

École Secondaire LAURIER MACDONALD High School

7355 Viau,
St. Leonard, Quebec, H1S 3C2
Tel.: (514) 374.6000 Fax: (514) 374-7220
www.lauriermacdonald.ca/lmac

Governing Board Meeting Minutes Meeting #1 October 10, 2023, at 7:00 PM (Microsoft Teams)

Name of member	Role	P/A	Name of member	Role	P/A
Celzi, Cristina	Principal	P	Civitarese, Marco	Parent	P
Spilak, Ivan	Vice-Principal	A	De Ciccio, Angela	Parent	P
Barnabé, Valérie	IB Coordinator	P	Irrerra, Angelo	Parent	P
Castonguay, Micheline	Teacher	P	Passucci, Stephanie	Parent	P
Caya, Annie	Teacher	P	Petrecca, Giovanni	Parent	P
D'Alessandro, Andy	Teacher	A	Vasile, Mary	Parent	A
De Ciccio, Veronica	Teacher	P	Ursino, Silvio	Parent	A
Di Viccaro, Alex	Teacher	P	Zaruso, Antonio	Parent	P
Pinto, Marcel	Teacher	P	Pietrangelo, Mario	Commissioner	P
Potesta, Ramona	Staff	P	Huard, Danica	Student	P
Tullio, Gerry	Staff	P	Paolella, Vincenzo	Student	P
Required for Quorum: 12 Present, 4 Parents			Actual: 18 Present		

Guest: n/a

Regrets: n/a

Late attendance: n/a

Call to order: 7:10 PM

1. Approval of the Agenda.

Motion to approve agenda by XX; seconded by XX all in favour, motion passed.

2. Land Acknowledgement

Land Acknowledgement, as read by Vincenzo Paolella:

"I would like to begin by acknowledging that Laurier Macdonald High School is located on the traditional, ancestral, and unceded territory of the Kanien'Keha:ka, a place which has long served as a site of meeting and exchange amongst nations. We recognize and respect the Kanien'Keha:ka as the traditional custodians of this land and its surrounding waters on which we meet today.

We offer this acknowledgement as a first step and public commitment to an ongoing process toward reconciliation and justice for indigenous peoples and communities."

3. Adoption of the Minutes of the June 6, 2023 Governing Board Meeting

Motion to adopt by Vincenzo Paolella; seconded by Marcel Pinto; all in favour, motion passed.

4. Business arising from the minutes of the June 6, 2023 Governing Board Meeting

No business arising from previous GB meeting.

5. New Business

5.1 Election of Chair

- Stephanie Passucci nominates herself to serve as Chair

Motion to approve Stephanie Passucci as Chair by Giovanni Petrecca, seconded by Ramona Potesta; all in favour, motion passed.

5.2 Election of Vice Chair

- No nominations received. Ms. Celzi indicated that the position of Vice Chair is not necessary, however, someone will have to fill in for Chair at GB meetings if she is unable to attend.

5.3 Election of Secretary

- No nominations received. Ms. Celzi suggested that the role of Secretary, including the logging of meeting minutes, be performed on a rotational basis by the parent members of the GB.

Motion to approve the role of Secretary on a rotational basis approved by Antonio Zaruso, seconded by Vincenzo Paoella; all in favour, motion passed.

5.4 Election of Treasurer

- Angelo Irrerra nominates himself as Treasurer

Motion to approve Angelo Irrerra as Treasurer approved by Giovanni Petrecca, seconded by Antonio Zaruso; all in favour, motion passed.

5.5 Day trips (Blanket Approval)

- Consistent with previous years. Ms. Celzi requested blanket approval for Day trips for the current school year.
- Ms. Passucci asked about budget considerations regarding the trips, in which Ms. Celzi confirmed that the school already has these trips included in their annual budget.

Motion to provide blanket approval for day trips for the current school year by Antonio Zaruso, seconded by Giovanni Petrecca; all in favour, motion passed.

5.6 Spiritual Animator Fundraising Initiatives (Blanket Approval)

Motion to provide blanket approval for Spiritual Animator Fundraising Initiatives for the current school year by Stephanie Passucci, seconded by Annie Caya; all in favour, motion passed.

5.7 Olympe de la Parole Fundraising

- Ms. Barnabé provided an update on this fundraiser. Each team participating in this competition needs to take an active role in the fundraiser. The main campaign this year will be selling Christmas trees and there will be a few other smaller fundraisers throughout the year. More to come.

