



École Westmount Park School
15 Park Place
Westmount, QC H3Z 2K4
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Westmount Park School | Governing Board agenda

8th February 2022

Attendees: (Meeting began at 4:16pm)

- Giovanni Iammarrone (P)
- Holly Kusiewicz (VP)
- Kathleen Rooney (Teacher Member)
- Marie Alexiou (Teacher Member)
- Deborah Mete (Daycare Member)
- Shalani Bel (Parent Member)
- Eric Agulnik (Alternate Parent Member, joined at 4:25pm)
- Rony Wahed (Parent Member)
- Jennifer Maxwell (Community Rep.)
- Julien Rolf Feldman (Commissioner)
- Sophie Antippa (Alternante Parent Member, joined at 4 :49pm)
- Véronique Lesceault (Parent Member, joined at 4:37pm)
- Pianese, Sabrina
- Abo Asali, Mais Student
- John Kaiya Jaenelle Student

1. Welcome (24 minutes)

1.1 Additions to the Agenda (1 minute)
None

1.2 Approval of the Agenda (1 minute)
Ms. Marie Moved, Ms. Deborah seconded, no obtainments no questions, all in favour - Unanimous approval

1.3 Approval of the January minutes (2 minutes)
Ms. Deborah moved, Shalani seconded, no obtainments no questions, all in favour - Unanimous approval

1.4 Public Question Period (20 minutes)

- Grade 6 Teddy Bear for Refugees project

Mais and Kaiya represented their “Teddy Bear for Refugees project” and read the story with the GB and they will share the letter with the GB to increase awareness. The GB sincerely appreciated their time and objective and welcomes them and others to join GB meetings with such matters whenever possible.

- Commissioner Julien Ward

Mr. Julien Feldman talked about his background. He also spoke about the school and the experience and challenges during the school renovation work and the school splitting into two. He also appreciated the pace at which the renovation works took place and an all-round thank you and appreciation to everyone contribution. Also spoke about class 2K. Discussions also took place about the student numbers. J. Feldman shared community concerns about level of French/FSL Program.



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- Move into a new direction (regarding French program). Brought up St.Gabriel situation
- Iammarrone thanked Council of Commissioners for support
- M.Alexiou asked about class d'accueil. J.Feldman explained
- J.Feldman explained stance on Bill 21 (using Sec.23 of Charter)
- Iammarrone explained how some parents fear English Core program less than French Immersion Program
 - explained how teachers do an amazing job with teaching French
 - Hired tutors for French
 - Additional French Professional development opportunities to be explored
 - stated enrollment of 507. Drop could be attributed to COVID, Move into 2 campuses back in 2019

- Lockdown drill

Email was sent to the GB parents' email account. Mr. Iammarrone provided feedback on a response for the email and Ms. Shalani provided a written response to the parent. Parents will be given at least a weeks' notice to prepare and make students aware about the lockdown drill.

2. Business arising from the minutes (6 minutes)

2.1 Selection criteria for scholarships

Tabling this for next meeting due to time.

3. Business requiring approval (20 minutes)

3.1 GB contribution to teacher appreciation week

GB approves \$100 for teachers' appreciation week through surprise presents on behalf of all parents to the teachers and support staff of the school for the work they do every day. This amount will be used to get presents later.

3.2 Report and Resolution on MEQ Protected Measures 2021-2022

Mr. Iammarrone displayed the report and explained the details of the report and resolution on MEQ Protected Measures 2021-2022 school year. Explained the amounts that needed verification. Mr. Iammarrone will be sending an email out to the team with further details on the report and resolution. Ms. Marie moved, Mr. Eric seconded it, no objections no questions, all in favour - Unanimous approval.

4. Items requiring discussion (25 minutes)

4.1 Communication (5 minutes)

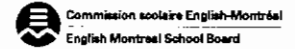
- Sending GB email over Dojo and/or in handouts?

governingboardwps@gmail.com

Mr. Iammarrone, said to send the same email every month as frequent reminders. Teachers can send blurb on Class Dojo also low-tech green paper handouts will also be submitted to parents by Mr. Iammarrone in our aim to give parents a platform to communicate with the GB and the school.



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4.2 Covid update (15 minutes)

- Absence reporting tool
 - Cases by class or grade?
Cases reported on EMSB site (as explained in Iammarrone email to community) by grade
 - Are parents still notified of a positive case in the class?
Yes
- Last minute cancellation of buses
It has not happened and bus cancellations not an issue.

4.3 Enrolment (5 minutes)

- How does the registration compare to previous years currently?
Enrolment at 507. Iammarrone re-explained factors that could have affected enrolment. Room for growth due to the 9 classes in the basement (approximately 20 students per class=180). There are many factors that can affect enrolment e.g., increase in temporary foreign workers in Montreal, word of mouth has historically been good promoting factors, etc.

