

Willingdon Governing Board

Meeting Minutes

December 3rd, 2020

18h30, Zoom

Attendees: Lara Belinsky, Maya Doughan, Aurora Flewwelling-Skup, Matt Follett (part of the meeting), Monique Imbeau, Eric Lamoureux, Jimmy Stavropoulos, Tracy Lyall, Genevieve Moore, Cornélia Mandoiu, Karen Negrete (Home and School), Carmen Nicolas, Lucas Reindler, Christina Prentas, Nick Batzios, Gabriel Latino, Joe Lalla.

Regrets/Absent: Kathleen Usher and Tanya Sevickey

I. Chairperson's remarks and Welcome!

II. Approval of the agenda

- Move to strike Principal selection criteria from the Agenda (deal with at a later date)
 - Aurora moved approval – Cornelia 2nd
 - Approved unanimously

III. Approval of minutes from September 24th and October 29th

*Amended minutes of meeting Sept 24th

- Monique pointed out that she was present
- Stavropoulos typo
- Nick moved approval, 2nd Genevieve
- Minutes of last meeting Oct 29th
 - Genevieve misspelled in regrets
 - Tracy pointed out that she was present
 - Lucas moved approval, 2nd Matt
 - Unanimously approved

IV. Business Arising

a. COVID Response Update

Carmen Nicolas:

*Official welcome back to Mr. Lalla to our board.

* Things are stable- No cases since our last meeting. Less absences than at this time in a typical year.

*December 17 and 18 will be Virtual School Days. There will be some teaching but we have found some special activities for the students and teachers to enjoy together.

* Air Purifier news -34 for junior campus, 14 for senior campus (each room will receive an air purifier) Timeline is not yet determined. May need electrical updates. Windows are still open for air circulation but it's good to have this coming to help with ventilation more long term.

*Task force meets regularly. Needs and protocols are revisited as need be. The plan has been maintained since the beginning of the year. Structure and limits were important. Start with strict measures and loosen as we go.

V. New Business

a. Ratification of e-vote on Pedagogical Holidays March 15 and April 23

(Via e-mail, Matt Follett moved and Aurora Flewwelling-Skup seconded that Monday March 15 and Friday April 23 be designated pedagogical holidays at Willingdon. The vote on-line was unanimously in favour.)

Aurora moved approval, 2nd Matt
Unanimously approved

b. Approval of the Sexuality Education Plan 2020-2021

Gradual implementation over last few years -same plan as last year - with a few additions:

Kindergarten: Two themes covered (Homeroom teacher)- sexual growth and body image - knowing body parts and pregnancy/growth *learning terms in French*

Cycle 1- Grade 1 - The Kids in the Know program- child protection- teachers follow the program closely (*added identity stereotypes and roles and social norms) L.O.V. E (leave out violence everywhere) organization will cover these themes (1 hour workshop).

Grade 2- Same as last year plus Pregnancy and Birth (L.O.V.E. organization) - ERC/Phys Ed teachers Friendship theme (discussion on boundaries)

Grade 3- Same as last year *workshops with L.O.V.E. organization*

Grade 4- Phys. Ed (Ms. B and Nurse)- this will continue (grades 4, 5, 6) Emotional and romantic life ERC- L.O.V.E. organization (1 hour workshop)

Grade 5- Same as last year *Sexual assault prevention- ERC focus - taught in French -cycle 2 and 3

Grade 6- Same as last year plus - sexual growth and body image (Science component) -

*EMSB website for more detailed curriculum information:

<https://www.emsb.qc.ca/emsb/schools/elementary/programs/sexuality-education>

The school board organizes professional development- all new teachers are trained. Content needs to follow directives of the ministry-must be factual and age appropriate. Kids in the Know is a wonderful program - youth protection of Canada Website.

