

## 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 #2

November 8, 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	A
Barnabé, Valérie	IB Coordinator	P	Irrerra, Angelo	Parent	P
Castonguay, Micheline	Teacher	P	Passucci, Stephanie	Parent	P
Caya, Annie	Teacher	P	Petrecca, Giovanni	Parent	P
D'Alessandro, Andy	Teacher	P	Vasile, Mary	Parent	P
De Ciccio, Veronica	Teacher	P	Ursino, Silvio	Parent	P
Di Viccaro, Alex	Teacher	P	Zaruso, Antonio	Parent	P
Pinto, Marcel	Teacher	P	Pietrangelo, Mario	Commissioner	P
Potesta, Ramona	Staff	P	Huard, Danica	Student	A
Tullio, Gerry	Staff	P	Paolella, Vincenzo	Student	P
Required for Quorum: 12 Present, 4 Parents			Actual: 20 Present		

Guest: Kentouche, Moufida - Teacher

Regrets: n/a

Late attendance: n/a

### Call to order: 7:03 p.m.

#### 1. Welcome -Land Acknowledgement

Land Acknowledgement, as read by Vincenzo Paolella:

*"I would like to begin by acknowledging that Laurier Macdonald High School is located on the traditional, ancestral, and unceded territory of the Kanien'Keha:ka, a place which has long served as a site of meeting and exchange amongst nations. We recognize and respect the Kanien'Keha:ka as the traditional custodians of this land and its surrounding waters on which we meet today.*

*We offer this acknowledgement as a first step and public commitment to an ongoing process toward reconciliation and justice for indigenous peoples and communities."*

#### 2. Approval of the Agenda.

Ms. Celzi added point 6.9 under New Business: February 2024 Europe Trip.

*Motion to approve agenda by Vincenzo Paolella; seconded by Silvio Ursino; all in favour, motion passed.*

#### 3. Introduction of the team

Ms. Passucci asked each member to briefly introduce themselves.

#### **4. Adoption of the Minutes of the October 10, 2023 Governing Board Meeting**

*Motion to adopt by Annie Caya; seconded by Angelo Irrerra; all in favour, motion passed.*

*Note: Approval of the minutes from October 10, 2023 has been approved with the missing information that was highlighted in point 1.*

#### **5. Business arising from the minutes of the October 10, 2023 Governing Board Meeting**

No business arising from previous GB meeting.

#### **6. New Business**

##### **6.1 Governing Board Training - November 30, 2023**

- Ms. Celzi informed the members that the training will be held in the evening of November 30. This training is for all new and old members. She will send an email after tonight's meeting with more information. Those interested should respond to her email and she will send your name to the School Board.

##### **6.2 NYC Trip April 2024**

- Mr. Pinto presented the details for the secondary 5 NYC trip. The trip is being organized by Classe Trotteur and will take place from Monday, March 25 to Thursday, March 28, 2024. Two out of the three suppers are included (the excluded supper is the Tuesday evening when the students attend the Broadway show).
- They are looking to fill 2 buses, for a total of 96 students at a cost of \$997.37 (insurance included) per student.
- Mr. Pinto gave a brief description of the itinerary. Monday, visiting 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Applebees for supper, back at the hotel at 9 pm. Tuesday morning they get a self-guided tour of the 911 museum, then 72<sup>nd</sup> and Central Park, American Museum, Broadway show in the evening. Wednesday morning city tour from a local guide, they go to Chelsea Market, and they get to walk on the high line, they visit the Empire State Building, Times Square, dinner at the Hard Rock Café. Thursday, they have lunch in Chinatown and heading back home around 1:30 pm.
- Ms. Celzi asked Mr. Pinto to present the lowest and highest price per student. 96 students the cost is \$997.37, 92-95 students the cost is \$1,007.15 and the cost for 88-91 students is \$1,037.00.
- Since no information was available regarding pricing for only one bus, Ms. Celzi asked to vote on the information we have now with the possibility that we may have to come back to this when more information becomes available.

*Motion to approve the NYC trip by Vincenzo Paoletta, seconded by Macel Pinto; all in favour, motion passed.*

##### **6.3 Boston Trip April 2024**

- Ms. Kentouche presented the details for the secondary 3 Boston trip. The trip will take place from Wednesday, April 17 to Friday, April 19, 2024, 3 days and 2 nights. Breakfast and suppers are included, lunches are not included.
- Pricing is as follows: 36-40 students the cost is \$761.00, 41-45 students the cost is \$725.00 and 46-50 students the cost is \$685. These prices include taxes and insurance.