5. Reports (25 minutes)

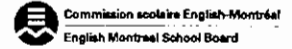
5.1 Principal's Report

- WPS allocated 2 Pre-K (K4) classes for 2022-2023
- Black History Month being celebrated at WPS:
 - Schoolwide historical timelines that cover approximately 400 years and 15 steps. Will cover the tribulations, accomplishments, and contributions of the Black community. Classrooms will either create a door mural, mural, or class project which other students will get to see/visit which will allow them to learn from one another.
 - A book and read aloud activity where students can contribute to a discussion. Ask questions, reflect, and share ideas.
 - Black History Month presentation from Youth stars.
 - Spiritual Animator will be doing classroom presentations as well.

Author Ms. Akilah Newton will do a virtual presentation which will include "Meet The Author", read students passages from new books, and present her Canadian Black History Month activity book. Senior Classes will get to learn from her "Trailblazers" presentation.



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5.2 Teacher's Report

School-wide events:

- School-wide project for Black History month: Creating a schoolwide historical timeline, covering a span of 400 years, with 15 stops along the way, one for each homeroom project. Each homeroom has been designated a "Project Story" which can creatively be interpreted with students. At the end of February, all classes will have the opportunity to learn off one another by paying a covid friendly visit to the classrooms to see what project/door/play or art piece each class did. Extra Curricular Activities
- Chess Club resumed, and 4 students are now advancing to the semi-finals this week. Other Literacy program with the dog therapy ended this month. Students went home with books that they wrote and illustrated. Ms. Sabrina's grade 6 class (314) continues with the Dolls of Hope project for Refugees, and will expand the project further by asking for school-wide support. They are speaking at the February Governing Board meeting, and hope to spread awareness and gain support for this initiative. Their goal is to make and send out at least 100 toy bears to the Dolls of Hope organization by May 2, 2022. Please see attachment for the "Dolls of hope handout"

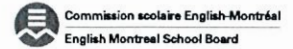
5.3 Day care Report

- February 14th Ped Day Activity: dressing in red, pink or purple, decorating heart shaped cookies. Students will be picking a secret valentine, and making a bracelet or key chain for them, and giving it to them at the end of the day.
- February 18th Ped Day Activity: Making Tie Dye T-shirts. Students will be asked to bring in a plain white T-Shirt, and they will be creating different patterns of tie dye with the help of their educator.
- Grades 5&6's are participating in a contest called BOKS CANADA. The program allows students to get physically active. It also allows them to work in teams, improves their memory and concentration, as well as social and emotional development such as learning to share and negotiate. We are currently 7 Base daycares participating after school. Those who are participating, send photos to EMSB BASE DAYCARE, of the challenging games they engage in. At the end of the contest, a school will be chosen as the winner, and receives a package of gross motor materials for the gymnasium and outdoors.

We are cheering for WPS DAYCARE!!!



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5.4 Parent Committee Report

Ms. Shalani presented the following matters in her PC report.

- Presentation and invitation to provide feedback on renewed status of 240 schools. These schools have a special status or project allowing them to be selective in the public-school context. There are two 240 EMSB high schools in the West End - Royal Vale and Royal West - and there is debate about whether the school admission procedures/demographics/culture are sufficiently diverse and equitable. Our commissioner, Julien Feldman, is committed to addressing the inequities in these schools, and he raises these issues at the Council and on the Equity committee.
- Continued discussion about internal rules and complaint procedures especially for sensitive issues such as racial discrimination (from the January meeting) and sexual harassment/assault (from the February meeting). Parents requested a workshop to get more information on how to identify grooming behaviour. We formed a committee to discuss other methods of prevention.
- Concerns about the return to in person learning. Parents are particularly worried about the new case reporting by grade instead of by class, and self-reporting by parents so there is the possibility some won't; the delay of report cards to mid February when they were already reduced from 3 to 2 in this year - this is particularly difficult for parents of students with special needs who feel that there is not enough time to react with tutors or other supports if learning in February that their child is struggling; no K/N95 masks for teachers or high-risk students; no access to PCR tests. The PC resolved to write a letter to the minister summarizing these concerns.
- Introduced the budget building process to be discussed at the March meeting.

5.5 PPO Report

PPO chairs was approached and welcomed to provide \$100 to go toward teachers' appreciation week to express parents' appreciation for teachers all that they do.

6. Varia

Mr. Julien expressed his views on the matter of diversity and its importance in the schools to be well discussed in GB and school board meetings.

7. Date of next meeting March 8th, 4:15pm

Adjournment

Adjournment at 6:17 PM (M.Alexiou and D.Mete)

Shalani Bel
SHALANI BEL
GOVERNING BOARD
CHAIR

Shawn Lawrence
Interim Principal
Giovanni Iannarone