



St. Monica Elementary School
Governing Board Minutes – Regular Meeting
Tuesday, December 8th 2020, 2020 - 7:00 PM – virtual meeting

ATTENDANCE:

Silvana Crigna, Tanya MacDonald, Gisèle Alleyne, Nadine Joy Collins, Cynthia Di Renzo (left at 7h45) Jesse Corbeil, , Guillaume, Joanne Hall, Shanna Kousaie, Deema Qasrawi, , Robin Schulz-Peissel, , Jennifer Young,

1. Opening Remarks

Tanya MacDonald called the meeting to order at 19:04

Silvana Crigna: have two additions to the agenda: **5.1.7** Air purifiers and **5.1.8** Exams 2021

2. Adoption of agenda

Adoption of Agenda as modified
Moved by Jesse Corbeil
Seconded by Jennifer Young
Unanimously approved

3. Approval of Minutes of last meeting

Approval of minutes of November 11th meeting
Moved by Shanna Kousaie:
Seconded Jesse Corbeil
Unanimously approved

4. Business arising from the minutes

No business

5. Reports

5.1. Principal reports

5.1.1. Three new ped days

1. Jan 29th 2021
2. Feb 22nd 2021
3. May 14th 2021

Silvana Crigna: April 23rd 2021 is added as a ped day in place of January 29th 2021 as it was already a scheduled ped day

Approval of new ped days
Moved by Gisele Alleyne
Seconded by Jennifer Young
Unanimously approved

5.1.2. Approval of Sexuality education Program

Silvana Crigna: The content of this program is compulsory in both elementary and secondary school for 5 to 15 hours of teaching, depending on the grade.

- It can be in 1 session or broken up over several sessions.
- Health and social services are implicated in the curriculum to make sure that proper expertise is available, but the curriculum is delivered mostly by the teacher as they have the connection with the students
- Delivered in English to assure the comprehension and comfort of the students.
- Will begin in the spring, from March to May.

The topics to be covered for each grade level (Pre-Kindergarten to grade 6) is defined by the Ministry. The St Monica plan identifying the themes by grade level and links to the government sites will be sent to all parents in January 2021 and our website will also contain the information.

Questions-comments

Tanya MacDonald: question on the content for grade, is it adapted to the age of the children?

Silvana Crigna: Link to the mandatory themes to be covered will be sent in the letter, don't have the full curriculum but age appropriate.

Jesse Corbeil: will parents be able to opt-out and what will kids do during that time

Silvana Crigna: mandatory program, parents will have to address concerns with principal, if exemption is still sought, it will be evaluated case by case by the school board, and students will be redirected to other activities during that time or stay home if the parents prefer.

Jesse Corbeil: what happens if governing board doesn't approve?

Silvana Crigna: we are following the MESS directive, it is mandatory. The timeline is based on teachers and students having had time to create supportive learning environments where the students will be comfortable to ask questions if needed and we also try to not coincide with exam periods. It's about providing facts and if the students have questions our professional services team is also available to address them and provide support as needed.

Deema Qasrawi a lot of families have misinformation about the curriculum that will be taught, can we send a letter or material to inform people about the content to understand and not withdraw their kids because they don't know exactly what will be taught

Silvana Crigna: as in the past year, parents will receive advance notice, a letter will be sent in the month of January with the links that identify the content for each grade level. The plan gives an idea of how long sessions are and who will be delivering it, if questions they can ask the teachers, if exemptions, concern or hesitation they will have a discussion with principal. Goal is to educate the students on facts and give them information that is accurate so they don't get misguided by information from unreliable sources.

Resolution: presented by Silvana and approval followed

Move by Gisele Alleyne

Unanimously approve

5.1.3. Budget update

Funds for ICOR and AMSFA is allocated towards activities and to benefit the students directly.

These are usually allocated for activities such as steel pan sessions and hiring of tutors. Due to Covid-19, when we are able to accommodate guest speakers, the providers will do the presentation by individual classes in order to respect sanitary directives. We are also trying to get pet therapy, or virtual presentations.

Funds from AMSFA: usually use for the outings, we are trying to see what other activities can be brought into school if fields trip are not allowed due to the pandemic.

- Homework Assistance: tutors were brought in for English, Math and French from October to December.

It is difficult at this time to find tutors, but 2 additional candidates for the second part of the year were found. Past has proved that tutors are more beneficial during class hours than in the after-school program.

- Wellness account: usually linked to physical education activities or projects that involve different activities like ice skating

- Amount in support to parents: usually workshop for parents (see 5.1.4)

- Technology: allocated towards 19 laptops, it is foreseen that exams will be on computer in the future and also gives an opportunity to have material for students who need assistance with technology

- Reading in school: given to the document technicians to overview the material needed in the library

- Tutors to assist international students and temps stays. Because of Covid-19, there are no international students and we have 83 temporary stays

- 60 minutes movement in school: not actual physical education but additional movement throughout the school by teachers taking the kids out, or in class activities.

- Full day pre-K classes budget all material for pre-K full day classes

- CAP budget: campaign against poverty, provide students with additional food: snacks to complement breakfast or lunch

- Application for Grant music: grant to purchase additions for the music program

- École Inspirante: provide experience to students cultural and sciences

- Recess and school yard: possibility of additions or changes to recess sessions like equipment or improvement in the school yard

- Cultural outings: we already have proposal in place, guests coming to do cultural workshop, percussion and puppet presentation.

Questions-comments

Nadine Joy Collins: food depot has currently an excess of frozen meals that they would like to give to the community. Four frozen meals per household by weekly or monthly basis

Silvana Crigna: is it for pick it up or a delivery?

