

## École Secondaire LAURIER MACDONALD High School

7355 Viau,  
St. Leonard, Quebec, H1S 3C2  
Tel.: (514) 374.6000 Fax: (514) 374-7220  
www.lauriermacdonald.ca/lmac

### Governing Board Meeting Minutes

Meeting #6

June 6, 2023, at 7:00 PM (Microsoft Teams)

Name of member	Role	P/A	Name of member	Role	P/A
Celzi, Cristina	Principal	P	Civitarese, Marco	Parent	P
Spilak, Ivan	Vice-Principal	P	De Ciccio, Angela	Parent	P
Barnabé, Valérie	IB Coordinator	P	Fortugno, Francesco	Parent	P
Castonguay, Micheline	Teacher	P	Labelle, Kitty	Parent	A
Caya, Annie	Teacher	P	Pescolla, Laura	Parent	P
D'Alessandro, Andy	Teacher	P	Petrecca, Giovanni	Parent	P
De Ciccio, Veronica	Teacher	P	Vasile, Mary	Parent	P
Di Viccaro, Alex	Teacher	P	Ursino, Silvio	Parent	P
Pinto, Marcel	Teacher	P	Pietrangelo, Mario	Commissioner	A
De Young, Linda	Staff	P	Paoella, Vincenzo	Student	P
Tullio, Gerry	Community Rep	P	Simancas Loffreda, Gianna	Student	A
Required for Quorum: 12 Present, 4 Parents			Actual: 19 Present		

Guest: Ramona Potesta, Joanna Kim-Dussault

Regrets:

Late attendance: n/a

#### 1. Call to order: 7:03 PM

#### 2. Approval of the Agenda

- Request by Ms. Celzi to remove agenda item 5.4 – topic to be covered in item 4.1.
- Request by Mr. Ursino to add an agenda item related to the addition of a lunchtime/after school club; Ms. Celzi asked that agenda item 5.4 be added for this topic.

Motion to approve agenda, including removal and addition, by Vincenzo Paoella; seconded by Annie Caya; all in favour, motion passed.

#### 3. Adoption of the Minutes of the May 2, 2023 Governing Board Meeting

Motion to adopt by Vincenzo Paoella; seconded by Annie Caya; all in favour, motion passed.

#### 4. Business arising from the previous meeting

##### 4.1. Update to School Fees

- Ms. Celzi provided an update on the request made to the Ministry for a grant to cover annual IB fees. The Ministry is currently assessing requests for grants made from all schools and ironing out certain details. While it looks promising so far, a final response will only come in the Fall. As such, parents will have to pay the IB Fees at the beginning of the school year, but will be reimbursed if/when the grant is awarded.
- Ms. Celzi indicated that fees related to extra-curricular activities will be reduced by \$10. There is a possibility that they be removed entirely due to money received from the government.

#### **4.2 Update on Costa Rica Trip**

- Ms. Pescolla presented a draft of a proposed letter to the CGTSIM addressing their refusal to allow students to visit Costa Rica for a class trip in the Fall. Ms. Caya indicated that it may already be too late to salvage the Fall 2023 trip.

### **5. New Business**

#### **5.1 2023-2024 School Budget**

- Ms. Celzi presented a detailed schedule of the 2023-2024 School Budget.

##### **Motion to approve School Budget for the 2023-2024 school year.**

Motion to approve by Vincenzo Paoletta; seconded by Francesco Fortugno; all in favour, motion passed.

#### **5.2 Europe Trip 2024**

- Update provided by trip organizer, Joanna Kim-Dussault
- 2024 trip will be held in Spain, for 9 days commencing February 22<sup>nd</sup> for a cost of \$3,875 plus \$300 for mandatory insurance; the trip is all-inclusive except for daily lunches.
- Prices have gone up due to rising gas prices in Europe as a result of the war in the Ukraine.
- The tour organizer is EF Tours; destinations include Barcelona, Valencia and Madrid; the itinerary was hand-picked by Ms. Kim-Dussault and includes visits to a science museum, markets, a funicular ride and visit to a shoe factory; a soccer match was not included in the itinerary (too risky).
- Some students have already started a GoFundMe-style page to collect funds for their trip fees; other fundraising activities will follow at the school.
- Email will be sent out to students this week

##### **Motion to approve the 2024 Europe Trip.**

Motion to approve by Annie Caya; seconded by Valérie Barnabé, all in favour, motion passed.

