



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

**Date:** Monday, April 4, 2016

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

**Place:** Library

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### **Attendees:**

*Geraldine Anania*  
Benny Berneti  
Joe Biunno  
*Catherine Clarabut*  
*Grace Fanelli*  
*Daina Fonicolo\**  
*Casey Gagné*  
Sandra Greco  
Renée Hardy  
*Paul Karpontinis*

*Natasha Krsteski*  
Stephania Mambro  
*Melissa Mastromonaco*  
Franco Mazzariello  
*Cristina Mignacca\**  
*Carmen Nicolas*  
Marisa Papillo  
*Gaetano Sifoni*  
Rosanna Verrillo  
*Mauro Zampini*

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### **Welcome:**

Benny Berneti and Carmen Nicolas welcomed everyone to the Governing Board meeting.

### **Adoption of the Agenda:**

The following item was added to the agenda under Varia:

- CPA Financial Literacy Program

Rosanna Verrillo motioned to adopt the revised agenda and Casey Gagné seconded the motion. Everyone was in favour.

### **Approval of Governing Board Minutes – February 22, 2016:**

The February 22<sup>nd</sup> minutes were reviewed and a motion to adopt the minutes was made by Renée Hardy and seconded by Frank Mazzariello. The following abstained from approval: Benny Berneti and Joe Biunno since they were not present at the meeting. The remaining members approved unanimously.

### **New Business:**

There was no new business to report.

**Principal's Report:**

Mrs. Nicolas presented the 2016-2017 school calendar to the members pointing out that the first day of classes will be August 31<sup>st</sup>. Orientation night will take place on September 20<sup>th</sup>. Open House will be held on October 6 and placement exams will take place on October 22<sup>nd</sup>. Mrs. Nicolas advised the other nearby district high schools of these dates to try to ensure that they are not on the same night forcing parents to choose where to attend. This calendar still remains to be approved by the EMSB; therefore, dates are subject to change.

Lester B. Pearson was awarded a \$3,000 Oak Grant from the EMSB Green Plan Committee to beautify and upgrade the main school entrance which will be received at a Council of Commissioners' Board meeting on April 27<sup>th</sup>. The work will be done in May by students, staff and volunteers.

The annual EMSB Volunteer Dinner will be held on April 12<sup>th</sup> for all volunteers with five years or more of volunteering within the EMSB community. Please note that an RSVP was required since there is a plated meal. Only those registered will be permitted to enter the event.

Mr. Zampini reported that the Secondary 5 graduation activities are as follows:

- June 21 Prom Club de Gold Métropolitain Anjou
- June 23 Convocation Théâtre de la Ville (Longueuil)

**Commissioner's Report:**

Sylvia Lo Bianco was not present at the meeting.

**Chair Report/Regional Delegate Report:**

Benny Berneti reported that:

- Rosemont Technology requires more space and presented a formal request to the Board. A formal consultation has been approved. Both Rosemont High School and John F. Kennedy High School have space available. More to come.
- Congratulations to all staff and teachers for running a very smooth lockdown drill on March 29<sup>th</sup>.

**Secretary/Treasurer's Report:**

Stephania Mambro reported that it was time to decide whether Top Marks Uniforms would be awarded the additional year on their existing two-year contract or if we were returning to the bidding process. Mrs. Nicolas advised that the EMSB has revised the bidding process since the last process review. The EMSB now requires Governing Boards to present up to three uniform suppliers (following our own criteria meeting review) and then the final supplier selection will be made by the EMSB based on price.

During discussion, some parents expressed concern that the samples available during the fittings were not a match for the sizes of the actual items purchased. This point will be brought to their attention.

The following motion was presented by Stephania Mambro: An additional year will be awarded to the existing Top Marks Uniforms two-year contract. In addition, the sizing issues and the possibility of modifying the uniform items available to students for purchase will be discussed prior to the mailing to new parents in December 2016.

Rosanna Verrillo approved the motion and Marisa Papillo seconded the motion. Sandra Greco abstained from approval. The remaining members approved unanimously.

### **PPO Report:**

Renée Hardy reported that Teacher Appreciation activities were held on February 25<sup>th</sup> for all teachers and staff with baked goods sent in by the parents. A bake sale was also held at the Parent-Teacher session on the same day. Following the request made by Paul Karpontinis for funds to help pay for the purchase and improvement of the Coffee House, the PPO members voted to donate the funds collected during the two bake sales held this school year. A total of \$579 was remitted to the students to complete the purchase of an electronic piano and a Foosball table.

Stephania Mambro added that at the last PPO meeting, she advised the PPO members that unless participation increased, she would consider not supporting the reinstatement of PPO at the 2016 Annual General Meeting whereby Governing Board would vote to allow for a PPO within the school. Ensuring that Teacher Appreciation and the bake sales are successful requires more than just a handful of parents' support.

