

PIERRE DE COUBERTIN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

GOVERNING BOARD 2023-24

Minutes of the Governing Board (GB) meeting of Pierre-de-Coubertin Elementary School held virtually on Monday, February 19, 2024 at 7 pm.

Attendance: (X = present, R = regrets)

Parents:		Teachers:	
Tania Decobellis	X	Sara Luciano	X
Eric Brosseau	X	Rosanne Loggia	X
Adamo Di Lembo	X	Michael Guerriero	R
Claudia Mastrocola	X	Sabrina Boukdjadja	X
Eric Maddalena	X	Connie Vitale	X
Joseph Rainone	X	Sophia Kalinin	R
Joe Sousa	X		
Iolanda Bertucci	X	Support Staff:	
		Cesidia De Crescentis	R
Administration:		Elena Lato-Difranco	X
Ida Pisano, Principal	X		
Lisa Triestino, Vice-Principal	X	Commissioner Ward 8:	
		Mario Pietrangelo	R
Community Representative:			
Maria Corsi	X		

5.1 Additions to the Agenda

- Tania Decobellis requested to add criteria for principal to the agenda as point 5.12

5.2 Approval of the Agenda

- Eric Maddalena moved to approve the agenda
- Joseph Rainone seconded the motion

5.3 Approval of the Minutes: January 15, 2024

- Maria Corsi mentioned that she was present at that meeting but it is not indicated in the minutes
- Claudia Mastrocola mentioned that the alternate parent Rosalia Caruso was also present at that meeting and it was not indicated in the minutes
- Eric Maddalena acknowledged these modifications and will send the revised version following the meeting
- Eric Brosseau moved to approve the minutes with the modifications mentioned above

- Tania Decobellis seconded the motion

5.4 BUSINESS ARISING – January 15, 2024

5.4.1 Fund 3 school fundraising budget

- Ida Pisano provided an update
 - All fundraising money was moved into one account (27030)
 - Total amount to date for fundraising is \$44,566
 - About \$10,000 of that amount is for the playground
 - The money in this account is rolled over
- Adamo Di Lembo asked what the other accounts were and why the money was separated
- Ida Pisano explained that this is how the board set up the accounts and split the money so to keep it simple everything is now in one account
- Joseph Rainone asked to see a breakdown of the money for the playground
- Ida Pisano will provide the breakdown at the next meeting
- Iolanda Bertucci asked if the total amount includes the amount rolled over from last year as well as this year's fundraising (including expenses and revenues)
- Ida Pisano confirmed that yes it includes both
- Joseph Rainone abstained himself from these discussions as he was not present at the last meeting
- Ida Pisano stated it would be reflected in the minutes however he is allowed to asked questions even if he was not present at the last meeting

5.4.2 Emails for parent concerns

- Ida Pisano provided an update
 - Claudia Mastrocola had sent all governing board members a procedure document following the last meeting
 - After discussing with the Regional Director and the IT department it was decided that having a Gmail account was not safe and there is also concern about confidentiality with the email being managed by parents
 - The email created was an EMSB account and will be managed by the school administration
- Lisa Triestino mentioned that having a disclaimer wouldn't suffice for confidentiality and that no one has sent an email since it was launched so we will see how it goes
- Joe Sousa mentioned that the email was a way to alleviate the administration and that there is inconsistency within the EMSB if other schools have Gmail accounts
- Ida Pisano said that certain things are left to the principal to run in their schools however for something of this nature she wanted to do it right which is why she spoke to her Regional Director and IT department because if confidential

information is shared in an email that a governing board parent shouldn't see she would have to answer to that

- Joe Sousa stated that this would not change things for the governing board parent members in the yard with other parents confronting them
- Ida Pisano stated that it's a privacy factor and that complaints should go directly to administration and not the parent members

5.4.3 Drop off and pick up procedure

- Ida Pisano followed up with Iolanda Bertucci about the letter for the city regarding the snow removal
- Iolanda Bertucci provided an update
 - Following the last meeting Rosalia Caruso spoke to a city representative and told her to hold off on the letter
 - This morning she witnessed the snow removal vehicles passing during drop off time and mentioned that the one clearing the sidewalk was just going through and parents had to pull their children out of the way
 - She will draft a letter and share it with everyone for feedback before sending it to the city
- Ida Pisano asked to have a final copy as she's usually the first call they make
- Joe Sousa suggested sending the letter to both the borough of Saint-Leonard and the main
- Eric Maddalena mentioned that he is supportive of this letter and that all incidences should be stated in the letter and leave off saying that we hope for better remainder of this year and for future years
- Joseph Rainone requested we have an email vote to approve the letter so it can be sent off before the next governing board meeting
- Tania Decobellis mentioned that the next meeting at city hall is Monday, March 4th and suggested that someone go to the meeting to present the letter as all city counsellors and a representative from the police department would be there and it would be more impactful in person

