

WESTMOUNT SCHOOL COUNCIL MINUTES – November 15th 2016 (7:00-8:30 p.m)

Members in Attendance: Angela Ferguson, Mike Armstrong, Tanja Roglic, Kim Koplín, Deanna Allain, Kirsten Patterson, Hanif Dadani, Anuradha Khanna.

1. Members present (Total 8)

2. The meeting started (at 7:00 pm)

3. School Council Chair:

He welcomed all members. Then he led everyone for a brief period of silence and prayer for world peace in times of turmoil in various parts of the world and taking time to express our gratitude for being Canadians. He requested members to sign the attendance sheet.

4. Agenda reviewed

5. Members advised, minutes for Oct 2016 and Nov 2016 would be provided later.

6. Student Council Report by Deanna Allain:

- **Anti-bullying week** is celebrated from Nov 14th-18th at school with pink nail painting in cafeteria, wearing of pink on Wednesday with showing of movie “Mean girls” in the auditorium period 3. The money raised will be donated to organization like Big brother and Big sister.
- The date for **Model UN conference** has been postponed to Feb 18th 2017
- **Semi-Formal** will take place at Carmen’s this year. Ticket sale (\$40) will take place from Nov 15th- Nov 25th in Cafeteria, period 3 and 4.
- **Remembrance Day** was celebrated at school on Nov 11, with remembrance of those who sacrificed their life in service of nation and touching reflection on the impact of war on our world.
- School’s **Jazz concert** on Friday Nov 11th was a great success.
- A great initiative has been taken by Civics students to sell **HSR bus tickets** at school. The tickets will be sold in front foyer on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays during period 4 and after school at same prices.
- **Health Action team** has planned an event related to **Mental Wellbeing** in the coming New Year.
- Westmount newspaper publishes articles by students. October articles are now available on web.
- Thurs Nov 17th is the International Day to celebrate diversity in our school community.
- Spirit day has been planned on Friday Nov 25th as Twin Day.
- Student council has joined sister schools to raise funds to support Hess school in downtown by organizing events like teacher versus students tournaments etc.
- Breakfast program Fundraiser will be running from Nov 21st-25th. Items like gently used clothes, toys, CD’s, DVD’s, books and household will be collected and sold to Value village which will be paid by pound.

7. Teacher Report: by Tanja Roglic, Head of Art and Yvan Brochu, Head of History

- Mr. Brochu could not be present and so his presentation was postponed.
- Ms. Roglic, Head of Art department and a new teacher at our school explained how they are using inquiry approach and technology in their department. Students are encouraged to explore web and use Sketch book app similar to Photoshop. This new approach is showing great results, which was experienced by seeing great art work of some of the students.

- a) Grade 9 students were taken to Royal Botanical garden for a day of Art and Nature. Even with bad weather condition the result and experience of art was commendable.
- b) Media art students were taken for a "Sound workshop" and "Film in a day" at TIFF (Toronto International Film festival). Students created a short film and came back with a great learning experience.
- c) Art students have been taken to AGO (Art Gallery of Ontario) and Art crawl in Hamilton.
- d) On Nov 21st Art students are being taken for a theatre experience of "Beauty and the Beast" in Hamilton.

8. Principal Report:

- a) **Inspire Conference reflections:** Since last 3yrs this conference has been running at Westmount. Again a very valuable day with ½ day dedicated to Career and ½ day to Wellness with both Students and presenters having a great experience. From next year full day of career and wellness running parallel has been planned. Parent council support will be needed.
- b) **School Goals, Targets and PD plans:** Board has set goals to increase graduation rate and encourage positive learning culture in schools. For this team of Guidance department and staff have worked together and planned to focus specially on Grade 9's and 12's. Studies have shown that those who finish all 8 credits in Grade 9 have greater likelihood of graduating in 4 years. This year 100% Grade 9 students will be encouraged to finish all 8 credits signed for the year. About 79 Victory lab students are being guided personally by guidance to be able to graduate this year. Self-direction will be more emphasized than self-paced. Student voice will be heard and mentorship program will be implemented.
- c) **Teacher iPad training:** Board is giving iPad training to teachers. Teachers are trained on subject specific apps also. Our school has great access to technology through iPads, projection, Apple TV etc.
- d) **Guide Review:** An effort has been initiated to review the guides used by students at school for learning. It is being assessed that present guides are really guides or just workbooks. It was suggested by a parent that in this process student feedback should be taken. As part of the goals of school this year to hear student voices, this will be a great start. Student council representative Deanna added that in Science and Math subjects specifically, Assignment and Test scores have shown great difference on an average.
- e) **Guidance Transition Planning:** Nov 24th is the Parents information night for the Grade 8 students who are planning to consider Westmount. Those who intend to choose Westmount have to let the school know by Jan 2017. This year looking at the growing population of Westmount and high demand of this program, guidance department has decided not to go to different schools to give awareness about our Self-paced program.
- f) **Science and LC renovations:** As board has given 3 million dollars to our school for renovation it has been estimated that science department will need about 2.5 million dollars for renovation, and rest will be spent on upgrading LC (Learning commons). A possible architectural plan for LC and science department was shared with members. Recently renovated Ancaster School was visited for better ideas. Asbestos will be removed from science department. Project is planned to start in Jan 2017 and expected to finish by Nov 2017. School has planned to make sure that learning at school will not get affected because of construction.
- g) **Principal's good News Report item:**
 - Initiative of selling HSR bus ticket in school by Civics students has been greatly appreciated. It also shows that learning from classrooms of Westmount is reaching out to the community.
 - Along with Mid-term report cards information will be sent out to all the parents for access to parent portal. This will help parents to keep connected with progress of their child/ children.

9. Concern of improving parent's connection to school and council: This concern has been discussed in previous meetings also. Following suggestions were discussed with starting of some initiative in this direction by the school this month.

- Student council suggested that along with report card a note should be sent to parents to send their email addresses. This will update email database of parent community and can be used by school and parent council to send regular information and minutes of the meeting.
- Principal has agreed starting this month in Nov 2016 to put contact info and minutes on the website and use synrevoice to get the word out.

10. Suggested idea to raise funds for breakfast club: The School Council Chair mentioned that a few years ago an individual had shown some interest in supporting the Breakfast club - Hence after obtaining more info from the Breakfast club Admin he will approach the individual if they may be willing to support Westmount Breakfast Club.

11. Next Meeting date: Next school council meeting will take place on Tuesday January 17th, at 7:00 pm in Room 123.