

Willingdon School Governing Board

Minutes from the Governing Board meeting held Thursday, September 26th, 2019 in room 28 at Willingdon School, 5870 Terrebonne, Montreal, QC

Attendance: Lara Belinsky, Carmen Nicolas, Steve Spetsieris, Maya Doughan, Lucas Reindler, Matt Follett, Eric Lamoureux, Nick Batzios, Monique Imbeau, Tracy Lyall (alternate parent member), Michael Mueller (PAC), Joseph Lalla (School commissioner)

Regrets: Gabriel Latino, Aurora Flewwelling-Skup, Cynthia Quarrie, Mark Ellinger, Kathleen Usher, Cornelia Mandiou

Guests: Tanya Savickey (EDP)

Meeting opening: 18h42

I. Principal's Remarks/Welcome

Carmen welcomed in the new board.

II. Approval of the agenda

- Lara motion
- Nick seconds

III. Approval of minutes from May 30, 2019

- Lucas motion
- Lara seconds

IV. Elections

a) Chair

- Lara nominates Eric
- Lucas seconds

b) Vice-Chair

- Lara nominates Lucas
- Eric seconds

c) Treasurer

- Lara nominates Matt
- Nick seconds

d) Secretary

- In an act of revenge Matt nominates Lara

- Lucas seconds

e) Introductions of board members

V. Business Arising

GAIN update

- Last meeting in May
- Next meeting in 2-3 weeks
- Bussing seems to be functional
- First day went well
- Oct 2, ribbon cutting ceremony
- Soccer Field and Park in heavy use

Senior campus renovations

Maya reports phase 1 complete

- Painted
- Gym ceiling fixed
- Intercom installed
- Smartboards functional
- Fencing in place
- Picnic tables
- Windows fixed
- Plumbing fixed

Phase 2 to be started (summer project)

- Lucas requested board receive information on the current budget
 - Could the director of renovations come again for an update? – Eric to enquire
- Lucas questions lockdown procedure, will police attend?
 - Carmen and Maya confirm procedures in place, video directive now in place for all drills, broken down by roles
 - Firefighters have been and gone over fire drills.

VI. New Business

a. Internal rules for GB meetings

- Eric read rules, questions should we only accept questions 7 days ahead, is this reasonable
- This is to allow board a chance to review prior to the meeting
- Loss of spontaneity/quick decision making in timely matters.
 - Discussion -48 hour seems reasonable
 - 5 days for circulation of documents
 - Question about agenda – posted but not approved until meeting
 - Carmen read agenda rules
 - Eric proposes
 - 5 days for documents
 - 48 hour for questions
 - Lucas moves to approve change to 48 hours for questions and 5 days for documents

- Lara seconds
- b. Meeting schedule
 - Eric read schedule. GB meetings will be held on: October 24, November 28, January 30, March 26, April 30, and May 28, all at 6:30
- c. Field trips 2019-2020 Approval
 - Lara read field trip schedule. Matt moves the approval. Tracy seconds.
 - Approved
- d. Parents Green Committee
 - Not ready to present (Lara on behalf of Dr. Kat)
 - Eric introduced letter regarding Terrebonne bike path - brought forward
 - Discussed signing petition as a board
 - Lara motions to add signature
 - Lucas seconds
 - Approved
- e. Dimitris Elias Lion King Project Approval
 - Carmen introduces extra-curricular activity –
 - 4-5 pm Tuesday
 - \$100 to participate
 - Discussed
 - Matt motions to approve
 - Monique seconds
 - Approved

VII. Question period

- Eric – Parents concerned about Bill 21 – to be added to next meeting as an agenda item
 - Lucas – ESMB is suing
 - Eric – request for a Willingdon specific letter
- Eric – Photography of students and Facebook
 - Carmen – concerns raised by family – some photos on FB without consent, late signatures, list not up to date
 - Concerns raised – try to exclude faces from Photos
 - Teachers instructed not to share photos on personal pages
 - Policy to be developed
- Eric – General Assembly Elections concerns to be tabled for next meeting
 - Concern that people not be allowed to run for 2 terms – however several positions are multi-year terms.
 - No vote by proxy suggested
 - Tabled

