

# Westmount School Council Meeting - October 2021

**Date:** October 13, 2021

**Location:** Video Conference

**Time:** 7:00 pm

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Chair: Baljit Singh (Absent)

## **Council**

Vice-Chair: Roti Akinsanmi

Treasurer: Navdeep Kailey

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 (Absent)

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**

Roti Akinsanmi provided an introduction and listed out the agenda

- One comment was the school council meeting was overlapping with another meeting related to college admissions

## **2. Approval of minutes from June 9, 2021 School Council meeting**

Motion to approve minutes: 1<sup>st</sup> Navdeep Kailey, 2<sup>nd</sup> Ashley Wilford-Matthews, all in favor, none opposed, minute formally adopted

## **3. Student Council Report - President Jun Heo**

- Principal Finlay introduced Jun the Student Council President
- Held the elections for grade representatives in early October. Grade representatives had their first meeting with the student council on October 13th
- The student council has setup lines of communication between the student body and the student council, using anonymous online suggestion forms. Mixed results so far
- Currently, working on budgeting for school clubs
- Work with parent council on t-shirt fundraiser

- Heard lots of complaints from students about Spotify being blocked. Not sure if it should be raised here or at the student advisory meeting. Graham stated that it can be brought up at the student advisory meetings that happen every six weeks

#### 4. Reports from Council

##### a) Parent Engagement Report - Ashley Wilford-Matthews

- **Coffee Talks** - One of the main forms of parent engagement is coffee talks, which occur at both campuses. In September the coffee talk turnout was good, with ~30 parents at each one. The online format is working well, allowing parents who normally would not be able to join to attend (in person there would normally be ~10 parents)
- **Kindergarten Welcome Event** - Would like to thank Mrs. Bagnal, who help to put the event together. Great event to get information to parents and for parents to ask questions. The event was broken out by class and each class started their own WhatsApp groups, further building the community

##### b) Treasurer's Report - Navdeep Kailey

Detailed walkthrough of the 2021/2022 Budget:

- **Total Revenues \$33,500** - Bulk of revenue comes in from direct donations and WestJet raffle. Would like to thank parents for their participation and direct donations. Would like to thank Kim for fundraising, includes, Stampeder parking, bottle drives, t-shirt fundraiser, etc.
- **Council Expenses \$9,050** - Include student awards, parent education and staff appreciation
- **School Administration Requests \$49,050** - Split between Shared Expenses (\$18,250), Elementary (\$7,250) and Mid-High (\$14,500) campuses. Council will take a ballpark number to the administration. The administration will allocate to the different categories. The spending is up from last year as things open up
- And an ending balance of \$40,500 at the end of school year

Motion to approve budget: 1<sup>st</sup> Kim Anthony, 2<sup>nd</sup> Ashley Wilford-Matthews, all in favor, none opposed, budget formally adopted

##### c) Fundraising Report - Kim Anthony

- **Stampeder Parking** - Stampeder parking is back. Raise about \$900 to \$1,000 per game. Would like to thank all of the volunteers that come out
- **Bottle Drive** - first bottle drive of the year is tomorrow. Spots at both campuses to drop off the bottles, morning and in the afternoon. Next bottle drive will be in 2022. Would like to thank Jill and other volunteers for coordinating the bottle drives
- **Westmount Strong T-Shirt Fundraiser** - Kendra, one of our parent volunteers came up with the idea last school year and continues to help with the fundraiser. Thank you to all of the kids that take the time to submit their art. Thank you to the school council, Mrs. Bagnal and Mrs. Jansen who help to coordinate the fundraiser

- **Westmount Cookbook** - Laura Teterenko has taken the lead on this fundraiser. Please submit your recipes. The cookbooks will be delivered before the Christmas Holidays

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

[EC Principal's Report](#)

