

Westmount Elementary School Council
Meeting Minutes
November 4, 2009

Attendance:

Suzie Careless
Wayne Funk
Dana Graff
Deanna Kooistra
Trisha Neilsen
Chuck Renkas
Dianna Visser

Ann Cheek
Tracy Gillis
Christina Kleysen
Heather Minshull
Julia Pfeifer
Tara Shaw

1. Call to Order
Chuck called the meeting to order at 6:39 pm.
2. Welcome & Introductions – Chuck Renkas
Chuck welcomed everyone and ask the attendees to introduced themselves.
3. Approval of Agenda
Addition 6 g) Quilt Raffle and; 6 h) Parent/Teacher Interview Dinner.
Julia moved the agenda be approved as amended. Christina seconded the motion. All in favor – Passed.
4. Approval of Meeting Minutes
Chuck indicated Item 5.4 be changed from Master of Masters to Council of Councils.
Christina moved that the meeting minutes be approved as amended. Tracy seconded the motion. All in favor – Passed.
5. Reports
 - 5.1 Casino Report – Julia Pfeifer'
Julie reported that only 3 people canceled for working at the Casino on October 26-27. The evening was slow with an average of \$49,000. The funds will be distributed by middle of January 2010. Julia submitted the blue form when she was there and we will find out in the next 3 months if they will approve us for another Casino. Christina and Julia will research into the courses and determine who will take what.
 - 5.2 Financial Report – Christina Kleysen
Christina transferred \$5000 from Parent Council account to the Casino account then transferred \$4500 back. The Casino account owes School Council account \$15.20. Julia moved that the Treasurer's Report be approved as submitted. Ann seconded the motion. All in favor – Passed.

5.3 Administration Report – Wayne Funk

Past Month

- October 14 (2:00 – 3:00 pm) - Masabo Culture Company – Cultural Presentation was an excellent show, the drummer had an African Heritage.
- October 16 (2:00 pm)–Respect Assembly & Team Xtreme Character Presentation was not so good.
- October 26 – October 30 – Book Fair in the Library
- October 26 & 27 – School Council Casino
- November 2 (9:00 – 9:30 am Div. 1; 9:30 – 10:00 am Div.2) – Power of One – Bully Proofing Presentation was a spectacularly good presentation.
- November 4 – Photo Retakes

Month Ahead

- November 9 & 10-Wayne & Holly attending AISI Conference in Portland, OR
- November 10 – Remembrance Day Service in the Gym
- November 13 – Beach Day Spirit Day
- November 18 – Operation Christmas Child Shoe Boxes due
- November 20 (9:30 am) – Bobby Boogaloo – Kids have Character
- November 23 – Report Card #1
- November 25 & 26 – Parent/Teacher Interviews
- November 26 – Truth Virtue Assembly
- December 9 (1:00 pm) - Christmas Concert
- December 10 (7:00 pm) - Christmas Concert
- December 16 - Christmas Day Spirit Day
- December 17 – Christmas Market (Grade 5 & 6)
- December 18 – Last Day of school

Enrollment Update

- Kindergarten – 55 students + 4 full-time = 59 (3 classes)
- Grade 1 – 66 students (3 classes)
- Grade 2 – 50 students (3 classes)
- Grade 3 – 65 students (3 classes)
- Grade 4 – 46 students (2 classes)
- Grade 5 – 59 students (2 classes/3 classes for 3 hours)
- Grade 6 – 68 students (3 classes)
- International – 7 students (included)

Total – 413 students

International Students went down by 6 as they left.

School Budget

The budget proposal has been accepted by Golden Hills School Board as it was presented to the School Council last month.

Westmount Elementary Schools Accountability Report

- The results for Westmount School on the Accountability Pillar Overall Summary Annual Education Results Report in October 2009 are great.
- Safe and Caring - Grade 4 Parents, Students and Staff fill out a summary for these results.
- Provincial Achievement Test - Is only 6 days of school that determines these results.
- Parental Involvement – From survey parents complete.
- Citizenship – There are 7 virtues that the school focus on each month through the year. At each assembly students are acknowledged for their good example of that virtue of the month.

