

Westmount Park School
December 8th 2020
Governing Board Minutes

Present: Marco Gagliardi, Holly Kusiewicz, Giovanni Iammarrone, Deborah Mete, Christine Vidal, Kathleen Rooney, Nicholas Lalli, Marcel Proulx, Veronique Lescaut, Shalani Bel, Jennifer Maxwell, Julian Feldman

1. Welcome

1.1- Public Question Period

Some parents have asked whether Dec. 17th and 18th are still online classes since the cancellation of the government's holiday gatherings. No, they are still days off from school, but it is just checking in rather than full slate of classes. Marco described as PD days, are they optional for students? Will discuss more in Covid update.

1.2- Additions to the Agenda

1.3- Approval of the Agenda

Christine moved to approve, Marcel seconded. Approved.

1.4 Approval of the November Minutes

Deborah moved to approve, Nicholas seconded. Approved.

1.5- Approval of the Minutes (June) - Attached to the email so that everyone can read it prior to the meeting.

Do not have enough returning members to approve the minutes of June 2020.

2. Business arising from the minutes

2.1 Community reps – Jennifer Maxwell in attendance

any additional name? not sure if Steve wants to join. Christine will check later if no other options.

3. Business requiring approval

3.1 Daycare manual – include the new procedure for it to be reviewed and approved.

EMSB has not responded to Deborah's request for modified procedure to Daycare Handbook. It still states that parents are not allowed inside the school for dropoff or pickup.

The Handbook is written by EMSB for all daycares in network. We don't have the power to amend it. Deborah and Giovanni explained all the ways in which the school tries to limit the waiting time for parents outside. It hasn't yet been an issue, though there was discussion of long lines elsewhere.

Shalani objects to approving a plan that is not reasonable or sustainable in the winter. We have not yet had the Covid restrictions in -15 or -20 temperatures, and she wants to push the board to plan for this. Discussion about other ways to address it: group chat, designated email to notify daycare of arrival; school needs 15 minutes to get



child ready. The apps discussed previously are at a cost to parent; a different notification system would be preferable.

5 votes to approve, 1 against.

3.2 Sexuality education plan

Done in ERC class.

Will do online vote in a week when members have had a chance to review.

4. Items requiring discussion

4.1 Renovation update – still on track according to project manager and meeting monthly deadlines. Currently installing water fountains and library furniture.

Julien Feldman (commissioner) has been concerned about this construction from the beginning because it split the school. He intends to help Marco and the GB get more detailed information e.g. Gant chart to avoid going into a 3rd year and make sure that the contractor knows September start date is a priority. Suggests that the GB gets more detailed project management report to see what is/not completed. Ask for presentation from EMSB project manager and/or contractor with official documents; make sure contractor knows to prioritize public school among other projects.

New interim director general for EMSB: Russell Copeman. Julien will make sure he knows that this is a priority.

4.2 Winter – update on ventilation from EMSB

WPS will receive 22 air purifiers at North campus and 17 at South Campus. 1 per classroom.

They will be installed by latest February, but shipments have started and hope to get before Winter break.

At EMSBPC, there was long discussion on how to prioritise. Should it be HS b/c they are not in class right now?

Will these purifiers move with us back to original campus? Not sure if it will be needed with improved ventilation. Air exchanged mechanically but heating is still on boilers.

Any schools with mechanical ventilation did not qualify for air purifiers.

Marco will confirm the state of ventilation in renovation.

Julien shared that there are disagreements among engineers and medical professionals that the air purifiers are effective or stop the windows from needing to be open. The EMSB approved it b/c they have a budget surplus and thought it was worth it to reduce risk to students and staff, and increase confidence of parents.

4.3 Covid update –Christmas holidays organisation and Dec. 17/18 PD days

Students are not coming in that day and it is no longer a day of online teaching.



Just a touching base. Homeroom teacher, PE, music, and science will provide an activity that will be done at home.

