

**Westmount School Council
Meeting Minutes - June 25, 2024**

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

In Attendance: Brandy Hayhurst (virtual), Amanda Krvenchuk (virtual), Paige Stonehocker (acting Chair), Alison England, Mark England, Sarah Ethier - SC Secretary, Kristi Price, Cali Peace, Sherry Opas - Principal, Amy Park - Vice Principal, Robin Mitchell, Stephanie Murdoch, Kirsty Judd

Apologies: Sharon Martin

1. Welcome and Introductions - Acting Chair

2. Approval of Agenda:

Addition: 5.4 FOWSS Fundraising Update Request
Motion to Approve - Kristi, Second - Cali

3. Review and Approval of April Minutes:

Corrections to be made in 3 spots by Sarah Ethier
Motion to Approve - Kirsti, Second - Robin

4. Standing Items (Items Brought Forward)

4.1 School Update from Sherry Opas

PATs complete!

Musical Theatre - High School Musical

Hunters Ed - McLean Pond Fishing Trip at Sheep River

Spring Band Concert (outdoor)

Patroller Picnic at Heritage Park

Backpacking trip to Point Campground with Mr. K

Jersey Day!

Kindergarten Father's Day Celebration

Astrodome School Visit

Grade 9 - Zoo Trip

Grade 3 Royal Tyrrell Museum field trip

Volunteer Tea

Fire Drill

Grade 2 and 5 Granary Road Field Trips

Elementary Talent Show

Grade 7 & 8 Exit Interviews

Grade 9 Farewell Fun Day Bowling and Swimming

Grade 9 Farewell Dance

Jr. High year-end Assembly and Farewell Walk

Kindergarten 'Graduation' Celebration

5 Year Education Plan NEW!!! by Sherry Opas and Amy Park

Goals to Focus On:

Engagement

Advanced stakeholder engagement and communications:

- Continue speaker series
 - Build opportunities for parent and community members to contribute to classroom learning in a variety of ways
 - Collaborating with FSD Communications Manager (Sara Fox) to help develop an effective communication and engagement (feedback and decision making) plan
- Advance evidence-based continuous improvement and assurance

Support

Advance evidence based continuous improvement and assurance by:

- using iterative cycles to examine cycles to examine samples of students learning in our professional learning team
- collaboratively analyzing data from various assessments to inform

Advance Wellness and well-being by:

- expand use of restorative practices including questions, circles, and conferences
- establishing family groupings
- Identifying and supporting students who don't have a strong connection to a trusted adult
- using elementary mental health literacy resource
- maintaining Jr. High Wellness class
- creating a vision around the new Hub model for our students with Complex Needs and how that with fit with our continuum on supports
- using restorative language universally and make it visual across the school
- refining student support meetings - review purpose and process that includes a firm action plan
- revisiting Collaborative Response Team (CRT) culture to refine purpose and process

Robin: What kind of funding is being provided to support students and teachers/admins in Mental Health Resources. The burden of care shouldn't be on teachers, but professionals instead.

Sharon: We need to build it into our daily routines and partner with parents. Family Liaison Counsellors the Network, etc. currently exist to assist with this. We have very limited funding, and it will be distributed by Sherry Opas. We need to draw in health care professionals. This is an ongoing conversation. We need to be able to access resources in the community, with the FLC works on.

Sherry: Mental health needs are increasing, studies say it could be because of tech. It could be Covid. What is the school responsible for and what is the health care system responsible for? It needs to be a partnership.

Allison: Is this a Government conversation vs. school conversation?? Too much falls on the school.

Cali: Are we having community resources come into the school to assist? Can we get supports for younger students as well as older?

Sherry: Nicole is accessing community supports mostly for Jr. High students. After this year we hope to look at building on this.

Success

Advance innovation and design:

- continuing to enhance and support Maker Space/CTF opportunities for K-6
- surveying students for areas of interest in designing Options
- Developing teacher's capacity to design engaging tasks and challenges as part of the CTF program
- Provide opportunities for students to engage in authentic hands-on, experiential learning through partnerships within the community

Advancing Learning that transfers by:

- developing collective understanding of the different levels of engagement and the resulting implications on pedagogical practices and student agency
- Focus on effective assessment practices including the use of Success Guides
- Embedding authentic learning experiences

Advance Literacy and Numeracy by:

- working towards embedding cross-grade groupings to target specific learning gaps
- focusing on engaging task design in both literacy and numeracy
- using provincial and local assessment measures to inform teacher practice and school-based interventions.

Advance FN, Metis and Inuit students success by continuing to refine and enhance our continuum of supports, systems, structures and programs by:

- Director of Indigenous Learning to inform our practices
- working collaboratively with families and community supports to offer wrap and supports
- providing ongoing learning opportunities for teachers using the Truth and Reconciliation for Learn Success Toolkits

4.2 Trustee Update from Sharon Nichols

Footnotes for the month:

Grad Ceremonies

First Nation, Metis and Inuit Grad Feast

Excellence in Supporting Student Success Awards

Competitions and Meets

Performances

Flourishing Foothills Community Awards

Holocaust Memorial Garden in recognition of Lindsay Anderson of Highwood High School

Edwin Parr Award

Honouring Spirit Award

Long Service Awards & Retiree Celebration

-Budget Approved, but we continue to fight for more (need advocacy letters)

-Budget: gained more funds back!! The funds we lost recently due to town sizing changes are reinstated again, just for this year! Parents can get involved by going online and clicking the "advocacy" link to access advocacy letters. These can be sent to MLA's and the Premier.

-Boundary line updates have been pushed back due to construction of new high school.

-It's been a challenging but successful year!

5.3 Communication Meeting Update from Sherry Opas: end of August we will meet with Sara Fox to discuss the best way to communicate with parents next year. There will be a 10% decrease of mini budget next year. Tech has constantly come up as a need. Two carts and one cart-full of Chromebooks, totalling ~\$14,000 were purchased for the school, which came from the budget that needed to be used up for this year.

5.4 Fundraising Money from FOWSS goes to:

Sherry: clear with teachers that money has mostly come from readathon

This has been used to cover:

-All field trip bussing

-Grade 6 Camp Funded for families who require assistance (\$5000)

-Small amount to Grade 9 Awards and pieces of recognition

Robin: Needs to be made clear that this funding comes from the Readathon and not FOWSS in all communication to avoid people routing requests directly to FOWSS members

Kirsti: Parents should be made aware of where the accounts stand

Sherry: Can be added as a standing Agenda item next year - Account Update

6. Next Steps

6.1 Forward agenda for next meeting

7. Date of next Meeting is September 24, 2024

8. Adjournment at 6:56pm

Motion to Approve - Robin, Second - Cali