



MINUTES OF SCHOOL COUNCIL GENERAL MEETING

Contact School Council:
wcschoolcouncil@gmail.com

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 8, 2025

Call to Order

A General Meeting of Westmount Charter School was held on **Wednesday, October 8, 2025** via Zoom. It commenced at 7:00pm and was presided over by Ashley Wilford-Matthews, Chair. Ashley began the meeting with Westmount Charter School's land acknowledgement and encouraged families to check out the public performances of *We Are All Treaty People* being held at The Confluence. [We Are All Treaty People — The Confluence](#)

Attendees

School Council Executives	Students, Staff & Administration
<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Chair: <i>Ashley Wilford-Matthews</i>2. Vice-Chair: <i>Hannah Klassen</i>3. Secretary: <i>Jodi Hornung</i>4. Treasurer: <i>Lisa Fedko-Gott</i>5. Communications Director: <i>Travis Davidson</i>6. Fundraising Director: <i>Clara Ip</i>7. Parent Engagement Director: <i>Melissa Wolsey</i>8. Social Events Director: <i>Tammy Chan</i>9. Director-at-Large: <i>Meg Nicholson</i>10. Director-at-Large: <i>Pin Sahota</i>	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Elementary Acting Principal: <i>Karly Bagnall</i>2. Elementary Acting Assistant Principal: <i>Ashley Cuthbert</i>3. Mid-High Principal: <i>Graeme Finlay</i>4. Student Council President: <i>Dipto Sikdar</i>5. Board Liaison: <i>Simon Corrin</i>
Absent: <i>Lisa Fedko-Gott, Dipto Sikdar</i>	

Approval of Agenda

A motion to approve the agenda was made by Travis D. and seconded by Clara I.

Approval of Minutes

A motion to approve the [September 2025](#) minutes was made by Tammy C. and seconded by Melissa W.

Agenda

1. Chair's Remarks

As we approach Thanksgiving weekend, Ashley shared her gratitude for the incredible Westmount community and gave thanks for the wonderful teachers and staff who support our children every day.



2. School Reports

a. Student Council Director of Communications | *Evan Wang*

- **October Spirit Week:** will run Oct. 27 - Oct. 31 with different theme days.
- **Door Decorating:** will run Oct. 13 – Oct. 31 and one prize will be awarded per floor for the best decorated door!
- **Mid-School Halloween Dance:** will take place in the afternoon of Oct. 31. There will be a quiet space available for students who need a break from the noise and excitement happening in the gym.
- **Costume Contest:** will be held at lunchtime on Oct. 31 (prizes to be determined).
- **Announcements:** Student Council ran a survey and received over 475 responses. Most students would like announcements back, provided they are louder and more concise. Student Council will have follow-up discussions with admin.
- **Budget:** due to budget constraints, Student Council will likely not be funding clubs or providing loans this year.

Note from Principal Finlay: Admin will work with School Council and Fundraising to help assist with club funding. Clubs are a huge part of the culture of the school and enable students to make connections and focus on passion areas.

Note from Chat: Can we bring back the WCS Family Cookbook to help raise funds? This is an idea School Council is happy to consider, especially given that it's Westmount's 30th Anniversary this year.

b. Elementary Principals | *Karly Bagnall & Ashley Cuthbert* [Elementary Campus – October 2025](#)

c. Mid-High Principal | *Graeme Finlay* [Mid-High Campus – October 2025](#)

Note: Athletic games will continue during the ATA strike if they are with other charter schools. Scheduled games with schools affected by the strike have been cancelled.

3. Q&A with Superintendent Dr. Adriana Klassen

This meeting featured a special Q&A session encouraging parents to connect with Westmount's new Superintendent, Dr. Adriana Klassen. School Council gathered questions from parents via Slido and Zoom. Questions were answered by the Superintendent, Principals and School Council Chair. **To listen to the full Q&A, please view the [meeting recording](#) starting at 00:36:54.**

Questions included:



ATA STRIKE AND THE IMPACT ON CHARTER SCHOOLS

Q: *"Would the ongoing ATA strike impact charter schools' funding from the government?"*

A: Since Westmount does not have a collective bargaining agreement and is not part of the AB Teachers Association, families can be assured that the quality of WCS education will not be impacted, nor will its funding. As Westmount is a public charter school and not tuition-based, it is not being referenced in the petitions circulating to de-fund private/independent schools. Parents can help by staying informed, advocating on behalf of public charter schools, and sharing positive stories about their experiences at Westmount.

[About – westmountcharter.com](https://westmountcharter.com)

[Alberta Public Charter School Video Re Edit VEKLABS 1](#)

BUDGET, FINANCES AND CAPITAL PLAN

Q: *"What is the school's financial situation? I recall that there was a large deficit in the 2023-2024 school year."*

A: Financial statements are available to review on the website. The new Treasurer will report this year's audited financial statements and speak to any deficits at the AGM. [Stakeholder Reporting – westmountcharter.com](#)

Q: *"How can parents help the school gain more funding or provide additional support in any areas?"*

A: Donating to School Council is a great way to give back. Whether you donate to School Council, the Fundraising Society or directly to the school, all funds go towards supporting and enriching the student learning experience (tax-receipts can be provided). Another way to provide support is by donating your time - volunteers are essential for successful fundraising initiatives (e.g. casinos, Stamps parking, etc.). Parents can make direct donations to the school and request the funds be used to meet a specific need.

