



St. Monica Elementary School
Governing Board Minutes – Regular Meeting
Tuesday, April 6th 2021 7:00 PM– virtual meeting

ATTENDANCE:

Silvana Crigna, Tanya MacDonald, Nadine Joy Collins, Cynthia Di Rienzo Jesse Corbeil, Jasmine Guillaume, Joanne Hall (joined at 19h19), Leighton Jacobs, Shanna Koussaie, Joseph Lalla, Johanna Miller (guest from Edinburgh) Deema Qasrawi, Michael Rodger (guest from Edinburgh), Jennifer Young,

1. Opening Remarks

Tanya MacDonald called the meeting to order at 19h06

2. Adoption of modified Agenda

Adoption of modified Agenda

Moved by Cynthia Di Rienzo
Seconded by Jesse Corbeil
Unanimously approved

3. Approval of Minutes of last meeting March 16th 2021

Approval of minutes of March 16th 2021

Moved by Deema Qasrawi
Seconded Cynthia Di Rienzo
Unanimously approved

4. Business arising from the minutes

No business

5. Presentation - West End High School Committee

Johanna Miller: presented map of the West End, there is no mainstream high school within 20 square km of the West end. The West End High School Committee will requests that the EMSB open a new mainstream high school in the West End. The goal is to push the request forward and help EMSB succeed in achieving this goal to respond to the growing demand in the community. 50% of grade 6 students currently enrolled in the west end EMSB elementary school will be leaving the EMSB.

Michael Rodger: a change needs to happen to address the point that 50% of our students don't have an enrolment spot in an EMSB High School in their community. The EMSB needs to address the need of the community.

Johanna Miller: a mainstream High School will have to reflect the academic abilities of the community. Example: language, immersion, coding.

QUESTIONS:

Nadine Joy-Collins: have we identified a location in the community?

Johanna Miller: the decision of the location will be made by the board. We suggest that it is in the West end: west of Décarie, Côte-St-Luc Hampstead.

Michael Rodger: the needs of the community need to be addressed within reasonable boundaries in terms of transportation for the children.

Jesse Corbeil: The transportation affects social connections between students when they don't live in the same community and the commute time can affect the schedule of the children.

Johanna Miller: Westmount high is at 90% capacity and interest keeps growing. Invitation to sign the petition

[Urgent need for a new West End EMSB high school \(google.com\)](#)

MOTION

We the St. Monica Elementary governing board support the grassroots parent committee that has created a demand letter and petition to be submitted to the EMSB on May 5, 2021 to add a new mainstream high school in the West End for the 2022-23 school year to better satisfy the growing and immediate needs of the community.

Approval of Motion to support the grassroots parent committee in their demand letter and petition to add a new mainstream high school in the West End

**Moved by Jesse Corbeil
Seconded by Jennifer Young
Unanimously approved**

Johanna Miller and Michael Rodger left meeting 19h27

6. Reports

6.1. Principal reports

6.1.1. School Updates

- Jump Rope for Heart: for early June, optional fundraising will be available to anybody wanting to fundraise for the cause.
- Parent workshop: first part March 31st, second part April 20th
- Transition to high school!: for grade 5 and 6 offered by EMSB consultant and school social worker April 7th 2021
- Bike racks: we are looking into purchasing bike to be available by end of this school year or beginning of 2021-2022 new year.

6.2. Commissioner's Report

New director General Nicholas Katalifos was appointed, he is on sick leave therefore Pelagia Nickoletopoulos will step in as interim. Last week, high school students resumed full time attendance in school. EMSB took the position to abide by the change except for 6 schools. Because of specific schedules and workloads it was too much change to be made to the model in place. Now the high schools are back to the alternate model.

6.3. Regional Delegate's Report

- Two parents from the PC (including one delegate from the anti-racism subcommittee) have been invited to join the ad hoc committee on equality and inclusivity. Concerns have been brought forward by parents and community members regarding selective enrollment and discrimination.
- Virtual Parent workshop coming up on April 18th.
- Andrew Ross is now the Director General of EPCA

6.4. Teacher's Report

Nothing to report

6.5. Daycare Report

Silvana Crigna: April 23th: Ped Day is after earth day, there will be a planting activity for the students to celebrate Earth Day.

6.6. PPO and Graduation Committee Report

Jesse Corbell:

- Dress down day coming on April 16, 2021
- Working on Administrative Assistant Day (April 28, 2021)
- No seedling sale from the school this year, as a replacement, a company selling seeds by mail was looked into as a fundraiser activity. The school will get a percentage of the sales.

Silvana Crigna: another project ongoing, everything will need to be looked into to address the details and the administration around it.

