is recorded.

The WRPS overall SES Index is a composite of the schools. The information provided in the tables help demonstrate that the majority of schools are making a positive impact on achievement.

Educational research demonstrates that socio-economic status (SES) is a significant positive predictor of student academic achievement. SES is commonly defined as the position families within society occupy, in relation to others, based upon measures of income, education, and occupation. Schools and school authorities that service students from low SES communities generally face a greater than average challenge in obtaining strong achievement results. Being aware of this, stakeholders regularly make reference to SES factors as significant determinants of student achievement. Nonetheless, research has demonstrated that it is possible for educators to improve the academic achievement of students from low SES populations.

Alberta Education calculates the relative socio-economic status (SES) index score at the authority and school level, compared to the provincial
average, using information from Statistics Canada's tax filer data, student inter-school mobility data, and Provincial Achievement Test (PAT) data. Subsequently, the SES index score is used to calculate the 'SES Gap Score', which is a score that describes student achievement at both the authority and school levels taking into consideration how SES factors affect student achievement. The SES Gap Score demonstrates the greater (above 0%) or reduced (below 0%) additional contributions school and school authorities provide their students once SES factors have been taken into account.

The meeting recessed for lunch 11:45 a.m.

The meeting reconvened at 12:50 p.m.

Board Policy#2, Role of the Board, Section 8.4 requires that the Board receive a monthly balance sheet and statement of revenue and expenditures report, and monitor fiscal management of the Division. Ms. Senger presented the financial statements for the seven months ended March 31, 2018.

Trustee Karen Becker entered the meeting at 12:56 p.m.

Ms. Sherri Senger Associate Superintendent: Business advised that as part of the development of the 2018-2019 budget the central office senior administration team has met with each site administration team to review the sites projected enrollment and staffing allocations. The Associate Superintendents provided the Board of Trustees with a debrief of the outcome of those meetings.

Ms. Pettifor left the meeting at 1:37 p.m.

Ms. Pettifor entered the meeting at 1:39 p.m.

The meeting recessed at 1:58 p.m.

The meeting reconvened at 2:02 p.m.

Resolution #WR20180424.1007
Moved By: Barb Johnson
That the meeting go in to In-Camera, at 2:02 p.m., pursuant to Section 70(3) of the Alberta School Act, and amendments thereto, and Division 2 of Part 1 of the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act, Revised Statutes of Alberta 2000, Chapter F-25 and amendments thereto, to discuss Privileged Information with regards to the Special Needs Tribunal Report, PSBAA Embargoed Document, Level 1 Health Benefit Claim, Personnel Update

Resolution #WR20180424.1008
Moved By: Barb Johnson

Trustee Medical Leave of Absence
That the meeting come Out-of-Camera at 4:02 p.m.  

Resolved

Resolution #WR20180424.1009
Moved By: Barb Johnson
That the Board appeal to the Minister of Education the apportionment of costs decision of the Special Needs Tribunal.

Carried

Resolution #WR20180424.1010
Moved By: Karen Becker
That the Board approve Trustee Gursky's leave of absence from Board meetings for the remainder of the 2017-2018 school year.

Carried

Resolution #WR20180424.1011
Moved By: Karen Becker
That the Board appoint an Acting Vice-Chair until the return of Trustee Gursky.

Carried

Trustee Jayne Pettifor nominated Trustee Barb Johnson to be Acting Vice-Chair.
Trustee Karen Becker nominated herself to be Acting Vice-Chair.
A vote by secret ballot was conducted.

Information

Information

Resolution #WR20180424.1012
Moved By: Barb Johnson
That the ballots be destroyed.

Carried

Correspondence from Red Deer College thank you for support letter.

Red Deer College Correspondence
(Board Correspondence)
(Issue #20180412005)

Attached is a letter from ASBA Zone 4 RE: 2018 Edwin Parr Award Evening. Trustees requesting tickets: Trustee: Becker, Pettifor, Ware, & Ermineskin.

Information

Edwin Parr Invitation
(Board Correspondence)
(Issue #20180412004)

The Board received a letter from the Town of Millet dated April 3, 2018 regarding findings from the Millet School Facility Public Forum.
The Board reviewed the letter at the April 10, 2018 meeting. Attached is the response to the letter for information.

Town of Millet Correspondence
(Board Correspondence)
(Issue #20180412003)

WCHS Graduation Friday May 25, 2018 at 7:00 p.m.

Request attendance from WRPS Board of Trustees representative.

WCHS Graduation
(Board Correspondence)
(Issue #20180416017)
Alberta Education - 3 Year Plan & Results Report Review
(Board Correspondence)
(Issue #201804160020)

Alberta Education met with Brian Taje, to discuss and review the 3-Year Plan and Annual Results Report and to determine if the Wetaskiwin Regional Public Schools plan aligns with the planning and reporting requirements established by Alberta Education. Attached is the letter of compliance.

ASHORO Friendship Society
(Representative Reports)
(Issue #20180416001)

No report on the ASHORO Friendship Society at this time.

ASBA Zone 4
(Representative Reports)
(Issue #20180416002)

ASBA Zone 4 Representative Jayne Pettifor gave a brief report on the April 23, 2018 meeting.

Canadian Parents for French
(Representative Reports)
(Issue #201804160003)

Barb Johnson gave a brief report on the Canadian Parents for French meeting.

Leaders of Tomorrow (Representative Reports)
(Issue #201804160004)

Trustee Leanne Axelsen the Leaders of Tomorrow representative reported on the successful Leads of Tomorrow Awards event that was held on April 16, 2018 at the Reynolds Alberta Museum.

Leadership Team
(Representative Reports)
(Issue #201804160005)

The Leadership Team will meet on May 3, 2018.

Public School Board Association
(Representative Reports)
(Issue #201804160006)

Trustee Jayne Pettifor, PSBAA Representative presented a report on the PSBAA recent activities.

Rural School Boards Caucus
(Representative Reports)
(Issue #201804160007)

There was not report at this time on the Rural School Boards Caucus.

School Community Health Education Partnership (SCHEP)
(Representative Reports)
(Issue #201804160008)

Jayne Pettifor the Board representative on the School Community Health Education Partnership (SCHEP) will provide a report.

Teacher Employer Bargaining

There was no report at this time on the Teacher Employer Bargaining Authority.
Trustee Barb Johnson provided a brief report on the Wetaskiwin Community Learning Council.

There was no report at this time on the Yellowhead Regional Library.

Trustees tabled the school councils reports to the next Board meeting.

April 23, 2018, ASBA Zone 4 Meeting Wild Rose School Division
April 24, 2018, Regular Board Meeting
May 8, 2018 Regular Board Meeting
May 11, 2018 Board Recognition Night Best Western Denham Inn
May 22, 2018 Regular Board Meeting
May 28, 2018 Edwin Parr Award Evening - Innisfail Library 5:30 p.m.
June 1-3, 2018 PSBAA - Spring Assembly Red Deer
June 3-4 ASBA - Spring AGM June 3-4 Red Deer
June 7, 2018 Leadership Team Meeting

Trustee Ware requested that Trustees advise her if they have any agenda items to add to the Board Retreat.

A brief discussion ensued regarding whether or not Associate Superintendent's should attend the retreat on May 23, & 24. It was determined that yes, the three Associates attend the Board Retreat on May 23 & 24, 2018.

Resolution #WR20180424.1013
Moved By: Leanne Axelsen
That the meeting be adjourned at 4:30 p.m.

Board Chair

Associate Superintendent: Business