

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE GOVERNING BOARD
March 21, 2023

Present:

Lori Press, Melissa Robertson, Andrea Gruia, LaTasha Amisial-Vajda (parents), Scott Thompson, Adina Zairi (teachers), Kate Marien (support staff), Joe Lalla (Commissioner), Sam Servello (Principal)

Regrets:

Ekaterina Valkova-Damova (Librarian), Lori Krebs (parent), Melodie Charette (Daycare Technician), Bettina Paliotti (teacher)

1.0 Land Acknowledgement (M Robertson)

I would like to acknowledge that Elizabeth Ballantyne School is located on unceded Indigenous lands. The Kanien'kehá:ka Nation is recognized as the custodians of the lands and waters on which we gather today. Tiohtià:ke/Montreal is historically known as a gathering place for many First Nations. Today, it is home to a diverse population of Indigenous and other peoples. We respect the continued connections with the past, present, and future in our ongoing relationships with Indigenous and other peoples within the Montreal community.

2.0 Adoption of the Agenda:

On motion duly made (Andrea Gruia) and seconded (Adina Zairi), the agenda was adopted as presented.

3.0 Approval of the minutes of the meeting of January 2023:

On motion duly made (Adina Zairi) and seconded (Scott Thompson), the minutes of the meeting January 2023 were unanimously approved as presented.

4.0 Business Arising

4.1 Support to parents (update)

S Servello is still awaiting responses to his inquiries.

4.2 School renovations

J Lalla distributed a document electronically prior to this meeting, detailing the renovations, some of which have already begun. The next task will be to empty storage spaces, and work on removal of the radiators will start in a few days (weekends and after hours). He emphasized that the safety of the students will in no way be compromised.

5.0 New Business

5.1 2023-2024 Instructional materials consultation

S Servello reported that this was discussed at the staff meeting today and will be again when he meets with the Cycle leaders next week. He will have more information to report at the next GB meeting.

5.2 Composition of Governing Board

It was agreed by consensus to maintain the status quo of the composition of our Governing Board.

5.3 PPO Development for 2023-2024

Suggestions for development of next year's Parent Participation Organization included promotion on 'Meet the Teacher' night, and more information to be sent out to prospective members by email.

5.4 Approval of class materials lists 2023-2024

S Servello reported that this was discussed at Staff Council, he has asked J Doubt (staff assistant) to review the list. If there are any changes, he will bring them to the next meeting.

5.5 Hot Lunch provider consultation

There have been no complaints regarding the Hot Lunch provider. Discussion ensued, and it was agreed by consensus to maintain the status quo. S Servello will complete and submit the required forms.

6.0 Reports

6.1 Principal's Report (submitted and presented by S Servello)

- Jan.19-Open House tours took place with several families, we had student lead the tours. The comments were very positive.
- Feb.10-Winter Carnival – staff members organized fun winter activities for the students.
- Feb.17-Skate-a-Thon was a great success raising more than \$1800.00 for the Children's Library
- PELO Spanish classes began, and the students are enjoying learning a new language, or increasing their existing skills.
- We recently received a grant that allowed us to purchase 40 sets of cross-country skis, and some outdoor badminton equipment. We are grateful for this equipment, especially since proposed renovations to the arena may preclude us from our regular skating outings next school year.
- Lee Haberkorn Came to speak to the Grade 6 students about mental health issues and was very well received. Thank you to Lori Press for the idea and encouragement to invite him.

6.2 Commissioner's Report

- Information was sent out regarding the renovations at EBS, and mental health services provided by the EMSB.
- There are three laws that are currently being challenged by the school board. Bill 21 regarding religious wear, Bill 40 regarding the abolition of School Boards, and Bill 96 – a new language law.

6.3 Teacher's Report (submitted and presented by A Zairi)

- Grade 6 students have been attending transition to high school workshops
- Storytelling - Regional finals will be held April 4
- Carnival Day was a great success

- We are starting to plan Field Day
- Grade 6 has begun a unit on Hana's Suitcase and the Holocaust Carnival day now planning field day
- The Grad Committee will be meeting next week
- Cycle 2 students will be going to CEP SUM
- Cycle 2 and 3 going to the Segal Center in May
- New computers
- The Scholastic Book Fair raised \$2800

6.4 Daycare report

Absent

6.5 EMSBPC Delegate report

L Amisial-Vajda reported that the focus has been on Bill 96 for the last few meetings, they are drafting a letter to be sent to the Ministry in protest of CEGEP students being forced to take core courses in French.

6.6 Library Report (submitted to K Marien by E Valkova-Damova)

- Thank you for the Skate-A-Thon and the support of the library!
- The Skate-A-Thon display of new books – purchased with the funds raised – will take place on Thursday, April 20th. The schedule for the class visits will be distributed shortly.
- On May 1, in celebration of 'Canadian Children's Book Week', we have organised a meeting with Canadian author and illustrator Carey Sookocheff, for classes from Kindergarten, Grades 1 and 2. The virtual meeting will be attended to from the library.
- Class visits and after-class activities continue to go according to plan.

7.0 Question Period

L Press asked when the water filters will be changed – S Servello reported that they were on back order and will be changed this coming month.

M Robertson asked about reports that there were beetles in the school, S Servello reported that the caretaker is aware of the situation.

M Robertson inquired as to what happens to the funds allocated for Child Care Workers that is unspent as a result of a shortage of manpower. J Lalla reported that the funds remain at the Board and are not lost to the schools. There was discussion regarding the salaries of Child Care Workers, J Lalla explained that the salaries are set by the Provincial government in negotiation with the union.

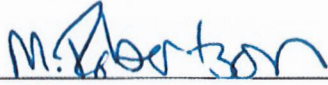
8.0 Date of Next Meeting and Adjournment:

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:30 p.m. The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 18 at 6h30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth Ballantyne School
314 Northview Avenue
Montreal West, QC H4X 1E2

Kate Marien, Secretary



Melissa Robertson, Chair



Saverio Servello, Principal

April 15, 2023

Date