



Lester B. Pearson High School
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GOVERNING BOARD MINUTES

Date: Monday, December 7, 2015

Time: 6:30 p.m.

Place: Library

Attendees:

Benny Berneti

Joe Cacchione

Catherine Clarabut

Grace Fanelli

Daina Fonicolo*

Sandra Greco

Renée Hardy

Paul Karpontinis

Natasha Krsteski

Stephania Mambro

Melissa Mastromonaco

Franco Mazzariello

Cristina Mignacca*

Marisa Papillo

Rosanna Verrillo

Mauro Zampini

Welcome:

Benny Berneti welcomed everyone to the Governing Board meeting. A special welcome was made to the three PPO members who joined in for the Christmas social. The following additions were made to the agenda:

- Varia: Guidance Initiatives

This item will be added to future agendas under reports. The revised agenda was adopted by Sandra Greco and seconded by Marisa Papillo. Everyone was in favour.

Approval of Governing Board Minutes – November 9, 2015:

The November 9th minutes were reviewed and a motion to adopt the minutes was made by Renée Hardy and seconded by Rosanna Verrillo. They were approved unanimously.

Election for new Alternate Regional Delegate

Benny Berneti reported that Franco Mazzariello must be replaced as Alternate Regional Delegate since he cannot occupy a position as Regional Delegate at the elementary school level and also as a Regional Delegate at the secondary school level since he cannot cast a vote twice on the two different levels, should he require to replace Benny Berneti at any given meeting. None of the present Governing Board members came forward as a suitable replacement; therefore, Benny Berneti asked to table this item for the next meeting in order to give members a chance to reflect as well as offer the opportunity to Joe Biunno, who was not present at the meeting.

New Business:

There was no new business to report.

Principal's Report:

Mr. Cacchione reported that 92.5% of students are achieving above-passing marks. In Secondary 3, the percentage is a little lower at 86% of students obtaining passing marks. In addition, 30% of students have an over 80% overall average (honour roll). Special recognition should be given to the students for their hard work and to the wonderful teaching staff for their support and expertise.

Commissioner's Report:

Sylvia Lo Bianco was not present at the meeting.

Chair Report/Regional Delegate Report:

Benny Berneti reported that Bill 86 was the hot topic at the last CPC meeting.

Franco Mazzariello reported that the following topics were discussed at the last regional meeting:

- Region 1, 2 and 3 will be merged into a new configuration of Region 1 & 2 being Region East.
- Refugees: The situation of the incoming refugees was discussed with the possibility of offering certain EMSB schools to accommodate 10,000 new students. It was also discussed whether there would be a humanitarian clause to accept these students in English schools and not follow Bill 101.
- Generations Foundation: The annual gift basket sale is underway.

Secretary/Treasurer's Report:

Stephanie Mambro had nothing new to report.

PPO Report:

Renée Hardy welcomed PPO members and thanked them for attending.

A bake sale was held on November 19th during parent-teacher night which raised a total of \$373 for student activities. Collection boxes have been set up to collect clean, new or used uniform items and unused school supplies. The collection boxes are at the main office.

Mr. Di Maio is heading the Alumni event and he will inform the PPO alumni of any help required.

The next PPO meeting is scheduled for Monday, January 11, 2016.

Renée Hardy will present her request for the use of \$400 of PPO funds for Teacher Appreciation activities at the next Governing Board meeting.

Student Council:

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

- Movember: Games were held during lunchtime and a total of \$143 was raised to help raise awareness for prostate cancer. In addition, there was a photo booth and stickers and tattoos were also sold.
- EMSAC held their third meeting and discussed issues within the school and at the School Board due to the strikes.
- On November 19th, Student Council members helped at parent-teacher interview night by directing parents, selling items and informing alumni about the planning of the upcoming event.
- On November 30th, Student Council participated in the annual *Free the Children* vow of silence and raised \$201.
- On November 30th, honour roll students participated in the *Breakfast of Excellence*.
- On December 3rd, Student Council sent in their *Green Grant Application* with Staples.
- On December 4th, \$1,441.55 was raised by holding a pyjama day with funds going to Christmas charities. Food items, hygiene products and toys were also collected. Ms. Arnoldo's class also participated through a class project. A huge thank you to everyone who brought in items. Items will continue being collected until December 16.
- On December 5th, Student Council members helped with the teachers and staff *Breakfast with Santa*.
- On December 6th, Student Council members wrapped gifts at Galeries d'Anjou to help the Santa Cabrini Foundation.
- On December 14th, during the Ped Day, Student Council members will be hosting Pre-K and kindergarten students from Gerald McShane in a holiday crafting session.
- Next week, Christmas fundraising activities will be held including an ornament decorating competition, sale of milkshakes and a holiday photo booth.

Teachers' Report:

Paul Karpontinis reported on the following topics:

- A special thank you to the administration and to Mrs. Paci for organizing the *Breakfast with Santa*.
- A group of teachers also participated in Movember fundraising activities and added to the student fundraising amount to total \$508 raised.
- Mr. Karpontinis mentioned that at a future meeting, he would like to bring forward a proposal to hold a fundraiser for the resource math class.

Varia:

Natasha Krsteski reported on the guidance initiatives. A fundraising event will be held on December 15th to help raise funds and awareness for National Human Rights Day. This day is strongly in line with the GSA's mission and December is an important month for other social justice issues as well:

- December 1 World AIDS Day
- December 3 International Day of Persons with Disabilities
- December 6 National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women
- December 10 Human Rights Day
- December 18 International Migrants Day
- December 20 International Human Solidarity Day

The fundraiser would include a rainbow themed "Come chill with us" snack sale including hot chocolate with rainbow-coloured marshmallows and yogurt with rainbow-coloured sprinkles. The funds raised will be used towards the promotion of awareness of different minority groups.

A new protocol has been put in place in order to improve services for students dealing with substance use, abuse or gambling. Lester B. Pearson will receive the service, effective immediately, of a drug counsellor present at the school for a half a day each week. Referrals must be made in order to sustain this service (through teachers or parents). All referrals will remain confidential. More information will be provided shortly regarding the procedures and expectations required to use this intervention model.

Next Meetings:

The next meeting will take place on Tuesday, January 12th at 7:00 p.m. in the Library.

Adjournment:

Benny Berneti requested that the meeting be adjourned and wished everyone a happy and safe holiday season. A special thank you to Rosanna Verrillo and Stephania Mambro for the desserts provided. Sandra Greco motioned to adjourn the meeting and Renée Hardy seconded the motion. Everyone was in favour.