FAPAC January 11th, 2024 Meeting Minutes

In attendance: Caroline Dahlstrom, Christine Higgins, Amanda Carr, Karin Ward, Timmel Albertson, Sara Roach, Rebecca Ashford, Connie Clavadetscher, Lauren Goracy, Jessica Scott, Kate Pellegrini-Welch, Lyn Porter, Sarah Showalter, Molly Somaini

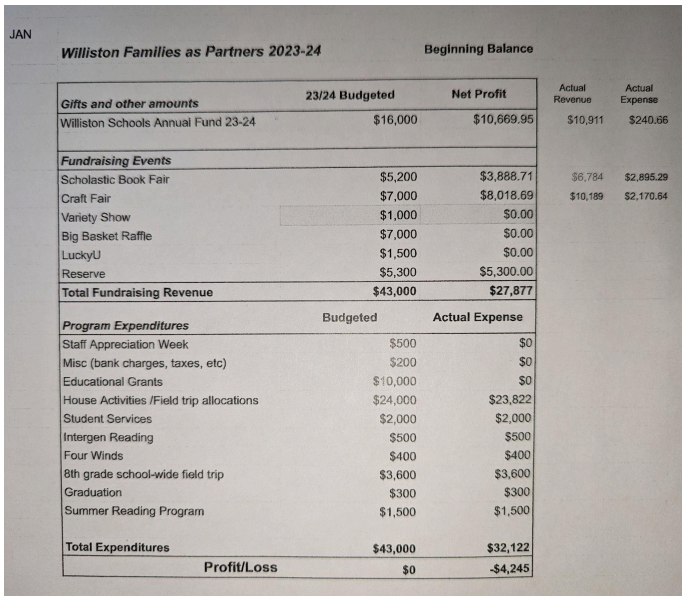
Welcome & Introductions - Caroline & Jess meeting called to order 8:30

- Introductions - names and connection to the school

Financial Report - Christine

- Budget update - dollar wise there is not a lot of change from December

- Activity fund action
    - Reach out from house reps to teachers - we want to know what houses are using their Families as Partners money for. We are trying to change the wording from field trip fund to activity fund. We want a way to show families where their money is going from the annual fund.
    - Business outreach - Business outreach is going forward as well.
    - Thank you letters
    - We are looking at other companies for a Book Fair. We have decided to not go forward with Scholastic. We need to make sure we have equity for all families. We need someone with the bandwidth to head this event. We need a point person if we are going to keep the bookfair at some level. There could be a committee to run this event.
    - In February or March we will be looking at what a budget might look like going forward. Is the annual fund going to be viable when the budget goes up for the school.
- Annual filing updated



JAN

Williston Families as Partners 2023-24 **Beginning Balance**

Gifts and other amounts	**23/24 Budgeted**	**Net Profit**	Actual Revenue	Actual Expense
Williston Schools Annual Fund 23-24	$16,000	$10,669.95	$10,911	$240.66
Fundraising Events				
Scholastic Book Fair	$5,200	$3,888.71	$6,784	$2,895.29
Craft Fair	$7,000	$8,018.69	$10,189	$2,170.64
Variety Show	$1,000	$0.00		
Big Basket Raffle	$7,000	$0.00		
LuckyU	$1,500	$0.00		
Reserve	$5,300	$5,300.00		
Total Fundraising Revenue	**$43,000**	**$27,877**		
Program Expenditures	Budgeted	**Actual Expense**		
Staff Appreciation Week	$500	$0		
Misc (bank charges, taxes, etc)	$200	$0		
Educational Grants	$10,000	$0		
House Activities /Field trip allocations	$24,000	$23,822		
Student Services	$2,000	$2,000		
Intergen Reading	$500	$500		
Four Winds	$400	$400		
8th grade school-wide field trip	$3,600	$3,600		
Graduation	$300	$300		
Summer Reading Program	$1,500	$1,500		
Total Expenditures	**$43,000**	**$32,122**		
Profit/Loss	**$0**	**-$4,245**		

Administration Report: Lauren Goracy:

Lauren was here to listen but wanted to know if anyone had any questions. Karin Ward shared that the walk to school days are working really well. We are working with the administration to find ways to have drop locations for kids who have to ride a bus so they can walk as well. Lauren shared that we have positions still. We are in need of staff. We need a unified sports coach as well. This is impacting things in both schools. We have been doing monthly paraprofessional trainings. Jessica asked if we do not have a para and they are required how do we make up the difference. We pull from other places but this is not ideal. On occasion we have to piece things together. We do the best we can but it is certainly not ideal. We try to disrupt the system as little as possible. We also are still in need of a tremendous amount of subs. When there is a shortage of subs it does impact services for students, especially tier 2 students. We do have a vacancy for a building based sub and this is contracted and gets full benefits. This person comes in every day they will be used somewhere.