5.5 NEW BUSINESS

5.5 Educational Project

- Eric Maddalena asked if there is a follow up with an action plan for the issues mentioned
- Ida Pisano stated that if it's something that can be done then yes however there are some things that can't be fixed
- Joseph Rainone suggested providing parents with additional tools such as online videos to watch to help them help motivate their children and asked to request free options from the board

- Ida Pisano agreed that a virtual option might have more parental participation and will make the request with educational services
- Eric Maddalena asked if we have an insight as to why limited parental involvement is an issue
- Ida Pisano explained all the ways the school helps the students (Wilson program, one-on-one sessions with teachers, homework removal – in certain cases) however at home the work needs to continue with the parents and that's not always the case. They do follow up with parents if needed and send them additional documents and resources.
- Joseph Rainone suggested videos might be easier for parents than reading documents
- Iolanda Bertucci suggested working these tools into the school's social media to get the parents' attention
- Eric Maddalena proposed adding explanations with the concerns stating how they can or can't be fixed
- Ida Pisano explained that the template for the educational project was given to her to fill out with a focus on Math, English and French however she will find a way to address what is being done for certain concerns, the final document needs to be submitted in April
- Joseph Rainone mentioned that this topic was spoken about at the EMSBPC as a letter was sent stating that the procedure for the collection and presentation of data for the educational projects were fragmented as not all principals followed the same guidelines
- Adamo Di Lembo asked where we are at with enrollment for Pre-K and Kindergarten for next year
- Ida Pisano said the numbers aren't final yet as there are some changes every day but right now as it stands there are 20-30 Kindergarten (which does not include the Pre-Ks currently at the school) and 25 for Pre-K (which means 2 classes, in order to have a third class we would need an additional 6 students)
- Tania Decobellis tabled the approval of the educational project to the next meeting

5.6 Budget Building Process

- Ida Pisano asked the members to make a list of what we would like to see them spend money on
- Eric Maddalena suggested looking at our educational project to see what we can monetize
- Joseph Rainone suggested once again requesting a 100% French resource teacher
- Sabrina Boukdjadja suggested requesting more money for another teacher aide to help in the classes
- Connie Vitale agreed with this stating that more French teacher aides would be beneficial as they have a lot more subjects to teach and also suggested math tutors

- Ida Pisano explained that having teacher aides is tricky as they need to adapt to the teacher and their teaching styles since they are in the background there to help, has been done in the past with short contracts with renewals as needed
- Connie Vitale stated that she would prefer having Mme Gail as a 100% resource teacher than 80/20
- Eric Maddalena asked for clarification on the 80/20
- Ida Pisano explained that they had changed certain programs of study to French in order to help the children with the language and they created the French communication program which is not the traditional sit and learning way, it's a verbal component where students speak to each other while playing games and communicating with each other in French and this is reflected as part of the verbal communication grade component
- Joseph Rainone applauded Ida Pisano for implementing this in the school
- Eric Maddalena asked if there is anything else out there we don't have that we can bring in
- Ida Pisano mentioned providing afterschool activities in French, bringing in French speakers, these are some things they are actively looking for
- Ida Pisano stated that the building needs all the ceiling tiles redone as most of them have asbestos
- Claudia Mastrocola asked if the library tiles were also affected as parent volunteers have manipulated the tiles when decorating for special events
- Ida Pisano confirmed that the library, classrooms and boiler room are affected, the information is fairly new and the report is difficult to understand, someone will be going in later this week to speak with her about it, and teachers were advised to avoid touching the ceiling tiles as many decorate their classrooms
- Joseph Rainone asked if a communication about this should be sent out to the PPO parents to advise them
- Tania Decobellis will draft a letter to send to the board about our concerns to fix this issue as soon as possible
- Maria Corsi provided an explanation of the board's asbestos policy
 - If you don't touch it, it's not an issue
 - They check the situation when renovations are done in the building and they deal with it accordingly
 - It's not unreasonable for us to request to have the tiles changed
 - She recommended it not be done while the children are in the school but to have it done in the summer followed by a thorough duct cleaning
- Tania Decobellis asked if the ducts are okay
- Ida Pisano confirmed that the ducts are okay and that they were done 2-3 years ago
- Tania Decobellis summarized our requests
 - More French and English resources
 - Math tutor
 - Replacing ceiling tiles filled with asbestos
 - Redo the school yards (filtration)
- Tania Decobellis asked for a motion to pass these requests

