



# ÉCOLE NESBITT SCHOOL

6108 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Montreal, Quebec, H1Y 2M2  
Tel: 514-721-2850 – Fax: 514-721-2060



## GOVERNING BOARD - MEETING #1

**Tuesday, October 10<sup>th</sup>, 2023**

6:30 pm (via Microsoft Teams)

### MINUTES

Name of member	Role	P/A	Name of member	Role	P/A
Alexis, Melissa	Parent		Marcil, Martin	Teacher	P
Amara, Farida	Teacher		McLaughlin, Laurie	Community Rep	P
Bastide, Jerome	Parent	P	Popa, Elena	Parent	P
Béguet, Marie Caroline	Parent		Rodrigue, Jonathan	Parent	P
Campisi, Elisa	Daycare	P	Romano, Nicholas	Principal	P
Cascino, Jessie	Parent	P	Ruelland, Isabelle	Parent	P
Currie, Sophie	Parent	P	Serrecchia, Miranda	Vice-Principal	P
Di Martino, Maria Lisa	Parent	P	Silvestrin, Silvana	Teacher	P
Jeanty, Dieulène	Support Staff	P	Stillitano, Alessia	Teacher	
Lanni, Sandra	Teacher	P	Vaillancourt, Sonia	Teacher	P
Macri, Carmela	Teacher	P	VACANT	Community Rep	

TOTAL: 17 Present ( 14 votes)

Replacements in the event there are not enough parents for quorum: Pardis Zarnegar and Hamdi Ali  
Pardis Zarnegar and Hamdi Ali were present however they did not vote as quorum was achieved.

### Opening Time: 630 pm

#### 1. Adoption of the Agenda

- Changes: Add 6.5. Approval for Enfants & Compagnie lunchtime activities, 6.6. Educational Project (changes from 6.5 to 6.6)
- Moved by: Sandra Lanni  
Second: Jessie Cascino  
Vote: 14:0:0

#### 2. Elections

- 2.1. Chairperson: Jonathan Rodrigue by nomination, vote: 14:0:0
- 2.2 Secretary: Maria Lisa Di Martino had volunteered, vote: 14:0:0
- 2.3 Treasurer: Sophie Currie had volunteered, vote: 14:0:0
- 2.4 Parent Committee Alternate (Currently Vacant):
  - Jessie Cascino had volunteered to be the alternate, vote: 14:0:0
  - Sophie Currie is the delegate, established at the AGA.

#### 3. Nomination of Community Representatives

- Nicholas Romano proposed to invite Laurie McLaughlin back as our community representative.
- Moved by: Jerome Bastide Le Grand  
Second: Sandra Lanni



Vote: 14:0:0

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#### 4. Adoption of the Minutes of the Previous Meeting

##### 4.1 Minutes from Tuesday, June 13<sup>th</sup>, 2023

- Moved by: Silvana Silvestrin  
Second: Maria Lisa Di Martino  
Vote: 14:0:0

#### 5. Business Arising from Previous Minutes: N/A

#### 6. New Business

##### 6.1. 2023-2024 GB Meeting Dates

- A minimum of 6 meetings per year is required, therefore we need to assure 5 more meetings.
- Principal received black out dates sent by the EMSB
- Principal proposes the second Tuesday of the month, all in favor on Tuesday evenings
- Isabelle Ruelland proposed to change the time from 630pm to 7pm:
  - Vote for 630pm: 8
  - Vote for 7 pm: 6
  - Majority voted to keep time at 630pm
- Majority agreed on online meetings with the possibility of maybe having 1 in-person meeting held in April 2024, so as to give GB an opportunity to socialize face-to-face. Tentative April 2024 in-person meeting held at the school.
- **Future Meeting Dates:**
  - Tuesday, November 14, 2023
  - Tuesday, December 12, 2023
  - Tuesday, January 16, 2024
  - Tuesday, February 13, 2024
  - Tuesday, March 19, 2024
  - Tuesday, April 9, 2024 \*\*\*\* tentative in-person meeting\*\*\*\*
  - Tuesday, May 14, 2024
  - Tuesday, June 11, 2024

##### 6.2. Approval For Field Trips;



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## FIELD TRIPS FOR APPROVAL - October 2023

Grade/Cycle	Program	Tentative Date or Month	Short Activity Description	Number of students	Full Cost of Activity per student	School subsidized amount per student	Final Cost to student	School Contact Person for Activity
1 Preschool	Both	October	Visit to pumpkin patch	45	\$35	\$20	\$15	S. Silvestrin
2 Cycle 3	Both	17-Oct	Arbraska Science Center	90	\$45	\$15	\$30	N. Murray
3 Cycle 2	Both	November	Center	90	\$25	\$25	\$0	S. Bucci

- Approval of all proposed Field Trips:

