

St. Monica Elementary School  
Governing Board -- Regular Meeting Minutes  
Tuesday, 16 January 2024 – 7:00pm (Virtual TEAMS)

1. Opening Remarks: 7:04pm

Comments by the chairperson Jesse concerning the loss of a child the school experienced and the toll it took on everyone, making the week a very stressful one. Silvana continued with an update, she sent a wreath on behalf of the school, she would be attending the viewing on Thursday and the burial on Friday.

Jasmine suggested an observation of a minute of silence on behalf of the child for repose of her soul and the minute silence was duly observed.

2. Adoption of Agenda:

Moved by Jacob Leighton

Seconded by Lynn.

Adopted

3. Adoption of minutes from last meeting 19th Dec. 2023

Moved by Lynn

Seconded by Alejandra

Adopted

4. Business arising from the minutes: None

5. Public question period: None

6. Reports:

Principal suggested that Christian could go first so he could leave the meeting at the end of his report. Suggestion taken with no objections.

6.7. Grad Committee report by Christian

- Survey has been sent through Diana to the grade 6 students to choose the theme they would be interested in and what they would like to eat.
- Once responses are gathered, they would plan the food and the decorations.
- Jan 24th is snack day sale and preparations are just about on the way to go shopping for the snacks.
- Principal mentioned not receiving any emails from Christian with respect to these plans and his response was, it was sent to Diana only and apologised with the promise to forward the email.
- Christian left the meeting at 7:14pm.

## 6.1 Principal's report:

Started off by wishing everyone a healthy and prosperous new year with her appreciation of all.

Updates:

Robotics: found a facilitator and should be starting off in February during lunch breaks, scheduled by grade level up until June 2024 when each grade would have participated.

Steelpan: Expected to start later in the month, a reminder has been sent out to optimise the number of participants. It's expected to start the following week, however if the need arises, it may start later.

Hebrew Lessons: Registration low, so Joanne has been asked to send out a paper copy to parents. Unable to offer the activity for now because of the low registration. An update is promised at the next meeting.

Jesse asked a question on how many students were required to start the Hebrew class. Silvana's response was that we have not been given an exact number, however at least 10 students were needed, and registration is far behind that number.

Open House: Jan 25, 2024, 4-8pm. All teachers would be present, and cycle 3 students will be recruited to help with the tours.

Website has been updated, Diana has updated our social media platform and a banner would be placed on the fence, so everyone would be aware.

Black History month: Work is in progress for the activities of the black history month which will take place in February. Plans cannot be shared yet because they are not defined but every grade level and every class will be involved in some capacity. There will be boards in the hallways representing black history month as well.

Pink Shirt Day: February 28

A notice will be sent out to the children and everybody to wear pink on that day. It is an anti-bullying opportunity, and everyone will take a stand on that.

Kindness Campaign, Part 2: In preparation for the open house, posters will be worked on by the children and displayed at the front office entrance, then they will be placed in the

2<sup>nd</sup> floor windows. Little messages will be written by the students regarding kindness. This is to continue our kindness theme for the year.

#### 6.4 Teacher's Report:

Lynn: Kids are happy to be back in the school.  
Noted to have quick recalls on all they had learnt before the holidays.

Leighton:  
Basketball season is actively on, games were won today. Skating season to start soon. Affirmative on attendance of the LCC basketball tournament next week, February winter carnival will commence which is a yearly event.

#### Daycare Report:

Mitchelle Graham

- Upcoming Ped day Jan. 26 and a Tie-dye T-shirt event is put in place for the Ped day at no cost to the parents.
  - Parents would provide the t-shirts for their child; it doesn't have to be a new t-shirt.
- Champions for Life program, said to have started in Oct. 2023 and ran through Dec. 2023. It's scheduled to start back on Jan 19, 2024.
- It's said to be an organized sporting event which runs every Friday teaching children how to play together, teamwork, and sharing. It is a structured activity.
- For the younger children, pre-K and kindergarten, it teaches them how to use their fine motor skills as well as their gross motor skills.
- Daycare Grades 2, 3 are said to be at full capacity.
- Pre-K and Kindergarten are at full capacity also and cannot accept any other children.
- Grades 4, 5 and 6 can accept students only in the afternoon.
- All age groups can still be accepted as there are 10 more spaces available in the morning.

Sadaf asked the question if something could be done to increase the capacity for acceptance into the daycare in the afternoons because of the difficulties related to the bus situation. Silvana responded it was unfortunate the capacities can't be enlarged due to the bus situation due to staffing not able to take on bigger groups due to bus strike.

