

Willingdon Governing Board
Meeting Agenda - Tentative
November 28, 2019

18h30, room 28 (Junior Campus)

Attendance: Lara Belinsky, Stavros Spetsieris, Carmen Nicolas, Eric Lamoureux, Maya Doughan, Aurora Flewwelling-Skup, Monique Imbeau, Marc Mueller, Cynthia Quarrie, Nick Batzios, Kathleen Usher, Julie Trudeau (Home and School), Tanya Sevicky (EDP), Gabriel Latino, Joseph Lalla, Bettina Paliotti

Guests: Rob Flanz (parent)

Regrets: Lucas Reindler, Mark Ellinger, Matt Follett

I. Principal's Remarks/Welcome

Holiday dinner provided by Carmen and her husband — much appreciated by all.

II. Approval of the agenda

One change: add VI.b. computer labs.

Cynthia moves to approve, Gabriel seconds. Unanimous.

III. Approval of minutes from October 24, 2019

Lara moves to approve; Nick seconds. Unanimous.

IV. Business Arising

a. GAIN update

- Carmen: Last GAIN meeting was on Nov 5. Minutes are on website. Ribbon cutting for SR campus was on Oct 2; the video documenting the transition was great. GAIN committee discussed Phase 1, completed as promised; Phase 2 has started: the council has approved approx. \$5 million in updates and renovations; Anna architecture came to visit the site, and will make their proposal for January, with work to start once students are dismissed for summer. Shuttles are working pretty well. Second recess is new this year: at senior campus they really like it. Stress is alleviated at the Jr campus: parents, students, and teachers have all expressed happiness with the site and the new

clubs. Students have a combination of more freedom + more surveillance and accountability.

- The Français Plus program was discussed; it's still a possibility; Carmen has spoken to EMSB and will discuss more in January. Perhaps introduce FP as a pilot program (ie integrated alongside French immersion, perhaps to start with one class in grade 3). Carmen points out that grade six still writes Ministry exam in English, and are up against kids with six years of English; Français Plus would put them at a disadvantage. This is an ongoing discussion.
- GAIN email address was officially closed; all further issues will be addressed to GB. GAIN decided mandated has been fulfilled, the committee is dissolved unless there is need again in the future.

b. Parents' Green Committee

- Dr Kat: We are still working out what the committee will be doing exactly. We have talked about looking into eco-certification.
- A parent did some research and now we know milk cartons actually will be recycled.
- A representative from Eco-Quartier NDG will be in for the next meeting.
- We will open the meeting to all parents, with a better understanding of what Green Committee is about. ie Greener building materials are for central parents committee. Some things are beyond the school level.

c. Photography Policy Follow-Up

- CARMEN: following up on a parent question from last GB meeting regarding consent for photography. Parent last month asked for a policy on photos. Carmen asked EMSB if they have a policy on photos of students. No policy right now at board level; it's the principal's responsibility to come up with clear guidelines and share with staff. Carmen has met with the parents in question again; invited them to go to regional director's office themselves; they are looking into a policy there. Carmen came up with some internal guidelines. The default is "no consent"; the policy is about making sure there is more rigorous oversight. Our policy will default to EMSB once they come up with their own board-wide policy.

- Julie asks: what about H&S?
- Carmen: This is as far as the GB can go with regards to a policy about this.

d. Power Failure Measures Follow-Up

- Carmen: follow up on another parent-raised issue from last meeting, regarding the Oct 17 day-long power failure. Issues regarding esp. security — phones, security cameras and buzzer, emails were all off-line. Carmen met with Sylvie Beaudry in charge of emergency preparedness. Fire detectors have a 24 hour battery, are checked regularly; Carbon monoxide monitors likewise. To reach parents: there is a land line at each campus, now both in working order. These numbers will be included in the next newsletter.
- Emergency lights are 60-90 minutes. No school has generators — too expensive. EMSB has a few generators; they are checking to see if they'd be available to the school in case of another long power outage; no decision yet.
- EMSB suggested Willingdon buy 20-30 flashlights.
- To reach parents: teachers/admin can send email through Messenger on personal devices, or through EMSB (they have access to the same system). Soon teachers will be able to use the Portal (Mosaic).
- 2nd Power Failure; Rosy was stationed at the front door.
- Parent: put the number on the website — what number to call in case of power failure.
- In case of cold: school cannot dismiss without EMSB approval. If the building gets too cold the board will contact parents to come get the kids.
- Tanya: EDP has their own system, but sometimes parents just don't come., even when there are extra fees attached. She suggests that maybe they will update the parents' manual to make it clear that in some situations, when parents are very late, police will have to be called to pick up the child.

