



Westmount Park School
15 Park Place, Westmount H3Z 2K4
Tel: 514-935-4388
Fax: 514-935-1290
westmountpark@emsb.qc.ca



Westmount Park School, Governing Board Agenda January 24th, 2024

Present: Marco, Chrissy, Tina, Christine, Deborah, Rony, Shalani, Mujdat, Caitlin (PPO), Quazi (public)

Missing: Christina

1. Welcome:

1.1 Public Question Period

A parent asked if there are any updates on the bus strike as many families are still suffering from that. The EMSB announced that there will be financial compensation of \$7/child/day. Rony learned from the PC meetings that offers have been presented, but still no agreement. The striking bus drivers are asking for more support from the community and were picketing outside WPS earlier today.

1.2 Additions to the Agenda

None

1.3 Approval of the Agenda

1. Tina, 2. Christine, unanimously approved.

1.4 Approval of the Nov Minutes

Approved after adding the e-vote re PPO lunches. The motion was moved by Tina, seconded by Deborah, and unanimously approved.

2. Business arising from the minutes:

2.1 Parents' communication tool survey to understand if present systems meet stakeholder needs. Marco is meeting with the tech team week of Jan. 29th to talk about this survey and others.

2.2 PPO Instagram account to better advertise PPO events.

PPO wants a public account so that they can promote PPO events; the school administration needs it to be a private account to have some regulation on the content. A guest parent suggested that PPO promote the events on the WPS Instagram account.

2.3 Bus strike situation update and who should parents contact for information? Parents don't know who to contact on this issue. The local school administration is the first point of contact and then the EMSB.

3. Business requiring approval:



Westmount Park School
15 Park Place, Westmount H3Z 2K4
Tel: 514-935-4388
Fax: 514-935-1290
westmountpark@emsb.qc.ca



4. Items requiring discussion:

4.1 Extra tutorials before or during March break as suggested by the Ministry due to missed school days.

Funds will be allocated based on the number of strike days; EMSB had less than some of the French schools. WPS has not yet received any information from EMSB formally.

4.2 What can parents do to help with the bus strike situation?

Call Transco.

4.3 Tips on how we can promote French in our school and what we are doing currently.

Rony added this item b/c it was a focus of the PC meeting on marketing. WPS is an English Core Curriculum school with only 33% instruction in French. We work closely with French consultants and our focus is more on communication in French. WPS also has 695 students and enrollment is growing. Many families are choosing our school for the English core. We are one of the largest elementary schools in the EMSB, and larger than many high schools. Enrolment will continue to grow because there are many sections of the younger grades.

4.4 WPS Principal Selection Criteria (*At the end of the meeting*).

Discussion focused on last year's criteria that we agreed to reuse with one modification re experience balancing budget.

5. Reports:

5.1 Teacher's Report

K4

- K4 students participated in the preschool Breakfast with Santa on December 15.
- K4 students played the dreidel game and tasted latkes and sufganiyot (jelly donuts) at our Hanukkah party. Ms. Heidi visited to light the menorah.
- K4 students enjoyed *Social Skills Through Puppets* workshops on January 15.

K5

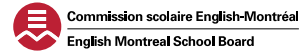
- K5 students celebrated Hanukkah all together by reading a story, singing songs, activities and tasted some latkes.
- K5 students had a special holiday breakfast and Santa came to visit with a gift for each of them.
- K5 students each got to decorate their own gingerbread house and take it home to eat.
- K5 students continued with their Social Skills sessions with the Kind Kids program.
- K5 students continued their Letter celebrations together, ending their week with a special activity and snack all together.
- K5 students will soon be starting their Langue-Mobile sessions with a fun animator to sing songs with each group weekly in French.

Grade 1

- Various holiday activities throughout the last week before break including crafts, holiday storytime, delicious treats and songs



Westmount Park School
15 Park Place, Westmount H3Z 2K4
Tel: 514-935-4388
Fax: 514-935-1290
westmountpark@emsb.qc.ca



- Met with EMSB literacy consultants to discuss results from grade wide reading assessments at the beginning of the year, and now have the UFLI program fully implemented in all 6 grade 1 classrooms to target specific literacy skills.
- Grade 1 team took part in a workshop on January 18th with ELA consultants on how to implement learning centers and whole-group games to reinforce the UFLI program within their setting.
- Student teachers from Concordia University began their 7 week internship in 104 and 108, and will be implementing several lessons with their students as part of their practicum experience.

Grade 2

- Stop motion project
- Holiday centers are being planned - students will rotate between the five classes.
- Rooms 110 and 115 had a Starbucks Cafe activity
- Art museum

Grade 3

- Field trip to the Biodome January 31st

Grade 4

- Ms. Marie's grade 4 yoga club participants wrapped up their Fall session in great spirits, and are excited to resume the lunch club in 2024.

Grade 5

- Went to Viva Artista in Pointe Claire Village - created masks.
- Started "Comedy for Kids" and 8 week special project where students learn about comedy.
- Workshop on nutrition.

Grade 6

- We have started Leadership Club and the students are so excited to begin organizing school-wide events to bring the community together including daily morning messages courtesy of the Leadership students
- The annual Winter Formal dance for Grade 6 students will be taking place on Thursday December 21st after lunch in the gymnasium with the help of the Leadership students, Grade 6 teachers and parent volunteers from our Graduation committee
- Geordie Theatre actors came to do two one-hour workshops with the students.
- Students are working on French family recipe books, which they are hoping to sell to raise money for their graduation.
- Grade 6 teachers with the help of PPO and Graduation committee parents as well as the students from Leadership Club hosted our Annual Used Book and Bake Sale to end off I Love the Read Week on Friday January 19. It was a huge success! We want to thank everyone for their generous book donations as well as promoting the sale.
- All Grade 6 classes will have had the chance to visit Viva Vida art gallery to participate in a mask making activity thanks to École Montrealaise.
- All grade 6 classes took part in a nutrition workshop on January 18th for Nutrition Month.
- Grades 5 and 6s will be taking part in a "Unpacking Social Media" workshop on Jan. 29th.



