

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE WESTGATE
SCHOOL COUNCIL HELD IN PERSON AT
WESTGATE SCHOOL AT APPROXIMATELY 6:30
PM ON THE 21ST DAY OF MAY, 2026.**

PRESENT:

Vanessa Huey, Member-at-Large
Stephanie Leech, Assistant Principal,
Westgate School
Kristin Mason, Secretary

Stephanie Paquet, Chair
HollyJoy Stanford, Vice Chair
Marie-Claude Tremblay, Key Communicator

REGRETS:

Julie Muhlberger, Principal, Westgate School

ALSO PRESENT:

One parent*

Stephanie P. acted as Chair and Kristin M. acted as Secretary of the meeting.

CALL TO ORDER

The regular meeting was called to order by Stephanie P. at 6:40 p.m. and a quorum was present.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Moved by Gillian H. and seconded by HollyJoy S., to approve the agenda as presented. No amendments were requested and the motion carried without objection.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Moved by Stephanie P., seconded by Vanessa H., to approve the minutes of the meeting held on April 16, 2026. No amendments were requested and the motion carried without objection.

MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

The Chair indicated that she had no matters to add other than what will be covered in the Chair report.

NEW BUSINESS

No new business was brought forward.

REPORTS

Chair Report

Grade 6 Farewell Committee Information

***Privacy and Attendance Note:**

Full names of School Council executive members and school representatives are included in these minutes to meet governance and transparency requirements. The names of other attendees are not published to protect personal privacy in accordance with Alberta's *Personal Information Protection Act (PIPA)*. A complete sign-in record is retained securely for Council files.

Stephanie P. reported that, as a former member of the Grade 6 Farewell Committee, she has created a reference document capturing tasks, activities, and other relevant information for future committee use. The document has been circulated to School Council members for review and comment, and for input by the Treasurer on relevant procedures. She indicated that the document will also be shared with school administration before being provided to the Grade 6 Farewell Committee members to add to their Google Drive for the benefit of future committees.

\$500 Alberta School Council Engagement (ASCE) Grant

Stephanie P. reported that contact has been made with Serena Braun, a registered psychologist and full-time psychologist at a private school, who maintains a private practice specializing in psycho-educational assessments. Ms. Braun has agreed to present to members of the school community on the topic of psycho-educational assessments, including when to seek them and how to interpret results. The format will be approximately 30 to 40 minutes of presentation followed by a question and answer period. The \$500 ASCE Grant will be used to cover the honorarium, with invoicing to take place before the June 12, 2026 deadline. Ms. Braun also offered to make herself available for individual follow-up questions at no additional cost for a period following the presentation.

Discussion ensued regarding the timing of scheduling such a presentation, given the grant use deadline and availability of space in the school. It was agreed to tentatively schedule the presentation for Thursday, June 11, 2026, at 7:00 p.m., in person at Westgate School, subject to facility and presenter availability which Stephanie P. will confirm. Members also discussed promotional strategies to maximize attendance, noting the importance of giving sufficient advance notice and framing the topic in a way that highlights its relevance to parents.

Spirit Wear

Stephanie P. and HollyJoy S. reported that they will meet on May 26 to review proposals from two vendors, as discussed during the meeting in April, and decide on which vendor as well as the product selection to move forward. Items under consideration include short-sleeve t-shirts, long-sleeve t-shirts, hoodies, and toques. Members expressed a preference for toques over baseball caps, noting their suitability across more of the school year. A September launch is planned. Members wishing to share preferences on items or colours were encouraged to reach out.

Key Communicator Report

Marie-Claude T. attended the Community of School Councils (COSC) meeting held virtually on April 22, 2026 and provided a summary.

Regarding classroom complexity funding: in February 2026, the provincial government announced targeted funding, based on data from the Classroom Insights Survey, to support classroom complexity in 118 Calgary Board of Education (CBE) schools. Following CBE's review, approval was received to adjust 10 of the 118 identified schools to better align the funding with actual complexity needs on the ground. Each identified school receives funding for one complexity team, comprising one teacher and two educational assistants. For the remainder of the current school year, principals at those 118 schools are identifying existing teachers to fill the complexity team teacher roles, backfilling with a substitute teacher or practicum student, while existing educational assistants are being offered additional hours on an optional basis to participate in the complexity teams. For 2026–2027, each of the 118 schools will fill one teacher and two educational assistant positions through the regular staffing process.

