

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE GOVERNING BOARD
Tuesday, November 3, 2020 (Virtual Meeting)

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

ABSENT: Fabienne D Gregoire

1. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

On motion duly made (Mr. Robert Green) and seconded (Ms. Annick Giguère).

2. ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES OF MEETING ON OCTOBER 6th, 2020

On motion duly made (Mr. Bruce Kemerer) and seconded (Mr. Jeffrey Kosow).

3. BUSINESS ARISING

No new business.

4. REPORTS

4.1 Principals Report

Presented by Ms. Demetra Droutsas

- Our graduation ceremony took place on Sunday, October 18th at the Royalmount Drive-In Theatre. We were truly fortunate since it was a beautiful day for our graduates. Our grad committee did an incredible job organizing the event for our students and their families. The event was also livestreamed so that extended family and friends who could not attend due to the pandemic got to share in their special day.
- Our progress report cards will be distributed to students on Monday, November 16th. Parents will also be able to access the report on the Mozaik Parent Portal on the same day. There will also be a virtual Parent-Teacher meeting that will take place on the afternoon and evening of November 19th. More details will be sent to parents shortly.
- New Ministry Directives were presented on October 7th concerning report cards for the 2020-2021 school year. The first term report card will be distributed by January 22nd, 2021 and will be worth 50% of the year, the final report card will be distributed by July 10th and will also be worth 50% of the school year.
- New Ministry directives were also presented which affect our secondary 3 classes. Students are now following a hybrid schedule where they attend school on one day and then learn from home with distance education on the alternate day.

- Students were permitted to wear Halloween costumes on October 28th and 29th. I would like to thank Mr. CJ Turner and our student council for preparing bags of treats for all our students and staff. They did a wonderful job and made sure to follow all Covid-19 protocols.
- Our school board is planning to have a formal exam period during the week of December 14th. More details will be sent to parents in the next few days. Students will not have classes during this week.

4.2 Regional Delegate

Presented by Corinne Langridge

No report presented as Regional Delegate was unable to attend the meeting.

4.3 Teachers Report

(Presented by Mr. Robert Green)

- The teachers are feeling the stress caused by this pandemic and are faced with many challenges. There is an enormous amount of extra work that feels unattainable to achieve as the daily changes of the Minister of Education's decisions is unclear and the uncertainty makes it difficult for teachers to plan and causes stress.
- Teachers are beginning to worry about the possibility of burning out as there are simply not enough hours in the day to complete all the tasks required.
- There is a consensus among teachers to cancel the Ministry Exams this year and allow teachers to do the best they can for their students. Due to the disruption in regular instruction there is an increase in worry that they will not have enough time to adequately cover all the material in class needed to complete the Ministry Exams. They are feeling the pressure to push through the material quickly in an effort to meet the time frame needed and between class closures due to COVID – 19 and the transition of online learning for grades 9, 10 and 11 it is becoming increasingly difficult as students are at a disadvantage and are trying to catch up. Teachers are feeling rushed and need things to slow down for the benefit of the students to allow for the time needed to learn everything.
- There is a big concern for the mental health of the students and teachers. Staff are active in trying to fix problems and be constructive and there are preliminary discussions to ask for support to try and deal with some of the bigger problems that are arising.

(Presented by Mr. Robert Christie)

- Morale is high among students and teachers although they are coping with the grade 9 students now being transitioned into half time online learning. There is a short amount of time to prepare for such changes.
- Suggested that as a Governing Board we could write a letter to present to the Ministry of Education expressing our concerns over the conditions and decisions currently being made of the current Government and how it is impacting teachers and students.

4.4 Students Report

(Presented by Ms. Bianca Falcone and Ms. Blaire Lalonde)

- Students are feeling pressure to catch up. It has been weird adjusting to half on/half off learning. Students are feeling stress and anxiety about the uncertainty of the status of mid term exams and the overwhelming work load they are facing as they have a lot of work to do in a small amount of time.
- The Grade 7 students are nervous about starting a new school under these unprecedented circumstances and the rest of the students are doing their best to make them comfortable. The Prefect students are putting together videos introducing themselves to the Grade 7 students and offering them comforting words and encouraging messages.
- Mr. Christopher Turner added that student council will be planning some virtual events for the students.

4.5 PPO Report

(Presented by Ms. Rose Wagner)

- The PPO expressed that they stand in solidarity with the teachers and their students. They understand the challenges teachers are facing and they thank them for their professionalism and for ensuring the wellbeing of the students.

5. QUESTION PERIOD

- **Q.** *(Ms. Corinne Langridge)* Concerned about the amount of time students are seated in the desks. **A.** *(Ms. Demetra Droutsas)* An issue to be brought up directly to the Principal and will be dealt with.
- **Q.** *(Ms. Rose Wagner)* Posed a question regarding the status of extra-curricular activities. **A.** *(Ms. Demetra Droutsas)* Extra-Curricular activities will be offered virtually at no cost to the parents. We are in the process of organizing the activities. In person activities are not permitted as per Government regulations at this time.
- **Q.** *(Mr. Robert Green)* Asked if it was possible for the Governing Board to write a letter expressing the teacher's concerns over the new regulations and present it to the Ministry of Education. **A.** *(Ms. Martien de Vletter)* Yes, we can draft a letter and present it to the Governing Board for approval.
- **Q.** *(Ms. Pippa Brotherwood Brady)* Asked if it was possible to allocate PED days for mental health days. **A.** *(Ms. Demetra Droutsas)* We are not permitted to give the teachers the day off on a PED day for mental health reasons.
- **Q.** *(Ms. Dina Bastounis)* Since the windows will be open in the classroom is it possible for the students to wear their gym uniform sweat suits on the days, they do not have gym? **A.** *(Ms. Demetra Droutsas)* I am open to it and will advise parents once this is discussed with the staff.
- **Q.** *(Ms. Corinne Langridge)* Is the school able to fundraise for air purifiers in each classroom to improve ventilation? **A.** *(Ms. Demetra Droutsas)* Yes, but we would need to make sure we will have enough for every classroom and discuss the costs including the electrical upgrades needed as well as the cost of filters.

6. NEW BUSINESS

6.1 GB Member Disclosure Form

- To be sent to members via email.

6.2 Approval GB Annual and Financial Report

On motion duly made by (Ms. Annick Giguère) and seconded by (Mr. Bruce Kemerer)

- Was sent via email to the GB members by Ms. Martien de Vletter on October 29, 2020

6.3 Keep Windows Open Cold Months

- Ventilation is crucial and the teachers will be opening the windows to improve air circulation within the classrooms.
- Up to 2 windows open to a maximum of 12 cm in colder months.
- Students are permitted to wear hats and jackets if needed.

6.4 Simulation Day

On duly motion by (Ms. Corinne Langridge) and seconded by (Ms. Kristen Jane O'Sullivan)

- Simulation Day is scheduled in the event of another school lock down to ensure all students are prepared and equipped to resume classes online and have laptops.
- Students will be asked to stay at home and follow their class schedule online.
- Simulation Day is scheduled for Friday, November 13, 2020.
- Ministry of Education allocated 3 additional PED days. November 19th, 2020 will be used as a PED day and the other 2 days will be decided at another time.

7. ADJOURNMENT AND DATE OF NEXT MEETING

On duly motion by (Ms. Karen Allen) and seconded by (Ms. Dina Bastounis)

- Adjourned at 7:10 PM
- Next Meeting scheduled on Tuesday, December 1st, 2020 at 6:00 PM. Details will be sent via email.

Meeting minutes prepared by Dina Bastounis