

# WO Mitchell School Council

## Meeting Minutes



Date: January 20th at 7:00pm

Location: WO Mitchell School

17 parents/guardians and 4 staff members were in attendance

Principal/Staff:

In Person: Mike Scott

Online: Eve Moreau, Miriam A, Isabel Panruker

Parents/Guardians:

In Person: Carmen F, Elysa A, Irene G, Paula S, Angel N, Marcela A, Marcela H, Allison XX

Online: Miriam A, Adelle, Miceala, Natasha Z, Samantaha, Tracey, Jen H, Ana B, Jayme M,

Carmen called the meeting to order at 7:02 PM.

### **Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes**

Marcela motioned to approve the meeting minutes from September; Angel seconded and all were in favour. The minutes were thereby approved.

### **Approval of Agenda**

Paula motioned to approve the agenda for tonight's meeting; Angel seconded and all were in favor. The agenda was thereby approved.

### **Land Acknowledgement:**

Get from email.

### **Grade 6 Presentation:**

Miriam:

Sra. Panrucker

She is very excited to be back at WO! While working at SPB she noticed students coming with more complex needs in relation to wellness. In coming back to WO she really wanted to focus on wellness at our school to help facilitate the transition from elementary to junior high. Our administration team at WO was very open to change and wanted to create more opportunities for the Grade 6 students to learn outside.

Open Minds - City Ecoaction School. All schools Private, public, and catholic come together and contribute money for students to have this experience. Our students will be participating in the Ecoaction School this year. This will take them on a journey of the outdoors, from our own school yard to the Inglewood Bird Sanctuary, Camp Chief Hector as well as a visit to the Observatory. For more information Head to the City of Calgary Ecoaction School website.

This will be a year of leadership and reflection. They started out the year with the question of "What are our rituals of care?" They will work on answering this question throughout the year, and learn how to create rituals of care through this outdoor education.

Grade 6 classes started answering this by spending time in our own school forest to try and learn ways to really take nature in. They then ventured down to Beaumont Park to feel what it's like to be a part of the land. Students have really taken on this job of feeling nature around them and have really leant into it. By the time they got to the Inglewood Bird Sanctuary they were able to really interact with Nature and truly enjoy the experience.

While at the Inglewood Bird Sanctuary they received lectures from the staff, they did some nature journaling, handled some artifacts and created art outside. Another thing students did was Forest Bathing - there are five stations with audio prompts to encourage mindful walks and stress reduction. Students really enjoyed this!

Student testimonials:

.... I think going to Ecoaction school was a great way to disconnect from technology.....

....Forest Bathing is where you can use your senses to feel the outside world and really disconnect from everything, and calm yourself. A good way to learn how to be grateful, and that we are so privileged that we got to do this.....

...thank you to the teachers and parent volunteers who made this happen....

Every year, Gr 6's leave their mark on the school. This year they will leave Forest Bathing, they will record an audio of the outside world that students can listen to and place them around the school.

To continue with outdoor learning, there will be an overnight field trip to Camp Chief Hector in May. An observatory visit as well as continued visits to Beaumont Park.

The new teachers warned the administration that they need to be outside a lot and they were very open to it, and agree that these grade 6 kids need this.

## **Principal Message:**

### School Development Plan (Eve): Posted On website

Wellbeing

Advancement of Truth and Reconciliation

Reading

Part of a 3 year cycle and the school is encouraged to hone in on one tangible goal. So they could really understand outcomes. Our school's goal is Comprehension in both English and Spanish.

Exciting advancements so far. Sra Paulia will be moving to a learning leader position, working with Sra Wei taking over for her, so Paullia can collaborate daily with all other teachers and students to help with this goal of growth in Comprehension.

Neurolinguistics - is what the school also focuses on. It starts with development of language, moves to reading and then eventually leads to writing, and Sra Paulina will be helping to implement these developments. She should be starting in the next couple of weeks and she will be in the classrooms supporting teachers.

### Staffing Updates:

Kelly Klassen - Supporting while Dina is away Mon-Thurs 8:30-4:15. It has been seamless with her coming in.

Judy Sundal office support on Friday's 8:30-1:30

Sra Paulina - Learning Leader Position - She will be stepping away from teaching Gr 5

Sra Anita Wee - Taking over for Sra Paulina starting Jan 26th until the end of the year

Sra Andrea Gomez - Gr 2 for Sra Waingort, Galvez will continue in the evenings.