VIII. Reports

a. Principal

- Carmen
 - Both campus “calm”
 - Good feeling amongst general population at both
 - 570 students registered up by 20 from last year and still expecting more
 - Staffing – ¾ and 5/6 split classes dropped in favour of lower numbers per class and room for extra through year
 - All staff in place for start of year at Willingdon – EMSB still short overall
 - Photography Policy to be discussed/revamped
 - Nutritional policy to be discussed
 - Open house- Oct 17
 - Progress reports - Oct 11
 - Ribbon cutting senior campus - Oct 2
 - Tres Mauvais status? New inspectors hired, and Willingdon reviewed, likely sooner than 5 years and likely relocation required for at least some of renovations

b. Vice-Principal

- Steve – Junior campus
 - Fire drill – out in under 3 minutes
 - Code of conduct review during assemblies
 - Hallways calmer to navigate during class movements, yard is calmer and more space, kids seem happier
 - Grade 4’s have assumed roles of monitoring before and after school entry
- Maya – Senior campus
 - Positive and mindful vibe
 - Students love outdoor space
 - Park being used both recess and Lunch
 - Shuttles sorted and running
 - Code of conduct assembly Sept 18
 - Lara has been riding shuttles
 - Lunch – eat in room and then choice of outdoor or various rooms

c. Home and School

- Presented by Eric
 - All good

d. Teachers/MTA

- Lara
 - Senior campus going well
 - Kat and Lara moving back and forth
 - Walk to school program- students meet early at junior campus and walk as group
 - Campus will converge for Terry Fox run
- Nick
 - Group performing at upcoming ribbon cutting

- Upcoming field trips
- Matt motions to extend meeting
- Tracey seconds
- e. EDP
 - Tanya
 - Running smoothly
 - PED days sold out
 - Need to have committee info to co-ordinated lunch and after school
 - Lunch time - piano, violin, chess and voice added at senior campus
- f. PAC
 - No report – discussed role
- g. EMSB Parents' Committee Representative
 - No report – discussed role
- h. School Commissioner (provided earlier in evening)
 - Workshop for governing board members available at school board, manual available online.
 - ESMB is in the top rankings for graduation rate in Quebec – 94%
 - Seizure of Vanier still in court – potential to challenge due to timing
 - Unfavourable report from MoE was not distributed to the EMSB prior to it going to the media –still have not seen the full report.
 - Threatened by trusteeship or partial trusteeship
 - However Audited in 2016 and given clean bill of health
 - In 2009 an observer was appointed 0 the results and report were never submitted ti
ESMB – through access to information act, a heavily redacted version was provided.
 - Bill to eliminate school boards being fought – QESBA contributing \$200,000
 - Bill 21 – currently a court challenge by ESMB

IX. Varia

- Lucas
 - TV in classroom? Is there a policy?
 - Lara motions to table to next meeting

X. Adjournment

- Lara motions to adjourn at 8:32 PM

Appendix A – Willingdon School Governing Board – Internal Guidelines

Willingdon School Governing Board- Internal Guidelines

All Governing Board members and the school principal and vice-principal will:

Before meetings:

- Circulate documents, including minutes and agendas, to be deliberated on at a meeting at least five days before the scheduled meeting, failing which consideration of the issue will be tabbed.
- Prepare by reviewing carefully documents and correspondence duly circulated in advanced

At meetings:

- Arrive on time
- Attend regularly
- Entertain questions to the Board and agenda items only when these have been submitted at least 48 hours before the scheduled meeting
- Follow the scheduled agenda
- Speak in turn and wait to be called on by the Chair before speaking
- Address the Chair when intervening in the discussion.
- Keep interventions relevant, objective, concise and non-redundant to facilitate effective and efficient discussions and decision-making
- Express opinions freely and respectfully
- Respect the right of non-members to intervene during the period reserved for questions

Following meetings:

- Support Governing Board decisions taken, regardless of one's personal view

General rules:

- Meetings will end at 8:15. A motion must be passed and approved in order for the meeting to be extended.

