

Westmount Park Elementary School | Governing Board Agenda

Date: November 28, 2024

Start time: 4:07pm

Present:

In person: Chrissy, Marco, Mujdat, Tina, Caitlin

Online: Deborah, Cristina, Rony, Crystal, Joanne, Shalani (guest), and James (guest)

Missing: Crystal.

1. Welcome:

1.1 Additions to the agenda: none

1.2 Approval of the agenda: 1. Deborah, 2. Tina, approved.

1.3 Approval of the Oct minutes: Changes to be made to 4.3 2 additional full time behaviour techs have been added to staff 1. Tina, 2. Caitlin, approved.

1.4 Public Question Period: James, City Fence proposal follow up with Matt Aronson. A follow up email will be sent to the city from admin.

2. Business Arising From The Minutes:

2.1 School fence project update follow up: a new project manager has been appointed, currently packaging fence with other outstanding building work from the renovation to be put up for tender

2.2 Long-term solution for classrooms to mitigate increasing summer temperatures:

2.2.1. Screens for all windows: to allow teachers to open windows while keeping bugs out as some students are allergic to insect bites during hot and humid summer days. To be installed in phases, long term project funded through WPS

2.2.2. Portable AC units required in classrooms: priority is the installation of permanent AC in the staff room, library, and auditorium to provide the largest benefit to the entire school. Fund dependent, could be tabled to the next school year.

2.2.3. GB chairs email ID required in school website: Admin will add to school website, email to serve as a communication tool for the parent body to contact the GB directly. EMSB PC unclear on what and what not is allowed to be shared via this email. Will follow up.

3. Business requiring approval:

3.1 Quebec City trip for grade 5: approval required as there is a cost to families. Full cost: \$143/student based on 57 paying students and 6 teachers. Proposed cost to families: \$50/student; \$93/student to be covered through student fundraising and school account. 1. Tina, 2. Deborah, approved.

3.2 GB Rules of Internal Procedures and Guidelines for Conduct: 1. Tina, 2. Caitlin, approved.

4. Items requiring discussion:

4.1 Status of resources for school in general, specifically for staff and students (monthly): good

4.2 Parent survey to explore general needs, why they choose WPS, recommendations, concerns: nothing currently planned, low parent response rate last year. Student surveys will be sent out shortly, and parents share both formal and informal feedback often with admin. Possible to resend last year's survey to parents.

5. Reports

5.1 Teacher's Report:

Whole School:

- Reptizoo - juniors / Mad Science - Seniors
- Terry Fox Assembly - We raised \$8,166.45, the most we have ever raised in almost 30 years. Denise, Nicole, Suzanne, Moegi, and Marco all got powdered.

K4:

- K4 is in the process of scheduling a series of social skills workshops with motivational speaker Amen Iseghohi
- K4 will participate in the preschool Breakfast with Santa in December

K5:

- Students went trick or treating in the neighborhood on Halloween.
- Letter celebrations every Friday where all the K students gather together for an activity and a special snack.
- The BLG law firm is continuing their bi-weekly reading to the students on Thursday afternoons.
- Students had a gathering to talk about Diwali.
- We had our own Remembrance Day ceremony together.

Grade 2:

- Veteran Mark Potvin came to speak to the students about his time in the military for Remembrance Day.

Grade 6:

- The Grade 6 students finished the Chill Zone Program with the Trevor Williams Foundation. The program is designed to teach students how to manage their emotions and provide them with tools and strategies to deal with anger.

- Wacky Hair and Hat Day (November 29th), fundraiser to help raise money for graduation activities
- The Grade 6s went to Caserne 76 to bring cards and letters of appreciation to our local firefighters.
- Ms. Sandhya (CCW) along with some Grade 6 students prepared a special presentation and delicious treats for the Grade 6s to try in celebration of Diwali

Closed classes:

- McGill visits weekly for music therapy.
- Dog therapy happens every second week.
- I.E.P. meetings were held with parents to go over specific goals and objectives. Parents were asked for their input.

5.2 Daycare Report:

- The Gr 5/6 robotics program will be wrapping up Friday, hope to have them back in the new year.
- The Gr 2/3 soccer program has two more sessions.
- The PED day Nov 21 at Rose Bowl was a success, the kids had a great time and were well behaved (the Rose Bowl staff welcome them back any time as they were such good guests)
- The PED day Nov 22 at the school was a great day where the students made handmade ornaments to decorate the daycare tree.

