

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE GOVERNING BOARD

May 7, 2024

Present

Sam Servello (Principal), Scott Thompson, Eliane Shrybman, Carla Lioni (teachers), Robert Lennox (Chair) Melissa Robertson, Lori Press, Stephanie St-Onge, Andrea Gruia (parents), Namrata Raval (Daycare) Kate Marien (support staff), Ekaterina Valkova-Damova (Librarian/Community Representative), Joseph Lalla (Commissioner)

Regrets:

Louisa Jaslow (parent)

1.0 Land Acknowledgement

I would like to acknowledge that Elizabeth Ballantyne School is located on unceded Indigenous lands. The Kanien'kehà: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 (L Press) and seconded (C Lioni) it was unanimously resolved to adopt the agenda as presented.

3.0 Approval of the minutes of March 19, 2024

Tabled for the next meeting.

4.0 Business Arising from the minutes

4.1 Governing Board Budget

R Lennox gave some information regarding what has been done in the past with the funds allocated to the Governing Board.

On motion duly made (K Marien) and seconded (E Shrybman) it was resolved to donate the funds to the purchase of awards for the graduating classes.

4.2 Home & School booth at Music Concert

R Lennox, M Robertson and some other volunteer parents have arranged to set up a Home & School information booth at the upcoming Music Concert.

4.3 Change of Ped Day

The next Ped Day has been changed from Wednesday, June 12 to Monday, June 10.

4.4 2024-2025 Calendar

S Servello shared the details regarding next year's school calendar.

5.0 New Business

5.1 School Fees Update

S Servello shared details regarding the proposed increase in school fees.

On motion duly made (E Shrybman) and seconded (L Press), it was unanimously agreed to make the changes to the school fees as outlined by S Servello (see Appendix A).

5.2 School Budget 2024-2025/Governing Board Financial Report and Annual Report:

On motion duly made (L Press) and seconded (S St-Onge), it was unanimously resolved to table these items to the next meeting, as more information is required.

5.3 Anti-Violence/Anti-Bullying Plan

S Servello presented this document.

On motion duly made (S Thompson) and seconded (M Robertson), it was unanimously resolved to approve the Anti-Violence/Anti-Bullying plan as presented.

6.0 Reports

6.1 Principal's report (S Servello)

- Contractors will be in school on May 16, the renovation that is about 98% complete.
- April was Autism Awareness month and students were treated to wonderful presentations by Steven Atme, Montreal musician and autism advocate, and by Natasha Glazer, our ASD consultant from the school board.
- LA consultants are working with our Cycle 1 teachers to bring the UFLI Foundations program to EBS.
- Students will be planting 5 trees in Dave Reid Park; each tree represents one of the groups in our school 'House' system.
- Indigenous artist from Kahnawake toured our school in anticipation of a possible mural project slated for next school year.
- Teachers applied for grant money associated with entrepreneurship, they were successful and received 13 grants of \$500 each for materials. Some of the projects include selling flowers for Mother's Day, a French play, and an art vernissage.

6.2 Commissioner's Report (J Lalla)

J Lalla gave updated information on the following;

- Bill 21 – the Council of Commissioners has appealed to the Supreme Court; we are still waiting to know whether the case will be heard
- Bill 40 – is being challenged by QESBA – in answer to a question regarding the funding for the legal costs, J Lalla explained the budget allocations.
- Bill 96 – is also being challenged – this bill requires that all correspondence with parents be in French.

6.3 Teacher's Report (S Thompson/C Lioni)

- Members of the SPVM came in to give anti-bullying workshops for the whole school
- Students watched an online Earth Rangers presentation for Earth Day
- Cycles 2 and 3 went to the Biodome and Planetarium – it was a great outing!
- Grade 6 students went to Rosemount Technology

- Montreal West firefighters came to talk to the K students about fire safety
- We had a House Assembly, featuring “Hands of Identity” - accepting differences
- K and Cycle 1 students have been working on Life Cycle projects - (K butterflies, Grade 1 tadpoles and Grade 2 plants)
- Cycle 2 students have been working on a Summer Olympics cross-cultural project
- Cycle 3 students are creating video games
- Mr. Nick and the Environmental Committee organized a very informative presentation for students, all about recycling and composting.

6.4 Support staff report

Nothing to report

6.5 Daycare Report

N Raval reported that next week is Daycare Appreciation Week and many special activities are planned such as ice cream in the yard, an author visit, and a picnic in the park. We have many excellent new staff members who oversee interesting and fun activities for the students.

6.6 EMSBPC Report

Absent – R Lennox will follow up with L Jaslow to see if there is any report.

6.7 Library Report (E Valkova-Damova)

- Canadian Children’s Book Week: On May 3rd, author Heather Camlot made a presentation to Grade 5 at the library, it was a very successful event with great students’ participation.
- Festilou Storytelling Festival: a group of four storytellers will make a presentation to Grade 2 on May 14th, at the library
- The Read-A-Thon display of books will take place at the end of May.

7.0 Question Period

There was more discussion regarding the spending of the GB budget. M Robertson asked about Dress Down days - S Servello and the teachers listed the days that have taken place.

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Adjournment and Date of Next Meeting

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:09 p.m. (moved by E Shrybman, seconded by S Thompson). The next meeting will be held (on TEAMS) on Tuesday, June 11, at 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kate Marien
Secretary