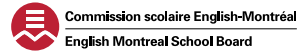




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Westmount Park School, Governing Board Agenda

November 28, 2023

Start time: 4:07pm

Present: Marco, Chrissy, Tina T., Christine P., Rony, Shalani, Mujdat, Cristina (joined at 5:05)

Missing: Deborah

1. Welcome:

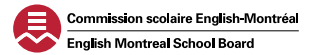
- 1.1 Public Question Period (No questions)
- 1.2 Additions to the Agenda
 - 3.3 Grade 6 Ottawa trip
- 1.3 Approval of the Agenda 1. Tina 2. Shalan Approved
- 1.4 Approval of the Oct Minutes 1. Tina 2. Shalani Approved

2. Business arising from the minutes:

- 2.1 Rules of Internal Procedures and Guidelines for Conduct
 - Rony asked if quorum is 3 of 4 parent members (as understood in the past) or 50% as stated in the internal rules. These rules were carried over from previous years so we can proceed with 50%.
 - Remove request for resignation and say only “attend meetings regularly”.
 - 1. Tina 2. Shalani All in favour, thus approved.
- 2.2 Parents communication tool survey to understand if present systems meet stakeholder needs
 - Shalani misses Class Dojo and many teachers also, but we are not allowed to use it.
 - Rony brought this up to PC last year, and ADG Pela’s response was that EMSB must go with Ministry-recommended – Mozaik
 - Marco agreed that WPS could create a survey for parents to assess satisfaction with Mozaik, identify needs, and look for alternatives.
- 2.3 Parents survey on dress code to have clear consensus
 - Agreed that no survey is needed. There have been no complaints or comments on the lack of dress code this year. Parents are indifferent on this matter and more concerned with bussing and the strikes.
- 2.4 Google reviews of WPS – what are the policies on official school repose to comments received?
 - The school does not receive notifications. EMSB will notify WPS if something needs addressing. Sometimes, IT and communications will respond themselves.



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Community can share anything worrisome with the school, and they will bring to EMSB attention.

3. Business requiring approval:

3.1 Anti-Bullying Anti-Violence Action Plan

Shalani shared concerns with the definition of bullying requiring a power imbalance; this could leave out several instances of peer bullying. WPS will share concerns with EMSB committee, but we can't change the definition as it was copied from a ministry document?

1. Tina 2. Mujdat All in favour, thus approved.

3.2 PPO would like approval to start an Instagram account to better advertise events and reach wider audience.

Marco shared concern about how members will use the Instagram account. WPS must be careful who is following and what is posted; protect confidentiality of students. Joanne Yu from PPO said that it will be used to promote events and show pictures of the PPO volunteers, not kids. Marco will work with PPO to set it up safely similar to the PPO Facebook group. They can create a protocol/internal rules for social media accounts. GB approval is not needed.

3.3 Grade 6 Ottawa trip

Friday May 3rd one-day trip for \$123 subsidized through school fundraising. Students to pay \$80 in 2 installments. For families in difficulty, we would look to support them at the school level.

1. Tina 2. Shalani All in favour, thus approved.

4. Items requiring discussion:

4.1 What can be done to further ensure safety of everyone due to increased vehicle mobility around school as a result of the bus strikes?

Requested public security at the arrival and dismissal of our students; they come 2-3x per week.

Encourage parents to use Melville entrance facing the field to spread out the crowd.

Park Place reserved for specialized bussing.

Parents can park at the Westmount Recreation Centre arena.

4.2 What is the status and updates on the bus strikes situation?

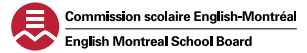
No news on the bus strikes. Parents can send complaints or questions to the EMSB transportation department.

Parents would like a contact person and clearer guidelines to complain about this ongoing issue.

4.3 School GB webpage has not been updated – Admin will do.



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4.4 Clothing swap especially of winter

This is possible but not before the holiday break. Last year's GB and PPO had wanted very much to do it for the winter but didn't plan far enough in advance. New strike action announced for Dec. 8th – 14th.

