

Westmount School Council

Meeting Minutes - May 28, 2024

Westmount School Learning Commons 5:30 pm - 7:00 pm

In Attendance: Brandy Hayhurst, Paige Stonehocker, Alison England, Lisa Penzo - Trustee, Sharon Martin - SC President, Sarah Ethier - SC Secretary, Kristi Price, Cali Peace, Sherry Opas - Principal, Amy Park - Vice Principal, Robin Mitchell, Sara Fox - FSD Communication Manager, Chris Fuzessy - Superintendent, Sharath, Sarah Downie, Kirsty Judd, Brad Skeet - VP for 2024/2025, Larry Albrecht - FFSF.

1. Welcome and Introductions - Chair

2. Approval of Agenda:

Addition: 4.1 School Updates: Smart Boards
Motion to Approve - Kristi, Second - Robin

3. Review and Approval of April Minutes:

Motion to Approve - Kirsti, Second - Robin

4. Standing Items (Items Brought Forward)

4.1 School Update by Sherry Opas

- Smart Board updates to all classrooms for fall 2025
- Gr 6 - Camp Kiwanis Field Trip - \$5000 given from School General Funding
- Gr 7 - Royal Tyrrell Museum (Drumheller) Field Trip
- Bus Driver Appreciation Day
- Hats on For Mental Health Day
- Lockdown Drill successful
- JH Track and Field Day
- Kindergarten Mothers Day Tea
- Gr 9 PAT (Part A)
- Gr 1 Teacher's Pet
- Gr 9 Group Photo
- JH Wellness Day - Check out IG Photos
- JH Band Festival (Red Deer) Field Trip
- READY TO LEARN Kindy open house
- Divisional Track and Field Day
- Outdoor Ed - Windy Point Hike - Snowy Trip!!
- Gr 4 - Aspen Crossing Field Trip
- School Dance (4-6)
- Assembly: Magician, Richard Young
- Student Matters
- Scholastic Book Fair just finished

- Gr 8 Water Sampling - Kananaskis Field Trip
- Musical theatre: High School Musical (all week at FCHS)
- Hunters Ed trip to Emerson Pond May 27, 2024

Data Update from Amy Park

Upcoming Assessments

PAT (Gr 6 Social only June 19, Gr 9 to write 5 more tests)

4.2 School Personnel Update - Brad Skeet, VP 2024/2025

30 yrs at FSD

Taught elementary/JH

Vice Principal at 4 other schools in the division

4.3 Trustee Update by Lisa Penzo and Sharon Nichols

Trustees ensuring First Nations, Metis and Inuit Education for all Learners

Appreciating Culture, Community Engagement, Student Support

See attached link: Linked in Friday email

3 FSD Principals Received ATA Council of School Leadership Distinguished Leadership Awards

Board of Directors from ASCA School Council Award Given

Planning a division-wide school council event for the fall (looking for interested parties)

Young Author's Conference - Author Joan Marie Galant spoke, successful conference, animation course (ART included)!

Mental Health Wellness Summit - 3rd Annual was last week, Youth Hub! Summit for students, parents and organizers

Oilfields Hosting Lft Gov. Selma LeCanny tomorrow - this is the award for their vertical farming win.

Questions:

Sharon: Will Hub go forward?

CF: Working with Heath Trust, Hub providers to achieve within the next year or two.

5. New Business

5.1 MAY AGM & School Council Annual Report by Sharon - available today

Positives include changing the timing of AGM meeting from early in the year to May, being able to put forth parent suggestions such as the Speaker Series, we now have all Student Council positions filled.

Motion to Approve - Robin, Second - Kristi

5.2 Communication Strategy by Sara Fox - Communications Manager:

How to reach out and connect with parents?

Engage Parents on an ongoing basis through new FB page - safe, moderated

Social Media - moderation is a lot

Are we looking for dialogue or information-giving?

For info we could set up a Student Council link on the website?

Sara has an Engagement Platform that could be set up for us.

Cali: Is taking away the Wolfpack group taking away a community feel?

Sherry: Moderators were requested, but new volunteers wouldn't step forward.

Allison: Do these FB groups create community or issues?

Sharon: Social Media is a rabbit hole - other opportunities for feedback available.

Robin: notes difficulty getting parents to sign up for volunteer opportunities - FB allows parents to get info they need without having to jump through the hoops FOIP creates to add simple links to school emails

Parents: how do we grow followings on FB? Is closing the group making parents feel like they are being "shut up". Even though the recent Wolfpack post was a difficult experience, it got the conversation started. Parents need to be responsible for making it a positive experience.

Sherry: Misinformation is damaging to the school community as a whole. How do we meet the needs of parents without adding a full-time job for Sherry or Brandy?

Sara: info is diluted, too many places to find answers - propose a survey of parent priorities and how they want to hear about school information.

FSD App is a good resource - central location for all information.

Allison: suggests a parent representative from each class or grade.

Sherry: What's the next step of an action plan for this?

Sara: Survey to parents re: what they want and how they want to hear it.

5.3 Friends of Foothills School Foundation by Larry Albrecht- see FFSS link on top right of FSD website (www.foothillsschooldivision.ca)

-Now officially a charity with 6 volunteer board members.

-Independent of FSD.

Mission: To build a community that empowers the students of Foothills School Division.

Vision: The Friends of Foothills Schools Foundation's vision is to remove financial barriers that impede academic success.

Secures funding outside of AB gov funding which directly supports students (no HR funding)

Pillars:

1. Enhanced Learning Support
2. Emergency Relief for Families
3. Empower Flourishing Communities

Leaving 6 questions that will help to further the FOSFF:

(ex. What are our obstacles?, how is SC being funded?, how is engagement being encouraged?, etc.) Questions to be emailed directly to SC.

Looking to create a school council rubric to determine where funds are distributed and how much fundraising needs to be done.

To be used as Fund development, not competition - can be used for Student Council to share costs

Exec Director Marica Law appointed until 2025

Upcoming Fundraiser: Golf Tournament - Aug 20th *Volunteers Needed!!*

Upcoming Information Tables that require *volunteers*:

HR Picking a Purpose

OK Parade Day

Robin: Looking to ensure the foundation understands Westmount's additional needs as a Honeywell school. Can the Foundation, as a charity, support FOWSS, as a charity?

Larry: YES!

6. Next Steps

- 6.1 Chair to forward agenda items for next meeting.
Chair to send FSFF questions to the Student Council via email.

7. Date of Next Meeting is June 25, 2024

8. Adjourned at 7:04pm