



**Lester B. Pearson High School**  
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## **GOVERNING BOARD MINUTES**

**Date:** Tuesday, October 13, 2015

**Time:** 7:00 p.m.

**Place:** Library

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### **Attendees:**

*Geraldine Anania*  
*Benny Berneti*  
*Joe Biunno*  
*Joe Cacchione*  
*Stephanie Cumming*  
*Catherine Clarabut*  
*Grace Fanelli*  
*Daina Fonicolo\**  
*Casey Gagné*  
*Gennifer Girardello*

*Sandra Greco*  
*Renée Hardy*  
*Paul Karpontinis*  
*Natasha Krsteski*  
*Melissa Mastromonaco*  
*Franco Mazzariello*  
*Cristina Mignacca\**  
*Carmen Nicolas*  
*Marisa Papillo*  
*Rosanna Verrillo*

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### **Welcome:**

Mr. Cacchione welcomed everyone to the Governing Board meeting. The following additions were made to the agenda:

- New Business: School Trips – NYC, Washington, Europe & Peru
- Varia: Take our Kids to Work / Walk to End Hunger / Guidance Activities

The revised agenda was adopted by Renée Hardy and seconded by Paul Karpontinis. Everyone was in favour. Benny Berneti welcomed everyone to the first Governing Board meeting. Everyone present was given a chance to introduce themselves.

### **Approval of 2014-2015 Governing Board Report:**

The Governing Board annual report was read by Benny Berneti and a motion to adopt the report was made by Gennifer Girardello and seconded by Paul Karpontinis. Everyone was in favour. The report will be submitted to the EMSB.

### **Approval of Governing Board Minutes – June 8, 2015:**

The June 8<sup>th</sup> minutes were reviewed and a motion to adopt the minutes was made by Rosanna Verrillo and seconded by Renée Hardy. They were approved unanimously.

### **Approval of Governing Board Minutes – September 15, 2015:**

The September 15<sup>th</sup> minutes were reviewed and a motion to adopt the minutes was made by Grace Fanelli and seconded by Melissa Mastromonaco. They were approved unanimously.

### **Election of the 2015-2016 Governing Board Executive Committee:**

Executive Governing Board elections were held. Benny Berneti was nominated as Chairperson. He accepted the nomination and everyone was in favour. Franco Mazzariello was nominated as Co-Chair. He accepted the nomination and everyone was in favour. Stephania Mambro was nominated as Secretary-Treasurer. She accepted the nomination and everyone was in favour. No one else was nominated for any of the positions; therefore, the voting ballots were not required.

### **New Business:**

School Trips – NYC, Washington, Europe & Peru

- New York Trip:  
The trip will be open to Secondary V students and will take place at the end of April or beginning of May. The original date must be changed due to a scheduled Ministry exam. The approximate cost of the trip is \$448.
- Washington Trip:  
The trip will be open to Secondary III & IV students and will take place between April 7 – 10. The approximate cost of the trip is \$529.
- Europe Trip:  
The trip will be open to Secondary IV & V students and will take place between March 25 – April 4. The approximate cost of the trip is \$3,800. The 11-day/9-night trip includes visits to England, France, Belgium and the Netherlands.
- Peru Trip:  
The humanitarian trip to Peru will be open to Secondary III - V students and will take place between March 25 - April 4. The approximate cost of the trip is \$3,800, if a total of 12 students register for the trip.
- Europe Art Competition Trip – AbiOlympics Bordeaux 2016:  
This is a special trip for two educationally-coded students who will be participating in a Magrit-style painting competition in Bordeaux, France. The cost of this trip will be paid in part by the EMSB and in part by a Lester B. Pearson school fundraiser. Lester B. Pearson High School is the **only** high school in North America that will be sending students to compete.

A motion to approve the out-of-country field trips was made by Marisa Papillo and seconded by Casey Gagné. Everyone was in favour except Paul Karpontinis who abstained from the vote.

### **Principal's Report:**

#### *Open House:*

The October 6<sup>th</sup> Open House brought in a successful amount of parents to visit the school with inscriptions up by 25%. It was a great turnout. Thank you to the Student Council members who ran the informative tours.

#### *Enrollment:*

There are presently 996 students enrolled in the school for the 2015-2016 school year. Mr. Cacchione congratulated Mrs. Nickoletopoulos on her hard work and dedication in ensuring that enrollment was kept at such a high level instead of the projected decrease. The focus will now be on ensuring that elementary students from feeder schools choose to attend Lester B. Pearson instead of opting for private schools or French language high schools.

