

Westmount School Council Meeting - March 2022

Date: March 9th

Location: Video Conference

Time: 7:00 pm

Chair: Baljit Singh

Council

Vice-Chair: Roti Akinsanmi

Treasurer: Navdeep Kailey (Absent)

Secretary: Thomas Chan

Communications Director: Kathy Good

Fundraising Director: Kim Anthony

Parent Engagement Director: Ashley Wilford-Matthews

Special Events Director: Ameet Kooner

Director-at-Large: Dawn Courtman

Director-at-Large: Laura Teterenko

Administration

Superintendent: Joe Frank

Principal Elementary Campus: Hal Curties

Principal Mid-High Campus: Graeme Finlay

Student Council representative: Jun Heo

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

1. Opening Remarks and Approval of the Agenda

Baljit Singh provided an introduction.

Motion to approve the agenda: 1st Ashley Wilford-Matthews, 2nd Kim Anthony. Agenda approved.

As cases go down, public restrictions are lifted and more people are vaccinated, hopeful that next school year will be back to normal. Understand that it is tough to make the School Council meetings in person, so the plans are to continue online. Exciting news that the graduation ceremonies will be in person. Month of May will also have the School Council Meeting AGM online. Very positive place to be volunteering.

2. Approval of minutes from February 9th, 2022 School Council meeting

Motion to approve minutes: 1st Dawn Courtman, 2nd Kim Anthony, all in favor, none opposed, minute formally adopted

3. Student Council Report - President Jun Heo

- With the restrictions being lifted, looking forward to normal school activities.
- Upcoming week is Spirt Week. Seems like every time there is a school council meeting there is a Spirit Week. Monday is Pie day. Tuesday is Twin day, so come matching as a friend. Wednesday is Westmount wear day. Thursday is Saint Patrick's Day, so wear green.

- Continuing with the photo submission idea. The theme is kindness
- After Spring Break there will be a lip sync contest and a Spring dance
- Students are pleasantly surprised as restrictions are being lifted and activities are being planned (i.e. Graduation). Majority of students are masking up and respecting each other's boundaries. Model UN team was invited to Western Canada's conference. First in-person conference in two years. Excited about the in person events (i.e. sports, clubs)

4. Reports from Council

a) Parent Engagement Report - Ashley Wilford-Matthews

- **Coffee Talks** - Feedback from parents is they like the online format. Have had great turnout for both the Elementary and Mid-High campuses. Lots of good discussion about restrictions. Have a coffee talk for the elementary campus this Friday. The Mid-High coffee talk is delayed to March 17th due to Spring break.
- **Parent Engagement Sessions** - Talking to the U of C, with the Alberta Civil Liberties Research Center, about anti-racism education. Important that students are hearing similar message at home and in the school.

b) Fundraising Report - Kim Anthony

- **Bottle Drive** - Next one scheduled for April 28th. You can also setup Skip TheDepot pickup at your house
- **Stamperder Parking** - First pre-season game is May the 28th. Will be in touch closer to the date to recruit volunteers.
- **Westmount Cookbook** - Still have a few available. Contact Laura Teterenko if you would like to purchase one.
- **WestJet & 50/50 Raffles** - Currently organizing the raffle draw. No date has been set yet to start selling tickets. Raffle draw might be done at the May 11th AGM.
- **Direct Donations** - Thank you to everyone that has donated. Donations can happen all year round. This year funds are going to parent education, enhancement of the student experience and busing and other worth initiatives
- This year the Fundraising Director spot will be opening up, so anyone interested in volunteering for the role let us know before the AGM in May

c) Treasurer's Report - Navdeep Kailey

- **Revenue for March** - We had the cookbook fundraiser for a total of \$3,198. Year-to-date revenue is at \$18,901 vs budget of \$33,500
- **Council Expenses** - For expense we had our Zoom annual subscription and the cost of the cookbooks. The total costs were \$1,300. School admin has submitted their invoices. Ballpark number is \$10,000 to \$15,000, exact numbers will be given in next report
- **Total balance as of March 31 - ~\$76,000**

5. Principals' Reports - Mr. Hal Curties and Mr. Graeme Finley

[EC Principal's Report](#)

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

a) Elementary Campus Update

- Report is primarily around the changing of the campus as a result of the relaxing of the pandemic restrictions. Masks are no longer required at the Elementary campus. Mask usage is about 60-65% at the campus. Asking parents still use the daily screening. Children that show symptoms will still go to the infirmary and parents will be asked to pick them up.
- **Clubs** - Now able to resume clubs. Haven't had clubs in two years.
- **Cohorting** - Home rooms are no longer cohorting, which means they do not have to strictly stay in their home room group. That means classes can go of field trips. Will not be regrouping for Math and Language Arts until the next school year. Would take too long to get that setup for this school year. Carpets can be brought back into the classroom, which is a big part of the elementary experience
- **DPA** - Daily physical activity will resume in the Dusty Rose Gym.
- **Assemblies** - Will start having assemblies again. Realize that most students have never been in an assembly, so we will start slowly with small grade group assemblies before a whole school assembly. Had a parent survey about assemblies. Anxiety level is higher among parents vs. the students, but most people are excited for assemblies
- **Volunteers** - Parents are able to volunteer again. If parents are volunteering, you will still need a police check and be vaccinated. The mandatory vaccination is based on the Charter Board policy.
- **Attendance** - Attendance is back to normal. Averaging about 20 absent students a day, which is pretty normal.
- **Safety drills** - Had a bad weather drill (tornado) last week. Students leave classroom and sit in the hallway.
- **Outdoor skating** - Has been going on for the last two weeks.

b) Mid-High Campus Update (in addition to Principal's Report)

- Covid update around the Mid-High Campus. Biggest change is around lunch time. Previously, Grades 7 to 12 were in their classrooms. Now they can eat where they want, including the Learning Commons. Going back to pre-Covid before and after school. Doors open at 8 am and class will be open at 8:15. Students can stay in the school until 4pm. After the break we will look to move the Grades 5 & 6 back to the cafeteria.
- **Clubs & Sports** - Clubs were previously separated between Grades 5 & 6 and Grades 7 to 12. Now clubs will include all Grades

- **Masks** - Asking parents to use the daily screening. Masks are no longer required at the Mid-High campus. Mask usage is about 75-80% at the campus. If people are feeling unwell, take the time to spend time away.
- **Course Selection** - Just completed education session on course selection. All students will have their timetable before the Summer.
- **Intake** - Received approximately 300 applications. Not adding a bubble this year, so a few spots per Grade.
- **Other Events** - Diversity club held a Mardi Gras celebration. There was a pink shirt day for anti-bullying

Question: Will there be a tour of the campus for the current Grade 4s?

Planning something in June, probably during exam break. In May there will be an information session for all families.

Question: Sibling priority around admissions?

Hal - Are not able to have a sibling policy at Westmount. We can factor siblings into an "Other Factors" category. Graeme - Not allowed on advice from the Human Rights Commission.

Question: Will there be a Mardi Gras night?

Ashley - Looking at doing something more school-wide possibility in the Spring, but it won't be the Mardi Gras that we have hosted in the past.

6. Meeting Adjourned - 7:40pm