

Westmount School Council Meeting - September 2022

Date: September 21, 2022

Location: Video Conference

Time: 7:00 PM

Chair: Roti Akinsanmi

Council

Vice-Chair: Kim Anthony

Treasurer: Navdeep Kailey

Secretary: Thomas Chan

Communications Director: Kathy Good (absent)

Fundraising Director: Laura Teterenko

Parent Engagement Director: Ashley Wilford-Matthews

Special Events Director: Ameet Kooner

Director-at-Large: Terri May (absent)

Director-at-Large: Melissa Wolsey

Administration

Superintendent: Dr. Myra C. Hood (could not attend due to School Board meeting)

Principal Elementary Campus: Hal Curties

Principal Mid-High Campus: Graeme Finlay

Student Council Representative: Laiba Nasir (VP Student Council)

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

1. Opening Remarks, Approval of the Agenda

Roti commented that we previously never had to reschedule a meeting.

Navdeep Kailey motioned to approve the agenda, 2nd Laura Teterenko. Agenda approved.

2. Approval of minutes from AGM on May 11th, 2022

Thomas Chan motion to approve AGM minutes, 2nd Navdeep Kailey second. Minutes approved.

3. Introduction of new School Superintendent - Dr. Myra C. Hood

We will delay introducing the Superintendent because she is meeting with the School Board.

4. Student Council Report

Nathan Chung, the Student Council President, could not attend the meeting, so Laiba Nasir will represent the Student Council.

- Three main goals to achieve this year:
 - 1) **Hold more events** - finally have the ability to hold more events post-pandemic.
 - 2) **Be more diverse** - working with the diversity council to hold more cultural events. Emphasize diversity in the school and make students feel more welcome.

- 3) **Promote engagement** - during the pandemic most students secluded themselves. Pushing this year to have more students join clubs and sports teams, attend school dances. Biggest goal is to have students feel welcome and safe within the community.

Question (Thomas): Around fund raising?

Student council had a bit left over from last year's budget. Plan is to charge a small fee for events such as dances to recoup some of the costs spent. The student council has not held their budgeting meeting yet but should have more information next school council meeting.

Ameet loves Laiba's spirit and can't wait to coordinate on school events.

5. Reports from Council

a. Approval of 2022/2023 School Calendar - Thomas Chan

- Thomas Chan motion to approve 2022/2023 School Calendar. 2nd Navdeep Kailey.

b. Parent Engagement Report - Ashley Wilford-Matthews

- **Coffee Talks** - Will keep coffee talks monthly, but this year will be alternating in-person and online. First Coffee Talk for the Elementary campus will be online on Sep. 23rd. First Mid-high coffee talk will be on Sep. 29th and will be held in-person. Encourage everyone to attend as it is a great way to meet the principals, ask questions and get to know other parents
- **Parent Engagement Sessions** - Paul Davis is coming back in January. Will speak around technology. If you have ideas, email School Council at schoolcouncil@westmountcharter.com. Looking to do more alumni and diversity events this year

c. Treasurer Report - Navdeep Kailey

- Still wrapping up the August numbers.
- **Total Revenue** - Budgeted revenue was \$33,500 vs. actual revenue of ~\$30,000. Thanks to entire School Council and parents. These revenues came from the WestJet raffle, bottle drives, sale of Westmount Cookbooks and Stampeder parking.
- **Council Expenses** - Budgeted School Council expenses were \$9,000 vs. actual expenses of ~\$5,800. Expenses includes parent education events, special year-end event, community relations, volunteer recognition and staff appreciation. Budgeted School Administration expenses were \$40,000 vs. actual expenses of \$30,000. School Administration expenses include classroom support, bussing costs for field trips and guest speakers.
- **Month end August balance \$42,000**

- Will present the proposed budget in October for approval.

Question (Roti): Coming out of the pandemic, do you a revenue variance going forward?

Have come well out of the pandemic. Costs went down, such as were no field trips. Do not see a challenge getting funds.

d. Fundraising Report - Laura Teterenko

- **Stampeder Parking** - Have done three games so far and raised over \$3,200. Have two more games in the regular season. Could potentially get couple playoff games.
- **Bottle Drive** - Bottle drive will be held around Oct. 27th. You can contact Skip the Depot directly if you can't make the bottle drive.
- **Casinos** - Two separate casinos coming up. These are quite a big deal, because the school can raise up to \$60,000 at each casino. The Elementary campus casino will be held Oct. 28th and 29th. The Mid-high campus casino will be held Nov. 13th and 14th. Newsletter will have more details.
- Open to any fund-raising suggestions. If you have ideas, email School Council at schoolcouncil@westmountcharter.com

Question (Roti): Can students volunteer for the casino?

Can students volunteer for the casino? No, there are age restrictions. We should be sure to include this when asking for volunteers.

Question (Allison Reine): New to Westmount this year. Have you had the grocery gift cards in the past?

