



École Westmount Park School

Address: 15 Park Place, Montreal H3Z 2K4

Tel: 514-935-4388

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westmountpark@emsb.qc.ca

Tuesday November 16th, 2021 - 4:20 P.M.
Governing Board Agenda-VIRTUAL MEETING (MINUTES)

1. Welcome (10 minutes)

1.1 Attendees:

- Giovanni Iammarrone (P),
- Holly Kusiewicz(VP),
- Kathleen Rooney (Teacher Member),
- Deborah Mete (Daycare Tech.),
- Shalani Bel (Parent Member),
- Abunaser (Rony) Wahed (Parent Member),
- Eric Agulnik (Alternate Parent Member),
- Nicholas Lalli (Parent Member, joined at 4:31pm),
- Sophie Antippa (Alternate Parent Member, joined at 4:39pm),
- Véronique Lesceault (Parent Member, joined at 5:28pm),
- Marie Alexiou (Teacher Member),

1.2 Public Question Period

None

1.3 Additions to the Agenda

None

1.4 Approval of the Agenda

Moved by Eric Agulnik, seconded by Rony Wahed.

1.5 Approval of the October minutes

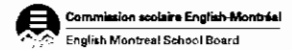
Moved by Eric Agulnik, seconded by Rony Wahed, all in favour.

1.6 Approval of the June minutes

Moved by Shalani Bel, seconded by Deborah Mete and Kathleen Rooney



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2. Business arising from the minutes (5 minutes)

2.1 Election of GB treasurer

Shalani Bel moved to nominate Nicholas Lalli, seconded by Rony Wahed and all in favour, motion passed.

2.2 Clarification on internal rules

Meeting start times agreed to be kept at 4:15pm if not it takes too long and does not align with daycare timings.

3. Business requiring approval (20 minutes)

3.1 Adoption of the GB's annual operating budget (5 minutes)

- Excerpted from June 2021 GB minutes: *Over \$900 in GB budget now because of rollover from past years; no refreshments needed for virtual meetings:*
Ms. Bel explained the budget remaining at present to the GB team.
- Current GB account is at \$1036 after the 2021-2022 annual portion of \$250 was deposited:
GB team was requested to think of effective ways where this money can be put to good use. Mr. Iammarrone, suggested to keep at least \$250 for GB meetings. Therefore, an amount of \$786 can be put to good use, ideas for the use of this fund to be discussed in the next meeting.

3.2 Annual Report on the Educational Project (15 minutes)

- Summary by Principal and questions:
Annual report read by Mr. Iammarrone aloud.
- Vote on GB resolution to approve Annual Report
Vote to move by Mr. Lalli and seconded by Marie and all in favor.



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4. Items requiring discussion (40 minutes)

4.1 Communication (15 minutes)

- How best to solicit input from parents?

Mr. Wahed submitted a suggestion for the GB consideration for the creation of a Westmount Park Elementary School's GB email account through which all parents' voices can be heard. The opening of this email account needs to be informed to parents electronically and through printed letter so parents aware that of the purpose of this email account.

Ms. Rooney suggested for a simple email ID to make it easy for parents and for them to have a accessing platform to have their voice heard.

The email account is to be created and presented in the next GB meeting for approval.

Mr. Iammarrone suggested that this email account must be accessed only by the Chair and the secretary of the GB for privacy of information

- How best to communicate with each other and share information as a GB team?
Mr. Iammarrone suggested that a Microsoft teams account can be made for the GB members and that he will create it.
This is to be confirmed in the next meeting.



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4.2 Covid update (5 minutes)

- Are different classes allowed to mix at recess, since there are no longer any bubbles?

Mr. Iammarrone explained about the cautious approach to students bubbles during recess, the school is strictly monitoring school paces, bubbles to mitigate the risk of Covid 19.

4.3 Renovation update (5 minutes)

- Ribbon cutting ceremony - Is all of the work complete?
The ribbon cutting ceremony was a success and everyone is pleased that the split community of the school is united again.

Mr. Iammarrone explained only about 2% of the work is left that also will be complete in few weeks and that does not affect the student in any major way. Basement to remain empty until further notice for safety issues.

4.4 Enrolment numbers (15 minutes)

- Is our international student population vulnerable to ongoing travel restrictions?
There is a 14 days isolation rule at home but also depends of the locations travelled.
- Is there any support we can offer to an international family who wants to stay at WPS after their 3 years of eligibility expire?
Ms. Antippa explain that the bill 96 and Law 101 and what it covers from a legal prospective for all Quebec residents and its related provisions.