Westmount Park School

15 Park Place, Westmount H3Z 2K4

Tel: 514-935-4388

Fax: 514-935-1290

westmountpark@emsb.qc.ca



5.2 Daycare Report

* Daycare fees for the November and December strike days have been credited to all daycare parents. Lunch supervision fees for the strike days for those who are not part of daycare will be refunded at the end of this school year.

* Ms. Bonnie one of our daycare educators has resigned from the EMSB in December of 2023. Ms. Huda has taken over the group with Mr. Evan.

* Latin groove dance class for the Pre-K and K has come to an end. The students enjoyed this activity very much and hope we can offer it to them again soon.

The week of January 26th grades 4 will be offered every Monday from 3:30-4:30 an activity based on creating their own comic book. The activity will run once a week for 10 weeks.

*Daycare registration will be offered to parents online for the 2024-2025 school year in the month of March. Should parents need assistance, they may contact Ms. Deborah to schedule an appointment.

* Ped day January 22- Students had the opportunity to go tobogganing. Pre-K & K students also had the opportunity to visit Westmount Library where they took advantages on reading books and participated in Storytime with Ms Huda.

5.3 Principal's Report

- A rock climbing wall (measuring 24' wide by 7'8" tall with mats that extend 6') will be installed on the 1st floor gym in February
- An Interactive SMART Display will be installed in the lower gym
- Library will be receiving new book/magazine displays as well as a painted green screen wall, the goal is to make it more of a learning commons accessible for more activities
- Sibling registration has started
- Re-registration has started
- New registrations begin February 5th
- Dental Screening for grade 2 students
- Grade 2 students are participating in a math study through Concordia University
- Supplementary heaters have been installed in all the hallways, 2 boilers have been repaired: the 3 boilers will be replaced over the summer.
- Steel-Pan lessons have started January 23rd
- 2 tutors have started this month
- An allocation of \$300 per homeroom has been allocated for classroom libraries
- The school and BASE Daycare have ordered 4 additional cubbies/lockers for K4, K5 and daycare students

5.4 PPO Report

Family movie night on Dec. 7th was a fun family event that made \$215 profit. Another movie night is scheduled for April; better promotion of the raffle could raise more funds.

Pizza lunch in December was successful; will repeat on the last Friday of each month.



Westmount Park School
15 Park Place, Westmount H3Z 2K4
Tel: 514-935-4388
Fax: 514-935-1290
westmountpark@emsb.qc.ca



There was also a winter formal and a book sale in January
Many events planned for staff appreciation week of Feb. 12th.

5.5 Regional Parent Committee Report

Main topic of discussion was marketing (special guest was EMSB's manager of marketing and communications Mike Cohen). The following tips to market our school were shared:

- Promote French in the school to align with EMSB's marketing strategy this year is focused on the quality of the French education for students of the EMSB
 - Social media posts showcasing students learning French or French projects
 - Special attention to highlight early French education for pre-k and k students
- Holding bilingual open houses
- Recommended to hold open houses early (September-November for the following academic year)
- Having a marketing agenda item at each governing board meeting
- Having a marketing subcommittee at the school
- Optimize use of social media
 - Identify someone in charge of overseeing the frequency and quality of content posted on social media (could be PPO member, administration)
 - Consider student involvement with this (opportunity to promote healthy interaction with social media)
 - Recommended to have 3 posts/week minimum
 - Recommended that school administration send out a memo to parents encouraging them to follow our social media accounts and to promote our accounts to their friends (particularly with young children in daycare)
 - Tag the EMSB and PC committee accounts on our posts to increase exposure
- Bring alumni who have graduated from our school to speak at open houses (recent and older)
- Seek help from communications department at EMSB for support with social media posting; to develop media club; to get help with marketing school events, etc.
- High school partnership with feeder schools

Letter of **concerns** submitted to senior administration of EMSB **regarding the recent survey** process that was used to collect education project data from EMSB schools:

- Inconsistent survey canvassing
- Diverse approaches
- Technical difficulties
- Timeline disputes
- Communication gaps
- Inadequate benchmark data

Recommendations re: the above concerns:

- Establishing a standardized and accessible process



Westmount Park School
15 Park Place, Westmount H3Z 2K4
Tel: 514-935-4388
Fax: 514-935-1290
westmountpark@emsb.qc.ca



- Creating and communicating procedures and expectations
- Enhancing clarity on roles and responsibilities of school administrators and governing boards in the development and implementation of the educational plan

The analysis of the situation and the needs of the students analyzed locally at each school; resource and support professionals will volunteer to participate in the implementation of these plans (but will be paid).

Strike update

- Agreement being presented to workers but seems optimistic that there will be enough resolution to prevent the need for further strike days
- Changes being made to high school exams to compensate for strike action (reduced content of exams and lowered weight of exams in final grade)
- Decision whether to recuperate for strike days (ex: by not having a March break) is supposed to remain a local decision for each school
- No updates on the bus strikes; acknowledgment of the significant impact on parents; the recommendation remains to address it locally at our schools with administration

English eligibility certificate

- Confirmation from December 2023 PC meeting that those with the paper confirming their child's English eligibility do not lose it (in reference to recent concern that students were being turned away from English cegeps if they had the certificate but had attended French schools at any time in their educational journey).

6. Varia:

7. Date of next meeting: February 20th, 2024 4pm

8. Adjournment: