

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

1. Opening Remarks/ Welcome: by Jesse @ 7.04 pm.
2. Adoption of Agenda:
 - Moved by Sadar
 - Seconded by Lynn
 - Motion carried.
3. Approval of minutes of the last meeting on 9th April 2024
 - Moved by Sadar
 - Seconded by Leighton
 - Motion carried.
4. Business Arising from minutes: None.
5. Public Question Period: None.
6. Reports
 - 6.1. Principal's Report: Both items in the report are consultations.
 - 6.1.1. PPO Volunteer List for 2024-2025
 - Question: How do we recruit more people?
 - First item: should the parent-teacher meetings be held on the same night as the GA? GA is when elections are carried out, and lasts an hour before parents head to meet the teachers
 - The general fear of having it on a separate night regards the number of attendees.

 - The resolution: after deliberation, the consensus was to leave as-is. The GB elections and the "meet the teacher" sessions will remain on the same night.

 - Jesse suggested that the GB and the PPO work together to achieve most of what is suggested.

 - Alejandra asked if all items mentioned were to start in the new school year, 2024-2025 and the principal answered in the affirmative.

 - About increasing PPO participation, the principal is planning the following to be in place:
 - the parent's workshop was used to provide information and used as a forum for networking opportunities

- Welcome to Kindergarten sessions – networking and community building
- Transition to Grade 1 initiative – networking and community building
- Volunteer events
- Coffee and cake networking session

All these items would be started or continued in the new school year if the GB agrees to it.

Motion.

GB moves to approve two networking events for the year 2024-2025 school year, where all GB members and PPO members will be present.

Moved by Sadar

Seconded by Jasmine

Carried with one abstention: Jacobs

The principal needs the GB members as well as the PPO members to contribute to the school's newsletter.

Jesse thinks it to be a great idea.

Christian joined @ 7.36pm

Currently, the principal and a few contributors as requested have been the content providers for the newsletter. However, she wants everyone to have a voice.

The majority of the GB members were in agreement to provide contributions for the newsletter as well as for PPO to contribute. Either periodic input or monthly input to the newsletter will help us market the school

Silvana asked if GB members could help recruit PPO members. This could be the aim at the networking event.

Jasmine asked if it is okay for a GB member to decide to be a PPO member instead and Silvana responded it is being possible and it is also possible to be in GB as well as PPO. This point was confirmed by Jesse, who has been in GB as well as PPO for several years.

6.1.2. New School EMSB Consultation

- A notice was sent out by the school board to the principal and the head of the GB concerning the decision to open a new EMSB school opening a new school as St. Raphael would be closed and an entity of St. Raphael will then open up in the new school.
- Parts of the letter were read to the GB members.

- Our GB was asked to provide input (consultation) on the opening of the new school. St. Monica's opinion was requested because of the closed classrooms at our school.
- Silvana gave explanations regarding the purpose and benefits of the new school.
- Leighton wanted to understand what a statement of support from St. Monica's would benefit.
 - Silvana explained it allows us to share our support considering that we have had closed classrooms at St. Monica for many years.
- In conclusion, Silvana and Jesse would work on a possible submission and GB members would decide if anything would be submitted at our June meeting after it is reviewed.

6.2. Commissioner's Report: None

6.3. Regional Delegate's Report:

- Schools cannot impose any supply for uniform, and no child can be withheld for wearing other clothes.
- Detailed organization chart and draft for the year 2024-2025
- Suggestion on the opening of the new school in the Nesbitt building
- Suggestion of French and English book options.

6.4. Teacher Report

Lynn:

- 10 May 2024 Field trips for both pre-school and cycle 1.
- Kindergarten is doing very well at the moment because of the luxury of having smaller groups, which affords teachers the ability to work intensively with a few students.
- Programme Rattrapage: 2 students are receiving good tutoring with Ms Susan, which is helping.
- The weather is encouraging and students have been enjoying it.

Leighton:

- Many activities ongoing with the Spring concert happening on the 14th of May, Tuesday, with special thanks being sent to Ms Luana who has put in a lot of effort to prepare the students for the show.
- 16th May Halo Race - St. Monica students participating
- Swimming will be wrapping up soon for cycles 2 and 3.
- Grade 5 students are scheduled for their annual field trip (Cepsum) next Thursday.
- Joanne added that on May 24 there is an Insectarium and Botanical Garden visit for the Grade 3 students.

