



Minutes of Governing Board Meeting Edinburgh Elementary School

Tuesday, October 18, 2022 at 7:00 p.m.
Edinburgh Elementary School staff room

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: Jean-Michel Brunet, Marco De Crescentis, Abdelghafour El-Hama, Robert Fiori, Meg McKenna, Johanna Miller, Steve Muoio, Gaetano Sifoni, Alexandra Struck, Steven Szabo, Pina Trengia

Absent: Stéphanie Babalis, Geneviève Guay, Geneviève Hébert, Joseph Lalla, Jody Mason, Michael Rodger, Anne-Marie Yaworski

Guests: Vanessa Gangai

1. Welcome

Gaetano called the meeting to order. The members of GB introduced themselves.

2. Adoption of Agenda

Motion to approve: Meg. Second: Rob. Unanimous.

3. Election of Governing Board Executive

- 3.1 Chairperson: Rob Fiori
- 3.2 Vice-chair: Meg McKenna
- 3.3 Secretary: Alex Struck
- 3.4 Treasurer: Jean-Michel Brunet

Motions to approve: All positions were elected by acclamation.

4. Approval of the Minutes of June 7, 2022

Motion to approve: Rob Second: Jean-Michel Unanimous.

5. Business Arising from Previous Minutes (June 7, 2022)

ACTION: Gaetano will get this information from Chantal Juhasz.

6. Annual Report 2021-2022

- The annual report for GB's actions in the last school year was completed by Rob, and sent to GB via email.

- First half of the past year focused heavily on Covid protocols and adjustments, as well as the staffing shortages (particularly for the 5/6 split).
- Second half of the year focused on feasibility of a pre-kindergarten program, and new ways to promote the school. Both issues concerned best uses of school spaces including modulars, as well as protecting the specialty classrooms.
- This year will again be about issues of staffing, space usage and promoting the school.
- The intended use/destination of this document is mainly for record-keeping purposes at the school and board levels.

Motion to approve: Meg. Second: Jean-Michel. Carried.

Noted: Reiterated the importance of sending all documents for consideration at least 48 hours in advance of meetings, to give GB members sufficient time to read thoroughly.

7. New Business

7.1 Conflict of Interest form

- This form is from the school board, and must be completed by all members of GB.
- Any member with financial and/or personal interests(s) that would benefit from a particular motion cannot vote on that specific issue, and must leave the meeting during discussion and vote.
- **ACTION:** All GB members must submit a completed form to the school.

7.2 Review of Internal rules of operation

- Reviewed the document *Internal Rules of Operation*.
- Reminder that the principal and ward commissioner are non-voting members of GB.
- Suggestion that community questions for GB be submitted in advance. This allows GB to ensure we have answers, and to adjust the schedule and prioritize topics as required.
- **ACTION:** Gaetano to send a message to the school community, encouraging that questions submitted in advance by email.
- Suggestion of using Slido for questions from community. This program works with MS Teams, to facilitate engagement with participants (questions, polls, upvoting issues...).
- Slido is paid software, but could be worth investigating for usage.
- Given the EMSB technical regulations and constraints, it may not be feasible to implement.
- **ACTION:** Gaetano to investigate with the EMSB if this program is available or can be made available.

Motion to approve: Abdelghafour. Second: Rob. Unanimous.

7.3 Community representative(s)

- The GB roster includes up to two community members.
- These members are not parents or school employees, but people with a vested interest in the Edinburgh community.
- Discussion as to the possibility of advertising these roles in the *Informer*?

- Discussion as to potential members.
- **ACTION:** Alex to approach community members who might be interested in joining GB.
- **ACTION:** Rob to draft profile(s) for advertising the position(s).

7.4 2022 year-end financial statement

- There is presently \$310 in the school's GB account.
- This includes \$60 rolled over from 2020-2021; and \$250 from 2021-2022.
- GB should receive the usual annual sum of \$250 again this year.
- Funds are intended to go towards travel expenses, babysitting fees, refreshments.
- Leftover monies could be offered as gift to a graduate, H&S special projects, library, etc.

