

Westpark Middle School
School Council Meeting Minutes
January 17, 2017

Meeting called to order at 6:41pm

Attendees: Crystal Pell, Dean Pasiuk, Launa Macleod, Jessica Wilson, Dana Rawlusk, Rekha James, Laura Wittman, Shannon McPherson, Angela Flinn, George Berry

1. Welcome and Introductions
2. Additions to the Agenda – Classroom & Teacher Intervention
3. Approval of the Agenda – Motion made by Jessica and 2nd by Rekha
4. Approval of the Previous Minutes
5. Reports - Administration
 - a. Berry Architecture – New School Design – Presentation provided by George Berry & Angela Flinn of Berry Architecture. George and Angela are very excited about our new school and have enlisted the help of a student design group of current WPM students to share in their excitement. The students have had several positive ideas about what they want to see in their school and many of their concepts have been incorporated into design.

New School Design:

- The new school will be a 2 storey building, address will remain the same, main entrance will be off 55th Street, secondary entrance will be off 57th Street
- Bus loop off 57th Street, handi bus drop off and parent parking off 55th Street
- The school will be used as an educational tool, several unique learning and design features such as:
 - Glass drains to observe where the water from the roof travels. It will appear, disappear and reappear in other parts of the school.
 - Various water, lighting, audio and acoustical features throughout school, including a “WPM Wildcats” logo and announcements projected on to the floor
 - “Structural Tree” in Auditorium
 - “Harry Potter Stairs” in the Auditorium – benches with stair and walkways that can be moved around

- Outdoor “bistro” off of main floor of Learning Commons (library) Glass walled elevator to enable students to see the inner workings
- Glass walled mechanical room with interactive touch screens to enable students to see and make changes to the mechanical operations in the building
- School will be designed for full photovoltaics (solar panels). We have been approved for a Grant by the Government and the intent is to one day be electrically neutral and possibly carbon neutral some day.
- Various First Nations concepts will be incorporated into the school
- Green roof on the second floor of the Science Park to enable the growth of food for the community
- Fine Arts (Band & Art) –2 storey band room with 2 practice rooms and a mezzanine
- Foundations and Pathways classrooms will be connected by a shared residential kitchen and barrier free washroom. Both classrooms will have access to a barrier free green roof and sensory room.
- Overhead doors in several locations around the school to enable larger teaching spaces when they are opened
- Several staff collaboration areas and student breakout areas
- 6 new modular units will be added, while the 2 new existing modulares will be moved over.
- CTS space will have direct access outside via an overhead door for deliveries
- School is 100% barrier free. Every student will be able to access every part of the school.
- Gym will be 50% larger than the current gym. It will have a dividing wall so that it can be made into 2 spaces.
- Fitness Studio above gym with windows to look down into gym or out to the flat green roof
- Information Services to be able to be used as a classroom and/or a computer room
- Washrooms – boys, girls as well as private washrooms
- Lockers will be stacking ½ lockers and will be significantly deeper, 18 inches.
- “Staff Retreat” with an outdoor patio

- The school is targeting LEED Gold (Leadership & Energy in Environmental Design). The government requires the building to be LEED Silver however our school will exceed that level with it's environmentally responsible features.
- Parts of the current school will be recycled and reused and form part of the new school, such as:
 - Bridge to the elevator will be built with the glulam beams from the existing gym
 - Concrete block from the existing school will be ground up and used to form pathways on the grounds
- Partnerships:
 - Red Deer Minor Ball will have an office and their own entrance as well as 2 additional ball fields, media towers and electronic scoreboards
 - The City of Red Deer has financed an outdoor concession as well as outdoor washrooms. The concession can also be used by Foods students.
 - Red Deer College will have access to a glass walled mezzanine above 2 ancillary classrooms in order for RDC students to observe teaching methods. This space can also be used for other teaching support as required.

Schedule for New School

- 15 General Contractor pre-qualified and their proposals were reviewed and narrowed down to 5. Some of these are local contractors and all of them have listed some local mechanical & electrical subtrades. The project will be going out to tender at the end of January into the first week of February. The General Contractors will have 4 weeks to put their prices together and the project will be awarded at the beginning of March. Construction will start mid-April. The existing gym will be demolished in the summer of 2018 so that materials like cinder block and glulam beams can be reused. There may be some disruption to the gym program at this time. The new gym will be ready for use Sept. 2018. The rest of the school will be ready for the students to move in January 2019.

Safety During Construction

- Safety of the students and staff are the first priority. A fence will be put up for a safe construction zone and safety will be a continual focus. There will be several opportunities for tours and students will be included in the construction process as much as possible.

- b. Surveys – As per Dean, surveys will be mailed out within the next few weeks. The kids received their Random Access Codes today.
 - c. Communication & Website - The need to communicate what is being done in the school was brought up in the September meeting. Dean noted information on the website and hopes it answers any questions.
6. Old Business
- a. City Wide Council Meeting, November 22 at Fairview - Dana and Jessica attended. Fairview has a breakfast initiative and a large ESL program.
 - b. The next City Wide Council Meeting is on January 24 at Mattie McCullough - Jessica will attend if she is able to.
7. New Business
- a. Classroom & Teacher Intervention – Dana inquired when a student is struggling in a class what type of intervention/strategies are put into place to ensure the student is successful. She noted a recent experience in which a parent was not contacted by the teacher and was unaware that the student was struggling until PowerSchool showed the final grade as a “D”. Dean replied that if a teacher sees that a student is struggling he/she should phone or email the parent long before the final mark shows up on PowerSchool. He will reiterate this with his staff at the upcoming staff meeting and will also remind them to enter the marks into PowerSchool in a timely manner.
8. Meeting Adjourned at 8:03pm
9. ***Next Meeting is Wednesday, February 8, 2017 at 6:30pm***