

## **WESTMOUNT CHARTER BOARD MINUTES**

Regular Meeting – September 15, 2008  
Room 137, Westmount Charter School

### **Present:**

Judy Hoad  
Laurie Westwood  
David Holland  
Wade Humeniuk  
Linda Finlay  
Erika Watters  
Margaret Maclsaac  
Muneerah VasANJI

### **Not Present:**

Janneke Frank  
Linus Hakimattar

### **Administration:**

Merv Kurtz - Superintendent  
Megan O'Hara - Secretary-Treasurer  
Martha Faulkner - Principal

### **1. Call to Order & Agenda**

J. Hoad called the meeting to order at 1815h.

#### *MOTION: 2008/09/15/1:*

That the Charter Board approves the agenda for the September 15, 2008 meeting.  
Moved by D. Holland; Seconded by E. Watters.  
Approved

### **2. Minutes of the June 16, 2008 meeting**

#### *MOTION: 2008/09/15/2:*

That the Charter Board approves the minutes of the June 16, 2008 meeting, as circulated.  
Moved by L. Westwood; Seconded by M. Maclsaac.  
Approved

### **3. Minutes of the June 16, 2008 Finance meeting**

#### *MOTION: 2008/09/15/3:*

That the Charter Board approves the minutes of the June 16, 2008 Finance meeting, as circulated.  
Moved by M. Maclsaac; Seconded by D. Holland.  
Approved

### **4. Minutes of the September 15, 2008 Special meeting**

There was discussion of the follow-up that was made subsequent to the meeting.

#### *MOTION: 2008/09/15/4:*

That the Charter Board approves the minutes of the September 15, 2008 Special meeting, as circulated.  
Moved by L. Finlay; Seconded by M. Maclsaac.  
Approved

### **5. PAT & Diploma Results 2007/08**

Results are attached to Principal's Report.

For the most part, results were exceptional with standards of excellence ranging from twice to almost four times the provincial results. Some specific comments included:

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- All Grade 6 PAT's show great improvement in standard of excellence.
- Grade 3 Math timed number facts are below the provincial average.
- There was some discussion about gaps between school awarded marks and diploma marks
- Pure Math 30 results are disappointing and will be reviewed in-depth by school staff. Math remains a focus throughout school.

## **6. Charter School Matters**

J. Hoad and M. Kurtz reported on the September 11 meeting with Minister Hancock. Representatives from all 13 charter schools were present, including the newest charter from Peace River with a focus on "rural Alberta".

The Minister advised that the department will be undertaking a major broad-based review of education over the next 18 months. Objective is to identify the future of the education system in Alberta.

Specifically for charters, the group was advised that:

- Facilities and enrolment cap issues will be dealt with on an emergent basis with decisions based upon what is best for students.
- No decisions on permanence will be made until after review
- Minister is aware of issues surrounding school closures; a very difficult process
- School buildings are a "public trust"

## **7. Course Fees 2008/09**

*MOTION: 2008/09/15/5:*

That the Charter Board approves the 2008/09 Course Fees as presented.

Moved by D. Holland; Seconded by M. Maclsaac.

Approved

## **8. Nominating Committee**

The terms of J. Hoad, L. Hakimattar and M. Vasanji are expiring as of the 2008 AGM. All will need to consider whether or not they are willing to stand for re-election.

## **9. Centre for Gifted Education**

M. Vasanji advised the Michael C. Pyryt Memorial Fund is intended to fund a scholarship through the Centre for Gifted Education. Currently there is approximately \$11,000 in the fund and additional monies are required to provide a sufficient endowment.

In addition to Dr. Pyryt's contribution to the field of gifted education, there was discussion about the significant involvement that Dr. Pyryt had with Westmount Charter School from its inception, including serving on the committee which drafted the original charter, serving on the first Charter Board of ABC Charter Public School and his later service on the Westmount Board.

*MOTION: 2008/09/15/6:*

That Westmount Charter School makes a donation of \$5,000 to the Michael C. Pyryt Memorial Fund.

Moved by L. Westwood; Seconded by L. Finlay.

Approved

The cheque will be presented at the Centre's 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary on September 26<sup>th</sup>.

## **10. Board PD Opportunities**

Charter Board members were apprised of the opportunity to attend the SAGE conference at the University of Calgary in November. M. VasANJI advised that topics will be announced as soon as they are available.

The National Association for Gifted Children (NAGC) Conference is to be held end of October/early November in Tampa.

Charter Board members are encouraged to attend and PD funds are available to them.

## **11. Policy Committee**

It was agreed the Policy Committee will meet Wednesday, September 23, 2008 at 4:00 pm

## **12. Charter Board Retreat Fall 2008**

Saturday, October 25, 2008 from 9:00 am to 12 noon was suggested. Charter Board members to be polled. J. HoAD and M. Kurtz will prepare the agenda.

## **13. Correspondence**

Correspondence was reviewed.

## **14. Principal's Report**

M. Faulkner provided more information on staff retreat.

- Visitation from Yellowknife, NWT. Inquiries from Israel.
- Political forum being organized.

M. Faulkner's report included the following:

- Administration Team
- Mentorship Program
- Student Orientation
- Staff Retreat In Canmore
- School Opening
- Bussing
- Mingle with Martha
- Meet the Teacher
- Student Services
- Centre for Gifted Education
- Student Count/Staff Count
- Curricular and Extracurricular Staff Development
- Achievement and Diploma Test Results

## **15. Superintendent's Report**

M. Kurtz spoke to his meetings in early summer with CBE senior administrators with a view to working more collaboratively with CBE.

M. Kurtz's report included:

- Facilities
- Special Charter Board meeting
- Ever greening
- Upcoming evaluation
- Meeting between Minister of Education and Charter Superintendents and Chairs
- PAT & Diploma results

- Parent Comments – Summary
- Enrolment Summary

#### **16. Secretary-Treasurer's Report**

M. O'Hara's report included:

- Budget 2008/09
- Transportation
- Accounting and Finance

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*MOTION: 2008/09/15/7:*

That the Charter Board moves its meeting in camera at 2000h.

Moved by L. Westwood; Seconded by W. Humeniuk.

Approved

Regular meeting re-convened at 2015h.

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#### **17. Arising from In-Camera**

*MOTION: 2008/09/15/8:*

That the Charter Board approves the recommendations for Employee Nos. 0372, 0141, 0185, 0395, 0255, 0430, 0428, 0429, 0435, 0431, 0433 and 0435, as presented in camera.

Moved by L. Finlay; Seconded by W. Humeniuk.

Approved

*MOTION: 2008/09/15/9:*

That the Charter Board approves the recommendation for Employee No.434, as presented in camera

Moved by E. Watters; Seconded by L. Westwood. D. Holland abstained.

Approved

#### **18. Adjournment**

The Chairperson declared the meeting adjourned at 2020h.

**Scheduled Meetings:** Rm 137 @ 6:00 pm

Monday, October 20, 2008

Monday, November 17, 2008

AGM – Monday, November 24, 2008

Monday, December 15, 2008