

WESTMOUNT CHARTER BOARD MINUTES

Regular Meeting – April 20, 2011

Room 137, Westmount Charter School

Present:

Constantine Pefanis
Shawna Ritchie
Barbara Mendaglio
Melanie Guglielmin
Diane Field
Duane Bratt
Winston Chow
Marie Keenan
Janet Vellutini

Not Present:

Administration:

Joe Frank, Superintendent
Megan O'Hara, Secretary-Treasurer
Martha Faulkner, Principal

1. Call to Order

C. Pefanis called the meeting to order at 1805h.

2. Agenda Approval

MOTION: 2011/4/20/1:

That the Charter Board approves the agenda for the April 20, 2011 meeting, as circulated.

Moved by D. Field; Seconded by B. Mendaglio.

Approved

3. Minutes of the March 16, 2011 Meeting

MOTION: 2011/4/20/2:

That the Charter Board approves the minutes of the March 16, 2011 meeting, as amended.

Moved by M. Guglielmin; Seconded by S. Ritchie.

Approved

4. Minutes of the April 13, 2011 Special Meeting

MOTION: 2011/4/20/3:

That the Charter Board approves the minutes of the April 13, 2011 meeting, as amended.

Moved by B. Mendaglio; Seconded by M. Guglielmin.

Approved

5. Principal's Report

M. Faulkner spoke in some detail about the work that will be done to ease the anxiety among families and staff with the move.

Her written report included:

- National and international trips
 - Bussing changes to drop-off and pick-up
 - School plans to move
 - Drama production
 - Music productions
 - Student and teacher survey results
 - Student teachers 2011-2012
 - Upcoming dates
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6. International Field Trip - Peru

M. McMaster, teacher-leader, and students Angus Harden, Rudy Shirra and Maddie Alvarez gave a short presentation on their trip to Peru. The students described their experiences including their work at the local school, Machu Picchu and the benefits received from staying in one community for an extended time. Photos from the trip were shown. All participants found the trip to be a bonding, life changing experience.

C. Pefanis expressed his appreciation to the students and Mr. McMaster for sharing their experiences with the board.

7. School Calendars

A written summary of the changes proposed for the 2010/11 and 2011/12 calendars was distributed. The changes are proposed to accommodate the relocation. J. Frank and M. Faulkner requested consideration to one additional change to the 2010/11 calendar, to provide that the last day of classes be Friday, June 24. The last official instructional day would be Monday, June 27, but only students writing either the Social 9 PAT or Physics 30 diploma exam are required to attend.

MOTION: 2011/4/20/4:

That the Charter Board approves the revisions to the 2010/11 calendar, as proposed.
Moved by D. Field; Seconded by M. Keenan.
Approved

MOTION: 2011/4/20/5:

That the Charter Board approves the 2011/12 calendar, as revised.
Moved by B. Mendaglio; Seconded by J. Vellutini.
Approved

MOTION: 2011/4/20/6:

That the Charter Board approves, in principle, the 2012/13 calendar, as presented.
Moved by M. Guglielmin; Seconded by W. Chow.
Approved

8. Budget Principles 2011/12

M. O'Hara responded to questions regarding the proposed Budget Principles.

MOTION: 2011/4/20/7:

That the Charter Board approves the 2011/12 Budget Principles, as presented.
Moved by J. Vellutini; Seconded by M. Keenan.
Approved

9. Capital Plan 2012/16

M. O'Hara advised that Alberta Education is requiring submission of a Capital Plan by May 2, 2011 notwithstanding the present lack of information.

MOTION: 2011/4/20/8:

That the Charter Board approves the Capital Plan, as presented.
Moved by J. Vellutini; Seconded by S. Ritchie.
Approved

10. Policy Committee

S. Ritchie summarized the proposed revisions to the Charter Board Policy Handbook. The revisions addressed consistency with the charter, consistency in language and reorganization. The more substantive changes were noted in the margins of the draft document circulated in advance of the meeting.

MOTION: 2011/4/20/9:

That the Charter Board approves the revised Charter Board Policy Handbook, as presented. Moved by D. Field; Seconded by B. Mendaglio. Approved

11. School Council Liaison

J. Vellutini reported on the April 18/11 meeting. It was requested that a written report from the board be included each month in the School Council Report. The Charter Board will undertake a review of how other charter boards communicate with their school councils. J. Vellutini will report at the May meeting.

12. Board Self-Evaluation

M. Keenan distributed an evaluation form which is to be returned by May 4. Charter Board members are encouraged to suggest improvements/changes to the document. M. Keenan will compile results and report at the May meeting.

13. TAAPCS

C. Pefanis reported on the meeting of Charter Board Chairs on March 23/11 and the Calgary caucus meeting on March 25/11.

In summary, the charter school delegation was well received by the Calgary caucus. Permanence is supported but MLAs also want to ensure that charters remain innovative.

J. Frank reported on the EAC meeting on April 18/11 and provided an update on the Charter Schools Conference in October 2011. It is expected the Education Act will be introduced in the legislature in early May.

14. Superintendent's Report

J. Frank recognized Sandy Miller and Martha Faulkner as semi-finalists for Excellence in Teaching Awards Program. There was discussion regarding the manner in which the board might recognize all nominees.

MOTION: 2011/4/20/10:

That the Charter Board will recognize nominees for Excellence in Teaching Awards Program with a letter and honorarium of \$100.

Moved by D. Field; Seconded by M. Keenan. Approved

J. Frank also reported on the Student and Teacher Survey Results. Students results were strong and consistent. Teacher results show some areas of concern which will be reviewed.

15. Correspondence

A response to the Minister's letter dated April 29, 2011 will be prepared.

MOTION: 2011/4/20/11:

That the Charter Board moves its meeting *in camera* at 2025h.

Moved by B. Mendaglio; Seconded by W. Chow.

Approved

Regular meeting re-convened at 2105h.

16. Arising from In-Camera

MOTION: 2011/4/20/12:

That the Charter Board approves the staff changes, as recommended.

Moved by M. Keenan; Seconded by J. Vellutini.

Approved

MOTION: 2011/4/20/13:

That the Charter Board approves the recommendations of the Nominating Committee.

Moved by M. Guglielmin; Seconded by W. Chow.

Approved

17. Adjournment

The Chairperson declared the meeting adjourned at 2110h.