

St. Monica Elementary School  
**Governing Board Meeting- Regular Meeting**  
Tuesday, 20 February 2024 – 7 :00PM (Virtual Meeting)

1. Opening Remarks/Welcome  
By Jesse @ 7.05pm
2. Adoption of Agenda : Motion moved by Lynn  
Seconded by Leighton
3. Approval of Minutes of last meeting : regular meeting 16 January 2024  
Motion moved by Lynn  
Seconded by Nadine  
Nadine sent her notes of appreciation for the team work in making the GB seamless.
4. Business arising from Minutes : None.
5. Public question period : None
6. Reports  
6.1.Principal's Report

6.1.1 Sexuality Education Plan 2023-2024: mandated by the government.  
Principal gave a complete and explicit explanation for the 2023-2024 plan.  
These plans are approved by the school committee (representing each cycle) and by the principal and then brought to the GB for approval.  
Usually takes place from March through May, when content is being delivered.  
Plan will be placed on the school's website with the letters going out to parent identifying that as well.  
The Ministry link to identify where the themes and content come from would also be added for parents who are interested in going through it.  
The EMSB Spiritual Animator assigned to St Monica is also involved in providing support to the teachers as needed in the person.

Resolution was read by the principal with respect to the sexuality curriculum plan.

Motion for Approval was moved by Sadar  
seconded by Jasmine  
Sexuality curriculum for 2023-2024 plan approved.

6.1.2 Parent Workshop confirmations.  
February 19<sup>th</sup>, Grade 6 parents had first session, "Transition to High School".  
Was a great success, parents seemed to appreciate content. The speaker also stated that she was impressed with level of engagement of the grade 6 students during her sessions at school.

Second workshop to be held on March 26, 2024, "Internet Safety".  
Third will be on April 3, 2024, "Nutrition" workshop.

### 6.1.3 Welcome to K4 and K5 event.

To be held on May 17, 2024, on a Ped Day to welcome new K4 and K5 parents to St. Monica.

Parents get to meet the teachers and get to see the classrooms.

There will also be a transition to grade 1 session for the K5 parents who have their child registered this school year. The children will get to meet their teachers and have an idea of what to expect in grade 1 for next school year.

March 22, 2024, Ped Day cancelled, will be a regular school day.

Decision made by Santé Publique that schools should be closed for solar eclipse.

April 8, 2024, is a new Ped Day: the solar eclipse expected.

Daycare will be closed for that day.

The Solar Eclipse is a once in a lifetime experience and families should plan for the event with their children.

## 6.2. Commissioner's Report

Money said to be coming to schools from the government, in terms of catching up on programs due to absences during the teacher and staff strike.

Silvana added the presentation by the commissioner : program said to be called **Programme de Rattrapage (catch-up program)**, which basically means the government puts out these monies for any classes students missed during the strike period to enable them to catch up with tutoring sessions. Classroom teachers will decide if there is a need within their groups.

St. Monica has not been drastically affected by the strike however, the Principal has received a certain amount of monies and work is being done with teachers to identify students who need additional support and that will be put in place.

Sadar had a question with respect to the transport strike, directed to the commissioner.

Commissioner mentioned the school board not being involved in the process of the negotiations between the striking employees and Transco, the service provider.

Sadar also suggested 6 tips and tricks of Marketing strategy and promotion of the school for the school, to the principal.

Principal's response showed all items listed had already been in place by the school.

- School works with the francophone students, promoting the fact St. Monica is bilingual and recent interviews with parents of these children, showed that these students have been able to learn the English language.
- Open house is done twice a year, one during the day and the other in the evening (all staff included).

- For social media, a staff member provides updates several times a week and a monthly newsletter is put out to parents where they are being invited to follow the school, on all its social media handles. It's been several years that work is being done in conjunction with the EMSB Communications Department, which helps to ensure the website is up-to-date and ensures we promote the activities being done by the school.
- For projections with regards to the number of students, the information is not available and is being worked on based on the registrations done in February. This would be presented in the month of March, once the information on registration is completed and up to date.

Mr Lalla added that there are projections for 3 or 4yrs and is seen on the website as 3-year plan, which contains enrollment projections for all schools.

- Code of conduct can be found on the website.
- For the mental health, the Spiritual Animator is included in the newsletter, where she updates activities being done with the children. Every teacher also covers wellness assessments, doing activities with the children e.g yoga, dancing and health breaks. Mr Jacobs also said to be involved and therefore not only physical activities are provided but mental health as well. Follow-ups and activities also being done with students as needed.

Project with grade 6 students has also been started, principal makes herself available by making them submit a My Success sheet daily, leading up to the school break. The purpose is to enable these students to share any concerns they may have, maybe fear, their successes, if their having a bad day and require additional support to name a few.

Also, older students are said to work with younger students making them gain leadership and confidence while the younger ones have support and company as they need.

### 6.3. Regional Delegate's Report. None

### 6.4. Teacher's Report

Lynn: February has been filled with lots of activities like working on the Black History, Kindness Campaign, Valentine's Day , some interesting French vocabularies coming up along with the activities and a lot is being accomplished.

Mr Jacobs: Successful winter carnival activities which the kids really enjoyed as they had a good time. Basketball season wrapped up, the boys and girls were said to have done great jobs representing during the season. The boys were said to have made it to the LCC tournament final's which isn't an easy task considering the school they encountered. We are very proud of our basketball teams.

Skating said to be wrapped up as well for the cycle 2 and 3 students.

Indoor soccer to commence - preparation for the tournament slated in March.

