

## **Willingdon Governing Board**

### **Meeting Agenda - Tentative**

April 29, 2021

18h30, Zoom

Attendance: Carmen Nicolas, Maya Doughan, Kathleen Usher, Lara Belinsky, Gabriel Latino, Cornélia Mandoiu, Eric Lamoureux, Lucas Reindler, Aurora Flewwelling-Skup, Tracy Lyall, Tanya Savickey (EDP), Genevieve Moore, Matt Follett, Karen Negrete (Home and School), Kristin McNeill (parent & former member of GB), Johanna Miller (member of the GB at Edinburgh), Michael Rodgers (prior chair of the GB at Edinburgh), Julie Trudel (parent), Joseph Lalla

Regrets/Absent: Monique Imbeau, Nick Batzios, Christina Prentas

- I. Chairperson's Remarks/Welcome
- II. Approval of the agenda
  - Dr. Kat moves to approve the agenda, Aurora seconds. Unanimous.
  - Dr. Kat requested to move guests ahead on the agenda.
- III. Approval of minutes from March 25, 2021
  - Since the minutes had only been sent out just before the meeting, it was decided to pass them via e-vote.
- IV. Business Arising
  - a. COVID update
    - Carmen indicated that there have been no new cases reported since the last meeting, and that all existing measures will stay in place until the end of the school year, as far as she is aware.
  - b. Renovation Project update
    - Nothing to report
  - c. GB communications
    - Carmen indicated that there has been criticism in terms of not enough communications.

- Maya has been tasked with updating the website, which includes the GB minutes, and information for parents on how they can get in touch with the GB.

## V. New Business

### a. Changes in Cycle 1 curriculum for 2022-2023

- Carmen indicated that the French immersion program at EMSB will need to change, as the current program has not been following the government guidance.
- As per the government guidance, the schools with the French immersion programs are mandated to add 150 minutes of English language arts.
- Carmen indicated that this would impact staffing, however they are looking into different scenarios to alleviate this, such as potentially switching ERC into French to make up the lost minutes in French.

### b. EDP Request to Exist

- Tanya indicated that the letter requesting EDP to exist annually has not changed from prior years.
- Genevieve moves to approve the motion, Tracy seconds. Unanimous.

### c. Call for a new EMSB high school

- Johanna Miller (member of the GB at Edinburgh) and Michael Rodgers (prior chair of the GB at Edinburgh) presented the issue regarding the growing need for a new EMSB High School.
- Royal Vale & Montreal West High Schools are currently the only high schools west of Decarie (both requiring entrance exams).
- There is a growing need for a new community mainstream high school, as half of EMSB students are leaving EMSB in high school as a result.
- Johanna & Michael's goal is to gain support in trying to raise the issue to the EMSB and convince them that there is a problem.
- The teachers noted that they witness the anxiety, stress and strain felt by grade 6 students when it comes time to preparing where students will be going to high school.

- Mr. Lalla was asked to why the EMSB has not seen this is a problem and he indicated that the EMSB has not had the discussion yet, however it is set to start in the weeks to come. He indicated there is a long-range committee made up of senior directors of departments that are tasked to determine long range planning and have only had hearings regarding school closures due to the serious decline in the east end's student enrollment at EMSB. He indicated that if a good case can be put together, and the numbers are there to support the issue, he believes the initiative could be successful.
- Johanna and Michael were asked to speak to a solution that fits. For example is there a target facility, have they considered current staffing shortages etc.
- Johanna responded by indicating that they are in the identification problem stage. Michael said that the EMSB does not have a good track record of identifying problems until they become real issues, such as when Edinburgh became overcrowded and the parents had to shame the EMSB before any action was taken.
- Matt moves to approve the motion, Aurora seconds. Unanimous.

