



Minutes of Governing Board Meeting Edinburgh Elementary School

Thursday, January 11 2023 at 7:00 p.m.
Virtual meeting on Microsoft Teams

We would like to acknowledge that Edinburgh School is located on unceded Indigenous lands. The Kanien'kehá:ka/Mohawk Nation is recognized as the traditional custodians of Tiohtià:ke/Montréal, which has long been a site of meeting and exchange for many First Nations and is currently home to diverse groups of Indigenous and other peoples. We are grateful to live, work, and learn here, and recognize the important role of education in reconciliation and in maintaining connections between the past, present, and future.

Present: Parents: Steven Szabo, Steven Muoio, Johanna Miller, Alessandra Cesari, Robyn Buckland Dalton, Anne-Marie Yaworski, Jean-Michel Brunet, Geneviève Guay, Geneviève Hébert, Pina Trengia, Abdelghafour El-Hama, Marco DeCrescentis, Stéphane Vaval

Absent: Catherine Brault

Guests: Vanessa Gangai

1. Welcome

Anne-Marie Yaworski (Chair) called this meeting to order at 7:04 pm

2. Adoption of agenda

First : Robyn Buckland Dalton

Second : Steven Muoio

Motion carries unanimously

3. Approval of Minutes of November 16, 2023

First : Robyn Dalton

Second : Alessandra Cesari

Motion carries unanimously

4. Business Arising from Previous Minutes (November 16, 2023)

4.1 Letter requesting crossing guard

Steven Szabo reports that there are no updates on this topic at this time

4.2 2023-2024 school budget update

The school budget is approved by the governing board

First : Anne-Marie Yaworski

Second : Alessandra Cesari

Motion carries unanimously

5. New Business

5.1 Edinburgh Educational Project

Mr.Sifoni provided GB with information on the school educational project including the results of the consultation with students and families.

A review of the academic objectives of the educational project was discussed (the uniform examination in math, targets for English language instruction)

Mr.Sifoni shared the results of the Our School Survey which assesses students perceptions of bullying, victimization, anxiety, and general school safety. Amongst other objectives of the educational project described there will be a focus on integrating more technology in the physical education setting.

First : Steven Muoio

Second : Robyn Buckland Dalton

Motion carries unanimously

5.2 Anti-violence anti-bullying plan (AVAB)

Mr.Sifoni presented the salient features of the AVAB which was previously referred to as the Safe School Action Plan. The document can be accessed via the school website under Parents/Standards and Procedures tabs.

First : Robyn Buckland Dalton

Second : Alessandra Cesari

Motion carries unanimously

5.3 Criteria for selection of principal

After a brief explanation of the purpose of establishing the criteria for selection of principal by the governing board chair Anne-Marie Yaworski the criteria in the document presented to GB was approved.

First : Robyn Buckland Dalton

Second : Alessandra Cesari

Motion carries unanimously

5.4 School trips

There are no additional school trips to discuss at this moment.

5.5 Upcoming fundraisers

There are no additional upcoming fundraisers to discuss at this moment.

6 Reports

6.1 Principal's report

Mr. Sifoni summarized numerous activities and interesting developments at Edinburgh elementary school. :

a. sold out crowd at Movie Night hosted by Home and School in the spacious Edinburgh gym on Friday November 17th

b. the transformation of the gym into the first ever BASE Café and book fair run entirely by the students with the loving support of the BASE staff

c. the much-anticipated holiday concert showcasing the extraordinary success of music education at Edinburgh under the guidance of the music teacher Mr. Radu

d. the removal of the modulares which took place at the end of November 2023.

Additionally, Mr. Sifoni will continue to take advantage of IT applications (web-based programs) to facilitate various administrative functions at Edinburgh such as on-line booking for parent teacher interviews, registration of new students, and using social media to promote and market Edinburgh School to the families that meet eligibility for EMSB services

6.2 Commissioner

No report available

6.3 Treasurer

There is a balance of 182\$.

6.4 EMSB Parents Committee delegate

No report available

6.5 Teacher's Report

M. Brunet shared his report with the GB. Teachers are very happy to be back to teaching after many weeks of negotiations between teachers and government representatives. Recently major funding was announced to provide extra support to students to catch up. These funds will target schools which were closed for a prolonged period and thus Edinburgh does not meet that criteria. M. Brunet reports that Edinburgh students will be participating in a Junior Peacemakers program whereby students will learn about global citizenship. Topics covered are human rights, conflict resolution, and how to be an advocate. M. Brunet informed the GB that Edinburgh Grade 5&6 students will be participating in a story festival. Students will develop and tell their story and the winner as selected by their peers will go on to present to a larger audience in competition with other schools. M. Abdelghafour is working diligently to prepare students for the Exposcience taking place at Royal West this coming March 21st, 2024. Winter carnival festival is fast approaching and due to our mild 2023/2024 winter season and increased costs of field trips students will instead enjoy a week full of carnival inspired activities taking place at the school.

6.6 Home and School liaison

Vanessa Gangai reviewed the many activities that Home and School has hosted. The movie night was very popular and back by popular demande. The fall fundraisers have been successful at raising money for books for the school library. Home and School hosted a holiday lunch for the teachers and staff at Edinburgh. Many thanks to the parents volunteers for contributing food and support to this event. Home and School will be organizing other activities focussed on teacher appreciation in the next months.

6.7 BASE

Mr. Marco DeCrescentis reported that the funds raised from the Edinburgh Eatery activity were used to purchase over 70 toys for the local Carolyn's Toy Drive. Many thanks are owed to the students who participated in making the event a success as well as the parents who contributed baked goods. Themes at BASE this winter season will be science based (growing and harvesting lettuce) and community oriented (Annual Heart to Heart project to benefit Montreal Children's Hospital). Upcoming ped days will provide students with various opportunities to learn about science (archeology theme), play a team sport, and also participate in a cooking class. In addition BASE will be hosting a Lip Sync Contest for the grade 4,5,and 6 students. As of January 19th students will be playing a different sport every Friday. As February is Black History Month – students at BASE will learn about key figures in black history.

7.Varia

Anne Marie Yaworski wishes to thank Edinburgh staff and students involved in the Makers Making Change project whereby students assembled *adapted switches* which were then donated to the Mackay School. Ms. Yaworski estimates that these devices which significantly improve a child's ability to communicate with their surroundings are highly valuable. The donation of these devices is making a significant impact on the children at MacKay school.

8. No correspondence for review

9. No questions were asked during the questions period.

10. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned.

First : Robyn Buckland Dalton

Second : Jean Michel Brunet

Motion carries unanimously

Next meeting to be determined according to interim principal availability