

St. Monica Elementary School
Governing Board – Regular Meeting
Tuesday, 19 December 2023 – 7.00pm (Virtual Teams)

1. Opening Remarks by chairperson: Jesse Corbeil

Talked about the presence of the representatives to discuss to Terrebonne project.

2. Adoption of the Agenda

Request by Silvana to add the following items to the Agenda:

6.1.3 Steelpan activity cost approval

6.1.4 EMSB Season's greetings

6.7.1 Dates to be presented: PPO dress down dates.

Motion to approve the amended Agenda.

Moved by Jasmine

Seconded by Lynn

Amended agenda approved.

3. Approval of minutes of last meeting as presented.

Moved by Mitchell

Seconded by Jasmine

Minutes approved.

[Elena joined the meeting @ 7:09pm.]

4. Business Arising from the minutes: None.

5. Public Question period: None.

6. Reports (Princial's report and Terrebonne consultation swapped due to guests' iming.

6.1 Guest Presentation:

Report on rue Terrebonne Bicycle Path Project from Despina Sourias, City Councillor,
and colleague Itai Azerrad

Welcomed by Silvana

Despina gave a summary on the bike path project and requested feedback on concerns
surrounding the projects.

The study on the project looked at different elements, such as:

- a. Mobility: How it will impede and/or increase it.
- b. Parking situations: removal of parking spaces and its effects on the residential
parking areas and staff parking
- c. Intersections: improve the flow of traffic and public safety.

Concerns brought up by Silvana when they met with respect to the project:

- a. Bus embarkation and dis-embarkation.
- b. Parking spaces, convenience for parents and staff.
- c. Safety zones.

Discussion session open to get feedback from GB.

Jesse Corbeil had 2 questions.

1st question from Jesse, wanted to know if the presentation was an information session or a consultation with input being accepted.

Response: Despina says the session is to help get any concerns and probable inputs that require adjustments to ensure needs are met.

2nd Question from Jesse was clarification on information given that suggests rue Terrebonne will be one-way headed West.

Response: Despina explained it would divert Westward starting on Cavendish then from Cavendish to Belmore and then from Terrebonne it will be going Eastward. She also confirmed that the buses could still stop in front of the school with respect to Jesse's question. Also confirmed the bike path will be there as well. Itai tried to explain how this would be affected with examples.

Elena is a parent (kindergarten) and has 2 questions and concerns with respect to the crosswalks and the near misses that had occurred in the past. She wonders if there were plans to alleviate the traffic with the incoming bike paths.

She also wanted to know if cyclists were expected to stop when there is the school bus stop sign as currently, they do not, and she would be reassured if there would be police reinforcement for that.

Response was given by Itai saying there would be reinforcement at the intersections. There would be formal vigilance, the police are present around the city and fines for cyclists not conforming to the rules.

Jesse wanted to know if it will be immediately or after.

Itai said they cannot guarantee every single cyclist will stop as the police would not always be there.

Despina further responded that other measures would also be put in place to alleviate this happening with a cyclist not obeying the rules to stop.

Silvana had a question and some inputs starting with the suggestion given at their earlier meeting to change Benny's direction. Where Benny would be one-way towards Monkland.

Itai's response was a preliminary consideration has been given, says the engineer on site says it wasn't impossible however they would have to evaluate it and it's noted on the list.

Lynn had a question about the buses that park on Benny and wanted to know if they are stay there and at the end of the day the pickup as usual.

Silvana responded that the buses that park on Benny were the ones going to Mackay as they do not have enough holding space there until they are ready to pick up the students.

St. Monica buses embark and disembark on rue Terrebonne, however if there were to be changes on the direction of Benny, then Silvana says she would move the school buses on Benny, in order to embark and disembark since the school yard and the gate are close and she would feel better providing additional safety for everyone. Her main concerns are with respect to safety. She also discussed the loss of approximately 10 parking spaces with the project removing parking across the street.

Snow removal during winter is an issue in the area and the loss of parking spaces will make it even harder to find a space that is cleared to park. The services are not efficient it takes days up to 1 week before snow removal is done in the area. She also would want them to take into consideration, although noting the session was an information session not a consultation, was that if parking is removed across the street, then it should be considered that parking restrictions be removed on Bessborough - no day restrictions so that parking can be done on either side all through the school year and possible year-round.

She also noted that the parking arrangement would be convenient for the church during funerals and mass services, the seniors who attended the services would have a shorter distance to walk.

Despina responded that it would be noted, and the signs were related to street cleaning, and it has to be considered. For parking, she wanted to know the approximate number of teachers and people who needed parking spaces. Silvana gave a rough estimate of about 25-30 people needing parking spaces daily not leaving out guests and parents who come to the school for various reasons.

Itai needed clarifications on what the restrictions on Bessborough.

Jesse reiterated his opinion on Benny as it would help alleviate his stress around the kids and the bike paths.

[Christian (for the Grad committee business) got logged out and had to log back in here]

Silvana had a question as to why snow removal took too long in the school area.

Itai talked about the difficulties surrounding snow removal, and it's being removed by sectors, so many people and not too many snow removal trucks.

Silvana noted that Benny gets cleaned properly and the school is just right around the corner, Terrebonne and Bessborough do not get cleaned, taking over a week before cleaning is done.

