

École Secondaire LAURIER MACDONALD High School

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Governing Board Meeting Minutes

Meeting #3

December 7, 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	Irrera, Angelo	Parent	P
Castonguay, Micheline	Teacher	P	Passucci, Stephanie	Parent	A
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	A
Potesta, Ramona	Staff	P	Huard, Danica	Student	P
Tullio, Gerry	Staff	P	Paolella, Vincenzo	Student	P
Required for Quorum: 12 Present, 4 Parents			Actual: 20 Present		

Regrets: Stephanie Passucci

Late attendance: n/a

Call to order: 7:04 p.m.

1. Welcome -Land Acknowledgement

Land Acknowledgement, as read by Danica Huard:

"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.

Motion to approve agenda by Vincenzo Paolella; seconded by Annie Caya all in favour, motion passed. As well as a call to order at 7:04pm

3. Adoption of the Minutes of the October 10, 2023 Governing Board Meeting

The Adoption of the November 8/2023 minutes, discussion revealed that a portion of the PC report is missing, and that Stephanie Passucci will provide this portion at our next GB meeting January 24/2023. Motion to approve the adoption of the GB meeting November 8/2023, minutes by Vincenzo Paoella, seconded by Micheline Castonguay all in favour, motion passed.

4. Business arising from the minutes of the November 8/2023, GB meeting

Angelo Irrera made a verification that no further additions were being put forth. Motion to adopt the business arising from the minutes of the November 8/2023 GB meeting, by Vincenzo Paoella, seconded by Micheline Castonguay all in favour, motion passed.

5. New Business

5.1 ABAV Plan

- Ms. Celzi was extremely meticulous and thorough in carefully explaining the 24 paged ABAV plan, and carefully explained all the 8 ELEMENTS within the document.
- Giovanni Petrecca asked a follow up question, regarding the ABAV plan regarding sexual violence, in the context of it being a criminal offence, Ms. Celzi explained that these such incidents are taken extremely seriously, they are escalated very quickly as well, and that the SPVM gets involved, if one of the parties involved presses charges. This ABAV plan was provided as an attachment to all GB members for careful review. A motion to approve the ABAV plan was put forth by Vincenzo Paoella, seconded by Alex Di Vaccario all in favour, motion passed.

5.2 Boston Trip April 2024

- Mr. Spilak presented the details for the secondary III Boston trip. The trip is being organized by Club Aventure Jeunesse and will take place from Tuesday April 16 to Thursday April 18, 2024. The cost is set at \$645.00/ student, based on (50 students and 5 adults)
- This includes transportation in a 56-seat luxury coach, the services of a CAJ guide, 2-night accommodation at the Fairfield Inn Woburn (Students 13 rooms, adults 3 rooms).
- 2 hotel breakfasts + meal allowances for 3 dinners, **All activity fees, and taxes included.**
- 5 freebies for adults (3 rooms), 24-hour assistance service, Blue Cross medical + cancellation insurance, tips for guide and driver, contribution to the FICAV, as well as online payment management fees. Dinners are excluded.
- Mr. Spilak presented a brief description of the itinerary. Tuesday April 16/2024, departure for Boston at 6:00am, a stop for lunch along the way, at 13h00 a self-guided tour of the New England Aquarium, at 15h00, a self-guided tour of the USS Constitution, at 16h00 a walking tour of the area, followed by dinner at the Quincy Market, and free time for souvenirs. **(Everyone gets \$20.00 USD)** at 19h30 departure for the hotel. At 20h00 check-in at hotel and swimming in the hotel pool.
- April 17/2024, breakfast at 7h30 in the hotel, 9h00 boarding the luxury coach and departure from hotel with a city guided tour from 10h00 to 12h30, with the following sites Boston Common, Beacon Hill, Back Bay, Theater District, Chinatown, North End, Waterfront and Cambridge. Dinner at the Cambridge Side Galleria and free shopping. At 14h00 a stroll along the Freedom trail, departure for Salem at 4h00, at 5h00 dinner on your own in Salem everyone gets (\$20.00

USD) @ 19h00 a tour of the Salem Historical Tours haunted walk through the streets of Salem, followed by at return to the Hotel by 22h00.

- April 18/2024 at 7h15 breakfast at the hotel, luggage to be loaded onto the bus at 8h30, guided tour of Fenway Park circa 1912 at 9h30. Harvard University Campus at 11h00, Lunch at 12h30 in the Harvard Square, by 14h00 departure for LMAC school. A stop will be made on the return trip home for supper (everyone gets \$20.00usd), returning to Montreal for approximately 21h00.
- A motion to approve the Boston trip was put forth by Vincenzo Paoella, seconded by Marcel Pinto all in favour, motion passed.

