

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE GOVERNING BOARD
Tuesday, February 9, 2021 (Virtual Meeting)**

PRESENT: Martien De Vletter, Annick Giguère, Bruce Kemerer, Pippa Brotherwood Brady, Jayne Hill, Sarah Musgrave, Robert Lavoie, Karen Allen, Robert Green, Robert Christie, Rose Wagner, Kristen Jane O'Sullivan, Jeffrey Kosow, Demetra Droutsas, Christopher Turner, Blair Lalonde, Bianca Falcone, Fabienne D Gregoire, Corinne Langridge

ABSENT: Dina Bastounis, Laetitia Kachmar Matthew Shapiro

1. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

On motion duly made (Ms. Pippa Brotherwood) and seconded (Mr. Jeffrey Kosow).

2. ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES OF MEETING ON December 1st, 2020.

On motion duly made (Ms. Annick Giguère) and seconded (Ms. Fabienne D Gregoire).

3. BUSINESS ARISING

No new business.

4. REPORTS

• **Principals Report**

Presented by Ms. Demetra Droutsas

- Virtual assemblies were held by grade level during the week of February 3rd to discuss COVID-19 protocols with our students and to answer any questions or concerns that they may have.
- I would like to thank our parents, staff, and students for continuing to support the COVID-19 measures that we have in place at the school.
- Registrations for the 2021-2022 school year are ongoing.
- For the first time this year, we will be completing our course selection forms electronically. Virtual assemblies are taking place at school with our students and guidance counselors this week so that they can answer questions about their options. Our guidance counselors have also organized virtual meetings with our parents on February 8th, 10th, and 11th to discuss course selection forms.
- Report cards for term 2 were made available on the Mozaik Parent Portal on January 29th, 2021. Hard copies were available for parents that requested one. Our Virtual Parent-Teacher meetings took place on February 1st.
- For Black History Month we are proud to announce the #BeyondFebruary initiative to elevate black voices in our community. All throughout November and into March, The Westmount Highlights will be featuring student-led interviews with various members of our community including Ms. Allen and Ms. Mapp. This week our secondary 1 and 2

students are decorating their classroom doors in honour of our #BeyondFebruary initiative. On February 22nd, 23rd, and 24th, students will participate in a virtual presentation by Akilah and Omari Newton from Overture with the Arts. I would like to thank Dr. Jafralie and Ms. Mapp for organizing these events for our school.

- Congratulations to Dr. Jafralie, who was selected for an interview with CBC Quebec that was highlighting people from the province's Black communities who are giving back, inspiring others, and helping to shape our future, as Black Changemakers.
- Congratulations as well, to Blaire Lalonde and Kaleesia Bailey for sharing their reactions to the inauguration of Vice-President Harris with the US Consul General Ana Escrogima. I would like to also congratulate our guidance counsellor, Ms. Allen for her interview with the Consul General and for helping organize the event along with our VP, Mr. Shapiro.
- Congratulations as well to our students and staff who participated in the wonderful video message for Vice-President Harris. I would like to also thank our VP, Mr. Shapiro for organizing and creating the video!
- Staff Appreciation took place from February 3rd to 5th. Everyone was treated to chocolates, cookies, and coffee mugs. Our student council has also been working on a special project for our staff. More detail will be presented to council once the staff is made aware of their project next week. A Valentine's dress up day is planned for Thursday, February 11th and Friday, February 12th. Our students will also receive a treat and motivational message for Valentine's day. As usual COVID-19 Protocols will be followed.
- I would like to also thank our PPO for presenting our teachers, attendants, and behavior technicians with baskets of fruit on February 8th. The staff truly enjoyed the gift.
- The EMSB conducted an analysis of lead content at 15 drinking water points at our school. All 12 drinking fountains used by students and the faucet in the staff room were found to comply with the new Health Canada standard. Results were sent to parents on February 5th, through School Messenger and a copy of the results has been included with this report.
- **Regional Delegate**
Presented by Ms. Corinne Langridge
 - We met on Thursday February 4th to discuss the budget building mandates and ensure the following year focused on equity, health, and safety.
 - We began a "break out room" aspect of the meetings to allow for smaller groups to socialize and connect 15-30 minutes before the official meeting began. While I was unable to attend this portion, it seemed like it was very successful for people to spend time to mingle and get to know each other outside of the formal meeting.
 - We proposed and passed distributing the previous year's academic awards that were not distributed because of COVID-19 shutdowns to the students who would have received them in the cases where the students are still accessible.
 - Transportation had a brief meeting with regards to bus passes that track and notify parents when their children have left buses at their destination schools. There will be a follow up at our next meeting with regards to privacy related concerns.
- **Teachers Report**
(Presented by Mr. Robert Green)