Westmount Budget

- Wayne reported he has been presented with a budget from the Golden Hills School Board.
- The future looks bleak as there is a reduction of \$500-600 per student next year.
- From \$5609/student to \$5000/student.
- This years reduction was \$88/student.
- There is also a reduction in Trustee for the School Board. Currently there are 9 at \$231,000/year. Golden Hills School Board has the 2nd highest budget. There is a position that has not been filled. We are part of Zone 5.
- A comment was made to please write to our local MLA. There was an article in the paper for information. There is a web site “stopthecuts.ca”.
- Steve Symil a consultant that has been hired by the School Board to determine the affect of the 17% cut over the next 2 years and 3-4 million short fall cutting approximately 30 teachers.

5.4 Presidents Report – Chuck Renkas

- Dana thanked Chuck for attending the Council of Councils as he was sick.

6. New Business

6.1 Westmount School Council Budget – Christina Kleysen

- Christina asked for those in attendance to brainstorm ideas for what the School Council would like to support this year.
- The School Council is entering this year with \$19,000 in the account.
 - There is a \$1500 portion that is non-charitable that needs to be allocated.
 - Dana asked for a list of what the funds have previously been used for.
 - Wayne mentioned that the Neo's were purchased. Wayne and Dana will check into the amount that the Neo's cost.
 - Deanna moved that School Council provide one field trip per class at \$325 for 21 classes. Motion withdrawn due to committee being formed.
 - Chuck suggested to establish a specific committee for accountability of a certain amount of funds.

- There was a discussion that funds could be used to benefit each class and receive \$500 with parameters as to what the funds are used for.
- Wayne mentioned that there are 7 Active Boards at \$4,000 each; that \$28,000 is outstanding which funds could be allocated for.
- Grade 4 class, Mrs, Gillis has Laptop study for students learning, has 30 laptops / cart @12,000 has \$3,000 outstanding as remainder was donated.
- Another suggestion was a sign on Wheatland Trail for Westmount School.
- Christina asked if a committee could be formed to discuss what the School Council could use the funds towards.
- Dana, Julia and Chuck will meet and discuss these issues and bring a recommendation back to the School Council.

6.2 Westmount Influenza Protocol – Dana Graff

- Dana passed out a copy of a H1N1 Influenza Virus Common Questions information sheet to the School Council.
- Dana informed the School Council that when the school has 10% more students absent than last year they are expected to report to the Alberta Health.
- The school has purchased hand sanitizer for each class and one at the front office. Smocks and masks have also been purchased.
- If a child is thought to have H1N1 they are taken to the sick room and quarantined for the parent to come and pick them up.
- If a child seems sick when they arrive at school the parent will be contacted to come and pick up their child.

6.3 Evening Snacks – Colleen Derrick (unable to attend)

- Christina indicated that there was a miscommunication regarding the snacks for the AGM. The total cost of the AGM was \$603.
- Deanne moved that the School Council cover \$610 for snacks and the school fees for the winning family. Ann seconded the motion. All in Favor – Passed

6.4 Apparel

- Susan
Wenstrom was unable to attend the meeting, however Deanna talked to Susan before the meeting who indicated that she would be willing to organize the apparel this year.
- Wayne
mentioned that he would like to see the Kindergartens receive their team color t-shirts when they start.
- Christina
indicated that storing a supply of the items is not feasible.

6.5 Sports Day

- It was determined that if the students did not bring their own water that water would be supplied for Division 1 and 2. To be revisited closer to the event.

6.6 Quilt Raffle

- Deanna reported that the quilt is done.
- The license has been obtained, there are 1000 tickets being sold at \$2/each.
- Christina indicated that the draw will be made at the Christmas Marketplace on December 17, 2009.

6.7 Parent/Teacher Interview Dinner

- Ann created a list of items required for the dinner and passed it around the table for people to sign up to bring food.
- Deanna agreed to organize it.

Volunteer Sheets – are in the office and was not the responsibility of the School Council to complete the list due to privacy act.

7. Meeting Adjournment

Deanna moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:35 pm.

7.1 December 2, 2009 at 6:30 in the Library.