



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



## Westmount Collegiate Institute School Council Meeting Minutes January 13, 2016

1. **Welcome – Daphna Romi / Steven Mayers:**
2. **Principal's Report – Sheri Epstein:**
  - Exams are imminent. All students survive.
  - 6 LTO positions to fill for 2nd Semester.
  - Staffing changes will be made for 2<sup>nd</sup> Semester (Grade 11 math class, Grade 10 business course). New copy of timetables will be distributed on first day of semester.
  - Bomb threat – They are a regular thing that occurs in High Schools. No school in Ontario has ever had a bomb that has detonated. The school chooses how to handle the situation in consultation with other senior parties. In the November 23 instance, the school decided to evacuate. The regular procedures is for Grades 9/10 to evacuate to Rosedale PS, grades 11/12 to Ventura PS. For this evacuation all went to Rosedale PS. Police arrived with bomb sniffing dogs, and went through all rooms and all was declared safe. The parents were difficult to console during the process. The board and York Region Police were communicating by Twitter. It was unsafe when parents picked up children and caused havoc with the staff and police. Most of the children returned to the school and continued the day in a normal fashion. In the future children will not be released until they return to Westmount.
3. **VP Report – Sheldon Zelsman / Lisa Wargo**
  - Exams are coming up and the students need to write exams. In the event of inclement weather, they will write the exam on the exam feedback day.
  - The day before exams is a regular school day.
  - EQAO for Grade 9 math in progress.
4. **Student Council Report - Jake Benaim**
  - First dance of year, the “Fire and Ice atrium dance”. The atrium was turned into a nice successful dance at \$15 per ticket. Attendance was good; 180 tickets sold and 165 students attended. Tickets were not available the day of the dance as planned, due to supervision and other items needed based on a predetermined cut-off numbers.



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- The next dance is the semi-formal the week after March break. It will allegedly be good. In the past it has been cocktail style or buffet, but interest for a sit down meal has been indicated. It will be marketed towards the junior students.
- Relay for Life will occur in May to benefit the Cancer Society. It will be an all day carnival, from afternoon to the evening (2-9pm). Approximately 300 students attended last year.
- DECA business provincial competition takes place first weekend in February. Last year 6 students qualified for international completion.

#### **5. Guidance Report – Rod Conte**

- Course selection launched Monday. Assemblies occurred last week.
- Every grade was given instruction in course selection.
- Forms and help pages were given to the students. Drop in days are provided for assistance. Kids should select first before parents jump in.
- When semester starts timetable changes take precedence.
- March 7 students will receive verification form of chosen courses. March 9 all selections are locked in.
- If planning on course in summer school or outside school, it is not required then career cruising should be modified.
- University applications are due midnight January 13, 2016. Feb 1 is the College application deadline day.

#### **6. New Business**

- Guest speaker – Youth Speaks (Anxiety and/or Addiction). Booked at two assemblies during day (8:45 and 10:10am). Not open to Grade 9 students. Assembly for parents/community in the cafeteria on that evening. February 10, 2016.
- We will be looking for other speakers if offered by community.
- March 30 Parent Symposium. General assembly and breakout sessions. Open to parents.

#### **7. General**

- Students should use front door that is unlocked. Other doors are locked for safety. Signs are not permitted on the doors.

**Next School Council meeting is on Wednesday, March 23, 2016 at 7:00pm in the Library, on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor.**