

Westmount High School PPO Meeting 29 November 2017

Present: Martien de Vletter, Eunju Kim, Susan Finch, Jennifer Campbell, Miyuki Nakamura, Linda LeMoyne, Alexandra Zorbas, Ms. Amanda Vallelunga (VP), Charlotte McCaffrey

1. Teachers' Wish List

Martien said we have \$5,000-\$6,000 [note: \$7,500 confirmed Dec. 3] in the PPO budget that we want to spend on something to support/enhance student life. As discussed last meeting, Jennifer LeHuquet (VP) surveyed the teachers and administration for ideas and Amanda Vallelunga presented them here:

- a. Gently used laptops – Purchasing an additional 15-30 laptops for student use. [The school currently has 1 cart per floor with 30 laptops that teachers can borrow but this is only enough for one class per period so it would be nice to have an additional set.] One thing to keep in mind is that the school's tech guy comes only 1x/week so the added maintenance may be an issue.
- b. Mural in cafeteria –Hiring someone to paint a nice mural with fresh fruits and veggies to brighten up the cafeteria.
We discussed that it might be a nice project for some of the artistic students to take on if PPO provided the supplies.
- c. Bike Repair Shop – Hiring someone to run the program as an after school activity and/or purchasing supplies.
We discussed the possibility of partnering with one of the bike groups in Montreal who may be willing to volunteer time to the running of the shop, with PPO purchasing supplies.
- d. Instruments – Purchasing instruments for student use. [The school currently rents instruments at approximately \$10,000/year.]
We discussed that this would be a big investment and more than we currently have, but it could be considered for our next big project after “Grab a Seat.”
- e. Piano – Purchase piano for lobby or bring the piano up from storage in the basement. PPO could pay for tuning/repairing.
- f. Glass Display Case – to replace plant display in lobby where memorabilia from archives could be displayed and/or student work.
We discussed that we would want the display to be changing, rather than static, with

students involved in choosing the items, writing about them, displaying their work, etc. Amanda mentioned the possibility of a different department being in charge each month to vary what is displayed. If we go this route, it will likely use most of the PPO budget.

All in agreement that it would be nice to do a number of small things, if possible, to benefit a greater number of students, but we need a better sense of the cost and feasibility of the different options.

Action Items:

- 1. Linda will get a quote for refurbished computers from her contact (est. \$150 each) and Amanda will find out more about the feasibility of maintaining extra laptops.*
- 2. Martien will check with Ms. Anania and Ms. Mapp about the feasibility of having students paint a mural in the cafeteria and to get and estimate for the cost of supplies.*
- 3. Susan and Jen C. will contact local cycle groups to see if they are interested in partnering with WHS to run the Bike Shop.*
- 4. Martien will take a look at the piano in the basement and find out how much it would be to tune it and whether it needs further repairs. If unusable, we'll contact one of the programs that place pianos around Montreal.*
- 5. Amanda will get a quote for the display case (M. Cristafaro?).*
- 6. We will consider the instruments for our next big campaign and look into foundations support.*

2. PLUK Post Mortem

Martien reported that we raised \$540 on used uniforms at the parent-teacher interviews last week even though it never felt super busy. We had enough parent volunteers. Thanks to all who helped!

Our next sale will likely be during parent-teacher interviews in March, followed by a sale at the June Grade 6 testing day, and possibly another one in August, if we have enough supplies. We currently have lots of pants (large sizes) and short sleeved shirts. We really need skirts, small pants and v-neck sweaters.

We also discussed the need to sort through the clothing as some of it is in really bad shape and not worth selling! Those of us who volunteered last week did pull out some items, but there are likely more that could be discarded.

Amanda asked if we'd consider another sale at the Family Breakfast in December but all in agreement that it's too soon, we don't have enough variety, and the parent volunteers want to enjoy the breakfast!

Upcoming Activities

Teacher/Staff Holiday Appreciation

We agreed to host this on Wednesday, December 20th with fruit platters and signed holiday cards (donated and in PPO office) for all teachers and staff.

Action Items:

- 1. Amanda will provide Martien with a list of teacher/staff names that Martien will divide up and distribute to us.*
- 2. Each of us today will take a box (or 2) of cards to address and sign on behalf of PPO. Our children will bring the completed cards to Amanda in the office by Monday, December 18th.*
- 3. Alex will purchase 10 fruit platters from Costco on Tuesday, December 19th and coordinate with Vince to put them in the teachers' fridge that evening. Amanda will take care of distributing them, with help from students, Wednesday morning so all teachers and staff can enjoy.*
- 4. Martien and Susan will come in Wednesday morning to distribute the cards – putting them in mailboxes and delivering them to staff.*

Upcoming Meeting: January 24th from 6-7pm in the library.

Note: we discussed moving the meeting to another day to accommodate people who cannot make it on Wednesdays, but we could not find another evening that would work for all of us in attendance.

Submitted by Charlotte McCaffrey