Shanna Koussaie: shipping fees are waved if you order a certain amount of seedlings.

We want to get approval to make it for the season that starts in May

Tanya MacDonald: If the details are sent by email and we get the agreement of the Governing Board and put it in place before the next meeting.

Silvana Crigna: we need details on how it works and involvements of the school for the payments.

Shanna Koussaie: it all works through the website and a check is send to the school similarly to Fund Script.

Tanya MacDonald: Information will be sent by email to be looked at by Silvana and an e-vote be done to approve the fundraiser as it is time-sensitive.

- Zumba

Jesse Corbeil: grad committee wants to do another Zumba night on May 7th 5\$ per family

Approval of Motion for Zumba night on May 7th 2021

**Moved by Shanna
Seconded Cynthia
Unanimously Approved**

- Cookbook

Tanya MacDonald: we are short on recipes for the cookbook. We will see what was received but we are significantly short and will send thank you notes and cancel after final count if project cannot go through.

6.7. Treasure's Report.

Jesse Corbeil: idea is to find a small local restaurant and share a meal outside.

Tanya MacDonald: weather forecast might give us enough warning to make changes as needed if outside eating not possible.

Leighton Jacobs: can we use the gym if it rains?

Silvana Crigna: the rules and the variant right now does not allow us to gather in the school, it might change by June but as of now it is not an option.

Tanya MacDonald: can we agree we will all share a meal together and decide on the details later?

Approval of Motion to use the operating budget funds to share a meal

**Moved by Cynthia Di Rienzo
Seconded Jennifer Young
Unanimously Approved**

6.8. Community Representative Report

Nadine Joy-Collins: Autism Awareness month, activities at the centre; grateful for Silvana Crigna's participation to the round table; gift certificates to support our local fundraising will be available, an amount according to the sales made will be given to the community center; Easter egg hunt was successful; workshop on burn out on April 9th 2021; WE are trying to organise workshop on sign language, we are looking for people to present the workshop.

7. Public question period

No question

8. New Business

8.1. Increasing Parent and Staff Participation

Tanya MacDonald: we need to find a way to engage parents now that everything is virtual.

Jesse Corbeil: emails campaign always been difficult to get high response. We need to generate a momentum to build on the parents' participation.

Shanna Koussaie: a goal needs to be set so parents can see a concrete objective to attain instead of an abstract fundraising: ex: the kitchen, iPads.

Silvana Crigna: workshop gathered specialists in the field and were not used to their full potential, to reach a larger audience. We need to get a better understanding of what parents want and need.

Shanna Koussaie: monthly newsletter was a good way to reach out and informed

Silvana Crigna: we want to go back to it but there wasn't enough activities this year to put out the newsletter.

Jasmine Guillaume: can the news be pushed through google classroom

Deema Qaraswi: we can advertise for the workshop and fundraising through the social media.

Silvana Crigna: we did push it through messenger and because of the low response we decided to put out a paper copy.

Jesse Corbeil: we need to find a digital way to offer the information without work for the parent to replace the fact that we are not present at the school to remind parents of events and fundraising.

Tanya MacDonald: Facebook page needs to be updated regularly for the page to show on the parents feed.

Silvana Crigna: This year, a staff was not released to help manage all the updates on the Facebook page. It is difficult to keep it updated without the support that was present in the past.

Jennifer Young: a lot of parents are on Instagram and are constantly posting on it about activities and ped day in other schools

Deema Qaraswi: pushing through both social media to the parents and the kids to do activities together might be a good way to reach out, give incentives to the parents through the interest of the kids eager to participate.

Tanya MacDonald: let's keep the conversation going and see what can be done better to reach out and get the participation up.

8.2. Operating Budget Allocation (finalize decision)

See point 6.7

8.3. Change in GB composition update

Silvana Crigna: I received the staff agreement statement from all the staff. One staff member did not sign, one staff member did not agree and two (2) staff members on medical leave, the majority are in agreement with it. The letter will be sent as soon as reviewed. Question for Mr. Lalla: will it be possible to move this before June?

Joseph Lalla: stated that there are still two meetings before the end of the year, should be able to be expedited before year end.

8.4. Varia - as needed

9. Date of next meeting

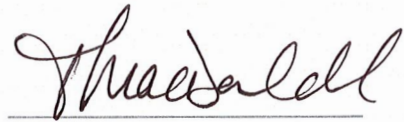
Tuesday – May 11th 2021, 7h PM

10. Adjournment

Adjournment of the meeting 20h29
Moved by Jesse
Seconded by Deema
end of meeting



Silvana Crigna
Principal



Tanya MacDonald
Chairperson