- Online Parent-Teacher interviews for Term 1 went smoothly, and generally positive feedback was received from both teachers and parents.
 - Planning of breaks in the time schedule greatly improved the process for teachers.
 - Teacher Unions met in early February and the Union received a Strike vote from its membership.
 - No plan at the time of this Governing Board meeting for when and how this Strike vote will impact WHS.
 - Discussion ensued to determine the WHS Governing Board's response to this situation, and it was unanimously agreed by all present that the G.B. should draft a letter to be sent to the Minister of Education indicating our support for the teachers in these negotiations.
 - Ms. Martien De Vletter and Mr. Robert Green to draft a letter for circulation prior to sending to Minister.
- **Students Report**
(Presented by Ms. Bianca Falcone and Ms. Blaire Lalonde)
 - Students had a question about the plan for Boot Trays to be provided in class for students: Ms. Droutsas responded that this plan was not executed for several logistical reasons – and given that we are reaching the final weeks of winter, it would likely not be revisited.
 - Students participated in the US Inauguration Day festivities and were well-represented alongside the US Consul-General as well as with many news reporters that were covering the Kamala Harris connection with WHS.
 - Ms. Droutsas emphasized that this was a very proud moment for WHS.
- **PPO Report**
(Presented by Ms. Rose Wagner)
 - The PPO met for a regular meeting on December 14th, 2020 with special guest speaker, Dr. Leon Wang as part of its Wellness Series. Dr. Wang holds the Concordia University Research Chair (CURC) in Building Airflow and Thermal Management and spoke on building ventilation systems and minimizing risk strategies with COVID-19.
 - Please see the attached website link for Dr. Wang: <https://Concordia-cityrpi.web.app>
 - The PPO meets bi-monthly in an informal chat open for all parents. Registration is open through the PPO email: whsppo@gmail.com
 - We greatly appreciate the dedication and sacrifice of Westmount teachers, attendants, and behaviourists, especially during this challenging year and on February 8th we were able to show a token of gratitude with a fruit basket for 70 of the best people in the world!
 - At Christmas, we were very honoured to have our Holiday Card designed by Ms. Corinne Langridge (GB member).
 - On February 10th, the PPO presents as part of its Wellness Series, an informative interactive talk on concussions in conjunction with the McGill University chapter of the Concussion Legacy Foundation starting at 7 pm. This is a virtual presentation via zoom with a Question & answer period.
 - The PPO is exploring providing a Westmount community recycling blitz for electronics (smartphones, tablets, iPads, computers, etc.) with the non-profit Canadian group Electronic Recycling Association (www.era.ca) to provide leadership in recycling and

sustainable purchasing. We are at the exploratory phase and would like to ask permission from Mrs. Droutsas if this may be possible in the future.

5. QUESTION PERIOD

No questions presented.

6. NEW BUSINESS

6.1 Budget Building Process

(Presented by Ms. Demetra Droutsas)

- The WHS Budget Building documentation was distributed to GB Board members in advance of the meeting for Approval during the Feb 9th meeting.
- There were no questions from the Board.

On duly motion by (Mr. Robert Green) and seconded (Ms. Corrine Langridge).

6.2 Confirmation of MEES allocation 2020-2021

(Presented by Ms. Demetra Droutsas)

- The MEES Allocation documentation was distributed to GB Board members in advance of the meeting for Approval during the Feb 9th meeting.
- There were no questions from the Board.

On duly motion by (Ms. Annick Giguère) and seconded (Ms. Karen Allen).

6.3 Approval of Principal Selection Criteria

(Presented by Ms. Martien De Vletter)

- The Principal Selection Criteria was discussed by Board Members except for all Administrative staff that were excused from the meeting during discussion.
- The Board determined that they wanted to enhance the wording in the Selection Criteria to emphasize safety procedures at the school, considering the processes adopted by the current Principal during the COVID crisis. It was generally agreed that the attention to this issue was a key factor in the successful record of WHS during COVID-19 and was something the Board thought important for any future Principal of the school.
- Ms. Martien De Vletter to craft an amendment to the Criteria and circulate.

7. ADJOURNMENT AND DATE OF NEXT MEETING

On duly motion by (Mr. Robert Green) and seconded by (Mr. CJ Tuner)

- Adjourned at 7:20 PM
- Next Meeting scheduled on Tuesday, April 13th at 6:00 PM

Meeting minutes prepared by Mr. Bruce Kemerer

Please contact Dina by email for spelling or content errors dbastounis@gmail.com