Motion to approve Olympe de la Parole Fundraising by Antonio Zaruso, seconded by Vincenzo Paoella; all in favour, motion passed.

5.8 House Activities and Fundraisers

- Ms. Celzi indicated that funds will be raised to continue doing activities, such as school dances, House Days and purchasing equipment for future activities.
- Ms. Huard proposed coming up with a theme week and raising funds for it. She also proposed a Halloween dance.
- Ms. Passucci asked about a PPO and whether they could help with organizing activities Ms. Celzi replied that there is already high LMAC staff and students involvement in organizing activities.

Motion to approve House Activities and Fundraisers by Antonio Zaruso, seconded by Alessandra Di Viccaro; all in favour, motion passed.

5.9 Spain Fundraisers

- Ms. De Ciccio provided an update on behalf of Ms. Joanna Dussault-Kim, the organizer of the Spain trip. She proposed the following activities to raise funds for the Spain trip:
 - Paint Night: participants will receive a step-by-step painting course at a cost of \$40/person and will hope to attract 30-40 people.
 - Fun Script: people can purchase gift cards with a percentage going back to the school (approx. 3-10%).
 - Pizza making kit: from Vincent Pizzeria; half of proceeds would go back to the school
 - Sell lollipops, Mr. Freeze at lunch
- Ms. Celzi mentioned that a class-action lawsuit took place a few years ago, stating that any fundraising proceeds have to go into a pot that is equally divided amongst the students. This has been mentioned to students and will be mentioned to parents.

Motion to approve the Spain Fundraisers by Vincenzo Paoletta, seconded by Antonio Zaruso; all in favour, motion passed.

5.10 Length of GB Meetings

- Ms. Celzi recommended a maximum length of two hours for GB meetings. At any given meeting, members must vote to extend beyond the two hours, if required, or move topics not yet covered to the next meeting

Motion to approve the length of GB meetings by Giovanni Petrecca, seconded by Antonio Zaruso; all in favour, motion passed.

5.11 GB Meeting Dates

- Ms. Celzi proposed November 8, December 13, January 17, February 21, March 27, April 24, June 12 as the next GB meeting dates.

Motion to approve GB meeting dates by Stephanie Passucci, seconded by Antonio Zaruso; all in favour, motion passed.

6. Student Report

- Mr. Paoletta provided an update, as found in **Section 1** of the **ADDENDUM to Meeting Minutes**.
- Mr. Zaruso asked if the Media Club will be showing any videos at the Open House on October 19th. Ms. Celzi replied that some videos will be shown, but many videos will be taken of the event and shown afterwards.

7. IB Report

- Ms. Barnabé provided an update, as found in **Section 2** of the **ADDENDUM to Meeting Minutes**.

8. CLC Report

- Ms. Potesta provided an update, as found in **Section 3** of the **ADDENDUM to Meeting Minutes**.

9. Parents' Committee (PC) Report

- This year, Stephanie Passucci will serve as LMAC GB representative; Antonio Zaruso as alternate.

10. Public Question Period

- No questions asked.

11. Varia

- No topics proposed.

12. Adjournment

- 8:14 PM, motioned by Annie Caya, seconded by Vincenzo Paoella.

Governing Board
Meeting #1
October 10, 2023, at 7:00 PM (Microsoft Teams)

ADDENDUM to Meeting Minutes

1. Student Report

English Montreal Student Advisory Committee (EMSAC):

EMSAC is a school board committee composed of 24 students, 2 from each EMSB high school. At monthly meetings, members are consulted on various decisions facing the school board (policies/budgets, etc.). Discussions are held, and recommendations are subsequently made to the Council of Commissioners.

We held our first meeting virtually on September 27th, Members were introduced to EMSAC, rules of internal management were adopted and some of the topics students can expect to be discussed were mentioned.

Next meeting will be held at Lester B. Pearson High School on October 16th.

More details will be provided at the next Governing Board meeting.

House Council:

Last year, the house system proved to be quite successful in boosting morale and school spirit, House council hopes to build on that for this academic year and future ones as well. This year's executives, who are responsible for holding meetings with house representatives and helping to plan activities are Aliyah Fuoco (Sec IV), Stella Paoletta, Luciano Ferraro, and Vincenzo Paoletta (Sec V).

During orientation, Secondary 1 students were introduced to the house system & assigned houses with a little presentation in the auditorium. The first lunchtime activity was held on Friday, September 15th, in which students collaborated on breaking down piñatas, as well as a football throwing game.

