

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE GOVERNING BOARD

March 19, 2024

Present

Sam Servello (Principal), Scott Thompson, Eliane Shrybman, Carla Lioni (teachers), Robert Lennox (Chair) Melissa Robertson, Andrea Gruia (parents), Kate Marien (support staff), Ekaterina Valkova-Damova (Librarian/Community Representative)

Regrets:

Lori Press, Louisa Jaslow (parents), Joseph Lalla (Commissioner)

1.0 Land Acknowledgement

I would like to acknowledge that Elizabeth Ballantyne School is located on unceded Indigenous lands. The Kanien'kehà:ka Nation is recognized as the custodians of the lands and waters on which we gather today. Tiohtià:ke/Montreal is historically known as a gathering place for many First Nations. Today, it is home to a diverse population of Indigenous and other peoples. We respect the continued connections with the past, present, and future in our ongoing relationships with Indigenous and other peoples within the Montreal community.

2.0 Adoption of the Agenda

On motion duly made (C Lioni) and seconded (M Robertson) it was unanimously resolved to adopt the agenda as presented.

3.0 Approval of the minutes of January 16, 2024

On motion duly made (E Shrybman) and seconded (M Robertson), it was unanimously resolved to approve the minutes of the meeting of January 16, 2024.

4.0 Business Arising

4.1 Formation of PPO/Home & School

R Lennox outlined the need for parent participation, he is hoping to get something organized in April so that a parent group will be in place for the beginning of the 2024-2025 school year. He will reach out on Meal Train to see if there is any interest. S Servello briefly explained the difference between a Parent Participation Organization and a Home & School Association.

4.2 TCBY, Family BBQ, other activities for parents

There was discussion regarding the various activities that require parent volunteers e.g. pizza lunch, TCBY, family BBQ, Graduation and the Music Concert.

5.0 New Business

5.1 Approval of Educational Project

S Servello went through the document in detail, which was distributed prior to the meeting.

On motion duly made (S Thompson) and seconded (M Robertson), it was unanimously resolved to approve the Education Project as presented.

5.2 Consultation on instructional material for 2024-2025

This item is tabled for the next meeting.

5.3 Review Governing Board composition/request for change

S Servello explained that the composition of the Governing Board can be changed if we make a request. It was agreed by consensus that the current composition is appropriate.

5.4 Sexuality Education Approval

This document was distributed prior to the meeting – there have been no changes since last school year.

On motion duly made (C Lioni) and seconded (M Robertson), it was unanimously resolved to approve the Sexuality Education document as presented.

5.5 ACGC Planning Approval

This document was distributed prior to the meeting – S Servello explained the contents.

On motion duly made (C Lioni) and seconded (M Robertson), it was unanimously resolved to approve the ACGC document as presented.

5.6 Grade 6 overnight trip to Quebec City

S Servello explained that field trips outside of the city of Montreal must be submitted to the Governing Board for approval. The proposed date is May 14-15, teachers are looking into details and surveying parents. M Robertson suggested Grade 5 students be included to reduce the cost to families. S Servello will investigate and report back to the next meeting.

On motion duly made (M Robertson) and seconded (E Shrybman), it was unanimously resolved to approve the overnight trip to Quebec City.

6.0 Reports

6.1 Principal's report (S Servello)

- Doors have been installed in all classrooms and offices,
- Black History Month was celebrated by all staff members and students with a variety of projects and displays, a virtual storyteller in Cycle 1 and an incredible performance by a steel pan band in the gym for all students,
- Teacher appreciation week was an amazing success thanks to all the parent volunteers and the exceptional leadership of the governing board members – lots of delicious food, cannoli, and staff members received gifts of sweatshirts, clipboards etc...
- The students enjoyed an exceptional winter carnival with outdoor activities led by staff members, ending with the traditional maple syrup 'tire',
- All students received house t-shirts in the appropriate colours, and proudly showed them off at a 'House' assembly,
- Métis multidisciplinary artist Moe Clark treated the students and staff members to a memorable musical performance.
- S Servello travelled with 3 staff members to visit Thurgood Marshall School in California to observe their SEL program – we will use the experience from this workshop to make changes/improvements to our existing SEL program.

6.2 Commissioner's Report (J Lalla)

Absent

6.3 Teacher's Report (S Thompson)

S Thompson thanks the parents for the buffet breakfast and lunch they provided for all staff members during staff appreciation week.

- We had an assembly and a wonderful presentation for an indigenous artist Moe Clark,
- We celebrated anti-bullying on a school-wide pink shirt day,
- The grade 2 and 4 students went to the McCord Museum for an exhibit of local Indigenous artwork,
- We had a House assembly on Kindness with a special guest Samara O'Gorman, who gave a presentation about anti-bullying – students were wearing their House t-shirts for the first time this year,
- Grade 2 students have been planting flowers that will be sold as a fundraiser for Mother's Day,
- The grade 6 students have started an 8-week 'GrandPals' program, during which time they will be meeting with a group of seniors. They finished their "transition to high school" classes last week and grad photos have been taken,
- Kindergarten students from rooms 5 and 6 were very close to capturing a leprechaun in the traps they built! Better luck next time!

6.4 Support staff report

No report

6.5 Daycare Report

M Charette is still on leave – her replacement has recently been named.

6.6 EMSBPC Report

No report

6.7 PPO Report

No report

6.8 Library Report (E Valkova-Damova)

- Chess – new after-class activity, started at the end of January; hugely popular with EB students.
- Ozobots – new after-class activity, introduced last week; full group and waiting list as well.
- Canadian Children’s Book Week: author Heather Camlot will make a presentation to grade 5, at the library, on May 3rd, 9.30 – 10.30 am.
- Festilou: a group of four storytellers will make a presentation to grade 2, May 14th, 9.30 – 10.30, at the library
- Bill Foster Writing Contest – we have received a couple of texts from EB students. The submission deadline is April 15th.

7.0 Question Period

M Robertson asked about other possible fundraisers, as there is no Skate—A-Thon this year. S Servello explained that there will be an email going out soon regarding a Read-A-Thon that is being organized by Alison Lydynia and Jessica Doubt. This will also be to raise funds for the library.

L Press asked about the ‘rattrapage’ money received from the government – S Servello replied that we have hired tutors and are also saving some of the funds for next year. One of the tutors we hired will be returning next year.

8.0 Adjournment and Date of Next Meeting

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:45 p.m. The next meeting will be held (on TEAMS) on Tuesday, May 7 at 6:30 p.m.

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Respectfully submitted,

Kate Marien
Secretary