

# Westmount School Council - Minutes

Date: October 18<sup>th</sup>, 2023.

Present: Courtney, Meghan, Andrea, Heidi, Elyse, Rusul, Rachel, Kate, Rebecca, Jasmin, Jill, Daryan, Stephanie, Raquel

Regrets: Sarah, Marisa, Abby

- WELCOME AND CHAIR'S REMARKS
- APPROVAL OF AGENDA
  - MOTION: To approve the agenda as presented.
    - Motion seconded
    - Motion carries
  - Discussion
    - Pizza discussion will be first
    - Anything we can do regarding current Middle East conflict
- APPROVAL OF MINUTES
  - Motion to approve the June 2023 minutes as presented
    - Motion seconded
    - Motion carried
  - Motion to approve the September 2023 minutes as presented
    - Motion seconded
    - Motion carries
    - Discussion: email out to larger mailing list
- PRINCIPAL'S REPORT
  - Year 2 of the board's 5 year plan
  - School learning goals
    - Literacy
      - K-2 – Learning to read
      - 3-6 - Reading to learn
      - Becoming effective communicators
      - Joy of reading and learning
      - Check out Sold a story Podcast
      - Focus on learning sounds (eg. instead of word wall, sound wall)
  - Wellness
    - Using strategies
    - Coregulating
  - Sovereignty
    - Being in relationship
    - Starting with Grandfather teachings and existing materials
  - Halloween
    - Note sent out
  - Remembrance day
    - November 10 (aiming for 10:30-11)

- Keep it Canadian focused
    - Parents can attend
  - Nov. 13 PD Day
  - Nov 15 Instructional literacy at 6-7PM (not for kids)
    - Talk with parents about science of reading
    - Some aids to send home
  - Nov. 20
    - Progress Reports
  - WILD is being replaced, will focus on mentoring leaders
- FINANCIAL REPORT
  - Cash balance is \$10,729
  - Already Incurred Expenses: ~\$3,000
  - Approximately \$7,500 available
- COMMITTEE REPORTS
  - Pizza – Daryan Angle
    - Communication went home last Friday
    - Goals
      - Increase access
      - Streamline process
    - Volume was always the same
    - Expect to raise more money
    - Order forms going home on Friday
    - Receive order early in the week and collected from classes by volunteer in mornings
    - Friday, orders put into spreadsheet for each class
    - No need to update orders week to week
    - Teacher order same timeline
    - Pizza eating time will be 2-2:20
    - Need volunteers
      - Collection on Mon/Tues/Weds next week
      - Volunteers for 1pm on Fridays
  - WRAPSC
    - 2 WRDSB staff are there for each meeting to take back feedback
    - First meeting was about safe schools
    - Will be a speaker on this next meeting
    - Structured literacy speaker in January
    - Different options for fundraising (reminder about WEFI...donated and get a charity receipt)
    - Good place to see what other schools are doing and what works well
    - Next one is Nov. 7 @ 7-9
  - Clothing Team
    - Mittens
      - Looking at where to get mittens
      - Motion: to approve \$300 for purchasing mittens

- Clothing swap
      - Tentatively Nov. 16
      - Needing parent volunteer
      - Hoping to get some student volunteers
      - Would be right after school until 4:30
      - Dropoff for donations in the mornings previous
      - Settlement worker brought in some people earlier
  - Communications Coordinator
    - No update
  - Volunteer coordinator
    - No update
  - Spirit wear coordinator
    - Contacted a bunch of different places
    - Prefer prepackaged
    - School needs to approve graphics
  - Parent evening (Literacy Focus)
    - Looking at getting bookmarks
    - Will send via email
- PREAMBLE TO BRAINSTORMING
  - Should complement, but not replace school funding. Can't get something better than what the schoolboard already provides (eg. we can buy better/more Chromebooks)
  - Want to align with school goals
- BRAINSTORMING FOR SCHOOL SPENDING GOALS
  - Brainstorming of ideas
  - Books for sending home
  - Eco ideas tied to sovereignty
  - Recycling efforts (eg. toothbrushes)
  - Math night
  - Science night
  - Science fair (boards for everyone)
  - Outdoor classroom
  - Adding trees, microforest
  - Solar
  - Movie night(s)
  - Treats for a treat day or something (eg. popcorn with movies)
  - Parents paid to drop off kids for an hour and a half...School council members staffed it...would need to have vulnerable sector check
  - Vulnerable sector check reimbursements
  - Natural play space
  - Art night
  - End of year picnic/event
  - Author day
  - Multicultural week?
  - Family reading night

- \$5/kid to cover class expenses (eg. busses)
  - Thank yous
  - NOTE: these are ideas only and some may have significant logistics challenges or may not be possible within board and school policies
- BRAINSTORMING FOR FUNDRAISING EVENTS/OPTIONS
  - Please send ideas to the group
- HOW CAN WE HELP
  - Not straightforward
  - Many who are impacted in the schools from both sides of the conflict
  - Its ok if you are not ok
  - What resources are available
- FUTURE MEETING DATES
  - Next Meeting: Dec. 06, 2023 @7PM
  - MOTION: To set Jan 24<sup>th</sup>, April 3<sup>rd</sup>, and June 12<sup>th</sup> as the meeting dates for the rest of our School Council meetings
- CLOSING REMARKS
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