

St. Monica Elementary School

Governing Board Minutes – Regular Meeting

Tuesday, March 16th 7:00 PM– virtual meeting

ATTENDANCE:

Silvana Crigna, Tanya MacDonald, Nadine Joy Collins, Tracy Davey, Cynthia Di Rienzo Jesse Corbeil, Jasmine Guillaume, Joanne Hall (joined at 19h18) Leighton Jacobs, Shanna Kousaie, Joseph Lalla, Deema Qasrawi, , Jennifer Young, Angela Zambito

1. Opening Remarks

Tanya MacDonald called the meeting to order at 19h06

2. Adoption of agenda

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

3. Approval of Minutes of last meeting

Approval of the minutes
Moved by Angela Zambito
Seconded Jennifer Young
Approved
Abstention: Angela Zambito

4. Business arising from the minutes

No business

5. Reports

5.1. Principal reports

5.1.1. School Update

Silvana Crigna: Thanks to the PPO for teacher appreciation week
Graduation committee: hoodies were distributed today, yearbook work is in process.

There is still concern for the ceremony being held as usual: option of an outdoor event is being explored to see if this option is viable.

Parent's workshop will be offered soon: 2 parts on mental well-being and building resilience, set on two dates. Instead of refreshments, books were purchased

Student activities: staff is helping in finding resources to organise activities from April to June.

Nadine Collin Joy: option for Graduation: George St-Pierre, tents are available.

5.2. Commissioner's Report

Joseph Lalla: a school rollovers committee was set up, the committee will issue a report by the end of the year. It will be done in time for the adoption of the new budget to support the use of rollovers by schools.

Budget review: there was a surplus budget in the past years except for last year. This year a deficit is projected.

Large sums were spent on Covid measures. There was a letter written to 3 members of parliament and the national assembly about the investment made by the school for Covid measures, we are awaiting an answer.

Français plus program is discussed for Pre-K to grade 4

Tanya MacDonald: Is St-Monica in line to set up this program?

Joseph Lalla: No, we are awaiting for the report in October to see if schools can adopt it for next year. It will be decided by the school boards. One main problem is the shortage of French teachers.

Joseph Lalla: Mr. Lalla was part of the search committee to appoint a new EMSB Director General. It is on the agenda on March 24th meeting.

5.3. Regional Delegate's Report

On behalf of the Discrimination & Diversity subcommittee, the EMSB PC has forwarded a motion to EPCA asking them to request that all English school boards provide sensitivity training to all teachers and staff on how to have conversations on discrimination, anti-racism, and equality.

Registration is now open for the Virtual Parent Conference. A flyer will be sent to schools soon to be shared with parents. Keynote speaker is Dr. Rubin from the Montreal Children's Hospital and the theme is Resilience through the COVID-19 Pandemic. Registration is free until April 5th, then \$10 afterwards.

5.4. Teacher's Report

Nothing to report

5.5. Daycare Report

Angela Zambito:

- Ped day on Friday March 12th: games, outside play.
- Next ped day March 26th: *play it fair* theme about respect, inclusion and diversity.

5.6. PPO and Graduation Committee Report

Dress down day tomorrow. Dress down day will be every month. Tomorrow is St-Patrick themed.

Staff appreciation was late but went well.

Fund Scrip campaign starts tomorrow no limit date but free shipping until the end of this month.

Grad committee Zumba went great and will be done again.

5.7. Treasure's Report.

Jesse Corbeil: It the budget is not used it rolls over but discussion could be put on the next agenda according to what is open to us in respect of the sanitary measures. It will be tabled till the next meeting

5.8. Community Representative Report

Nadine Joy Collins: Valentine's Day project went well over 100 cards were distributed.

Unicorn and dinosaur visit was done before March break and greatly appreciated

6. Public question period

No public

7. New Business

7.1. Governing Board Composition

Tanya MacDonald: Parent's participation has been difficult in the past years. A proposition to reduce the number of members needed to compose the Board may ensure the continuity of the Governing Board

**St. Monica Elementary Governing Board
2020-2021**

CURRENT COMPOSITION	PROPOSED COMPOSITION
6 Parents	4 Parents
4 Teaching Staff	2 Teaching Staff
1 Support Staff	1 Support Staff or non-teaching professional
1 Daycare Staff	1 Daycare Staff
2 Community representatives	2 Community representatives

Jesse Corbeil: If we keep the composition as it is, and do not fill all positions, what will happen to the board?

Silvana Crigna: 3 attempts will be made to form the Governing Board before the School Board is informed that no Governing Board can be confirmed and it will fall on the Principal to oversee matters of the school.

Leighton Jacobs and Cynthia Di Rienzo agree that the proposition might facilitate the formation of new governing boards.

Silvana Crigna: There is a miscomprehension of the time and commitment it requires. We must promote the experience, the contributions and networking that can come from the participation in the Governing Board.

Deema Qasrawi: Covid time has blocked communications between parents in a lot of ways as well. I am proud to be on the board

Tanya MacDonald: the participation online might facilitate or encourage participation.

Silvana Crigna: Online formula can be kept as an option for the future.

Motion suggested to change the composition of governing board:

Due to the difficulties in the past few years in attracting interested parents to participate on the governing board, as well as problems obtaining quorum, Tanya MacDonald proposed to reduce the number of representatives.

After careful discussion, the St. Monica Elementary Governing Board would like to restructure as follows:

- 4 parents
- 2 teaching staff
- 1 support staff or non-teaching professional
- 1 day care
- 2 community

Motion to adopt the restructure of the St. Monica Elementary Governing Board effective at the election of the Governing Board of the 2021-2022 school year.

Approval of new Governing Board composition

Moved by Jesse Corbeil

Seconded by Cynthia Di Rienzo

Unanimously approved

7.2. Operating Budget Allocation (tabled from February)

Jesse Corbeil: We would like to celebrate the accomplishment of this Governing Board, a lot of questions regarding activities that can be considered while respecting the sanitary measures.

Silvana Crigna: concerns about the number of people allowed to congregate, an option might be to order and share a virtual meal

Nadine Joy Collins: This option would also allow us to support local businesses for take out to share a meal.

Tanya MacDonald: We can wait until next meeting to finalise the decision

7.3. Varia

Nadine Joy Collins: NDG community council round table invites St-Monica for a Q and A period,

Silvana Crigna April 1st commitment

Nadine Joy Collins: 2 hour meeting – can introduce the school, the effect of Covid on the school and answer the community's questions for the participants to see how they can help the school and support the needs.

8. Date of next meeting

Tuesday April 6th - 7:00 PM

9. Adjournment

Tanya MacDonald adjournment 20h23

Motion to Adjournment of the meeting

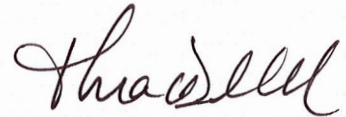
Moved by Jesse Corbeil

Seconded by Deema Qasrawi

End of meeting



Silvana Crigna
Principal



Tanya MacDonald
Chairperson