Friday, September 29th was Homecoming Day (first house day of the year), in which students enjoyed a wide range of fun activities such as sumo, axe throwing, Jenga and tug of war, with a colour run as the closing activity. Students from all levels appeared to really enjoy the activities, especially being able to douse their peers in a cloud of colours during our final activity of the day.

House council executives met early last week to discuss plans for the following months (including ideas for Halloween and the holidays, like a haunted house & a theme week).

Media Club:

This year, a primarily student-led media club was formed to create a video for next year's open house, as well as an added goal of better representing the school and telling the story of LMAC. Photos and videos are being taken at events and more will be taken over the course of the school year to further this goal.

This also provides a great learning opportunity for students to further their creativity in the digital sphere (posts, video editing, etc.).

2. IB Report

IB Day

On September 26th, we had our 3rd annual IB Day. Students had to build a device that would take at least 2 students from point A to B in the pool. They had to meet other specifications such as have a flag of their House, use the provided material and if they brought recycled material from home, they were able to use it too. If the material they brought from home was not recyclable, they were not permitted to use it.

The students used their creative thinking skills to solve the problem and the boats were tested in the pool. Some made it, some did not but the students had fun, collaborated and used all their IB learner profile attributes!

Olympes de la Parole

For the second year, LMAC has a team participating in the Olympes de la Parole competition. This year's team is 'Feminization of poverty and its impact on the empowerment of girls and women in Canada.'

It reflects the Priority theme that will be discussed at the 68th session of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (UN-CSW-68), scheduled for March 6 to 17, 2024.

This year, our team is formed by 5 secondary 4 girls: Sonya-Liboria Bastiaans, Donnatessa De Lisi, Aliyah Fuoco, Leila Grosso, Gianna Vigna.

Good luck to this year's team!

Personal Project

This year's process is well under way. The students are now at their second mentor meetings. We can't wait to see what their plans are going to turn into.

3. CLC Report

Introduction

Hi everyone, my name is Ramona Potesta. For those of you who are new here, I am the Community Development Agent for the CLC at Laurier Macdonald. This is my first year as a CDA.

This year we took a different approach on how we will plan initiatives within the school. We formed a committee that meets once per week. The members of this committee include myself, Gerry Tullio, Joe Monachino, Valerie Barnabe, Paul Grewal and our two guidance counselors, Suzanne Laporte and Amanda Lambrinos. Together, we work collaboratively in making school projects/initiatives a reality.

In Planning

In terms of what is already in place, we have organized our first official Wellness Innovation Lab (WIL) with Learn Quebec. This is taking place on Thursday, October 26th. The purpose of this workshop is to invite students, school staff/teachers and community partners to engage together in a fun and dynamic way. The workshop revolves around Mental Health. Therefore, the dialogue of the workshop will revolve around what the students have to say about Mental Health and what they want to see happen or changed within our establishments. We, as staff members and community partners, will try to develop different Mental Health initiatives and implement them in our school and in our programming.

We also have a seniors girls' group starting November 2nd. This program is called, "Creativity in Action" and it is being ran by Naos Jeunesse. They approached us with 20 free workshops. This program focuses on building women's self-esteem through art, conversations, exploration and meeting different artists.

We also have a junior girl's group taking place every other week with Pact de Rue. This group will look similar to the seniors but will be tailored to the juniors' needs.

We are also looking to bring back Art Therapy, as it has been so successful in the past. However, we are still looking for the right psychotherapist to run the program.

On September 21st, we had our annual Peace Day pillow signing. Every year Mr. Monachino has students sign a pillowcase and send it over to the United Nations. The reason why we do this is to show our alliance towards peace. It also symbolizes living in a world where each person can go to sleep peacefully.

Some LMAC staff took part in the Mental Health First Aid training. It was a 10-hour training that covered specific strategies and tips on how to identify and respond to behaviors of underlying anxiety and stressors in their students.

Last Wednesday, Mr. Gerry Tullio & Mr. Joe Monachino and I invited Na'kuset, an Indigenous speaker to come present to our secondary 4's & 5's. She covered some Indigenous history, like residential schools and the sixties scoop. Na'kuset is the Executive Director of the Native Women's Shelter of Montreal and the co-founder of Resilience Montreal. She has launched and led several initiatives and projects such as a pediatric center for Indigenous children and families and assistance for missing Indigenous women and girls.

Lastly, we have had CampLift come give presentations to our secondary 2,3,4 and 5's on drug prevention, specifically on media influences.

Respectfully submitted on October 10th, 2023.

Ramona Potesta