#### *Field Trips:*

Mr. Cacchione requested a blanket approval to administration and teachers for all field trips during school hours related to the curriculum. Stephania Mambro motioned to adopt the blanket approval as suggested above and Catherine Clarabut seconded the motion. Everyone was in favour.

#### *Graduation:*

The Secondary V graduation ceremony will be held on Thursday, June 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2016 at the Théâtre de la Ville in Longueuil. Paul Karpontinis motioned this date for approval and Gennifer Girardello seconded this motion. Everyone was in favour.

### **Commissioner's Report:**

Sylvia Lo Bianco was not present at the meeting.

### **Chair Report/Regional Delegate Report:**

Benny Berneti reported that he will attend the upcoming Regional and Central Parents Committee (CPC) meetings and run in their elections. He will report back at the next meeting.

### **Secretary/Treasurer's Report:**

Stephania Mambro circulated the volunteer list to ensure that all details for present members is updated for the EMSB Volunteer Dinner. In addition, Stephania Mambro proposed that the new Governing Board approve that the \$250 budget be dispersed as Governing Board Scholarships to be remitted as a \$125 award to two deserving students during the graduation ceremony in June. A motion was made by Renée Hardy and seconded by Melissa

Mastromonaco to once again use the \$250 Governing Board 2015 -2016 budget towards this scholarship instead of purchasing coffee and snacks for meetings. Everyone was in favour.

#### **Uniform Supplier Sub-Committee Report:**

Stephania Mambro confirmed that Top Marks is the official 2015-2016 & 2016-2017 school years uniform supplier for a two-year contract, as per the EMSB guidelines. Next September, it will be decided if an additional year will be added to this contract (as stipulated by the EMSB that an additional year may be added to the existing contract before returning to the bidding process). If this is +1 year is added, the Top Marks contract will be extended to include the 2017-2018 school year.

On July 6<sup>th</sup>, both Stephania Mambro and Benny Berneti were asked to meet with Angelo Marino and Paola Miniaci at the EMSB. Mrs. Nickoletopoulos also attended this meeting. At this meeting, Stephania Mambro had to present in detail all the steps followed during the bidding and selection process to ensure that all steps were followed as per the EMSB Uniform Supplier Contract. Issues regarding emails being sent out by Triangulum to current Lester B. Pearson parents were discussed. Following a two-day liquidation sale held on March 30 & 31, 2015, Triangulum was notified in writing on April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2015 once again that they can no longer sell uniform pieces to current or future Lester B. Pearson students following the end of our contract date of March 31, 2015. However, we have been advised by current parents that they received emails promoting a liquidation sale on two separate occasions (mass email sent out on June 25<sup>th</sup> and parent calling present supplier to cancel a portion of their uniform order on September 9<sup>th</sup>). Benny Berneti communicated with the parent to ensure that they fully understood that they could no longer purchase uniform pieces from Triangulum. This issue is now on an EMSB level and will be dealt with by the Board.

#### **PPO Report:**

Renée Hardy reported that the first PPO meeting will be held on Monday, October 26<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. The Terry Fox fundraising committee has requested parents' help with their upcoming Halloween bake sale which will be held on October 30<sup>th</sup>.

#### **Student Council:**

Daina Fonicolo and Cristina Mignacca were present and each reported on the following topics:

- Orientation Day was held on August 31<sup>st</sup> and included activities for the new Sec. 1 students.
- Corn roast was held on September 11<sup>th</sup> for all students and staff. Over 2,000 ears of corn were served.

- Student Council circulated a petition to students in support of teachers to protest the planned cuts to public education. The petition was sent to MNA, Rita DeSantis.
- Student Council assisted with Orientation Night on September 15<sup>th</sup>.
- On September 17<sup>th</sup>, Live Different came to the school to inspire students with various motivational speeches.
- On September 18<sup>th</sup>, a Jersey Day was held and \$1,479 was raised for Free the Children.
- The Green Committee began their weekly duties of sorting through recycling bins in the Plaza, cafeteria and staff rooms. A collection of used batteries and electronic devices was also initiated, named "We Take Charge".
- Free the Children/We Scare Hunger: The annual Halloween non-perishable food drive during the month of October has been launched. The Walk to End Hunger will take place on November 5<sup>th</sup>.
- The Student Café was officially opened on October 5<sup>th</sup>.
- On October 6<sup>th</sup>, Student Council assisted with Open House providing tours.
- The new issue of the school newspaper was printed and 300 free copies were handed out to students. This is the newspaper's 5<sup>th</sup> year in production.
- On November 10<sup>th</sup>, 42 Student Council members will attend National We Day in Ottawa.

