

Westmount School Council
Meeting Minutes - October 24, 2023 - Westmount School Learning
Commons 5:30 pm - 7:00 pm

Attendance:

- *In Person:* Sharon Nichols, Lisa Penzo, Amanda Connery, Sharon Martin, Brandy Hayhurst, Sherry Opas, David Taylor, Anna Hughes
- *Online:* Cali Peace

Meeting came to order at 5:40 pm.

- 1) Review that meeting is the end early - another meeting with MLA right after.
- 2) Introductions.
- 3) Agenda - Motion to approve agenda:
 - As Is - Brandy Hayhurst
 - Second - Anna Hughes
- 4) September Minutes - Motion to approve meeting minutes:
 - As Is - Brandy Hayhurst
 - Second - Anna Hughes
- 5) Standing Items
 - a) School Update (Sherry Opas):
 - Extra Curriculars - Volleyball, Triple Ball, Flag Football, Cross Country. Look at different ways to say thanks to coaches.
 - Terry Fox Run / Koltons Run - Very successful. Raised significant funds for the family.
 - Author visit to Learning Center - kids enjoyed it.
 - Book Fair - beginning of November. Looking for volunteers - Nov 2nd to help run. Parent invitations. Has been going into the Friday emails.
 - Focusing on portfolios - reviewing data. On Friday the Jr Highs looked deep into this. Made some suggestions / ideas.
 - P/T interviews on Nov 8 & 9 - teachers having issues bouncing back and forth with in-person vs online. Going with a singular platform - in person P/T interviews.
 - Patrol Training - last year didn't have enough students to proceed with training. Minimum 40 students to go ahead with patrol training. Incentive? Patrols get to go to Calaway Park at the end of the year. Throughout the year there are some motivations.
 - Gr 4 - Canine Visit - Calgary Canine unit did a demonstration.
 - Science Curriculum - Assessing each grade from 4, 5, 6 to see what is popular.
 - Nature Walks - land based learning, getting kids outside. Revised the field trip forms so that one form can last the whole year.
 - Outdoor Ed - lots of outings this year.

- Looking at Core Values - Big paw print with 4 core values, Westmount with Flags.
 - Assembly
 - Prices for the kids once a month
- Beliefs: Connect, Contribute, Take Accountability, Be Responsible
 - Came out with a mission statement and vision statement. Ones created many years ago were not relevant anymore.
- Mission: Engaging Others. Engaging in Action. Engaging Thinking
- Vision: Inspire. Create. Innovate. Better Together.
 - Feedback on Vision/Mission - These are for the school not School Council. Does the School Council share the same mission/vision? Not necessarily. They should/can align but responsibilities are different.
 - As parents - like how simple it is and much easier to remember and go through with the kids at home.
- The School Council should go back - review items in guidance policy. There is a mission / vision in the School Council binder. Need to look back at this ****TAKE AWAY****
- AERR - Annual Education Results Report; school is reviewing now.
- This is the first exposure of the new mission / vision - wants to have it sit for a bit and can follow up in the near future.
- Recognize roles with accountability and responsibility with data that is collected. Most current and recent. Document is 50 pages long; simplified to 1 page to summarize goals and plan.
 - System of reporting - making changes. PD days addressing this assessment - keeping the view of parents in mind.
 - - K to Gr 3 - Interactive binders.
 - Advancing innovation and design - options / options planning. Generalized CTF. Older kids exploring with my blueprint - building portfolios. Self Assess. Doesn't take away from learning time.
 - Example - Jr High are creating a movie, creating interview questions, 5 min film.
 - Woodshop, Drama, Coding class (bringing people in), STEM built in (Science, Tech, Engineering, Art, Math), take apart tech day.
 - Building a bridge to high school where those other options are offered in high school.
 - Numeracy / Literacy Data
 - Next month have Shelly Reid - answering questions with numeracy. Lots of feedback on the last one with literacy.
 - FNMI (First Nations Meeting Inuit) - Blanket ceremony; 2 classes at a time - doing a "skit" to learn.
 - Kookum Visit
 - Elementary is just a different level of learning / understanding.

