

AGENDA

1. Opening Remarks
2. Adoption of Agenda
3. Approval of Minutes of Last Meeting - Regular Meeting – February 11, 2020
4. Business Arising from the Minutes
5. Rules of Conduct and Internal Rules of Operations Amendment
6. Reports
 - 6.1 Principal's Report
 - 6.1.1 Ethics and Religious Culture Program
 - 6.1.2 Lunch Fees 2020-2021
 - 6.1.3 School Calendar 2020-2021
 - 6.1.4 Yearbook June 2020
 - 6.1.5 School Fees 2020-2021
 - 6.1.6 Return to School Plan
 - 6.2 Regional Delegate's Report
 - 6.3 Teacher's Report
 - 6.4 Daycare Report
 - 6.5 PPO Report
 - 6.6 Graduation Committee Report
 - 6.7 Treasurer's Report
7. Date of Next Meeting
8. Adjournment

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

Silvana Crigna, Tanya MacDonald, Caroline Thomassin, Siarna Genest, John Cloutier, Erica Manis, Avice Roberts-Joseph, Cynthia Di Rienzo, Angela Sirianni, Gisele Alleyne, Joanne Hall, Hayley Juhl, Leighton Jacobs, Jes Corbeil

Members Absent:

Nadine Joy Collins

Members of the public in attendance: Joseph Lalla

1. Opening Remarks

The meeting began at 7:05 PM. Tanya MacDonald welcomed everyone to St. Monica's Governing Board's first ever virtual meeting.

On behalf of the Governing Board and the broader St. Monica community, she thanked the Principal, teachers and staff for their work and efforts in organising the retrieval of students' belongings as well as the return to school.

She explained that virtual meetings were now permitted, given current circumstances and that amendments to the Rules of Conduct and Internal Rules of Operations would be discussed during the meeting in order to adapt them to the possibility of virtual meetings.

2. Adoption of Agenda

Upon motion duly made by Ms. Cynthia di Rienzo and seconded by Mr. Leighton Jacobs, it was unanimously decided to approve the agenda.

3. Approval of Minutes of Last Meeting – Regular Meeting – February 11, 2020

Upon motion duly made by Ms. Giselle Alleyne and seconded by Mr. John Cloutier with Mr. Jes Corbeil and Leighton Jacobs abstaining, the minutes of the February 11, 2020 Governing Board meeting were approved.

4. Business Arising from the Minutes

No items were tabled for discussion.

5. Rules of Conduct and Internal Rules of Operation Amendment

Ms. Tanya MacDonald informed the Governing Board that an *Arrêté numéro 2020-029 de la ministre de la Santé et des Services sociaux* dated April 26, 2020 had been published relative to special measures in order to protect the public's health during the Covid -19 pandemic and that Justice Quebec had published COVID-19 Pandemic – New Temporary Measure to Allow for Remote Meetings and Sessions in order to allow for the possibility of virtual meetings which applied, among others, to Governing Board meetings.

Ms. MacDonald then tabled an amendment to St. Monica's Governing Board's Rules of Conduct and Internal Rules of Operation which provided for the following:

“Pending special measures and/or orders from the relevant government bodies, regular and special meetings may be held virtually if it is not possible or advisable for in-person meetings to take place. Regulations regarding quorum, voting and conduct remain the

same. Should a confidential vote be required, the vote will be held using an anonymous online ballot, e.g., Google Forms.”

and confirmed that it was within the Governing Board’s purview to amend its rules of conduct and internal rules of operations.

Upon motion duly made by Mr. Jes Corbeil and seconded by Ms. Erica Manis, it was unanimously decided to amend St. Monica’s Governing Board’s Rules of Conduct and Internal Rules of Operation, as tabled.

6. Reports

6.1 Principal’s Report

6.1.1 Ethics and Religious Culture Program

Ms. Silvana Crigna informed the Governing Board that traditionally, Ethics and Religious Culture had been taught in the French language to Cycle 2 and 3 students and that she was seeking the Governing Board’s approval to continue offering ERC in French.

Members of the Governing Board discussed the advantages of teaching this class in the French language, particularly as it afforded Cycle 2 and 3 students with an additional opportunity to practice speaking French in a setting which calls for creativity in the context of discussions focusing on themes which solicit the children’s interest.

Upon motion duly made by Ms. Giselle Alleyne, it was unanimously decided to continue teaching Ethics and Religious Culture in the French language for St. Monica’s Cycle 2 and 3 students.