5.3 Principal's Report:

- October 22 1st ARC (Allocation of Resources) Committee meeting
- October 31st celebrated Halloween at school
- November 7th Terry fox assembly
- November 8th Term 1 ended
- November 11th Remembrance day recognized
- November 13 CRLT (Community Recreation & Leadership training) students from Dawson College spent the day at WPS. Students build on their animation skills & practice implementing activities
- November 15th Photo retakes took place at school
- November 19th Department of educational counselling and psychology from McGill University in collaboration with the office of first nations and inuit education visited WPS 19 students came to see our inclusive model of education.
- November 20th Report cards were made available to parents
- November 21st We held a successful parent teacher interview day and evening
- November 26th Royal west academy grade 8 students came to read to 2 of our grade 2 classes. They read stories they wrote to the students.
- A new nurse will be working with WPS in January, her name is Anika Leblanc

Every Friday, the Westmount High School Champions will continue to come run activities for the students, this week they will be working with Grade 4's

5.4 PPO Report

- November Pizza Day was overall a success however through the volunteer survey, we were able to identify some problems that we can improve for next time. Profit: \$1264.46
- PPO volunteers worked the Parent Teacher Interviews and sold T-shirts and snacks; Sales: \$890

5.5 Regional Parent Committee Report:

Date: November 7th, 2024

1. Parent members to ACSES committee appointed; principal of each school is meant to put out call to all parents with special needs children at the start of the school year; interested parents can also reach out to principal if interested.
2. Discussion about "corridor scolaire" following recent fatal road accidents including one involving an EMSB student. Crossing guards lacking personnel and are not appointed by EMSB but by SPVM. Some parents reportedly taking on role themselves and putting on vest. Could be discussed at individual governing boards to consider laws applying to each specific municipality. Could also consider going to city council or to directly to police to discuss options for increased road safety measures (such as reducing the speed limit on larger streets which don't have a required speed limit reduction to 30km/h). Should we consider a "drop-off" lane in front of the school (zoned off by cones, school staff unloading children, parents not allowed to get out of the car and then must drive off immediately)?
3. Each school should have an assigned Equity/Diversity/Inclusion representative who can help coordinate activities to sensitize students about National Day for Reconciliation. Ideas shared at the meeting by other schools:
 - Coyote school resource?
 - Land acknowledgment at governing boards
 - Set intention for the year at governing boards (such as donation or implication in a community organization that supports Indigenous rights/culture)
 - Elder list for participation in various school activities (such as opening ceremonies, etc.)
 - Irony of alignment of Truth and Reconciliation Day with count day for the school board (requiring attendance from students on a day when we reflect on previous requirements on First Nations students/families...)
 - Orange shirts purchased from a store that supports First Nations populations or from stores ran by Indigenous communities

- Involve members from First Nations communities in organizing activities for Truth and Reconciliation Day
- Create distribution list of resources/organizations that can then be distributed to PC committee members

4. Resources for governing board members and administrators of educational institutions to help with understanding both rights and obligations:

- Parents. Quebec website à FAQ à section on Governing Boards
- Reference material from the Ministère de l'Éducation du Québec)
- Governing board minutes need to be translated in French if they are published on the school website; awaiting clear instructions from EMSB administration regarding rules and regulations (including whether it is allowed for governing boards to have a separate email address)

5. Parent shared about presentation at their school given by Paul Davis who discusses internet safety. EPCA will contact him to book him to do a conference for parents.

6. EPCA report:

- Virtual workshop on Nov 11th, 2024, on Cultivating Relationships Between Siblings
- Virtual workshop on Nov 20th, 2024, on different ways for children to access Cégép.
- Future workshops on concussions and on governing boards.
- Partnership with Bombardier Recreational Program (No Time For That, musical/dance education about bullying); spots available for schools to have this presentation therefore can consider it for Westmount Park, to discuss at next governing board meeting.

7. Next meeting: December 5th, 2024

6. Varia

7. Date of next meeting: December 19, 2024 at 4 pm

8. Adjournment: 5:11pm, 1. Mujdat, 2. Caitlin, approved.