Head office has said if there happens to be any changes, parents would be notified accordingly. Discussions and negotiations were said to have taken place a week ago, however she is not aware of any changes. Regarding the bus strike, head office will send messages to the parents if anything happens.

#### 6.6. PPO Report:

- Jasmine talked about involving PPO as discussed in the first meeting, to have arrangements on transportation and the difficulties she is encountering bringing her daughter to school.
- Silvana responded by saying a discussion had occurred with Mr Conway, the PPO chairperson, and she had mentioned that the request had come up.
  - Unfortunately, as a principal, Silvana can't get involved as she cannot provide any contact information about any of the families or the parents.
  - She further says this is a matter that PPO can handle, and she encourages us to send an email to the PPO chair, in order to make him aware and so that something could be put together in that aspect.
  - He was willing during her discussion with him however she cannot be involved to provide parents contact.

Principal has asked Joanne to send notifications to parents to note the dress down dates, just so the parents are aware of the dates being approved by Mr Conway.

#### 6.7. Treasurer's Report:

Nothing to report.

#### 6.8. Community Representative Report:

NDG Depot - Alejandra

The depot was closed for just over a week. Opened last week.

This time of the year is dedicated to planning, reviewing the year and program reports and things to bring forth in the new year.

There are lots of things that are still brewing and to be updated.

The community restaurant program open Wed-Friday 10am to 3pm and meals are served at 10.30am instead of the usual practice of 10am, as the depot has got a little busier and more time is needed to complete the work.

This program is run in line with the market program at the same time as the restaurant. Tuesday service remains from 2pm to 7pm also at the same time as the market program.

Plans are on the way to represent the Black history month in various ways, sometime in February.

Updates will be sent once the newsletter is ready.

Had guest chef who prepared white beans stew last week, an exciting event.

Various programs: Boite à lunch, gardening workshops etc. will be starting up soon, however exact dates are not yet available.

There are posts open for hiring at the depot and it was encouraged to refer anyone to be facilitators for the boite à lunch program and communications coordinator.

Women on the Rise - Nadine:

Sent love from the community to the St Monica community.

Sent appreciations to Silvana for the coordination of the food baskets to the community.

Says flyers for the open house to be sent to them so they can put them on their social media and their stories.

Currently in their second week of training, organizing and program planning however, the support groups started this week.

Conjugal violence support, French cohort groups started this week, and the English support is expected to start next week. Post partum and mental health groups will start on Friday and if anyone we know requires these services, should be referred to them as an amazing grant had been received and they are able to supply some essentials during this period.

Diapers and formulas are available to be supplied to families in need.

On Wednesday, women empowering program will be back, and everyone is encouraged to come in the evening.

Next week Tuesday January 23, the collective meal will take place and on Thursday, a guest speaker will be present to talk about Islamophobia.

Next Tuesday after, will be Haitian celebration in honor of Haitian Independence which was Jan 1st, 2024.

Currently working on black history month with many groups including the Depot and the EMSB, so it comprises telling our stories and this will be on Feb. 8th 1pm to 3pm at the Loyola campus.

Furthermore, Women on the Rise would be talked about, anti-black racism and a Valentine Day party would be hosted. Hopes to connect with Danica and Samantha to see what can be contributed towards the black history month.

Special announcement: Special assembly would be held on March 8th on Women's Day where we would vote Women on the Rise officially as a women center. This will make them the first and only women center in NDG.

Silvana gave thanks to Nadine on behalf of all the families that got help during the holidays. Nadine has an amazing team working with her. Sent in her congratulations in lieu of Women on the Rise becoming an official women center.

Many thanks to Alejandra and her team as well. Ryan was in touch with Silvana today and she is looking forward to the winter season of the gardening sessions and the appreciation is sent for bringing the opportunity to the students.

#### 6.10. Selection criteria for appointment of the principal.

Principal exited the meeting for this session to take place but would return after the selection.

Jesse shared the letter that was sent in last year and told the board that every year the same letter has been shared.

A couple of changes were made to the letter and changes were made by rearranging the lists on the requirements according to its priority.

Two motions were required:

1. To add the request to the principal criteria for 2024.
2. To adopt the new letter for the selection criteria.

Motion for addition

1st vote for the addition moved by Lynn.

Seconded by Jasmine

Motion was carried

Motion to adopt the new updated principal selection criteria for 2024.

Moved by Sadaf

Seconded by Alejandra.

Motion was carried.

Principal rejoined the meeting.

7. New Business

None.

8. Date of next meeting: 19 March 2024 @ 7:00pm

9. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn by Lynn

Seconded by Leighton

Adjourned at 8:06pm

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**Jesse Corbeil, Chairperson**



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**Silvana Crigna, Principal**