- Gr 9 to take a field trip to Blackfoot
- Advancing Teaching / Learning that transfers.
 - Moving away from paper/pencil and how do you use it in real life.
 - Thinking like a mathematician, engineer, author, etc.
- Continuum of Support - explaining those better to parents, what are the supports, resources, etc.
- Student orientation to social, emotional
- Last year data given to wellness teachers - results are low in some areas; will assess based on the Jr High students perspectives.

b) Data (Dave Taylor)

- Yearly Calendar on what assessment needs to be done when - province / divisional
 - Gr 2, 3 - Numeracy and CC3 - understanding different words / pronunciation. Adding, Subtracting, Comparing
 - Math assessments - Gr 8 to 10; EICS Gr 4 to 7 based on new curriculum. When students write they write it based on what was done last year. Teachers can assess what areas are missing in teaching.
 - Nov - Reading Readiness screening tool - starting kindergarten, finishing in grade 1.
 - Jan - Gr 1 will do the same assessment that 2 and 3 did. Move into Alberta Education Survey - less than 250 students all grades 4 and up.
 - More than 250 - Gr 4, 7, 10.
 - Post test 1-3 based on interventions - provided around reading and numeracy.
 - Reading comprehension skills
 - Gr 4 - 9 intellectual
 - Teachers will do own surveys
 - Collect data - compare it to previous year. Take all data that is collected and input into each grade level and assess how kids are doing and what can be done with engagement and teaching.
- PAT Results - Gr 6 no math and no language arts - just science.
 - Compare our school to province - acceptable standard / excellence and what percent are below acceptable
 - 83% acceptable vs 67% province
 - 40% excellence / 23% province
 - 4% below / 17% province
 - Gr 6 - Social
 - 85% acceptable / 66% province
 - 21% excellence / 19% province
 - 2% below / 18% province
 - Gr 9 - Social Studies

- 80% acceptable / 57% province
- 18% excellence / 16% province
- 13% below / 26% province
- Gr 9 - Math
 - 54% acceptable / 53% province
 - 5% excellence / 3% province
 - 37% below / 30% province
- Gr 9 - Science
 - 75% acceptable / 65% province
 - 18% excellence / 20% province
 - 14% below / 18% province
- Gr 9 - English
 - 82% acceptable / 71% province
 - 10% excellence / 13% province
 - 10% below / 13% province
- Teachers can assess the data and see what areas of learning need improvements.
- Grade 5 - Number, Patterns, Shape/Space, Statistics. Data is being uploaded continuously. There seems to be a struggle with some areas - specifically regarding patterns/relations. Students being introduced to letters in numbers. Harder shift in Grade 5.
- Grade 6 - struggle with statistics, better with patterns.
- Grade 7 - really well with statistics but shape and space struggling.
- Grade 8 - Almost the same across the board - fairly good understanding of all 4 pieces.
- Grade 9 - really good understanding of patterns / relations.
- This shows us that they remembered these items in the long run and students are retaining information. This is important to help prepare for diploma writing.
- Even though PAT's look like we did poorly - when you compare this assessment it looks much better.

6) Trustee Update (Sharron Nichols & Lisa Penzo)

a) Footnote on website. Tell us what the focus is.

- Advocating for FSD students - quality of education is expected in each school.
 - Raise your voice. Ideas that make sense.
 - Key advocacy areas - secure the funding for a new high school, look at making changes in how school capacity is calculated, implement full time kindergarten, increase transportation funding, needs to be equity for rural and urban schools.
- SOSC to happen after this meeting to help with advocating.
- Myth/Fact - clarifying to parents what's true and what's myth. Help educate parents.

- Congratulate our students across the division - participated in “Students Matter” Gr 5-12 with representatives in each grade. Spent morning digging out data; they assessed the data together.
- Meeting - Staff Advisory - members from every school; guest Astrid Kendricks from U of C spoke - gave all a book. Need to take care of our teachers. Awareness that Trustees are aware - recent data shows resilience around students - seeing an uptake of wellness; they are doing much better. Showing that teachers are not doing as well - stress is still there. Suggestion on addressing how to care and support teachers.
- First reading of policy - leaving for next month. Foundational piece for FSD. Take a look at this next month. Documents to be left with the School Council to adjust Agenda as needed.
- Education plan - fixed 3 yr plan - has been changed to 5 yr plan.

7) New Business

- a) Results of the survey from “Meet the Teacher” - handout.
 - Results to review how we can use this data to align with the 3 yr plan. How to support students at home?
 - Concerns about learning more about bullying - what is considered bullying? What’s “normal”? Looking to bring in a guest speaker regarding that.
 - Red flag topic - sexual education - what is included / what is not? Guest speaker? Help inform parents what kids will learn about
- b) Working on a bigger survey to send out online - Google Forms
 - Mostly around communication
- c) An Instagram account was attempted to set up . Sharon will follow up with that - hopefully this will be working in a week or so.
- d) Cali - help out with posters. Helps cover topics with the agenda. Can look at posting that.
- e) Feedback on what the parents want to hear back from in regards to the School Council.
- f) If people have agenda items - please send them to Sharon to add them to the Agenda.
- g) Next meeting will be 28th of November - 5:30pm. Presentation from Shelly Reid regarding numeracy. What do we want her to go over?

Meeting Adjourned at 6:45 pm.