V. New Business

a. Principal Selection Criteria

- Eric: EMSB needs our criteria for Principal Selection. This is routine at this time of year. Dr Kat moves to approve; Lara seconds. Unanimous.

b. Sexuality Education Plan 2019-2020

- Carmen: The Ministry established the new Sexuality Ed Plan; we were asked which themes would be covered in which grade; how many hours; by which teachers. Six themes from Ministry: eventually each theme will be taught at every level. But only some themes have resources in English.
- SIX THEMES: Sexual growth and body image; Pregnancy and Birth; Comprehensive View of Sexuality; Emotional and Romantic Life; Identity, Gender Stereotypes and Roles, and Social Norms; Sexual Assault.
- Plan will be on the website once it is approved.
- There is a lot of pedagogical support for the teachers introducing this material. Teachers spent time as a group with material to get comfortable. Kat as union rep is very appreciative as to how this was handled.
- PARENT/Rob Flanz: Why are we are waiting for the Ministry of Ed. to translate the rest of the resources into English.
- Kat: Sexuality Ed is taught in the mother tongue; this is a sensitive topic and we don't want any mistranslations or misunderstandings. Same logic as ERC.
- Aurora approves; Gabriel seconds. Unanimous.

c. Home and School Fundraising Proposal

- JULIE: Two fundraisers in December: food drive for emergency fund baskets families; last year also collecting funds for food depot. Last year: basket overflow went into food depot. This year they want to decrease their 'asks', and have heard from Depot that spring is a more needy time. This year H&S is focusing on Gift Baskets in December, as before. Asking to move the fundraiser for the Food Depot in the Spring (March). Julie mentions that Sharon Sweeney came in as part of the Community Council (under which food depot operates).

- KAT: Keep in mind there are other fundraisers in March, with Green committee etc; fundraising drives just need to be coordinated.
- Nick moves to approve; Monique seconds. Unanimous.

VI. Question period

a. Water Quality Concerns

- Eric: Parent who brought up the concern from parents Natalie Kershaw and Rob Flanz about lead in the water. By June they will have tested the schools. Parents was worried about lead in the water.
- Carmen: EMSB material resources sent details about process, which is going into tendering soon. Senior campus was already tested and was found to be in the norm. They confirmed that all the new fountains at Junior campus have filters that diminish the risk. Signs at each fountain tell the kids to run the water first; they have asked for pictograms for non-readers; they will be going up tomorrow. School is following ministry guidelines. Staff flushes the taps first thing in the morning. Homeroom teachers have been asked to tell the students to run the water before drinking it. While the new campus had a water report before recommended levels were changed they will be tested again anyway. There were questions about the kind of filters used on fountains; what kind of certification, how much lead is removed. It was suggested to ban tap water from any other faucet. Carmen: That is what is in place — signs in bathrooms (including pictograms) instruct kids not to drink from sinks.
- Carmen brings up that non-members of the board are not supposed to speak unless they have previously submitted a question. Eric recognizes this consideration, and reasserts that there will be follow-up on the issue.

b. Computer Labs (question submitted by Rob Flanz)

- ROB (parent): our computers are out of date. Steve: we have 2 generations of computers in the lab; an older set has been put to rest (as of last year). We now have a set of Dell computers that are fairly new. About 15 were removed but they are short on numbers; there are some chrome-books that make up the numbers but they could use more computers. ROB: is there a possibility to do some parent fundraising for this? KAT: problem is that H&S has been given the fundraising umbrella — they are the official fundraisers — so they may

have to be addressed. AURORA: there is a difference in that computers are part of school infrastructure, and we are a public school. CARMEN: there is no rule about what H&S can and cannot do; it's down to different schools and different cultures. Willingdon has a donation account handled by the EMSB; parents and/or alumnae can ask for their donation to be attached to a certain fund (ie computers). Every year we have an IT fund also; that has largely been going to individual classrooms. School also needed laptops for students with certain codes (i.e. with accommodations) to use for ministry exams. KAT: iPads, smart-boards, other IT etc, are more integrated into everyday classroom activities, and that could be augmented as well. JULIE: perhaps not dedicated fundraising, but perhaps funds could be solicited online/over email. ERIC: wants to make sure there are no more Ministry funds for this before we fundraise; he agrees that this should be funded by the board. CARMEN: there is an IT fund every year. It's about what we spend it on. AURORA: Perhaps we need a newsletter about UDL and technology in the classroom, so that parents know what we are doing and why.

