

WESTWIND

COUNCIL CONNECTION

UPDATES FOR SCHOOL COUNCILS



Westwind School Division recognizes that good schools become better schools when they are strongly connected with parents as part of the learning community. Participation in school council can unite students, parents, schools and communities with a common purpose and make our schools increasingly rich and positive places to teach, learn, and grow.

Contact |

Westwind School Division Communications
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Feel free to contact us with any suggestions or comments.

Quick links |

[School councils](#)
[Board of Trustees](#)
[Alberta Education School Council Resource Manual](#)



Agriculture in Westwind

Westwind works closely with SAEP, the Sustainable Agriculture Education Partnership, to provide grant opportunities for schools to incorporate agriculture into the classroom. If you'd like more information about SAEP or Ag in Westwind, please get in touch with Ryan Barfuss at ryan.barfuss@westwind.ab.ca.

Division Calendar

Thank you for your feedback regarding the 23/24 division calendar. The Board will be meeting to discuss the calendar on January 19, and the recording of that meeting should be available on the division website by Friday. When the Board approves the calendar by motion, it will be [posted on the division website](#).

School Emergency Response Plans: Info for Parents

During any emergency, our division's top priority is the safety of students and staff. Planning and preparation are critical elements for effectively managing and successfully resolving any emergency situations that may arise.

Our Division and School Emergency Response Plans are designed to enhance communication and coordination of school, division, and community resources to meet the needs of those members of our school community who are involved in a crisis.

Our [School Emergency Response Plan Guide for Parents and Guardians](#) outlines the critical elements of our plans and answers questions our parents frequently ask regarding emergency preparedness. This information is available in the "parent" section of the division website.

Website Updates

The Parent section of the WWSD website has been updated to include a [School Council](#) section, which has links to resources you may find useful.

ASCA Membership & Conference

The Board of Trustees will pay the cost of Alberta School Councils' Association (ASCA) memberships for WSD school councils. ASCA provides valuable support and services to school councils across the province. To learn more about ASCA, please [visit their website](#).

The annual ASCA conference is scheduled for April 21-22, 2023, in Edmonton. The division will pay for two members of each council to attend. [CLICK HERE TO LEARN MORE](#). If you'd like to submit a resolution, please feel free to do so [HERE](#).

WE ARE HIRING!

We are looking to fill several positions in the division, especially EA's and substitute support staff. Please keep an eye on the [CAREERS](#) section of our website for available jobs, or get on our sub list to fill in for EA's, admin assistants, librarians, and other positions.

Bell Let's Talk Day

Bell Let's Talk Day is coming up on **Wednesday, January 25**. We encourage parents to join in and commit to taking meaningful action to create positive change. If you'd like to participate in Bell Let's Talk Day, you can download the [Bell Let's Talk toolkit](#) to begin your own conversation about mental health and create positive change at home, school or in the workplace.

ACTION: Please join us in showing support for all who live with mental illness and those who help them. We would love to feature photos of #TeamWestwind joining in the conversations with their Talk Bubbles ([linked here](#)), sharing their actions to support themselves or someone they care about. Please share your photos with Rebecca at rebecca.bultsma@westwind.ab.ca.

Additional information to share with your school councils/school communities:

- If parents have concerns, information about how to best address them is outlined on our website and our AP manual. [CLICK HERE](#) for more details.
- Information about the Role of the School Council is in our AP manual, specifically in [AP 110](#) and [AP 111](#).
- Students can get credit for both university and high school courses through our dual credit agreements with several post-secondary schools. Learn more at westwind.ab.ca/services/dual-credit-information

We will plan to hold our next DSCM in late April/early May, and we will share a date with you as soon as we have one.

Upcoming Dates

January 19: Board Meeting

January 25: Bell Let's Talk Day

January 27: Family Literacy Day

January 30: PD Day

January 31: Spring Semester Starts

February 6-10: Canadian School Counsellor Week

Alberta School Council Engagement Grant

Alberta Education now provides approximately \$1 million directly to school councils through the Alberta School Council Engagement (ASCE) Grant to enhance collaboration between parents and schools on education priorities. This grant gives each school council in the province \$500 per year under the new direct funding approach.

[Learn more](#)

Activities that grant funds can be used for include ASCA learning opportunities such as workshops and customized services for parents to increase capacity for school council members.

[Learn more](#)

Reminder: Be A Good Fan

As we kick off another year of Westwind athletics, keep in mind that good sportsmanship doesn't end at the edge of the field or court; it continues into the bleachers too! Please take a moment to review our Westwind Athletics Spectator Code of Conduct and look for it hanging in every gymnasium.



February 7: Safer Internet Day

February 13: Board Meeting

February 15: Canada's Agriculture Day

February 20-24: No School

March 10: PD Day

March 13: Board Meeting