5.3 Philadelphia & Washington trip March 2024

- Ms. Miranda Bruzzese presented the details for the secondary IV Philadelphia & Washington trip. The trip is being organized by EDUC A TOURS and will take place from Monday March 25 to Thursday March 28, 2024. The cost is set at \$1015.00/student 50 students and 5 adults, the cost is for 45 students and 5 adults is set at \$1045.00/ student, the cost for 40 students and 4 adults is \$1055.00, the cost for 35 students and 4 adults is \$1145.00, for 30 students and 3 adults is \$1219.00, and for 25 students and 3 adults the cost is \$1375.00. **All activity fees, taxes, tolls, are included.**
- **A comprehensive Insurance plan including a cancel for any reason (CFAR) for \$25.00 a day per person for 3 day trips and up is available and is purchased separately.**
- A request for full payment is required 60 days prior to the departure date by the operator, this means all the final details around cost revisions need to be finalized ASAP. The price includes all taxes, tips, and hotel fees.
- This includes transportation in a 40-50-seat coach bus, A 3-night accommodation at a Hotel.
- The meals which are included are as follows, 3 breakfasts at Hotel, 1 Lunch at Hotel, and 1 dinner, excluding breakfast the day of departure (March 25). The return lunch & dinner March 28 are at individual expense.
- A quick breakdown of the trip will be as follows, an early 6h15 departure is scheduled for March 25, stops and lunch at individual expense, with an expected arrival in Philadelphia around 4h30 followed by a walking tour of Old Philadelphia, to see the Betsy Ross house, Carpenters Hall, Christ Church, and the Liberty Bell. Dinner in the area is an individual expense, and followed by a return to Hotel around 20h00.
- The following day March 26/2024 begins at 7h30 with breakfast at the Hotel and loading the bus up with your luggage. The tour operator at around 10h00 will recreate the ROCKY BALBOA Oscar-winning performance as you run up the stairs of the Philadelphia Museum of Art. Lunch at around 13:00 at Geno's Steaks or Pat's King of Steaks at the individuals expense. All aboard the tour bus for 14:30, as we now head out to Washington D.C. arrival around 17:30, the capital of the U.S.A., a meal voucher is provided to all at the Ronald Reagan Conference Center. The tour operator later in the evening will take you on a Monument tour of the Vietnam Memorial, the Korean War Memorial, the Reflecting Pool, the Lincoln and Roosevelt Memorials, and many others, with an anticipated Hotel arrival at 22:30.
- Wednesday March 27/2024 begins with a 7h00 breakfast, heading out for the day's activities at 8h00. Arrival at the Arlington National Cemetery for 9h00 helping to put U.S. History into perspective. Lunch is at around 12h00 and a meal voucher is once again included. A free time type session is at hand at the Mall, this Mall Smithsonian Institute -Museums on the Mall features a who's who of the Smithsonian's amazing museums, including the National History Museum, the Botanical Gardens, the National Gallery of Art, and so much more. Supper is at the individuals expense at UNO's at Union Station. Then followed by a tour of Old Town Alexandria during a ghost walk tour, followed by a return to the Hotel at around 21:15.

- Thursday March 28/2024 begins with breakfast at 7h00 and by 8h30 the bus is loaded with all the individuals and luggage. Stops and meals along the return trip are at the individuals expense, with an estimated return to the LMAC school for around 21:00.
- Ms. Celzi asked Ms. Bruzzese to present the lowest and highest price per student.
- 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 Philadelphia & Washington trip by Vincenzo Paoella, seconded by Mary Vasile all in favour, motion passed.
- There was mention of the Europe trip by Silvio Ursino, this trip will go ahead regardless of the low enrollment of 12 students, made possible by the opportunity, they will be coupled with another group in Spain.
- The ski trip will however be canceled due to low enrollment.

5.4 School Yard Improvement Grant

- Mr. Spilak is collaborating with Mr. Tullio and looking into potentially improving the school grounds through the Wellness Project, and are contemplating the possibility of a Greenhouse.
- The proposition would be for the construction of a 12 month greenhouse, and the monies would come from the Government Measures Programs. (\$100,000.00 likely available).
- The deadline for submission is sometime Mid-January, Ms. Ramona Potesta expressed her approval for this school yard improvement grant and is willing to fully participate in the process.
- The key to helping bring this initiative to fruition is the need for a community partner to donate/invest approximately \$5,000.00.
- Motion to approve the school yard improvement idea by Mr. Gerry Tullio, seconded by Vincenzo Paoella all in favour, motion passed.

5.5 Selection criteria for Principal

- The selection criteria for the Principal will be done at the next meeting in January 2024, all GB members in favour, motion passed.

6. Teacher's report

There is nothing to report.

