Attendance: Kristine Belbeck (Gwynne), Venessa Ravina (Clear Vista), Tracy Harris (Clear Vista), Sarah Salter Kelly (Lakedell), Bruce Greig (C.B. McMurdo), Kathy Leith (Norwood), Louize Brand (WCHS), Lynn Hestbak (EEFWC), Clint Neis (Trustee), Brian Taje (Division), Terry Pearson (Division)

Regrets: Colleen Magnuson, Deanna Specht,

1. Call to Order
   Meeting called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Chair Clint Neis

2. Adoption of Agenda
   No additions to agenda were put forward

3. Adoption of June Minutes
   Minutes were reviewed

4. Introductions
   Those in attendance introduced themselves and the schools/Board/Division they represent.

5. Correspondence
   No correspondence

6. Board Chair Report

6.1 Me to We Day: Three trustees and approximately 272 WRPS students plus chaperones went to the motivational day in Calgary. There were approximately 14,000 students from across the province in attendance at the event. The focus of the event was that an individual can be a change agent in their own community, which can then result in global change. Many international and national speakers. Students are to return to schools and develop a one local and on international project.

6.2 Student Wellness Conference: Some trustees attended the conference and the information provided indicates that the generation we are raising will not outlive their parent due to a variety of medical conditions. There is a strong link to obesity and the ramifications of eating habits, screen time, and a sedentary lifestyle.
6.3 Strategic Facility Plan Update: Reviewed the reasons behind the Board’s decision to amend the Strategic Facility Plan. The Board wants to determine which programs and services must be offered consistently across the division that would benefit students and improve learning. Board felt it did not have all of the answers that it needed so more research was needed before any further school viability studies were undertaken.

COSC members discussed the difference between the schools and ensuring that students are provided with the programs and services that they need to move on to post secondary or into the work force. Need to address the impact that a closure of a school can have on a community, its economy and ability to attract people to live in the community. Concern was expressed about the number of students who do not believe they can go on to post secondary. That seems to vary from one part of the division to another because when I moved to this area I found students felt there was a lot of opportunity to go on to post secondary. Need to fund the rural schools differently to ensure their viability and sustainability. Ride time for students is a significant concern that needs to be addressed as school closures may increase these times. COSC members gave a variety of examples of bussing, school start times and other matter from their experiences in different provinces. Members questioned School of Choice and transportation fees. There are no transportation fees if child attend school their directed to attend. Transportation fee applies when parent chooses to have child attend a school of choice. COSC members talked about the negative impact on a school when rumors circulate that a school might be closing. Talked about what school councils are doing to prepare to deal with the issue of school viability (e.g. Lakedell and Pipestone). Lakedell representative mention that they want to know what is best for our students whether that is keeping Lakedell open or attending Falun. Need to ensure sustainability, dollars and cents, work on the facts to present to the Board. Lakedell representative mentioned that a decision was made to create separate group of parents who are interested in keeping the school open as opposed to the School Council taking this role on. There might be school council members who feel the school should close. COSC member mentioned that what there is more one-on-one time in small schools.

7. Superintendent Report
7.1 Summary Accountability Pillar Results
Accountability Pillar Results are information reported back by Alberta Education to school divisions. Examples of the data reported back are: Provincial Achievement Tests, Diploma Examination results, high school completion data, satisfaction survey results, etc. Provided highlights of the results for WRPS: overall summary report, education quality, high school completion, PAT results, DIP results and explained their significance and how the data is used in schools and the division.
7.2 AISI Cycle 5
Alberta Initiative for School Improvement is funding provided by Alberta Education to support initiatives in schools and school divisions to increase student success. Reviewed the Learning Cycle, the 2012 - 2013 Learning Cycle Improvement Goal Template - Criteria, and the Draft AISI Cycle 5 Project Proposal Template. Several schools within WRPS have noted that students writing skills have not shown any significant improvement over time as measured by writing samples and PAT results. These schools will be leading the writing initiative within the division. The intent of the project is to provide students with the opportunity to develop stronger writing skills through the use of a variety of different approaches and in some cases, research proven writing skills programs. Question was asked about whether high schools are involved in the writing project. Answer is no, the remaining schools have chosen to do research based on teachers’ Learning Cycle Improvement Goals. Each teacher is reviewing research and evidence of student learning to develop or improve an aspect of that teacher’s teaching practice.

7.3 September 30, 2012 Enrollment
Enrolment by Grade headcount spreadsheet distributed to members in attendance. School division increased its student enrollment by 53 students. This is the first time student enrollment has increased in the last seven years.

8. Old Business
Alberta School Council Association (ASCA) provided a professional development session to all principals in the division in October. Title of presentation: Effective Principal Engagement with School Councils.

Six separate school districts have been formed in the Falun area and students are being transported to Sacred Heart. There is another census being done in that area and another separate school districts formation vote may occur in another five public school districts this coming year.

9. New Business
Retention: Can teachers retain a student if that student has not successfully completed the grade requirements? Yes a teacher can recommend that a student be retained. That conversation occurs at the school level and would involve the parent. If the parent is adamantly opposed or the child has an identified special need, the child may be moved on to the next grade.

COSC members talked about communication between parent / teacher / student being critical.

Budget: COSC has a $1,000 budget, which is generally used to support some COSC member attending the ASCA Spring Conference. The Division also pays the ASCA fees so that all school councils within the division are members of the Alberta School Councils Association.
Meeting Dates: January 30, 2013 (Griffiths-Scott Middle School)
            March 27, 2013 (Lakedell School)
            May 29, 2013 (TBD)

10. School Council Representative Reports
    Members in attendance provided an update as to what is happening at their schools.

11. Adjournment
    Meeting adjourned at 9:28 p.m.