Westmount School Council

Meeting Minutes - March 26, 2024

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

In Attendance:

-Lisa Penzo, Paige Stonehocker, Sarah Ethier, Robin Mitchell, Brandy Hayhurst, Amy Park, Sherry Opas, Kristi Price, Leah Wenzel, Christina Blanchard, Sharon Martin.

Meeting came to order at 5:34pm

1. Introductions and Welcome - Chair

2. Agenda - Approved by All

3. Last Month's Meeting Minutes: Update Sharon Nichols to say Lisa Penzo - Approved by Robin Mitchell, second by Amy Park.

4. Standing Items:

4.1 School Update: Sherry Opas

Read-a-Thon Prizes were announced, raised a total of $11,000 - money used to go to FOWSS, now it goes towards

Principal/VP for the day Wed March 27

Dress Like your Fav Book Character

Dress Like a Teacher Day

Pink Shirt Day - discussed how to transfer year round

Transition for 9JH to FCHS - High-school recommendations underway.

Kids Helphone Presentation

Casino Fundraiser Successful

Partner Band

Fire Drill Practice Recently

Sailing Trip JH - just returned from BC (video clip from Steven Kotowich and Janey Wooldridge)

Coffee with Principal, VP, - 5 peple in attendance!

Colab Response Team Meeting

Extra-Curric - Badminton

Prof Learning - New Science Curriculum PD (Elementary)

AI Professional Development (K-9)

Conntinuum of Supports at WMS (JH) - met with students regarding best practices for EA support

Data - Amy Park

Distruption Grant Plan - $3300 for grades 1-5 - Deb Sorenson will be coming to work for 22.5 days to support students with YouFly, a reading intervention plan. Includes manuals that can be sent home.

Collecting Core Phonics assessments to sort kiddos by levels to get support they need.

EA's are being used to a maximum, Ruberics are done to assess EA needs in April, budget determined by District based on ruberic points, small amount of money given as a general budget for moderate needs. Used to get 4 Assessments/yr, now there are limited opportunities. Last year we only got 1. Discussion of lack of funding to 1. assess within school 2. provide support. EA Support is constantly changing. Lack of funding likely based on Covid. At-risk students has declined as we recover.

Intellectual Engagement Survey - April 15 (JH), April 16 (Grades 4-6).

Upcoming Assessments - GRADE (last year for this assessment), RRST (reading assessment)

4.2 - Tech and AI in our Schools - Sally Smith, Director of Technology, worked for the Div since 2005. 8 people in her tech department.

Department has:

-Increased bandwith

-Increase Speed and Longevity for devices

-Supernet (wide area network) on colonies

-Cut costs by borrowing ideas like changing vendors for cheaper options

-Replaced wifi

-Westmount is 3rd worst for technology in the division

-twice/yr chromebooks are being replaced throughout schools - at the end of the year, remaining funds go towards most in-need schools.

-300 Chromebooks were actually purchased by families - they connect to the school during 8-4 with restrictions, then have standard functions after hours. $45 per device to register license with the school. Parent concerns that they aren't working - Sally recommends to contact regarding warranty, as she should have 3 years worth. Discussion as to necessity of chromebooks and what the restrictions are. YouTube and Google under 18 restrictions in place.

"Scooped" is a flagging site that the division uses which sends an automatic email regarding unfavourable material that students view/search for.

Purchase Internet along with U of C and many schools.

Honeywell School, meaning all electrical work must be done by them so it's expensive. It cost $4800 to install 2 tv's in the gym.

Our Smart Boards require updates, ours are the originals- proposal being written now. Smart board interactive panels. These are working well with other schools. These will be good for casting. These will be on carts and portable to maximize use from class to class and around the classroom.

Westmount, Heritage Heights (but 70% JH bring in personal devices) and RDL are only k-9 schools that dont have computer labs.

Large amounts of budgeted money being spent towards licensing.

We are the only P3 school in the division, yet it's not taken into account with technology.

Wifi changes have been made to allow for 6 month access for students who bring their own devices.

4.3 Trustee Update - Lisa Penzo

AI Footnotes Brochure regarding safety in school

k-6 Curriculum feedback open until April 2 at 11:59pm.

Funding - budget not received yet. Anticipating less than last year.

New HS - next level of planning funding. Next to meadow ridge. Working with architects toward a design. New plan for traffic routing. No construction dates as of yet. Community engagement to come with design of the school.

5. New Business:

5.1 Sharon Martin and Sarah Ethier voted to remove the Vice Chair due to abandonment of position. Now searching for a New VC.

6. Next Steps - forward agenda items for next meeting, Chair Sharon Martin

7. Date of next meeting: April 30, 2024 - Speaker Series, Wellness Curriculum Speaker

8. Meeting Adjourned at 7:11