

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE GOVERNING BOARD

November 28, 2023 (TEAMS)

Present:

Sam Servello (Principal), Eliane Shrybman, Carla Lioni (teachers), Melissa Robertson, Andrea Gruia, Lori Press, Louisa Jaslow, Stephanie St-Onge, Omar Hernandez, Robert Lennox (parents), Kate Marien (support staff), Ekaterina Vakova-Damova (Librarian/Community Representative), Joe Lalla (Commissioner)

Regrets:

Scott Thompson (teacher)

1.0 Adoption of the Agenda

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

2.0 Approval of the minutes of September 7, and September 26, 2023

On motion duly made (L Press) and seconded (C Lioni), it was unanimously resolved to approve the minutes of the meetings of September 7 and September 2, 2023.

3.0 Resignation of parent member/Appointment of replacement

Omar Hernandez explained that he is unable to continue as a member of the Governing Board, his resignation was accepted. It was unanimously agreed to appoint Robert Lennox to replace him as a parent member.

4.0 Appointment of Chair

There are no volunteers, therefore this item will be tabled. M Robertson will act as chair for the remainder of this meeting.

5.0 Business Arising

S Servello reminded all the members to send in their conflict-of-interest forms if they have not done so already.

6.0 New Business

6.1 Approval of AVAB (Anti-Violence/Anti-Bullying) Policy

This document (originally known as Safe School Action Plan) was distributed to members before the meeting. S Servello detailed some of the changes that have been incorporated. He spoke about our Socia/Emotional Learning program, agreement with the SPVM, raising awareness of inclusivity, and our Spiritual Animator. There were questions regarding the process after an incident of violence or bullying. S Servello explained that each case is handled on an individual basis and listed the various possibilities regarding follow-up and consequences, and the people/programs we have in place to deal with such issues.

A survey was given to the Grade 4, 5 and 6 students – the information has yet to be collated and will be presented to our next meeting.

There were questions regarding Section 3 of the document, parents were invited to send suggestions regarding this – S Servello will review and revise and send the document out for an electronic vote.

6.2 Approval of Daycare Handbook

The daycare handbook was distributed by e-mail. There was discussion regarding the possibility of having some of the students do some homework in daycare. One of the daycare staff members has been trying to put this in place, but they are short-staffed, so it has been difficult.

On motion duly made (L Press) and seconded (R Lennox), it was unanimously resolved to approval the daycare handbook as distributed.

6.3 Winter trip

S Servello reported that the planning for the winter trip is ongoing, although it has become more of a challenge than in the past. He will report again at the next meeting.

7.0 Reports

7.1 Principal's report (S Servello)

- Halloween - fun was had by all, the pumpkin decorating contest was a success, and a pizza lunch was offered to the winners in each cycle.

- Remembrance Day - Ms. Megan's brother-in-law gave a heartfelt presentation to our students.
- Fencing lunch program - select students have been chosen to build relationships and engage in a healthy physical activity (adult supervised), which encourages trusting relationships.
- PELO- Spanish lessons are scheduled to begin in January, we are still in search of a Hebrew teacher.
- Tutors - more than 25 students from Concordia have been interviewed, and 8 potential candidate Employee kits were sent to the school board for vetting.

7.2 Teacher's Report (E Shrybman/C Lioni)

- A House Assembly was held in October – the topic was 'gratitude'.
- Cycle 1 students planted tulips with their teacher, and Ryan Oxley (B.A.S.E. Green Club Facilitator).
- Feedback was positive after the parent/teacher interviews.
- Next week there will be 8 'Spirit Days' such as Crazy Hat, Crazy Sweater etc...

7.3 EMSBPC report

L Jaslow reported that there has only been one meeting so far – she was unable to attend.

7.4 Commissioner's Report (J Lalla)

Bill 21 (Law concerning the wearing of religious symbols in the workplace) - the review is ongoing; judgement is still pending.

Bill 40 - The EMSB has obtained an injunction to allow them to continue to operate as before. The Bill is being contested by the QESBA on behalf of 9 school boards.

Bill 96 - (Language law) is also being contested.

Bill 23 – This is the proposal by the government to take over administration of the 10 English school boards and the 80 French Service Centers, and to have the power to appoint Directors General for all schools. This is also being contested by the QESBA.

7.5 Daycare Report

No report – absent

7.6 Library Report (E Valkova-DAmova)

- The class visits are going well, as are after-school programs (Lego and Scratch).
- The daycare group visits the library on Fridays.
- The Trivia Quiz for Grades 5 and 6 has begun – the students are reading books in preparation for this contest. Winners will have a pizza party.

8.0 Question Period

M Robertson asked about Pizza and TCBY fundraisers. S Servello explained that the teachers are still looking for volunteers to help with this.

There was a question about substitute teachers and whether they can input information into report cards. S Servello explained that they are not contractually required to do so until they have worked 40 consecutive days.

9.0 Further to the Agenda

R Lennox volunteered to act as Chair of the Governing Board. This appointment was unanimously approved by the parent members.

9.0 Adjournment and Date of Next Meeting

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:07 p.m. The next meeting will be held (on TEAMS) on January 16, at 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Kate Marien
Secretary