



2018



2019



# Clearpoint Elementary School Governing Board Minutes of Meeting

Written by: Dov Bensimon

Location: Clearpoint Elementary School		Date: Wednesday, February 20, 2019	Time: 6:32 –8:02 p.m.
Attendees Governing Board (GB) Members:	Attendees GB Substitutes:	Attendees Parents/other:	Absent:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Allison Saunders</li> <li>Audrey Lambert</li> <li>Bill Mang</li> <li>Carol Rabbat</li> <li>David Estok</li> <li>Dov Bensimon</li> <li>Katherine Wiebe</li> <li>Liz Lopez</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Louise Sudia</li> <li>Marie-Flore Gignac</li> <li>Miranda Tubbeh</li> <li>Susan Lariviere</li> <li>Suzanne Larkin</li> <li>Tassie Fyon</li> <li>Tayba Huot</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Marc Lucke</li> <li>Tatiana Mendez</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>None</li> </ul>
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Danny Trotto</li> <li>Garry Saunders</li> <li>Helen MacTaggart</li> <li>Janine Von Bauer</li> <li>Linda Harbert</li> <li>Mark Christiano</li> <li>Patricia Beach</li> <li>Sandra Fisher</li> <li>Wayne Clifford</li> <li>Wendy Mendoza</li> </ul>

Agenda		
1. Welcome	5. Business Arising	9. Varia
2. Approval of the Agenda	6. Follow Ups New Business	10. Correspondence
3. Approval of the Last Minutes	7. Field Trips, Fundraisers & Activities	11. Date of next meeting
4. Public & Member Question Period	8. Reports	12. Adjournment

- Welcome
- Approval of the Agenda
  - A motion to accept the proposed agenda was initiated by Louise, seconded by Sue and approved by all unanimously.
- Approval of the Minutes from Wednesday, January 16, 2019
  - The minutes from the last meeting were unanimously approved by all, after a motion by Carol which was seconded by Suzanne.
- Public questions
  - None.
- Business arising
  - Principal consultation:** Katherine reviewed the criteria specified last year. David suggested that the school success plan should now be called the educational project. It results from the merger

of two other documents. It was pointed out that the term PYP programme contains a redundancy (“programme”), and it should be referred to as IB/primary years programme. All were in favour of sending the letter along to the school board.

- Consultation on the budget discussions were deferred to the March GB meeting.

## 6. New Business

- **Tell Them From Me Survey:** this survey has been done for a number of years. The LBPSB school board has required that the entire report on the survey be presented to the Governing Board. Most of the statistics don’t vary much from year to year. The numbers are pretty close to the national norms (established from averages from schools across the country). The level of students with anxiety is higher than the national norms. For the school overall, it is about the same as last year, but high compared to national averages. An increase in the number of students feeling anxiety has been observed in other schools as well, and efforts are being made to understand why this is. The meeting was informed that students are allowed to not answer a specific question if they don’t wish to.
- **Sexual Education Program:** The GB has to review the in-school document that was developed by the school describing this program and its implementation at Clearpoint. Mr. Estok invited members of the GB to look over the document at home. The activities around this program will all take place in the month of April. There hasn’t been a government-mandated program sexual education program in recent years and, in that time, rates of sexually transmitted infections have increased significantly amongst high-school students. The program also serves as an invitation to have parents talk to their children about the topic. Presentations about puberty will take place for grades 5 and 6 classes; they will be given by the school nurse. The topic can be discussed further at the next meeting if people have questions. The information will be sent to the GB members.

