

# Westmount School Association

## March Minutes

March 25<sup>th</sup> 2024

**Attending:** Marisha Caswell, Marilee Selewski, Sarah-Lynn MacKenzie, Tara Wight, Erin Todd, Meredith Pike, Teri Colter, Greg White, Megan Gray, Vicky Terrio, Allana Mills, Alex Smith

**Regrets:** Laura Moeller, Christa LeBlanc, Vanessa Thompson, Jenn Hanscomb

1. Welcome: Megan Gray (in the role of rotating chair) welcomed everyone at 6:04 pm
2. Approval of Minutes: Motion: to approve the minutes for the February 2024 WSA meeting  
*Approved: Marilee Selewski*  
*Seconded: Erin Todd*
3. Review of Pending Action Items: A) **Gaga Ball Pit** – Teri is still waiting to get a response to her report to operations about the damage sustained by the snowplow. There was discussion of whether it would be beneficial for someone to write a letter on behalf of the WSA to complain about the damage done and ask that repairs be made quickly. Alex offered to take this on.  
*Action Item: Alex will write a letter; she will forward it to be reviewed before sending.*
4. Principal's Report: **Greg White**, Vice Principal  
The current library support specialist, Kathleen, has taken a position with HRCE and is currently training the new library support specialist, Laya. Laya speaks English and Arabic.  
Busy month with celebrations. Ramadan started over March break and will culminate with Eid around April 9-10. Space is being made available in the library as an alternative for fasting students, and for prayer.  
It is report card season! This time around report cards will be disseminated before parent-teacher meetings next week.  
Headline Promotions, as part of SaltWire, will be dissolved or sold later in the spring. We will likely have to come up with another plan to source spirit wear.
5. Treasurer's Report: **Christa LeBlanc**, Treasurer  
Christa was unable to attend but sent a note that she hasn't received any financial updates from Tanya. She will send an updated report when she does.
6. Event & Fundraising Reports: **A) Dimitri's Pizza & Hot Lunch** – The latest pizza session started last Tuesday with a number of challenges that have now been sorted. There are 213 orders this round; down slightly from last time. Megan shadowed Erin during this last round

and is preparing instructions for this process. Marisha has agreed to take on pizza orders for next year; she plans to shadow Erin for the final round.

*Action: Marisha to shadow Erin for pizza orders next round.*

**B) March Skating Event** – Unfortunately the skate was cancelled due to the weather. We discussed moving the date a little earlier; also, we discussed having a “rain date” as well so that we have a second option in the event that we need to cancel again.

**D) Spring Fair** – The first organizing meeting for the spring fair was yesterday. Stacie Rimmer will organize the auction again. **We are looking for someone to shadow Stacie this year and organize the auction next year.** RBC will send volunteers and make a \$1500 grant; Teri has to apply for this again as we did for the movie night event. Vicky will reach out to inquire about having a fire truck and ambulance available. Mr Flemming will let us know if he is able to be the receiver of pie-in-the-face; Greg offered to do so if not. Erin will organize another spring fair meeting as needed.

*Action: Teri to apply for RBC grant again.*

7. Funding Requests: There is a request for iPads. We discussed funding the purchase of 10 iPads at ~\$350 each. We currently have \$3500 set aside for technology and could use some reallocated funds from other areas to make up the difference.

*Motion to approve spending \$3500 on technology:*

*Approved: Tara Wight*

*Seconded: Alex Smith*

8. Other Items: **A) Surveys** – Five staff surveys and 32 family surveys were completed. Staff indicated that the \$200 that we provide is insufficient, and that they’d like to see money spent on more resources and technology, and a real breakfast program. There was a suggestion for outdoor paint for pavement games, and to have an event centered around culture. 40% of teachers who responded indicated that they were unsure about having class trips, indicating the getting volunteer chaperones is the biggest obstacle to doing so.

*Action Item: Marilee will send around survey responses.*

**B) WSA Positions** – Positions available and up for renewal were reviewed for consideration in preparation for the vote in May:

President - vacant

Vice President - Erin (up for renewal)

Treasurer - Christa (up for renewal)

Secretary - Megan (up for renewal)

Past President - Marilee

Principal - Teri

Two Staff reps - Greg, ?

Members at Large - Laura (up for renewal)  
Tara (up for renewal)  
Marisha  
Vanessa  
Alex  
Jenn  
Meredith  
Allana

**C) Nourish Nova Scotia / Nourish Your Roots** – Marilee let us know that the NYR program is being discontinued, but that Nourish NS can support schools with initiatives around food literacy. Tara mentioned that NYR reached out to offer a spring fundraising option of selling microgreen kits. This fundraiser runs Apr 8-26<sup>th</sup>.

*Action Items: Tara will disseminate information about the spring fundraiser and we will discuss over email.*

**D) Youth Running Series** – We briefly discussed the Youth Running Series and promoting it within the school as a community builder and a possible fundraiser. We discussed the possibility of supporting some students with registration fees if needed.

*Action Items: Megan will disseminate information about the YRS; Vicky will approach Mr Flemming to ask about promoting it within the school run club.*

**Next Agenda** – We will discuss choosing dates for next year’s events. We didn’t get to have a diversity and inclusion update, or to discuss legacy planning in detail.

9. Motion to Adjourn: The meeting was ended at 7:04 pm  
Approved: Alex  
Seconded: Erin

Next meeting: Monday, April 29<sup>th</sup> at 6 pm. Tara will chair April and Marilee will chair May