

Willingdon Governing Board

Meeting Minutes

October 26, 2021. 18h30, Zoom

Present: Carmen Nicolas, Aurora Flewwelling-Skup, Matt Follett, Cornelia Mandoiu, Laura Primiano, Monique Imbeau, Tracy Lyall, Kathleen Usher, Danica Meredith (EDP), Lara Belinsky, Karen Negrete (H&S), Virginie Chambost, Maya Doughan, Joe Lalla, Eric Lamoureux, Lucas Reindler

Guests: Katie Saunders, Andrea Archibald

Regrets: Nick Abatzos, Laurice Morcos, Mike Creamer

I. Principal's Remarks/Welcome

II. **Approval of the agenda.** Approved by consensus.

III. Approval of minutes from September 28, 2021

Laura's family name is "Primiano", not Primeau.

Tracy moved the approval of the amended minutes. Lara seconded. Unanimous

IV. Business Arising

a. COVID Response Update. Carmen explained that there have been no cases since last meeting.

Staff has been provided with training to use the rapid COVID tests. Some parents have refused to allow testing. Tests have not arrived yet, so we cannot perform them.

b. GB E-mail/Communications. Carmen explained that we have clarified the message on the web site regarding how to contact the GB. It was also sent in the Friday newsletter. It is questionable whether we need to have an extra communications person, which might just lead to confusion. If a major issue comes up that requires a special communications team to be created, we can do so then.

V. New Business

a. **Field trips approvals.** Carmen explained that there is no list of new field trips to share yet. It is still being worked on.

c. EDP potential dissolution. Danica spoke as Chair of EDP. She explained that the EDP Board must now work to dissolve EDP. The challenges EDP faces this year are especially difficult, including COVID-19, staffing challenges, the loss of senior staff and the potential opening of a pre-kindergarten at Willingdon. EDP will try to maintain continuity of care for this year, but it will be moving to dissolution for next year. Much appreciation was expressed for EDP and its Board members, and concerns were raised about the potential for a pre-kindergarten. Carmen explained that the plans for pre-kindergarten are still very much in the earliest stages and many changes may need to be made to the Willingdon building before that is possible. The government has indeed stated it wants to have pre-kindergarten in all elementary schools. Carmen has already reached out to the EMSB to begin the process of setting up a BASE daycare at Willingdon for next year, in order to replace EDP. The idea of the possibility of NOT voting to dissolve the EDP was also discussed. It was pointed out that parents would be reluctant to take on the daycare portion of EDP, but there might be interest in supporting enrichment programmes at lunch and after school.

VI. Question period. No questions were presented.

VII. Reports

- a. **Principal.** Carmen thanked the EDP Board parents and the whole EDP for its incredible role at Willingdon; the absence will be felt keenly. With a BASE daycare, the administration takes over staffing and running the daycare.

French teachers have been found to fill the empty posts.

We had our RESPECT assemblies outside for all cycles, involving motivational speeches and dancing. Thanks to Lara for teaching the kids the RESPECT dance. Maya got Carmen to do a Zoom with students to discuss self-love, positive affirmations and yoga. November will involve anti-bullying.

Mike dislocated his knee and will be out for a few weeks. Maya has taken on extra workload. When he returns, he might be at Senior campus due to his leg.

Open House will be on November 10.

Progress report cards are on November 19.

Parent-teacher interviews are on November 24 and 25.

Budgets have been received and are at the expected levels. We received about \$6000

offering snacks to kids. Also, Home and School is paying for one hot lunch per week per student, and the school is upping that to two.

- b. **Vice-Principal Junior Campus.** Maya gave a report for both vice-principals. We have 23 students supported through the above funding. We offer snacks plus breakfast-type foods. With Home and School help, gift cards have been sent to needy families to pay for other necessities. We are also trying to recycle lost and found clothing to help these families.

We now have tutors for all levels.

Free Hebrew programme begins next week, Thursdays at lunch. We even have tutors for kindergarten students, who wear no masks. There was no interest at Senior campus.

Maison Amerindien field trips were held for all grades.

In November, there will be a school-wide play, *Je vois en rouge*. The same group will send animators to kindergarten and cycle one groups to talk about bullying and being good friends.

- c. **Vice-Principal Senior Campus.** See above.
- d. **Home and School.** Karen explained that Photo Day went well, with much help from teachers and staff. The make-up date is November 12.

Grad Committee is meeting tonight. We will be doing Halloween decorating this week. The video parade is still accepting videos.

Pizza and Froyo start on November 5. This year we will also offer pizza to staff and teachers.

On November 24, there will be the in-person book fair just for students.

We are also hosting a special Santa outdoor show for kindergarten and cycle one. For kindergarten only, we will hold another holiday show on December 21 or 22.

The Family Support Fund has already raised more than half of its goal.

The GB sends out a huge thank you to Home and School for their incredible efforts.

- e. **Teachers/MTA.** Kathleen explained that the collective agreement has been ratified.

Willingdon. School are being asked to list the needs they have to get ready for this next round.

Green Committee has launched its composting programme at Senior Campus. Grade 4 will hopefully be open to running a compost pilot just for their grade. At Senior Campus, milk carton recycling has begun.

The math challenge has begun out of University of Waterloo. A parent is working with students to coach them on logic and computational problems.

The LEUCAN fundraiser was launched yesterday for higher grades.

Lara explained the September fundraiser, which reached its goal of \$10 000 to support the Native Women's Shelter.

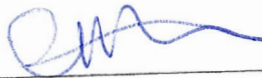
Cornelia explained that we now have a French tutor helping out for kindergarten. The first report for kindergarten will be in a new format, established by the EMSB. Mme Imbeau will represent kindergarten at Open House.

- f. **EDP.** The report was covered above.
- g. **PAC.** Virginie explained that she has reached out to former PAC members and is gathering new members. There are about 10-15 people interested in projects. She hopes to invite parents to an information session to get involved. They might be grouped into teams, including one for a Parents' Green Committee. We hope to be able to propose some projects at GB.
- h. **EMSB Parents' Committee Representative.** Tracy had nothing to report. The first official meeting is next Wednesday.
- i. **School Commissioner.** No report.

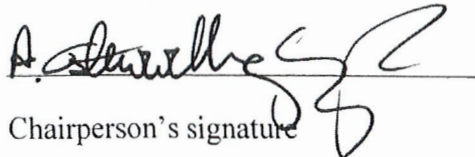
VIII. **Varia.** Nothing.

IX. **Adjournment.** Eric moved to adjourn at 7:47. Kathleen seconded. Unanimous.

Respectfully submitted by Eric Lamoureux



Principal's signature



Chairperson's signature