



Willingdon Governing Board Minutes

October 2, 2024

Present: Silvana Crigna, Eugenia Carystios, Kathleen Usher, Nick Batzios, Felicia Maccio, Laurice Morcos, Daniel Quinn, Alex Ruau, Karyn Moffatt, Karen Kleihauer, Kristin McNeill, Kevin Reeves, Sandy Sidhu, Nadine Thomas, Kristy Cuevas and Joe Lalla.

Regrets: Lynn Grunberg and Jessica Doubt.

Minutes taken by Silvana Crigna and Kristin McNeill

Meeting commences at 6:35 p.m.

1. Opening remarks made by Silvana Crigna.
2. Welcome and Land Acknowledgement (written by Willingdon students)
Read by Eugenia Carystios.

3. Agenda

- Additions:

Under Principal's Report:

- 8.1.4 Hop Hop App for Daycare services
- 8.1.5 Three early October field trip approvals.

Under Daycare Report:

- 8.6.1 Hop Hop App
- 8.6.2 Ped Day activity cost approvals
- 8.6.3 Extra-curricular activity updates

Approval of agenda: Moved by Nick Batzios and seconded by Daniel Quinn. Adopted unanimously.

4. Composition of Governing Board

4.1 Governing Board Chairperson selection: Daniel Quinn.

Moved by Nick Batzios and seconded by Laurice Morcos. Adopted unanimously.

4.1.1 Vice Chairperson: Karyn Moffat.

Moved by Daniel Quinn and seconded by Nadine Thomas. Adopted unanimously.

4.2 Governing Board Secretary Selection: Kristin McNeill.



Moved by Kathleen Usher and seconded by Nick Batzios. Adopted unanimously.

4.3 Governing Board Treasurer Selection: Kevin Reeves.

Moved by Kathleen Usher and seconded by Laurice Morcos.

4.4 Governing Board Community Representation Selection and Approval

-Silvana Crigna proposed (1) NDG Community Council – Halah Al-Ubaidi, Executive Director and (2) Women on the Rise – Nadine Collins, Executive Director. No other suggestions were made.

Moved by Laurice Morcos and seconded by Felicia Maccio. Adopted unanimously.

4.5 Governing Board Member Contact Information: Passed around to complete it.

4.6 Governing Board Meeting Dates:

4.6.1

Wednesday, October 2 (in-person)

Monday, November 18

Monday, December 9

Monday, January 20

Monday, February 17

Monday, March 24

Wednesday, April 23

Monday, May 26

Monday, June 9 (in-person)

Moved by Kristin McNeill and seconded by Felicia Maccio. Adopted unanimously.

4.6.2

First and last meetings will be in-person. The rest will be on Teams.

Moved by Laurice Morcos and seconded by Nick Batzios. Adopted unanimously.

It was requested that committee reports be submitted 72 hours in advance of the meeting.

5. Approval of Minutes of Last Meeting (June 13, 2024)

5.1 Approved in June 2024 and posted on website.

6. Public Question Period

Nobody from the public present.



7. Business Arising from the Minutes

Nothing was brought up.

8. Reports

8.1 Principal's Report (Silvana Crigna)

- 8.1.1: School year start update

- Work update: Work was done and contractors returning to discuss deficiencies. Some paint jobs are left.
- Some Draper residents are complaining about the sight of the garbage bins and claim it is decreasing their property value. Silvana is working with the city to resolve it, considering the safety of students and space available within schoolyard.

-8.1.2: Staffing update

- Hiring of tutors is taking place.
- All employees are in place, minus the document technician.
- All teaching positions have been filled.
- Silvana explained that all across the province, there is a lack of French teachers. The solution at Willingdon is to put into place a teacher who may not fully French-qualified but who is working on their qualifications and who works closely with the Board consultants, as well as being supported by the team of teachers at Willingdon.
- Update on Extra-curricular activities.
- Update on Home & School (H&S) events and Family Support Fund.
- Update on fire drills (two had taken place). All four need to be completed by December, including daycare. Staff and students are only informed ahead of time of the first one.
- One lock-down drill is to be completed by end of January.
- H&S Corn Roast was a success.

-8.1.3: School marketing

- Silvana requested that this be a standing item on each agenda.

