



Roslyn School
GOVERNING BOARD AGENDA
Monday, October 4th, 2021
Virtual Meeting
7:00pm

Present

Prosanto Chaudhury (parent)
Andrew Potter (parent)
Elan Cusiak-Barr (parent)
Rayna Goldman (parent)
Sarah Tabah (parent)
Suzanne Wexler (parent)
Shannon Hurtubise (parent)
Neil Hopley (parent-sub)
Daniel Khazzam (parent-sub)
Rachelle Lee Hauser (parent-Alternate Substitute)

Kristen Boyer (staff)
Maria Grazia Piscopo (staff)
Hannah Trineer-Roberts (staff)
Eric Rowles (staff)
Oscar Casallas (staff)
Krystal Hilal (staff)
Kristen Boyer (staff)

Joanna Genovezos (principal)
Mireille Tehbelian (vice-principal)

Marie-Helene Navarra (YMCA Community Representative)
Heather Hodges (Centre Greene Community Representative)
Leslie Symansky- HandS (Community Representative)

Regrets:

Jennifer Maxwell (Tyndale Community Representative)

1. Welcome : At 7:05 the meeting was called to order. The members of the Governing Board were welcomed by the outgoing chair, Shannon Hurtubise, and the principal, Joanna Genovezos

2. Adoption of Agenda (5 minutes)

2.1 Proposed change: election of chairperson to be moved ahead of new business

It was moved by Sarah Tabah, seconded by Andrew Potter and unanimously resolved by the Board that the election of a new chairperson be the next item of today's agenda.

3. Election of Chairperson

3.1 The outgoing chair, Shannon Hurtubise, briefly outlined the roles and position of the Governing Board Chairperson. Suzanne Wexler put her name forward as a candidate for Chair. It was moved by Shannon Hurtubise, seconded by Prosanto Chaudhury and unanimously resolved by the board that Suzanne Wexler be chairwoman of the Governing Board of Roslyn School for the academic year 2021-2022.

4. Adoption of Minutes (15 minutes)

4.1 Adoption of Minutes from May 19, 2021 Meeting

4.1.1 Some discussion and a proposal to change the phrasing of the minutes to better reflect the concerns of school parents were made.

4.1.2 It was moved by Shannon Hurtubise, seconded by Andrew Potter and unanimously resolved by the board to adopt the minutes of the May 19th meeting.

4.2 Adoption of Minutes from June 19th Meeting

4.2.1 It was moved by Andrew Potter, seconded by Shannon Hurtubise and unanimously resolved by the board to adopt the minutes of the June 19th meeting.

5. First Question Period (10 minutes)

5.1 A parent raised the question about the new COVID regulations that came into effect today and whether they were applied at the school. Ms. Tehbelian clarified that the school was enforcing the new directives and recommendations.

5.2 A parent asked about the re-installation of the play structure. Joanna explained that the current cost of the re-installation would cost 4500.00, and that until the school budget is confirmed we will not know if the structure can be reinstalled

5.3 Mrs. Genovezos also mentioned that the schoolyard has been unlocked after a request was made to the regional board. She explained the reasons that it was closed initially last year (vandalism during off hours last year), but that she was happy that it had been reopened, and that there have been no incidents so far.

5.4 Mrs. Wexler asked a question about lead content in the school drinking water. Joanna confirmed that although there is no lead in the water fountains, there may be in the sink water, and that it should not be used for drinking water. Joanna will provide the documents to the board. Mrs. Symansky followed up by asking if the fountains had built in filters. Mrs. Genovezos confirmed this was the case and that the filters had been replaced. She then read the report of the analysis confirming the safety of all 9 drinking fountains. The water from the sinks was not tested, except in the staff room. It was suggested that this be included in future communications to the parents. A brief discussion of the eventual need for the School/EMSB to replace the water main ensued and it was pointed out that while part of this cost would be borne by the City of Westmount, the School/EMSB was responsible for the cost of replacing that portion which lies on School property, and that by municipal by-law, this has to be with copper pipe.

