

Westmount Park School

Governing Board agenda

12th Jan 2021

Invited

Marco Gagliardi - mgagliardi@emsb.qc.ca

Veronique Lescaut - veroniquelescaut@yahoo.fr

Shalani Bel - shalanialisharan@hotmail.com

Marcel Proulx - MARCEL.PROULX@GMAIL.COM

Nicholas Lalli nicholaslalli@hotmail.com

Kathleen Rooney KROONEY@emsb.qc.ca

Christine Vidale CVidal@emsb.qc.ca

Kusiewicz, Holly HKUSIEWICZ@emsb.qc.ca

Iammarrone, Giovanni Glamarrone@emsb.qc.ca

Jennifer Maxwell - jennifermxwell@tyndalestgeorges.com

Mete Deborah DMete@emsb.qc.ca

Update: Tzafaris, Elpida "Miss Hope" is filling in for Giovanni who is away for 5 weeks.

1. Welcome

1.1- Public Question Period

No questions submitted. The agenda was posted to the school website (?), and parents will be instructed to send questions to Veronique.

1.2- Additions to the Agenda

None

1.3- Approval of the Agenda

Shalani moved to approve. Deborah seconded. Approved.

1.4 Approval of the December Minutes

Marcel moved to approve. Veronique seconded. Approved.

2. Business arising from the minutes

None

3. Business requiring approval

None

4. Items requiring discussion

4.1 – COVID update

School resumed on Monday Jan. 11th. Major change is the masks: Grade 5 & 6 students now have to wear masks in class as well as in common areas (hallway, daycare, school bus). Grades 1-4 must now wear masks in common areas. PreK and K is optional. If students forget the mask, the school will provide one. No requirement on the type of mask needed for students.

Re lunch, students remove mask and stay within class cohorts. If class is mixed for lunch e.g. in a pre-K level at South Campus, then 2m distance is needed and this is possible in the small group preK/K.

Specific questions to be addressed:

How does the school manage children who chose to travel during the holidays?

Families who travelled internationally must follow public health guidelines on their return and have so far been good about sharing information with school.

How do teachers and school staff fall in the vaccination priority list?

They are prioritized over other people in their age group but not together with healthcare workers. Marcel and Shalani will raise this issue with the EMSB Parents' Committee to continue advocating for teachers and school staff to be treated as essential care workers.

How will exams be managed?

It is status quo. Ministry exams have been cancelled.

One parent asking how they can keep their child online as they are not comfortable sending their child to school?

Only way to do this is to homeschool, and then the family would not have access to online lessons.

4.3 Winter – update on ventilation?

All installed at North campus and Marco verified that they are functioning correctly; will be installed at South campus on Wed. 13th Jan. This is 1 month ahead of schedule. WPS has fixed units in both buildings. Movable air purifiers can compromise effectiveness if moved to wrong location. Will not need to take to original campus when ready because mechanical ventilation was part of renovation.

Material resources department of EMSB is responsible for both installation of air purifiers and the renovations.

4.2 – Renovation update – Contractor presentation?

Project manager and head of Department of Material Resources were unavailable for this meeting but could be present on Feb. 9th. They worked throughout the holidays, are doing double shifts, and have not been mandated to stop.

Registration for the 21-22 school year has already begun and the school is informing families that we should be back at the original campus, but registering them in the separate campuses. These buildings are available to WPS if the renovated school is not ready in time.

4.4 Drop off or pick up update? No change.

4.5 Update on what to do with the PPO money? Will confirm after council meeting but feeling is to roll it over to next year

4.6 Survey sent out from EMSB.

Marco can only send information such as the parent survey if it is approved by EMSB. The most recent one was from the English Parents Committee President who also serves on the EMSB Parents' Committee. Discussion about whether the GB can approve a communication to parents – not possible in this case – and other ways to communicate with the parents.

