

Westmount School Council Meeting – February 2021

Date: February 10, 2021

Location: Video Conference

Time: 7:00 pm

Chair: Baljit Singh

Council

Vice-Chair: Roti Akinsanmi

Treasurer: Navdeep Kailey

Secretary: Ameet Kooner

Communications Director: Kathy Good

Fundraising Director: Kim Anthony

Parent Engagement Director: Ashley Wilford-Matthews

Special Events Director: Thomas Chan

Director-at-Large: Kelly Poon

Director-at-Large: Dawn Courtman

Administration

Superintendent: Joe Frank

Principal Elementary Campus: Hal Curties

Principal Mid-High Campus: Graeme Finlay

Student Council representative: Parthiv M.

Other

Board Liaison & Community Liaison: Peter Khu

Note: Video recording of this meeting is also available online

1. Call to order and approval of the Agenda

Baljit Singh called the meeting to order.

- Housekeeping: Chat function limited - moderator Derek Teterenko will receive all questions/comments

Adjustment to Agenda – addition to the agenda #8 – report from Peter Khu

Motion to approve agenda: 1st Kim Anthony, 2nd Kelly Poon, Carried.

2. Chair's Remarks – Baljit Singh

Charter Advocacy Committee Update: Last year a motion passed re: Charter Schools – continue to work with the group to have this motion reversed. Baljit is following closely and will update as required.

3. Approval of minutes from January 13, 2021 School Council minutes

Motion to approve minutes: 1st Ashley Wilford-Matthews, 2nd Dawn Courtman, all in favor, none opposed, Carried.

4. COVID-19 Updates – Graeme Finlay, Hal Curties, Joe Frank

- Lower # of cases; deaths continue in Alberta; School cases

- Unfortunately, a positive case just reported tonight. Case at mid-high. Nothing connected to K-4
- Process: identify individual, notify all staff and students that may have been a close contact. Generic email to whole community. Personal contact only for those considered a close contact.

5. Student Council - President: Parthiv M.

- In general, students pleased with how exams were handled. Concerns shared with Mr. Finlay.
- Generally, students glad to be back; looking forward to spending one semester in-person at school
- Student Council working with other initiatives underway:
 - o SWAT – giving anti-bullying stickers.
 - o Diversity council - mask fundraiser.
 - o Westmount 25th Anniversary – water bottle designs – bottle designs or stickers

6. Reports from Council

a. Parent Engagement Report – Ashley Wilford-Matthews

- Coffee talk idea – Parent Engagement session with Medical professionals from within our Westmount community – stay tuned for more information
- Another Mental Health session coming soon
- Monthly virtual Coffee talks continue – parking, traffic, etc. Appreciate parent engagement.

b. Treasurer's Report – Navdeep Kailey (absent) – presented by Ashley Wilford-Matthews

- January monthly reconciliations complete. Ending balance approximately \$45,000
- Donations between September – December via PayPal approximately \$15,000
- No expenses incurred in the month of January 2021.
- Thank you to all for the support. Strong community spirit helps us all.

c. Fundraising Report – Kim Anthony

- Bottle Drive last week raised \$850; continuing to partner with Skip the Depot. If you missed the bottle drive last week, feel free to contact Skip the Depot directly for private pickup at your residence and contribute toward Westmount Charter School. Instructions available on our website. Next bottle drive in the spring!
 - o Thank you to Jill Foreman for leading this initiative
- Working with Peter Khu - Community Association Liaison
 - o Emailed community about bottle drive. Will put ad in newsletter in the future.

Thank you to everyone who is supporting Westmount! Please remember – we are open to new ideas. If you have any ideas, please email schoolcouncil@westmountcharter.com

d. Westmount 25th Anniversary – Kelly Poon

- Virtual Event for all to attend - working on a video; theme: history of Westmount Charter School
- Group photo 2020-21 modified – Lifetouch Photos into one mosaic
- Each student/staff one memento to remember school 25th anniversary – looking into water bottles.

7. Principals' Reports: – Mr. Hal Curties and Mr. Graeme Finley

a. [EC Principal's Report](#)

Q: Beyond the required criteria, are principles of equity, diversity and inclusion considered when making offers to future students (intake process)?

A: Welcome the conversation. Elementary campus currently looks at qualification, psychologist report, parent forms, etc. Hard to be discriminatory based on the data submitted but admit there may be some barriers that exist. We invite feedback from parents and psychologists. Open to having a session with parents about the admission process. We are most definitely an open and inclusive

school. Our focus now is on if there are any barriers to people applying to our school, this is an opportunity to improve the admission process. - Hal

b. [MH Principal's Report](#)

Mid-High is creating a staff diversity council – working on professional development for staff, looking at structures that exist within our school (ie. Barriers of the intake process). The council will be a group of dedicated people with clear roles, a structure and guiding principles of the council. - Graeme

Chair Comments – Baljit Singh

Diversity, Inclusion and Equity is a conversation we are having from coast to coast. We need to ensure, although there may be diversity amongst us, are we being inclusive. Thank you to the principals of the elementary and mid-high campus for being open to having this conversation. School Council will work with administration to further this agenda item and continue to have the important in-depth conversations.

8. Superintendent's Report – Joe Frank

- Engagement: parent engagement; student engagement
 - o Alberta education is moving from an accountability pillar to an assurance model. Rather than being accountable to the expectations of the department on behalf of the citizens of Alberta, we are going to ensure we are responding to the needs of our community (the parents of the students at our school). Part of this will be additional engagement.
 - o Facilitating how we get more feedback from all our stakeholders (students, parents, staff, external). A 3-year plan of the model under development, due May 31st to the Alberta Government.
 - o Alberta Government survey to parents of students in Grade 4 – 12 will be going away. Parents can expect more direct surveys from the school – short and precise. Aiming for the spring 2021.
- Message from Peter Khu: Development of former stadium shopping center
 - o New development permit received by Community Association. Development planned for summer 2021
 - o Application is requesting temporary surface parking – overall plan is the same (two levels of underground parking with 1200 stalls) was to be completed first over 2 years. With the change in the economy, this will now be completed in phases with surface parking required.
 - Building #1: medical building with shops below (SW Corner)
 - Building #2: residential block with commercial property below (west side)
 - Building #3: grocery store with residential above (north side)
 - Building #4-5: hotel and office tower (east side)
 - o Impact to Westmount: parking, construction traffic, noise, safety, etc. over 2-3 years.
 - o Message to parents: there is an increase of parking enforcement in the area. Be careful where you park as the area is being monitored due to the construction.

Question: will there be more parking in the area for students

Answer: not necessarily provided to students / school. This will take 2-3 years. More to come.

9. Meeting adjourned at 20:00.