## 7. Field Trips, Fundraisers & Activities

- **Cosmodome:** trip for grade 4, to take place on 22 March 2019. The cost is actually \$31 per child, but only \$10 will be asked of parents. A ratio of 12:1 students per adult is planned, with travel by bus. Students will depart at 8h30 and return at 13h45.
- **Volunteer Recognition:** Tassie proposed thanking grade 6 children who help with morning drop off. She would like to take them out for lunch at St-Hubert restaurant in Kirkland. There will be two adults with the 3 students, and the date is yet to be determined.
- **Presentation on Drug Awareness:** This presentation will be for Grade 6 students on 20 March 2019 at the Sarto-Desnoyers Community Centre in Dorval. There is no cost to students. Travel will be by bus with students leaving at 9h00 and returning at 11h30. There will be 43 students with 4 adults (11:1 ratio). There was a question about whether or not the presentation on drugs could be given by less intimidating presence than the police. Staff who have already seen the presentation indicated that the two police officers who give the talk are very approachable, not intimidating and good presenters.
- **Éducazoo workshops:** these will be given to grade 5 on 20 March 2019 in school. The cost will be \$20.30/student and will be assumed by the school.
- A motion to approve these activities was moved by Suzanne and seconded by Tayba and unanimously approved by all.

- Louise informed the meeting that the girls organizing GIMAC will soon go to Pointe-Claire village to ask for donations. They will go at lunch hour. Since this is within walking distance from the school, GB approval is not required.
- Tayba described the maple syrup fundraiser that Home & School will be organizing in March. The cans will be around \$8.50 each, or can be bought in a case. Delivery will be a couple of weeks after the orders, or depending on supply. Forms will go out to parents on 11 March 2019 and ordering will be open until 22 March 2019. This is the 5<sup>th</sup> year dealing with the same maple syrup producer. This raises about \$2000 each year. A motion to approve this fundraiser was moved by Liz and seconded by Tassie. All were in favour and none were opposed.

8. Reports:

- a. **Commissioner's Report:** The full report is included as an annex to the minutes of this meeting.
- b. **Principal Report:** The report from the principal was presented next and is included as an annex to the minutes of the meeting.
- c. **Primary Years Program (PYP):** Exhibition was a great success and good example of student engagement. The kids were very passionate about it and collected many cans and socks.

d. **Teachers:**

- **Physical Education:** JungleSport was a good success with a big turn out. Junior Ski Club was held on 20 February 2019, with many parent volunteers in attendance. Two more ski days will be held next week and on 12 March 2019. Senior ski day will be 13 March 2019: 33 students registered so far, with close to 40 likely. CEPSUM outing will take place for grades 5 and 6 on Monday, 25 February 2019. Younger grades will go to CEPSUM in May. Lunchtime basketball started for grades 4, 5 and 6. Grade 5 basketball jamboree was recently held at McGill University. It has been going on for more than 20 years. Lunchtime soccer for grade 4 will start after March break. Skating has been going on for the last few weeks. Most classes were able to go two or 3 times.
- **Kindergarten** – Unit on hibernation and adaptation is done. After break, the unit on homes will start.
- **Grade 4:** Miranda said they are finishing the explorers unit. Math club is going well for 4, 5 and 6. Miss Kelly will run grade 5 and Miss Michelle runs grade 6 for the math club. Competition will be in April. Dare to Dare program also ongoing with Mme Choinière.
- **Grade 3:** Aboriginal unit started this week. Carol Horn came to talk about her experience with northern communities.
- **Grade 2:** did an assembly a few weeks ago and wrote the song “the grade 2 blues”. They had someone come in from 10000 Villages to talk to students. The next unit is on landforms.
- **Grade 5:** Students recently held an assembly on natural disasters. They also wrote their own “I Survived” stories. Biodiversity will be the next unit.
- **Grade 6:** are studying world religions and will be working on graphic novels next week.

e. **Daycare:**

- Cooking classes have been going on making cookies and pizzas.
- The pedagogical day on Friday, 8 February 2019, saw students participate in winter games indoors on account of the weather. Randi from Cabaret Kids came to do activities with the children.
- Tassie is issuing daycare tax forms on the Fusion portal. This is the first year this will be a paperless process.
- Tassie mentioned that one of the lunchtime parents is a qualified tutor. She asked if any children would be interested in having conversations with her in French as additional practice. Several GB members agreed that this would be a good initiative.

f. **Home and School:**

- Maple syrup fundraiser already described above and approved.
- Teacher appreciation week will take place the second week after March break.
- The recent comedy night was a big success and raised over \$5000.
- Scholastics order was placed last week. That was to fulfill all the teachers' wish lists. There are still \$121 available for other orders.