There is new information about Jump Rope grades. Parents in K - 4 will receive information about what the Jump Rope grades are and how to interpret this report. A letter will be coming home to the families.

Staff Reports:

ABS PreK-2: Becca Ashford

Pre-K is starting to dive into their winter curriculum. In their classroom, they have a winter forest set up with snow people, winter animals, a cave, and an ice fishing rink. They are also continuing with their pyramid model coaching and are trying to engage families in utilizing coping strategies at home.

Explorers (K) students dove into some festive projects in December such as gingerbread houses, gingerbread cookies and some other fun winter craft projects! Everyday, students explore in their outdoor classroom areas and they are forever grateful for the beautiful FAP funded lean-tos both near the school and up on Tree Island! Some of their classes did a food drive and delivered their food to the Williston Community Food Shelf in December. One class had 5 wagon loads of food with 190 items! What a great experience of giving back to our community!

Starlings (K) no report

Harmony (1-2) is currently taking a break from their WIN cycles to assess students individually in math and literacy to better inform our instruction going forward. First grade math classes are learning to tell time, and second grade math is solving and writing their own story problems. In science students are learning about

properties of matter with the support of Enrichment time, and Ms. Fisher's class has started their Guidance rotation with Ms. Heather.

Horizon (1-2) had a craft sale on December 19th. They raised 769 dollars and some students and families went shopping and purchased food for the Williston Food Shelf. This month they are starting a science unit on properties of materials.

Synergy (1-2) students and staff are getting back into their routines and structures after break. They are in the middle of mid-year assessments getting ready for report cards to go out at the end of the month. They will then start their new WIN groups. Teachers have been learning a new reporting system, Jump Rope, so all students will have the same reporting system K-8. They are in the middle of various science lessons.

WCS 3-4: Karin Ward

Mosaic:

Ms. McSweeney's 4th graders are doing project based learning around energy resources and climate change. 4th graders are researching different forms of energy, how it is used, and its effects on the planet. They are reading, taking notes, and writing an Energy Feature Article.

In both fourth grade classrooms during math students are learning about decimals and how they relate to fractions.

Mrs. Parker's readers and writers are extending their understanding of narrative plot structure into nonfiction text structures. Their writing fluency and reading comprehension are both aided by understanding these text types!

3rd graders have been busy working on their Williston Then and Now projects. Partners started their Google slideshows and will share them with their classmates when completed.

In literacy, 3rd graders have been learning about using transition words and elaborating their details while writing. Students have been having fun reading tall tales and discussing the differences between reality and fantasy. In math, 3rd graders are learning multiple strategies to add and subtract multi-digit numbers.

Kaleidoscope:

Ms. Marybeth's class finished up their Ocean Zones project which was connected to the book The Wild Robot Protects. We have started a new book, set on the moon, which means a new project will be coming soon!

Students have been working on their One Word projects to set an intention for the new year. They are creating visual representations of their word on paper and using Google Slides.

Mr. Kellogg's students have been enjoying working on self designed maker projects on Friday afternoons. Their creations have been amazing!

Equinox:

Mathematicians are working on choosing strategies to solve for more complex arithmetic. For example, arrays for multiplication and division. Or, particle sums for multi-digit addition.

Theme Instruction is focused on Mapping Skills. Students are using maps ranging from simple neighborhoods to worldly adventures on other continents. The top priority is: Can you find YOURSELF on a map?

Gr4 Writers are Expanding Vocabulary by choosing #OneWord2024 . . . One Word to Guide Choices All Year. Students are showing their words using SeeSaw.

Safe Routes to School:

The 'Walk & Roll to School' Crew continues to meet! Exercise and fresh air + community building is shown to reduce the number of unexpected behaviors. Test the theory on Tuesday 13 February 2024!!! Park nearby and walk or roll to school w WCS students. The Williston Safe Routes to School will share more information as the date gets closer.