*Motion to approve the Boston trip by Vincenzo Paolella, seconded by Marcel Pinto; all in favour, motion passed.*

#### **6.4 Quebec City trip February 2024**

- Ms. Di Viccaro presented the details for the secondary 2 Quebec City trip. The trip will take place from Wednesday, February 7 to Friday, February 9, 2024, 3 days and 2 nights. The price for one bus, 50 students, is between \$450.00 to \$482.00. The price for two buses, 100 students, is \$447.00 to \$480.00. Luxury Coach Bus.
- Students will be staying at the Hotel Universel Quebec. Meals included are the two continental breakfasts, one lunch and one supper.
- Activities are as follows: Village Vacances ValCartier, visiting Hôtel de Glace, Carnaval de Quebec, Tour de Ville of Old Quebec (3 hours), Musée des civilisations, Musée des Plaines d'Abraham, l'Assemblée nationale, Aquarium de Québec. Free time at the mall Galeries de la Capitale.

*Motion to approve the Quebec City trip by Antonio Zaruso, seconded by Veronica De Ciccio; all in favour, motion passed.*

#### **6.5 Toronto Trip April 2024**

- Mr. Spilak presented the details for the secondary 1 Toronto Trip. The trip will take place from Wednesday, April 3 to Friday, April 5, 2024, 2 nights, and 3 days. They will be transported by Autocar de Luxe
- Students will be staying at the Quality Inn Toronto Airport West. Included meals are 2 breakfasts, 1 lunch and 1 supper.
- Activities are as follows: visiting the Hockey Hall of Fame, Ripley's Aquarium of Canada, Niagara Falls City cruises, Clifton Hill pass for 6 attractions, Royal Ontario Museum, ticket included to go up the CN Tower, supper at the Medieval Times Dinner.
- Price for 50 students is \$699.00 and for 40 students it's \$766.00.

*Motion to approve the Toronto Trip by Alex Di Viccaro, seconded by Marcel Pinto; all in favour, motion passed.*

#### **6.6 Senior Ski Trip**

- Ms. Celzi informed us that the voting of the ski trip was on hold because the insurance package was not clear, and they are still in negotiations with the supplier. She will bring this to an email vote once they've confirmed the final cost of this trip.
- Mr. Pinto presented the details of the ski trip. The trip will take place from Wednesday, February 14 to Friday, February 16, 2024. They will be traveling by Coach bus.
- They will stay in Condos in Mont St Anne. No meals are included; therefore, students must bring their own food. There is a little chalet on the mountain where students can purchase some food.
- All the students will receive a 2-hour group lesson on the first day.
- This trip is being offered to secondary 4 and 5 students. The cost is \$534.00 per student, based on a minimum of 40 students. The cost may increase slightly when the full insurance coverage is confirmed.
- This trip is on a first-come, first-served basis, therefore, for a student to reserve their spot, they must make a deposit of \$300.00 to the teacher in charge.
- Rental of the skis is not included. If a student needs to rent their skis or snowboard and helmet, the cost is \$102.00.

## 6.7 School Fundraisers

- Ms. Passucci suggested having fundraisers to build accounts with additional funds for student activities that would be used as a whole school and not specifically per grade. She suggested poinsettia plant, boxes of cards and catalogue fundraisers that remain open year-round. Ms. De Cicco suggested chocolate bar fundraisers, pointing out that this fundraiser brings in a large amount of money. Mr. Pinto suggested movie night or a trivia game night.
- Ms. Passucci said that she will run the fundraisers, ensuring that staff will not be given additional work.
- Ms. Celzi highlighted the importance of having a clear goal in mind when fundraising. Parents will need to be provided with information as to where these funds will be used.
- Based on the feedback from this evening, members were in favour and open to the idea of some sort of fundraising which will be discussed further at a future date.

## 6.8 Parents Involvement

- Ms. Passucci brought forward the idea of parents' involvement within the school. It was explained as resembling a PPO, offering an opportunity for parents to actively be involved in school-related activities, such as the used uniform sale, staff appreciation week and decorating the school. It would not be a traditional PPO where meetings are held every month.
- Ms. Passucci suggested that the Administration send out an email to inquire if there are any parents interested in volunteering for these types of activities.

## 6.9 February 2024 Europe Trip

- Ms. Celzi said that they are running into some issues with this year's Europe trip, as students are dropping out. Rather than potentially cancelling the trip, Ms. Celzi proposed offering spots to the secondary 4 students. A minimum of 20 students is needed to keep the trip open, we currently have 19 students. Ms. Celzi said that we will either have to cancel the trip or invite the secondary 4 students.

