

**Weston Memorial School Council Meeting
May 10, 2023
Meeting Minutes**

Co-Chairs: Julie Bisson (JB), Jamie Cameron
Treasurer : Adriana Avramova (AA)
Minute-taker: Valerie Groves (VG)

Location: over zoom
Time: 6:30-7:30

Present: Susanne Fata (SF), Christina Sciortino (CR) , Marya Williams, Andrew Clark, Adriana Avramova, Courtney Ricci, Julie Bisson (JB), Maria Russell (MR), Misha Tamas, Cameron Grant (CG), Siobhan Carroll

Agenda Item	Decision/ Action Taken	Actions/ Responsibilities
<i>Welcome and Land Acknowledgement</i>		
<i>Review and approval of last meeting minutes</i>	No minutes from last meeting. No outstanding issues brought up.	-
<i>Community Member (CG)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction: Cameron Grant is the Artistic Director at Shakespeare in Action and the Community Representative for the School Council • Will speak about summer programming at the next meeting 	
<i>Chair Report (JB)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Innovation Grant – Food Sovereignty topic. WM paired with CR, HJ and Pelmo for 3 workshops. First two sessions 	

	<p>complete, 3rd workshop on May 18 at CR Marchant. It is an exciting initiative and we hope to bring people together and provide good information. MR – There will be a 1 hr presentation by Food Share about container gardening (good for all spaces families may have at home). Registration on Eventbrite, questions to answer regarding gardening space at home. There will be a hands-on portion and items for families to take home. JB – we will help get the word out.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Movie Night – The night was simple but fun and there were lots of families in attendance. Money has not yet been counted but it wasn't intended as a big fundraiser. Looking for 2 volunteers to count money on Friday afternoon.• Graduation – Council plans to help with funding. Is there any info on a grad trip? SF – starting conversations about a meal at a local restaurant and visit to a park. JB – other types of trips/activities have happened in the past. SF – the meal/park is what has been discussed this year. JB – we have handed out refreshments, cake in the past. Once we know the date of graduation ceremony we will send an email to find volunteers.• Fun Fair – Bouncy castles are booked, food is lined up, games have been set up and are ready, lottery license pending (process is not set up for school councils, unsure if we will be successful in our application, auction is back up plan if we cannot hold raffle – this does not seem very equitable because only certain families may be able to bid on items. It	
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	<p>will also result in lower profits. We will need new perforated raffle tickets with information about items included in each basket and their value. SD – maybe the SC should just accept donations and auction them off to keep things simple. JB – Sorry to Courtney if we can't do the raffle; she has put a lot of effort into it. But the communication has changed and we will need the exact value and contents of the baskets. CR – not a big deal to put the baskets together. Could use more time, but we can get them together with the help of volunteers. JB – the biggest issue is needing the list of items.</p> <p>Next fair issue – we need volunteers! Only way of getting word out is email and word of mouth. CR – I will volunteer to stand outside the school and ask for volunteers. JB – we need the formal process of Sign Up Genius. There are lots of time slots to fill. This is frustrating because the fair is important – it is our biggest fundraiser and gives us the chance to represent ourselves in the community. Parents seem to want something exciting and good things to happen but are not volunteering to help. Council needs to help spread the word. SF – the school can send home a one page June Fair flyer on Monday. Can also send to teachers to post on Google Classrooms. Some parents might not be involved or fully aware of what is happening with the fair. We can try to gain more attention.</p>	
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	<p>SD – Is it okay for us to have volunteers from Weston CI? SF – this is already in motion. JB – Val is organizing with Weston CI. I am more concerned about adult volunteers. SF – How many volunteers are needed? JB – about 50. We will also need to figure out access to the yard for set up on the day of the fair.</p>	
<p><i>Treasurer's Report</i> (AA)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We ended up spending \$4,000 in advance for the fair. We still have \$2,000 available if there is anything else that needs to be paid in advance. Council had a \$7,300 balance at the end of April. JB – there are donations coming in as well and not that many other purchases. We should be okay. • SF – the inflatables cheque was submitted to the school board. • AA – Is it possible for the school to send council the donation balance? SF – yes. Will look at graduation expenses, track and field bus trips (shared with another school) closer to end of the year. Presentations in Class expenses have already been wrapped up. • There are still tech funds that haven't been used. Are there more expenses coming? SF – We appreciate the funding for the chromebook cart that was purchased and the school was able to secure ~30 Chromebooks from the school board, so we don't need to request more tech support at this time. • AA – what about School-wide Experiences? SF – X-Movement is coming May 19 with an expanded program (half day programming for 	

	<p>grades 1-5, shorter time TBD for Kindergarten). This is providing a professional learning opportunity for staff as well. We are accessing a \$1,000 grant from the ministry to help cover the cost. If council has funds available help is welcome but not necessary, especially given uncertainty around fun fair proceeds. JB – thank you to the school for willingness to send a fun fair form home with students. Everything will be okay. We will have a good, successful event no matter what. SF – Council could consider changing the pricing. JB – We want this to be affordable for families and to make sure the kids have fun.</p>	
<p><i>Parent Voice Survey (MR)</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We would like to send out a survey with questions for parents. JB – suggest sending it end of year or waiting until September. MR – School goals and statements are needed from the SIP. SF, can you provide the info? SF – this information can be found in minutes from previous meetings. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Subcommittee to put survey together and send to Ms Fata
<p><i>Principal's Report (SF)</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TDBS is currently working through a \$63M deficit. Schools will be impacted in terms of staffing. The allocation for classrooms was shared at the last meeting. Next year we are projected to have 20 more students and the same number of teachers. The average size for junior classrooms is 24.5, but there is no cap. Next year's classes will be large. The school will lose the 0.5 ESL teacher allocation, so we will be 	

	<p>shifting back to itinerant ESL (~1 day with teacher at WM per cycle). We will also be losing office staff (0.5 AM secretary). Will keep 0.5 EA in afternoon and 1.0 office administrator. The special needs allocation is not known yet, but the information is expected June 1. The staffing cuts are very challenging to manage, and the school hopes to put supports in place.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• There is also concern that the caretaking allocation will be reduced. The board is recommending that 4 classrooms be closed in order to reduce caretaking load. We will NOT support this as the rooms are being used for before and after care, strings, all support services, staff meetings, and storage (this 1 room could be deemed closed). Caretaking staff barely have enough time to clean useable areas as is; do not want allocation reduced.• Parents need to be aware of how schools are being impacted by these cuts. I appreciate the support and teaching staff and Weston Memorial. They are highly committed and willing to volunteer to fill vacancies. It currently feels like staffing is bare minimum. Further reductions will be very difficult. It is challenging to ask staff for more and more help. Parents should be aware that staff are stretched thin – advocacy, understanding and respectful conversations are encouraged.• JB – it is understandable that parents may have safety concerns, but they also	
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	<p>need to understand the strain on schools and staff. We need more parent voices. Schools are hurting and losing more staff is not the answer. Let's all work together.</p>	
<i>Roundtable Discussion</i>	<p>Meeting ends at 8PM</p>	