WCS 5-8: Amanda Laberge:

Summit:

Just before break: A student committee narrowed down play selections for our team, and put forward 3 plays for the team to vote on for our theater unit. The votes have spoken and Summit House will be performing Aladdin before February break.

Before break students also wrote, polished, and gave speeches discussing what they learned and experienced as part of their field trip to Beta.

Looking forward: In Social Studies, students are starting a unit on religion and in the process of scheduling guest speakers.

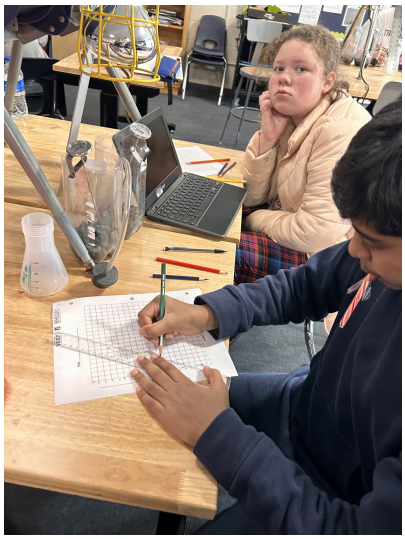
In ELA, students are starting a unit on the United Nations Rights for all Children and Child Labor around the world.

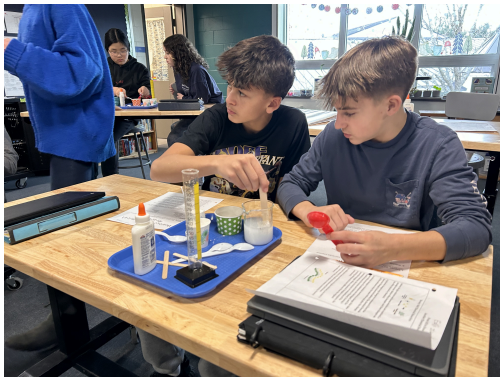
Clover Update:

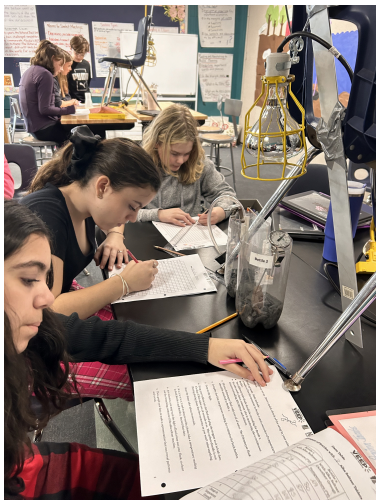
The Brook trout eggs just arrived. Students will be learning about the life cycle of the trout and water chemistry as they raise these trout with the intention of releasing them into Lewis Creek in the spring. Students are also studying the 5 themes of geography with a focus on the United States. They are making travel brochures for states with each theme represented in the brochure.

Harbor Update:

After November break, students began learning about the story of carbon, from oil to oceans. Students collected data on exhaust fumes from cars in our parking lot and then began the exciting adventures of learning about atoms, molecules, chemical change and the Law of Conservation of Matter. Students have been engaged in nonfiction text reading, note taking, scientist meetings and writing, while also engaging in investigations that serve as foundational experiences for understanding how fossil fuels, plant and animal processes, the Carbon Cycle, and combustion of fossil fuels leads to changes in atmospheric carbon levels as well as ocean absorption and acidification. Photos below illustrate student engagement in this climate science unit.





Swift Update:

Just before the early winter break, Swift students participated in our annual poetry slam tradition, writing a variety of different types of poems and taking on the challenge by choice of slam a poem in the auditorium in front of their peers! In January, students began studying topics of interest for their winter independent projects. These projects will culminate with a written report, a visual trifold or slideshow, and a presentation to peers as well as families at an evening open house on January 31st. We introduced our upcoming field trip to Boston in June, and we are beginning to plan ahead for fundraisers like our February bottle drive and Spring Fun Night. Last week, students began exploring the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals and presenting their learning to classmates. These lessons will lead to students' participation in Swift Sustainability Action Projects which culminate in taking action in the community related to one or more of the UN Global Goals.

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well as ocean absorption and acidification. Photos below illustrate student engagement in this climate science unit.

Student Services: Chris Ford:

CVU school counselors will begin meeting with 8th graders and their families regarding the upcoming transition to CVU. More specific info will be coming soon to families.

