
Subject: Minutes of Governing Board Meeting No. 4 for 2020-21 School Year

Location: Virtually on Microsoft TEAMS **Date:** January 12, 2020

Present: Parents: Sandra Gabriele, Dino Santelli, Daniel Tatone, George Mitchell

Teachers: Mary Cerone, Lidia Loren Niro, Nadia Di Mattia

Also present: Tanya Alvares (Principal), Mary Nitti (Support Staff), Mara Filippone (Daycare Tech), Cannavino Augustino (Commissioner)

Absent / Regrets: Talia Ricci (Parent), Jonathan Stein (Parent), Patty Foschi (Parent), Mara Filippone (Daycare Tech), Angelo Loffredi (Community Rep)

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:09pm by Dino Santelli

2. Adoption of the Agenda

Nothing to add to the agenda. Daniel motioned to approve the agenda. Sandra seconded. All in favor.

3. Approval of Minutes from December 1, 2020

Nadia motioned to approved the minutes. George seconded. Sandra abstained. All in favor.

4. Business Arising from the Last Meeting

4.1 Meeting with A. Loffredi:

Despite multiple attempts to schedule an online meeting, Mr. Loffredi insists on meeting in person. Due to restrictions, this meeting cannot be scheduled in person. Mr. Loffredi is in no rush but this subject has been pending for a long time now and Ms. Alvares wishes to settle it as soon as possible.

4.2 Air Purifiers:

Twenty-six air purifiers have been installed in the classrooms of the school. The installation was quick and the units are all functional. Feedback from teachers is that they are very quiet. Caretaker will be responsible for replacing filters every 6 months.

4.3 Scholastic Book Fair

Dino motioned to approve the virtual book fair for February 2021. Daniel seconded and all were in favor.

5. Question Period

No parent present to ask questions.

6. New Business:

6.1 Update to online learning:

In the survey sent out to parents, about 70 parents indicated they required devices for online learning. These devices were picked up from the school on January 4th. The online learning follows a schedule provided by the Minister. Tanya expressed how she was proud of how well the staff adapted. If ever the school was to return to online learning, it is ready.

Some parents expressed they found the online learning session short but the timetable by grade level is decided by the Minister. Some concern was raised about CCW and what happens to a students IEP and tutors during online learning. These points are being addressed on the Board level.

6.2 Criteria for principal

Tanya excused herself while the GB prepared its updated criteria for a principal. Daniel motioned to approve the revised document and Sandra seconded. All were in favor.

6.3 Black History Month

Traditionally the EMSB has held black history month in February. The staff has not met yet to discuss activities. It was suggested to look into a virtual event, collect books in the library about black history.

6.4 Valentine's Day Event

Dino proposed a Valentine's Day Event consisting of a v-day cookie baking challenge. Daniel motioned to approve the event and Mary seconded. All were in favor.

7. Reports

7.1 EMSB Parent's Committee Report:

Daniel reported on the air purifier being installed in the schools. A survey was sent out in December to ask parents about their preference for online learning during the last two school days of December. The EMSB received over 10,000 responses.

Daniel also informed the GB of the marketing efforts of the Parents Committee through Facebook and Twitter. On April 18, the committee will host a Virtual Parents Conference with online workshops.

7.2 Commissioner Report

A press conference was held January 2021 at the school. This provided great media coverage for the school. Mr. Augustino reports that the council is very united this year and their hearts are in the right place. The meetings and workshops are being held virtually but the council communicates regularly. Currently, they are evaluating the changes done to the bylaws by the Trustee and will be presenting a proposal with changes. There is a posting up for a permanent DG to replace the interim DG. There has been a lot of discussion and concern at the board regarding the budget due to added expenses caused by covid as well a decrease in revenue due to decreased number of international students.

Some questions were raised about budgets and monies being rolled over from one year to the next. It was made clear that monies within a budget must be spent in the fiscal year. PET spent all its money in the tech fund and was able to purchase laptops.

7.3 Treasurer Report

No change.

7.4 Principal Report:

Tanya reported on the new guidelines put in place by the government:

Grades 1-4, masks must be worn in all common areas.

Grades 5-6, masks worn at all times, even during gym.

Daycare: Same rules apply but since some bubbles mix, masks are encouraged.

Pre-K, K – No masks

Bus – Everyone must wear masks.

The term 1 report cards will be ready February 5th, 2021. There will only be 2 terms and term 1 will be weighted a little less than 50% and term 2 will be weighted a little greater than 50%.

The Virtual Open House will be held on January 28, 2021 through a live stream online. A combination of recorded video and live video will be used to showcase all aspects of the school including the steam program, robotics, grade levels, etc.

7.5 Teacher's Report:

Mary C. reported that there were a number of festivities for the holidays in December including the Holiday Bfast, holiday hats, holiday sweater, ornaments and Santa Clause answering student questions.

There has been some mixed feelings about being back at school but everyone is adapting one day at a time.

7.6 PPO Report:

Dino proposed a budget of \$950 for expenses related to staff appreciation week. Daniel motioned to approve. Sandra seconded. All in favor.

7.7 Daycare/Lunch Report:

Ms. Mara not present. Nothing to report.

8. Varia

No varia added.

9. Date of next meeting: February 2, 2021.

10. Adjournment:

At 8:58 George motioned to adjourn the meeting, Nadia seconded. All in favor.