

Westmount High School Parent Participation Organization (PPO)
Minutes – February 21, 2018

Present: Martine de Vletter, Alexandra Zorbas, Linda LeMoynes, Jennifer de Huquet (VP), and Carolyn O'Neill. Susan Finch and Miyuki Nakamura arrived part way through meeting.

1. **Welcome and Approval of Minutes** from January 24, 2018 meeting. Approved by Alexandra Zorbas and Linda LeMoynes.
2. **Grab-A-Seat Campaign** is closed.
 - a. Action: Carolyn O'Neill will take down website, or post a notice on website saying something to the effect of, "Thank you for your donations."
3. **The WHS uniform supplier, Piacente, has declared bankruptcy**. This provides PPO with a unique opportunity to purchase remaining WHS uniform stock to resell to the student population at a profit. Bankruptcy laws specify that remaining stock can be sold at a minimum of 50-60% of "stock price" (ie NOT retail) to the highest bidder. The remaining stock is valued at approximately \$28 000 (stock price) – therefore PPO would need to place a minimum bid of approximately \$14 000 - \$16 800 to win. PPO does have sufficient funds to make the bid. Furthermore, PPO has a strategic advantage in the auction, as there's some question as to whether a competing bidder would be able to sell the uniforms without WHS approval and cooperation. To keep in mind: once bids are submitted, there is no opportunity to raise one's bid, which means that if we are outbid, we would not have the opportunity to bid again. In the event of a winning bid, there are logistics issues to consider: *Where would the stock be stored? How would we collect the stock from Piacente?* It was agreed that, in the event of a winning bid, we would consider renting a storage space and hiring a transport company to collect the stock. *At what price would the uniforms be sold?* It was agreed that the sale price would be only moderately lower than the retail price, as we would not want to set false expectations for future uniform prices. We would also have to establish rules of sale beforehand: for example, no returns. We would sell the uniforms when we took possession (possibly in March/April), and then again in June and September. Despite the challenges involved, it was unanimously agreed that the PPO should move ahead with this venture and place a bid for the remaining stock. Should we win, the sale of the uniforms would be the primary fundraising activity of the year.
 - a. Action: Martien de Vletter will continue discussing the matter with Principal Cristafaro.
4. **PLUK Sale (Previously Loved Uniforms Kiosk)**. As we do not have sufficient stock at present, it was agreed that we would not hold a PLUK sale until we accumulated more stock. Therefore the next PLUK sale might be in the summer.
5. **Spaghetti Dinner**. The date was set: Thursday, April 26th, 2018. Last year's Spaghetti Dinner was a success in terms of money raised (\$1200) and positive feedback received. It's estimated that 100 guests and 40 volunteers (including Prefects) attended. However, volunteers who worked

on the event last year expressed concern that the event was not sustainable due to the amount of time it takes to host. Therefore, this year, we will aim to make the event less demanding on volunteers. We will, for example, purchase food and supplies, as opposed to canvassing for donations, which is time-consuming. It was agreed that the focus of the event was not necessarily to raise money, but to host a fun event at the school. The Spaghetti Dinner might be a nice opportunity to “open” the newly renovated auditorium. VP Jennifer deHuquet suggested we consider doing a silent auction at the event. *How will the event be promoted?* Opportunities to sell tickets: at Parent-Teacher Interviews and Piacente Uniform Sale (assuming we win bid.) Miyuki Nakamura volunteered to sell tickets. We might also consider selling tickets during certain lunchtimes. Money raised will go towards refurbishing the couches in the Library.

- a. Actions: Martien de Vletter will send out an email searching for a least one other volunteer to help Miyuki Nakamura sell tickets. If we cannot immediately find another volunteer, we will hold off on the sale of tickets.
 - b. Martien de Vletter will ask permission to use the cafeteria kitchen on the day before the dinner (Wednesday) and on the day of (Thursday).
 - c. Martien de Vletter will ask school if we can serve non-alcoholic beer at the event.
 - d. Alexandra Zorbas will see if the pharmacy that donated prizes to the raffle last year might donate raffle prizes again this year.
6. **Bike Shop**. This project is still in development. We have recently been in touch with a bike mechanic who works on Victoria Ave in Westmount.
- a. Action: Susan Finch will contact Mr Drever, the WHS teacher interested in helping with the project, for more information and will continue developing this project.
7. **Date of next meeting**: Wednesday, March 21, 2018.

Minutes submitted by Carolyn O’Neill