#### d. Terrebonne bike path

- Parent Julie Trudel asked on behalf of community member Julie Beauchemin asked if the GB would write a letter of support to the committee supporting their proposal to the city for a pilot bike path on Terrebonne.
- Julie indicated that the proposed pilot project would only remove 60% of parking, and that there would be a lot of cyclist that would use the path.
- It was indicated that with the previous bike path, there were objections from people on the streets from Madison to Cavendish, as there are already 2 schools, 1 church and 1 old age residence between those streets, and that a new bike path would impact traffic.
- It was indicated that there are over 40 teachers who need to find parking, and when the project was rolled out last year it caused a lot of problems for them in terms of time spent looking for parking. There could be busing issues, and it could also make it less attractive for substitute teachers.
- Concerns were voiced that a bike path could cause safety issues as kids would have more difficulty seeing the stop signs.

- Matt moves to approve the motion, Aurora seconds. 6 in favor, 2 abstaining.

## VI. Question period

- No questions submitted.

## VII. Reports

### a. Principal

- Enrollment for the 2021-2022 school year is at 609, higher than the current year.
- They are hoping to add an extra kindergarten class, with more students coming back from having been home schooled in the current year.
- Pilot project to use Mosaic for re-registration has been set up, to assist in identifying staffing needs for the 2022 school year. The system facilitates the process by importing all submissions, as opposed to manually going through each report and entering the information into the computer.
- In the coming year, a new pilot project will be rolled out, allowing parents to pay school fees through the Mosaic portal, as opposed to students bringing in checks to pay for their school fees.
- Not yet determined if students registered for EDP will be required to bubble, until further guidance is received in terms of the 2022 school year they are holding off making the classes.
- Welcome to kindergarten event is coming up on May 19<sup>th</sup>, with a virtual welcome meeting scheduled the 20<sup>th</sup>.
- The school is looking into different ideas on how it can host the Kindergarten and grade 6 graduations.

### b. Vice-Principal Junior Campus

- Nothing to report.

### c. Vice-Principal Senior Campus

- Willingdon grade 6ers made it into the Digital Citizenship via the Home and School pantry

### d. Home and School

- All school photos have been taken.
- Currently working on end of the school year event.
- Wrapping up family support fund.

e. Teachers/MTA

- The MTA rep thanked the Parents' Committee for being a clear voice of support.
- Appears there may be an acceptable proposal made by the government, whereby teachers will be voting on May 10<sup>th</sup> whether to accept the proposal.
- In terms of academics, grade 5 will be getting a visit from a neurologist, who will be teaching them about their brains.
- Grade 4 is studying the rock cycle.
- Grade 6 is performing a technical audit of the entire building, and documenting their recommendations in terms of how energy, water and waste are used and or disposed of. To commemorate this project, the students will also get to work with NDG artist Guillaume Lapointe, who will be painting a mural at senior campus on the north-facing wall.
- Outdoor classes will begin soon.
- Kindergarten was visited a few weeks back by a group of dancers outside in the yard (within current covid measures). The students had a nice experience.

f. EDP

- All EDP staff has received their first covid vaccine.
- EDP registration is open.

g. PAC

- Jimmy will be resigning from the board as alternate.

h. EMSB Parents' Committee Representative

- Nothing to report.

i. School Commissioner

- Bill 21 victory at EMSB, with 5 other groups challenging the bill, EMSB won its position on Bill 21 on section 23 of the charter of rights and freedoms, that states minority language groups have the right to control and manage their school boards, and that the bill restricted who the EMSB can hire.
- EMSB has also won 2 junction reprieves in terms of Bill 40 (The law that eliminates school boards). The case has been heard, and EMSB is awaiting the judgement of the judge, but is anticipating it will likely go to appeal.

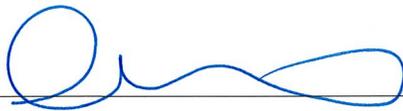
VIII. Varia

- It was asked if the student agendas can go paperless.
- Carmen indicated that there is a staff meeting being held tomorrow, whereby each grade will indicate whether they will need their agenda.

IX. Adjournment

- Lucas moves to adjourn at 8:53 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Genevieve Moore.



Principal's signature



Chairperson's signature