As a School Council we have not done it by the Band has done it in the past

6. Principals' Report

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

a. Elementary Campus Update - Hal Curties

- Good start to Elementary Campus this year. A lot of the restrictions no longer in place. Still pushing proper hand high gene and encouraging people to be safe. Still having a good number of kids wearing masks. Part of the normal experience now.
- **Regrouping** - No longer cohorting. Looking to Regroup math & LA in October. Fair number of assessments to be done before that. More information going into October.
- **Recess** - No longer staggering recess, which allows all the students to go out at once. This has also allowed the Administration to add back the third/afternoon recess.

- **Professional Development** - Started year off with professional development with Dr. Bruce Shore. Looking at new provincial curriculum for math, LA and physed. Curriculum quite dense and not necessarily suited for gifted students. Entire two-day stay was less than \$5,000. Thank you to the School Council for providing some of the funds for the visit.
- **Capacity** - School is full at 420 students. Hit all targets per grade and per classroom. Have a waiting list for each grade in place until September. Intake for 2023/24 has started.
- **Parent Events** - Had a quick standup meeting at the beginning of the year in the courtyard. Haven't been able to do that for a few years. Had to postpone "Meet the Teacher" event due to mourning the death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. Event rescheduled for September 26th. This year will be a hybrid event. Still do not want densely packed crowds. Typically, the event would start with all the teachers and parents in the gym. This year we are splitting the parents by last name. All of the presentations will be recorded and shared with parents. For kindergarten students they will be split by Monday Wednesday grouping vs. Tuesday Thursday grouping. Reinstate student led conferences in May. Chance for students to invite parents back into the classroom to see what students have been doing all year.
- **Coffee Talk** - Coffee talk Friday September 23rd. Personally, love coffee talks. Good chance to have conversations around how the elementary campus works, answer questions, let you know what is coming up in the future and perhaps doing planning together.
- **Volunteers** - Interesting to have parents back in the school. Nice to see parent volunteers back on the campus.
- **Terry Fox Day** - Terry Fox Day on Friday. Fund raising going well. Do not push fund raising, because not a great time for everyone financially. Focus is for kids challenging themselves to meet their goals.

b. Mid-High Campus Update - Graeme Finlay

- Different energy this year. Bit more like pre-Covid. Had an assembly the first day.
- **Parent Events** - Thank you to all the parents that came out to the "Meet the Teachers" event. Lot of families came out and there was a lot of energy. First time for some parents to see the building and meet the everyone in person.
- **Clubs** - Beginning of the year has been smooth. Students are organizing and signing-up for clubs. Going to have a club fair, where each club is putting together a slide show that will be distributed electronically. Not cohorting Grades 5 & 6 with their clubs.
- **Report Card** - Tweak to Middle school report cards. Historical letter grades E = Mastery and A = Proficient have changed to M = Mastery and P = Proficient.

- **Sports** - Athletics have started. Volleyball, the senior team has played some games, while the junior team just finished tryouts. Cross country running, had first meet. There were over 500 students from Grade 3 and up. Sport will be opened up for spectating
- **Westmount Wear** - sales have started. Look for a link in an upcoming newsletter.
- **Bussing** - The one thing that hasn't gone smoothly this year is bussing. Provincial wide shortage of bus drivers and companies do not have enough drivers to fulfil their contracts. Meeting September 22nd with the Administration, Superintendent, busing coordinator, HR, Board Secretary and Board Treasurer to look at "What we can do?". Potential compensation for families that been impacted. On urgent list.
- **School Hours** - Parents have asked to drop off students off early. Unfortunately, school doors do not open until 8. Cannot guarantee staff would be there and the school cannot waive liability. Staff does stay late and there is supervision, though in some cases the bus been 90 minutes late
- **Terry Fox Day** - Terry Fox run on Friday, always a grand event. There will be food trucks coming in.
- If you have any questions don't hesitate to email/phone, administration is there to support the community

Question (Ameet) - Are we using YYCFoodTrucks? They have given back to the school through donations.

Graeme - Yes, we are.

7. Call for Volunteers - Roti Akinsanmi & Kim Anthony

a. Alumni Relations

- Looking to engage alumni based on the lifelong benefits, such as networking, mentoring (i.e. post-secondary school), fundraising, career advice, etc. Will be working with the school/the administration through the mid-high to come up with a plan to engage the alumni. Found past few years the alumni just had fun coming back. Looking for volunteers to help with to engage with alumni

b. Diversity, Equity & Inclusion ("DEI")

- If you have experience with DEI, we are looking for volunteers. Reach out to the School Council if you want to volunteer.

8. Closing Remarks

Hal - Invitation to begin career as school bus driver. Don't be afraid.

Roti - Glad it has been a smooth start to the school year, with all activities firing on all cylinders.

Meeting Adjourned - 7:50 PM