

Westmount Park School
Tuesday November 17th 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

1. Welcome

1.1- Public Question Period

1.2- Additions to the Agenda

New PD days 3.2

Possible extended Christmas break added to 4.3

1.3- Approval of the Agenda

Marcel moved, Veronique seconded.

1.4- Approval of the Minutes (October)

Veronique circulated October's minutes. Approved.

Discussion of approving the June minutes found on website. Needs to be approved by voting members of last year's GB. Only Kathleen and Deborah.

2. Business arising from the minutes

2.1 Community reps

Jennifer Maxwell from Tyndale has agreed to continue but was not present at this meeting.

Other person from last year is no longer holding activities with students, so doesn't want to continue.

Other suggestions? Steve who runs the chess program. Representative from Legion

3. New Business requiring approval

3.1 Daycare Manual

Highlighted the Covid changes from last year. Currently, it states that parents aren't allowed into the school for pickup but have to review this as the weather gets colder. Considering use of Hop-op (sp?) app to track parents' arrival; \$27/month fee will be responsibility of parents.

Will postpone approval until Dec. 8th meeting when new procedure can be included.

3.2 Three Additional PD days from EMSB

Proposed Dec. 11th as additional PD day so teachers can benefit from preparation for online learning. IT consultant is on reserve for this date.

Jan. 29th and Feb. 22nd selected by EMSB.

Christine asked if teachers can be consulted on the content of PD days. Wants it to become more advanced. Assessment and student engagement come up a lot. Holly and Christine will work together to create a survey of teachers to identify needs.

What is the role of child care workers (CCW) in supporting students online? Marco believes they should be included in training with teachers.

Shalani moved to approve Dec. 11th PD day; Marcel seconded. All approved.

4. Items Requiring Discussion



4.1 Renovation update

Currently they are on schedule, but can't be confident that it will be ready for Sept. 2021 if there are any further delays. Need to be mindful that construction workers are vulnerable to same public health restrictions and would need to isolate if exposed/sick and there could be another shutdown.

Marco read an EMSB update to be sent to the WPS community warning that it may not be ready.

Discussion about whether the school would move back in the middle of the academic year if the campus is not ready for Aug/Sept but could be, e.g. for Nov or Jan. This and many other possibilities under discussion; it is hard to move mid year b/c need more than a weekend to complete it.

The go/no go date is before the end of this school year (end June).

4.2 Winter (Lockers, Vaccines, Ventilation)

Have started using lockers only for winter clothes; cubbies in class if no locker available. There is staggered entrance at South campus; unnecessary at North campus.

All vaccines have been put on hold for this school year. The grade 4s who are missing vaccines will get them next year. Grade 4 teachers will relay this information to parents.

EMSB put out notice regarding ventilation, currently assessing schools in network with mechanical ventilation, open windows before teachers arrive.

Discussion pointed out that EMSB behind other school boards. Frustration from EMSB parents' committee; should have been assessing this from in the summer. Strong feeling in the EMSB parents' committee that the EMSB should go beyond the government directives and be more proactive.

4.3 COVID-19 update (school closure, masks, extended Christmas break)

Staff are provided with procedural masks and change at least twice/day.

Monthly deliveries of PPE, and we have enough to end of November.

Class closure if somebody in class tested positive. If it is teacher with procedural mask, then they don't have to quarantine. If it is student without this mask, then it is the whole class and those students in proximity on bus.

What would cause a school to close? Some have closed for 4 cases.

Can we inform parents of the best mask to use to send with their students? Government was told very early on that it can't be an official notification. Since students often take off their masks, the class might still have to close after exposure. Large population of students are wearing masks.

Will learn government decision on Christmas break next week. Staff would like time beforehand so that they can quarantine before seeing family. Students would need time after if gather for the holidays.

4.4 T-Shirts

t-shirts came from last year's PPO budget. They have some money they would like to donate b/c they can't do activities.

4.5 Public GB meetings

5. Reports

5.1 Principal's Report (went last)

Many lessons were Halloween themed particularly within our STEAM components throughout the month of October

Picture day took place on October 27 at both campuses



Our Pre-k and k students were still able to trick or treat respecting our class bubbles
Administration and staff distributed goodies to all the students
Ms. Oner's class participated in a virtual question and answer period with Author Pat Nicholson

5.2 Regional Parent Committee Report

Approved 3 new PD days

Much discussion on ventilation and being behind Lester B. Pearson board.

Learned about enrolment challenges and fear of closure in East End schools.

West end schools were more concerned about covid and possible shutdowns.

5.3 Teacher's Report

Trying to keep school life as normal as possible.

Halloween door decorating contest

Many Remembrance day activities

Grateful for teachers' efforts to give a dynamic school life when so much else is restricted.

Fundraising:

- The grade 5 classes (south only) raised just under \$850 with their Halloween treat bag fundraiser

Special Events:

- All classes took part in a Halloween door decorating contest.
- Ms Emilee arranged a Diwali themed Zumba class that was available to all classes on both campuses.

Remembrance Day:

Many classes took part in activities surrounding Remembrance Day.

- Ms Franzl's grade 5/6 class, invited Ms. Tytler in for a Remembrance Day activity (a read-aloud followed by sharing the story of her grandfather)
- Ms Emilee and Ms Tori's classes (grade 2) collaborated virtually on a Jamboard. The students were able to express their thoughts, ideas and reflections about what Remembrance Day, and the symbol of the poppy, represent.
- Ms Melanie collected letters and pictures to be delivered to the St. Anne's Veterans Hospital. We received a warm letter of thanks from the hospital indicating that, because patients are receiving fewer visits due to covid, our notes were especially appreciated.

5.4 Daycare Report

Ped day November 13: Wacky Friday

Students dressed silly, wore their clothes and shoes backwards, silly socks ect...

Activities such as; making silly face masks, dancing silly in the gym, walking backwards, silly animal pancakes as a snack.

Ped day November 26: Superheroes

All educators in daycare will be basing their theme this week on superheroes. Educators will be asking each student who their favorite superheroes are and activities will be created based on their answers. This Ped Day, students and educators will come dressed up as their favorite superhero. Masks will be created, as well.



Ped day November 27: Creating friendship bracelets. Students will pick names out of a bowl, and keep it a secret. They will be creating a friendship bracelets using different colors of string, colored beads of all shapes and sizes, and decorating paper bags to create a gift for their secret friend!

5.6 PPO Report

Giovanni circulated the PPO newsletter. They can't do any activities.

6. Varia

7. Date of next meeting

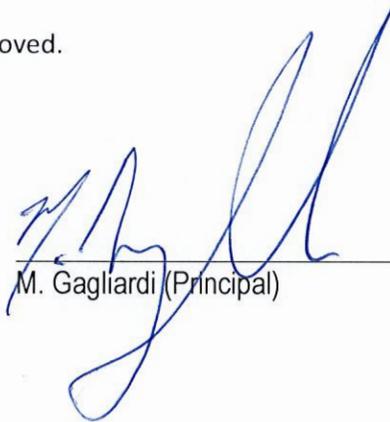
Dec. 8th 4pm.

Adjournment

Marcel moved to adjourn, Nicholas seconded. All approved.



V. Lescaut (GB Chair)



M. Gagliardi (Principal)