

Westmount School Council Meeting
September 28, 2022
In Person and Virtual Meeting

Attendees: Robin Mitchell, Natasha Walz, Dana Kowalski, Melissa Cayford, Paige Stonehocker, Kirsty Judd, Kristi Price, Sherry Opas, David Taylor, Sharon Nichols, Doug Stevens, Amanda Kryvenchuk, Alana Moore (V), Keith McLeod (V), Brandy Hayhurst

Introductions: Roundtable. Sherry then reviewed what school council is and the invitation to fill the open council roles. We also invite parents to join us to share their voice without filling any roles.

Tillotson Development Impact Concerns: there is a plan to close one of the throughways and may increase or change the flow of traffic in our school area. There are some public consultations that we encourage you to participate in and provide your feedback.

School Updates:

Education Plan - We will talk about the education plan throughout the year. We want to engage everyone (parents, students, staff) in our learning and plans.

Parent Feedback – results from the survey were shared regarding what your child is excited about for the new school year and what is one area that requires more focus/attention at WMS.

School News – Sherry provided an update on what has happened so far this year at school. Parents shared that they loved and appreciated the Open House – it helped the start of the year go smoothly and ease anxieties.

Westmount Communication Plan – we have updated our plan recently and are looking for parent feedback. A big part is around cell phone use at school and finding a balance in the classroom. Personal devices can be used to enhance learning but it can also be a distraction while learning. There are concerns about not all students having a device and families feeling pressure to purchase a device. There was also a concern about the lack of keyboarding skills taught at school. This is not currently a part of the curriculum but maybe the school could look into purchasing a program that families could use at home. Conversation was had around devices and concerns about communication around if the devices are required or not. Sherry will follow up with staff about better communication.

School Code of Conduct – staff have recently reviewed and updated this document. Our next step is to review this with our students and gather their feedback.

PAW Prints – Westmount core values – we are looking for parent feedback on these core values.

Trustee Report – Sharon shared that she is here to listen and take parent concerns back to the board. She will also share some updates from their board meetings. Sharon has followed up on the Tillotson Development and asked the Executive Committee for direction. This development is planned over the next 60 years and FSD works with the Town on developments. There is an ongoing engagement gathering parent feedback on the budget. (Ideas that make cents) Trustee reports and the school council presentation can be found on our school website.

Council Executive Membership – We are looking to fill the positions of chair, vice chair and secretary. If you are interested or have questions about the roles, please contact Sherry Opas.

Evenings to Hold Meetings – Sharon would prefer to switch days as she is double booked on the last Wednesday of the month – first Wednesday of the month or Tuesdays or Thursdays work best for her. Sherry asked those in attendance to share which days work or don't work for them. We will also have to coordinate with FOWSS as these meetings are best held on the same days.