

Meeting Minutes

October 10, 2023
86 West Gate



Present: PA Exec: Sandi Conrad, Cayla McKechnie, Heather Lytwyn & Sebastien De Lazzer;
Parents - Jeremiah DeMarcus (virtual), Lauren Hope (virtual), Silento Kisoso (virtual), Pete Culley (virtual), Viney Sam, Jackey Culley, Jen Goreski, Sanjay Kumar, Mardina Andrews.
Staff: Vice Principal, Heidi Koop

1. Welcome - Sandi; Introductions

2. Approval of the Agenda

- Motion brought forward by Viney and seconded by Jen Goreski

3. Approval of the Minutes - Sept. 13, 2023

- Modification in Westgate admin report: strike Vic Pankratz & replace by Lyndon Baerg
- Motion to approve the revised minutes moved by Jen and seconded by Viney

4. Westgate Admin Report

- Happy to be here - sad to have missed the first meeting of the year. Thanks to Sandi, Cayla, Heather, and Sebastien for volunteering to be on our executive.
- After a good school start, we are now in the full swing of things. Our staff has been working hard at creating community building opportunities for students:
 - Camp Cedarwood Retreat: fostering connections for our German Exchange Students (planned by Charlotte Kroeker)
 - Grade 9 Retreat: help integrate our new grade 9 students (planned by Krista Neustaedter Barg)
 - Senior Day: A Day of fun and games for students and staff - wonderful informal interactions (planned by Doug Durksen, Jarrett Rempel, and Heidi Redfern, and our Senior Council)
 - Grade 6 and 7 Pancake Breakfast: Our older peer support students met our youngest students (planned by Crys Wikki-Thiessen)
 - Small Groups: mixed grade groups met to talk about what it means to be a part of a community (planned by Doug Durksen and Spiritual Life Committee)
 - Grade 10 - 12 Students went on a fall camping trip and hike (planned by a number of staff)
 - Building teams spirit through sports in Golf, Volleyball, and Cross-country (thanks to all our coaches)
 - And of course all the work our teachers do in classes and in the hallways to encourage friendships (the whole team)
- There has also been a lot of work put in for building our larger community

- It was so great to have Cyclathon back on this year. The vibe at the park was amazing. It is positive and most people I talked to left with excitement and goals for next years cyclathon.
- Opening Program was extremely powerful. It was so cool to see who is all in this community, working to making a difference for our students. And wow, the kids did just a great job of performing.
- We have Dine and Donate this coming Thursday - another great opportunity to connect
- And Parent Teacher Conferences next week - a great time to meet teachers get to know each other more
- I've also been excited to see the emails going out about the class parties for grade 10 and 11 families. I'm so happy that parent association is helping families to connect and be part of the community.
- And now thinking beyond our walls, we have been focusing on a text from Corinthians in the Bible for our Chapel theme. It states,

"The human body has many parts, but the many parts make up one whole body. So it is with the body of Christ. Some of us are Jews, some are Gentiles, some are slaves, and some are free. But we all share the same Spirit. If the foot says, "I am not a part of the body because I am not a hand," that does not make it any less a part of the body. And if the ear says, "I am not part of the body because I am not an eye," would that make it any less a part of the body? If the whole body were an eye, how would you hear? Or if your whole body were an ear, how would you smell anything?"

This year in chapel we are asking ourselves: What does it mean to be a part of one body at Westgate? In Canada? And in the world? Sometimes this is especially difficult when there is division or war.

We have a speaker, Dr. Carol Penner, coming to speak to our students about Healthy Relationships at the end of October. We had originally planned an evening parent session, but it didn't come together in time and so we have canceled it. Maybe there are workshops or panel discussions that parents might be interested in for the future. Parent Association has hosted workshops on Anxiety, study skills, etc in the past. Last year Crys Thiessen hosted one on technology. If this was one you were interested in, maybe it could be a joint PA/school workshop.

During the discussion, the parents were particularly interested in the topics of the workshop. They expressed their desire to learn about the content, even if they were unable to attend. The speaker and Heidi will provide additional resources and a summary of the workshop to help them out.

5. Review Action Items

- a. Sandi - Meatbuns were able to be added to the fundraiser and have proven to be a great success
- b. Sandi - Forms for grade events have been created for both grades 10 and 11 and have been very useful. They are improvements with grade 11 form as Sandi could forward to the grade reps.

- c. Sandi - I've been advised that a dance would not be a viable option for a fundraising event so we'll need to consider other options. Daytime dance is not very welcome. During the discussion, concerns were raised about monitoring children in the evening, guests, liability, and parents.

--> Dance fundraising to be set aside and replaced by another fundraiser (see section 7 b)

6. Financial

Opening balance as of October 10: \$8,072.33

Some expenses:

- 346.15 (open ceremonies)
- 122.58 (WooCommerce (website) annual fee)

Balance 7,603.60

Outstanding payable: pledge of \$2,000 for the snowshoes

Available: \$5,600

- a. As of 2023/10/08 we have approximately \$8536 in sales for the Perogy & Sausage Fundraiser
- b. Total cost of opening ceremonies was \$345.15
- c. Total in our account (as of 2023/10/08) is \$13,487.99 - this includes online purchases from the fundraiser

7. Fundraisers

a. Perogy & Sausage fundraiser

- o Our sales are \$2600 higher this year than last year at this time
- o Last year our total sales came to \$16,749.75 so we have a ways to go to meet that
- o Current top 5 products, based on amount purchased, are:
 - Meatbun - beef & onion
 - Meatbun - farmer sausage & cheese
 - Twin pack farmer sausage
 - Potato & Cheddar Perogies (large)
 - Bacon, cheddar & potato perogies (small)

b. Other Fundraising

- o Context: don't want to step on any other fundraisers done by the school or student council.
- o We've received emails from John Russell Honey & Bones & Marrow Broth Company. John Russell Honey return is not percentage-based but rather is a certain amount based on each product. B&M is 25% although, based on their email, the user would have to remember to put our fundraiser code in the order and if they don't, we don't get credit for the order.

- I've also reached out to Morden's chocolates to see if they might be a viable option - maybe we do all 3?
- Other Ideas: coupon card fundraiser, gifts cards are popular, raffles (zeffi), plant fundraiser, 50/50, ...

8. Grade Events

- a. Grade 10 has planned a lasertag night for this Thursday
- b. Grade 11 has planned a dinner and trivia night for November 23rd
- c. Grade 7 is thinking of Flying Squirrel or Fun Park but plans aren't yet finalized
- d. Email sent to the other reps with ideas for their events (gr 7 and 9)

9. Other/Call for New Business

The communication issues related to grade events will be addressed by announcing them in the morning announcements.

Summary of Action Items:

- PA Exec is to look into fundraising options

Meeting adjourned 8:30 seconded by Heather (and Cayla)