

West Coulee Station Elementary School Council Meeting

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West Coulee Elementary Parent Council

MINUTES

September 8th, 2025 @ 6:30pm The Den Room

Welcome and Introductions

In Attendance: Dean Hawkins, Aimee Dewacht, Michelle Hood, Ashley Bourassa, Lindsey Hogenson, Heather Bruce, Heather Arkell, Tamara Melnychuk, Talayna Zacharias, Stephanie Pitcher, Chrystal Forbes, Tammy Johnson, LaNae Merrill, Taryn Guzzi, Charley Harris, Karissa Anderson, Krysty Thomas, Jenna Bailey, Sarah Morgan, Monnu Baines, Janna Jackson, Cynthia Figueroa

Call to order – 6:35pm

Approval of Agenda: Motion: N/A
Second: N/A

Principal's Report: Dean Hawkins

- School Council Goals & Purpose
 - Currently creating a West Coulee Station Elementary Operating Procedures Document – will be posted on the website once finalized
 - Positions to be voted on at the AGM include Chair, Vice-Chair, Treasurer, and Secretary
 - The vision for West Coulee is to make it a truly bilingual school without separation of the Spanish from the English events and recognitions.
- First Week Back
 - Staffing
 - A request for a Grade 1/2 split teacher has been made but we've been told there is currently no funding, and we will have to wait. In the meantime, the school has been given a full time EA to assist with this week and part time EA to assist with next week.
 - Current enrolment 465 – Grade 1 -2 -4 are on the watch list
 - Grade 1 (English) is at 28 students and Grade 2 (English) is at 32. This is not ideal, and we continue to push for funding to hire an additional teacher.

- Capacity for the school is 900, but the way it is currently built leaves 2 empty classrooms and space for about 90 more kids until portables need to be added
 - Lunch is currently being split in half with K-2 eating first, while 3-5 are outside and then they switch.
- Funding and Budget
 - Usually, a school is given over 2 million for a new build, but West Coulee was given 1.4 million. This underfunding has already led to gathering resources from other schools, being strategic with numeracy materials, and being in a tough sport when it comes to offering field trips for students.
- Important Assemblies/Evenings
 - Grand Opening September 12 at 9:30 a.m. in the gym
 - More of a government official grand opening with Nathan Neudorf & Rob Miyashiro coming. The education minister cancelled this morning.
 - A drone picture was done with all students/staff in their West Coulee Cub shirts and will be sent out soon.
 - Kal Tire and Melcor were large donors and may be attending as well
 - Meet the Staff Night September 18 at 6 p.m.
 - ATB - Tim Hortons - Frito Lay - WCS Society – Konas Ice – Soda Bar
 - Beautifully Royal Birthdays are sending Spiderman and Glinda over
 - Library will be bringing the book mobile and outdoor games
 - September 19 High Five Pride Assembly/Terry Fox
 - Kickoff the first pride assembly on character education and a PowerPoint was sent to teachers who have shown the students explaining what the words mean.
 - Move into the Terry Fox Walk after that which will be kept around the school this year instead of combining with the other elementary schools on the westside.
 - The students have been very well behaved over lunch and recess and showing respect and listening when learning opportunities are presented. Instead of rules, we have things you should do and things you shouldn't do, which presents it in a less negative light.
 - Playground Update
 - September 8 grand opening – students are really enjoying the space, but there are line ups to use the equipment. To alleviate this, grades have been split at recess with half using the field. They switch roles in the afternoon.
- Time Capsule
 - A grade 5 student (Ryker Bourassa) suggested a time capsule since it is the first year of the school and each grade would contribute something to be opened at a later date. Ms. Dewacht will connect with him to see if something can come to fruition.
- School Supplies
 - Feedback on the pre-purchasing this year? The reasoning behind it was to order in bulk and be able to save families some money. The cub t-shirt was included in this \$60 fee.
 - So far only 3 people have expressed that they are unable to pay – which will always be the case, but we will always work with families.
 - Will the supplies come home at the end of year? Or will it follow students to the next year? Some parents are just wondering if it is sustainable.
 - Mr. Hawkins has stated they are still figuring it out, but these are great questions and discussion points to have with staff
 - Some parents discussed appreciation for having the school supplies ordered and not having to worry about it – they were very grateful for a stress-free startup.

- Transportation
 - Bussing - How has it been going?
 - The W4 bus driver is grateful that parents are not parking in the bus zone, so thank you to administration for that.
 - The city is going to come and put in permanent signs in place of the sandwich boards
 - All students should be getting a tag if they don't already have one, but they won't be denied getting on the bus
 - A new routine will be for all students to go directly to the busses instead of lining up in the main foyer as students were coming out of class early.
 - Parents are asked to remind their children of the rules when riding a bus – there are pamphlets on the website
 - South & North side Spanish students who don't qualify for bussing can sign up through the school division for a gas supplement
- School Communication – can we do better?
 - By the end of September, you should have a phone call and communication from classroom teachers
 - Teachers are given autonomy to use whatever app/website/form of communication that they are comfortable with
 - Feedback from a kindergarten parent was that the communication was awesome and very much appreciated
 - Praise for Glenna in the office who has been so helpful and quick to respond to all parent inquiries

Discussion Items from Attendees:

- Mountain West Photos will be the new school picture provider – information to come out soon
- School Guide App is something that parents may find useful – it helps manage calendars and information for parents who have multiple kids in multiple schools.

Adjournment: 7:31pm

Motion: N/A

Second: N/A