Motion to approve: Rob. Second: Abdelghafour. Unanimous.

7.5 2022-2023 PELO Program

- The Programme d'enseignement des langues d'origine (PELO) in Italian starts Oct. 19.
- 54 students participating, divided into 4 classes (2 junior and 2 senior)

Motion to approve: Rob. Second: Steve. Unanimous.

7.6 2022-2023 school fundraisers

- GB needs to be aware of the objectives and recipients of all fundraisers.
- Various parties within the school must (and already do) coordinate fundraising activities, in terms of objectives, timing, recipients, etc.
- Discussion as to what qualifies as fundraising. Food or clothing drives? Cash donations?
- GB was previous informed that it must approve any fundraiser asking over \$2.
- Vanessa Gangai from Home & School presented a list of fundraisers for this year.

Motion to approve: Rob. Second: Steve. Unanimous.

- **ACTION:** Verify wording of directive from EMSB, to clarify what qualifies as a fundraiser.
- **ACTION:** Marco to prepare a list of BASE activities to present at the November meeting. If BASE needs approval before that, email the proposal to GB for an e-vote.
- **ACTION:** Grad Committee to compile a list of fundraisers for the second half of the school year and present it to GB for approval.
- Jean-Michel motions to approve a grad fundraiser: a bake sale that will take place during two days of parent-teacher interviews/book sale.

Motion to approve: Jean-Michel. Second: Meg. Unanimous.

- Jean-Michel motions to approve a grad fundraiser: a raffle in December. (This is the main grad fundraising activity for the year.)

Motion to approve: Jean-Michel. Second: Meg. Unanimous.

7.7 Dates and times of 2022-2023 GB meetings

- Meetings must occur a minimum of five times a year.
- Meetings are planned monthly except for January.
- Meetings can be adjusted as required, at later dates.
- Meetings will begin at 7:00 p.m. on the following dates:

- Nov. 15 (online)
- Dec. 13 (in person)
- Jan. 31 (online)
- Feb. 28 (online)
- April 4 (online)
- May 9 (online)
- June 13 (in person)

8. Reports

8.1 Principal

- Sept. 6: assemblies to introduce the new principal and expectations for the school year; all very positive.
- Sept. 9: outdoor Field Day, with soccer, face painting, carnival games, and Mr. Freeze.
- Sept. 13: photo day; return of sibling pix; went very smoothly; retakes already planned.
- Sept. 15: Meet the Teacher/Curriculum Night/AGM; all in person for the first time in years; very successful evening for teachers; GB AGM elected 4 new members.
- Sept. 16, 23: ped days; teachers in virtual workshops (ranging from teaching numeracy to students with dyslexia).
- Sept. 28: Terry Fox Run; whole school out together; raised over \$7,000 for Terry Fox Foundation.
- Sept. 29: apple picking for K4 and K5; their first field trip and tons of fun.
- Sept. 30: attestation day; Orange Shirt Day (National Day for Truth and Reconciliation); first fire drill that went very smoothly.
- Oct. 4: unplanned fire drill (success!).
- Oct 6: BASE fire drill (success again!).
- Oct. 6: GMAA Cross Country Race; gr. 6 girls finished first; gr. 6 boys finished second.
- Oct. 7: apple picking for grades 1 and 2.
- TK: Oct. 25: presentation by Brian Ewenson; gr. 4–6; speak about experience in space.
- TK: Oct. 31: Hallowe'en festivities.
- TK: Nov. 3: Open House; presentations at 8:15 and 1:30; guided tours – all in person!
- Open House being promoted via paid ad on FB.
- **ACTION:** someone from GB to be present at Open House.
- **ACTION:** find/create poster for Open House and place on front door.
- **ACTION:** email the *Informer* to advertise Open House.
- **ACTION:** find/create banner or sandwich board to promote Open House. (There may be a banner in the basement.)

8.2 Commissioner

Joseph was not in attendance this evening.

8.3 Treasurer

Michael was not in attendance this evening.

