

Willingdon School Governing Board

Minutes from the Governing Board meeting held Tuesday, January 30th, 2018 in room 28 at Willingdon School, 5870 Terrebonne, Montreal, QC

Attendance: Eric Lamoureux, Carmen Nicolas, Steve Spetsieris, Mark Ellinger, Jayne Hill, Lucas Reindler, Catherine Boire, Kathleen Usher, Lara Belinsky, Cornelia Mandoiu, Harriet Dove, Nick Batzios

Regrets: Steve Cunha, Soula Mavidis, Joe Lalla (School Commissioner), Mary Ellen Kenny (Home and School)

Guests: Tanya Savickey (EDP), Matt Follett (PAC)

- I. Chairperson's Remarks/Welcome/Appointment of Secretary. Catherine volunteered to take the minutes of the meeting. Eric being a little late, Mark offered to chair the meeting until his arrival.
- II. Approval of the agenda. Changes were made. The Regional Representative report was moved before the Principal's report to free Lucas earlier as he could not stay late. A Varia section was added to the agenda, with the following items: 1) Woo Hoo field trip approval 2) Date change for the April meeting. Approval of the revised agenda was moved by Kathleen and seconded by Nick. All in favour.
- III. Approval of the minutes from the meeting of December 12th. (Eric arrived during the revision of the minutes) Approval of the minutes, pending the addition of Cornelia in the attendance list and the revision of a few typos, was moved by Lara, seconded by Catherine. All in favour.
- IV. Business Arising from the meeting of December 12th.
 - a. Annual report. Upon further research, it seems Willingdon's GB has not done an annual report for the last three years. And in the case that they were done, they have not been sent to Bridgette Solato at the school board level. Emails were sent to Willingdon's former governing board chair, to inquire about this, but she hasn't yet responded. Carmen will recheck the minutes from the last years to verify. Since no parent has asked for it so far, it has been suggested that it might not be necessary to produce the 2016-2017 annual report at this point, since we are already far ahead in the new school year. Eric will work on a template that we can use for the current school year (2017-2108) and the following years.
- V. New Business
 - a. Budget. Carmen presented in detail the 2017-2018 budget, which needs to be approved before March. The following items need to be corrected on pages 4 & 5:
 - The detailed field trip data was missing and needs to be filled in.
 - Allocation of the Wellness Program

- Allocation of the Support to Parents program

It was moved by Nick, seconded by Lucas, to approve the budget, pending the correction of the above-listed items. All in favour.

b. Ministry Collect Info Resolution

The Governing Board needs to produce a resolution to confirm spending of dedicated funds allocated by the MELS for specific use (*Répartition des montants reçus par votre établissement pour les mesures dédiées et protégées et plan de déploiement pour les mesures 15016, 15024, 15025 et 15206*). Carmen explained the allocation of those funds within the budget. Reception of the funds is confirmed and the allocation of funds is approved, moved by Kathleen, seconded by Cornelia. All in favour.

VI. Reports

a. Principal

- i. The uniform proposal was brought to a vote in staff council. A significant majority was opposed to a uniform policy being established at the school. The reasoning was mainly that: 1) "If it ain't broke, don't fix it", 2) a uniform doesn't fit with the culture of the school, 3) the staff is worried about the policing they would have to do to enforce the new uniform rules. That being said, the idea of having Willingdon t-shirts for special events outside the school (such as sporting events like Halo Race) is being looked into by Lara.
- ii. Hooked on School Week is coming up, Feb 12th-16th. Different activities will be done to raise awareness on school perseverance.
- iii. Term II report cards will be handed out at the end of February.
- iv. The 2-day bus strike on January 30th-31st did not cause too many problems. Only 45 kids are bused regularly and were affected by the strike.
- v. A review of all materials is currently underway.
- vi. Following the snow day on January 2rd, the ped day planned on June 1st is cancelled and will be replaced by a regular school day.
- vii. Friday February 2nd is a ped day. The board members were treated to a video issued from a teacher's team building workshop from the last ped day, starring the specialists team (with Kathleen as the lead singer interpreting a rewritten version of "My favorite things", John, Nick and Lara!).

b. Vice-principal

- i. On January 29th, cycle 1 and 2 students had the opportunity to see a live Lion Dance performance by the Montreal Chan Lion Dance Club.
- ii. The cause of the fire alarm which was activated at Willingdon on January 25th was a broken smoke detector. It was a very cold day and as it was also pajama day, many kids were really underdressed for this type of weather. Eric commended Steve & staff for their management of the crisis. It was suggested that the school purchase emergency blankets for this type of emergency.

