

Westmount School Council Meeting - June 2022

Date: June 8, 2022

Location: Video Conference

Time: 7:00 PM

Chair: Baljit Singh

Council

Vice-Chair: Roti Akinsanmi

Treasurer: Navdeep Kailey (not here)

Secretary: Thomas Chan

Communications Director: Kathy Good (not here)

Fundraising Director: Kim Anthony (Laura Teterenko incoming)

Parent Engagement Director: Ashley Wilford-Matthews (not here)

Special Events Director: Ameet Kooner

Director-at-Large: Terri May

Director-at-Large: Melissa Wolsey

Administration

Superintendent: Joe Frank

Principal Elementary Campus: Hal Curties

Principal Mid-High Campus: Graeme Finlay

Student Council representative: Jun Heo (not here)

Note: Video recording of this meeting is also available online ([link](#))

1. Opening Remarks and Approval of the Agenda

Congratulations to the school for organizing such a wonderful graduation. Liked that the Westmount graduates were able to let everyone know where they are going next year. Good that we are getting out of Covid and moving on with life. Thank you to Brandie Sedore and other members of the team who helped organize the event.

Thank you to superintendent Joe Frank. Steady work that Joe has done for the school is profound. Leadership during the pandemic has been the major difference maker. The contribution he has made to Westmount will be remembered. Thank you to Joe for his service and leadership from the hundreds of families that have gone through the school.

Thank you to Principals Hal Curties and Graeme Finlay who are tremendous. Making sure kids are safe, learning and growing, despite the pandemic. Have done everything possible to keep extracurricular going. Tremendous effort. Hope their job will be easier in September without the pandemic.

At graduation dinner a number of parents came spoke to Baljit. Said it was remarkable to see the collaboration between the School Council and the administration, especially when dealing with sensitive topics like DEI. Encouraging for the new executive to take forward into the new year. School Council executive continues to be a bridge between the parents and administration.

Express gratefulness to School and community. Will always remember Westmount. Turns the meeting over to the incoming Chair.

Roti Akinsanmi – have been working with Baljit for 2 years. Met him for the first time at the graduation. Share the fond memories. Wish Baljit all the best. Thank you.

2. Reports from Council

a. Fundraising Report - Kim Anthony

- Would like to thank all the volunteers and everyone that donated. Wouldn't be able to do what we do without the volunteers, administration, teachers, the kids
- **Bottle Drive** - Are done for the year. If you do have bottles over the Summer call Skip TheDepot pickup at your house. Next bottle drive will be in the Fall. Thank you to Jill Foreman and other volunteers who help out during our last bottle drive
- **Stampeder Parking** - Had our first Stampeder parking of the season. Canceling Stampeder parking on June 9th because of the band concert. Will put a list up on the website for volunteer opportunities between June and September
- **WestJet & 50/50 Raffles** - Congratulation to all the top ticket sellers. Top Grades were 4 & 7. Really close competition. Individual winners were Auberlin G. in Grade 4 and Jack O. in Grade 7. Individual winners will get a \$100 Amazon gift card and winning classes will get Slurpees
- **Silent Auction** - Will be holding a silent auction as part of the year end celebration. Currently 14 items are up for auction, there is still time to donate. Thank you to everyone that has donated
- Passing fundraising torch to Laura Teterenko

b. Special Events - Ameet Kooner

- **Year-End Event** - How impressed / proud of the parent volunteers. There were 7 to 8 parent volunteers 15 minutes after the email request went out. Starting setup at 12. Everyone has their things to be working on. Ready to go at 2pm. Looking to have a good turnout.

Question: Are we still accepting donations for the silent auction?

Yes, we are still accepting donations for the silent auction. Donations need to be in by tomorrow evening.

