

Minutes: November 25, 2024, 7:00pm

Westmount Elementary School Advisory Council

Attendance: Eric Thomson, Erik Fraser, Teri Colter, Annie Miller, Runa Seal, Megan Gray, Terin DeWolf, Suad, Greg White, Andrew Hare

Regrets: Donna Sutton

Call to order

Approval of November 25 Agenda

- **Motion: Approval of the agenda for November 25**
 - **Motion Approved (unanimous)**

Approval of October 28, 2024 Minutes

- Teri requested changing the title from “Meeting Agenda” to “Meeting Minutes”. With the change:
 - **Motion: Approval of October 28 minutes**
 - **Motion Approved (unanimous)**

Old Business

1. Crosswalks and Vehicle Safety:

- Eric T. has contacted the planning commission, confirmed that they will review the transportation study request, but no further updates.
- Teri and Suad confirmed that the problem persists.
- Teri called HRCE Transportation department to update signage to highlight no parking or stopping. HRCE said the bus is allowed to stop there, but request is being made to make it clear the bus is permitted to stop there.

New Business

1. Overview of Student Success Planning (School Improvement Plan)

- Overall goals are the same from 2023, but evidence and data updated annually.
- Reading benchmarks used to track literacy goals. Goal is that every student is reading at benchmark by the end of grade 2, which currently ranges between classes. At the beginning of 2024.
 - Overall students in grade P-2 of African ancestry 8 were not meeting, 0 Mi'kmaw, and 30 from the rest of the population (grade 1-3).
 - Overall students in grade 4-6 of African ancestry 10 were not meeting, 1 Mi'kmaw, and 40 from the rest of the population (grade 1-3).
- 20% of students are African ancestry. 5 students are Mi'kmaw/indigenous ancestry

2. Updated P-2 Literacy Curriculum

- Addition of the reciprocity between reading and writing to a more holistic program
- Will be implemented beginning at the end of Term 1. New training and professional development taking place. Literacy consultants will be available to support staff as well.
- Expectation that changes to upper grades farther down the line.

3. Lunch Program Update and Feedback

- Parent feedback said children's responses have been mixed. Some dietary restrictions are not being mixed, but some are eating it. Overall there has been little feedback from other parents. There are feeling philosophically, but not concrete.
 - Question raised on whether the meet is Halal or not, but that has not been confirmed.
- Now that the menu has cycled through, kids know which meals they like and are ordering those.
- School feedback highlights how the meal portion varies between meals, but are the same size for all grade levels.
- The picnic lunch was criticized for not being hot. Routine has been established with lunch monitors, with some coming in early to sort meals. Feedback from the kids has been the same as parents.
- Teri highlighted that while it's a provincial program, delivery can depend on the provider. Each day she uploads a photo, informal engagement with students on the meals. Kids are also needing instruction on sorting after the meal.
- School is allowed to order extras, which can be distributed to students who want more, forgot, etc.
- Some parents did not realize they have to order every two-week block.

4. SAC Grant Funding

- School received \$5000 + \$1 per student for a total of ~\$5415.00.
- Anything purchased out of school funds stay in the school as property of the tax.
- Proposal: Math and science materials room has been cleaned and inventoried by staff. Teachers were asked to identify gaps in materials.
 - **Request:** \$1000 to be used toward math materials (e.g. spinners, dice, counters)
 - **Motion: Allocate up to \$1000 of the SAC Grant Funding to math materials requested by individual teachers, to be allocated at the principal's discretion**
 - **Motion Approved (unanimous)**
- Idea: Science or mathematics competition (e.g. building a robot), with the winning class receiving a prize of additional materials. Something to generate excitement.
 - This would come down to the teachers and their willingness to participate.

Upcoming Events

- WSA Bingo (Nov 28)
- Parent-Teacher Conference (Dec 5th, 1-7pm)
- Field Trips:

- Grade 4s to Discovery Center
- January Concerts (P-3 Jan 20th, rain date Jan 21; 4-6 Jan 22, rain date Jan 23)
- Culture Night – April 24th
 - SSP Connections/EAL Mount Event
 - Event to include food and activities
 - Donations to be solicited
- WSA Update:
 - Bingo, Movie Nights, Skating at the Oval, Spring Fair
 - Spirit wear being sourced

Other Business

- Leveled books have been added to classroom libraries.
- Grade 6 Assessment results will be coming early in the new year

Next Meeting

- January 27, 2025, 7:00pm
- Proposed Item:
 - School Improvement: Teri to share reading benchmark examples with the SAC.
 - Grade 3 Assessment Results
 - SAC Grant Funding
 - Math materials expenditure update

Adjournment

Appendix: Student Success Planning

- **Literacy Goal:** We will improve achievement in literacy for each of our students, with a specific focus on our students of African and/or Mi'kmaw/Indigenous ancestry.
- **Math Goal:** We will improve achievement in mathematics for each of our students, with a specific focus on our students of African and/or Mi'kmaw/Indigenous ancestry.
- **Well-Being Goal:** We will improve well-being at our school for each of our students, with a specific focus on our students of African and/or Mi'kmaw/Indigenous ancestry.