



## WEST SPRINGS SCHOOL COUNCIL

Thursday, January 22, 2026 @ 6:30 PM  
Online – via Microsoft Teams

### **EXECUTIVE ATTENDEES**

Katherine Rubin – School Council Chair  
Loriel 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 (6:32 pm)** – Katherine R. called meeting to order and introduced school administration and Council and WSSDA members.

**B. Approval of [Agenda](#) (6:34 pm)** – motion moved by Taylor K., seconded by Eryn C. Approved.

**C. Approval of [Minutes](#) from November 20, 2025 School Council Meeting (6:34 pm)** – motion moved by Cat van D., seconded by Eryn C. Approved.

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

#### ○ Introduction

- Principal Westgate acknowledged the Dress As The Teacher Day that took place today and what a great success it was. Kids were dressed up as WSS teachers or how they imagined themselves as teachers. It was a lot of fun.

#### ○ Land Acknowledgement

- Assistant Principal MacMillan shared the updated Land Acknowledgement and shared a picture of Grade 4 students at the Confluence (where Bow and Elbow rivers meet). The students spent the week at City Hall School where they learned about leadership and government, as well as water and its importance to human, animal and plant life. They also got to meet and chat with Mayor Farkas and some of the City Councillors.

#### ○ School Update

- **Introduction** - Mrs. Westgate introduced the Administration staff.
- **Celebrating Student Learning** – Ms. MacMillan shared Mr Vooy's updates on learning music on his behalf.
  - Music is part-time in 2025-26, so learning looks a bit different this year.
  - Grade 3&4 choir missed their performance due to the rash outbreak last year, and also because of reduced hours, the choir season is extended till the end of April. In the next couple of weeks, the Grade 1&2 choir will start as well, and both choirs will have a performance at the end of April.
  - During the next few months, grades 1-4 will play djembe – African drums and boomwhackers. Grade 2 and 3 will play xylophone, and Grade 4 will play ukulele. Grade 3s learned about Stevie Wonder and Grade 2s made a whole class tableaux with the theme “Day at the Beach” during a drama game on Flex Friday.
- **Q: Is the time known for Apr 23-24 performances? A:** Mrs Westgate confirmed that the Dress Rehearsals will take place during the day, and both Apr 23 and 24 performances will take place in the evening. Parents and family members who can't attend in the evening are welcome at the Dress Rehearsals. There will be tickets for the performances, and each family will receive at least 2.

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- **Enrolment Update** – registration is open and ongoing for all students in Kindergarten and any new students to WSS. WSS remains a lottery school for 2026-27. Current numbers for Kindergarten registration are at 93 students, however, it's closer to 70 for “first choice” families.
  - Reminder that current students are automatically enrolled in their next grade and don't need to re-register. There will be “backpack mail” coming home soon with the form to indicate whether the students are coming back to WSS next year or not. Please make sure to complete this form and return it to the school.
  - Lottery date is Wednesday, February 11, 2026. All registrations must be in by that date to be considered.
  - The Admin are currently engaging with the new Kinder families about program organization. All families have the option to choose M/W or T/Th and AM/PM on their registration form. There is a post on the school website that WSS is considering returning to the traditional AM/PM organization with student learning as the central focus. There will be a survey sent out regarding preferences.
- **Q: What is the school capacity for Kindergarten? A:** Mrs. Westgate explained that WSS has a capacity of 595 students for the entire school, so Kindergarten capacity depends on other grades. The average number is about 125 per grade. Since some grades are over that number, what Admin would like to see is about 100 students in Kindergarten.
- **Staffing Update** – welcome Mrs. O. (Jehan) to the main office as a new full-time Office Assistant! Mrs. Christine T. has joined the Kindergarten team on T/Th as an EA. Welcome!
- **Report Cards** – will go live for parent viewing on February 24, 2026. Please log into MyCBE account to see them. They are only available online for a couple of months, after that the office can print out a copy on demand (including prior years).
- **Student Conferences** will take place before Spring Break – on March 19 and 20.
- **Spring Concert** – Save the Date! April 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>.
- **Council Updates & Business for Discussion (7:03 pm)**
  - **Guest Speaker Night – Screenagers**
    - Every year WSS gets a government grant for parent education, so the suggestion for this year is the screening of the elementary school edition of Screenagers
    - This is a documentary about the impacts of screentime of children and families, such as digital addiction, effects on brains and learning, mental health, etc.
    - The budget currently has \$918 (this year's grant and carryover from last year) vs the cost of the screening at USD \$700 (~\$950).
    - Will take place at the gym
    - Children are welcome to attend
    - Can potentially use the event as a fundraising opportunity – donation to the school reminder, school attire, yearbooks, etc. - *Note: this has since been determined to be impermissible under the terms of the grant.*
    - Potential date – Feb 26 and ideally before Spring Break
  - **Succession Planning** - executive positions (Chair and Vice-Chair) are available for next year, to be elected at the AGM in May. Contact for more information – [westspringsschoolcouncil@gmail.com](mailto:westspringsschoolcouncil@gmail.com)
  - **Additional Funds** – from Lifetouch Yearbook commissions: \$531.85. Will likely be saved for next year and reduce the amount of WSSDA donation needed.
  - **Memory Books** – limited number of 2024-25 books available, \$25 each at the school office

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- **Reminder to share pictures from Field Trips and School Events** – can send to Council email or teachers to upload (check with the teacher first)
- **Teacher Appreciation** – T-shirts for new staff

**E. Meeting Adjourned (7:22 pm)** – Motion to adjourn meeting moved by Cat van D., seconded by Taylor K. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned.