

Willingdon Governing Board Agenda

Tuesday, April 18, 2023 at 6:30 on Teams

Present: Eugenia Carystios, Aurora Flewwelling-Skup, Karen Kleihauer, Karen Negrete, Eric Lamoureux, Halah Al-Ubaidi, Nadine Collins, Kimberly Gregus, Karyn Moffatt, Laura Primiano, Maria Santino, Kathleen Usher, Laurice Morcos, , Lucas Reindler, Silvana Crigna, Daniel Quinn

Regrets: Lara Belinsky, Nick Batzios, Joe Lalla, Cornelia Mandoiu

Minute-taker: Aurora Flewwelling-Skup

1. Welcome and Land Acknowledgement
2. Approval of Agenda

Moved by Kathleen Usher; Seconded by Laurice Morcos; Approved unanimously

3. Approval of Minutes of March 14, 2023

Moved by Maria Santino; Seconded by Karyn Moffat; Approved unanimously with minor changes reflected in the present copy of the minutes.

4. Business Arising
 - a. COVID Response Update

Principal Crigna stated that everything remains stable with occasional cases being reported to the school.

Nadine mentioned that covid tests won't be being provided for free for much longer.

Kathleen clarified that schools will still be provided with tests when they are needed.

- b. Renovation Updates

Principal Crigna has just been asking for clarification and updates from the head office as she just returned from a leave. Some renovations at Junior campus may start as early as May, but she needs to make sure they won't be happening with students in the school before moving ahead.

Plans may include:

The school yard being redone

Restorations to the foundation's masonry.

Repairs in the basement (may begin in May).

Bathrooms are going to be renovated, but the details are still forthcoming.

Exterior doors need repairing and/or replacing

The flooring throughout the building needs repair. The 1st floor flooring needs repainting.

Lights need replacing possibly and there's an intercom to be installed

Kathleen mentioned the issue of water pressure in the science room and the drinking fountain in the hallway outside. Principal Crigna said she would send a separate request for that, as it might be faster that way.

5. New Business

a. Approval of Grade 5 camping trip

Tuesday May 30, 7:30 AM- May 31, 7PM. Cost is 145 dollars per student.

Motion to approve was moved by Kathleen Usher and Seconded by Aurora Flewwelling-Skup and was passed unanimously.

b. Approval of May 19, 2023 Ped Day Daycare Activity

There's going to be a carnival theme day with Everblast providing activities. The cost will be 20 dollars per child.

Motion to approve was moved by Laurice Morcos and Seconded by Laura Primiano and was passed unanimously.

c. Concerns over equity

Karen Kleihauer has been working with her students on issues around equity, inclusion and diversity and has been focusing directly on ideas around class. Some of her students brought up issues from elementary school around feeling excluded or ashamed when certain things come up. Some of those include school supplies and not having them, or not having the same kind as other kids, fundraisers like pizza lunch and froyo when students didn't feel like they could ask their parents to pay and field trips that have to be paid for. Not having teacher gifts was also sometimes hard for them.

Wide ranging conversation ensued about what Willingdon and Home & School are doing already as well as appreciation to Karen for bringing this up. Kathleen talked about looping this into issues around conservation and there was a discussion of community initiatives to help families in need. It was agreed that this should be an ongoing conversation and Karen said she would be continuing to bring the issue forward.

d. Junior Campus yard

It was brought to the attention of GB that the Junior campus front yard was a bit of a mess when the snow melted. All of the usual efforts are being made by the teachers (Dr. Kat) and school admin and staff to address issues (at both campuses), but an appeal was made to remind community members that it takes a while for things to get back to normal in the spring and that everyone should, for the well being of the grass and trees, stay off of it until it's all a little more established.

