

## **Willingdon Governing Board**

### **Meeting Agenda**

October 29, 2020

18h30, Zoom

Attendees: Lara Belinsky, Maya Doughan, Aurora Flewwelling-Skup, Matt Follett, Monique Imbeau, Eric Lamoureux, Candice Madden, Cornélia Mandoiu, Karen Negrete, Carmen Nicolas, Cynthia Quarrie, Lucas Reindler and Dr. Kathleen Usher.

Regrets/Absent: Nick Batzios and Genvieve Moore

#### **I. Principal's Remarks/Welcome**

- Carmen provided brief update. Nothing of note other than we made it through 2 months.

#### **II. Approval of the agenda**

- Agenda changed to add: Minutes of Jan 30 and May 28
  - Matt moved approval – Gabe 2nd
  - Approved unanimously

#### **III. Approval of minutes from September 24, 2020**

##### Approval of Minutes

- Jan 30 minutes
  - Aurora moved approval, Matt 2nd
  - Unanimously approved
- May 28 minutes
  - Gabe moved approval, Matt 2nd
  - Unanimously approved
- Minutes of last meeting Sept 24<sup>th</sup>
  - Tanya pointed out a name typo, and a change was made
  - Monique pointed out that she was present
  - Eric pointed out that the notes are very detailed and only sent out today
  - Lara moved to table minutes, Monique 2<sup>nd</sup>
  - Unanimously approved

#### **IV. Business Arising**

##### **a. COVID Response Update**

- Eric pointed out that a parent wanted to join the meeting.
- Parent Danika Meredith was admitted to the meeting

##### COVID Response Update

- First case for a student this year has happened – occurred a few weeks ago

- Carmen walked through the protocol with GB
- Public Health officials were notified, and advised to close two classrooms
- Phone calls were made to all parents, no students showed up the next day
- The class of students missed 5 total days of school
- Virtual learning was set up and was executed seamlessly
- No other cases related to the student

## V. New Business

### a. Netiquette Policy

- Update provided by Carmen and Maya
- Netiquette was developed by admin and teachers and approved at staff council
- Code of conduct for students for online learning
- Available in both languages
- Q: Lucas asked - How is this implemented and shared with kids and parents?
  - Maya responded – The teachers will go over the rules with students, it will be emailed to parents and it will be posted on Google Classroom
- Q: Aurora asked - Should the camera be on as a policy? At CEGEP this has really been important to keep students accountable.
  - Carmen responded – First thing – camera needs to be on to take attendance since school is mandatory. Second thing – its an important tool to evaluate that the kids are doing the work and not getting other help.
  - The school is also required to lend tools (laptops with cameras) to ensure all kids are set up to follow the classroom and meet the rules for attendance and learning.
  - Maya also responded – She made the point that using video is a way to make sure kids are able to learn at home. In some cases they went to homes to get the kids online since the kids weren't actively meeting with the class.
- Gabe moved to approve the Netiquette, Dr. Kat 2<sup>nd</sup>
  - Unanimously approved

### b. Fundraisers for approval

- No new fundraisers for school were raised with GB.
- Dr. Kat raised a point – Not sure if some fundraisers will be done later in the year depending on COVID issues, so she proposed tabling this for now.
- Carmen confirmed that a fundraiser can be approved any time.
- Discussion of the 'blanket approval' of past listed fundraisers which has already been passed.
- New fundraisers would need to be considered each time and raised with GB.

## VI. Question period

### a. Sale of YMCA land

- A parent Nikki Tsantrizos raised a question through the GB e-mail address about YMCA land being up for sale, and posed the question – Could Willingdon buy the land?
  - Carmen responded – She already had a meeting with Mme. Marie-Helene Navarra, Director of Child Development for the YMCA. Mme. Navarra confirmed that the YMCA

sale rumour is not true – it is not for sale. If it were for sale, she said it would be sold to the city for green space.

