



## Westmount Collegiate Institute School Council Meeting Minutes September 16, 2015

### 1. **Welcome – Daphna Romi / Stephen Feldman:**

- Welcome and thank you for coming out for our first parent council meeting of 2015 – 2016 school year

### 2. **Principal's Report – Sheri Epstein:**

- Has been a great start
- Working on getting timetables fixed – all kids get face time to discuss the changes and what is/isn't possible – targeting completion for this Friday
- We are 130 kids over (1,255) what board originally predicted
- Second semester changes will be focused on next week
- We received additional staffing at end of August
- Still short two teachers and hope to have the positions filled shortly
- Kids (particularly senior grades) have little impact as most of time now is review and teachers are used to these changes in the first few weeks
- Q: Is it possible to sort this out before school starts? A: No, not practical as sections not finalized, kid's take programs in summer which impacts what they then can/do take in the year
- Q: Can kids pick next year's courses later in the year? A: February deadlines set by board

### 3. **VP Report – Lisa Wargo**

- Sheldon sends his regrets
- Doing safety assemblies for all grades (school protocols, policies, safe schools); Grade 9 were done during orientation
- Tomorrow is picture day (grade 9 – period 1, grade 10 – period 2, grade 11 – period 3, grade 12 – period 4/5) in the gym
- Terry Fox run is on Friday
- First fire drill (6x), hold and secure (2x) and lock down drill (2x) coming up
- Monday, September 28 is a PD day



**4. Student Council Report - Jesse Benudiz, / Jake Beniun, Corey Katzman**

- Jesse sends his regrets
- Have had a great time coming back to school
- Great registration effort
- Grade 9 day went very well with the kick off with the 'Wolf Pack' program which pairs up a grade 12 student with 10 grade 9 students
- Lots of parents attended
- Coming up... annual club fair (new/old clubs) in the atrium (over 20 clubs registered and new being added); interest clubs
- Elections for grade 9 representatives plus two for grade 12 coming up for student council coming up in next few weeks
- Lots in the works with the new council
- Tomorrow all the Wolf Pack leaders and council going on a training retreat (green acres) to better support grade 9 trip coming up in October
- Q: Is there a list of clubs available? A: Yes, there is a list from last year and will be updated in the next week (posted to the school web site)

**5. Guidance Report – Rod Conte**

- University fair is at The Metro Toronto Convention Center (Sep 25-27); not too early to go in grade 10 (window shopping); lots of choices (including colleges)
- We have a University fair on November 4 at Alexander Mackenzie HS (evening)
- Take your kids to work day is November 4
- To graduate, kids need 6 UM courses (English must be one); maths/science optional depending on what program they apply for
- Others are university fairs are available throughout York region
- At end of November, grade 12 students get PINs to log into OUAC to begin the university application process
- No PIN required for college ([www.ontariocolleges.ca](http://www.ontariocolleges.ca))
- October 12 will have a grade 12 assembly to review all of the details on what grade 12 graduation requirements are; will be posted on guidance website as well for parents
- College fair – October 19/20 – DirectEnergy Center at CNE
- Get a Twitter account to follow @WCIGuidance – updates/info in real-time, anytime!
- Get application setup and done before Christmas break; can be changed prior to deadline



- Early acceptance is not something you apply to, Universities will do this themselves if deemed 'worthy'... don't get caught up on this!
- Grade 12 marks are critical; scholarships are offered on grade 12 marks only
- Timetable changes going well – get them what they need first, then what they want second; working to finish by this Friday
- Expectation is that you are a full time student (minimum 6 courses in grade 12); there will be NO part time students (no exceptions)
- Semester two changes – don't have to deal with this now. Want to focus on semester one; grade 9/10 timetable changes must be completed by Dec 15; grade 11/12 can do changes can be done after the semester starts
- [www.einfo.ca](http://www.einfo.ca) for information access to what requirements are for universities in Ontario
- It is OK for students to close doors on programs they don't want to focus on what your strengths are
- Prom is May 12, 2016
- June 29 is Graduation

#### **6. DECA Club – Mr. Coats**

- Video on DECA shown to parent council which explained what the program is and the benefits of real business experience while in high school – 'Be Epic' – DECA is an international club
- [www.deca.org](http://www.deca.org)
- Analyse business cases to help understand business challenges and theories
- Not just for business students, but helps take what you love and develop the tools to develop it into a business; being more confident in school and participate in competitions (regionals, provincials, internationals)
- Prepares you for your future career
- First meeting is in the cafeteria tomorrow (3:30p)
- Open to all grades (areas of focus: finance, marketing, business management, hospitality)
- Request that if you are interested please inquire

#### **7. Elections for new Parent Council**

- Purpose is to help foster communication between administration, parents and community
- Chair, Co-Chair, Secretary positions
- Only have 6 meetings per year, no fundraising



1000 New Westminster Drive  
Thornhill ON L4J 8G3  
Tel: (905) 882-0277 Fax: (905) 882-2450



- Candidates: Steven Mayer for co-chair; Stephen Feldman for co-chair; Daphna Romi for co-chair; Mark Feigenbaum for secretary
- Nominated were: Steven Mayer and Daphna Romi for co-chair and Mark Feigenbaum for secretary
- Elected School Council Members:
  - Steven Mayer [steve@stevesmagic.com](mailto:steve@stevesmagic.com)
  - Daphna Romi [daphnaromi@rogers.com](mailto:daphnaromi@rogers.com)
  - Mark Feigenbaum [mark@feigenbaumlaw.com](mailto:mark@feigenbaumlaw.com)

## 8. New Business – All

- Q: Do you have to register in a club now, or are they open? A: No limit, however some clubs (like DECA) need you to register now, others are open to join at any time
- Q: What is the advantage of doing summer school to get ahead? A: Lots of kids do this to get ahead; not easier to get one as one week of normal school is done in a day at summer school; be careful what subjects you do (i.e. electives are a good focus); consult with guidance for help during course selection
- Speaker: YouthSpeak which speak to social stresses, anxiety and other elements that kids deal with; done for kids and then in the evening for parents – young adults who speak to their peers; struggled with some element of mental health; what were the triggers, supports to help them deal with it and get through it
- PROGrant application status being looked into

**Next School Council meeting is on Wednesday, November 11, 2015 at 7:00pm in the Library, on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor.**