6. Question Period

a. Anti-bullying workshop

Parent Jessica Quijano raised the issue of the SPVM being brought into Willingdon to give anti-bullying workshops. Given the problematic relationship between the police and some communities and the fact that there are other organizations that could do this work it was asserted that armed police officers are not necessary to do this work. Principal Crigna said she would bring the issue up with the school board. Further discussion of the issue ensued. Jessica said she and other community members would be pushing to have the SPVM presence removed from Willingdon. Aurora Flewwelling-Skup offered to bring the issue to the Parent Committee of the EMSB.

7. Reports

a. Principal

As Principal Crigna is just back from leave she didn't have a lot to report. She is working on finalizing next year's calendar and getting back up to speed on things.

b. Vice-Principal (Senior Campus)

Vice Principal Carystios reported that the storytelling competition just wrapped up and that the students were amazing. The 2 finalists presented at a larger event. On March 28th there was a presentation at Sr campus on sportsmanship. Transition to high school workshops are happening right now for students and families in grade 6. The debate enrichment activity is wrapping up and ECA's are happening and going well. She reminded us that the school concert is coming up next week and that the exam period is beginning soon.

There was a motion to extend the meeting which was moved by Kathleen Usher and seconded by Karyn Moffatt. It passed unanimously.

c. Home and School

Pizza lunch and froyo days are continuing.

H&S asked for a motion to approve changing vendors for the school supply fundraiser to Magasin Scolaire for the 2023/2024 school year. The motion to approve this change was moved by Aurora Flewwelling-Skup and seconded by Laura Primiano. It passed unanimously.

Changes to the company doing school pictures and possible dates for Samajam were tabled for later discussion.

A motion to approve an end of year picnic for the Willingdon community at Sr campus was asked for and moved by Kathleen Usher and seconded by Kimberly Gregus. It passed unanimously.

Thanks to Karen for all of her hard work on the H&S executive these past three years was expressed.

d. Teachers/MTA

Dr. Kat appraised us of the awareness activities teachers are embarking on, on Tuesdays to sensitize the public to the fact that teachers are, yet again, in negotiations with the government over their contracts. There will likely be some sort of messaging to ask parents and students to come out in support of teachers.

May 10th is the Earth Day bake sale

Grade 6 students will be going to Jr campus to talk to pre K and K students about the water cycle.

The grade 4 "welcome to Sr Campus" event is being planned.

The grade 6 Green committee is planning a “Thrifting for the Future” event – essentially a clothing swap.

Halo race is soon and the honey sale is happening soon too.

Kimberly Gregus mentioned that the grade 4 end of cycle exam starts soon. She’s been working on a stop motion animation project with her class and they are going to have a mini film festival to invite other classes to come see the films that have been made.

Laurice Morcos mentioned upcoming exams and the Halo race as well.

e. B.A.S.E. Daycare

BOKS activities are going well. Pre K has started a planting project and will be splitting the seedlings between their homes and the school grounds. May 15-19 is daycare week.

f. EMSB Parents’ Committee Representative

Aurora Flewwelling-Skup reported on a parent letter that was sent to the ministry appealing for plans to be made to help neurodivergent students with the new French requirements coming into cegeps with law 14 and concerns over fundraising through “gambling games” rule changes not to mention new initiatives that would allow for the SPVM to be invited into Montreal High Schools.

g. Community Representatives

Nadine Collins reported on Vicarious Violence workshops, health services with “empower her” and the disco room is ongoing but looking for spring and summer items.

Halah Al-Ubaidi mentioned a number of initiatives such as the prom dress collection and redistribution, porchfest, that lots of people are continuing getting help with their taxes and that June 4th there is going to be a sustainability fair.

8. Varia

None

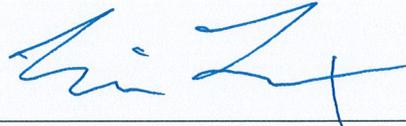
9. Adjournment

Kathleen Usher moved to adjourn at 8:47

Respectfully submitted by Aurora- Flewwelling-Skup



Principal’s Signature



Chairperson’s Signature