



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

Westmount Collegiate Institute School Council Meeting Minutes March 22, 2017

1. **Welcome – Daphna Romi and Mark Feigenbaum:**
 - Welcome to Semester 2!

2. **Viva Next Presentation – Michelle Goland and Linda Fillipi:**
 - We are a Corporation for the municipality of York
 - Rapid Way in Markham was completed in 2014
 - Newmarket was completed in 2015
 - Vaughan and Newmarket are in construction
 - Constructing in Bathurst and Centre and Bruce Street
 - With the influx of people, there is more congestion. By 2031 there will be 50% more people in the Vaughan region.
 - Rapidway has the red asphalt in the centre of the street dedicated for transit. It will be used by Viva vehicles as well as emergency vehicles.
 - There will be landscaping and beautification for the community as well.
 - Platforms are quite large and will allow for a large traffic, so that it should allow for the student school traffic to cross through.
 - This will not take away from the YRT curb service.
 - Phase I: Vaughan metropolitan centre. Subway will open at the end of this year and will come up to HWY 7 in December 2017. At Millway. Viva station will open in the spring of next year. Rapidway is open up to Jane Street.
 - Phase II: Bathurst and Centre, Bruce Street and Edgeley Rapidways. End of 2019 is when the busses will start to run. 2020 will have the final curb-work.
 - There is a lot of infrastructure work that is being updated so that it can sustain the population growth and changes. This work might not be visible, but it is ongoing into 2017.
 - Cost 1.7 billion for the 34km of Rapidway. Ridership went up approx. 12 - 15% higher in Markham and speed of travel went up 20 – 30%.
 - Working to try to remain cognisant of the school timelines with the lane reductions.
 - You can subscribe to Viva to receive notifications on any construction, delays or closure. Vivanext.com
 - On March 30th, we will have representation during the Parent Teacher Interviews to provide any additional information.



3. Principal's Report – Sheri Epstein:

- Parent teacher interview is March 30th. Information will go out tomorrow.
- Moving to a new format. We will start at 6:30 – 7:15 a Cocktail Party gathering in the Atrium. This is an opportunity for parents to meet the teachers. 7:15 to 8:30pm, teachers will have appointments with parents who they feel they need to meet with. Parents will hear from the teacher if they want to meet with them. Either directly by phone or email, or there will be a place on the interim report card where the teachers will indicate that they request an interview.
- The Shield Project update: www.shieldinitiative.com. The program is finally up and running. We partnered with two organizations. One is Chai Lifeline. These organizations support families with children who have serious illnesses. We are currently working on 6 shields. The first shield that was created will be delivered tonight. During parents night, there will be displays to support the Shield Project and will collect donations. In addition, the grade 12 World Issues teacher incorporated a project where students have to make create new items for sale out of recycled products. These items will be up for sale in a silent auction during the parent teacher interviews night and all proceeds will go to the Shield Initiative project.
- Every two years the Board does a Student Climate Survey. It's a very long and detailed survey. We will survey over 600 of our students in April. Will be organized by Ms. Popil in Guidance. A permission form will be sent to the students that are participating. There is also a Staff Climate Survey and a Parent Climate Survey. This is the first year that they are running all three surveys in the same year. The latest parent survey was not completed well enough to create significant data. When it comes up in May, please fill out the survey.
- Numbers for next year: We received our first projection of the board. It was much more realistic than in previous years. We submitted our request for the staff we require for next year. We have 1378 already enrolled. Up slightly from this year. Our actual staffing comes in end of next month.
- CHAR is closing. It did not significantly change our numbers. We have had around 20 students from that registered.
- Westmount is open for transfers and there is no cap. We are either open for transfer or not. We don't anticipate ever being closed for transfer. 60% of our grade 9 class is transfer.
- To accommodate the number, grade 9s and 10s will get lunch during period 3 and 4. But not an entire grade during the same period. That will help provide classrooms for all students.



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4. **VP Report – Sheldon Zelsman / Lisa Wargo**
 - Interim report cards coming home tomorrow.
 - March 30th is the grade 10 literacy test. There will be a modified school day in the afternoon. They are writing it. In the future it will be a computerized test, but not there yet.

5. **Student Council Report – Ronny Litvack-Katzman**
 - Regrets

6. **Guidance Report – Rod Conte**
 - 60 school days left between now and final exams
 - Today was the last grade 12 assembly
 - All kids got graduation booklet with details
 - Cash Online will open tomorrow to buy prom tickets. Guests have to be approved.
 - April 3rd they can pick up courses for summer school.
 - April 5th they can pick up tickets.
 - Full disclosure date is April 26. Paperwork needs to be in between April 20 and 25th. For Grade 11 and 12.
 - Nominations for valedictorian run through April and May.
 - Graduation is 29th of June. We have a very large class. Every student gets 2 tickets and each student can request additional 2 tickets. April 12th – release of another set of tickets. You or your child can line up that day to get another set of 2 tickets.
 - Parent: How long is the ceremony? A: 6:30 to 8pm.

7. **New Business**

Next School Council meeting is on Wednesday, May 10 at 7:00pm in the Library.