6.5. Daycare Report

- An audit was done on the registration for the daycare and up to date 53 kids actively registered and more are coming in.
- There are two Ped days left before the end of school.
 - May 17th: Ped day science activity scheduled
 - June 5th: Last Ped day. A guest from head office would be present to teach the students about the environment and how natural products can be used to help save the environment.
 - Soap making activity will be done to end the day with the guest using all natural ingredients /products.
 - An extra cost will be required to purchase the natural products and it will be a \$5 charge to the parents.
 - A motion is required to approve the \$5 charge to the parents.
- Joanne asked if there was any special end-of-the-year activity for the daycare.
 - A party is set to happen with popsicles and other goodies like cookies being ordered ahead on the last day of daycare. It wouldn't be an extra cost to the school as the educators would fund it.
- Motion to approve the \$5 charge
 - Moved by Lynn
 - Seconded by Leighton
 - Motion carried.

6.6. PPO Report: None

6.7. Grad Committee Report :

- Food truck contract has been signed and will be officially showing up about 1hour before serving time.
- DJ/Photo Booth contract has been signed as well.
 - (The logistics on this set up must be discussed with the principal. To this effect the principal would like to have a meeting ahead of the event with the committee to discuss set up arrangements).
- TCBY on May 15
- Carwash set for June 8. A letter has been drafted to go out to grade 6 parents informing them and soliciting their help.
- Christian signed off at 8.27 pm.

6.8. Treasurer's Report: None

6.9. Community Representative Report :

Alejandra:

It has been a fairly busy time at the depot lately.

- Community consultation processes were wrapped with 3 separate community consultations: one was with donors/funders and government

- officials, another with the team at the depot and the last with the community participants, partners, and other organizations in NDG/CDN.
- Feedback is being awaited while preparing to launch the 5-year strategic plan in the coming week.
 - AGM is slated for June 13 and everyone is invited.
 - An anti-oppression training is slated for June 5th and spots are still available to the community from 11 am to 2 pm.
 - An open house and movie screening is scheduled for May 24th from 5 pm to 8 pm.
 - A successful fundraiser for the steam table that broke at the depot.
 - \$6000.00 was raised in less than a week and incredible to see people step up to this need.
 - A Trinidadian cooking workshop which chef Sebastian would be offered at the end of the month, May 25th a Saturday 11am to 2pm and a second at 2.30pm to 5.30pm.
 - The collective creation program is still on and open to anyone interested in cooking, and learning how to cook recipes, can come sign up.
 - A seedling workshop was held last week at the depot, so people learnt how to start seedlings and transplant little seedlings from the Green House which started this year to help the collective garden. A total of 20 people were involved.

Nadine:

- Women on the Rise took part in a social strike, which involved 100 plus community groups to signal a need for systemic changes around violence against women, housing, systemic equity, and status for all.
- A collective meal will be had on 21st May between 1 pm and 3 pm by the church next door to Women on the Rise.
- 2 of the members are going to create and share their beautiful cultural foods with people It is a free event.
- Mary Pallett will be doing a workshop on estate planning and end-of-life preparations.
- Porchfest proceeds will be going to Women on the Rise.
- Rosy Haddad will do a financial literacy workshop at the end of the month.
- Dance around the world on 28 May. This month's presentation is on Persian dancing.

Nadine is on the Québec Board of Black Educators; she shared the information for the BANA summer school sessions: One will be at Marymount and the other at Verdun Elementary School. Fees are \$200 per week; Sessions commence 25th June 2024.

- Mornings: Academic classes (Math, French, English).
- Afternoons: Cultural and recreational activities.
- There are subsidies available.


There are several summer camps, but many have waiting lists. St. Mary summer camp, NDG summer camp and Walkley centre. Anyone interested should reach out to these camps; they would be glad to help.

- 6.10. Promotional Campaign
St. Monica's seedling sale is coming up.

7. New Business: None

8. Date of next meeting: tentatively 12 June, 2024 @ 7pm
Motion to set June 12th as the next meeting.
Moved by Sadar
Seconded by Joanne.
Motion carried

9. Adjournment:
Moved to adjourn by Lynn
Seconded by Joanne
Adjournment@ 8.43 pm



Jesse Corbeil, GB Chairperson



Silvana Crigna, Principal