A complete report of tentative 2015-16 Student Council Activities was presented and is attached to the minutes in pdf format.

### **Teachers' Report:**

Paul Karpontinis reported on the following topics:

- Despite the situation with the budget cutbacks, teachers and staff have a good energy, renewed enthusiasm and have interacted in great team building activities since the start of the school year.
- Great job to the Student Council for their hard work during back to school and orientation activities, Curriculum Night and Open House.
- An applause to the students that were rewarded at various recognition awards ceremonies (ex: Student Business Project), for their hard work and determination.

- Web traffic – There were over 3,320 “unique visitors” to the school’s website leading up to Open House, which included 5,005 sessions viewing 13,000 pages on the site. The promotional video that was launched two days prior to the Open House had over 25,000 exposures! On Vimeo, over 1,000 direct downloads of the video were made. On Twitter, over 1,000 people were notified of the tweet. On Facebook, over 10,000 views of the video were counted!

Casey Gagné reported on the following topic:

- Thank to Student Council members for their support during the visits to the 15 feeder elementary schools.

Gennifer Girardello reported on the following topic:

- The Secondary 5 prom will be held on Tuesday, June 21<sup>st</sup>, 2016 at Club de Golf Métropolitain.

### **Varia:**

#### *Take our Kids to Work:*

On November 4<sup>th</sup>, the Secondary 3 students will participate in this EMSB project through their POP class (Personal Orientation Project). The program enables students to experience the world of work first hand, while also illustrating the importance of education, skill development and training. Students who are not participating in this opportunity are expected to be in school and complete an alternate assignment. For the students in the Sports Études program, they will work on this project in their English class.

#### *Walk to End Hunger:*

On November 5<sup>th</sup>, students will participate in the 3<sup>rd</sup> annual walk during their Period 1 class. They will be escorted by police through the neighbourhood streets of Montreal North and then return to school for recess followed by the remainder of their regular school day. The non-perishable food items collected will benefit the food banks within the Montreal North area.

#### *Guidance Activities:*

Natasha Krsteski reported on the following:

- Her role as a guidance counselor is to provide direct counseling services to students as individuals, in groups and through peer mediation. Sessions are organized by self-referral, through parents, through administration or through teachers. Topics discussed include anxiety, stress and inter-personal issues (relationships).

- Resources within the school are used: behaviour technician, school nurse, childcare worker and resource workers.
- Resources outside the school can also be used: youth protection, psychologists, and psychiatrists.
  - She will also organize workshops and annual class visits for the students to discuss mental health issues, prepare psychological assessments (if required) and promote the GSA.
  - Workshops are planned with M. Jean Lapointe and Secondary 1 students to inform them of the dangers of drug and alcohol abuse.
  - Workshops are planned with Tolerance Caravan and Secondary 2 students to focus on the issue of bullying.
  - On November 9<sup>th</sup>, a workshop is planned for Secondary 1 students to help them cope with the anxiety issues relating to starting high school.
  - Mike Plescia is working on the career exploration program in order to all students to explore occupations that interest them for their futures.

Franco Mazzariello brought up the following topics for discussion:

- STM bus service on Wednesday mornings:  
Mr. Cacchione ensured that the issue is being addressed.
- Teacher webpages:  
Mr. Cacchione explained that these pages are not mandatory by teachers, but that teachers have email addresses if parents or students wish to ask questions or receive information.

*Following the Meeting Notes:*

Please note the following Governing Board guidelines:

- comments must be made in a respectful and orderly fashion;
- questions must be submitted to the Governing Board ahead of time and not simply presented at the meeting – at least 24 hours in advance of a meeting;
- questions can be emailed to Benny Berneti at: benny.berneti01@gmail.com.

### **Next Meetings:**

The next Governing Board meeting will be held on Monday, November 9 at 7:00 p.m.

### **Adjournment:**

Renée Hardy motioned to adjourn the meeting and Casey Gagné seconded the motion. Everyone was in favour.