



Willingdon Governing Board Minutes

Monday, November 18, 2024

Meeting commences at 6:40 p.m.

Present: Halah Al-Ubaidi, Nick Batzios, Eugenia Carystios, Nadine Collins, Silvana Crigna, Kristy Cuevas, Jessica Doubt, Lynn Grunberg, Karen Kleihauer, Kristin McNeill, Karyn Moffatt, Laurice Morcos, Daniel Quinn, Kevin Reeves, Alex Ruaux, Sandy Sidhu, Nadine Thomas and Kathleen Usher.

Regrets: Felicia Maccio.

Minutes taken by Kristin McNeill.

1. Welcome and Land Acknowledgement

Read by Kathleen.

2. Approval of Agenda

Three items were added to New Business by Silvana: Game Time Sports (f), St. Monica Parish concert event (g) and field trips (h).

Moved by Karen K. and seconded by Kevin. Adopted unanimously.

3. Approval of Minutes of October 2, 2024 meeting.

Moved by Karen K. and seconded by Karyn M. Adopted unanimously.

4. Business Arising

- a. Results of two e-votes: the enrichment program and extra-curricular activities. Both were adopted unanimously.

Ratification of e-votes moved by Kathleen and seconded by Lynn. Adopted unanimously.

- b. Terrebonne bike path: Daniel shared the feedback that was generated via a Google Doc. questionnaire. There were few respondents, and the feedback was mixed.

-Silvana: Concerned about snow removal and the safety of children getting picked up by parents parked in the temporary pick-up zone and about cyclists not stopping.

-Halalah: Snow removal will not be an issue, according to the borough.

-Kathleen: Parking to be no worse than usual and cyclist behaviour was better than expected. She is happy to have observed students and their parents using it. She expressed frustration that the borough is not listening and suggested keeping a record of cyclist-related incidents.

-Alex: She and her kids have had near-misses with cyclists. Some sections are more dangerous. The school should have on record its views about the bike path.



- Laurice: Staff members are stressed about finding parking near Junior.
- Karen K: Suggested posting physical signs and on social media.
- Karen M.: ESMB PC advised members that a best practice for getting safety improvements implemented is showing up at borough council meetings and pressuring decision-makers.
- Kristy: Would it be helpful to have parent volunteers monitoring and eyewitness.
- Nick: Do the same laws apply to cyclists as motorists?

5. New Business

- a. Motion to approve the addition of an additional PED day on May 2.
Moved by Laurice and seconded by Alex. Adopted unanimously.
- b. Motion to approval a Canadian Red Cross babysitting workshop on January 24, 2025 at a cost of \$75/student for Grade 5 and 6 students who are 11 years and older.
Moved by Nick and seconded by Kristin. Adopted unanimously.
- c. Jessica reported that an in-person evening parent workshop, "Keeping Young Minds Engaged During the Winter Break" is being offered November 25 by Reclaim Literacy.
- d. Silvana reported that she received an email requesting an additional crossing guard at the Monkland and Royal intersection. The person considered the intersection dangerous and suggested that a crossing guard would benefit other schools besides Willingdon. Several GB members talked about their concerns about safety there.
- e. Scheduling of attestation day. A letter from a parent was presented, requesting that attestation day should not take place on the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, which always takes place on Sept. 30. Karyn M. asked for a motion to be presented. Silvana proposed that it be included with a letter to the EMSB Regional Director and that Karyn M. raise it at the EMSB PC.

Wording: In the spirit of a genuine commitment to reconciliation with the Indigenous peoples of Canada, we, the members of the Willingdon Governing Board, call upon the English Montreal School Board to request that the Ministère de l'Éducation change the school attestation date from September 30th to either October 1st or the first Monday of October.

Moved by Karyn M. and seconded by Kathleen.

- f. Silvana reported that Game Time Sports is offering co-ed extra-curricular basketball leagues for Cycle 2 and soccer for Cycle 3 for 8 weeks, starting Jan. 6, 2025, for a cost of



\$200. Kristy said that families could apply through the Family Support Fund, depending on cases and funds available.

