

The WISE Charter School Board



Minutes of the Board meeting.

Thursday, September 19th, 6.45-7.30pm

Steve called the meeting to order at 6.48pm

Steve motioned to approve the agenda, Margot seconded. Passed by acclamation.

Eoin motioned to approve the minutes. Steve seconded. Passed by acclamation.

1. Board reports

1.1 Board Executive Report

Steve provided an update on the hiring of a Superintendent. He outlined the process and the hiring recommendation made to the board. It is anticipated that contracts would be signed soon.

Steve informed the Board of the resignation of two board members who had become staff of the WISE CS and were no longer eligible for Board membership.

Eoin reminded the board of the joint governance committee and that it would be working on various matters including by-laws and shared committee information.

1.2 Principal's report

Mary updated the Board on a range of key tasks including sending block and unit plans for review, working on a supervisory schedule, planning for the WISE/WESE day. Additionally electives are starting soon and students are keen to hear more! Plans for Orange Shirt Day/week are well underway. Likewise plans for Michaelmas are also well underway. Mary continues to send summary mails to staff.

She outlined that the form and process for unattended release is being modified to maximise safety of children.

She noted that the August enrollment event brought 8 new children to the school.

The first meeting of the School Council will take place on the 2nd of October. 5 people have volunteered to sit on the Council. There remains some pieces of work to do in order to iron out in relation to the role the Council will play in fundraising.

Eoin asked about the new funding model for instruments and how the decision was made?

Keely answered that administration made the decision based on practicalities of how instruments are managed and also because casino funds have to be allocated appropriately to ensure compliance with the licensing rules of the Alberta Gaming Liquor and Cannabis (AGLC).

(John Liu update = Steve)

1.3 Secretary-Treasurer report

Keely observed how challenging the construction in the area had been for everyone.

Her “Roses” are the Administrative Team and the Faculty. All of these transitions are made very good by them.

She observed that we celebrate our 14th year as an organisation on Sept 2nd, and that we now have a new birthday of June 21st

In relation to fundraising we may accept donations in the usual methods, however we have not yet established clarity about capital donations. We are clear that we are no longer eligible for AGLC-based donations unless in certain circumstances where a license is required.)

The Mental Health in Schools grant, for which we received \$22,000, has been transferred from WESE to WISE CS through a sub-contracting/transfer mechanism agreed with Alberta Education. A new contract has been signed with the service-provider.

The WISE CS is not submitting an Annual Education Results Report (AERR) or chartered financials in November because of our status as a new charter school. The AERR reflects on the year past so is not applicable here. WESE will provide one for the Waldorf Independent School of Edmonton. Capital Plan for WISE CS is submitted on an annual cycle of Apr 1.

We have received our restricted funds for start up, over next two years we have to spend that money.

As a new operator the Weighted Moving Average does not apply. This works to our favour so long as enrollments stay constant.

We have hired John Liu's Professional Corporation as a financial advisor. As a Public Charter, we now have a monthly financial reporting cycle.

Keely updated that despite the September enrollment push we did have some attrition (see enrollment report). Our enrollment projection was 160 students so anything above that increases our budget. That remains our goal for the 2025/26 school year enrollment. The tally of per capita grants per student has risen from \$6500 (Private) to ~\$13,000 (Public).

Mark asked a question about any individuals who were not compatible with the school? Mary observed that the Assessment and Placement process has worked well. But for some families we have not been able to find a fit. For example, a family with a Grade 1 child may have an older sibling who would be suitable for a more senior grade but that grade may be full.

Mark asked the question what would it take before we could get to two Grade 1 classes? The rationale for this is that as grades grow they tend to lose students and so by Grade 3 or 4 the class size would be a perfect fit to our needs.

Keely outlined a number of considerations. The first of which is classroom space. She indicated that it is a widely held myth that Waldorf schools do not engage in that practise. Colorado Charter Waldorf school does. It is possible to pedagogically address some of the concerns which arise regarding class comparison and teacher-parent relationships.

A discussion followed indicating that a key school priority is to work out Kindergarten and after-school care.

Steve asked about the Association of Waldorf Schools of North America and our current status? Keely informed him that on September the 30th a meeting of all regional representatives will take place. Reps will take the discussion back to individual regions for further discussion. Then in June the question will be raised at the Full delegates meeting for a vote regarding our ongoing membership.

Angelique came in to wash a bowl and left once it was sparkling.

Keely observed that all contracts have been issued for the WISE CS except for Specialized services for SLP/OT/BSP.

We have maintained the same benefits broker & provider, Hub International/ Manulife. The Charter Group did not offer as good benefits so we opted not to pursue that, and have been able to maintain our affiliation with the Independent group through Hub.

As part of being a public charter school we contribute to the Alberta Teachers Retirement Fund and staff will be able to access that for their pension. In the future this will be great for the teachers but currently they may feel it is difficult as they adjust to the reduction in pay.

Our insurance is currently a membership plan through the Rural Municipalities Association and is a very reasonable rate.

The WISE CS is the holder of the Occupational Health & Safety file. Job Hazard Assessments are complete and the committee requirement has been re-instated as an internal WISE CS committee and will meet quarterly.

4. New Business

4.1 Hiring Information

- To affirm the e-decision of the Board to hire the part-time teaching assistant for afternoon Kindergarten.

Eoin moved the motion, Margot seconded. Two votes in favour with Steve abstaining from the vote.

- To affirm the- decision of the Board to hire a Class 2- 5 French teacher.

Steve motioned, Margot seconded and all voted in favour.

- 1.1. **Motion:** To approve the draft of the WISE CS Policy Manual.

Steve motioned, Margot seconded and all voted in favour.

- 1.2. Nomination of Eoin Murray as WISE CS Board representative for the Whistleblower Policy.


Steve motioned, Margot seconded and all voted in favour.


Steve closed the meeting at 8.15pm

Attendance record

Name & position	Attendance	Notes
Barnett, Steve (President)	Yes	In person
Bright, Margot (Treasurer)	Yes	In person
Murray, Eoin (Secretary)	Yes	In person
Non voting members		
Conrod, Mary (Principal)	Yes	In person

Scott, Keely (Secretary-Treasurer)	Yes	In person


EOIN MURRAY
17th of October,
2024


Oct 17, 2024