#### **5.3 Financial Report**

- Ms. Pescolla provided presented the 2023-2024 LMAC Governing Board Financial Report. Similar to previous years, the money allocated to the Governing Board was donated to a charity at Christmas.

##### **Motion to approve the 2022-2023 Financial Report.**

Motion to approve by Linda De Young; seconded by Vincenzo Paoella; all in favour, motion passed.

#### **5.4 Lunchtime/After School Club**

- Mr. Ursino proposed the reinstatement of certain clubs that may have gone away since COVID, such as music, drama, etc.
- Ms. Celzi indicated that students are always encouraged to provide ideas for clubs, particularly at the beginning of the school year. The school then finds teachers that have the expertise to set them up.
- Ms. Ursino asked if Drama can be re-introduced as a course option. Ms. Celzi mentioned that it was an option in the past, but did not generate enough interest to fill up a class.
- Ms. Pescolla asked whether or not there were more clubs pre-COVID. Ms. Caya confirmed that there were indeed more clubs, but mentioned there is still a lot going on today, particularly with the creation of the Houses this school year and the introduction of the House Games.
- Mr. Tullio mentioned that the Improv Club coordinator has expressed a willingness to return next year.

#### **6. IB Report**

- Mme. Barnabé provided an update, as found in Section 1 of the **ADDENDUM to Meeting Minutes**.

#### **7. CLC Report**

- Mr. Tullio and Ms. Potesta provided an update, as found in Section 2 of the **ADDENDUM to Meeting Minutes**.

#### **8. Parent Committee Report**

- Update provided by Mr. Petrecca, regarding the May 4<sup>th</sup> meeting held at JFK High School (2<sup>nd</sup> in-person meeting).
- Primary discussion regarding COVID and mental health impacts on students.
- Students are attached to their phones; need a push to get out of rut from COVID
- Concerns from parents, questioning what the Board is doing to help – services are offered to students, but they do not always reach out for help. Teachers need to look for signs that kids need help.
- Next topic was about uniforms in schools. Uniforms are not mandatory; a school cannot send a child home because they are not wearing their uniform, as long as they are adhering to the school dress code.
- Schools can provide parents with a digital school logo to imprint their logo on their own clothes
- Ms. Celzi mentioned that the school accommodates families that need financial support to buy uniforms
- Lastly, Mr. Petrecca updated the GB on a social event held at the Pius X Culinary Centre

#### **9. Student Report**

- Mr. Paoella provided an update, as found in Section 3 of the **ADDENDUM to Meeting Minutes**.

**10. Public Question Period**

- Mr. Paolella asked whether or not GB meetings would return to in-person format next year. Ms. Celzi mentioned that that will be decided at the first GB meeting of the 2023-2024 school year.

**11. Varia**

- Ms. Celzi mentioned that the end of year GB Report will be coming soon
- Ms. Celzi acknowledged that Ms. De Young will be retiring after 39 years of service
- This will be Mr. Fortugno's last year serving on the GB as his child will be graduating from LMAC this year. Ms. Celzi invited him to come back as a Community Member.

**12. Adjournment:** 8:01 PM, motioned by Linda De Young; seconded by Vincenzo Paolella.

**Governing Board**  
Meeting #6  
June 6, 2023, at 7:00 PM (Microsoft Teams)

**ADDENDUM to Meeting Minutes**

**1. IB Report**

**HOPS program fundraiser:**

We collected about \$1,000; it went towards buying toiletries for the patients at the Jewish General Hospital.

**LMAC Pantry:**

The last baskets from LMAC Pantry were delivered at the end of May. Before the school ends, the leftover pantry items will be donated to either local soup kitchens or to Dans la Rue.

