



MINUTES OF SCHOOL COUNCIL GENERAL MEETING

Contact School Council:  
[wcschoolcouncil@gmail.com](mailto:wcschoolcouncil@gmail.com)

**WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 2024**

**Call to Order**

A General Meeting of Westmount Charter School was held on **Wednesday, Nov. 20, 2024** via Zoom. It commenced at 7:00pm and was presided over by Ashley Wilford-Matthews, Chair. Ashley began the meeting with Westmount Charter School’s land acknowledgement and a special recognition of The Honorable Murray Sinclair who passed away on November 4, 2024. Murray Sinclair was Chief Commissioner of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) and leaves behind a legacy of inspiring work regarding truth and reconciliation across the country.

**Attendees**

School Council Executives	Students, Staff & Administration
1. Chair: Ashley Wilford-Matthews 2. Vice-Chair: Ameet Kooner 3. Secretary: Jodi Hornung 4. Treasurer: Lisa Fedko-Gott 5. Communications Director: Terri May 6. Fundraising Director: Clara Ip 7. Parent Engagement Director: Melissa Wolsey 8. Social Events Director: Tammy Chan 9. Director-at-Large: Kanwar Gill 10. Director-at-Large: Victor Shen	1. Elementary Principal: Adriana Klassen 2. Elementary Assistant Principal: Karly Bagnall 3. Mid-High Principal: Graeme Finlay 4. Student Council President: Shazain W. 5. Board Liaison: Simon Corrin
<b>Absent:</b> Simon Corrin, Terri May	

**Approval of Agenda**

- A motion to approve the agenda was made by Ameet K. and seconded by Lisa F.

**Approval of Minutes**

- A motion to approve the [October 9, 2024](#) general meeting minutes was made by Ameet K. and seconded by Tammy C.



## Agenda

### 1. School Reports

- a. Student Council President | Shazain W.
  - Student council ran three October events: spirit week, a door decorating contest and a mid-school dance. All events were successful! Many students participated in spirit week, nearly all classes partook in the door decorating contest and the mid-school dance featured festive decorations and a popcorn machine.
  - On November 28<sup>th</sup> student council will be hosting an event planned to boost school spirit. Different grades will team up to create crafts and decorate the school.
  - Student council is currently in the preliminary planning stages for the Winter Formal (event will be held in December before Winter break).
- b. Elementary Principals | Adriana Klassen & Karly Bagnall  
[Elementary November 2024 Report](#)
- c. Mid-High Principal | Graeme Finlay  
[Mid-High November 2024 Report](#)

#### **Relationship Mapping at Mid-High**

Question raised if results will be shared with the students. The results are intended for staff only and will not be shared to avoid creating a popularity contest and generating comparisons among students.

#### **Yearbook Update – Mid-High**

If you'd like to order a yearbook this year at the mid-high campus it will be cash or cheque only (\$45) and will not be included in school fees as in previous years. This is a one-off occurrence due, in part, to staff turnover in the central office. To order a yearbook at the mid-high campus please drop off your payment with your student's name at the office. Additional communication and reminders will be sent out leading up to the end of March.

#### **Yearbook Update – Elementary**

There will be no change to the process for ordering yearbooks this year at the elementary campus – yearbook cost will be added to school fees. Parents will be notified once the fee is added to their accounts. Additional note that bus fees will also be added to school fees in the coming months.



### **AI Integration into Technology Plan**

Question raised if WCS will integrate AI into its technology plan. There are several staff members at the mid-high who have been early adopters of AI and will be hosting sessions regarding how to teach with AI at the upcoming PD day on November 29, 2024. It's a hot topic right now and staff want to better understand how to mitigate AI from doing the production of students' work (eg. essay writing, lab work) and make sure they can assess work properly. Some teachers have already began using AI with students and teaching them the benefits of using it as a tool (eg. editing writing). It's recognized that AI is evolving quickly and staff hope to discuss the topic more on Nov. 29.

### **Mid-High UR Strong School**

Noted that the mid-high is also a UR Strong School, like the elementary campus, and focuses on the Friendology program.

### **Cold Weather Reminder**

As the weather begins to get colder, please be reminded that students will be going outdoors unless temperatures reach -20 degrees Celsius with the windchill. Please ensure that your child is appropriately dressed to manage these colder days.

## **2. School Council Reports**

### **a. Parent Engagement | Melissa W.**

Approximately 80 people attended the online October parent engagement session featuring Mira Halpert. Additional sessions are currently being planned for the new year and details will be shared once available.

#### ***Upcoming Coffee Talks***

Elementary: December 6, 2024 *online*

Mid-High: November 22, 2024 *online*

### **b. Fundraising | Clara I.**

#### **Stamps Parking**

Parked around 55 cars at the last Stamps game of the season. Will call for volunteers when the season starts up again.

#### **Purdy's**

Last day to put in orders for the Purdy's fundraiser is November 30, 2024. This fundraiser is for both the mid-high and elementary campus and funds raised will support both campuses.

#### **Healthy Hunger**

Working this year to provide more fun lunch options from a variety of places. If you have any concerns or feedback regarding the fun lunch program, please email [wcschoolcouncil@gmail.com](mailto:wcschoolcouncil@gmail.com).



c. **Treasury** | Lisa G.

Presented this year's budget for approval. The 2024/25 budget was drafted after reviewing last years actuals and discussing needs/requests with the principals. It was noted that several different societies contribute to raising funds for WCS and that school council is working closely with these groups to manage 2024/25 expenditures. One point of difference from last year is that the WestJet raffle will no longer be included in school council's budget, rather the fundraising societies will take it over. It was also highlighted that school council's largest source of revenue comes from direct donations. The 2024/25 direct donation campaign will begin shortly, please watch for communications over the next month.

Motion to approve the 2024/25 budget: Clara I.; seconded by Michelle.

**Duck Pond** | Michelle

Met with the developer for the University Heights area to offer feedback regarding the duck pond. The developer is aware how much the school values and uses the duck pond area and, as of now, notes that changes will include adjusting the grade and slope as well as fixing the gates to make the pond area more accessible. The developer is also aware of the desire for cross-country ski trails (they will try to include this in the plans) and they prefer the area to not become a dog park. Overall, the developer is aware of the current uses of the park area and hope to keep it status quo with limited disruption to habitats.

## Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7:56pm.

## Meeting Recording

[Click here to view](#)

## Next General School Council Meeting

<b>Date:</b>	Wednesday, January 15, 2024	<b>Time:</b>	7pm – 8pm
<b>Zoom ID:</b>	695 453 4724		
<b>Zoom Passcode:</b>	Westmount!		
<b>Zoom Link:</b>	<a href="https://us06web.zoom.us/j/6954534724?pwd=YqZtU4HmYsTaBUbk4eGZtc2DVdf10H.1&amp;omn=86775079783">https://us06web.zoom.us/j/6954534724?pwd=YqZtU4HmYsTaBUbk4eGZtc2DVdf10H.1&amp;omn=86775079783</a>		