Nadine Joy Collins: would be delivered in crates to the school that can be redistributed or used by the school for children that would need lunch. They started a month ago but is not used to its full potential.

Silvana Crigna: we are about to send notice again to offer assistance provided by the school board but no request was made for assistance at this time.

Nadine Joy Collins: yes same situation at the depot.

Silvana Crigna: important to send the information out with respect to the anonymity of the family. Redirect them to the principal.

Nadine Joy Collins: Other question about interns: Dawson might be in need to place interns

Silvana Crigna: University and Cégep, can contact principal directly for placement

5.1.4. Support to parents Budget amount

Silvana Crigna: possibility of virtual workshops for parents but there is a worry in the level of involvement. Another option would be to create kits to send home to parents to help in the core subject of English Math or French. Any suggestions for themes of kits idea?

Discussion:

Tanya MacDonald: good idea but difficult to address the right material that's needed or to decide about extra work at home.

Silvana Crigna: mental help support, social media,

Nadine Joy Collins: mental health is really important

Tanya MacDonald: showing parents how to recognise the signs and help them know where the resources are.

Nadine Joy Collins: suggestions *letting go of the stigma of getting help* workshop

Robin Schulz-Peissel: children don't recognise their anxiety, it will be recognise by the teacher through behaviour.

Shanna Koussaie: regulating screen time and the use of social media

Jesse Corbeil: agrees with the addressing children's anxiety; I remember the workshop addressing the issue about screen time was very insightful.

Robin Schulz-Peissel: parents are asking suggestions to avoid screen time, alternatives are given to parents; Suggestions: tools, activities to engage kids in other activities than homework and screen time.

Tanya MacDonald: we need alternatives to whatever we already have

Gisele Alleyne: little passport kit of activities with learning by playing

Silvana Crigna: we found a company that can provide resources or access for families that they can do at home but school would cover the cost. The activity is science related

Nadine Joy Collins: activity kit to address stress can be done as a family or individual

Tanya MacDonald: suggested workshops on mental health

Nadine Joy Collins: bonding activities could it be music?

Silvana Crigna: the company is specific to science.

Silvana will look into workshops on mental health, screen time and social media.

5.1.5. Holiday events:

Silvana Crigna: review the activities that were done for the holiday season:

- Holiday cards: created by students for senior citizens from west end intergenerational network with spiritual animator
- Coin collection: help collect for the NDG depot, a video was made by students to encourage people to give monetary donations
- Santa's visit: Santa is somebody who is already with the community (bubble)

5.1.6. Daycare Activities

Silvana Crigna: Daycare is very successful for ped days and afterschool activities

Gisele Alleyne: Ped day activity: mosaic activity, kids were focus and satisfied with results.

After school: Educators are filling in because we cannot invite people: Daycare Educators offering learning Spanish, beading, dance and other creative activities.

5.1.7. Air purifiers

25 air purifiers are expected for St-Monica

5.1.8. Exams 2021

Exams for 2020-2021 will be modified and not offered as usual. Details to follow after upcoming meeting.

Questions-comments

Shanna Koussaie: children not in school 17-18

Silvana Crigna: online teaching and activities, will be send out this week.

5.2. Commissioner's Report

Mr. Lalla is absent

5.3. Regional Delegate's Report

EMSB PC met on December 3rd. Russell Copeman, Interim Director General joined us to introduce himself and answer questions. He mentioned the following about the air purifiers:

- They will be put in schools with no mechanical ventilation and will go in classrooms, libraries and staff rooms.
- Units will be wall mounted
- The board hopes to have all units installed by the end of February.
- QC government is currently refusing to fund the units
- Installation will likely take place by neighbourhoods
- The EMSB is getting the same units as Lester B Pearson board, as they have already done the research.

EPCA sent out a survey asking parents if they feel school should go to Dec 23, as holiday gatherings are cancelled. No word on results yet.

Virtual enrollment will start this year as a pilot project in 5 west end schools. Edinburgh, Royal Vale, Merton for sure, unclear which other schools.

Discuss about unused GB funds. Some GBS are donating the funds to the grade 6 class, giving it to charity or using with PPO to set up scholarships. It has been strongly suggested by one of the regional directors that GB find a way to use the funds.

Concerns were brought up about the amount of screen time kids are on in class (movies during lunch etc.). Each school was encouraged to discuss the matter with their BASE director.

5.4. Teacher's Report

Nothing to report

5.5. Daycare Report

Gisele Alleyne: next ped days

1. January 29 space exploration
2. February ancient Egypt
3. May 14th St-Monica mad science

5.6. PPO and Graduation Committee Report

- Meeting last week was by emails at there was nothing to vote on.
- Bookfair ended yesterday approximately 82 books, update will be done next meeting
- GRAD committee: Concept is a cookbook fundraiser in Feb and March 10\$ per cook book 80 recipes contributed by grade 6 students and staff. The goal is to reach 160 books sold.

Approval of Cookbook sale

Moved by Gisele Alleyne

Seconded Deema Qasrawi

Tanya MacDonald abstain

Approved

5.7. Error in numbering, there is no 5.7 on the agenda.

5.8. Treasurer report

Nothing to report

Will be to discuss in January

6. Public question period

No public present in the virtual session

No question

7. New Business

7.1. Varia

Nadine Joy Collin: beautiful initiative with the cards to senior citizens it is well appreciated by the seniors.

Silvana Crigna: season's greetings to all and recognized efforts made by all the staff and appreciation for GB member support.

8. Date of next meeting

January 12 2021 - 7:00 PM

9. Adjournment

**Adjournment of the meeting
Moved by Robin Schulz-Peissel
Seconded by Gisele Alleyne
20h43 end of meeting**



Silvana Crigna
Principal



Tanya MacDonald
Chairperson