- Eric Maddalena accepted the motion
- Joseph Rainone seconded the motion
- Adamo Di Lembo mentioned that an air test can be done once the tiles are changed to make sure that the air quality is asbestos free

5.7 Daycare morning end time change

- Lisa Triestino mentioned that in the daycare handbook that was approved at the previous meeting the morning daycare time was 7 am to 8:50 am and they would like to add a note that during the bus strike the end time will be 8:35 am instead as to ensure the safety of the children entering the building
- Joseph Rainone asked how many children come in after 8:35 am
- Lisa Triestino responded that they do not have exact stats but even 1 student is 1 too many walking the hallways without supervision
- Joseph Rainone mentioned that we wouldn't feel comfortable passing a motion that effects other parents
- Lisa Triestino stated that this is a safety protocol
- Tania Decobellis requested a motion to be passed for the temporary end time change for morning daycare
- Eric Brosseau accepted the motion
- Eric Maddalena seconded the motion

5.8 Fieldtrip – Cabane a Sucre Closed classes

- Lisa Triestino mentioned that the previously approved fieldtrip for the ASD classes was cancelled as the venue has closed and has requested a cabane a sucre outing for them on April 5th for 16 kids with 1 parent per child to accompany them – the previously approved amount was \$280 and now they would need \$1,243 for the activity (bus fee not included)
- Eric Maddalena asked what the original outing was
- Lisa Triestino replied that it was Woohoo – and indoor activity center which was a closed space
- Joseph Rainone asked if the bus was necessary or if the parents would drive up with their children since they are also participating in the activity
- Lisa Triestino stated that the bus is part of the experience for the students
- Tania Decobellis requested a motion to approve the fieldtrip which will be taken from Fund 3
- Adamo Di Lembo accepted the motion
- Eric Maddalena seconded the motion

5.9 Winter ECA

- Lisa Triestino mentioned that it was extremely difficult to find ECAs who are reliable, tried finding a variety of different activities and presented us with some options

- Karate – Pre-K to Grade 6
- Babysitting Course – must be 11 years old or older
- Ball Hockey – Grade 1 to 6
- KidScience Food Lab – Pre-K to Grade 1
- Sweet Treats – Grade 2 to 6
- Kid Chemistry – Grade 3 to 6
- Creative Stitches – Grade 3 to 6
- Activities would begin after spring break for 8-9 weeks
- Sabrina Boukdjadja requested having more ECAs in French
- Lisa Triestino stated she will ask if French speaking animators can be present for the activities
- Joseph Rainone agreed with Sabrina Boukdjadja and also suggested having a Zumba class
- Lisa Triestino mentioned that she had requested for one along with a self-defence program but both fell through, she will try again for next year
- Tania Decobellis requested a motion to approve the activities
- Joseph Rainone accepted the motion
- Eric Maddalena seconded the motion

5.10 Grad Fundraiser no. 3

- Ida Pisano met with the grad committee last Monday and they requested a third fundraiser with PastaDoro selling 1 kilo of ravioli (meat), fusilli and gnocchi – they keep \$9-10 we sell at \$15
- Adamo Di Lembo accepted the proposal
- Joseph Rainone seconded

5.11 Information (Principal, Chair, Delegate)

- Ida Pisano mentioned that they received \$15,000 to be spent on providing extra help to students who need it, they are targeting students in the grey zone who need the extra push, they have a plan for the money and will share it once it's finalized
- Ida Pisano stated that they have purchased pink shirts for all students and staff to be worn on Pink Shirt Day on February 28th, and they will also have a kindness day once a month where students will wear these pink shirts
- Ida Pisano mentioned that Johnny Piazza from Le Doral invited the governing board to his place to taste his food – the meeting on April 18th will be in person at Le Doral
- Joseph Rainone mentioned that at the February EMSBPC meeting they were trained on the budget building process as well as the principal criteria and will share the documents with the group
- Joseph Rainone congratulated the team for the marketing initiatives on social media for recruitment

- Lisa Triestino stated that the appreciation should go to the teachers and staff as they are the ones who provide her with the content, she also mentioned that parent engagement on social media isn't strong and needs to be worked on
- Joseph Rainone explained that the scholarship and literacy award nominations are now open and schools can submit their nominees
- Sabrina Boukdjadja asked if this was for Grade 6
- Ida Pisano confirmed that it is for Grade 6 and that they usually give out the award at the 6th grade graduation

5.12 Criteria for principal

- Tania Decobellis stated that she will email all members, excluding Ida Pisano and Lisa Triestino, the letter we send to the EMSB with qualities/attributes we want in a principal based on last year's and we can provide her with our comments

Meeting was adjourned at 8:53 pm.

Ida Pisano
Principal

Tania Decobellis
Governing Board Chairperson