8.4 Parent Delegate (EMSB-PC)

- Steven Szabo is our delegate to the EMSB Parents' Committee.
- The first EMSB-PC meeting is scheduled for Thurs, Oct. 20.
- Steven will update GB at the November meeting.
- There is a dinner on Nov. 1. Guests: chair of GB and delegate to EMSB-PC.
- **ACTION:** Confirm who is attending the dinner.

8.5 Teacher

Jean-Michel reported.

- The cycle 3 students participated in the Électeurs en herbe program.
- The students had visits from Désirée McGraw (PLQ), Bonnie Feigenbaum (PCQ) and Balarama Holness (Bloc Montréal).
- On Sept. 30, the students had their own election.
- Results of Edinburgh's vote are on the school's FB page.
- Overall results from the program are available on the Vote Étudiant website (voteetudiant.ca).

- The academic reporting system has been returned to three terms.
- This is a ministry decision (not the EMSB or the school).
- Students will receive three report cards, plus a progress report at the start of the year.
- The teachers overall preferred the two-report-card system, as it allowed more time for teaching with less testing at the beginning of the school year.
- End-of-cycle exams have not yet been confirmed for this school year.

- The Hallowe'en committee will update the school about upcoming events.

- The library is reopening!
- Miss Emilia, the librarian, will now be in on Friday mornings.
- With H&S and parent volunteers, the library is progressively reopening.
- Teachers can borrow batches of books for their classrooms.
- The library will hopefully be open Thursday and Friday.

- All teaching positions have now been filled. These educators will remain here until the end of the school years (or until the permanent teacher returns).

- The grade 6 students (including the split class) are participating in Youth Fusion/Fusion jeunesse.
- The focus is environmental design.
- They are working to design and build a permanent structure.
- This can be anything from a garden box to an outside classroom.

8.6 Home and School liaison

- The kindergarten breakfast was a success.
- Pizza and frozen yogurt days have started.
- Fundraisers coming up: FundScrip, Big Box cards, book fair
- There will be a display of new uniform items at the book fair.

8.7 BASE

- Lunch is once again being eaten in the gym, in 2 shifts (juniors then seniors).
- K4 and K5 eat in the classrooms.

- BASE student council has been launched
- Grade 6s campaigned and were elected to 4 positions.
- Marco appointed 3 other grade 6 students to council.
- All of the BASE students participated in the elections.

- October's theme is gratitude/harvest.
- Children have worked outside in the gardens; cooked with their own harvest.

- There are 8 pedagogical days from Sept.–Dec. (There are 4 ped days from Jan.–June.)
- On average, BASE has over 100 children for each ped day.
- BASE goes on outings for half of the ped days, while the other half are spent at school.
- Highlights so far: Olympic Stadium, Parc Safari, apple picking, Everblast, Dynamix
- The ped day outings cost ~\$50/day, which covers the activity, supervision and bussing.
- Marco had asked for subsidies from the school board, but as BASE itself is already subsidized, the extra programming must be billed at full price.
- There is not enough staff to allow children to be supervised at school on outing days.
- The ped day activities are an optional service, so parents must absorb the entire cost.
- There are a lot of ped days in the first half of the year, so it can be expensive for parents, especially if they have more than one child.
- Marco offered that any parent having difficulty financing these ped days is invited to make an appointment and sit down with him, and he will help find solutions.

9. Correspondence

Nothing to report at this time.

10. Question period

No questions at this time.

Varia

- **Montreal West Charity Golf Tournament**
 - Donation of \$1,250 made to Edinburgh
 - Money will go directly to the kids; no confirmed plans as to how.
 - **ACTION:** Rob to send a general note of thanks to the MWCGT for the donation.

- **ACTION:** Once the funds have been allocated, send a note of thanks with specific details as to how money was used to benefit students.
- **New Teaching Staff**
 - Gaetano has welcomed the new teachers. They have had a tour of the school, been put in contact with their colleagues, and received funds for supplies.

11. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 p.m., with thanks.