



Minutes of Governing Board Meeting Edinburgh Elementary School

Wednesday, April 18, 2024 at 7:00 p.m.
Virtual meeting on Microsoft Teams

We would like to acknowledge that Edinburgh School is located on unceded Indigenous lands. The Kanien'kehá:ka/Mohawk Nation is recognized as the traditional custodians of Tiohtià:ke/Montréal, which has long been a site of meeting and exchange for many First Nations and is currently home to diverse groups of Indigenous and other peoples. We are grateful to live, work, and learn here, and recognize the important role of education in reconciliation and in maintaining connections between the past, present, and future.

Present: Parents: Anne-Marie Yaworski, Steven Szabo, Johanna Miller, Steven Muoio
Staff members : Laetitia Kachmar, Catherine Brault, Geneviève Guay, Pina Trengia, Abdelghafour El-Hama, Marco DeCrescentis, Jean-Michel Brunet, Geneviève Hébert

Absent: Robyn Dalton, Joseph Lalla,

Guests: None

1. Welcome

Anne-Marie Yaworski (Chair) called this meeting to order at 7:20 pm

2. Adoption of agenda

First : Steven Muoio

Second : Jean-Michel Brunet

Motion carries unanimously

3. Approval of Minutes of March 13, 2024

First : Alex Cesari

Second : Steven Muoio

Motion carries unanimously

4. Business Arising from Previous Minutes (March 13, 2024)

Interim Principal Laetitia Kachmar reiterates that the budget-building process includes continued and sustained support to the K4 and K5 classes.

5. New Business

5.1 ACGC Academic Career Guidance Counselling

The ACGC focuses on preparing cycle 3 students for a successful transition to high school.

Various exercises will be geared towards helping students develop ideas about their future

career path. Grade 5 students will be tasked with leading an interview with their parents to ask

them about their employment. Grade 6 students will participate in multiple workshops led by experts to help them prepare for life in high school. Topics covered will be daily schedules, taking notes, and understanding what the high school experience is like. Additionally, students will explore the concept of friendship and how it evolves across time and through the transition from elementary to high school with the guidance of their grade 6 teachers.

First : Alex Cesari

Second : Jean Michel Brunet

Motion carries unanimously

5.2 Sexuality education program

Interim Principal Laetitia Kachmar provided an overview of the Edinburgh sexuality education program. The sexuality education program details what content is being taught at each grade level. The program design is oriented toward respecting boundaries and empowering students with knowledge. Students in cycle 3 will explore the concepts of friendship and the complexities of emotions. A professional healthcare provider will visit grade 4 students to discuss the biological process of sexual development. It is worthy to note that this is the final year that the school is responsible for the curating the sexuality education program. The concept of sexuality will be integrated into the *Culture et citoyenneté Québécoise (CCQ)* curriculum which is under direct supervision of the MELS.

5.3 School librarian update

Interim Principal Laetitia Kachmar reports that there is a possibility of assigning an Edinburgh administrative professional to curate the school's library collection and provide a much-valued and appreciated service to the staff and students.

6 Reports

6.1 Principal's report

Interim Principal Laetitia Kachmar reports on the past, current, and future events at Edinburgh. Students' participation in their science fair was excellent. Many thanks to M. El-Hama for directing a wonderful edition of the science fair. Edinburgh's storytelling competition captured students' attention and resulted in the nomination of two top storytellers. These two winning competitors received a special invite to tell their stories at Willingdon Elementary at the final schoolboard-wide storytelling competition. Interim principal Kachmar wishes to congratulate the Edinburgh storytellers. Recently grade 6 students visited the holocaust museum in Montreal to understand the significance of the Holocaust and reflect on the importance of remembrance.

In other topics interim principal Kachmar reports that the students are enjoying the new climbing wall in the gym. A special event at Edinburgh will consist of a visit from our highly talented Edinburgh alumni Jordan Sugar. Jordan Sugar is a student at Rosemount High School. It is worthy to note that Rosemount HS was recently recognized by the MELS as the only English language high school to offer the 'Art études' music program. Jordan will be performing for all

students in the gym during the next assembly. On April 26 Edinburgh's physical education expert teacher Mr. Cho will be facilitating another fun filled Jump Rope for Heart campaign. Best of luck to all the students and staff as they raise funds for the Heart & Stroke Foundation

6.2 Commissioner's Report.

No report available

6.3 Treasurer

6.4 EMSB Parents Committee delegate

Steven Szabo provided an update on the latest information from the EMSB Parents Committee meeting held on March 14th and April 4th, 2024.

6.5 Teacher's Report

Mme. Geneviève Guay provided a summary of learning activities that students participated in during the last few weeks. Of particular interest is the field trip for Cycle 1 students to the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts sculpture workshop. Students will be able to translate their experience at the museum to the plastic arts program they are exposed to at school.

6.6 Home and School liaison

Ms. Vanessa Gangai is pleased to share that the many fundraising activities since the beginning of the year have helped amass a considerable amount of money to go towards improving the staff room experience.

6.7 BASE

Mr. DeCrescentis provided a summary of the wonderful activities at BASE. Students had the chance to organize a fun filled student lead St. Patrick's Day activity. International Women's Day offered students at BASE the chance to learn about women who have been influential in the women's rights movement. Student council members took the opportunity to promote earth friendly actions during the days leading up the Earth Day. For Autism awareness week student council organized a student presentation to share important information about autism. To highlight Passover a grade 4 student presented the wonderful tradition of sharing mazza bread with fellow students and led a talk about the Passover holiday. BASE's Garden Club will be preparing the annual spring lettuce harvest. Additionally, they will be selling vegetable seeds with proceeds to be reinvested in the gardening club activities. BASE will be acknowledging the dedication and hard work of educator staff during the week of May 13-17, 2024 for Daycare Appreciation Week. Mr. DeCrescentis finalized BASE news summary with the announcement of the final community initiative activity of the year which will be a food and hygiene drive from April 22 until May 17, 2024. Items collected will be donated to Carolyn's Community and Action d'Amour.

7.Varia

Mr. DeCrescentis made mention of considering how BASE may benefit from the staffroom updates (led by Home and School) as certain BASE activities will borrow the space for preparation or facilitating an activity.

8. No correspondence

9. No questions

10. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned.

First : M. Jean-Michel-Brunet

Second : Mrs. Alessandra Cesari

Motion carries unanimously

Next meeting to be in person on May 16, 2024

Respectfully submitted:

Laetitia Kachmar, Principal

Anne-Marie Yaworski, Chairperson