

Mar 31, 2025

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## **WISE Charter School**

Minutes of the Board meeting, 19th of December, 2024.

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Sarah called the meeting to order at 7.16

### **1. Approval of the agenda**

Sarah proposed the motion to approve the agenda and Alison seconded. The motion was passed by acclamation.

Eoin informed the Board of the two new proposed standing items which he has seen on other boards.

The first is a "Conflict of Interest" check. The President (Chair) invites all members to review the agenda and, if they see a conflict, to declare it. Members make a declaration and then respond appropriately during the relevant discussion.

The second item is a proposal to hold an In Camera session as a standing item. The purpose of this is to remove any concerns staff may have about spontaneous In Camera sessions. If there is something to discuss then the session is used. If there is nothing to discuss then the session is adjourned.

### **2. Approval of the minutes**

Sarah proposed the motion to approve the minutes from the November meeting. Eoin seconded the motion. The motion was passed by acclamation.

### **3. Conflict of Interest**

None of the members declared any conflicts.

### **4. Superintendent's report**

Apryl focused on Bill 13 which treats changes in the process of how vacated school properties are now being distributed.

Bill 27 is the amendment to the Education Act and further information will come in January.

She also mentioned that she will be at the school in January to work with the Principal and Secretary-Treasurer on a process to map out clear lines of responsibilities.

Eoin asked about any support required from the Board regarding the division of responsibilities between the senior leadership in January to strike a balance across all the leaders. Apryl will inform the Board if support is required.

A question arose regarding Bill 27 and those discussions?

Apryl expressed that our most vulnerable students risk becoming even more vulnerable. The bill provides for parent opt-in regarding sexual education and usage of pronouns. There is no current changes to policy but there will be a mandated province-wide policy change. As a consequence our sexual health education curriculum will need to be re-examined for the 2025/26 school year.

## **5. Principal's report**

Mary reported that Alberta Education has released last year's Provincial Assessment Test (PAT) marks as well as the dates for next year.

The WISE/WESE meeting on January 25th will be focused on value scoping, if we secure certain external funding. If we do not it will be internally facilitated.

Psychological support services are still ongoing.

We continue to follow our enrollment process and we have accepted some students and declined some others. A question was asked about the timing of the information about their participation in the enrollment process and release of forms. The answer is this has been completed already for all of those students, both accepted and declined.

The school has been preparing for the season with the Advent Spiral, our Winter Fair and our Winter concert.

Mary is also facilitating the Holy Nights process, as she did last year. She has ten participants signed up.

The Junior High Open House will be held on the 3rd of February which will include an in-person Junior High panel and potentially a science class. The March Open House will be for K-6. Re-Registrations for everyone will be in the last week of January.

There was a wide-ranging discussion about how to promote the school, key audiences and areas of focus as well as our external marketing campaign involving online and offline activities.

## **6. WISE School Council report**

Mary report that there have been three three meetings, all well attended. The names WISE School Council (or WSC) and WISE Fundraising Association (WFA) have been selected. Kris will apply for a casino license which may take up to 18 months. There are many good ideas being generated for fundraisers and activities. Laura noted that the application to form a society has been submitted. Emily Superkoski will be the bridge to the WESE.

A question was asked about the role of the School Council in on-boarding new families which led to a wide-ranging discussion about the possibility of a buddy-system, volunteering mandates and other tools to increase engagement.

Further updates will come at the February board meeting.

## **7. Secretary-Treasurer**

Our budget is hard to compare from this year to last year due to the change in status. This makes it challenging to manage the cashflow through a direct comparison.

The society by-laws have been submitted. There are no policies to present.

In December we submitted the Area Capital Utilisation (ACU). Alberta Ed. has assessed our current capacity at 65%. Anything over 85% is being approved for capital funding. Our funding - as a charter school - isn't tied to the ACU model but it is also important in the long-term relating to capital construction. There are other factors in relation to approval for capital such as the health of the building.

An application has been submitted for \$50,000 for capital planning work. We anticipate hearing from Alberta Education in advance of Christmas. The focus of the WISE/WESE meeting will hinge on the success in securing funding. The WISE/WESE meeting will happen at 0930 on the 25th of January, 2025. Board members are expected to attend, as with any regular Board meeting.

We need to consider how we navigate the relationship with WESE as both an Early Years Education provider committed to the same mission, but also as our landlord.

The Chief of Staff of the Minister for Education is meeting with WISE CS leadership on January 7th to discuss a potential visit of the Minister in the New Year.

## **8. WISE CS Board work plan**

The underlying concept is to put some structure on the annual cycle. The work done by the Board in the past, for example fundraising, has shift towards the School Council. This calendar

helps the Board achieve a goal of regularising core activities and adding in some additional ones.

The plan will be used to form agendas at each Board meeting and also to ensure the Board stays on track with critical tasks.

The Board agreed to use the plan on an ongoing basis and to reformulate it in June.

#### **9. Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between WESE and WISE CS**

The purpose of the MoU is to ensure both entities work well together. There is still an amount of complexity which we need to navigate and this will be brought to a future Board meeting.

#### **10. Any Other Business**

At the WESE Board meeting a committee was established to focus on new streams of growth and income. WISE CS Board members are welcome to participate.

The meeting was adjourned at 8.46 at which point the Board entered an In Camera session.

Name	Position	Present when meeting called to order	Notes (time of arrival/departure, online etc.)
Alleman, Raegan	Faculty Council	Y	Non-voting observer
Barnett, Steve	President	N	
Bright, Margot	Treasurer	Y	Online
Friere-Gibb, Sarah	Director	Y	
McKenna, Mark	Director	Y	
Murray, Eoin	Secretary	Y	
Toews, Alison	Director	Y	
<b>Staff present</b>			
Apryl Spolonz	Superintendent	Y	Online

Keey Scott	Secretary Treasurer	Y	
Mary Conrod	Principal	Y	
<b>Observers present</b>			
Engen, Calvin	President, WESE		
Vaughan, Alisa	Director, WESE		
Laura	Chair, School Council		