



Westmount School Council Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, April 29, 2025 | 5:30 – 7:30 PM | School Learning Commons

In Attendance: Paige Stonehocker, Council Chair
Cali Peace, Council Vice Chair
Sherry Opas – Principal,
Brad Skeet- Vice Principal,
Lauren Frandel, Incoming Principal

Sharon Nichols, School Division Trustee
Robert Gallacher
Kristi Price
Brandi Findlater Whippy

1. Welcome and Round Table Introductions

2. Approval of Agenda

Motion to approve, Kristi Price. Second, by Cali Peace.

3. Review and Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes

Motion to approve, Kristi Price. Second, by Brandi
With adjustment to total raised from school fundraising.

4. Approval of the appointment of Council Vice Chair

The appointment of Cali Peace as the School Council Vice Chair was presented –
No objections.

5. Guest Speaker – Robert Gallacher – Information about Summer School

- Grade 9 students from Westmount School have the opportunity to attend summer school through the school division. Many students these days use summer school as a third semester to take one or two courses to lighten their schedule during the year.
- Grade 9 students cannot take core courses, but they can take Math 15-Prep, which helps kids prep for Math 10C. It offers one hour of virtual instruction in the morning. Also available for Grade 9 students is CALM or Physical Education. There are options to take Bundles, such as Learning Strategies 15 – 6 Credits or a 9-credit combo bundle.
- Registration opened April 15; 300 kids have already registered. Registration closes on June 9. Late registrations may be accepted if submitted through the school administration.
- Summer School takes place from July 2 to 29 at Foothills Composite High School.
- There is also a First Responder Program and Career Education Programs available for students who have completed Grade 10.



6. Welcome New Principal - Lauren Frandel.

7. School Update

- Sherry reviewed the many areas of success in Engagement, Success, Support, and Extra-Curricular activities over the last month. A full, detailed list can be found on the meeting presentation deck.
- FOWSS will fund the purchase of 28 new Chrome Books, a new cart, new bookshelves and several new sensory items.
- With some of the remaining funds for the year, the school purchased additional bookshelves, carpet, and stools for the Learning Commons and will purchase 12 new iPads.

Feedback – there is interest in looking into having a Bullying and Healthy Friendships Presentation for the Grade 4 and 5 age groups.

8. Trustee Update

- Municipal and School Board elections are coming in September.
[Board of Trustee Elections](#)
- The new high school is going ahead and will be built by Meadow Ridge. The division has met with the design company and is advocating to include in the design that we need to expand and support our arts. They have put forward a request for a 350-person theatre to be included in the design. The town has agreed to contribute \$6.3M for the theatre. The opening date for the high school will be in March 2029.
- The division is having a budget meeting in mid-May. The budget from the government is short again due to a fall in kindergarten registrations.

[Foothills School Division Footnotes April 2025](#)

9. Transitions

Grade 9 -> High School

- The Composite hosts an Open House for Grade 9 students to attend.
- Recommendations are made to the High School from Grade 9 Teachers.
- Course selection letters will be sent to Grade 9 parents shortly with an overview of available options and how they are selected provided.

Q—What happens if a student has some barriers regarding taking a desired option due to fees? The parent would be advised to talk to the principal about the situation, and the principal will discuss the situation with the necessary parties and make the decision.

Grade 6 -> Grade 7

- Grade 6 students are asked to create questions to submit to the Grade 7 students to answer. Then there is a group of Grade 7 leadership students who go and present to Grade 6 students answering their questions.



Class to Class

- An email has been sent to all Westmount parents inviting them to submit any specific information regarding their child's needs and requirements to Sherry to be put forward for when class lists are being created.

Feedback – consideration for the French as a second language to be offered as a self-directed class.

10. Learning Supports

Currently, Westmount has 13.5 school support positions in the school. This includes Admin, Learning coaches, Liaison Counselor, and Education Assistants.

File reviews take place in April annually, following which the budget is given to the school to assign placements.

11. Meeting Adjournment at 7:00 PM

Motion to adjourn, Kristi Price, seconded by Cali Peace

Next Meeting – Tuesday, May 27, 2025 | 5:30 to 7:00 PM
This will be the final meeting and the Annual General Meeting.