g. **Clearpoint Parent Representative to LBPSB Parents' Committee:**

- The most recent meeting took place on 7 February 2019. There were many discussions regarding the recent announcement that Riverdale High School in Pierrefonds will be handed over to the Marguerite-Bourgeoys School Board on 1 July 2019 to address a shortage of space in that school board. It was interesting to hear the board's perspective on why and how it happened. This was not done via a Major School Change process. A discussion on the ban on religious symbols was held at the meeting as well. There are also discussions on implementing seat belts on school buses, as well as how best to hold kindergarten orientation day.
- Katherine mentioned that there was a conversation in correspondence around how much French is offered in schools. This could be a point that is promoted more.

9. Varia

- None

10. Correspondence

- None

11. Date of next meeting

- The next meeting of the GB will be held on Wednesday March 13<sup>th</sup>, 2019, at 6:30pm in the library.

12. Adjournment

- A motion to adjourn the meeting was put forth by Allison and seconded by Louise at 8:02 p.m. All were in favour and none opposed.

## Annex A – Report of the Commissioner

### **Commissioner’s Report to Governing Board**

News from the Jan. 28<sup>th</sup>, 2019 Meeting of the Council of Commissioners

As has been widely reported, to alleviate a critical space shortage currently being encountered by the Commission scolaire Marguerite-Bourgeoys, Minister of Education Roberge announced last Monday he will exercise his authority within the Education Act to force the Lester B. Pearson School Board to arbitrarily cede Riverdale High School to the CSMB at the end of this school year, choosing to ignore the provisions and timeline of our Major School Change Policy. Much of the January Council meeting then concerned the Riverdale issue with assurance being provided for students and staff alike that the planned merger with Pierrefonds Comprehensive High School at the PCHS site will actually provide the enhanced pedagogical and extra-curricular opportunities that a high school enrolment of 900+ can provide. At the same time, there was recognition of the troubling fact that yet another English school in Quebec was being closed down, this time by a government seemingly insensitive to the local community’s responsibility to manage and control its own network of schools.

Along with other school boards, the LBPSB has declined to provide Quebec government officials who requested the numbers of teachers and other staff wearing religious symbols (in preparation for the introduction of legislation on banning such symbols) with such information. First of all, no such count exists but, much more important, even asking employees to provide such information would violate Quebec and Canadian laws protecting people from religious discrimination.

Further to the recent Carbon Monoxide issue, Assistant Director \_ General Carol Heffernan reported that ten of our schools/centres are heated with electricity and thus do not require CO detectors. It has been decided to immediately install brand new inexpensive CO detectors in all other schools/centres – even those that already have them – and follow this up with the eventual installation of permanent CO detectors in those schools/centres which would be hooked up to the intrusion alarm system.

A slight revision was made to the previously approved 2019-2020 School Calendar to reflect a change of date in the Teacher’s Convention from November 8<sup>th</sup>, 2019 to November 15<sup>th</sup>, 2019.

Consultations Launched: Council adopted a resolution launching the 2019-2020 Budget Consultation in order for the community to provide input on the allocation of school board revenues, with responses to be returned no later than March 29<sup>th</sup>. In addition, the Director General has distributed the annual consultation on the selection criteria for selection of a principal of the school due no later than February 25<sup>th</sup>.

QESBA reported the creation of a committee called APPELE-Québec (Alliance for the Promotion of Public English-language Education in Quebec), a Québec-wide alliance to promote the continued existence of English school boards governed by commissioners democratically elected by the English-speaking community at large. One of the mandates would be to implement, in cooperation with education stakeholders and community partners, an advocacy campaign, aimed at decision makers at all levels of government as well as opinion leaders, supporting the continued existence of democratically elected school boards. APPELE is comprised of the following groups: the Quebec English School Boards Association (QESBA), the



2018



2019



Quebec Community Groups Network (QCGN), the English Parents' Committee Association (EPCA) and the Quebec Federation of Home and School Associations (QFHSA).