- iii. TTFM (Student Survey) results summary. The survey was taken by grades 4-5-6 students. One of the main preoccupations raised by the survey is the lunch location. Children don't feel safe and the location gets too noisy during lunchtime. Administration will bring back the survey results to the classrooms to stimulate further discussions.
- iv. Kindergarden Registration is coming up in the week on Feb 5th to Feb 9th.
- v. New lights in the gym were paid for by the regional director.

c. Home and school

- i. No representative was present, as the Home and School meeting was being held at the same time as the governing board meeting.
- ii. Eric reminded the board that H & S are seeking new chairpersons for the next school year and that the board should get the word around to try and find good candidates that could run H & S as well as Mary Ellen and Luisa have.

d. PAC – Nothing to report

e. Teachers

- i. Basketball season is over. Hockey program has started.
- ii. The rock climbing program has started for cycle 2. Willingdon is using the installations at Royal Vale to run the program. Lara has been certified as an instructor so she can teach the kids along with a rock climbing specialist. The kids are loving it.
- iii. En rouge, ça bouge! With the Winter Olympic Games coming up, Lara and John are organizing a small opening ceremony in the gym on February 9th to inaugurate the start of the Olympics and get everyone in the spirit. The children are invited to dress in red for that day.
- iv. Grade 6's Camp Boute-en-train is coming up, Feb 21st-23rd. The students will spend 3 nights and 2 days at the camp.
- v. On February 21st, 12 Grade 5 students will accompany Carmen and Mr. Phil to the WE Day celebration at Théâtre St-Denis. Kathleen will not be able to join them as it is going on at the same time as Camp Boute-en-train.
- vi. Geordie Production will be at Willingdon on February 8th to perform a play for the Grades 3-4-5-6 students.
- vii. The Art Oratoire contest for Grades 4-5-6 is coming up on Feb 16th.
- viii. The Music Club for Grade 6 students and the Willingdon choir are running with great success.
- ix. The Spring Concert will be broadcasting live to the Children's Hospital.
- x. The toonie challenge fundraiser will be held again to raise money for the Montreal Children's Hospital.
- xi. Preparation for dictée P.G.L. is ongoing. The final dictées will be held in February and kids will be sent home with their envelopes to collect funds.
- xii. Carlos Pyjama Day Fundraiser: Student Council collected 1100\$ for Carlos, Willingdon's foster child.

f. EDP

- i. Before and after school

1. AM: In addition to the sports/game programs run daily in the gym and mini gym, EDP has been offering a couple of free flow morning programs. *Around the World* introduces the children to different cultures through art, food, music and more. *Act it Out* uses theater to stimulate an interest in reading. Children read a book together while acting it out.
2. PM: There is a full time Tech counselor who works with small groups of children in the evenings. They work with: Arduinos, Chibitronics, Circuit Scribes, Snap Circuits, Lego Mindstorms EV3, Lego Education kits, Moss, Cubelets, and a Makey-Makey. EDP also has supplies to build simple machines, homopolar motors and the children also have access to digital microscopes and animation studios.
- ii. Extra-curricular: All extra curricular courses are running except DJ School.
- iii. March Break: EDP is currently taking registrations.
- iv. PED Day: The June 1st Ped Day will be cancelled due to January 23rd's snow day.
- v. EDP purchased a television for the mini gym. It will be installed by the school when the brackets and screen arrive.
- vi. The Royal door had a problem. The buzzer was fixed.
- vii. EDP accommodated 7 kids during the 2-day bus strike.

g. Regional Rep

- i. Lucas reported on the CPC meeting that was held on January 11th.
 1. The EMSB annual report was presented.
 2. There was discussions about the way the EPCA questionnaire on school fees was handled, with a last minute distribution. A new questionnaire should be issued.
 3. CPC members were presented the outline for the Commitment to Success Plan that the Board will be composing in order to follow Bill 105 (and which will replace MESA). The members were divided into working groups to give their input on the plan.

h. School commissioner – no representative

VII. Varia

- a. Uniform proposal: Matt Follet asks what happens with the uniform proposal now that the staff council has given their opinion on the matter. As it cannot go ahead without the support of the staff, the governing board considers the issue put to rest.
- b. Woo Hoo Field Trip approval. The Grade 1 Woo Hoo field trip, planned for February 15th is approved. Moved by Nick, seconded by Lara. All in favour.
- c. Date change for the April GB meeting. Carmen asked to move the April 24th GB meeting to April 10th. Kathleen moved to approve the date change, seconded by Lara. All in favour.

VIII. Adjournment. End of meeting at 8:40. Moved by Lara, all in favour.