Motion to approve offering the courses to the Willingdon community: *Moved by Kristin, and seconded by Nick. Abstention: Kathleen.*

- g. Silvana reported that St. Monica's Parish notified local schools of a benefit concert Nov. 24 to raise funds for the church's 75th anniversary and asked for help promoting event. The school can't and Kristy said neither can Home & School. It was decided that Willingdon would not send out anything official.
- h. Eugenia reported that field trips were being finalized with teachers, including some for Culture à l'école: Busing costs have remained. Kristy suggested it would be helpful to know the costs of the field trips ahead of time to budget for the Family Fund. Daniel wanted to acknowledge the work that goes into planning field trips. He also had concerns as a parent about Funtropolis or Grade 4 students. This was echoed by Karyn M. Karen K. said concussions are a consideration. Kristy suggested Musée des enfants as an alternative for Grade 4.

Motion to approve upcoming field trips: *Moved by Karen M. and seconded by Laurice.*

6. Question Period

None.

7. Reports: The following is based on written reports submitted and presented at the meeting:

- a. Principal: None.
- b. Vice-Principal (Junior Campus): Jessica reported:
 - Lunchtime programs are underway through *Rattrapage* budget, from weeks of Nov. 4 to Dec. 9. They are Lunch-Fun by Everblast and Mad Science Mania for Cycle 1 and 2.
- c. Vice-Principal (Senior Campus): Eugenia reported:
 - Lunchtime program Art Enrichment with Explorations one day a week each for Grade 5 and 6.
 - Sports Life Soccer lunchtime program for Grade 5 and 6.
 - THIS360 (social skills) for both grades in Cycle 3.
 - Enrichment program is underway with Camelia Birlean (EMSB Consultant) and Sarah Lubbe: Battle of the Books, Debating and Public Speaking, and Caribou math contests. For both grades.
 - ECAs are going smoothly. From *Enfant & Compagnie*, they are: Kidchef Global Cuisine (K5 to Grade 6), Kidscience (K5 to Grade 4), Cosom hockey (Grade 3-6), TBD: Fall art & creativity studio (K5 to Grade 6), and soccer tournament (K5 to Grade 2)



- October 8: Grade 4 Camp Trip to Les Camps Rep. Thank you to Ms. B. and participating teachers
- October 10: Cross-Country Run Part of Cycle 3. Thank you to Ms. B.
- October 25: School Photos
- October 28, 29: IEP preparation process
- October 30: Willingdon participation in the Launch Event of *Eva the Louse* (Some Cycle 3 students and graduates)
- October 31: Halloween activities at both campuses. Thank you to Home & School.
- November 7: *Je me souviens* Workshops for Cycle 2 and 3 students. Coordinated by Jessica Wilson, Personal Development and Community Involvement Animator, EMSB.
- Gr. 6 Science Hive to Honey Jar Workshops. Thank you to Dr. Kat.
- November 15: Term 1 Report Cards available to parents and IEPs sent home
- November 21: Parent Teacher Day
- November 25: Parent Literacy Workshop, 7 pm.

d. Home & School: Kristy reported:

- Halloween: Thanks to volunteers for this massive undertaking. Great feedback from staff, admin, kids. The pumpkin parade had a record-breaking 57 entries. The senior campus costume parade and movies were a hit. Senior students enjoyed having their own activities.
- Community Book Fair was successful with \$2,000 of sales (vs. approx. \$750 of rewards). We will continue to find ways to up the title selection for Senior Campus. Considering approaching local high schools to promote donations for future fairs.
- Holiday Market: November 23. Thank you to admin for supporting this endeavour. Will incl. Holiday Snap Shot on a donation basis. FB Event has been created to share within networks.
- Grad fundraising: One idea is grad swag: On-demand online sale of t-shirts, hoodies, tote bags featuring the graduating class' unique logo. Focus is on keeping our fundraising activities green, but parents from past graduating classes expressed interest in grad items for themselves. Alternatively, we could organize a "Willingdon 2025"-branded gear to the entire school community, capitalizing on a variation of the '25 grad logo. To be discussed with the Home & School team.
- Grad Committee will host a family movie night in the Senior campus gym, including a concession stand, targeting Gr. 4 to 6 families. Allows Grade 4 parents a sneak peak of Senior. Dates: TBD – targeting May 2025. Pay what you can at the door, \$2-\$3 concessions. Budget: \$250 for caretaker.
- Kristy asked how the provider for hot lunch is chosen? (Currently, it's Mini Bistro.) Silvana said it is EMSB and that H&S should send her a note about why a different provider should be considered.