The QESBA Board of Directors has also unanimously selected LBPSB chair Noel Burke as its new Vice-President. And as concerns any potential legal actions related to opposition to the Quebec government's announced plans to abolish duly-elected school boards, QESBA decided to explore the Court Challenges Program of Canada as a potential funding source. The CCP is a non-profit organization whose stated purpose is "to provide financial assistance for important court cases that advance language and equality rights guaranteed under Canada's Constitution".

The Pearson Educational Foundation announced that their next fund-raiser will be the Montreal Canadiens game vs. the Detroit Red Wings on Tuesday, March 12<sup>th</sup>. Tickets are available now at \$25 for students and \$47 for adults, For further information, please visit the PEF website at <http://pef.lbpsb.qc.ca/>

The next regular meeting of the Council of Commissioners is scheduled for Monday, February 25<sup>th</sup>, 2019, at 7:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Wayne Clifford  
Commissioner – Ward 12

## Annex B – Report of the Principal

February 20, 2019

**Governing Board Principal's Report**  
**Respectfully submitted by David Estok**



**-PYP Exhibition:** The Grade 6 Exhibition was a resounding success, and students did a phenomenal job presenting their projects on Thursday, Feb. 7. We thank the parents and staff who guided our students through this process as mentors, and want to thank the many parents who came to view the projects who did not have their own children in grade 6. Thank you for your on-going support of the students' actions many of which are continuing. A special thank you to the grade 6 teachers and Sue Larivière, our IB coordinator, who organized the event.

**-Tell Them From Me Survey:** Copies of survey results for the past two years are presented for the GB members to review. Most results do not vary significantly from year to year, or from national norms, except in 1 category: students who report moderate or high levels of anxiety. This seems consistent from year to year as well. This is a problem of increasing concern, and the school needs to explore ways to address this. One avenue has been through a McGill research study which involves students and parents in discussions of this phenomenon.

**-Clearpoint Choir:** Our music teacher, Liana Goldsmith has started a Clearpoint Choir, and they have been practicing at lunch hour. Last Friday, they recorded the song *J'apprends à Vivre* (composed by Emily Kimura and Daniela Legarda Perez, two students who graduated from LPHS last June). Choirs from other schools will be mixed in along with orchestra accompaniment. This is part of the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations for the school board. On Friday the kids got some insight into how professional recording works, as they were able to listen to their own voices, and make adjustments according to the feedback they were getting, from one take to another.

**-Sex Ed:** The ministry has mandated a program on Sex Education, and all elementary schools must comply with generalized guidelines. We have been working on a program that most teachers will present in April. The program is based on the Ministry guidelines and is age and developmentally appropriate. Our program will be presented to Governing Board before the classroom activities take place. The school nurse will also be involved in conducting puberty classes for students in grades 5 & 6. Parents will be informed before the program begins.

**-Grade 5 Assembly on Cooperation** - Our grade 5 classes presented an awesome all school assembly today focusing on "Cooperation". It included singing, several skits, a jeopardy match based on the grade 5's recent unit on Natural Disasters. Great job grade 5! Certificates were also handed out to students who showed "Creativity", which was the focus of the last assembly.



2018



2019



**-Respect Videos** – Earlier in the year, Mme Suzanne Ujvari and a group of students from grades 4-6 began a video project focusing on how to demonstrate respect at Clearpoint. The videos are being shown at student assemblies in order to promote the idea and values associated with respect at Clearpoint. Congrats to the student actors who have done excellent work in their Clearpoint newscasts!

**-Dr. Seuss Winter Carnival** – A fun-filled week is in store for everyone during Winter Carnival next week. We have chosen a Dr. Seuss theme with tons of activities, and featuring a student vs. staff handball game, a lip sync battle, and a day of outdoor activities. Thanks to the planning committee that put all of this together.

**-Spanish and Mandarin** – We are hoping to start Spanish and Mandarin classes, but are currently looking for teachers for both programs.

**-Term 2 Reports:** Term 2 ended on February 15, and second term reports will be released to parents through Fusion on Friday, March 1.

**-Skating:** Thank you to the many parents who have been helping out as volunteers during the skating sorties to Clearpoint Park – thanks to Mr. Bill and Ms. Yates for organizing more winter time fun!