6.1.2 Lunch Fees 2020-2021

Ms. Silvana Crigna informed the Governing Board that when she became Principal of St. Monica, she was advised of the difficulty in collecting fees which resulted in a deficit every year. She explained that in order to help with the situation, she continued flexible payment options but has not seen enough of an improvement and deficits have continued to occur.

She advised that as the school administrator, she needed to implement steps in order to ensure deficits would no longer occur every year. She informed the Governing Board that beginning with the 2020-2021 school year:

- A family’s third (3rd) child would no longer be free;
- Lunch monitors would be attributed in accordance with generally prevailing monitor/student ratio within EMSB, also with a view to gaining more flexibility should assistance be needed. She confirmed that any Covid-19 related restrictions would be strictly followed as necessary.

She also informed the Governing Board that special payment arrangements would continue to be available for families requiring assistance with the payment.

6.1.3 School Calendar 2020-2021

Ms. Silvana Crigna informed the Governing Board that the 2020-2021 school calendar would include the same number of ped days as the 2019-2020 calendar and that the ped days would be scheduled at approximately the same time. She confirmed the following with respect to the 2020-2021 school year:

- 1st day of school: August 31, 2020
- Last day of school June 23, 2021
- March Break: March 1 to 5, 2021

6.1.4 Yearbook June 2020

Ms. Silvana Crigna advised the Governing Board that a yearbook had been prepared by a group of 3 teachers and herself in order to ensure to send the Grade 6 graduating class off with a positive memento. She added that the cost would be covered by the school budget. She concluded her remarks by mentioning that as soon as it was allowed, a get-together would be organised for the graduating class in order to give the students a proper farewell.

Ms. Crigna thanked everyone who was involved with the preparation of the yearbook.

6.1.5 School Fees

Ms. Silvana Crigna informed the Governing Board that work had begun in order to obtain pricing for workbooks and other materials needed for the 2020-2021 school year. She advised that she expected the school fees to remain approximately the same as those prevailing during this current school year unless the prices for workbooks increased.

She also informed the Governing Board that payments would be followed more closely and that letters would be sent more quickly when balances were owed. She confirmed that special payment arrangements would continue to be made for families requiring assistance with payment.

6.1.6 Return to School Plan

Ms. Silvana Crigna informed the Governing Board that a return to school was projected for May 25, 2020. She added that 52% of St. Monica's families had responded to the back-to-school survey and that EMSB was in the process of sending reminders in order to ensure that all families responded to the survey. She confirmed that at the EMSB level, 80% of families had already responded to the survey. She added that it would be possible for families to change their minds and send their children back to school but that a week's prior notice would be required in order to allow the school to make the proper arrangements.

She explained that upon return, students would be grouped by cycle and not by class and that support would be provided to the families who chose to keep the children at home. She added that she would

organise a team of teachers for the students who returned to school as well as a team of teachers to offer at-home support.

6.2 Regional Delegate's Report

The Regional Delegate summarised discussions at recent meetings as follows:

- Plan was to open schools on May 25;
- The EMSB Trustee and the Government were holding regular meetings in connection with the Covid 19 situation;
- Discussions had focused on potential liability in the event individuals contracted the disease in a school as well as the availability of protective gear;
- The current back-to-school was a form of test for September 2020's more fulsome back-to-school;
- Term 1 and Term 2 marks would remain unchanged while Term 3 marks would be assigned with the help of teachers' professional judgement. She added that it had been discussed that work sent home and completed by students would assist teachers in forming their professional judgement.

6.3 Teacher's Report

Mr. Leighton Jacobs advised that weekly activity kits were being sent home and that retrieval of students' personal belongings would begin on May 13.

6.4 Daycare Report

Ms. Gisele Alleyne advised that no items required the Governing Board's oversight at this time.

6.5 PPO Report

Ms. Tanya MacDonald reported that no fundraising and no planning was ongoing at this time. She informed the Governing Board that fundraising done in connection with Family Fun Night would be applied to the next school year except for CAD 1,000 to be donated to the NDG Food Depot.

6.6 Graduation Committee Report

Ms. Tanya MacDonald informed the Governing Board that there was nothing to report at this time.

5.7 Treasurer's Report

Mr. Jes Corbeil advised that there had been no change since the last meeting.

6. Public Question Period

Nil.

8. Date of Next Meeting

June 7, 2020 at 7:00 PM, most likely by electronic means.

8. Adjournment

Upon motion duly made by Mr. Jes Corbeil and seconded by Ms. Joanne Hall, it was unanimously decided to adjourn the meeting at 8:05 PM.



Silvana Crigna
Principal



Tanya MacDonald
Chairperson