**Olympe de la Parole:**

On May 11<sup>th</sup>, an Awards ceremony was held at Concordia University. Our team did amazingly well, winning 3 awards:

- Best Community Project
- The Award of Dr. Julien's foundation given by children
- Nobel prize which is for the girls to start their podcasts professionally

We are so proud of the team. It was a great night!

**Next year's planning:**

It's the Sec.4's turn to start their Personal Project. We have a creative group! The expectations are going to be high!

The IB Leadership Day is currently being planned. Next school year, IB students will have to solve a Design challenge. We are very excited and we can't say more... to know more... you have to be on next year's GB!

**2. CLC Report**

**Introduction**

Hello everyone, my name is Ramona Potesta. I am the new CDA for the CLC at Laurier MacDonald. I was a former LMAC student who had an incredible high school experience, so it feels surreal to be back. I am pleased to be part of the LMAC team.

**In Planning**

Currently, we are in the process of planning different types of trainings for the next school year, such as Organizing the Wellness Innovation Lab (WIL) with LEARN Quebec for the upcoming school year. We are also working on booking a training for Mental Health First Aid for staff members. In addition to that, we are planning the training for the Hors Piste program that will be implemented in the month of October.

## **Conclusion**

I look forward to working alongside you all. Thank you for your time and attention.

Respectfully submitted on June 7<sup>th</sup>, 2023

Ramona Potesta

## **3. Student Report**

### **English Montreal Student Advisory Committee (EMSAC):**

This year, students from across the EMSB were able to meet in person for the first time since the pandemic. (Virtual meetings held last two years). Meetings were held at various schools, including Lester B. Pearson, James Lyng, LMAC, F.A.C.E, VMC, & Lauren Hill Academy. Through these meetings, topics such as the EMSB's commitment to success plan, Environmental & other school Initiatives, Wi-Fi issues, as well as Censorship were discussed, with various recommendations made. EMSAC was also consulted on the Budget building process for next year.

The Final Meeting of the year took place on May 15th, at EMSB head office. We discussed a little more on environmental issues and censorship before the advisors wrapped up the meeting by thanking all members for their input this year, Certificates, a book on leadership, and a small gift were given to each student as a token of appreciation. Graduating Students will receive a bursary at their school's convocation ceremonies.

### **House Council:**

The Final activities of the school year were held throughout the month of May, every Thursday at lunch, students competed to gain points and take home the title of the winning house through various activities (Such as Mr. Laplante's Golf challenge)

On June 2, the winning house was revealed, and it was... The Lions!! All students were subsequently treated to a fun day of activities, including inflatables, carnival games, most notably the Dunk tank, in which various staff members (Including Mr. Pinto, Mrs. Di Vaccaro, Mr. Spilak and Mrs. White, as well as some students) were dunked by their peers. Funds raised from the dunk tank went to the Montreal Children's Hospital.

Overall, the house system is a great initiative, helping to boost student morale and school spirit. We are looking forward to next year's house activities, and future leaders already have ideas in the pipeline.

### **The LMACTivists:**

This year, the LMACTivists, a student group focused on social justice initiatives have organized various activities, including:

- Let's Scare Hunger Campaign, where students regularly brought in non-perishable goods as a push to earn house points, The food was donated to the food pantry at St. Brendan's Parish.
- Marking the Anniversary of the Ecole Polytechnique Massacre (December 6) by asking students to wear a white accessory on that day as well as distributing informative pamphlets during lunch hour.
- Volunteering at residence Angelica on Valentine's Day, helping with the activity set up for seniors attending the day programs, as well as distributing Valentine's Day cards.
- Activism campaign for International Women's Day (March 8th) on the LMACTivists Instagram.

### **GSA (Gay Straight Alliance) Bake Sale:**

On June 5th, 2023, The Gay-Straight Alliance, a student group which advocates for inclusivity and acceptance held a bake sale. Many delicious baked goods were brought in, with proceeds going to Project 10, a local organization which aids in advocating for and empowering LGBTQ2S+ youth and adults.

### **Pride Flag:**

Alongside the federal and provincial flags flying in front of LMAC, a pride flag is also flying through this month (June) in honor of pride month.