*Motion to approve opening 4 or 8 spots to secondary 4 students by Vincenzo Paolella and seconded by Antonio Zaruso; all in favour, motion passed.*

## 7. Teacher's Report

- Nothing to report.

## 8. Student Report

Mr. Paolella provided the following update:

- **English Montreal Student Advisory Committee (EMSAC):**  
EMSAC Members met last on October 16th at Lester B. Pearson High School. Where the Centre d'écologie urbaine de Montréal gave an interesting presentation on participatory budgeting, which is an initiative that the city is doing for the second time, it involves citizens voting on projects they would like to see come to fruition. Approximately 600 submissions were made, with 31 having made it to the voting stage. A maximum of 8 projects can be chosen per vote submitted.

Representatives also presented what their schools have been doing in terms of activities.

The next meeting will be held sometime in November at Royal West Academy (Date contingent upon the ongoing strikes).

- **House Council:**

For the month of October, house representatives decorated around the school, including setting up a haunted house in the CLC, which was quite Spooktacular!

Other Halloween activities included: a costume contest, where the most creative students from each level won a small prize, as well as games in the cafeteria during lunch, which also proved to be quite popular.

- **LMACTivists:**

The LMAC gives back campaign was held this year, where students were asked to bring in winter clothes to donate. Donations went to Nesbitt Elementary School, to help newly arrived immigrants as well as the less fortunate.

The Let's Scare Hunger Initiative was held for the third year in a row. It involves students bringing in non-perishable foods to be donated to a food bank. It was also a challenge for the houses to entice students to bring in more food in exchange for house points. (Any can brought in would add 1 point to your house, and any box would deduct 3 points from another house)

- **Media Club:**

Laurier Macdonald is now working with award-winning Journalist and anchor Lianne Castelino. Media club held a first meeting with her last week, where she asked students to consider the 5W's of Journalism (who, what, when, where & why) as well as how, when doing any media-related project.

More Information to be provided at the next Governing Board meeting.

## 9. IB Report

Ms. Barnabé provided the following update:

- **IB placement exam.**

The IB placement examination took place on Saturday October 28th. It went well, we met a lot of nice grade 6 students. We can't wait to meet our 2024-2025 IB students.

- **Olympes de la Parole.**

On December 6th our Laurier Macdonald Olympes de la Parole team is going to participate in the launch of this year's competition. The team is working hard and is getting ready for the 1st presentation happening on the day of the launch.

## 10. CLC Report

Ms. Potesta provided the following update:

- **WIL**

A few weeks ago, we had our Wellness Innovation Lab. The students came up with several mental health initiatives through this workshop. We believe some of these ideas can become a reality within the next year.

- **Remembrance Day**

In honor of Remembrance Day, Mr. Monachino and I are raising money for our local legion by selling poppies during lunch time. We also developed a fun but educational activity for the

students during lunch time. Every day until this Friday (November 10th), we are hiding 10 poppies in the cafeteria area. On the back of each poppy is the name of a Victoria Cross veteran. The students are asked to research 3 facts about the veteran and report them to us. The students who give us the correct facts will earn a House point and a special metal Remembrance Day pin.

- **Art Therapy**

We are excited to announce that we have finally found the right Art Therapist to conduct the Art Therapy program. The program is set to begin at the end of this month, and it will run on Monday's during 2 nd and 3rd period.

- **Girls Groups (Senior and JRs)**

The Girls Groups started last week. The Jr's group takes place every other Wednesday with Jennie from Pact De Rue facilitating the sessions. The Senior girls group takes place every Thursdays with Sherly, a social worker from Naos Jeunesse.

- **Boys Groups (Senior and JRs)**

The Boys Group is set to begin next Tuesday (November 14th). Will, from Camp Lift will be leading both Junior and Senior groups along with the ECA during lunchtime for the boys who have been in the groups in past years.

- **Note from Mr. Monachino**

LMAC will have a dress down day to help raise money for St. Brenden's church. They will use our donation to help families in need during the holiday season, by making food baskets. We have also collected canned good for LMAC's food pantry.

## **11. Parents' Committee (PC) Report**

Ms. Passucci provided the following update:

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## **12. Question Period**

- No questions asked.

## **13. Varia**

- No topics proposed.

## **14. Date of Next Meeting: December 13, 2023 at 7 p.m.**

## **15. Adjournment**

- 8:51 p.m.