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

### a) Elementary Campus Update (in addition to Principal's Report)

- Introducing Karly Bagnal, who is the acting Assistant Principal
- **Mandatory Vaccination Update (from Joe Frank)** - Process has been initiated through an anonymous survey. The policy will be developed depending on the results from the survey. Hopefully we have a high percentage of vaccinated staff, so the policy does not have to be too extensive. Have to be thoughtful about the process. Will be a mandatory policy and would apply to parents that volunteer at the school
- **Terry Fox Run** - Each homeroom (cohort) did their own Terry Fox Run as part of their physical education program. There was a fundraising component and numbers will be provided at the next school council meeting
- **New Program for IPPs** - Working with a new program to develop the IPPs and they will be done by the end of October
- **25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Mural** - Because the school wasn't allowed to gather, it is a mosaic made up of the faces of staff and students
- **Donations** - Appreciate the work from the council and the donations. Money received goes to homeroom support and field trips. Field trips cost have gone up due to COVID, due to higher transportation costs. Donations also go towards profession development

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

- **New Students** - Brought in ~90 new students to Westmount, in addition to the 90 students coming up from the Elementary campus. Added a Grade 7 cohort and have five Grade 7 classes this year. Administration taking time to meet with every single student, to check-in with them and see how they are doing
- **New Staff** - Added a new PT ELL Learning Strategist position, Mr. Alex Benarzi, who was previously a TLA. There are more and more students that are working on their English learning. Mr. Benarzi is also the debate coach
- **Clubs & Athletics** - One of the biggest changes this year is the ability to run clubs and athletics. Two high school students are going to Provincials in Red Deer for cross country running. Hosted middle school championships, with a few students winning medals. A bit tougher for Grades 5 & 6, because they are still required to cohort. Coding club is run by Grade 12 students and virtual, so Grade 5 & 6's can participate. Had a virtual club fair and every day there are more requests for clubs. Volleyball team is definitely feeling a year and a half off

- **Diversity, Equity & Inclusion** - Students created a Land Westmount Land Acknowledgement, which went to the student (helped organized orange shirt day) and staff DEI councils. Passed it on to the Elementary campus.
- **Traffic** - Had some near misses, so please be careful. Community police officer stated the bike path across the street is not a cross walk and should not be used as such
- **Donations** - Thanks the council for donations and the money has been earmarked for field trips (i.e. overnight Kananaskis trip). Also, seeing increased transportation costs

## 6. Q&A for the Administration

### a) **Question: Is there a requirement for lockdown drills? - Principal Curties**

Yes, that is set by occupational health and safety. We have to have six fire drills, four lockdown drills, two tornado drills and two administrative lockdown drills. Administrative lockdown drills mean to lock the outside doors, because of potential danger outside of the school. You can still walk around inside the building

### b) **Question: More information on the recent administrative lockdown? - Principal Finley**

A student was coming back from Tim Hortons and approached by a gentleman from the community. The student was quite startled and reported it to the administration, who reported it to the police. The police put the school in administrative lockdown. The gentleman was known to have mental health issues and there was no intent to harm the student. UES was also put under lockdown

### c) **Question: Will the Drama club be back at the elementary campus? - Principal Curties**

One of the things that showed up in the annual education report at the end of last year. One of the areas the elementary campus declined in was options like Drama and French, because there were no clubs. Have had to delay LEAD, because of cohorts. Hopefully, we will eventually be able to move away from cohorts soon

### d) **Question: What is the student population? Is that a record number? - Principals Curties & Finley**

~1,340. Not a record number. Mid-High is at about 900, which is what it has always been under Principal Finley.

### e) **Question: What is the balance of boys vs. girls in the school? Principal Curties & Laurie Alisat**

Principal Curties - Will make a note to do an actual count. Approximately 50/50 at the Elementary campus. Based on prior experience (CBE Gate Program), the split was 1/3 girls vs. 2/3 boys

Laurie Alisat - As a district it is pretty even. A bit surprised by that. A few grades that might be off a bit

## 7. Closing remarks from Roti Akinsanmi

Deep thank you. This is definitely the most engaged school council that Roti has been a part of.

## 8. Meeting Adjourned - 8:15pm