- Kathleen applauded the eco changes H&S are bringing.
- e. Teachers/MTA
- For music, Nick reported that Thomas Macleay, a professional opera singer and dad of a Gr. 6 student gave a workshop on November 6 and will complete the presentation on Nov. 20 to all Grade 6 students and one Grade 5 class.
 - On Nov. 20, EMSB Marketing and Communications department came to record one of the Grade 6 classes with Mr. Macleay performing "Ode to Joy," a voluntary participation in the school board's current marketing campaign that focusses on music.
 - Grade 6 music club and grade 5 choir started rehearsing *Vois sur ton chemin* as well as other inspiring songs. They are also learning advanced songs on the recorder. And started composition with metallophones and xylophones and are continuing to work on beat and rhythm.
 - For science, Kathleen reported that Flavie Dupont gave a terrific workshop on the Boreal Forest and the Atikamekw to Grade 6.
 - Zoe Giasson from Alveole facilitated a Hive to Honey Jar workshop. Sale will take place in May.
 - Grade 4 is learning about waste management, which will be integrated this year into the Eco-School program.)
- f. B.A.S.E. Daycare: Nadine reported:
- BASE recently introduced the BRIKS Program for Grade 5 and 6 from Montreal Stem, once a week from Oct. 16 to Dec. 13.
 - Champions for Life and Coyote Program both end on Dec. 13 and resume Jan. 27, 2025.
 - Green Club ends on Dec. 16 and resumes Jan. 6, 2025.
 - Thank you for your ongoing support and commitment to B.A.S.E program.
 - Hop Hop will be put in motion for January. Right now, there is a technical issue.
- g. Parent Advisory Committee
- None.
- h. EMSB Parents' Committee Representative: Karyn M. reported:
- Truth & Reconciliation Day: Parents' perceptions of how this day is being recognized. Several resources were shared.
 - Road safety: Best practices were shared on how to successfully advocate for protection measures. One effective practice Willingdon may want to consider is direct advocacy via presentation at council meetings.
 - Parents Toolkit: A new set of resources is available for helping parents navigate common concerns: <https://www.emsb.qc.ca/emsb/community/parents/tool-kit>
 - GB Training: Helpful resources for understanding the GB role and responsibility <https://www.quebec.ca/en/education/preschool-elementary-and-secondary->



schools/school-governance/governing-boards/compulsory-training-governing-board-members.

- Website: Many concerns were raised about out-of-date websites. Kudos to Willingdon for recent efforts to update and correct information!
- Parent Seminar: Free webinar for parents with renowned expert Dr. Corinna Jenkins Tucker: Roots and Branches: Cultivating strong Sibling Bonds from Childhood Onwards (November 11 via Zoom) from EPCA. EPCA has additional upcoming seminars)

i. School Commissioner

None. New commissioner recently elected, Sharon Nelson, was not present.

- j. Community Representatives: Nadine C. and Hallah gave their report. It contained many items. Highlighted was the item on Biz NDG, two holiday parades. Nadine thanked Dr. Kat's Green Committee for winter clothing donations and their in-person visit. 132 families benefitted. She also thanked Carolyn's Toy Drive. Women on the Rise donated to Willingdon's book fair.

8. Varia

None.

9. Adjournment

8:33 pm

Motion to adjourn. Kathleen.

Principal Signature



Date: Jan 20, 2025

GB Chairperson Signature



Date: Jan 20, 2025