

**Westmount Collegiate Institute**  
**School Council Meeting Minutes**  
January 8, 2014

**1. Welcome – Steven Mayers / Daphna Romi**

- Welcome and happy new year to everyone!
- Last meeting was November and we had Marina there as our guest speaker so lots on agenda tonight
- We will talk about the Council Forum we went to (Daphna/Steven/Sheldon)

**2. Principal's Report – Simon Schreiber**

- Welcome back to the school... this semester
- Welcome Jeff Hartung (new supervisor of facilities services); replaced Mario Marconi; address temperature concerns (*see new business below for details*)
- School is back open to transfers for Sep 2014 (for two years); will be monitored closely
- Applications for transfer will go through administration process (i.e. Alex Mac, Stephen Lewis, etc. high school)
- We have a grade 11 student (Shira Weiss) who had a LTO for media studies (assignment of how I'm feeling / looking through the lens of her eye); March of the Living Canada have chosen art which will now be on display at the United Nations – congratulations!
- Staffing is looking good

**3. Vice Principal's Report – Sheldon Zelsman / Lisa Wargo**

- Now finishing this semester and looking towards next semester planning and next school year
- Grade 9 information night coming up on January 16; for 11 families holding a supplemental night due to conflicts with Vaughan Secondary during exam week
- Exams starting January 24; encouraging students study and prep skills – asking parents to get engaged with our kids to support them (study/reviewing)
- For Grade 9 (Jan 21/22) math EQAO assessments for applied/academic levels (60 minutes in duration) done for kids having math this semester (5% of evaluation is counted towards final course grade); students doing math next semester will do it in June. No deferrals for this test.
- Course selections due Feb 14 for next school year with planning sessions beheld in early February
- Course selections need to be done (come April cannot do any further changes) need to check courses and levels for next year
- Courses cannot be changed again until September (risk course not being available)
- Parent: how do we support our kids in their selection when they haven't had much experience in the courses in second semester; Simon: work with your child's guidance counselor to get the support to choose the right courses and levels suitable
- Course selection determines the staffing make up for coming year thus why this is required as early as it is (starts April through to June)
- Exam feedback day (students get feedback on how they did on their exams and exam marks only) on January 31; this day is also allocated as a fall back in case of a snow date during the exam period (would be moved to Feb 3)
- Semester 2 starts Feb 4
- Exam schedule is posted on the school web site
- Teachers will publish expectations for students (what to bring, prepare, etc.)

- Parent: student in music and doing exam a week early; Simon: This is setup with the teacher for specific performance/oral presentation times.
- Individual Pathway Plan (IPP) being introduced in March for Grade 10 and 11 to help with a personal inventory of what kids are good at, passions and where to put them on the right track (through career cruising)

#### 4. **Student Council Report** – Zoe Schmilovich / Tyler Stanton

- Annual ‘Shave to Save’ event (shave heads, chest, etc.) and have raised over \$2,000 this year towards Prostrate Cancer Research
- Had winter clubage sold food and raised over \$1,000 with matching from the government
- Due to exams, may have a spirit day here/there, but nothing major planned
- Looking at a semi-formal before March break under discussion
- Have had Venture Week (setup in the atrium) selling different products geared towards teenagers to raise money for cancer research
- Arts West are doing a play (opening night, tonight)

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

- Sent regrets;
- Usually get 450-500 parents/students for Grade 9 information night on January 16

#### **Council Forum Feedback / Guest Speakers** – Daphna / Steve / Sheldon

- Participated in the Fall session (Maple High School ) and listened to breakout sessions
- Had 3 people attending different sessions (usually allowed only 2)
- Sheldon: attended workshop on Ethics and Inclusivity – see as a new focus coming down for special education students with learning disabilities; how do we define learning in this area – new programs coming to help; language learning was explored
- Steven: Transitioning to post-secondary – validated a lot of what WCI are doing that works (best practices); transition from grade 8 to 9 and the resources and programs that work to support students; use pathways and choices for course selection for grade 9 (it’s NOT final!!); explored the ‘stigma’ around going to College versus University (opportunities different and plentiful today than what was available for parents)
- Daphna: attended Technology forum and how technology is being used and interactions between students/teachers/parents; leveraging technology in the classroom to provide feedback to students; supports kids on expressing themselves better; how do we make sure its implemented; IAP (testing private or through the board) – parents who participated, their input was heard.
- Speaker: Marina Nemat was outstanding and her presentation to the kids was very welcome and appreciated

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

- Jeff Hartung: Indoor temperature issues, complaints (strive for 20-21C throughout the whole school determined by plant services at sitting level) – have experienced extreme weather; we heat via radiant heat (not hot air); air coming into the building is not heated until it hits the radiant panel (exterior wall of the building); creating a thermal curtain (heat in, cold out); if there is a failure on a heating valve, it will get repaired (usually) within 2 days. If it’s a comfort issue (of an individual) recommend adding additional layer of clothing. Gyms are set to 19C; have replaced 9 heating actuators (legitimate issues); air handling have zero failures; other

adjustments can be made if the heating ability of the room is insufficient but requires plant services

- Jeff made available a document on room temperature policy/guidelines/ checklists to school council
- School is on top of any concern/issues related to heating and note that with recent extreme weather it is normal to have some complaints
  
- Daphna: extra cameras which were taken down outside dance studios have they been relocated?  
Sheldon: No.
  
- Daphna: Are there still math concerns (decline in marks year over year)? Simon: Goes through cycles and there is a big jump in skills from grade 10 to 11 (it's a change in work ethic); ministry looking to train 'math specialists' to help with high school students (in the newspaper today – [CBC website link](#)); Parent: Strong endorsement for WCI math program as prep for University; Parent: Does WCI participate in the UW WatMath competition (Yes)
  
- We solicited input from parents for additional guest speakers in the future; difficult to incorporate a council meeting with speaker and asked whether or not we should do this again (or hold separate night)?
  - i. Will look into success stories (Shane Feldman, created the 'Count Me In program')
  - ii. Parents agreed that need to have a separate night for the speaker
  - iii. Lots of interest in discussion on having YRP come in to discuss drugs / sexting, etc.
  - iv. Speaker dealing with the consequences of bad choices
  - v. TIPSYP program – hands on at Sunnybrook Health Sciences
  - vi. York Fire Services – working on program to teach kids how to handle themselves when they leave the home
  - vii. Paul Davis – technology discussion on social media awareness
  
- Will circulate what we are able to secure of the speakers in near future
  
- Parent: have speakers come in to talk about opportunities post-secondary (what's out there and options); can we get a success story of a WCI graduate? Simon: this is available via guidance department however the kids are more aware of options than parents; University fair is also a great resource

**Next School Council meeting is on Wednesday, the 19<sup>th</sup> of March, 2014 at 7:00pm in the Library, on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor.**