6. Business Arising from Last Meeting (10 minutes)

6.1 Feedback on May Minutes.

6.1.1 Mrs. Genovezos explained that the employee involved in the May incident was met by Human Resources at the EMSB and that he was dismissed both from the EMSB and Roslyn.

7. New Business

7.1 Election of Secretary (5 minutes)

- 7.1.1 A request for candidates was made. After a brief discussion on the merits of the rotation employed by the Board last year, It was moved by Shannon Hurtubise, seconded by Hannah Trineer-Roberts and unanimously resolved by the board that we continue the alternating rotation of the secretary role from teacher to parent.

7.2 Election of Treasurer (5 minutes)

- 7.2.1 A request was made for candidates for the role of treasurer. Mrs. Genovezos specified that \$250 dollars were allocated on a yearly basis. The accumulated balance is now slightly in excess of \$1800. A brief discussion of previous uses of the funds was held, including the possibility of donating the funds. A final decision on how best to use the funds was deferred to a future meeting.
- 7.2.2 Andrew Potter presented his candidacy for treasurer. It was moved by Suzanne Wexler, seconded by Prosanto Chaudhury and unanimously resolved by the board to elect Andrew Potter as Treasurer of the Roslyn School Governing Board for 2021-2022.

7.3 Dates of GB Meetings 2021-2022 (5 minutes)

- 7.3.1 A minimum of 5 meetings per year must be held.
- 7.3.2 Mrs. Wexler suggested the first Monday of the month. This will be reviewed in light of Parent's Committee meetings, Ped days etc.

ACTION: Suzanne will circulate a proposed schedule by email.

7.4 Fieldtrips 2021-2022 (5 minutes)

- 7.4.1 Mrs. Tehbelian explained that given the loosening of COVID restrictions, the teachers request that the governing board approve a motion for a blanket slate of field trips for the upcoming school year.
- 7.4.2 It was moved by Prosanto Chaudhury, seconded by Andrew Potter and unanimously resolved by the board to accept a blank slate of field trips for the 2021-2022 academic year.

8. Reports

8.1 Principal's and Vice Principal's Report (10 minutes)

- 8.1.1 Mrs. Genovezos welcomed and thanked the Governing Board members. The School began the year with COVID protocols and that these were tightened (decreased time with masks off during meals) as case counts rose early in the year. As of today, all students (including K) must wear masks on the bus. We cannot afford mask mandates beyond those of the Government. COVID protocols, including the wearing of masks, are enforced during physical education classes. Rapid testing will be available as of October 15, and staff are being trained to administer the tests. Bubbles are not being enforced this year as they are not mandated by the government or public. Extracurricular activities (ECA's) were cancelled due to the early rising number of COVID cases. Sanitization of high traffic areas, bathrooms and high-touch spots continues throughout the day and all classes are cleaned every night.
- 8.1.2 Enrollment 577 as of September 30th. This is down from 620 in May. 80% were lost to moves to other school districts. Temporary stays have not resumed. Some children moved to home schooling, some to French Schools and some to private.
- 8.1.3 A Parent commented on the cancelling of ECA's: will they be cancelled for the full year? This will be addressed later in the meeting. He also asked about the about enrichment program Unfortunately as many of the activity teachers would also have been the enrichment teachers, this too has been cancelled.

ACTION

Mrs. Genovezos will report back to the board on the possibility of hiring a tutor for enrichment if funds are available.