-8.1.4: Hop Hop App approval – see Daycare section of minutes.

-8.1.5: Field trip approvals:

- Grade 2 apple-picking field trip \$45 per student.
- Grade 4 day trip to Camp Boute-en-train \$90 per student.
- Grade 5 and 6 Cross-country running race on Mount Royal (available voluntarily to qualifying students) organized by Lara Belinsky \$25 per student.



Moved by Kathleen Usher and seconded by Karyn Moffat. Adopted unanimously.

8.2 Vice Principals' Reports

Eugenia Carystios (senior campus):

- Student assemblies have been regarding code of conduct.
- Follow-up meetings with some senior students regarding behaviour.
- Teachers are getting to know students.
- Training by nurse for epi-pen procedures and emergency procedures.
- CIUSSS nurse is present regularly and available for consultations.
- Grade 6 students have had visits from Westmount High School and Marymount students.
- All students at senior campus walked around Loyola Park together on a Walk for Reconciliation on Sept. 30.

Jessica Doubt (junior campus): Not present. No report given.

8.3 Commissioner's Report (Joe Lalla)

EMSB Council of Commissioners met in September and will meet again in late November after the election.

- Election is Nov. 3. Advance poll is Oct. 27.
- 2014 election's turn-out was considered high at a 20% turn-out rate.
- The legal battle between QESBA and EMSB with the provincial government over Bill 40 will likely go to the Supreme Court.

8.4 Regional Delegate Report

None available.

8.5 Teachers' Report

- Kathleen Usher spoke about the time strain for teachers in terms of the need for remediation and the current supervision duties. Outdoor classrooms have been a success with lots of parent involvement.
- Nick Batzios reported that Grade 5 will have a choir and Grade 6 will have a music club.
- Laurice Morcos reported that the upcoming PED day will be used to adjust IEPs.* Teachers are working on First Communication to go out Oct. 11.
- Felicia Maccio reported on routines for Pre-K and K students.

*There are between 85 to 90 IEPs in the student body of 494.



8.6 Daycare Report (Nadine Thomas)

8.6.1. New Hop Hop App.

-This is a third-party app.

-Use would be voluntary.

-Parents use app to inform BASE that they are arriving in 15 min. so child can be ready to leave directly from the building to the waiting parent outside.

-1 month free, \$22 for the whole school year.

Motion to approve offering app to parents.

Moved by Laurice Moros and seconded by Kristin McNeill. Adopted unanimously.

8.6.2. Nadine Thomas asked for a vote on two extra-curricular activities:

-Coyote – Grade 4 (two groups, each half a year): Outdoor activity to learn about plants, birds, mindfulness activities, outdoor skills like learning to light a fire.

-Champions for Life to start in a week for Grade 1 and Grade 2 students.

Nadine Thomas also reported on:

- Mr. Ryan's Green Club: take harvest from the gardens to the local community centre.

- A period of 30 minutes is allotted for students to do their homework, read or relax.

8.6.3. Approval for Outings

-Nov. 1: Zigzagzoo \$32.50

-Nov. 21: Everblast \$25

Moved by Nick Batzios and seconded by Kevin Reeves. Adopted unanimously.

8.7. Home & School Report (Kristy Cuevas)

- Corn Roast a success.

-Pizza lunch involves a new supplier (local – Pizza Welat).

-H&S still needs more members for its membership with Quebec Home and School umbrella group.

- Family Support Fund: Smaller budget this year; new initiatives to come.



- Book fair: Not going with Scholastic this year; used book fair instead to reduce costs, re-use books from the community, fixed prices (e.g. possibly \$2 for kid books, \$3 for chapter books). Only one in the Spring.
- Carolyn Bouchard's Food drive in October.
- Beautification to take place before the open house on Dec. 5.
- Constitution/Bylaw review under way to update/create them. (Last voted on in 1976.)

8.8 Community Representative Report
None.

9. New Business

9.1. Daniel Quinn stated he would try and keep meetings to 1h 45m to a maximum of 2h.

10. Date of Next Meeting: Monday, Nov.18

11. Adjournment: Nick Batzios called to adjourn the meeting at 8:30 pm.

DANIEL QUINN, CHAIRPERSON

SILVANA CRIGNA, PRINCIPAL

