



Willingdon School
5870 de Terrebonne
Montreal, QC H4A 1B5

2023-2024 Annual Report of Willingdon School's Governing Board

Principal: Carmen Nicolas

Vice-Principals: Eugenia Carystios, Peter Mckelvie

Members:

Parents: Daniel Quinn (Chair)

Aurora Flewwelling-Skup (Vice-chair/PC alternate)

Karyn Moffatt

Laura Primiano (Treasurer)

Karen Kleihauer

Kristin McNeill (PC representative)

Natasha Holden (Alternate)

Lisa Gault (Alternate)

Alex Ruaux (PAC representative)

Teachers: Kathleen Usher (Teacher/MTA)

Nick Batzios (Teacher)

Monique Imbeau (Teacher)

Christina Prentas (Teacher)

Jonathan Stein (Teacher)

Lisa Collymore (BASE); replaced by Margaret Small

Community Representatives: Halah Al-Ubaidi (NDG Community Council), Nadine Collins (Women on the Rise)

Number of meetings held:

September 21, 2023; October 12, 2023 (online); December 5, 2023 (in person); January 25, 2024 (online); March 24, 2024 (online); May 16, 2024 (in person); June 13, 2024 (in person)

Issues and concerns addressed:

- Resources and support for students IEPs
- Student behaviour in the school yard
- Student social and emotional wellbeing post-Covid
- The Terrebonne bike path
- Street safety and the role of the crossing guards
- Payment method for Base daycare
- Renovations at the junior campus
- Bus safety and comfort
- Challenges facing the wider community: affordable housing, community space, food security
- Ongoing court challenges regarding Bills 21, 40 and 96

New programs/activities/services approved:

- CCQ course in French
- Social and Emotional Learning program
- Willingdon Student Film Festival

Actions taken by the governing board:

- Adoption of three motions regarding Terrebonne bike path
- Approval of Willingdon's Educational Project
- Approval of 2023-2024 Field Trips
- Approval of ECAs
- Approval of Base daycare field trips
- Approval of various fundraisers
- Approval of anti-bullying and anti-violence plan (ABAV)
- Approval of Daycare Handbook
- Approval of preschool standards and procedures
- Approval of Social Emotional Learning program
- Approval of the Willingdon Student Film Festival
- Adoption of 2024-2025 Budget
- Approval of Budget Building Process

- Approval of Academic and Career Guidance Content
- Approval of Principal Selection Criteria
- Approval of Governing Board Bursary for Grade 6 Graduation
- Approval of 2024-2025 school fees
- Approval of 2024-2025 supplies list
- Lunch fees approval
- Approval of 2024-2025 calendar

Subcommittees established (if any) and their mandates:

- none

Methods used to inform parents:

- Minutes kept in a public register available for parents' consultation in the school office and posted on the Willingdon web site.
- Information provided by community representatives shared with parents through the administration's Friday email updates

Plans and/or recommendation for the coming year:

- Continue to communicate the need for support for at risk students and all students with IEPs
- Monitor the impact of the Terrebonne bike path on student safety and traffic flow around the school
- Continue to pressure the borough of CDN-NDG to install a stop sign on Terrebonne at the intersection of Royal
- Continue to address ongoing concerns about bus safety and comfort

Chairperson's message:

The two main strengths of Willingdon's Governing Board are the level of involvement of our parents, faculty and community representatives, and the positive working relationship between the members of the GB and the school administration. Although this was only my first year as chairperson, it was clear to me from our first meeting that all of us share a commitment to ensuring that Willingdon remains an inclusive and safe environment that meets the needs of all of our students. Willingdon's teachers and staff offer a variety of worthwhile educational opportunities and extra-curricular activities. One of the main roles of the Governing Board is to support all of the great work that they do for our children. Moreover, we are fortunate to have

an active Home and School that raises money to ensure that all of our students, regardless of their socio-economic status, can fully participate in everything that Willingdon has to offer. In addition, H&S organizes amazing events, such as the Student Film Festival and the Year-End School Bash, which allow our students to showcase their talent and contribute to a sense of community and belonging within the school. Our community representatives regularly attend meetings and share important information about ongoing challenges facing the wider community. Their involvement has been essential to ensuring that Willingdon remains connected to the NDG community. Our school board commissioner has attended every meeting, which has been valuable to the members for us to get updates on actions taken by the EMSB regarding ongoing legal matters and allocation of resources. Moreover, the concerns that we express and the issues we raise get shared with the other school board commissioners. Finally, I am very appreciative of the extent to which our parent members and faculty representatives have contributed to the smooth functioning of the Governing Board. From volunteering to take the minutes to reading the Land Acknowledgment to chairing a meeting in my absence, not to mention responding to several last-minute requests to cast e-votes, members have demonstrated their generosity and willingness to serve the Willingdon community. Moving forward, I hope that with a new principal coming in next year, we are able to maintain the same level of cooperation and collegiality, while at the same time not shying away from raising concerns we have about the safety and wellbeing of our children.

Adopted by the Governing Board on: June 13th 2024



Principal



Governing Board Chair