8:15: Gabriel moves to extend the meeting. Cynthia seconds. 7 in favour. Lara and Monique abstain.

c. Bathroom Cleanliness / Facilities issue (question submitted by Rob Flanz)

- Not a GB issue.

d. Parent concern about use of school after hours: Russian school rents through EMSB on Saturdays. CARMEN: it's not our building, it's an EMSB building. Carmen has met with regional director. We cannot ask renters to leave unless they breach the contract. ERIC: GB is supposed to be able to vote on the use of the school premises. JOE: whatever rental agreement is in place is only for a year. ERIC: We did not approve this. JOE: the board handled it, but it's true the school was supposed to be made aware. The school gets a portion of the rental money. The contract is handled at the level of the board. If the GB wants to be involved, they should communicate this to the principal to the school board. KAT: all school buildings are rented out through school boards. ERIC: but the language is clear that we should have a say. ROB (parent): I don't want anyone to be kicked out; but I want my child to feel secure, and for her belongings to feel secure. CARMEN: Sandra Hynes and others discussed the issue at the school board; they agreed no one can be asked to leave unless there is a breach of contract. Carmen made it clear that this is not an ideal situation for Willingdon. On the up side, Willingdon does receive 30% of the rental money to spend on students.

- e. Gender divides in the school yard. Parent (Rob) will speak to Steve after the meeting.

VII. Reports

a. Principal (Carmen)

- November was a very busy month; report cards were launched on the portal. A few parents needed extra help but it went smoothly. Parent-teacher interviews. Open house was rescheduled: over the two days, 77 names on sign-in sheets, which doesn't account for all the visitors.
- Curriculum mappings in all three core subjects: FRENCH two years ago; ENGLISH last year; MATH this year. Teachers know where to find resources and make sure there are no gaps or redundancies over the grades.
- Teachers got training on GBI attendance: entered twice a day into portal and parents can log in and see.
- K concert this year is at the SR campus on Fri Dec 13 in the afternoon. Grades 1-3 will have regular concert on evening of Dec 12.

b. Vice-Principal Junior Campus (Steve S)

- PED day after Halloween was a great idea. This week fire extinguishers (JR & SR) inspected and up to code. Buzzer at front entrance fixed against cold weather issues. Remembrance Day assembly Nov 4, Linda Luca welcomed a WWII vet at each campus.

c. Vice-Principal Senior Campus (Maya)

- No computer lab but happy with mobile lab. Everything is going smoothly.

d. Home and School (Julie)

- Halloween was a big spooky event. Thanks to Eva and Lara. Need more volunteers everywhere. Grade 5s with younger kids wasn't perfect. Staff appreciation day. Carolyn's Toy Drive has been very successful; has grown since last year. Book Fair and Bake Sale: huge event, very successful. With real tablecloths that were sewn by the community. Willingdon H&S was honoured as one of four oldest H&S organizations in Quebec. Inspiring to be a part of that event. Julie reminds us that she and Sally will not be returning as co-chairs. Julie will remain as a member-at-large.

e. Teachers/MTA

- KAT: Big hats-off to Lara, whose vision for a school-wide Halloween was very successful.
- NICK: tomorrow dress rehearsal for Kids for Kids choir with outside musicians. They will perform at PK Subban atrium next week. Concert, grades 1-3, Dec 12; K concert afternoon of Dec 13.
- MONIQUE: working on transition to maternelle; want parents and children to feel welcomed into the school.
- KAT: terrific fundraiser for Leucan; markers for energy; milk recycling starts next week; annual waste audit also next week with grade 4.
- UNION (KAT): negotiations at provincial level; there may be some pressure tactics, for now just t-shirt campaign (“Things have to change NOW”). One victory is that unions were able to bring the Ministry around on end-of-cycle math exams; changes are coming in that regard. Kat is on the educational policies committee in order to argue for changes like this. The exam is going from 5 days to 4 days; hoping for other changes as well.

f. EDP

- TANYA: they purchased some very bright lights for use during a power outage. headlamps as well. They are doing a pizza dinner for the kids on the last day; H&S will be running a Magic-the-Gathering fundraising event on the same evening. TANYA submits the cheque for last year’s donation to the school.

g. PAC

- MARC and Benoit Bazinet about terra-cycle initiative; we will look at this in January. ALSO: Want to host a World Cafe open meeting for Green initiatives on different themes; Benoit has organized them before (ie on recycling; zero waste school; eco-certifications; school gardens; compost). KAT: we have asked to be part of a composting pilot project at SR campus; waiting to hear back. MARC: More logistics — how to advertise the Green Committee; JULIE: H&S can announce and promote the date of the open meeting.

h. EMSB Parents' Committee Representative

- NOT PRESENT

i. School Commissioner

- No comments.

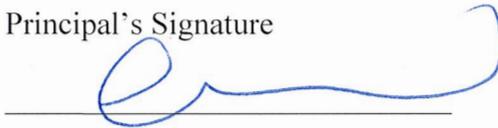
VIII. Varia

IX. Adjournment

9:07: Cynthia moves to adjourn.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Cynthia Quarrie

Principal's Signature



Chair's signature

