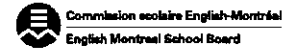




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Westmount Park School | Governing Board agenda

Virtual meeting minutes.

14th December 2021

Attendees: (Meeting began at 4:16pm)

- Giovanni Iammarrone (P)
- Holly Kusiewicz (VP)
- Kathleen Rooney (Teacher Member)
- Marie Alexiou (Teacher Member)
- Deborah Mete (Daycare Tech.)
- Shalani Bel (Parent Member)
- Nicholas Lalli (Parent Member)
- Abunaser (Rony) Wahed (Parent Member)
- Sophie Antippa (Alternate Parent Member)
- Eric Agulnik (Alternate Parent Member)
- Jennifer Maxwell (Community Rep.)

1. Welcome (10 minutes)

1.1 Public Question Period

Sherri Romas of Lifetouch photography suggested raising money for photobooks, to be discussed further and need more information on this.

1.2 Additions to the Agenda

None

1.3 Approval of the Agenda

Moved by Ms. Deborah and seconded by Ms. Marie. All in favour.

1.4 Approval of the November minutes

Moved by Nicolas and seconded by Deborah. All in favour.

2. Business arising from the minutes (5 minutes)

2.1 Ideas to use GB budget surplus \$786

-Rony requested teachers and school to submit some suggestions where they could best utilise the amount Mr. Giovanni said they could get back with some ideas.

-Some other ideas were kindergarten party and bring it to council.

-Nicolas suggested, a portion for non-academic scholarships, pizza party for the graduate students. There may be enough money for more than, this needs to be finalised in the next meeting.



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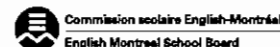
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3. Business requiring approval (10 minutes)

3.1 Sexuality and Education program

Moved by Rony and seconded by Kathleen -all in favour.

4. Items requiring discussion (40 minutes)

4.1 Communication (15 minutes)

- New email address for parents: governingboardwps@gmail.com
Shalani drafted a letter to parents from GB to be given in the new year.
Mr. Giovanni to send this letter to all parents via email as it has read receipt feature to ensure all parents received the email and are aware of the platform which has been created for their voices to be heard.
- Welcome message/education campaign
Aim to send it before the next meeting.
- Teams site didn't work
Rony suggested using What's App for quick communication only not share documents but due to concerns of privacy it was agreed to stick with emails for now.

4.2 Covid update (10 minutes)

- Vaccinations on Dec. 7th
 - 156 students were able to get vaccinated. Some students did not get the vaccine due to being scared.
 - Students who did not get vaccinated (14 students) were encouraged by the nurse to book appointments.
 - Mr. Giovanni is waiting to hear back to see if there is a closer location for vaccines rather than going to Parc-Ex.
 - Rapid testing for all schools could be available. Waiting to get confirmation by email, hopefully by the end of the week.
- Travel restrictions for holidays
Mr. Giovanni advised US is exempted from quarantining and students under 12, if positive, have to follow 14 days quarantine.

4.3 Complaint procedures (15 minutes)

- Student ombudsman
 - Bill 9 highlights
 - Shalani discusses the proposal of the new bill from the minister that will be coming into effect.
 - Mr. Iammarrone explained the bill from the EMSB website.



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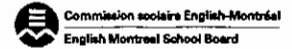
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- Policy on racial incidents
-Shalani submitted her opinion on how to go about sharing the information with parents so they have clear direction on procedure to follow to report racial incidents.

5. Reports (30 minutes)

5.1 Principal's Report

- Vaccination Day on December 7th went very well. CIUSS thanked the school for our collaboration.
- Holiday Breakfast for each Cycle on December 17th, December 21st and December 22nd
- Santa Clause will be visiting our Pre-school grades on December 17th during the Holiday Breakfast.
- Santa Clause Bus Physical Activity offered to our Pre-school grades at the end of the day on December 17th
- On December 13th, Global News came to our school to film Unique Tutoring's "Dog Therapy-Literacy Program" for our Cycle 1 classes. Report will be aired during holiday season; reported will email me informing me of date in which it will be aired.

5.2 Teacher's Report

- Food donations was a big success and all donations were much appreciated.
- Ministry coming to watch Ms. Jennifer's Pre-K lesson and everyone very proud and excited and looking forward to the event.
- Greeting to everyone for the holiday season.