That was not understanding of parents. Will there be a communication clarifying for parents of this change? Yes but Marco was waiting until after the Dec. 11 PD day to avoid confusion. Suggest doing it sooner and explaining it as practice for transition online rather than PD day. If described as PD day, many parents may view as optional.

4.4 PPO : it was approved last year to donate the amount to the school and a survey was made to decide on what to spend this money.

Survey concluded : Flexible Furniture and Multicultural presentations

Amount estimated – 2000\$ - to be confirmed by PPO

Marco suggested a new survey b/c already bought flexible furniture and have other budget for multicultural presentations. Will survey staff before next meeting.

4.5 Parents update – I would like to include a discussion on how to make sure all parents know that our meetings are taking place and where to find the information.

PPO co-chair feels strongly that parents need to be better informed of GB meetings and how to ask questions. The information is on the website including list of all meetings under events; could there be a link in the newsletter? Yes but will need to direct questions to GB Chair.

Information is also in the agenda.

5. Reports

5.1 Principal's Report (not needed, covered by others)

5.2 Regional Parent Committee Report

Interim Director General introduced himself and took questions. Most questions on air purifiers and legal challenges to Bills 21 and 40.

LBPSB did its own analysis on most effective air purifiers; EMSB adopted their recommendations to procure them and source contractors for installation.

All schools without mechanical ventilation will get purifiers. Easier to install with less students in the school, so may start in HS. Will use the electronic connection from smartboards.

Winter midterms especially related to HS.

Survey from EPCA regarding the last two days of school. Wanted to understand why these days would still be at home after cancellation of holiday gatherings.

Next meeting has been moved to January 14th. Next GB meeting is on Jan 12th. Should we change? No.

5.3 Teacher's Report



Special Events:

- The winning classes from the Halloween door decorating contest will receive a lunch pizza party.
- Our Scholastic Virtual Book Fair is continuing through December 11th.
- Cycle 3 (north) used funds provided through “Culture in Schools” to invite artist Louise Standjofski in on Dec. 10 to teach voice and drama skills.
- Kindergarten and cycle 1 (north) participated in a clowning workshop called “Le clown comme au théâtre” provided by Une École Montréalaise.
- Julie Tytler, literacy consultant and former WPS teacher, has visited classes to facilitate literacy instruction.

Holiday Activities:

- There will be an “Ugly Christmas Sweater Day” (Dec. 14 South, Dec. 15 North) and a Pyjama Day (Dec 16 both).
- Fred the Moose, Westmount Park’s equivalent to an elf on the shelf, is not present in school this year. However, he has been sending email messages promoting kindness and encouraging the holiday spirit.
- The pre-k and kindergarten students will enjoy a socially distanced visit where they will have cookies and milk with Santa (Dec. 9 South, Dec. 14 North).
- Ms Franzi’s cycle 3 class made holiday cards for the Contactivity Centre in Westmount, a community center for seniors.
- Ms Franzi’s class also had a parent visit the class virtually to teach about the celebration of Diwali.
- Grade 6 students at the north campus organized a “Winter Formal”.

Parent/Teacher Interviews:

- Parent/teacher interviews went very well, especially given that it was our first experience with virtual interviews.
- The collaboration between parents and school staff is essential to student success and, as always, we are very grateful for all the support we receive from families.

5.4 Daycare Report

- Ped days November 26 & 27; Superheroes, Friendship bracelets were a huge success.
- Upcoming Ped day Friday, December 11th. Daycare students will be decorating their own Mason Jar for the holidays, and adding a tea light, to resemble a candle.
- For the next two weeks, students and staff will be getting into the holiday spirit by discussing and planning different holiday activities with their students.

5.5 PPO Report (None)

6. Varia

7. Date of next meeting: January 12th, 2021

Adjournment

Nicholas moved, Kathleen seconded.



V. Lescaut (GB Chair)



M. Gagliardi (Principal)

