



École Pierre Elliott Trudeau School
GOVERNING BOARD AGENDA
December 7th, 2021 @ 7:00PM
Virtually on Microsoft TEAMS

Minutes taken by Jan Barbieri

Participants

Present: (15)

Parents: Daniel Tatone, Jan Barbieri, Christi Milsom, Georges Mitchell, Jasmin Legatos, Kathleen de Melo, Jonathan Stein
Teachers: Natasha Benvenuto, Laura Annie Bouffard, Mary Carone
Other Staff: Tanya Alvares, Mara Filippone, Maria Depalma
Com. reps: Jonathan Marciano
Other: Agostino Cannavino, commissioner

Absent: **With regrets:** Patty Foschi, Angelo Loffredi, Michael L'Altrella

1. Call to Order

1.1 The meeting was called to order by D. Tatone at 7:02pm.

2. Adoption of Agenda

2.1 Agenda was adopted unanimously (0 abstentions).

3. Approval of Minutes (November 9th, 2021)

3.1 D. Tatone reviewed the minutes and made minor corrections.

3.2 Minutes approved unanimously (0 abstentions).

4. Business Arising from the Last Meeting

4.1 **Email Approvals for PPO fundraisers:** D. Tatone reviewed the results added to the minutes of November 9, 2021.

4.2 **Drop-off (Debarcadair):** T. Alvares provided an update on the situation. The diagram indicating how to use the drop-off zone was sent to parents; she will meet with the city Thursday, Dec. 9, 2021, to discuss installing no-parking signs around the entry of the debarcadair. (This meeting was previously postponed by the city.)

4.3 **Green Project:** D. Tatone provided an update for the green roof and beehive project subcommittee. He has identified potential funding opportunities; he has been in

contact with the maintenance staff for input (they will reply by Dec. 15, 2021); and he will be following up with potential contractors for the project in December. The subcommittee has not met; interested GB members will meet briefly after tonight's GB meeting (Dec. 7). He also addressed a question regarding the placement of the hives – other schools install the hives on the roof due to parents' concerns about potential bee stings if hives are placed ground-level on school property.

5. Question Period

5.1 No questions were presented.

6. New Business

6.1 Educational Project (Success Plan)

6.1.1 T. Alvares presented the Educational Project Annual Report (2020-21). The three-year cycle of this plan is 2019-2022; it is reviewed periodically and can be changed after the three-year cycle has expired. The primary sources of data for the evaluation of these plans are student survey (e.g., perceptions of bullying/safety at school and personal anxiety levels) and end-of-cycle exams. There were no end-of-cycle exams for the 2019-20 and 2020-21 school years due to the pandemic, so there is insufficient data to evaluate the attainment of objectives and effectiveness of strategies in the Educational Project for the 2020-21 school year. Despite the lack of data, the school board has identified learning gaps. PET teachers recently met to discuss/address these learning gaps, guided by in-class assessments and observation. Teachers are speaking with parents on an individual basis if their child presents with difficulties. T. Alvares said that she could provide the GB with an update about which gaps in learning were identified. A GB member asked if French language performance is measured against French school board schools; it is not, it is measured against data from other bilingual English schools. It was noted that end-of-cycle exams are scheduled for June 2022.

6.1.1.1 K. de Melo moved to approve the educational project; motion was carried unanimously (0 nays, 0 abstentions).

6.2 COVID update (COVID Vaccinations for 5–11-year-olds & Rapid Testing)

6.2.1 **COVID vaccination:** T. Alvares provided an update on the COVID vaccination campaign for PET students aged 5-11. Vaccination date is Dec. 15, 2021; parents have been informed. The CIUSSS are responsible for determining if the vaccinations will occur in-school or off-site. Our CUISSS du-Nord-de-l'Île de Montréal decided PET vaccinations would be off-site (i.e., not at the school). This requires much administrative and logistical effort for the school. She is trying to organize the vaccination day so that students in the same grade can stay together as much as possible, with one of their teachers accompanying them to the vaccination site and one staying at school. No parent volunteers are needed at this time.

6.2.2 **COVID Rapid testing:** T. Alvares provided an update on rapid testing at PET. Rapid testing began last week after being delayed due to lack of PPE equipment and test bins. Three staff are trained to administer the test. So far, two students have been tested, and it went well. Staff verifies consent three

times before conducting the test (list, consent paper, and phone call with verbal consent to the child's parent/caregiver). Parents/caregivers are informed of **positive** test results only. These rapid tests are intended for students who present symptoms during the school day; parents are **not** to send their symptomatic children to school to be tested. If a child is symptomatic before arriving at school, they must remain home, and their caregiver must take them for testing at a community testing centre. PET has not had any positive results from rapid tests to date. The Ministry has informed the school that the tests are valid despite the expiry dates listed on the kits.

