

Westmount School Association

November Minutes

Nov 25th, 2024

Attending: Megan Gray, Jenn Hanscomb, Marisha Caswell, Allana MacDonald-Mills, Vicky Terrio, Christas LeBlanc, Vanessa Thompson, Tara Wight, Greg White, Teri Colter

Regrets: Sarah-Lynn MacKenzie, Meredith Pike, Marilee Selewski

1. Welcome: Marisha Caswell, President, welcomed everyone at 6:07.
2. Approval of Minutes: Motion: to approve the minutes for the October 2024 WSA meeting
Approved: Tara Wight
Seconded: Vanessa Thompson
3. Review of Pending A) **Gaga Ball Pit** – No progress on purchasing the driveway flags for the gaga ball pit, which will be used to mark the gaga ball pit to alert plow drivers after a snowfall.
Action: Laura and Meredith will purchase driveway flags.
4. Principal's Report: **Teri Colter**, Principal
EAL teachers Shelley and Nour attended the intercultural event at Mount St Vincent that Marisha alerted us to last month. They had a great time and came back with lots of ideas for our upcoming spring multicultural event, such as incorporating elements of fashion, food, and games. They are going to bring their ideas to the WSA at our January meeting, and we will discuss how we can support and work with them to put on the event.
Greg has started a winter soccer league at the school for grades 4-6. It will take place over two lunch periods per week – the kids are excited!
The theme for December is love and kindness.
5. Treasurer's Report: **Christa LeBlanc**, Treasurer
Christa reports that there isn't much activity in the account.
There are still questions about why the funds raised were so much lower this year for the spring fair. Lynn is going to arrange to meet with Tanya to explore whether there was money brought in through the square (tap machine).
Christa noted that are items from this years budget will be different than expected: hot lunch was budgeted for (discontinued now because of the provincial lunch program), and we won't receive funds from Nourish Your Roots as hoped. She noted that we have a number of expenses not yet spent (staff appreciation, the orientation tea). We currently have \$25,394 in the account with \$8115 in expenses not yet accounted for. We discussed the need to spend some of these

funds; we explored iPads (not currently needed) and discussed providing every student with a school t shirt again when we have arranged spirit wear. Christa also noted that we did not receive a deposit from Joan's hot lunch program after April last year (it was decided not to chase it) and that RBC has donated \$3000 this fiscal year, with another \$1500 expected from the Bingo night.
Action Item: Lynn will arrange to meet with Tanya to explore the square funds from Spring Fair.

6. Event & Fundraising Reports: **A) Micro Garden Fundraiser** – We made a small amount on this fundraiser. Christa will check with Tanya if funds ever came in for this fundraiser.
Action Item: Christa to liaise with Tanya to figure out how much was made from this fundraiser.

B) Nourish Your Roots – We did not apply for this grant on time. Marisha will continue to explore grant funding opportunities.

C) Bingo – Bingo is ready to go this Thursday night. Bingo callers will be announced before the event RBC is providing 3 volunteers, and will donate \$1500 again. In the future we may consider selling bingo books ahead of time using SchoolCash online.

D) January Movie Night – Preparations for this event will have to be made in the first week back to school and organized over email.

Action Item: Megan will organize this event in January and connect with everyone about needed items then.

F) Multicultural Event – Shelley and Nour (EAL) will take the lead on this and will bring their ideas to us in January. We will discuss how to best support them with this effort at that time.

Other event idea – Lynn brought forward that another school partnered with Woozles to have a school night where a percentage of the profits went back to the school. We discussed looking into an option like this in the future as a fundraising opportunity that takes very little effort.

Also – we discussed again raffling off the front row for each of the winter concerts in January.

Action Item: Vanessa will prepare and send out a notice for this raffle in January.

7. Funding Requests: Nothing at this time.

8. Other Items: **A) Spirit Wear** – Tara presented FreshPrints as the best option and outlined the possibility of t shirts and other clothing items, and gave the cost per shirt for the smallest order amount. We discussed whether we wanted to offer an order form

purchase for families, or offer a t shirt to each student. Tara is going follow up with the company to see about best options

Action Item: Tara will follow up with FreshPrints.

B) Recruitment / Diversity & Inclusion: Megan will prepare and send a recruitment notice to Teri following the Bingo night.

Action Item: as above.

E) WSA Communication – Nothing at this time.

9. Motion to Adjourn: The meeting was adjourned at 6:55
Approved: Jenn Hanscomb
Seconded: Christa LeBlanc

Next meeting: Monday, January 27th