Genevieve moved approval, 2nd Gabe
Unanimously approved

- Matt– left the meeting at 6:58 pm to attend the EMSB parent’s committee meeting

c) PAC vacancy- Martina has left PAC and the Willingdon Community. - Plans for what the Willingdon community would like to make happen. Jimmy has agreed to fill the position.

VI. Question period

- a. No contact or emails from parents
- b.re: sale of YMCA- they have moved forward and city plans to make an offer...
A lot of speculation- probably far from a done deal

VII. Reports

a. Principal reports:

Carmen - We are saddened that we cannot have our holiday meeting in person with a nice toast to thank you all for the time you give to GB. This year is quieter. Thank you for your involvement and support. We are blessed to have a supportive governing board. It is very important, especially this year, that we work together to better our school and help the students through close collaboration.

Would like to thank H&S (behind the scenes)- Art therapy program has begun- effects of the pandemic on kids' mental health has been evident with high anxiety - art therapist works with the children in need at school. H&S has helped to pay half - 4 weeks paid by Willingdon and 5 weeks by H&S. 25 students benefiting from this program. We can see the positive effect on the students already.

Emergency fund collections - bike racks- Halloween...so many amazing things- done from afar. Thank you!

Parent teacher interviews- Virtual- went really well :) No negative feedback!

Virtual Open House- was very successful. Having the live event and then videos posted on our website seemed to be a winning formula. Parents can rewatch again before registration.

Throughout November: Focus on taking care of our teachers and staff. Filling staff buckets has been a priority. Take care of yourselves so you can care for others. Same for the children- mental health focus is extremely important.

Update: Emails from families: in recent weeks we have had less concerned emails and are able to focus our energy where it matters most- our school and the students/staff!

This month we were able to get the children what they need (tutors and support services). Teacher feedback- they are able to cover a lot of material with their students (less interruptions to their week).

Ms. B started as V.P. Nov 9th- It’s going amazing. So happy to have her on the team.

Vision screening has been carried out with recommendations for families (Kindergarten)

b. Vice-Principal Junior Campus

Ms. B reports: as of next week she will be at Junior Campus full time. She really appreciates all the love and support she has received upon entering this new role.

Welcome Christina Prentas *official replacement for Ms. B as teacher representative on GB*

Virtual days - fun activities planned

Dec 17th- Schoolwide- Virtual activity in the Am with an animator- playdough activity

Dec 18th- Activity link to a holiday show based on grade level/class

*art class activities - K-2 story collage & 3-6 holiday card pop up activity

c. Vice-Principal Senior Campus

Ms. Maya reports:

Lara has been an amazing addition!

H&S has been helping us a great deal: 13 families are officially registered on the Emergency Fund List, with more than a dozen more in need of support... Willingdon pantry/closet/store- will be ongoing! More to come :)

Holiday baskets and deliveries will be happening next week

(4) Meals will be delivered during the school closure.

Art therapy (10 students in sr and 14 in jr) as per budget. Some bi-weekly, some group sessions (confidential, with weekly reports) Educator Ellen Smallwood -Nov 23rd until Feb 12th - hope to continue if funding permits.

d. Home and School

H&S Co-chair Karen reports:

Weekly newsletter format has been adopted- social media blitz in an attempt to unclog inboxes.

A lot of success with online donations *just over 2000\$ cash donations*

450\$ in teacher appreciation fund- want to increase budget and frequency this year

Family support fund- working hard and offering more when possible - 1100\$ from spiritwear campaign - 1500\$ from school supplies fundraiser, plus donations (froyo). We have seen an increase in donations so far this year, thanks to our giving community.

Food drive over two days this week - went very well. 3rd party delivery is being used to maintain family confidentiality.

Froyo- 429 students signed up- half of profits go to H&S- other half to Grad committee *3 free Froyos this year!

Grad committee fundraising going well- 3000\$ already raised!

Recette en Pot- a little slower...shipping costs may factor in. Still ongoing so we will wait and see!

Carolyn's Toy Drive- went very well. 128 kids and mothers were supported by our community!. Families have been giving over and over as these fundraisers run simultaneously.