Moved by: Maria Lisa Di Martino  
Second: Silvana Silvestrin  
Vote: 14:0:0

- Principal proposes a blank approval for field trips, up to a maximum cost of 25\$/student. This would allow faster response times in planning and scheduling field trips. Details of the field trips approved under the "blank approval" umbrella would be discussed in the following GB meetings. The blank approval would be extended until the first GB meeting of next year (2024-2025).
- Martin Marcil: If no blanket approval, certain activities that are only available early on can be missed, such as AMSFA opportunities.
- Silvana Silvestrin: Important to have blanket approval for the September-October field trips. Is planning pumpkin picking field trip and many places are booked.
- Isabelle Ruelland asked how other schools are able to book September-October field trips quickly, and asked if those field trips can be planned and approved in June. Miranda Serrecchia said that in her experience, other schools hold their first GB meeting right after the AGA- makes for a long night but approvals for early field trips are done right away.
- **Propose: Blanket approval on all field trips, up to a maximum cost of 25\$/student, until October 2024 GB meeting.**
  - Moved by: Sandra Lanni  
Second: Sophie Currie  
Vote: 13:1:0

### 6.3. Approval for Daycare field trips (Elisa Campisi):

- Requires approval for the following daycare field trips:
  - Nov 24: Bowling
    - 20\$/student, whereby 7.75\$ + tax for bowling + 11\$ for transportation
  - Dec 8: Funtropolis
    - 33.35\$ /student, whereby 18.95\$ + tax for Funtropolis + 11.55\$ for bus
- Moved by: Sophie Currie  
Seconds: Silvana Silvestrin  
Vote: 14:0:0



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## 6.4. Home & School Fundraisers:

- Miranda Serrecchia met with H&S, and they require approval for the following fundraisers:
  - Pizza Lunch (date TBC, in November)
    - Cost: 7.50\$/student, includes 1 slice of cheese pizza, a juice and 1 TCBY frozen yogurt.
    - Pizza Pizza would be delivering vegan cheese pizza.
    - Additional slice= 1.50\$
  - Scholastics Book Fair (date TBC, in November)
    - Will coincide with parent-teacher interviews
  - Bake Sale during book fair (date TBC, in November)
    - Bake sale to raise funds, open only when parents come for parent-teacher interviews. Will be selling only to the parents.
- Moved by: Jerome Bastide Le Grand  
Seconds: Maria Lisa Di Martino  
Vote: 14:0:0

## 6.5. Approval for Enfants & Compagnie lunchtime activities

- Would begin week of Oct 23 and end the week before the holiday break
- Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays
- Cost: 120\$ / 8 weeks per student
- Given the new temporary layout of the school, we are limited in our space to accommodate many activities. Only the library area is available.
- Activities are:
  - KidScience Animal Discovery for PreK to Grade 6
  - KidChef Cooking Basics for PreK to Grade 6
  - Jewelry Studio for Grades 1-4
- Moved by: Dieulene Jeanty  
Seconds: Jessie Cascino  
Vote: 14:0:0

## 6.6 Educational project

- The educational project is up for renewal
- We must revise our commitment to success, as well as the educational project
- There is a component which requires consultation with the school and different groups such as GB, staff, parents, students. This is done to promote transparency and engage in conversation about what the school needs to improve (i.e., student life, moral- all aspects except academics). This component was not done in prior years, and is new to the educational project.
- In October-beginning November Nicholas Romano must begin the consultation process and create a sub-committee that includes staff members, parents and some students.
- GB will be consulted as group with specific questions.
- Staff and parents on GB: please advise if want to volunteer to be on the sub-committee for the educational project.
- Needs a total of 6 participants, of which 3 are parents and 3-4 are staff members.
- Once we have a draft of the educational project, GB will be given the draft to discuss.
- Final copy must be submitted by the end of January.



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- No report on the educational project for this year because it will be revamped.
- The sub-committee would entail having 2 meetings from now to November. The principal will send information for the committee to read before-hand so they are ready to discuss at the sub-committee meeting. Will look at data and questions suggested to us by the school board (ex: safety at the school).
- If interested in participating, send principal an email by next Monday.
- October-November: the focus is on obtaining the information from the groups.

## 7. Reports

### 7.1. Principal Report

- Enrolment/Registrations:
  - 301 current enrollment, 22 groups. Last year we were at 306.
- Activities:
  - August 30: First day of school
  - August 31: Curriculum night, was very well attended.
  - September 1: Activity day: outdoor inflatables
  - September 19: AGA, not well attended, only 7 parents came and 10 had responded on Google forms.
  - September 29:
    - Annual Attestation Day
    - Truth & Reconciliation Day: Students were asked to wear an orange shirt or accessory, and grade 3-6 did an online workshop, as well as an Art class quilt project whereby students had to draw indigenous symbols/animals and they were stitched together to make a quilt.
    - October 5: Picture Day (retakes/Grad/Siblings date TBC)
- School Renovations:
  - The preparation work is complete but we need to install an emergency door in the gym as a 2<sup>nd</sup> access door for evacuation. Will be done this Friday during the PED day.
  - The call to tender went out a few weeks ago.
  - October 23: prospective bidders will visit the school
  - Beginning of November: bids will be submitted
  - December: approval by the EMSB
  - Work is slated to begin late December/early January.
  - August 2025 final timeline for all work to be completed.

