



WISE Charter Society Board

Thursday, May, 15th, 6.45pm - 8.30pm

6.45 - 7.00pm

Shared WESE & WISE Board Book Study- "Leadership Development: Change from the Inside",
Torin Finser.

Agenda

Meeting called to order at 6.46pm.

Steve led reflections on chapter 13. Sara volunteered to do chapter 14 on 'Reframing'.

1. Opening verse

Steve read the opening verse.

2. Treaty acknowledgement

Steve read the treaty acknowledgement.

3. Two-word check-in

All present offered their check-in.

4. Approval: April minutes.

Steve motioned to approve the minutes and Margot seconded the motion. All voted in favour.

5. Approval: May agenda

Steve moved the motion to approve the May agenda, Margot seconded.

6. Conflict of interest declaration

No conflicts declared.

7. Report: Principal (7 min)

Mary is getting ready for PATs, preparing the new AERR and Bill 29 readiness. Mary completed 5 evaluations and met with teacher's separately.

The Outdoor Ed canoe field trip for grade 7 takes place soon.
Mary has been working on reviewing class play scripts as well as year end reports.

From the School Council Mallory will lead the chilli cook off. Laura has prepared a draft mission and vision statement which will be re-drafted for the next meeting.

A question arose about the PATs and a change in software. Apryl noted that this year we will still be doing them on paper and may be able to continue doing that unless we can not meet certain calendar requirements.

A question arose about the teacher evaluation process. Mary uses the Teacher Quality Standards. The process is outlined in the employee handbook. Teachers are given those in advance and asked to reflect in advance, a meeting will happen and a dialogue will occur. A lot of the issues relate to minor issues which the teachers are reflecting upon. Because our Waldorf teacher training is still embryonic we need to reflect as a school system how to provide those supports.

Following up from the last Board meeting Mary provided an application number update.

8. Superintendent Report: (10 min)

Apryl updated on her regular conversations with the leadership team, the changes in Alberta Ed. approaches to the online/offline PATs. Apryl is seeking a meeting with the relevant staff in Alberta Ed. The test modality has been problematic. Apryl has had input into the budget and the leadership plan. Leadership contracts are being worked on and will be in place by the end of June.

9. Report: Secretary Treasurer (7 min)

Keely updated on the SCAP which has been submitted.
WE CAN has approved our full membership effective the 8th of May which applies for Early Childhood for both WESE and WISE CS.

There was a discussion about the compliance documents which were previously needed as a private school and are not required as a public school, including insurance, our calendar, our op's plan and other items.

Gateways got a lot of positive feedback from the teaching staff.

At the TAAPS meeting it was decided to increase membership fees and their focus is a teacher's conference for charter schools in 2026, they also spoke about a potential review of the SI grid to reflect the growth of some charter schools. There is also a desire to review the process of appeals for rejected applications which can currently go all the way to the Minister for charter schools.

Keely is proposing that the WISE CS Board meeting take place on the 19th after the school year-end wrap. (Gems:4-5pm, 5-6:30pm WISE WESE appreciation/social meeting)

10. Education Plan

Steve motioned to approve the 2025/26 Education Plan, Sarah seconded the motion.

The motion was carried unanimously with a note that this is the first time that it has been done in person, instead of in email!

11. Budget

Steve motion to approve the the 2025/6 budget and Margot seconded it.

Keely spoke through the snapshot.

The budget includes an FTE increase through an amended formula based on teaching days:preparation with a span of different changes depending on grade level. This is a positive development for teachers. In the event of a new agreement between the government and teachers our staff will also benefit from that.

Our Educational Assistant grid has been increased by 5%, the first increase since 2018. Hourly wages for part-time staff have also been increased a grid level.

We have met the budget principle passed by the board.

We have included an expense line for marketing with a company called Digital Fruit.

A question arose about what happens if enrollment drops from the projection what would be the contingencies? We would probably reduce the EA staff and program and supplies. We are still thriving for a 205 enrollment level to really provide financial freedom and begin the process of building reserves.

This year the revenue side of the budget is very solid.

The motion was carried unanimously.

Steve read a brief paragraph from the Finser book which mentioned the extraordinary leadership required to escape from perennial financial difficulties.

12. Two-word check out

Everyone participated in the two-word check out.

The meeting ended at 20.26 and the board began its in camera session.

13. In-Camera session

WISE Charter School Board work plan 2024/2025.

Attendance

Name	Position	Present when meeting called to order	Notes (time of arrival/departure, online etc.)
Barnett, Steve	President	Y	
Bright, Margot	Treasurer	Y	
Friere-Gibb, Sarah	Vice-Chair	Y	
McKenna, Mark	Director	N	
Murray, Eoin	Secretary	Y	
Toews, Alison	Director	N	
Observers present			
Staff			
Conrod, Mary	Principal	Y	Online
Scott, Keely	Sec-Treasurer	Y	
Sponholtz, Apryl	Superintendent	Y	Online, left at 8.23pm
Aleman, Raegan	Faculty Council	Y	Online

Opening Verse

“When from the depths of soul
The Spirit turns towards the life of
worlds
And Beauty wells from spaces far and wide,
Then out of heaven’s vast expanse
The force of life streams into human
bodies
And, working mightily, unites
The Spirit’s essence with the life of man.

- Weekly meditation: Beauty unites spirit with my being.

Treaty acknowledgement

The WISE Charter School acknowledges that we are Treaty people in ᑭᓯᐱᓴᐅᓄᓇᐃᔨ Amiskwacîwâskahikan on Treaty 6 territory and Métis Nation of Alberta Region 4 territory.

This is the traditional gathering place for First Nations peoples such as Nehiyaw (Cree), Denesuliné (Dene), Nakota Sioux (Stoney), Anishinaabe (Saulteaux), and Niitsitapi (Blackfoot), and many others.

Their knowledge of the land, histories, languages, and cultures continue to influence our vibrant communities and remind us of the value of 'tawâw.' (welcome)