

WBS School Advisory Council
Date: Tuesday, November 19, 2024

Time: 07:00 p.m to 8:00 p.m

Location: WBS Seminar Room

Members Present:

- 1. Co-Chairs:** Gary Schmeisser (Community Member), Julia Spence (parent of P-3, French Immersion)
- 2. Principal:** Susan Casey (Principal PP- grade 6)
- 3. Support Staff (Library Specialist):** Heather MacIntyre (Support Staff Library)
- 4. Teacher Representative:** Shannon Christie (Grade 4 teacher, English Program)
- 5. Teacher Representative:** Corinne Trottier (Grade 5 teacher, English Program)
- 6. Teacher Representative:** Paola Bartolaccie (Learning Support, English Program)
- 7. Parent Representative:** Alex Li (parent of P-3 student, French Immersion)
- 8. Parent Representative:** Haley Flewwelling (parent of P-3 /4-6 student, French Immersion & Home and School Representative)
- 9. Parent Representative:** Bei Zhou (parent of P-3 & 4-6 students, English program)
- 10. Community Member:** Tricia Schmeisser
- 11. Community Member:** Susan Hart
- 12. Community Member:** Vacant

Regrets: Susan Hart, Corinne Trottier, Haley Flewwelling

Observers:

1. Joanne Treen (Vice Principal, WBS, Grades 4-6)
 2. Jacinta Heckman
 3. Courtney Smith (Vice Principal, WBS, Grades PP-3)
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Meeting Summary

1. Opening

The meeting commenced with the distribution of the agenda and meeting minutes from the last SAC meeting from October 15, 2024. Round table introductions were had for new community member, Tricia Schmeisser.

2. Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the **October, 15, 2024**, meeting were approved and distributed. The minutes will be posted on the school website under the SAC page.

3. November 2024 SAC Principal's Report

Principal's Report: November 2024

1. Enrollment:

- a. We continue to welcome new students to WBS. Our enrollment is 1103 students
- b. Classes continue to be below or at hard cap guidelines

2. School Events

- a. Remembrance Day Assembly – first one as a whole school- held outside- led by students in both languages
- b. Upcoming Winter Concert in December: Our theme for our concerts this year is **Blanket of Snow: Our Community is a Quilt**. Our concert is a winter concert based around the themes of friendship, community, and togetherness. The intention of the performance is to share songs that feel cozy and warm and so we've included songs about snow, light, and being together. It is called Blanket of Snow because we are centering the concert around the idea of quilting.

Quilting has been a Nova Scotian tradition over many cultures for hundreds of years. The different patches were sewn together to create images that told stories or marked safe houses along the Underground Railroad into Nova Scotia. During WWII, Nova Scotia sent the first and the 1000th quilt to Britain to families who had lost their homes. Acadians were crafters and artists who created intricate quilts throughout the generations.

Just like a quilt, the WBS community is bringing together many different pieces of the world and creating something beautiful.

Instructional Practice:

There will be an art component to this theme done by our classes to create the decorations for the gym.

The integration of music, art, literacy, social studies, and math is the focus of teaching and learning in schools in 2024. The concert meets a multitude of outcomes across subject areas and allows all students to participate.

https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1k_HQw3b8NjX7Y4Sx9gHp907pCvGtZgT76fZuGJElujc/edit?usp=sharing

c. Spirit Week will happen the last week leading into the winter break. We will be offering classes to participate in our “Sparkles-the kindness reindeer” challenge and a Holiday Clue school wide game that will happen throughout the week.

d. Library Mural Unveiling “Ma’wiomi”- I have asked the Grade 5 team about planning and leading this event

3. Student Success Plan for WBS:

a. October school data and Provincial Data has been gathered.

Use monthly met/not met school data – whole school data pull for the month of:
October

Reading (Eng/FI program combined)

262/1035 Other students not meeting (in both English Program and FI Program)

12/90 Students ANS ancestry are not meeting

1/6 students Mi’kmaw/Indigenous ancestry not meeting

Writing (Eng/FI program combined)

268/1035 Other students not meeting in both english and FI programs

13/90 Students ANS ancestry not meeting

1/6 students Mi’kmaw/Indigenous ancestry not meeting

Math (Eng/FI program combined)

124/1035 students not meeting

9/91 Students of ANS ancestry not meeting

2/6 students of Mi'kmaw/Indigenous Ancestry not meeting

Provincial Assessment Results

LM3 Data Results (current Grade 4 students)

Reading

28/110 Other students not meeting in both English and FI programs

4/16 Students ANS not meeting

0/2 students Mi'kmaw/Indigenous not meeting

Writing

50/110 Other students not meeting in both English and FI programs

7/16 Students ANS ancestry not meeting

1/2 students Mi'kmaw/Indigenous ancestry not meeting in both English and FI programs

Math

25/140 All other students not meeting (Eng./FI)

5/17 Students of ANS ancestry not meeting

1/2 students of Mi'kmaw/Indigenous Ancestry not meeting

RWM6 (current Grade 7's)

Reading

18/107 Other students not meeting in both English and FI programs

2/10 Students ANS not meeting

0/4 students Mi'kmaw/Indigenous not meeting

Writing

32/107 Other students not meeting in both English and FI programs

5/10 Students ANS ancestry not meeting

1/4 students Mi'kmaw/Indigenous ancestry not meeting

Math

22/107 all other students not meeting (Eng./FI)

3/10 Students of ANS ancestry not meeting

0/4 students of Mi'kmaw/Indigenous Ancestry not meeting

Wellbeing:

- Continuing to focus on Tier 1 workshops with our School Counsellors and Elementary Literacy and Wellbeing Support Teacher.