CVU Activities for our 8th graders:

Friday, Jan. 26th from 1:30 - 2:30: CVU School Counselors meet with 8th graders at WCS

Thursday, Feb. 1st at 6:30pm: CVU Info night for 8th graders and their families at CVU

DEI: Ainaka Luna: not present

Karin Ward shared that there is a group doing a book reading calling Unearthing Joy. They are also talking about doing a book audit in our libraries to make sure that we have a diverse group of books that fit what we need for DEI. There are 25 teachers that signed up for the book group. There is a new person in the DEI role and a committee will be formed from the members of the book group. Four times a year they are doing a Town Hall and they are meeting at CVU. The last one was LatinX and this was great. The next one is next Friday at Shelburne and the focus is on our Nepali populations.

Essential Arts: Lyn Porter:

Thank you to the Families as Partners for the grant to ABS PE. We have a GaGa Pit at ABS. The Part 2 Staff and Zac Deslisle helped me to put the GaGa Pit together. It took 2 hours on a very cold day. Without those hands I could not have done it. A HUGE thank you to those people. We have begun to introduce the students to the game. Our behavior team is creating a common set of rules for playground use so that all the kids know all the expectations.

All K - 4 EA teachers are using Jump Rope as well. This is a circle back for us. It will look very different from what you have had the past few years.

There is art on display at CVSD from both ABS and WCS.

Auditions are happening for the Upper House Musical The Addams Family. There is excitement growing around the play.

School Board: Angela Arsenault

- District budget planning
    - The last planning meeting took place on Tuesday the 9th. The budget will be finalized and warned on January 23rd.
    - A significant increase in taxes is inevitable due to Act 127. ESSER funding is also ending, presenting an additional challenge. The tax increase is capped at 5% for the first 5 years, as long as the per pupil spending stays under a 10% increase. The district is looking to manage the budget within that to avoid a large increase for FY30.
    - All schools within the district will be impacted by this significant change. Williston is looking at a reduction of 2 teachers at ABS.

Jessica Scott asked if she heard correctly that we are going to maintain 17.5 FTE ESSER Funded positions for this year but will phase out those positions over time. Angela did state that Jessica was correct but it might not be those direct positions but that 17.5 FTE will be phased out over 5 years. There is a commitment to providing our kids and families with the services they need. We will not get rid of necessary positions. We will have to continue to do an examination of needs. Is the 5% spending increase cap and it is mandated by Act 127. The state released the numbers and the tax rate is extremely high across the state. In Williston we are looking at a 15.8% tax increase due to the state released CLA. The taxes will increase 5% each year over the next 5 years and if we didn't do that we would have a huge increase in year 6. If the state legislature changes the policy things could change. It is a hard decision to vote for this budget but over time this is the best possible outcome. We do have a kindergarten teacher in reserve if the number of expected kindergarten enrollments goes up. The state has a mandate for K-3 class size 20 or under and 3-8 is 25 and under. Williston class numbers are higher than other schools in the district. When this is looked at we have to look at the adult to children ratio. Angela shared Williston cannot be looked at as a silo as we must look across the board at the district.

It was asked how the modulars are being used. Currently the modulars are being used for professional development. They are not being used for classrooms currently there are things that are not available to set them up for classroom use.

There are a lot of resources available on the district website that provide information about the budget and budget process. There are 2 other items on the CVSD, one is a 20 million dollar bond and the other is buses to keep the bus rotation intact. It was asked if Williston is penalized if the number of free and reduced lunch forms is low, so we do not have clear numbers of what the need is in Williston. Karin Ward shared that if people were paying for food the food quality might go up. We are feeding the children food that is more quantity than quality. There was a large discussion about school lunches. It is a challenge to get people to fill out the forms and this is why our numbers are impacted. Being on medicaid entitles you to other benefits. The free lunch program is statewide and Vermont adopted this after covid. It is always a challenge to get people to fill out forms in general.

Upcoming events and opportunities

- Big Basket Raffle - we will be scheduling another meeting in January, if you want to help with the committee or the event reach out. March 23rd is the date for the event.
- Lucky U - there was a concern about teachers not following through with the winners. The Families As Partners will send a follow up to the teachers to make sure the kids get their prize.
- Rebranding committee - if you are interested in moving forward and helping on this committee contact Caroline.
- Valentine's Day/Random Acts of Kindness

There was a large thank you to the teachers and the entire school network.

Meeting adjourned at: 10:36