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5. Reports (25 minutes, written reports can be submitted to Secretary)

5.1 Principal's Report

- Chess club on Wed,
- Art therapy classes on Tue,
- Dog therapy also starting
- Tutors for numeracy, literacy and French

5.2 Teachers' Report

Extra Curricular Activities

Chess Club for grades 3 and 4 on Wednesdays at lunch

Special Events:

Students were given a S.T.E.A.M. challenge for Halloween. Students in Pre-K to grade 2 were asked to build a monster trap. Students in grades 3-6 built candy launchers to deliver candy while maintaining a safe social distance. Classes participated in the virtual commemorations for Remembrance Day and observed a minute of silence. Our annual poppy drive for Branch 014, Royal Montreal Regiment Association in Westmount was a great success. The students made beautiful cards, pictures, and booklet about peace. These tributes will be delivered to the Sainte- Anne's Veterans Hospital.

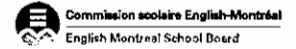
Kindergarten had a pyjama day and a parade for letter p. Ms Franzi's and Ms Sandra's grade 5 classes walked to Atwater Market. The kids had a great time exploring the market, choosing treats and spending time together outside of the classroom. Students participated in Take Me Outside Week from October 18-22. Several classes went on park walks, created nature art or simply spent time reading/writing outdoors. Dr. Jane Goodall was the virtual keynote speaker on Oct. 21, reminding the students about the importance of outdoor education and contributing positively to the world.

Other:

Ms. Opal and Ms. Sybil, two of our behaviour technicians, have come to the classrooms and presented student workshops on self-regulation and impulse control. Social skills groups during lunch time have also helped to support the varied needs in our school



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5.3 Daycare Report

*Daycare has 3 Ped days this month.

*November 1, 2021 Camping/PJ Day in the gym. Students brought in their tents/sleeping bags/blankets/flashlights etc...

The educators used mats in the gym to create a camping ground, created a fire pit using art materials, sang songs, and played camping games. A picnic set up for lunch, made the day extra special.

*November 25, 2021, Ped Day, the students will be participating in their first fieldtrip to ZIG ZAG ZOO. A max of 55 students and 5 daycare staff employees will be attending for this ped day only, to respect the school bus ratio as well the safety of our student to educator ratio.

*November 26, 2021, Ped Day the students will partake in playing Life Size Board games that each group has created with their educator this week and next. We will be setting up the stations in the gym.



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5.4 Regional Parent Committee Report

Shalani's PC report of Nov 17th meeting:

Began with land acknowledgement and commitment to do one at each meeting.

Moment of silence for Jannai Dopwell-Bailey and read a statement from the Anti-Racism Subcommittee on the collective anxiety and grief for Black parents. The PC voted to match the \$1500 donation for the family.

Discussed the removal of mask mandate in high school classrooms. Some parents are concerned that it is too soon and that they want unvaccinated students to wear the mask. Clarified that the directive will not label any students (vaccinated or not) and that students can choose to wear the mask if they prefer. The School Board cannot go against the ministry directive, but they could publish the vaccination statistics for each school that would reassure parents.

Voted in favour of holding another Parent Conference in the Spring. The EMSB will contribute funds; the PC gives \$6000. Last year ~400 parents were registered and ~200 attended.

Passed a resolution to recognize virtual and hybrid meetings as acceptable formats for the general assembly to increase the chances for all schools to form a GB. The resolution also states that a second meeting be held if the first AGA does not yield a GB, and if neither results in the formation of a GB that the Principal hold at least 3 town hall meetings throughout the school year to inform the parent community.

Named members to the Equity subcommittee and to the Anti-Racism subcommittee.

Learned that the former EMSB trustee negotiated the removal of fields in a TMR school in return for renovations on two other EMSB school grounds in NDG. This issue became public during the municipal elections, and the received PC support in fighting such a change without consultation.

5.5 PPO Report

Report not received

6. Second Public Question Period (5 minutes)

Ms. Bel asked for Library help through the PPO and Mr. Iammarrone said he will speak to Ms. Wendy for further details in this relevance.

7. Varia

8. Date of next meeting: December 14th, 4:15pm

Adjournment

Giovanni Iammarrone
Giovanni Iammarrone - Interim Principal

December 14, 2021
DATE

Shalani Bel
SHALANI BEL
GOVERNING BOARD CHAIR