3. Principals' Report

[Mid-High Principal's Report](#)

a. Elementary Campus Update - Hal Curties

- **Next School Year** - Starting September using our green calendar, which means everything is back to normal. Will have volunteers and parents back in the school. This means we can regroup Math and Language Arts. Will no longer have to stagger recesses. Will be putting afternoon recess back in place. Grade 1 going into Grade 2 and Grade 3 going into Grade 4 will have the same

teachers. Moving forward as a new normal. School will have 420 students and a full complement of staff. Focus will shift back to gifted from the inside out vs. supporting the students during the pandemic. Has some good PED lined up for both campuses. Parent teacher interviews will be a mix of online and in person

- **Attendance** - Experienced high levels of absences in May, but we are back to normal
- **Drama** - Wizard of Oz is going on tonight. Phenomenal experience for kids that are not normally in the spotlight.
- **Clothing Donation** - 3 boxes full of clothing collected by the Eco Warriors that will be donated
- **Year-End Events** - Friday a big day. Coffee talk in the morning and year end celebration. Sports day June 17th, first one in 2 years.
- Amazing School Council to work with. Last 3 to 4 years has been joyous experience. Appreciate all that you do and that you do and provide in terms of hours and donations. Also, for being a good sounding board for decisions and input for DEI.

b. Mid-High Campus Update - Graeme Finlay

- Busy time of the year. Had graduation in person. Have field trips, which seems like every other day. June 10th is the last day for high school
- **Bus Drivers** - Would like to recognize our bus drivers. There has been a shortage of drivers. A lot of the field trips are only possible because of the bus drivers who are willing to do the extra trip every day
- **Band Concert** - Will be for Grades 5 to 12. Grades will be staggered. Will be the first time many students perform in front of their parents
- **Next School Year** - Grades 8 through 11 have gotten their schedules emailed to them this week. Students going into Grades 7 & 8 will get their schedules next week. Grades 5 & 6 will not get schedules, because they will be in the same class together
- **Incoming Students** - Will see the Grade 4 students tour the Mid-high campus on June 22nd. Their teacher next year are currently teaching Grade 6.
- **Clubs** - Had a Rubik's cube competition. Learnings Commons was full of 40 students. Energy was fantastic
- Huge thank you to School Council. Parent community is so caring, supportive and understanding.

Comment: Vice Chair - Graduation was a beautiful event? Kudos to everyone involved.

Graeme - You won't get a graduation like Westmount at a larger school.

4. Board Liaison - Peter Khu

- Sharing Board liaison position with Simon Corrin.
- Board has arranged a staff appreciation event on June 30th. Gives the Board a chance to thank staff and teachers
- Sad to say goodbye to Joe Frank. Myra Hood, the new superintendent, will be joining August 22nd

5. Closing Remarks

Vice Chair - Over 1,000 students that have been impacted by Joe's leadership. Thank you for your decisiveness, especially during the pandemic. Provided good leadership to help navigate through tough times.

Ameet Kooner - been an honor to work with Joe. Always was there to answer questions. Thank you very much and wish you all the best.

Joe Frank - 53-year career in public education. Last 12 have been the highlight at Westmount. Number of reasons why Joe stayed as long as he did. Contract expires August 21st, truly time to step aside. Enjoyed the work at the school. It was very unique and challenging, but had many opportunities.

It's also because of the people associated with the school. Boards of Governors has been the most supportive, cordial, friend, generous. Staff have been tremendous groups to work with. Seem to be able to attract great strong staff. Because of the parent community the school is as strong as it is. Has been a tremendous honor to serve in this capacity. Not many superintendents attend school council meetings. Thank everyone that has been mentioned. Past 2 ½ years has taken some of the joy from the job. Hasn't been able to travel through the campuses and meet the students and teachers. There are many new teachers that he hasn't gotten to know. Same, with many of the graduating students that walked across the stage. Truly been a joy. It is a great place and it can always grow. There are many things to look forward to, many challenges, but a strong capacity with the parent community, School Council guiding, the Board and the staff. Thank you.

Vice Chair - Welcome new executives Terri May and Melissa Wolsey. Probably going to schedule one meeting in August or September to plan for the new school year.

Meeting Adjourned - 7:50 PM