



## WEST SPRINGS SCHOOL COUNCIL

Thursday, September 25, 2025 @ 6:30 PM

Online – via Microsoft Teams

### **EXECUTIVE ATTENDEES**

Katherine Rubin – School Council Chair  
Lori Anderson – School Council Vice-Chair  
Irina Lucyshyn – School Council Secretary

Susan Westgate – West Springs Principal  
Leah MacMillan – West Springs Assistant Principal  
Lefteris Apostolidis – School Council Treasurer

**A. Welcome and Introductions (6:31 pm)** – Katherine R. called meeting to order and introduced school administration and council and WSSDA members.

**B. Approval of [Agenda](#) (6:33 pm)** – motion moved by Eryn C., seconded by Ana F. Approved.

**C. Approval of [Minutes](#) from June 5, 2025 School Council Meeting (6:33 pm)** – motion moved by Eryn C., seconded by Cat van D. Approved.

### **D. Administration Report (6:34 pm)**

#### ○ **Introduction of Administration**

- Principal Westgate introduced Ms. Moxon (Gr 2 teacher) as the member of the administration team and a Learning Leader along with Mr. Choate. Learning leader is a designation for someone who is almost always classroom-based and acts as liaison between teachers and the Principal/Assistant Principal in terms of feedback on what the learning environment is like, and what supports are needed for staff and students. They are also tasked with running professional learning activities for staff and assisting the administration team with pedagogical tasks like literacy, numeracy, as well as attending CBE meeting and reporting back.

#### ○ **Land Acknowledgement**

- Principal Westgate shared the updated Land Acknowledgement.

#### ○ **School Update**

- **Celebrating Student Learning – Gr 2 update (Ms. Moxon)** – The first few weeks of school are underway, which is always an exciting time focused on getting to know the students and setting up classroom routines. Grade 2 completed their first visual journal entry, which is a time capsule to be opened in June 2026, featuring their hand and footprints and notes from the students to themselves. The students have also been visiting the wetlands and enjoying the beautiful weather. Finally, Ms. Moxon shared some photos and details from the Terry Fox Run.
- **Staff Update** – Mrs. Westgate introduced new and returning staff for each grade group, as well as the specialists, office staff, EAs, facility operator and lunch supervision staff. WSS welcomes six Teacher Candidates from MRU this year.
- **Enrolment Update** – the school was funded in Spring RAM for 592 students, so the staffing is done according to that number. The actual total is 594 students, which is very close. Pivots are: additional Grade 1 class, less music (from 1 FTE to 0.6 FTE), full-time PE and new SEL (social and emotional learning). As of September 25, the grades are as follows:
  - K – 78 (4), class sizes of 19 (2) and 20 (2)
  - 1 – 131 (6), classes of 21 (2), 22 (3) and 23 (1)