5.3 Daycare Report

- Ped Day December 6, 2021 Holiday Tea lights
- Team building by Dynamics (Grade 1-4) Session 1 is over Session 2 will begin in January for Grades 5&6
- Students have been participating in Holiday activities with their educators.
- December 20th students will be participating in making pancakes with their educators.
- December 21st students will be participating in Holiday activities in the gym.
- December 22nd, students will be decorating individual cupcakes with their educators, and we will be having a holiday celebration in the gymnasium
- On behalf of the Base day care team, we would like to wish everyone a Happy Holidays and a Happy New year!



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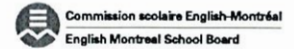
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5.4 Regional Parent Committee Report

- DEMYSTIFYING BILL 96 (30 MINUTES INCLUDING QUESTIONS)- EPCA & QESBA
Mr. Russel Copeman from the QESBA presented to the members some facts about bill 96 in order to assist members in understanding the bill.
- EXPLANATION WHY ADMIN IS NOT PRESENT/PC RESPONSE TO A LETTER/PARENT SUPPORT
On a motion from Daniel Tatone, seconded by Caleigh Saucier, the meeting moved in camera at 7:51 p.m. Vote: 37-1-1 Motion Carried.
- VACCINATION STATS IN HIGH SCHOOL
The members were advised that the vaccination stats for both elementary and high school are published on the website.
- EXPIRED RAPID TESTS
Michael Olewinski shared a concern that he had heard regarding the Government sending expired rapid covid tests to schools. Michael Olewinski asked that school please check the date on the tests. Brigida Sellato stated that the right avenue for these types of concerns is to start with the Principal and then go to the Regional Director's Office but that she would let Administration know the concern as well.
- Anti-Racism Subcommittee Report - Please see attachment 1.
- Low-Enrolment Subcommittee Report - Please see attachment 2.

5.5 PPO Report

- Chairs, W. Epstein and C. Guerard met with administration on November 25th to discuss plans for P.P.O
- In person meeting on January 13th time to be discussed for the organization committee of the PPO.

IDEAS FOR 2021-2022 SCHOOL YEAR

- Pizza lunch (dates to be determined)
- Potential Movie night in the gym if logistics can work with COVID school regulations.
- End of year BBQ - Carnival theme (details TBC), an event to celebrate the year being under one school again.
- Supply volunteers when required for school functions.
- Sell Westmount Elementary branded t-shirts.

6. Varia

7. Date of next meeting January 11th, 4:15pm

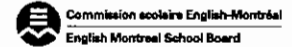
Adjournment

Shaloni Bel
SHALONI BEL
GOVERNING BOARD CHAIR

Giovanni Immorcy
Interim Principal - Giovanni Immorcy



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Attachment 1:

Regional Parent Committee Report on:

Anti-Racism Subcommittee Report

EMSBC meeting #03, December 2, 2021

The ARSC held their first "official" meeting of the year on November 11th, with new member Helene Zereik, delegate from Cedarcrest, and 7 returning members. For year 2 of the ARSC, Gloria Lombardi and Tina Oponng remain Co-Chairs; Caleigh Saugier has offered to step into the role of Treasurer; Melissa Alexis is Secretary (shared responsibility); Shafani Bel has accepted the role of Communications Officer; Gloria Lombardi will continue as Visual Director; and consensus was had on the subject of BIPOC members being prioritized for EMSBPC speaking roles. Katherine Korakakis has rejoined the subcommittee as a supporting member. New observing and supporting members were welcomed: Tracy Lyall, delegate from Willingdon Elementary; and Alessandra Traversari, EMSB teacher at Sir Mortimer B. Davis, who has offered to take on the role of "Admin Assistant" and Secretary. This particular meeting marked the official welcome of Otis Delaney, principal at Cedarcrest Elementary, as the EMSB staff liaison to the ARSC.

Meeting dates have not been confirmed, however the goal is to hold them on Zoom, one week following PC meetings.

A revision was made to the fourth point of the ARSC Internal Rules.

4. Respect the Codes of Conduct

- 4.1. The ARSC chairperson(s) reserves the right to dismiss a member from the subcommittee should they disagree or fail to adhere to the Codes of Conduct.
- 4.2. The chairperson(s) shall issue a maximum of two (2) warnings: Upon first offense, a verbal warning will be issued privately via phone or virtual meeting, followed by a written confirmation of the warning and/or agreement. Upon second offense, a final written warning will be issued via email.
- 4.3. If a third incident should occur, the chairperson(s) shall accept the offending member's resignation and assume the task of integrating a replacement member, if needed.

Following the funeral for Jannai Dopwell-Bailey, the subcommittee hopes to aid in the organisation of a memorial, whether it be a poetry slam/rap battle event or a scholarship in his name. More on this to come.