5. Reports:

5.1 Teacher's Report

K4

- K4 will participate in *Fishing For Food* nutrition workshops offered by the EMSB on January 9, 2024
- K4 will have applied to welcome puppeteer Jesse Stong for *Social Skills through Puppetry* workshops on January 15, 2024
- K4 is in the process of scheduling a series of Social Emotional Learning workshops with Amen Iseghohi

K5

- All of the students went trick-or-treating around the block at Ms Alex's house for some goodies on Oct 31st.
- We had a Diwali celebration; read a story and make a diya craft.
- We had a remembrance day ceremony with a moment of silence to remember the soldiers and we put the focus on peace with a song.
- Kind Kids social skills program has commenced.
- We had an author "visit" the K students who read her book and did a follow up activity in liaison.
- We have continued our literacy letter program, ending the week with a special celebration, activity and snack.

Grade 1

- Nutritionist came to speak to grade 1 classes about healthy eating and food groups
- UFLI reading program in full swing, students learning letter sound correspondence and strengthening early literacy skills
- Day of the Dead presentation in room 108 where students learned about this holiday and even tried their own pan de muertos bread from Cafe 98
- Room 208 and 108 visited Westmount Library and enjoyed a lovely story with the librarian Ms. Wendy.
- Students from Dawson College came to visit group 208 to animate fun movement games and songs with the students. Students had a great time!

Grade 2

- Halloween centers were a success. Students were mixed from each class and did five activities.
- Field trip to Mount Royal for outdoor education with Les Amis de la Montaigne / Ecole Montrealaise.
- Rooms 110 and 115 visited La Maison de Theatre.
- UFLI - pre-testing of reading skills have been done. Teachers will meet with the consultants to review results and form a plan of action.
- Guest speakers visited for Day of the Dead and Diwali.
- CRLT students from Dawson visited the classes for cooperative games.

Grade 3/4



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- Room 310 (Rise grade 3-4) and 313 (Rise Grade 5-6) Went to the Atwater Market to buy pumpkins. Students carved them and brought them home for Halloween.
- Room 310 Celebrated Day of the Dead and had their faces painted.
- All Grade 3s and 4s did Halloween stations. The students had a great time doing all sorts of cool activities.

Grade 5

- Grade 5 did their annual Halloween fundraiser, which was very successful . Grade 5 is having girls club on Mondays at lunch.

Grade 6

- Grade 6 students started Chill Zone, a 4-week program by the Trevor Williams Foundation that's aim is to help students recognize and manage their anger and frustrations.
- Room 309 had a special presentation about hearing loss in collaboration with the MOSD.
- All grade 6 classes participated in fun stations for Halloween, including Minute to Win it games, Bingo etc.
- Class 314 has started working on their handmade teddy bears to send out refugee camps as part of the Dolls of Hope charity project.

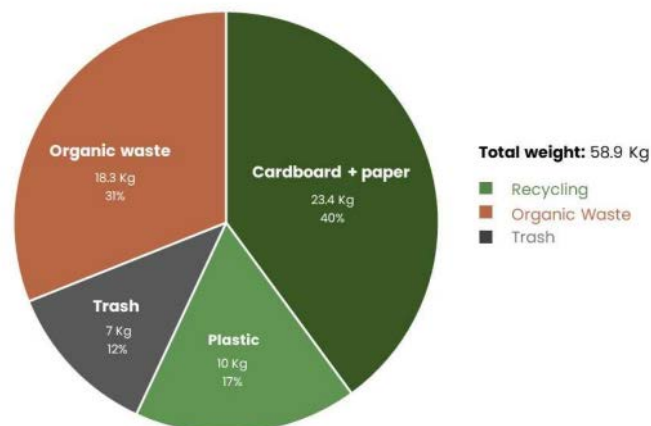
Specialists

- **Phys.Ed. - focus is on teamwork** - working on a games unit which includes Battleship, Star Wars etc.

School-Wide

- Compost Project : WPS has been collaborating with ENUF, an organization tackling the waste crisis in Montreal. They trained the student body on recycling, composting and landfill waste. They also conducted an initial audit prior to the implementation of our compost program to see where our waste is coming from and how to reduce it. The findings were as follows:
 - Implementing school-wide composting is the single biggest step Westmount Park Elementary School can take towards diverting waste from landfills.
 - We could divert 88% of the current trash by composting and recycling properly.

If you would like more information or the full audit report, please contact





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5.2 Daycare Report

*Ped Day Monday November 20th; daycare students participated in their first field trip to Zig zag Zoo amusement center. They enjoyed their time playing in the structures, participating in rock climbing, and dancing on colored squares to some wonderful music.