### 7.2. Teachers Report

#### PreK/K: Carmela Macri (PreK- Eng. Core)

- Students are adjusting to the new classrooms
- Working on many themes

#### PreK/K: Silvana Silvestrin (Kindergarten- English Core)

- Spiritual animator Mr. Lacroce visited the class and did a workshop on gratitude and peace.
- Busy with progress reports
- Calling pumpkin patches to reserve for field trip

#### Cycle 1: Sonia Vaillancourt (Grade 1- Immersion)

- Students are playing in the new section of the yard
- Completed lecture and math exams

#### Cycle 2: Alessia Stillitano (Grade 4- Immersion)



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## Cycle 3: Sandra Lanni (Math/Resource specialist)

- Planning local artist and illustrator activity
- Grades 5 & 6 are being visited by local high schools
- Various clubs have started: Music, math, student council
- United Against Violence's office Fatima visited the school and will begin this club again.
- Preparing for high school entrance exams by doing math tutorials

## 7.3. Daycare Report: (Elisa Campisi)

- Current enrollment: 105 morning/after school
- 5 educators
- 4 classes.
- October 13 PED day: Halloween theme, will decorate cupcakes, carve/paint pumpkins and do outdoor activities.
- Base head office will soon implement activities during daycare: cooking classes, soccer, and sports ball

## 7.4. Treasurer Report: Sophie Currie

- N/A

## 7.5. Parents' Committee Report: (Sophie Currie & Jessie Cascino)

- First meeting will be held on Thursday October 12.

## 7.6. Chairperson's Report: (Jonathan Rodrigue)

- Jonathan thanked everyone, old and new alike, for being present and is looking forward to a great year.

## 7.7. Home & School Committee Report: (Miranda Serrecchia)

- Had a meeting 2 weeks ago
- Good involvement this year: There are 17 parent volunteers, 6-7 attended the meeting
- First event for volunteers was picture day: they needed 3 volunteers but 7 came
- PreK parents very interested in getting involved

## 8. Question Period

- Q: Maria Lisa Di Martino:
  - Are the daycare activities free of charge for parents?
- A: Elisa Campisi:
  - Yes, they are free of charge. In the Fall, there will be soccer, in the Spring cooking.

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- Q: Sandra Lanni:
  - Section 4.3 of the minutes from last year states that more time will be allotted to animal assisted therapy during the 2023-2024 school year, however this has been removed so the minutes need to be amended.
- A: Micholas Romano
  - He will have more information to share at the next GB meeting however at the moment the school board has made a decision to implement policies and guidelines for allowing dogs into schools, which would involve the dogs being trained by certified trainers. This decision came about from the increasing number of dogs that entering the EMSB schools. Nicholas R made the decision not to have Calvin return to the school until he has obtained more information regarding the new policies. Hobbs is, however, allowed to return. This would prevent students from becoming prematurely excited in the event that the dogs would need to be removed.



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- Q: Martin Marcil:
  - Are other schools on standby as well, or is it just Nesbitt?
- A: Nicholas Romano:
  - Doesn't know if other schools have accreditations but he does know that they have dogs in their schools.
  
- Q: Maria Lisa Di Martino :
  - Why has this suddenly become an issue with the board?
- A: Nicholas Romano
  - The board wants to put policies in place because lots of dogs are coming into the schools
- Q: Maria Lisa Di Martino:
  - Why is Hobbs allowed to return but not Calvin?
- A: Nicholas Romano
  - Hobbs has obtained specific training whereas Calvin has not.
- Q: Maria Lisa Di Martino :
  - And if parents sign a waiver form, would that discharge the board from any legal responsibility?
- A: Nicholas Romano
  - Nicholas R is not aware of the legalities involved.
- Q: Maria Lisa Di Martino
  - What can the parents do? If the board is concerned about risks and liabilities, can the parents sign a waiver or a petition?
- A: Nicholas Romano
  - Needs to know the parameters and guidelines from his superiors, and what needs to be done to meet those parameters. Does not have that information at the moment.
- A: Jessie Cascino :
  - Will bring the issue to the parents committee.
- A: Miranda Serrecchia:
  - There isn't much we can do except wait for the board's parameters. We don't know what direction the board is looking at.
- A: Sandra Lanni:
  - There is no harm in us rallying parents and building a case. The board is looking at Service Dogs but we don't fall into that category- Nesbitt offers animal assisted therapy. Nesbitt has been at the forefront of animal assisted therapy and we are still the only school with a teacher behind this. MIRA and ASSISTA dogs have 3,000 hours of training but we don't require that for what we are trying to accomplish.

8:37pm: Isabelle Ruelland left the meeting but stated that she would be willing to volunteer her time should the parents organize something.

- A: Jonathan Rodrigue:
  - If anyone wants to volunteer their time to organize something, email Jonathan R. Unfortunately, his schedule does not permit him to be involved, however he will coordinate.

9. Varia : N/A



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10. Adjournment:

**Adjournment time: 8:44pm**

Moved by: Sandra Lanni

Second: Martin Marcil

Vote: 14:0:0

**Next meeting: Tuesday November 14<sup>th</sup>, 2023**

X

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Jonathan Rodrigue  
Chairperson

X

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Nicholas Romano  
Principal