Q: *"What do school fees being loaded in PowerSchool cover?"*

A: At the Elementary campus, these fees are used to pay for lunch supervisors and general supplies (paper, books, art supplies, etc.). Mid-High fees are higher, in addition to general fees these fees cover special programs, specific option classes and field trips. Please reach out to the principals with any questions.

Q: *"Limited outdoor sport activity/structure space for Grade 5-12, does the Mid-High have means to expand this?"*



A: The capital plan is presented on the website and includes a proposal to expand the existing facilities. Since there is an existing playground structure shared with University Elementary School, grants are not easily available. When Westmount moved into the building it negotiated the field space with UES, with UES having priority of the playground structure. WCS rents its buildings and land from the CBE which means a collaborative effort is required in order to negotiate any upgrades to the playground.

BUSSING

Q: *"Will there be additional bus service for Kindergartens and others on the waitlist?" and "Could you consider adding one more bus route from the South of Calgary?"*

A: Not as of now. A child will remain on the waitlist until an existing rider stops taking the bus. Bussing is a coordinated effort with Southland Transportation. Westmount students travel to school from all quadrants of the city, making routes longer and more complex. All transportation related questions are best directed to Janet Berry at schoolbus@westmountcharter.com with additional information found at <https://www.westmountcharter.com/parents/transportation/>.

PHONE AND SOCIAL MEDIA POLICIES

Q: *"The no phones in school policy does not seem to be enforced. Are there any rules about this, and can it be better enforced?"*

A: There is a strict no-phone, three-strike policy in place for grades 5-12 and is being enforced. In certain cases, some students and classes have received exceptions to this policy. Admin asks that parents help enforce the policy by not texting their children during the day. If a student needs to contact a parent, they can use their phone in the office. Please don't hesitate to reach out to the principals if you have concerns.

Q: *"What is the school's policy with respect to Instagram given the detrimental impact social media can have on young brains?"*

A: While there is no formal policy in place, clubs do use Instagram for informal communication. The information being shared on Instagram is meant to be instructional and not to encourage banter or chatting.

Q: *"Does the school have any restrictions on teachers using phones in the classroom?"*

A: While there is no formal policy in place, teachers are expected to model appropriate behaviour and are trusted to use phones professionally. Many use them to support their instruction and it is also how the staff remains connected during the day.



CLASSROOM DESIGN AND SIZES

Q: *"What criteria do you consider when designing classrooms, as there is one grade 4 classroom without natural light?"*

A: WCS rents the building and, as it was not involved with the design, is currently using the space provided the best it can. The specified classroom has several small windows along the top, and students do rotate to different classrooms and have three recesses. If WCS is ever able to modernize and expand, then it could consider how to make the space better for all students.

Q: *"Will Westmount cap class sizes?"*

A: Currently, compared to the public system, Westmount has one of the smallest class sizes. WCS is funded for the number of students it has; in order to reduce class sizes it would require more staff (and is only funded for the existing staff). This is a budgetary constraint with the existing government model.

FIELD TRIPS

Q: *"Will there be more field trips planned this year? Is it possible to do more trips if a fee was charged to go on them?"*

A: This year, the EC team has decided not to charge for field trips. However, it appreciates parent feedback and recognizes the importance of field trips and the willingness of families to pay for these experiences. EC admin will look at options for this going forward in partnership with School Council and Fundraising Society.

ELEMENTARY LUNCH TIME

Q: *"Is it possible to change lunch time back to before the recess?"*

A: The EC leadership team reviewed the research regarding reverse lunches and the findings showed that students who go for recess before lunch are better regulated while eating lunch and have a smoother transition into learning after their lunch break. Please reach out to the EC Principals if you have any further questions.

4. School Council Reports

a. **Treasury** | *Lisa F.*
No update.

b. **Fundraising** | *Clara I.*
Fun Lunches

October fun lunches have been set up; please remember to submit orders by the Sunday before the lunch date. Register and order lunches through [Healthy Hunger](#).



Old Dutch Fundraiser

Thank you to all families who supported the Old Dutch fundraiser! Chip orders are expected the week of Oct. 20.

Stamps Parking

Volunteer slots for the final Stamps Parking of the season are full! Parking will start back up again in the Spring.

SkiptheDepot

Ongoing campaign. Families can register to have their empty bottles picked up from [SkiptheDepot](#) and School Council will receive the proceeds. Tax receipts can be requested for donations over \$25.

c. **Parent Engagement | Melissa W.**

The October Mid-High Coffee Talk is Oct. 17 (online at 9:15am). The next Elementary Coffee Talk is Nov. 21 (in-person at 8:50am). Thank you to all parents who attended the YouthSMART engagement session on October 6, 2025. While the Oct. 6 session was not recorded, future sessions will be announced as they become available.

d. **Social Events | Tammy C.**

No update.

5. **Board Update | Simon C.**

HR Committee – search and selection process for the EC Principal position is currently underway with an announcement expected in December. *Treasurer to the Board* – many thanks to Mariette Rabacal for her time as Treasurer and a warm welcome to Konstantin Gregovic who will be taking over the role.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:27pm.

Meeting Recording

[Click here to view](#)