### Report to Parents on Fees:

Posted on School Website - Under Our School - "Report to Parent on Fees"

### School Improvements

New Eyes - Mike's arrival at the school has brought some new insights into some improvements that are needed.

One proposal - We have some very old accordion dividers between some classrooms, making some classrooms quite loud. Looking at the removal of that and looking for a replacement for that. Hoping to receive funding for this from CBE.

1970's carpet that needs replacing. They are in the beginning stages of working with a project manager to look for replacement options. Again hoping for funding from the CBE.

Blinds in the classroom were not up to code, and had pull down cords attached to them. Mr Wei had them all down very quickly. Looking into options for replacing the blinds, We have a quote from a design company, essentially a film that will cover the windows, in the process of picking a theme. Thinking of following landscapes from North America down through South America.

We are trying to get what we can through the school board, but may have to come to council if need be. Hopefully will get most from CBE

PE Floor Mats - At least 30 maybe 40 years old. Very thin. They are an urgent need that we need to prioritize for the school. Currently we have 32, We would need a minimum of 25 mats. If we do it ourselves it would be around \$30, 000. Looking to cost share with Dalhousie. Would be helpful to get a breakdown of the cost. This is a safety item, so needs to be dealt with. This would come out of the school budget.

Mike will give Carmen a list of wants and needs, including a priority list for items for the school for long term budget planning.

#### Open house:

Roughly 100 families in attendance. Lots of really great feedback, they liked the grade 5 students leading the tours. All classrooms were open which display student work, the learning commons was open for observing, and families had a great time exploring. Families could really sense the caring and community aspects of the school. There will be a lottery again this year.

#### School Registration and Planning:

283 of 387 have completed the intent to return form. Still about 40-50 students shy on getting responses back. Spread the word if you know someone that hasn't filled out the form.

#### WO Mitchell Stamped Breakfast:

Confirmed June 26th

Confirmed for 800 breakfasts

**Sr Scott's Powerpoint Presentation can be found here. [PowerPoint Presentation](#)**

## **Council:**

### Retirement Gift for Sra Harker:

She retired while the strike was on, Council would like to give her a gift. \$100 Gift Card Spa or Bookstore Suggestion was made to society

### Education Grant:

\$572 that we get to spend on parent education.

Paul Davis - Carmen will reach out to him to see if he can speak to parents about internet safety.

A great resource for helping parents with children's online safety can be found here: [Telus Wise](#)

Potentially talk to the police to see if they can come in and do a speech

Another idea - How can we help with Spanish at home

Another idea - How to go through parenting stages - changes in behaviour etc.

### Playground committee update:

Behind the scenes they have had a very busy couple of weeks. Adelle, Angel and Carmen have been working very hard. They have applied for a grant in January and will find out in July if we are going to receive it. We will be applying for other grants as well. The committee is going to be figuring out the best process to engage the community and kiddos to figure out what they want in the playground. We don't want to take too much time away from learning and don't want to take time from teachers, but we definitely want to have student involvement, so we are currently trying to figure out the best way to do this. They are also in the middle of doing a raffle right now, if you are able to take a booklet to sell to neighbours, we can make \$16000 for the playground if we sell all the tickets!! Sales end January 27th, draw is on the 29th. 1000 tickets are being sold in total. Put the message out to help sell tickets!!  
Bottle drive raised just under \$1000

April 15th and April 23rd are events at the school and we could possibly do another raffle.

### Fiesta planning:

Date: June 4th

Food trucks were not ideal - Healthy Hunger or some sort of catering could potentially work better.

Candy bags, chips, water like we did at the glow dance.

### Yearbook:

Here are the options for them:

Kindness Rules — La bondad manda/mola

Unleash Your Kindness — Desata tu bondad - WINNER

Reach for the Stars — Ve por las estrellas

**Questions/Comments:**

Society, which is the next meeting, is Bound by Societies Act of Alberta so certain things need to be discussed in that meeting rather than in the Council meeting.

**Date of next meeting:**

February 17th, 2025 at 7:00 PM - In Person and Online

**Adjournment:**

Carmen adjourned the meeting at 8:26 pm.

**Purpose of Council:**

A group of people who work together to advise the Principal and the board respecting matters relating to the school; A means for parents and community members to work together with the school to support and enhance student learning.

**W.O. Mitchell School Council Mission:**

W.O. Mitchell School Council is committed to supporting opportunities for each student to maximize their intellectual, physical, social, emotional and creative growth in an encouraging, safe and caring environment.