- 8.1.4 A parent asked further details of the enrichment plan. Mrs. Genovezos explained that enrichment on an individual basis may be possible by communicating directly with your child's teacher. Tutors may be hired outside of this. The decision to cancel ECA's was made at the school level but was strongly encouraged by EMSB management.
- 8.1.5 A parent asked about the declining enrollment. Mrs. Genovezos explained that a similar drop occurred last year, and that new students are still being added.
- 8.1.6 Mrs. Wexler asked about communication protocol when cases are reported. Mrs. Tehbelian explained that when a case is identified, it is reported to Public Health and to the EMSB. When a case occurs in kindergarten, because the students are unmasked, as soon as a case is reported the parents are contacted immediately and the children are dismissed home. The class is placed in preventive isolation, pending confirmation by Public Health. Parents in the older grades are asking for more information and transparency. From grades 1-6, the community letter is sent out at the end of the day as mandated by upper management. The members of the class are sent a letter describing the contact as low risk. Screening is being recommended, but the children are allowed to attend classes and activities. A class may be closed if there are multiple cases. Public Health is classifying the current outbreak as a community outbreak as there has not been transmission between students.
- 8.1.7 Parents mentioned that clearer communication to the parents regarding the status of COVID within the school (i.e.: numbers of classes closed) etc. would help allay some of the parent body anxiety. A discussion ensued-that this would counteract much of the misinformation currently circulating in the parent body, especially as this information is widely available. I do not think specific names of whom said what should be stated in the form of the discussion. Perhaps "a discussion ensued regarding transparency of Covid status in the school"

ACTION: Ms. Tehbelian will verify how much information can be released with upper management.

8.1.8 V-P Report

- 8.1.8.1 Sept 10 Drama auditions took place. Marymount Academy presented a virtual Open House and School tour to the Grade 6 students. This was followed by Westmount High. The Terry Fox run took place and raised over \$6000. Miss Gladys, the School spiritual advisor was honored at a schoolwide assembly on the occasion of her retirement. On the occasion of Sept 30, National Day for Truth and Reconciliation (Orange Shirt Day), an assembly was held at which two students read from the life story of Phyllis Jack Webstad whose experiences in the residential school system inspired the creation of orange shirt day.

8.2 Teacher's Report (5 minutes)

- 8.2.1 Ms. Boyer reported that the science and technology labs have been reopened and that experiments are well underway.
- 8.2.2 Ms. Piscopo reported that the grade 3's are back in the main yard and are very appreciative of this.
- 8.2.3 A parent asked Ms. Boyer if the Art Room required additional supplies. Ms. Boyer state thanked the board for their interest and stated that supplies are currently adequate

8.3 EMSB Parents Committee Report (5 minutes)

8.3.1 Report deferred as no meetings have been held this year.

8.4 Home & School Report (5 minutes)

8.4.1 Mrs. Symansky reported that ECA's were cancelled and highlighted all the work put in by Mrs. Debbie Jardine in organizing them. This was a good test of the new HandS website, and some glitches were identified and fixed. There will be costs to HandS relating to the late cancellation of the ECA's. There may be an opportunity to restart the program in the winter. The Pizza Lunch fundraiser will be allowed to proceed with some modifications this year.

8.5 Community Representatives' Reports (5 minutes)

8.5.1 Ms. Hodges from Greene Center reported that programs are slowly and cautiously restarting. The afterschool program has resumed but has already had one case and been through one period of preventative isolation. The TGIF/parents' night off Friday night program may be able to resume.

8.5.2 Mrs. Navarra. YMCA programs have resumed, afterschool before school and ped day activities. The numbers are lower than in previous years. There is a mask mandate for all Roslyn students, and outdoor activities are being prioritized. Registration has moved online.

8.6 Commissioner's Report (5 minutes)

8.6.1 Report was deferred

9. Good and Welfare

10. Question Period (10 minutes)

10.1 It was moved by Prosanto Chaudhury, seconded by Hannah Trineer-Roberts and unanimously resolved by the board that the Governing Board strongly encourages all students (k-6) to wear masks while inside the School building. Hannah Trineer-Roberts seconds the motion.

10.2 It was moved by Prosanto Chauhdury, seconded by Rayna Goldman and unanimously resolved by the board that the Governing Board strongly encourages all parents to wear masks while on School property.

11. There being no further Agenda items the meeting was adjourned at 9:10 pm.

12. The next meeting date: Tentatively set for November 8th, 2021 at 7pm

Suzanne Wexler, Chairperson

Joanna Genovezos, Principal