TSA- increased budget this year - teas and treats- messages of positivity- coincided with parent teacher interviews. Plan for the holiday season: Class rep for each classroom to organize a collective holiday gift- one larger gift card to avoid not small items coming in from various homes.

Planned K holiday event- cupcake, craft and book on Dec 7th

H&S plan to stay in close contact with the admin to see what they need and which events can hopefully be planned in the Spring.

Cornelia inquired about the date for the K event- PJ day is Dec 10th- wanted it to coincide Would like to be on the H&S list to help support and stay in the know.

Karen responded that teachers could be added if they would like to be on - they cannot be added without their permission. Will provide a link if teachers would like to sign up.

Carmen- H&S can send an email to the admin and ask that the information be shared with the teachers..
Can add info to the emails that are sent home to the Willingdon community on a weekly basis as well.

Update: Karen- The K treat are to be delivered on Monday, Dec 7th - this date had been approved by the admin. It would be a 'sac surprise', book and craft- one delivery box per classroom- This can be done at any point during the day.

e. Teachers/MTA

Dr. Kat is not present- emailed some updates to Mr. Gabriel to share here.

Union negotiations have hit an impasse. Tactics will continue to ramp up over the next few months with a possible lead up to use of strike days.

Mobilizations at the moment: automatic 'not-available' email responses outside of a teacher's 27 hour workload, tshirts on Thursdays, working PED days from home. We appreciate our Willingdon community support

Teacher reports:

Monique- Dec 10th- K PJ day activities planned. Thank you H&S for the 100\$ for purchases for our classrooms.

Cornelia- Thank you H&S for the messages and tea before Parent-teacher interviews. K students will be making holiday cards and sending them to a seniors residence to make their holidays a little brighter.

Mr. Nick- Happy the music lessons and presentations are going very well. Missing the usual concert hustle and bustle but understanding that this is how it has to be this year.

Christina- Thank you to our three amazing administrators for their continuous support and for the scholastics gift card, H&S!

f. EDP

Tanya not present. No update at this time

g. PAC

REP not present. No update.

h. EMSB Parents' Committee Representative

Matt –At their meeting right now. Nothing else to report at the moment.

i. School Commissioner

Eric: Nice to have you back!

Mr. Lalla reports:

Happy to be back for another term- acclaimed to represent the NDG schools. EMSB Trusteeship has ended. Not very happy about the state of affairs. Since it was partial, we were left to handle the legal issues: Bill 40, potential school closures, Bill 21 (wrap ups set to continue with summaries next week) Trial should begin in April regarding Bill 40.

News: Direct General- responsible for running the school board. Russell Copeman is the interim DG while interviews happen to ultimately fill the position.

EMSB is #1 English school board in the province once again. Student success rate over 94%. Thanks to all stakeholders for their role in this success.

Ventilation issue officially tackled last evening- ongoing talks at GB meetings since the beginning of November. There will be close to 2 million dollars spent. Will need to come from somewhere-not in the budget for the year, however staff and student safety are far too important to worry about that right now. Jr campus spending approx 40K on equipment, Sr campus approximately 18K (unit in each room). The units are to be installed with a wall mount...moving quickly to go to tender and get this done - no timeline yet- it is a definite priority...

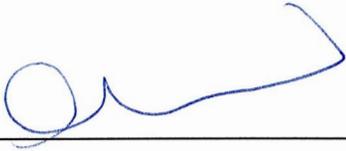
VIII. Varia

None.

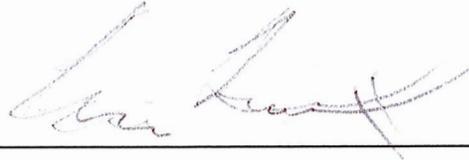
IX. Adjournment

Cornelia moved to adjourn at 8:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Tracy Lyall



Principal's signature



Chairperson's signature