4.7 Update on how parents can find out about comms from governing board?

5. Reports

5.1 Regional Parent Committee Report

Next meeting on Jan. 14th

5.2 Teacher's Report

Online Learning:

· Although online learning not ideal, all of the teachers did their best to support their students

In-School Learning:

· Even though the COVID-19 situation in Montreal is at its worst so far in the pandemic, teachers are doing their best to keep school as normal and engaging as possible

Teacher Contract Negotiations:

· Teachers are still in contract negotiations with the provincial government

· An unwillingness to meet any demands that will lead to improved working conditions for teachers and, most importantly, better conditions for the students to learn and thrive, has led to a "work to rule" mandate.

· All members of the Montreal Teachers Association (local) and Quebec Provincial Teachers Association (provincial) voted on the mandate as follows:

-Only respond to messages and emails during working hours: 7h30-15h30

-Work on assigned tasks only during working hours (including remote teaching)

-Not writing any comments on report cards

· The above restrictions are in place to emphasize the amount of personal time (unpaid) that a teacher works to try to meet the demands of their job. Moving forward, the teachers hope to have the support of the parents. Please share any questions or concerns with us.

Discussion about contract negotiations with teachers' union and possible strike. Parents would like to know how they can express support for teachers especially regarding the working conditions. If it is not possible to make an official statement from the GB, then we will seek other avenues through the EMSB PC or EPCA.

5.3 Daycare Report

Students remaining in their bubbles after school.

- Students in grades 5&6 mandatory masks at all times.
- Students in grades 1-4, masks are mandatory when travelling from one location to another, as well if they are in one location with another group.
- At the end of the day, when the groups merge into one location between 5:30-6:00 pm, all students must wear a mask.
- Pre-K&K, are not obliged to wear masks, it is up to the discretion of the parent(s)
- Ped- Day January 18th- Pyjama/Movie day
- Ped –Day January 29th- Making key chains

5.4 PPO Report

none

5.5 Principal's Report (covered under appropriate sections earlier)

Change in masks procedure:

Grade 5 and 6: Masks are now to be worn in class (and Daycare) as well as hallways and common areas.

Grades 1 to 4: Masks are to be worn in the halls and common areas of the school. Daycare, when 2m separation is not possible is considered a common area.

Pre-School (Pre-K & Kdg): If you wish to send your child with a mask it is fine but not mandatory.

***Please Note: Busses are considered 'common areas' so all students from grades 1 – 6 should be wearing their masks while travelling to and from school.

Air Purifiers:

The EMSB is proceeding with the installation of air purifiers in those classrooms not equipped with mechanical ventilation systems. Just over 800 units of the appropriate specifications have been ordered for installation in our schools. Practically all the necessary electrical and installation preparatory work has been completed. 330 units (all the EMSB has received to date) have been installed and, depending on the delivery schedule, we are on track to complete the installation of all units by the end of January, almost one month ahead of schedule. This EMSB initiative, which is estimated to cost \$1.75 million, is being financed by the EMSB.

North Campus completed over the break, South Campus to be completed January 13th 2021

After school homework program for Grades 3,4,5,6:

Homework assistance will be offered to students who need the additional support after school from Monday to Thursday for 1hr15 minutes each day.

Emergency daycare:

We operated Emergency daycare the week of January 4th, everything went well.

5.6? Commissioner's report

New Interim Director General Russell Copeman who was previously a MNA.

2 parts to contract negotiations

Black History Month

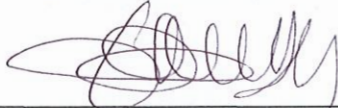
6. Varia

Ministry communication of free online tutoring called 'Learn'. Should we communicate this to parents? Website is learnquebec.ca

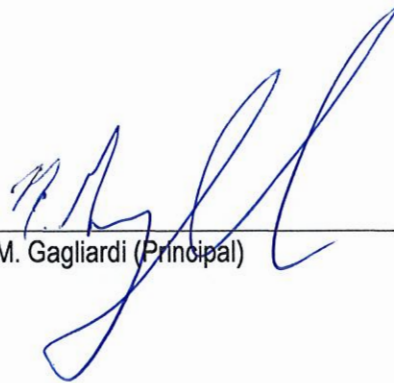
7. Date of next meeting: Feb. 9th

Adjournment

Marcel moved. Veronique Seconded.



V. Lescaut (GB Chair)



M. Gagliardi (Principal)