### **Student Council:**

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

- Parent-Teacher: Student Council members were present to help guide parents through the gym and assist with the retrieval of report cards, sale of *Free the Children* fundraiser items or pass out coffee and water to the teachers. Appreciation gifts to all the teachers were also handed out during the evening.
- Vermont: Students from Fairhaven Union High School in Vermont visited Montreal on February 25 & 26. Activities included team spirit games and outings around the city and skating at the Atrium.
- Meeting with MNA, Rita DeSantis: Student Council members met with Rita DeSantis on March 7 to hear about her career choice and to discuss Bill 86.

- Empathy Day: Numerous activities were organized on both March 8 and 9 to show students the impact of their words and actions on others.
- Raffle: A raffle was held with profits going towards students within the school community requiring financial support.
- A new Foosball table is available to students in the Plaza. The cost to play is \$1 and all funds collected will go towards purchasing other items for student life.
- LBP Indoor Seedling Club: Herbs, fruits and vegetable seeds were planted on March 14 in the Sacred Space and will be nurtured by the committee members until May. They plants will then be sold to the community members.
- Bill 86 Brief: Paul Karpontinis attended the Quebec City brief with fellow student, James Peterson.
- Grad Hoodies: Spiritwear was distributed to Secondary 5 students who placed orders during the week of March 15.
- On March 18<sup>th</sup>, the second Coffee House of the school year took place. It was a great success. Thank you to PPO for the funds donated to purchase the piano.
- School Dance: The March 24 dance was cancelled due to poor ticket sales.
- Europe Trip: Only four students went on the Europe trip, but it was a fantastic experience visiting Austria, Italy, Germany and Switzerland.

### **Teachers' Report:**

Grace Fanelli reported on the following topics:

- LBPHS will be hosting the EMSB Public Speaking Competition on April 15 in our auditorium. The LBPHS winners that will be participating in the board wide competition are:
  - Secondary 1 – Massimo Mancini
  - Secondary 2 – Brianna Jaremczuk
  - Secondary 3 – Felice Lohmann
  - Secondary 4 – Victoria Sicurello
  - Secondary 5 – Jimi Arbidio

- *Pearson Vibes*, the LBPHS variety show will take place on April 22 at 7:00 p.m. showcasing talented musicians, singers, dancers, models and performers within the school community. Tickets will be sold for \$10. We will be also presenting the show that same morning to elementary students visiting from various schools.
- A Reading Strategy Steering Committee was formed and one objective was developed for the Secondary 1 – 5 student body to help all students feel more successful with reading various texts. The objective is based on annotation: one section for notes and another section for questions.

Geraldine Anania reported on the following topic:

- As an Italian teacher to the Secondary 4 and 5 students, a new initiative was launched and various written works of LBPHS students is being featured every other week in the *Corriere Italiano*.

Melissa Mastromonaco reported on the following topics:

- Track & Field and flag football tryouts are underway.
- Secondary 1 & 2 Junior Science Fair was held and was very successful.
- March 23: The Breakfast of Excellence was held and 308 students were in attendance.

### **Sports Études Program:**

Casey Gagné reported on the following:

- Student accomplishments can be followed on the LBPHS Twitter Feed: <https://www.twitter.com/LBPSportEtudes>
- The Ministry-required renewal forms for the Sports Études Program have been completed and submitted for the 2016 – 2020 program renewal.

### **Guidance Initiatives:**

Natasha Krsteski reported on the following guidance initiatives:

- Drug Counselling: A counsellor was assigned to LBPHS ½ day per week to address addition problems (drugs, alcohol, gambling and cyber addiction). Referrals are made by parents, teachers and administration. The demand is quite impressive and the counsellor time allocation has been increased to a full day per week for the remainder of the school year. In the past, students requiring services would have to make arrangements outside of school time and travel to the west end of the city. This new initiative enables students to receive counselling services within a safe environment at the school.

- On April 26, 27 and May 20, Maison Jean Lapointe will facilitate student workshops to empower students on how to deal with potentially harmful situations and prevent serious consequences regarding drug and alcohol abuse.
- Mr. Plescia is working with Montréal Rélève and interested Secondary 3 and 4 students on a career summer internship program. A total of 120 applications were received this year compared to the 30 applications received last year.
- GSA will be organizing an activity for the May 17<sup>th</sup> International Day against Homophobia and Transphobia. This activity includes the developing of a safe space logo.

**Varia:**

*CPA Financial Literacy Program:* Joe Biunno presented a workshop that will be presented to Secondary 5 students teaching students the importance of budgeting and saving, credit cards and bad debt versus good debt, earning income, and goal setting. There may be a possibility of extended this workshop to Secondary 4 students as well.

**Next Meeting:**

The next meeting will take place on Monday, May 9<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. in the Library. The final meeting and end of year social will take place on Monday, June 6<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. in the Library. Benny Berneti extended the invitation to Renée Hardy in order to include all PPO members.

**Adjournment:**

Casey Gagné motioned to adjourn the meeting and Joe Biunno seconded the motion. Everyone was in favour.