

Willingdon Governing Board

Minutes

January 28, 2021

18h30, Zoom

Attendance: Carmen Nicolas, Maya Doughan, Kathleen Usher, Lara Belinsky, Gabriel Latino, Nick Batzios, Cornélia Mandoiu, Eric Lamoureux, Lucas Reindler, Aurora Flewwelling-Skup, Tracy Lyall, Tanya Savickey (EDP), Genevieve Moore, Dimitrios Stravapoulos (PAC), Matt Follett, Karen Negrete (Home and School), Christina Prentas, Kristin McNeill (parent)

Regrets: Joseph Lalla

I. Chairperson's Remarks/Welcome

Eric opens – 18:34

II. Approval of the agenda

Gabe moves

Monique seconds

Unanimous

III. Approval of minutes from December 3, 2020

Cornélia moves

Nick seconds

Unanimous

IV. Business Arising

a. COVID Response Update

Carmen- 2 classes currently closed, 2 confirmed cases.

Some are good at remembering masks; staff working to make sure students are wearing when required.

Air purifiers installed prior to return after holiday break. Including electrical changes to facilitate. Windows still open when possible.

Concerns over public health directives, hard to follow, hard to understand particularly over siblings, and who should be returning/staying home after a “contact”.

New document from public health should provide improved understanding for people.

V. New Business

a. Annual Report on Educational Project 2019-2020

Due to Covid-19 pandemic and the closure of schools in spring of 2020, the annual report is in reduced format: it can be approved as is.

Motion to approve:

Aurora moves

Kathleen seconds

Unanimous

b. Budget Building Process

Carmen explained that it would be wise to consider certain crucial factors when preparing the document this year, such as concerns over administration staffing and resource teacher to cope with the number of students with special needs. Willingdon might want to request that more attention be paid to the weight of each student, as this affects the number of vice-principals we can have.

Also rollovers from previous years have been shrinking and now must all be spent within that year. This prevents the school from saving for difficult times. Also operating funds, caretaking and the appropriated surplus were not rolled over. So we might need to ask to be allowed to keep our rolled over money again.

Also, there are concerns about mental health/psychologist support now being too low for our population, leading to long waiting lists and an excess burden for our current psychologist. We need an increase in funding/support here and a revisit of the ratio of psychologists to students.

Finally, the caretaking budget has not been amended with the added campus. Caretaking is normally apportioned by the number of students. This includes the repair budget, snow clearance etc.

It was agreed that this item would be tabled until a more comprehensive document, including all the above concerns, could be put together. Then it would be sent around for an e-vote before being sent to the EMSB.

VI. Question period

- a. Concerns over how to help/support children who need extra help. Need to find a way to provide a larger capacity. How can we help/push for more funding? - discussion ensued.

Carmen – Willingdon has been able to fill some extra positions, but even funding that was allocated to add to this has not been released. Generally need more support/funding/staff.

VII. Reports

- a. Principal

Water testing complete – all drinking points have been approved for consumption

Junior campus – school yard and foundations being rebuilt in a \$2 million project by the EMSB. There may also be new lighting and an intercom system.

2021 registration has begun.

Social media/ kids online safety workshops ongoing

No ministry exams this year, which has been a relief because now the focus can be on base learning and pushing our students to be ready for the next step (high school)

- b. Vice-Principal Junior Campus

Storytelling events – working to modify program to current restrictions.

Willingdon T-shirts have arrived!

- c. Vice-Principal Senior Campus

Digital citizenship campaign – This allowed for a conversation with students that led to internet safety concerns. A continuation through the year is planned.

Student mediation program – The entire class meditates for 10 minutes. Almost all of senior campus has taken part, as well as several junior classes.

d. Home and School

Online donation buttons – over \$2400 raised for family support.

Art therapy ongoing, but H&S is looking for suggestions on how to provide more support.

Grad committee working on upcoming year, including selling spirit wear.

Book fair ran in fall, but will not run for Feb.

Teacher appreciation plans ongoing

e. Teachers/MTA

Union negotiations ongoing. While many teachers do not want to strike, there is concern there is no other option. As such a strike mandate has been approved. Teachers' concerns include: the removal of student coding from funding/budget plans; the loss of self-allotted time allocation; work week hours are to be strictly allocated without added funding to make up for loss of preparation hours.

Discussion followed

Teachers also mentioned the new labels for selling Willingdon honey, the 100 Days of School activities, the Music programme, Willingdon T-shirts, and meditation at the Senior campus.

f. EDP

Generally all is well. A \$2000 donation was made to Willingdon from EDP.

Decision been made to scale back March Break.

g. PAC

No report

h. EMSB Parents' Committee Representative

Nothing to report

i. School Commissioner

Regrets

VIII. Varia

Subject of dogs: How can we manage the influx of dogs at the gate during pick up/drop off given the possibility that this unfairly terrorizes some children? – Discussion followed. Awareness campaign suggested, and a no dog zone around the entrances suggested.

IX. Principal Selection Criteria

The document listing criteria for the selection of a new principal was presented, as required by the EMSB.

Gabe moves the approval of this document

Nick seconds

Unanimous

X. Adjournment

Gabe motions to adjourn at 9:26