#### 6.5. Daycare Report presented by Silvana for Mitchell

Daycare at full capacity in the morning. No additional student is being accepted for the groups in the morning as well as the afternoon.

Tax reports are completed and would be found in the Mozaik parent portal at the end of the week.

#### 6.6. PPO Report : Matthew was unable to attend

Silvana presenting on his behalf, expressed gratitude to him for all of his dedication and hard work providing staff appreciation items for the staff which spanned over two weeks (there were 4 different days in 2 weeks) . Also appreciations were extended to all St Monica community and parents for the contributions made to make it happen.

Jesse also commended Matthew as a hero as he practically works with almost no PPO around him, thank you for everything!

Silvana also commended Jesse for his availability whenever called upon for the PPO meetings.

##### 6.6.1. Contribution to Grade 6 graduation.

Last meeting held with Mathew and Jesse, an overview of the monies available in PPO from the fund raising that has occurred and the decision to contribute \$800 to the Grad committee was made. Invariably PPO will be contributing \$800 to the grade 6 graduating students.

Motion to approve this decision was requested by Silvana and Jesse agreed to that.

Motion to approve the transfer of \$800 from PPO to Grad committee.

1st by Sadar

Seconded by Jasmine

Motion approved.

#### 6.7. Grad Committee Report

Christian was absent, therefore Silvana presented on his behalf. He stated that the DJ Photobooth for the grad event has been confirmed and a meeting is expected to be held before the March break to plan the next fund-raising event. Joanne also confirmed that the fund-raising events have been going well.

#### 6.8. Treasurer's Report : None

#### 6.9. Community Representative Report

Nadine : Happy Black history month, Kindness month and Love Day month. Joy shop held with Engage Concordia depot and went an extra mile, was said to have gone amazingly well and was successful, with the facilitators and so many members of the community seen coming together to talk about Black joy and joy in the black community.

An amazing event was held today, food insecurities and food needs has risen exponentially, and it was a great opportunity to see people from the community come together and have a meal provided and made by the members.

Real talk Anti-racism workshop slated to happen Thursday @1pm with Saraffina dance around the world for those who love to dance and black film will be presented.

Black history month story time will be presented on the 21st of February at 9.30am with 50 EMSB classes. Nadine also confirms this to be her 3rd year to hold this event with the EMSB, Anita, Samantha and folks that signed up where her love for literature, reading and black creation and black authors are shared.

Usually said to be an interactive session as well with the participants.

March Highlights: Tax clinic would soon begin

Cabana sucre and Intercultural feast on the 9th at noon.

Urban Nature does a free family snowshoeing on the weekends.

Amazing guest speakers due Feb 28th.

Alejandra: Busy time of the year with a lot happening.

Mentioned great workshops that had been held recently in the month in honor of the Black History month.

The chef has done a lot highlighting and accenting, cooking styles, recipes, foods from the Caribbean, from different parts of Africa, South American foods served at the depot. Many food programs at the depot and some of they are:

Recipes together was held on Feb 17th in collaboration with West can, meals were cooked and storytelling with people facilitating and learning to drum.

February is the start of the nearing the growing season with a few workshops happening at the depot, one was done on Micro-grains.

Pallantine's tea event where people got together and candles where lit brought flowers, tea was shared and storytelling.

Another food growing initiative workshop coming up soon with one of a renowned facilitator for people interested in growing foods with the depot and at Concordia will be coming up on Feb. 29th called Ethnic and marginal seeds.

He would be talking about food varieties from different parts of the world, talking about how to grow them.

Series of rising demand at the depot particularly in 2023, where the demands doubled as compared to previous years. The depot served over 20,000 baskets. Extreme challenge meeting the demands and hard for some families that are new to the depot to get an appointment.

The depot came up with a difficult decision to start waiting list for new participants, as old participants had been finding it difficult to get their baskets every month.

Undergoing a process to develop a strategic plan by the depot with a community consultation coming up, in the next few months it will be communicated.

Search for board members to join the board of directors and diverse people from diverse backgrounds, diverse cultural background, and people who have experienced food insecurities and poverty, oppression.

Anyone who has knowledge about NDG and Cote Saint Luc and people who necessarily do not have prior experience in being on the board are welcome, folks from the neighborhood to do the work, community leaders, people from the schools to support the work and social justice we would love to hear from the people and the community.

There would be more coming up in March, registration for the collective gardening, agriculture is upcoming, starting up early in April. Informed of the possession of our own small green house which was built with hard work in 2023. So, 2024 will be the start of the use of the green house.

Jesse commended the impressive good work being done with respect to serving food to the people by the depot.

#### 6.10. Budget Building Process

Documents received was presented by the principal and the chairman, Jesse. The presentation was done to help the GB understand, as some suggestions would be made by the principal and the chairman, Jesse, on the budget priorities for St. Monica.

Alejandra curious to know how many students present in the school.

251-255 students currently in the school.

Suggestions and representations by Jesse and Silvana.

Motion to adopt the document was moved by,

1st by Jasmine

Seconded by Sadar

7. New Business : None

Jasmine asked if the school could start providing school uniforms like gym uniforms are currently supplied.

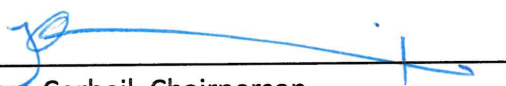
- Cost issues
- Parents strong opinion/ flexibility
- No uniform, no dress code

8. Date of next meeting 19th of March 2024 (Virtual Teams)

9. Adjournment.

Motion moved by Leighton

Seconded by Lynn



---

Jesse Corbeil, Chairperson



---

Silvana Crigna, Principal