Jesse requested the timeline for the project and Despina says it would be out in approximately June 2024.

This brought to the end of the information session with a promise to stay in contact to give the timeline.

6.2 Principal's Report :

6.2.1

1st report is the official adoption of the budget, the principal completed the template based on the amount discussed last meeting. Resolution and final numbers were presented.

In summary, the resolution by the GB for adopting the school budget as brought forward by the principal.

Budget is based on the 2023-2024 MEQ budget parameters, a motion is requested to be moved that the GB of St Monica elementary school adopts the school budget of the 2023-2024 school year as presented by the principal to forecast revenues of \$279,280 and expenditures of \$279,280 and that the budget be submitted to the EMSB for final approval.

Motion for adoption of the school budget was given as follows:

Alana moved motion

Seconded by Jacob Leighton.

School budget for 2023-2024 adopted.

6.2.2

Update of school policy change

Staff council has officially approved the updates.

Principal requires the GB's approval.

School Policy was re-read by Silvana to refresh the GB memories on what it entailed. Check school website for full details including use of cell phones and electronics on school premises and school outings.

Motion for policy:
Moved by Jasmine
Seconded by Lynn.

School policy update adopted.

6.2.3 Steelan program

Principal talked about proposed activities hoping to commence in January 2024. The specific one is the Steelpan Program, had been approved by the GB. The cost has been established to be \$50/child mandatory fees to participate.

Participation available for student's whose lunch supervision fees and student fees are not in arrears.

Commencement date said to be January 22nd, 2024 and approval of the GB was requested to charge the \$50 cost / child.

Motion for Approval for the Steelpan project

Moved by Joanne
Seconded by Alana
Steelpan cost approved.

6.2.4 Christmas card

Christmas card sent to the GB by the School Board which was read by Silvana on behalf of Jesse as the meeting is virtual.

6.3 Commissioner's report

None.

6.4 Regional Delegate's report

none.

6.5 Teacher Report

Jacob Leighton:

Annual teachers versus students' basketball game was today and reported to be fun with the teachers; undefeated record remaining intact.

Basketball season is fully underway for both boys and girls. The boys had a game at LCC and he hopes everything continues to go well after the breaks and in the new year.

Lynn Watson:

Was surprised that the students remembered a lot despite the strike break which she thought would have made them forget.

Noted the students were also happy to be back at school.

6.6 Daycare

Reported that due to 4 day strike, parents would be credited for those days. Therefore, for the month of December, which was 15 days, parents were only charged 11days. Credit reports said to have been completed and looking good for St. Monica Preparations are underway for the taxes of the year 2022-2023.

6.7 PPO Report

Principal said to have contacted Mr Conway to discuss dress down dates. The dates are established as:

- Friday February 23rd
- Thursday March 28th
- Friday April 19
- Friday May 24th

Principal requests GB approval of the above dates: PPO days are for fundraising to help support school needs.

Moved by Joanne

Seconded by Jasmine

PPO dress down dates approved.

6.8 Grad plan summary

- i. Committee has narrowed down the theme to a Hollywood Award Show or a Hawaiian theme. Plans are to ask students via a google form what their preference would be, and the form would also ask their meal choice, including any vegetarian or other dietary restrictions.
- ii. For entertainment, DJ/ Photobooth
- iii. For the gift bags: Plan underway to get each student to create a piece of artwork, which would be transferred on to a log with some other options like T-shirts and bags.
- iv. Costs :

DJ/Photobooth: \$500 -\$700

Gift bags: \$20/student; 26 students currently in Grad class with a possibility of 2 more students in the new year to make up 28 students.

This makes an approximate \$560 for 28 students.

Food truck: \$1200 approximately but will be dependent on the feedback from the kids.

Decorations: \$150 - \$200 was a suggestion by Christian, Principal agrees with approx. \$200.

Fund Raising:

Snack sales, Candygrams, Movie night, Bake sales, TCBY and a car wash.

These have all been spaced out for one a month.

Proposed fund raiser dates :

Snack sales : 24 January 2024

Valentine Day sales: 5-14 February 2024

TCBY : 22 May, 2024

Car wash: Saturday 8 June 2024

Total estimate : \$2660.

Joanne raised concerns about candy sales and would want explicit description on what it entails.

Jesse proposed approval be given for the fund raisers and anything else can be approved at a later date, should the need arise.

Motion to approve the Grad Plan as presented:

Moved by Leighton

Seconded by Joanne.

Motion carried.

Principal stated that the cost for the hoodies will be covered by the school budget. Joanne will be looking into the costs and discuss with the principal after the holidays.

Yearbook is underway and pictures are still being collected. Students have been asked to create their profile description for the year book.

Costs of Grad coming @ \$2700

To be discussed with the PPO what can be contributed to this amount \$2700.

As soon as discussion is done in January with PPO chairperson Matthew and Jesse, Christian would be informed on what amount would be contributed.

[Christian left the meeting with well wishes for the holidays at 8:16pm]

6.9 Treasurer's Report : None

6.10 Community Representative(s) Report : None

7. New Business: None
8. Date of next GB meeting – 16 January, 2024 @ 7pm via Teams
9. Adjournment: Jesse Corbeil @ 8:16pm

J CORBEIL , CHAIRPERSON



S CRIGNA , PRINCIPAL