7. Student Report Student Report

Mr. Paoella provided the following update:

- **English Montreal Student Advisory Committee (EMSAC):**
EMSAC Members met earlier today at Lauren Hill Academy. David Heurtel, a political analyst and former MNA for the riding of Viau, was present to talk about how we could get involved in political life as well as discuss some current issues with the students. Members discussed varied topics from tuition hikes, for out of province students to the ongoing strike and its effects on parents&students. It is hoped that the ongoing labour dispute is resolved soon, with a letter of recommendation to be sent to the ministry concerning this matter.

- **House Council:**

The Light Up the Night Dance held this past November 30 /2023, went exceptionally well, with over 130 students attending. The overall theme of the dance was glow in the dark, therefore students were encouraged to wear white that evening, music was provided by DJ Dante Galasso, our own LMAC Sec. IV student.

House Council has also started to set up Christmas decorations throughout the building to get the LMAC community into the festive spirit.

A theme week with different dress themes will be ongoing from December 18-22, as will House activities for the last two days of that week.

Students who do not wish to participate in the theme week dress suggestions are required to wear their full LMAC school uniform. More info on our Instagram pages (@lauriermacdonald) & (@lmachousecouncil)

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.

- **Media Club:**

On November 30/2023, students got the chance to visit the Bell Media Radio & TV studios.

The two buildings are home to many stations including CHOM, CJAD, VIRGIN Radio, TSN690, CTV Montreal and several others.

Students got to see the behind the scenes on goings and got personal some air time practice.

The students were also gifted with meeting several of the on-air talents, including Mutsumi Takahashi, Lori Graham, Elias Makos, Randy Renaud, and a few others.

- **LMAC Band:**

Laurier Macdonald has formed a band, and with students of all levels participating. They are practicing, and hopefully in the near future a performance is on hand.

More information will be forthcoming at our next GB meeting.

8. IB Report

- **LMAC Food Drive**

- The LMAC food drive is underway! Students can bring nonperishable food as well as toiletries to Mr. Monachino and Ms. Valerie Barnabe. For 10 items donated, students can have 1 hour of service as action and each item count for 1 House Point. As of today, the Bears and the Wolves are leading the donation drive.

- The drive will be ongoing until the Christmas break.

- **Enuf Presentation**

- This past Tuesday LMAC had a “waste sorting” presentation for the secondary I students. The group ENUF gave a dynamic and interactive presentation to explain to the students “what goes where”

- **Olympes de la Parole**
- Yesterday was the official Launch of the Voices of Olympia contest. Our team with Ms.Celzi and Valerie Barnabe attended the ceremony held at Royal West Academy. This year our LMAC team decided to work on “women’s economical and social disadvantages that affect the upbringing of young women and girls, increasing the chances of being involved in a cycle of poverty.
- Good luck to our amazing LMAC team
- <https://globalnews.ca/news/10152726/school-competition-gender-inequality-issues/>

9. CLC Report

Ms. Ramona Potesta and Mr. Paul Grewal provided the following update:

- **SILK PRODUCTIONS**

A collaborative effort between these two managed to reintroduce SILK presentations at LMAC. SILK is an educational program created by the Canadian Association of Education and Outreach, offering free workshops to English-speaking high schools, aimed at advancing awareness and knowledge of sexual orientation, gender identity, diversity, and inclusiveness.

We presented five times, over two days to all secondary 2 students as part of our anti-bullying and ant-violence campaign.

As stated in the ABAV plan, the misuse of language is one of the primary concerns we encounter when it comes to bullying among junior students. The workshops focus on such topics as hateful speech and derogatory language, particularly towards individuals from the LGBTQ+ community. We also discussed the importance of empathy, respect, trust and kindness, as well as being an ally to those in vulnerable positions. A safe space was defined, and its significance was explained to the students. Students were asked to anonymously submit any questions or feedback they may have. Silk will respond to the questions and will submit them back to the teachers who will later present to their students.

10. Question Period

Angelo Irrera asked a question as to why we read the Welcome -Land Acknowledgements prior to every GB meeting. Ms. Celzi offered an explanation, and the reasons behind the reading of the Land-Acknowledgement. Vincenzo Paoella was also happy to provide a further explanation Citing Canadian history, and that we are on their ancestral land to which they were Indigenous. Also with the government recognizing this and many of the steps taken in the truth and reconciliation process.

Vincenzo also sent out a more detailed explanation via e-mail the following day.

11. Varia

- Mr. Angelo Irrera asks why his name is continually spelled incorrectly?
- Likely due to the copy cut paste syndrome which is the more prevalent reason.

12. Date of the next meeting January 17/2024.

13. Adjournment

- Vincenzo Paoella motioned to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Ms. Annie Caya, all in favour motion passed. Meeting ended at 20:21.