

MINUTES OF GAIN MEETING - November 5, 2019

Members Present: Carmen Nicolas (Principal), Maya Doughan (Vice-principal), Lara Belinsky (Teacher), Kathleen Usher (Teacher), Gonzague Le Roux de Bretagne (teacher), Cynthia Quarrie (GB Parent), Nadine Ishak (H & S parent), David McLeod (Parent), Sandra Soule (Parent),

Regrets: Isabelle Daniel (teacher), Tanya Savickey (EDP), Sharon Sweeney (parent)

Meeting started at 6:30pm

I- SENIOR CAMPUS UPDATE

-On **October 2nd** we had our Cutting of the Ribbon Ceremony. It was a wonderful event celebrating the hard work, dedication and love that went into making our senior campus a reality. We officially inaugurated our Senior Campus together with our entire community, students, parents, school board directorate, politicians and staff. It was a beautiful event where many speeches were given, students read poems and Mr. Nick's choir enchanted us with their songs. Also, our Home & School Association was very proud to unveil the beautiful canvas commissioned and gifted to the Willingdon Senior Campus! This piece was conceived to symbolize the connection between our two campuses and our ties to our beautiful neighbourhood. The painting proudly graces the front hallway of our new campus. It is artfully conceived and painted by Veronika Gruntovskaya of The Fine Black Pen, a local NDG artist and Willingdon parent. Thank you to all!

-**Nadine Ishak's video** was a wonderful culmination of our Senior Campus journey. It is a genuine and heartfelt representation of our students in transition and all that it took to make our new campus a reality. A big thank you to Nadine and her crew!

-**Phase 1** of work at Senior Campus: All of phase 1 that was outlined by our school board's material resource department has been completed.

-**Phase 2** of work at Senior Campus: 5 000 000\$ have been approved by our Council of Commissioners. This work will be completed throughout the summer as it cannot be done while students are in the building. It includes the roof, the gym, washrooms, etc.

-**Shuttles:** Our shuttle system has been working very well. We are settled into the routine and all is on schedule.

-**2nd Recess:** Wonderful addition to our students' schedule especially with the use of the fields in the back of our senior campus.

- **Changes at Junior Campus:** With the addition of the new campus, a lot of pressure in the building was released. The 5 K classes are now also able to use the gym during Phys Ed. The yard is now shared by less students at a time which gives everyone more room to enjoy the space. The grades 4 students have had to step up and become leaders (which is great!) Overall, a real sense of calm in both buildings can be felt immediately.

- **Students at Senior Campus:** Students are fully settled in. They love the space and that it is theirs. They enjoy the 15 clubs that our staff offers at lunch, the student lounge, the stage in the gym, their lockers, the new library, the resource room, the fields and the freedom that comes with the new space. At the end of the year, the grade 4 students will get the opportunity to come and spend a day at Senior Campus in preparation for next year's transition (similar to last year's cohort.)
- **Teachers at Senior Campus:** Our teachers feel like everything in the new campus is easily accessible. The space is new and much smaller, therefore it allows for easy contact and team work amongst staff members. The new furniture and flexible seating is very conducive to the 21st century learning in the classroom. The 3 choice rooms that teachers can reserve are an added luxury too. Also, students are getting more attention and more one on one help/interventions at the new campus (nothing goes unnoticed.) The use of the mobile labs (25 laptops, 16 iPads and 15 Chromebooks) is phenomenal. The students are happy coming to school and it is clear that they are enjoying their learning experience. We have also had 4 cross over activities where the entire school was at Junior Campus. These were great experiences for all and a fantastic way for our students to visit the other campus. Many more cross over activities are scheduled throughout the year.
- **Parents of Senior Campus students:** The parents present at the meeting expressed that their children are happy and have adjusted easily. They see clear sense of autonomy in their children and feel that the students are less stressed and less anxious in an intimate setting such as this campus.
- **EDP:** The EDP office at senior campus is fully set up. EDP currently has 3 lunch time activities running at the new campus.
- **Français Plus Program:** Carmen is still looking into what the program entails and is hoping to meet with other administrators who have implemented this program in their schools.
- **GAIN email:** Due to the lack of interest in our GAIN email, a decision was made to close down the account. Parents with questions or concerns can email the administration and/or governing board.
- **GAIN committee:** Presently, the committee feels that its mandate is complete and therefore we no longer need to meet. If an issue or concern is to arise, then it would go through our governing board. If needed, GB would call a GAIN meeting.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:20pm.