## VII. Reports

### a. Principal

- Carmen reported to GB - This year, the Open House for the school will be virtual. It will be available online as a recording afterwards.
- Carmen discussed that she found some more tutors for Willingdon students.
  - Wilson program is a program for helping students and help some students that have fallen behind. The program is a 2 year program. It will be up and running by next week.
- Official letter today – Government has decided to add 3 more pedagogical days to the calendar to help teachers work on remote learning.
  - Max will be to add 1 per month.
  - Student learning will be reduced from 180 days to 177 days per academic year.
- Dr Kat mentioned – Government is starting to see the deficit with the students
  - Meetings had by teachers to highlight more students than ever before falling behind.
  - Students in need and clearly needing a lot of support.
  - Teachers are hanging on because they are dealing with way more issues and learning deficits and home issues.
  - Life has changed in the community at Willingdon. Many families just keeping head above water. Needs have never been greater.
  - Several parents (Aurora and Tracy) asked about resources for both teachers in need and students.
  - Carmen responded – Some tools and professional resources (consultants at the board) are available to support the teacher's needs. There is also virtual support at the board level.
  - Carmen – For resources – Board cut resources this year. and fighting for your needs is more difficult than ever. For tutors, they have preserved their budget. They have 7 tutors and kept that program running.
  - Dr. Kat and Monique (and other teachers and Admin) raised the issue of how the teachers are being asked many things by parents. Often in a negative or micro-managing way. It was highlighted that all the negative emails from parents is very discouraging.
  - It was raised that parents and teachers need to work together. The message should get out to parents to support the teachers more.
  - Tanya pointed out that Royal Vale produced a very good communication document for its parents about parents not getting involved in the class curriculum.
- Dr. Kat – left the meeting at 7:53 pm
- Carmen continued with the report to talk about report cards. Government has decided there will be 2 report cards not 3 this year. One mid year and one at the year end.
- Carmen told GB that VP Candice has decided to resign from EMSB. Ms. Belinsky has accepted the challenge to join VP. As of Nov 9<sup>th</sup>.
- New sub will join for Ms. Belinsky's teaching role to ensure a smooth transition.
- Lucas spoke about parents that are stressed and anxious and are reaching out to teachers looking for answers.
- Monique stated that she felt email should be for emergency use only by parents.

- Maya stated that in her opinion its not a lack of communication with parents – its anxiety and often it’s a negative feedback loop.
- Carmen stated that in a normal year she manages 100 emails a day. This year its much more.
- More discussion ensued on the topic of parent and school communication.

**b. Vice-Principal Junior Campus**

- None – Role in transition with Ms. Candice leaving.

**c. Vice-Principal Senior Campus**

- Maya provided a report – updating the website, supporting family in needs. Following COVID protocol and getting ready for Halloween.

**d. Home and School**

- H&S Co-chair Karen give the update.
- First off – More teacher appreciation events are being planned to recognize and support the great work the teachers and admin have been doing.
- Admin update
  - 3 new executive members selected
  - H&S has now officially been registered as a non-profit entity
- Last year’s pizza lunch credit carry-over is now being used for Mini Bistro credits for all kids
- H&S is working on a streamlined Halloween event
- QFSHA membership campaign
  - Goal is to get more parents to sign up
- Senior campus update
  - donated to get bike racks for the students
- Emergency Support Fund
  - Supporting about 15 kids, which is a bit lower than usual in a tough year
- Universal book fair– all online and coming soon in Nov
- Toy Drive
- Lara moves to approve the H&S plan and fundraisers, Gabe 2<sup>nd</sup>
  - Passes unanimously

**e. Teachers/MTA**

- Dr. Kat was not available for an MTA update.
- Lara Belinsky provided an update
  - Halloween will be a bit different this year
  - Raising spirits at 1:11 pm to get rid of evil COVID spirits!
  - At Sr campus – Gym is almost ready from renovations – floors and ceiling almost ready.
  - Monique, Cornelia and Gabe – Gave updates on their class activities and some positive events that are planned.

**f. EDP**

- Tanya – Big shout out to the parents in the group.
- Working hard to keep kids in their own bubbles. No groups cross paths in the hallway, etc.

**g. PAC**

- REP not present. No update.

**h. EMSB Parents' Committee Representative**

- Matt – Meeting involved three hours of voting for new parent commissioners.
- Nothing else to report from the meeting.

**i. School Commissioner**

- Not present. No update.

**VIII. Varia**

- None.

**IX. Adjournment**

- Lara Belinsky moved to adjourn at 8:53 p.m.