- Discussions have centered around friendships, conflict resolution, modelling and practicing school routines, establishing classroom norms, expectations, classroom circle conversations, small group and 1 to 1 meeting times between the teacher and the student(s).

- Our Home and School has done a lot to foster community within the school: Bingo Night, School shoe charms, Micro-garden; planning on a couple of evening events in the winter: movie night in January and a magic show in March.

o Looking to provide a donation to the High School towards purchasing a mascot costume. The HSA feel that the mascot will be a great way to build spirit and community among all the grade levels.

- Spirit Wear has been sold- not as popular as we thought it would be (100 families ordered items)

- Community Partnership with the Bedford Lions Club: Partnering to raise funds for a score clock in our gym. The uptake from families has not been robust. Only 8 items came in for the Online auction and only 2 families from WBS participated in the pancake breakfast. We have communicated in our weekly memos, on our website, IG, X. It does not seem to be something our community is interested in, but a score clock is something all students will be able to experience (Phys Ed class, extra curricular sports teams once

Comments & questions:

With the province putting an emphasis on violence being present in schools, has West Bedford School admin received any additional support?

No additional support has been provided. Though, WBS see's small problems or typical kid behaviour.

The reporting system for incidents at school is unique. A lot of reports of elementary physical violence are reported, however, there is only one drop down option for physical violence. Physical violence for a 6 year old looks a lot different than it would if it was reported of a 17 year old.

School Concert

-A parent raised a concern about the school concert not being a traditional Christmas concert featuring Christmas carols.

-Some members expressed a worry that teachers or administration could face criticism in the media for perceived negative decisions regarding the concert's theme.

-A point was raised about the challenge of inclusivity—if a few traditional carols are included, there is a risk of inadvertently excluding or missing other important traditions.

-The evolution of the school concert was noted: for several years, the focus has been shifting away from traditional Christmas carols

-The music department provided context about past and current concert themes, emphasizing inclusivity and celebrating diversity

-Co-chair suggested this topic be revisited in a more detailed and open discussion at the next SAC meeting.

-A suggestion was made to develop a holiday calendar that families could use to identify their traditions and holidays, fostering better communication and inclusivity.

-It was acknowledged that some families feel there is a lack of transparency in how celebrations are chosen and conducted in the school.

-Families bringing issues to SAC are encouraged to follow proper channels for voicing concerns. If families wish to present concerns during the meeting, they will be given five minutes to share their thoughts, as outlined in the council bylaws.

-Observers at SAC meetings are welcome to attend as silent participants.

-Halloween & Diwali: there was a misunderstanding between one teacher and these families, but the teacher addressed and corrected it. Despite this, families chose not to follow up directly with the teacher.

4. Old Business

The lights around campus, particularly in the parking lot, are now working.

5. New Business

School Mascot

- WBS and WBH admin are meeting on Thursday to discuss. It will be a shared mascot. The cost is around \$2000
- WBS Home and School see an opportunity to partner with the High School for them to get students involved.
- Gary, will approach Cresco for a donation

Home and School

- Bingo night was a success
- Croc charms were in partnership with a local youth in Dartmouth
- Grow your own garden fundraiser (upcoming)
- Many opportunities for families to come out as a community event with no charge. Looking for people to come out and have fun, not just to make money.

Vacant Position on SAC

- Community member position is still available

Vandalism of the school field

- It remains closed
- HRM controls the upkeep of the field. An email to operations asking for an update has been sent by WBS admin.
- Follow up email from SAC inquiring about status of field repairs.

6. SAC Funds and Review of Funding Proposals

Shannon Christie: grade 4 team wants to plan for something later in the year. They will apply for the next deadline in February.

Proposals need to be connected to the schools success plan (SSP)

Funding proposal:

Artwork by Lorne Julien: \$850

Make the mural on the library wall, done by the grade 5's, into a permanent art piece. This art piece will be outside during the smudging ceremony.

7. SAC Members' questions/comments

Alex - lunch program, food is delicious, his child reports enjoying it. Alex is pleased with the way the lunch program was rolled out and run on a daily basis.

WBS staff figured out a functional system in 3 days to deliver 600 meals a day on average. In theory, the lunch program is supposed to be hands off for the admin, but we (admin/staff/cafeteria staff) are a team so we pitch in to make sure all students get their lunch and have time to eat it.

High school student volunteers are helping deliver the food and engage with students while they are outside during lunch. High school students can volunteer during their flex time. They also help with the breakfast program, and help support in classrooms. Students have clear expectations and rules on what the format is for volunteering at WBS. Drew Fournier, school counselor, is the coordinator and has set them up for success.

Alex: regarding the concert, sharing experience as someone who has moved from China & US to Canada. Shared that his family identifies as Chinese and they enjoy participating in Christmas traditions as part of Canadian culture. Would like to see Christmas and Santa be incorporated into the concert.

8. Future Meetings and Adjoinments

- Next meeting set for **Tuesday, January 21, 2025**