

Westmount School Council - Minutes

Date: September 27th, 2023.

Present: Courtney, Jasmin, Trevor, Andrea, Rusul, Sarah M, Heidi, Jill, Jon, Meghan, Abby, Rachel, Kirsten, Stephanie, Raquel, Matt, Marisa, Elyse

WELCOME AND CHAIR'S REMARKS (2 minutes) - Jasmin Neil

- APPROVAL OF AGENDA (2 minutes) - Jasmin Neil
 - MOTION: To approve the agenda as presented.
 - Motion carries
 - Discussion
 - Move principal's report before election
- PRINCIPAL REPORT
 - Elyse and Rachel are the teacher representatives
 - Thanks to everyone for coming
 - Thanks for trusting the staff with your children
 - Just under 500 students in 22 classes
 - 38 teachers, 15 support staff
 - PD Day next Friday, Oct 6
 - Focus on structured literacy and the new assessment tools.
 - Early reading screener too is called Acadience
 - New Language curriculum also being integrated
 - Westmount will receive special education supports for Grade 3 math as directed by the Ministry of Education. A math coach will support teachers and students to participate in small group instruction, in and out of the classroom.
 - 7 weeks in Oct-Nov, and 8 weeks in Feb to March
 - Monthly staff meetings
 - Working on three goals
 - Literacy: Grade 3 > reading to learn
 - Well Being: Strategies for co-regulating
 - Sovereignty: Learning with Indigenous teachers from the community. Wanting to move away from event-based learning...moving toward continuous learning
 - Literacy
 - Decodeables: pages coming home for Grade 1 students
 - Home Reading: old system was harmful. Removed first three levels of texts. Grade 3 and above should be accessible independently.
 - Looking at reading from comprehension standpoint
 - Hoping to have an information evening later in October or early November to help caregivers help students with reading. This will be the launch for home reading
 - No longer restricting books based on levels
 - Unlikely a tracking system will be required of nights read
 - Nutrition Breaks

- Going outside first
 - Then come in for food
 - Can manage conflicts during eating time
 - Transition time back to learning is faster and students are calmer
 - Covid Protocols
 - Expecting self-screening, hand and respiratory hygiene
 - Have HEPA filters in Board designated rooms (eg. library, kindergarten)
 - Nutrition for Learning
 - Fruit in classrooms
 - Available for everyone
 - No screening and forcing students to eat own lunch first
 - Message: Eat gratefully, make sure you eat what you take
 - Fundraiser after Thanksgiving
 - Bin in each classroom for the week
 - One break they will have a cooler delivered (eg. Yogurt and cheese strings)
 - Volunteers
 - Need a couple people to help with organizing home reading books
- REVIEW OF SCHOOL COUNCIL ELECTION
- SCHOOL COUNCIL ELECTION
 - Motion to acclaim the following nominees for school council
 - Abby Donovan, Courtney Janssen-Grieve, Jasmin Farina, Jill Klepacki, Kirsten Commisso, Marisa Murphy, Meghan Whitfield, Raquel Lopez, Sarah Mactavish, Trevor Dueck
 - Seconded by Jill, motion carries
- SCHOOL COUNCIL OFFICERS ELECTION
 - Motion to acclaim the following nominees for positions on school councils
 - Chair: Courtney Janssen-Grieve
 - Vice-Chair: Jasmin Farina
 - Secretary: Trevor Dueck
 - Treasurer: Meghan Whitfield
 - Sarah M seconded, motion carries
- TIME AND DATE OF FUTURE MEETINGS
 - Motion: Approve next meeting dates of Wednesday, Oct. 18 and Wednesday, Dec. 6
 - Motion carries
- FINANCIAL UPDATE – Courtney Janssen-Grieve
 - No word from WRDSB yet about how much money we have
 - Full financial update hopefully next month
- LOOKING FORWARD
 - Chair and Vice Chair are facilitators between school administration and school council
 - Really trying to support the school goals with where we spend energy
 - Excited to have a focus for the year
 - Please let Courtney or Jasmin if you have any ideas
 - Trying to do events that impact as many kids/families as possible.
 - If you have ideas for specific classes, that should go through Heidi

- If you have concerns about your kids or your classrooms, that should go to Heidi or to the educator
- October meeting will be looking at short term activities and longer planning for Winter activities
- Idea is to spend the money for the children/families who raised it
- Volunteer Opportunities
 - Idea is to take responsibility for planning, but will have lots of volunteer help
 - WRAPSC Rep
 - Region wide meeting of representatives from school councils
 - Meet at Forest Heights Collegiate
 - Discuss region wide issues
 - Learn from what other school councils are doing
 - Have an online option and a Facebook group
 - Jill
 - Pizza Coordinator
 - Getting Pizza from Big General (0.30/unit less cost)
 - Our charge is one of the lowest costs
 - Halal Pepperoni is standard
 - Days are on Friday
 - Daryan Angle
 - Clothing Team (Mittens and Swap)
 - Buy a bunch of waterproof mittens for giving out
 - Winter wear clothing swap...very well attended event
 - Partner with KW-Bilingual
 - Jill can contact KW-Bilingual
 - Stephanie & Raquel
 - Science Fair
 - Over 100 students participated
 - Outside of school
 - School council provides boards
 - Communications Coordinator
 - More widespread communication with parents
 - Promoting events and fundraisers
 - School Council, not from School
 - Public page to post events and helpful resources
 - WRAPSC could be a good resource to see what other schools have done
 - Stephanie
 - Volunteer Coordinator
 - Marissa
 - Spirit Wear Coordinator
 - Someone to work with vendors
 - How to make it equitable
 - Make it simple like shirts and hoodies
 - Jon does design and illustration

- Need to ask about pre-organizing from Vendor
 - Hopefully can deal directly with vendor
 - Raquel
 - Sarah M
 - Parent Evening - Literacy Focus (November)
 - Book Week
 - Other Activities
 - Thanks to Bruce for coordinating this the last number of years
 - Skating Rink
- CLOSING REMARKS