The ARSC - in large part with Otis Delaney's help - has assembled a list of resources for Black families with the hopes of them being added to the EMSB website. The list contains contact information for counselors, advocates, and mental healthcare professionals in Montreal. We will share the link once it has been vetted and added by the EMSB.

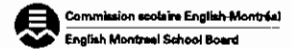
The ARSC has taken on a strategic plan project, based on a list of topics that have been brought forward by the members. The goal is to research and collect data, where applicable, and return to the ARSC (and subsequently, the EMSBPC) with a suggested action plan for said topic. E.g. What is the protocol for the school admin calling the police when a student is in distress?

A follow-up was also done for the questions asked at the November EMSBPC meeting by Dr Nanre Nafziger, so that they may receive the appropriate responses required by the EMSB.

Plans for future Toolkits were discussed and the next themes coming in January are: *Islam & Islamophobia* and *Judaism & Antisemitism*. Any parent who would like to suggest a theme or resource for our toolkits can contact a chairperson for more information.



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Attachment 2:

Regional Parent Committee Report on: Low-Enrolment Subcommittee Report

The Low-enrolment subcommittee met on November 17, 2021. The first order of business was to change the subcommittee's name to the EMSB PC Enrolment Focus Group, which removes stigma of "low enrolment", better reflects the sharing of best practices and ideas, and reflects a range of situations and issues across the board, including low enrolment and schools that are overcapacity.

Mike Cohen, EMSB marketing manager attended a portion of the meeting and shared some data with us comparing the school board population in 2021 vs. 2020. Overall, the youth sector lost 166 students compared with last year; the total number of youth sector students this year is 18,425. There was a net loss of 134 students in elementary schools, and 81 for high schools, and a gain of 49 students in Secondary outreach and social affairs schools. There were some worrying numbers, such as Dante losing 46 students, Honore Mercier 17, PDC 21, GMS 24, Gardenview 31, Bancroft and Royal Vale each losing 17, Cedarcrest and Edinburg losing 21-22 students. On the other hand, enrolment at Michelangelo went up by 22, Westmount Park 38, Nesbitt 17, Carlyle 19, Dalkeith 24. In the high school sector, the biggest loss occurred at LMAC, 114 students followed by Royal West 30, but Rosemount High gained 30 students and Westmount high gained 40.

The main theme for discussion was How can parents help market their schools? Pardis Zarnegar, a parent at Nesbitt Elementary School shared with us that she created a pamphlet to advertise their open house and distributed them at 95 daycares on Nesbitt's very, very big territory. It seems to have paid off because they experienced a bump in enrolment this year.

Dunrae Gardens has very active parent volunteers and Paula Kilian shared her perspectives on marketing. In 2013 she herself became hooked onto the EMSB because of the bilingual programs and she became quite an activist for the enrolment cause. In 2013 very few people talked about Dunrae Gardens, with TMR residents having English eligibility certificates favoring instead the many French schools in the area. Paula started a marketing committee years ago, which was heavily supported by the PPO. The school did not have funds for marketing or revamping the website, so the PPO holds opaghattata fundraisers to raise funds for marketing, which goes into developing flyers, taking ads in the local papers. A parent writes articles every year about Dunrae Gardens or special events at the school for the local paper. Dunrae Gardens parents have done a fantastic job of creating buzz about the school - their main focus was to get people talking about Dunrae Gardens. In 2013 about 30% of the Dunrae population was from TMR, now it's much higher and it's attributed to the efforts of the parents. Parent volunteers engage one on one with parents who come to Dunrae's open houses.

Some observations:

- Buy in from principals and staff is important for effective marketing.
- Parents are valuable ambassadors for their schools.
- Board decisions like redrawing the territory can have a negative impact for some schools, which was the case for Dunrae in 2012-13 where they lost 100 students.
- Word of mouth is a very effective tool in increasing enrolment, EMSB bashing on the other hand is a repellent.
- The question of funding for marketing in school budgets is one that needs to be examined more closely.

There was also a discussion about focusing on unique features of school programs as a marketing advantage. For example, Gerald McShane is the only elementary school with a sports concentration

program and also has a French immersion program. Other schools in the area offer a hockey program but is limited to extracurricular activities. A social media campaign emphasizing GMS' sports concentration program may prove effective. GMS reported that they have recently created a flyer to advertise their open house and the unique program features.

All delegates and alternates are welcome to attend meetings of the EMSB PC Enrolment Focus Group. The next meeting will be scheduled for January and will primarily focus on high schools.