

Westmount School Association

September Minutes

Oct 1st, 2024

Attending: Marisha Caswell, Meredith Pike, Teri Colter, Megan Gray, Laura Moeller, Jenn Hanscomb, Sarah-Lynn MacKenzie, Vanessa Thompson, Tara Wight, Seth Whalin-Stern, Cherry

Regrets: Allana MacDonald Mills, Alex Smith, Christa LeBlanc

1. Welcome: Marisha Caswell, President, welcomed everyone at 6:01.
2. Approval of Minutes: Motion: to approve the minutes for the May 2024 WSA meeting
Approved: Laura Moeller
Seconded: Tara Wight
3. Review of Pending Action Items:
 - A) **Gaga Ball Pit** – We discussed purchasing driveway flags to mark the gaga ball pit for the show plow; it was decided that flags would be too easily removed and used as toys/weapons. We decided a 2x4, painted and with reflectors attached, would be a better idea. Meredith and Laura volunteered to buy these items.
Action item: Meredith and Laura to purchase wood, paint, screws and reflectors.
 - B) **Basketball Nets** – The basketball nets have been installed! Netting may be needed for outdoor nets.
Action item: Meredith and Laura to purchase needed netting.

Motion to approve purchases for gaga ball pit and basketball nets:
Approved: Tara Wight
Seconded: Jenn Hanscomb

 - C) **Pergola** – The pergola was safely removed. Thank you to everyone who helped out!
4. Principal's Report: **Teri Colter**, Principal
The school is already at 412 students. Classrooms started the year over the hard cap; we were fortunate to be allocated an additional 2/3 classroom within the first couple of weeks. Our school population represents 34 home countries and 33 home languages; English is the identified home language of 49% of the school population.

The school lunch program is scheduled to start this month. Families will be able to order lunches starting on Oct 18. Ordering will run on a 2 week rotation, and it is pay what you can. There are two options for each lunch (one vegetarian). The

school has been asked to purchase additional meals for 15-20% of the school population.

The school has started the flag display to represent students' home countries. A display of student hands was made for Orange Shirt Day.

The Terry Fox run is this Friday.

5. Treasurer's Report: **Christa LeBlanc**, Treasurer
Christa sent her regrets for the meeting; please see her October 1st email for financial report.
We discussed whether we need to spend money that we are carrying over and proposed that we have that discussion in a future meeting when Christa is present.

6. Event & Fundraising Reports:
A) Dimitri's Pizza & Hot Lunch – Because of the new lunch program, we will not be having a hot lunch or pizza fundraiser this year. Laura suggested a thank you note and gift for Joan Lombardo for her hot lunch program.
Action Items: Megan will write a note for Joan and arrange a gift; Marisha will close contact with Dimitri's for now.

B) Micro Garden Fundraiser – We made a small amount on this fundraiser.
Action: Tara will confirm the amount collected.

C) Bingo – Vanessa, Jodi Terrio, Vicky Terrio, and Michelle MacAulay have started organizing the Bingo night for this year. Anyone who would like to take part in organizing should contact Vanessa.

D) Nourish Your Roots – The local farm food box program has been discontinued; Nourish is now providing grants to schools for food initiatives. Grant applications can be made until Nov 24th.
Action Item: Marisha will apply for the NYR grant.

E) October 24th Movie Night – We decided to hold a movie night on October 24th. This will be a free event with popcorn, ring pops, juice boxes and candy available for purchase.
Action Items: Jenn will update the movie poster. Megan will purchase food items. Teri will test the licensing link, identify available movies, put up the posters and arrange the school vote.

F) Other events – We discussed other fundraising ideas, given that we have lost the pizza and hot lunch fundraisers. Seth made a suggestion of raffling off a preferred parking spot and front row seat for the winter concert. Tara suggested a clothing swap by admission or pay what you can; she noted that this would be a good community builder, but also involves a lot of organization. A similar

suggestion was a December used item shop – families donate gently used items that students can then “shop” for to give as gifts.

We discussed trying to identify what we are raising funds for when we do so.

7. Funding Requests: We will look at funding iPads at the next meeting when we have clarity on some budget items.

8. Other Items: **A) Event Dates** – We reviewed event dates and decided to do a movie night in October and keep the April 24th date open for a dance or other event. Right now a movie night is also scheduled for January 30th; this should be reviewed at the November meeting.

B) Spirit Wear – Two possible companies were identified as possibilities for spirit wear. The school used Fresh Prints for staff team shirts. Tara offered to take on this item.

Action Item: Tara will research both options and report back at the October meeting.

C) Recruitment: Recruitment efforts next year should highlight the need for someone to shadow Christa in the role of Treasurer for succession planning. We will also focus on increasing the diversity of our membership. We discussed putting out a specific ask for someone to shadow the treasurer role.

Action item: Megan will write a brief WSA update highlighting treasurer role and any outstanding member at large positions to be sent out to the school community.

D) Diversity & Inclusion: We discussed being more proactive with our D&I efforts this year. Shelly Chapman (EAL) has been organizing a multicultural event that WSA may be able to support.

Action item: Megan will update the Diversity Profile for this school year and reach out to Shelly Chapman to explore ways to increase our membership diversity and ask about

E) WSA Email – We discussed having an email address for the WSA where documents could be centralized. We discussed how this could be helpful and also possibly challenging.

9. Motion to Adjourn: The meeting was adjourned at 7:15

Next meeting: Monday, October 28th.