Regarding budget planning for 2026–2027: the CBE is receiving approximately \$60 million more than last year. Total Alberta Education funding to the CBE is \$1.55 billion, not including other targeted grants such as the Class Size and Complexity Grant. The CBE will be guided by its stated priorities in allocating the budget: achievement, equity, well-being and the CBE's Education Plan.

Regarding capital planning for 2027–2030: CBE has submitted requests for 21 new schools in high-growth areas, one expansion at a high school, two school replacements, two school modernizations, and one solution project for two aging Northwest elementary schools. Year 1 priority requests include new

schools in Legacy, Livingston, Seton, Belmont, Carrington, Pine Creek, and Glacier Ridge, as well as modernizations and replacements to support aging buildings. Westgate was not included in these requests.

A third COSC meeting for this school year is scheduled for June 10, 2026, from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m., in person at the CBE Education Centre. HollyJoy S. volunteered to attend on behalf of the Westgate School Council, as Marie-Claude T. is unavailable on that date.

Administration Report

Stephanie L. reported on school operations and planning.

The Resource Allocation Method (RAM) and budgeting work has continued this week, and administration is finalizing staffing needs for the 2026–2027 school year including teachers, support staff and lunch supervisors. Class list planning for next year is underway, which involves thoughtful placement of students to support learning. Transition meetings have been held with Bishop Pinkham Junior High, where Grade 6 students had an opportunity to meet some of the junior high teachers. Additionally, many field trips and community walks take place this time of year due to the warmer weather.

Provincial Achievement Tests (PATs) are underway for Grade 6 students. The French written exam was completed on Monday; the prompt focused on the importance of language, and students had the choice of writing an argumentative or narrative piece after an oral brainstorming period. The school has made significant efforts to make PATs a low-stress experience, and the Parents' Society has provided funds for student snacks during the tests.

The Think Fast French drama program, funded by the Parents' Society, has been running in classes since May 19 and will continue through June 1. The program brings in a French drama facilitator to work with students on spontaneous French conversation through improv activities. The program has been well-received, with students reporting enjoyment and engagement.

Grade assemblies are ongoing, with every grade having an opportunity to perform. The Grade 5 assembly is scheduled for May 26. Assemblies have been a positive experience, providing students with a chance to perform in front of a large group.

Jump Rope for Heart is in progress. As of the meeting time, the school has raised approximately \$7,000, with a goal of \$8,000.

Events Report

Vanessa H. provided an update on Gatorfest, scheduled for Thursday, May 28, 2026. Setup begins at 3:15 p.m., with the event running from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. Highlights include an indoor school dance, cakewalk, cotton candy, and a professionally operated photo booth in the gym offering physical prints purchased with event tickets. Outdoor activities and games will also be available. The 50/50 raffle jackpot is currently at \$385. Advance ticket sales are approximately \$2,000, compared to \$2,600 at the same point last year. Early bird pricing was promoted, and a reminder was sent today (the final day of the discount). Volunteer support is still needed at the welcome and check-in tables.

Gator Fest will also feature a gently used Gator gear donation bin at the welcome table near the main entrance of the school. Vanessa H. will coordinate with Dana R., the school's Administrative Assistant, to share the message through upcoming school communications so that families can bring items on the evening of the event. A gear sale will be planned for the fall, once the number of donated items has grown sufficiently.

Vanessa H. provided an update on the Gator Gardens program. Grade 1 teachers have selected planting time slots and a sign-up link for parent volunteers will be distributed to Grade 1 families via the teachers' emailed learning updates. Vanessa H. will organize supplies and direct parent volunteers. A summer watering schedule will be set up and shared with the broader school community for volunteering.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Westgate School Council is scheduled for September 17, 2026.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the Chair declared the meeting terminated at 7:54 p.m.