



*École Pierre Elliott Trudeau School*

**GOVERNING BOARD AGENDA**

**January 11<sup>th</sup>, 2021 @ 7:00PM**

**Virtually on Microsoft TEAMS**

**Minutes taken by Jan Barbieri**

**Participants**

**Present: (16)**

**Parents:** Daniel Tatone, Jan Barbieri, Christi Milsom, Georges Mitchell, Jasmin Legatos, Jonathan Stein,

**Teachers:** Natasha Benvenuto, Laura Annie Bouffard, Mary Carone, Michael L'Altrella, Patty Foschi

**Other Staff:** Tanya Alvares, Mara Filippone, Maria Depalma

**Com. reps:** Jonathan Marciano

**Other:** Agostino Cannavino, commissioner

**Absent:** Kathleen de Melo (possibly wasn't sent the meeting link)

**1. Call to Order**

**1.1** The meeting was called to order by D. Tatone at 7:02 pm.

**1.2** D. Tatone welcomed new teacher member Michael L'Altrella.

**2. Adoption of Agenda**

**2.1** P. Foschi motioned to adopt the agenda, seconded by M. Carone. Agenda was adopted unanimously (0 nays, 0 abstentions).

**3. Approval of Minutes (December 7th, 2021)**

**3.1** D. Tatone reviewed the minutes.

**3.2** L.A. Bouffard motioned to approve the minutes, seconded by C. Milsom.

**Minutes approved unanimously (0 nays, 0 abstentions).**

#### 4. Business Arising from the Last Meeting

4.1 **Green Project:** D. Tatone updated progress on the green roof and beehive project.

**Green roof:** D. Tatone was unable reach any contractors since the last meeting. He will be meeting with the school board director generals this Thursday. They must assess if the building can structurally support a green roof, and they must review maintenance schedules and determine if there are other schools that have installed or are scheduled to install a green roof. **Beehive project:** D. Tatone presented cost estimates to install and maintain beehives: \$400 installation fee, and \$1,850 maintenance fee, which includes a visit by the beekeeper every three months and two educational and maintenance workshops. There are additional costs to customize the installation (e.g., installation of monitoring cameras). The green project subcommittee and the beehive supplier will present the project to school staff at an agreed date and time. A Doodle link for this meeting has been sent out. The possibility of starting a school garden will be addressed in the green project subcommittee. J. Marciano requested to be added to the subcommittee. L.A. Bouffard reported feedback from teachers about potential beehive installation on school grounds. The teachers expressed interest, but they would like to receive feedback from other schools who have installed hives to explore project benefits and challenges before deciding. They requested time to review the research that was done in previous years for a similar project. They will wait until pandemic situation stabilizes before taking next steps.

4.2 **COVID Update:** T. Alvares summarized COVID-related school news. Online learning is underway; 60+ devices for online learning were loaned to students before the holidays; a few children are using the emergency daycare service at the school. There were 51 students vaccinated through school in December; their second dose is scheduled for February 9. School will arrange transportation for the second doses as vaccination is once again offsite; information will be communicated to caregivers in advance. Rapid self-tests were distributed to all students before the holidays, with many thanks to school staff for facilitating quick distribution. The next shipment of rapid tests is scheduled to arrive at school January 17 for distribution on January 24 if in-person learning resumes next week. There have been no changes to rapid-testing policy for students who show symptoms during the

school day, but this could change. *Air quality*: CO2 detectors are installed throughout the school. School air quality was tested last year; the school board reported that the school passed inspection. Air purifiers were installed in classrooms in January 2021 and the gym has a separate mechanical ventilation system. Filters in all systems are changed four times a year by maintenance staff and are presently up to date; the most recent filter change was before the holidays. The next filter change will be mid-March/April 2022. Material Resources at the Board are responsible for providing the filters, and the same maintenance protocol is followed at every school. A. Cannavino commented that the air quality in our schools surpasses that of many schools in the French system.

**5. Question Period:** T. Alvares had no public correspondence to present.

**6. New Business**

**6.1 Replacement of Community Rep Member:** D. Tatone asked GB members to forward ideas for potential replacement community representatives. C. Milsom will try to contact the new manager of the park program across from the school.