* Ped day Friday November 24th; students participated in creating and decorating personalized family picture frames to take home to their families.

*All students have been enjoying the weather outdoors and participating in sports activities in the gym organized by the daycare educators and ccw's.

Educators have been working together and planning special holiday activities for all our daycare students for the month of December.

5.3 Principal's Report

- Bus strike is ongoing. Will share information as we receive it
- Grade 3 orchestre symphonique of Montreal (Class field trip)
- Teacher strike Nov. 6th (midnight to 10:30am) and Nov. 21, 22, 23
- Picture day Nov. 8th; retakes and class photos Dec. 6th
- Remembrance day celebrations
- World diabetes day sessions
- Parent-teacher interviews on Nov. 20th went very well; online booking system also worked well
- Auditorium has been professionally cleaned and is ready for use

5.4 PPO Report

- Halloween face-painting and tattoos for students
- Cheering for Terry Fox run – good turnout
- Dec. 1st Movie night fundraiser in auditorium
- Dec. 7th Pizza day lunch

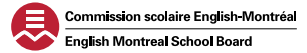
5.5 Regional Parent Committee Report

1. Take away points from presentation by Nathalie Lauzon on Bill 9 (National Student Ombudsman):

- Includes broad definition of “complaint” which encompasses the private sector
- 3 types of complaints: by student/parent, relating to sexual violence, by anyone else about school functioning)
- 4 stages to complaints
 - Stage 1 = verbal or written to local school administration, 10 business days to respond to the complaint internally



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- Stage 2 = online form (Aristotle system, accessed through EMSB website), 15 business days to respond
- Stage 3 = involvement of regional student ombudsman (only complaints relating to sexual violence bypass stages 1 and 2)
- Stage 4 = national student ombudsman (currently, only serving in French, working on English)
- Some schools have hired an independent ombudsman which can be useful especially if a conflict or interest exists with the regional student ombudsman (though they are expected to excuse themselves in that case)
- Can search “Protecteur National des Élèves” on Linked In to find full list of regional student ombudsman for each region
- Me Sarabeth Trudeau is the regional student ombudsman handling sexual violence complaints; described as respectful and thorough and able to investigate in English; comes for the health sector reportedly.
- EPCA website developed many tools to explain new Bill 9 process (videos, sample letters, etc.).

2. Certificates of English Eligibility

- Recent concerns regarding circumstances where students with English eligibility applying to cégep have had their certificates of eligibility revoked if their parents previously sent them to French schools.
- Unclear whether needs to be for “majority” of their education; criteria seem to be vague and ill-defined.
- EPCA submitting a request to the ministry for clarification.
- Concerned parents should be encouraged to contact EPCA.

3. Rosemont now has a music-étude concentration program; they are a non-sectorized high school.

4. Parents working for engineering companies such as Rolls Royce or Bombardier are encouraged to speak to their human resources department as apparently there is the possibility of receiving financial support to fund robotics projects in schools.



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5. A request is currently being made for holocaust education to be mandatory in Quebec schools (as is already the case in Ontario).

6. Discussions on optimizing enrollment and marketing:

- A guide from the EMSB will be redistributed to principals who manage the social media accounts of their schools.
- Idea of school ambassadors who can promote school in the neighbourhood.
- Idea of a subcommittee at the school on these topics.
- Can invite Mike Cohen from EMSB to come to governing board meeting to discuss strategies which may be more specific to our own schools.

7. Transportation

- Tracking cards rolled out to few schools who are piloting them.
- Made request for PC to address the lack of clear procedures on addressing transportation issues (chain of command, expected delays for processing and addressing of concerns, etc.).
- Was referred to use Bill 9 procedure to address this though some concerns expressed about the obstacle of transportation companies being a third party and not under the authority of the EMSB.
- Was referred to communicate these issues directly to principal and to use Bill 9 procedure if response was not satisfactory.
- Another delegate shared the name of Pietro Mercuri at the EMSB as being a helpful and efficient contact person for transportation issues.

8. EPCA

- Check website for many resources including seasonal topics (such as parent-teacher meeting tips, how to review an IEP, etc.).

9. Next meeting: December 7th, 2023

6. Varia:

7. Date of next meeting: Dec. 19th 2023

8. Adjournment: 1. Tina 2. Cristina