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- 2 – 118 (5), classes of 23 (1), 24 (3) and 25 (1)
- 3 – 126 (5), classes of 24 (1), 25 (3), 27 (1)
- 4 – 141 (5), classes of 28 (4), 29 (1)
- **Q:** Last year the full day/alternating day Kindergarten was done on a pilot basis, and we see that this continued this year. Is this the strategy going forward, or is this still part of the pilot? **A:** The reasons we decided to continue with the same format this year is that the feedback on learning and attendance was generally positive, and when the registration started in January, there was no announcement that the format would change, so for the sake of consistent expectations, the alternating full day format remained. This year the administration will be engaging with the parents sooner, and sharing whichever format is decided on ahead of registrations.
- **Specialists in school** – there are two main reasons for having specialists (music, PE, SEL) in schools: one is for dedicated and excellent programming in their respective areas, and the other reason is that specialist classes allow teachers to have non-instructional time (preps), which is a part of the collective agreement. Generally, there are 8 preps available every two weeks (4 weekly), this year it is down to 7 (4 and 3 per week, respectively), which is still within the collective agreement. Admin team are also involved in teaching – Mrs. Westgate teaches 5 weekly periods of PE, and Ms. MacMillan focuses on literacy instruction and working with students with learning differences or those requiring additional supports.
- **Learning Enrichment Needs (School Council and WSSDA “Wishlist”)**
  - High quality literature – new picture books
  - New Math manipulatives for students
  - Guided reading tables and “literacy centres” for all classrooms
  - New desks and chairs to replace aging and broken ones
  - New projector for PE and Assemblies, Celebrations of Learning and Spring Concert
  - Refresh of the sound system
  - Bussing for one field trip per grade
- **On the Horizon**
  - Sep 26 – WSS recognizing Orange Shirt Day
  - Sep 29 – PD Day – No school for students
  - Sep 30 – National Day for Truth and Reconciliation – All schools closed
  - Oct 6-8 – Grade 4 students field trip to the Calgary Landfill (subject to labour action)
  - Oct 7 – Grade 3 students field trip to Storybook Theatre (subject to labour action)
  - Oct 15 – Photo retakes
  - SAVE THE DATE – Apr 23-24 – Evening Spring Concert
  - **Q:** Should the labour action proceed, what is the plan for the continuity of student learning and what is the role of teachers in that? **A:** From what Mrs. Westgate can share, if the teachers go on strike on Oct 6, schools will be closed. There will be no learning, no Google Classroom access, no access to email; teachers will not be working and will not be paid. The same applies to the administrators, as in Alberta they are also part of the same collective agreement. Should the teaching hours requirement not be met for the year, it is up to Alberta Education and Childcare to decide whether to utilize tools like extending the school year, etc., but it is not up to individual schools. The last provincial strike was in 2002 and lasted 13 days, and in that case the school year was not extended.

## E. Business for Discussion

- **Council Initiatives (7:30 pm):**
  - **Guest Speakers** – we traditionally hold a guest speaker session every year. What would you like to learn about?

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- **Teacher Appreciation** – gifted Subway meals to teachers on Open House/Meet the Teachers Night. Will provide food at parent/teacher conferences. Plans for End of Year Teacher Appreciation.
- **Memory Books** – distributed at Meet the Teacher Night and delivered to classrooms. There are a few left to purchase (\$27). West Ridge will distribute the books to last year's Grade 4s. Thank you to Pia Figueroa for designing the yearbook! As always, we are asking for photos taken throughout the year.

#### F. Fundraising and Volunteer Opportunities: WSSDA (7:33 pm)

- Make sure to subscribe to emails and texts for info about events, fundraisers and volunteering: [www.cbe.ab.ca/subscribe](http://www.cbe.ab.ca/subscribe). Visit [www.WSSDA.ca](http://www.WSSDA.ca) for all current events and fundraisers. Follow @wssda on Instagram and West Springs School Council/WSSDA on Facebook. Join WSSDA for the 2025/2026 budget meeting on Oct 16 immediately following the next School Council meeting.
- **Year-Round Initiatives:** Apparel – Fresh Brand Gear, Fun Lunch – Order via Healthy Hunger. First Lunch – Oct 16 (Oct 15 for MW Kindergarteners only).
- **Casino Nights** (Nov 13, 14, 17, 18) – Please sign up! This is the school's biggest fundraiser, which brings over \$70,000 to fund learning initiatives at West Springs. The event takes place every other year and it must meet the volunteer requirements, or the school loses it.
- **Halloween Howler** – Oct 23 @ 6:00 – 8:00 pm. Tickets will be sold in the coming weeks through Healthy Hunger. Volunteers needed!

## 2025/2026 Council Meeting Dates

Month	Council Meeting
September	25-Sep-25
October	16-Oct-25
November	20-Nov-25
December	-
January	15-Jan-26
February	-
March	05-Mar-26
April	9-Apr-26
May	14-May-26 (AGM)
June	04-Jun-26

- Fall meetings will be online only via Teams. All Council meetings begin at 6:30 pm, except the AGM meeting at 6:00 pm.

**G. Open Discussion** – Comment from Larry A. (Treasurer): It is great to see a turnout of 20+ parents at today's meeting; however, it is important to have more people to attend these meetings and get informed about day-to-day school operations and how staff and students can be supported. Please do spread the word among your fellow parents and get them involved.

**H. Meeting Adjourned (7:40 pm)** – Motion to adjourn meeting moved by Eryn C., seconded by Elaine T. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned.

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