6.3 After-School Activities

6.3.1 T. Alvares provided an update on after-school activities for winter 2022. Activities are being considered for February or March. She wants to speak with the organizations again to ensure that PET COVID protocol is strictly enforced during the activities. She heard two arguments in favor of reinstating the activities and will be contacting the organizations.

7. Reports

7.1 EMSB Parent's Committee Report

7.1.1 D. Tatone summarized activities at the Dec. 2, 2021 Parent's Committee meeting. There was a presentation on Bill 96 which demonstrated that the bill will not have a direct effect on educational contents or teaching methods. Concerns about expiry dates on the COVID rapid test kits distributed by the Ministry were raised. They are looking for parent volunteers for a subcommittee to organize a parent conference, likely in May. The remainder of the meeting was tabled due to a discussion surrounding the recent murder of a student outside of an EMSB school. The next meeting will be in January 2022.

7.2 Commissioner's Report

7.2.1 Commissioner A. Cannavino presented a summary of the Nov 10, 2021 Council meeting. They adopted the financial statements. There is a deficit due to lack of international student enrollment. They created a post-pandemic committee to explore strategies to increase revenues and support student mental health; this subcommittee's first meeting was Dec. 6, 2021. The next Council meeting is Wednesday, Dec. 15, 2021. He added that he spoke with the DG and political attaché for the Gouin riding to express his dissatisfaction with the handling of the loss of PET's inner-city status and how this impacted class size in October 2021.

7.3 Treasurer's Report

7.3.1 C. Milsom reminded members that there are funds available if a GB member would like to request funds to support their presence at the GB meetings (e.g., babysitting during the meeting). If members need to request funds for these purposes, they must contact her, T. Alvares and D. Tatone via email with their request. Any use of funds will be properly documented and reported.

7.4 Principal's Report

7.4.1 T. Alvares reported on recent and upcoming activities at the school. Parent teacher interviews were conducted virtually in November. They went well despite a board-wide internet connection glitch. PET will host a holiday food and toy drive in December. The holiday tree is up in the entry. The Nov. 25, 2021 dress-down day collected \$561.25, which will be donated to St-Brendan's Parish food pantry and The Spirit of Giving. The staff-run Elves on Shelves activity is successful, and the kids love it.

7.5 Teacher's Report

7.5.1 M. Carone reported on recent, current, and upcoming school activities. Upcoming and current activities are to promote holiday spirit. Teachers are working with students to create decorations for the holiday tree in the entry. Next week, there will be a daily scavenger hunt for classes, followed by a draw for hot chocolate for the winning class; all other classes get a candy cane to reward participation. The week of Dec. 20 will see several events: student north-pole dress up day and virtual music concert presented in the evening (links will be sent to parents; provisions were made for students who have not consented to be recorded); an in-class viewing of the virtual music concert and catered holiday brunch served around lunch time (approx. 10:40 am). Parents will be informed to cancel any lunch orders placed with le Doral for that day. For December 22 children will be invited to wear holiday headgear; there will also be individual class parties accompanied by afternoon movies. There was a successful fire drill on Dec. 1. There will be a lockdown drill with advance notice to parents/caregivers in 2022, and two additional fire drills in spring 2022.

7.6 PPO Report

7.6.1 K. de Melo reported on recent PPO activities. The Fundscrip fundraiser and Scholastic Virtual Book Fair have started. Ornament gifts for each student

have been purchased (total: \$711.08). There will be no chocolate fundraiser in the winter.

7.7 Grad Committee

7.7.1 K. de Melo reported on recent Grad. Committee activities. The committee requested that the TCBY fundraiser earnings be donated to the graduation; PPO approved. The next meeting will focus on fundraising. T. Alvares will be meeting with 6th-grade students who would like to be on the committee, and she invited all 6th-grade students to think about what they would like to do for their graduation.

7.7.1.1 K. de melo motioned to transfer \$3,000 from PPO fund to the Grad. Committee. The motion was carried unanimously (0 nays, 0 abstentions).

7.8 Daycare/Lunch Report

7.8.1 M. Filippone reported on daycare/lunch services. The app for pick-up (HopHop) is going well; approx. 25% of parents are using it. It is free until January, then parents will be charged to use it.

8. Varia

8.1 D. Tatone informed GB that there is a food and toy donation gift basket at the EMSB headquarters that will be donated to the Generations Foundation.

8.2 Happy Holidays

9. Date of next meeting (Jan 11, 2022)

10. Adjournment

10.1 C. Milson motioned to adjourn the meeting, seconded by K. de Melo, passed unanimously (0 abstentions). The meeting was adjourned at 8:23 pm.

Email communications December 2022

- Community rep. Angelo Loffredi resigned in writing from his position on GB on December 14, 2022, citing personal/professional reasons. The GB thanked him for his 20 years of service to PET.