**6.2 Calendar date changes** (report cards, teacher conferences and ped day): T. Alvares proposed several changes to the school calendar in February 2022. The government has allowed report cards to be pushed back from January 28 to February 11 due to online learning. Staff council has agreed to this change. Parent-teacher conferences must happen after report card distribution; the new date selected is Thursday, February 24. To accommodate this, the ped day will be moved from February 4 to February 25. **M. Carone motioned to approve the following school calendar changes: new report card due date of February 11; Cancel ped day Feb 4; New ped day Feb. 25; New parent-teacher conferences date of February 24. Motion was seconded by C. Milsom and passed unanimously (0 nays, 0 abstentions).**

**7. Reports**

**7.1 EMSB Parent's Committee Report:** D. Tatone had no new information to report. The Next meeting is Thursday, January 13.

**7.2 Commissioner's Report:** A. Cannavino provided an update on recent activities.

The poverty map which determines inner-city school status will be revamped in the

next few years; this may affect some schools in our territory. He also mentioned the recent JFK stabbing incident - thoughts are with the teacher, who is recovering well.

**7.3 Treasurer's Report:** C. Milsom presented J. Barbieri's suggestion to use some of the funds to create a field-trip assistance fund for students who need support to pay for field trips. She asked GB teacher representatives to inform the teachers about this fund, so that they can request funds if they have identified a student who needs assistance to pay for a field trip. T. Alvares supported the idea and raised some practical concerns for how this could be implemented. D. Tatone suggested \$500 for this fund. **J. Barbieri motioned to for \$500 of the GB treasury funds to be available to students who need financial assistance to attend field trips, seconded by P. Foschi. Motion approved unanimously (0 nays, 0 abstentions).**

**7.4 Principal's Report:** T. Alvares summarized recent activities. The early school closure before the holidays was abrupt, but staff did their best to minimize stress for the students. She thanked staff for helping to distribute the rapid test kits so quickly. Activities such as distribution of ornament gifts and Brunch with Santa will be given to the students later this year when in-person learning resumes. Health and safety for a return to in-person learning is the top priority. Online learning is going well, and daycare educators are on-site and online as needed. She thanked staff and parents for supporting students during this time.

**7.5 Teacher's Report:** P Foschi reported on pre-break activities. Holiday activities before the break were designed to promote school spirit and lighten mood. Some holiday activities couldn't be completed because of the early school closure before the holiday break; however, the scavenger hunt and North Pole dress-up day were successful and fun for staff and students. She thanked J. Marciano for supplying treats for the children. M. Carone informed GB that the Build a Bear workshop originally scheduled for Dec. 22 was canceled due to school being closed on that day. They will be looking for an alternative date to conduct the workshop when in-person classes resume.

**7.6 PPO Report:** T. Alvares had no recent activities to report. The next PPO meeting is next week. Staff appreciation is the next upcoming event, scheduled for February.

**7.7 Grad Committee:** T. Alvares had no recent activities to report. The next meeting is tomorrow. The committee will explore flexible options for grad activities given the unstable nature of the pandemic. She thanked M. Patrick and Ms. Jennifer for

proposing some creative solutions, such as offering graduating students a full fun-day offsite, to mark the occasion in a safe and special way. Funds raised will pay for all fun-day activities for each grade 6 student.

**7.8 Daycare/Lunch Report:** M. Filippone presented upcoming daycare events. There are two days on Jan 19 and 24, and approximately one to four students are presently using the emergency daycare services.

## **8. Varia**

**8.1 Topics for next GB meeting:** T. Alvares will be discussing the sex education plan at the next GB meeting. This plan will be almost the same as last year because the government has not added any new subjects. However, this year professional staff will be invited to support teachers on certain topics. She will also be discussing an app that tracks bus arrivals/delays and students' entry and exit of the bus so that parents can see when their children have arrived at school and home on the bus.

**9. Date of Next Meeting:** February 1, 2022

## **10. Adjournment**

10.1 The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 pm by D. Tatone.

**Email correspondence, January 13, 2022, Open House 2022:** T. Alvares updated on the upcoming Open House 2022. School Staff Council decided to move Open House from Tues., Jan. 18 to Tues., Jan. 25 at 7 pm. If in-person learning resumes, videos/pictures will be taken during the day live and/or posted. The Open House will be virtual, similar to last year (link to last year's Open House: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yRtwRIco1i8>). This change does not affect the school calendar.