



2019



2020



Clearpoint Elementary School Governing Board Minutes of Meeting

Written by: Dov Bensimon

Location: Clearpoint Elementary School		Date: Wednesday, October 9, 2019	Time: 6:30-7:58 p.m.
Attendees Governing Board (GB) Members:		Attendees GB Substitutes:	Attendees Parents/other:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bill Mang • David Estok • Dov Bensimon • Garry Saunders • Katherine Wiebe • Louise Sudia • Marc Lucke 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Miranda Tubbeh • Sandra Fisher • Stuart Kemp • Suzanne Larkin • Tassie Fyon • Wayne Clifford 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Catalina Clavero • Danny Trotto • Maria Benavides • Tatiana Mendez • Tayba Huot 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carol Rabbat
Absent:			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Audrey Lambert • Liz Lopez • Marie-Flore Gignac • Rebecca-Ann Belmonte • Selina Catinelli 			

Agenda		
1. Welcome	6. Business Arising	10. Varia
2. Elections of Chair & Secretary	7. New Business	11. Correspondence
3. Approval of the Agenda	8. Field Trips, Fundraisers & Activities	12. Date of next meeting
4. Approval of the Last Minutes	9. Reports	13. Adjournment
5. Public & Member Question Period		

1. Welcome

- Katherine welcomed everyone to the October meeting of the Governing Board.

2. Elections of the Chair & Secretary

- Dov offered to continue as secretary and Stuart offered to be backup secretary. Since no interest was expressed in taking over as chair, Katherine indicated that she would continue in this capacity until the next meeting, at which point a new chair would be selected.

3. Approval of the Agenda

- An item discussing water quality was added to the agenda, as were fundraising activities for Home & School
- A motion to accept the proposed agenda was initiated by Suzanne, seconded by Louise and approved by all unanimously.

4. Approval of the Minutes

- The minutes from the last meetings (11 and 20 September 2019) were unanimously approved by all, after a motion by Tayba which was seconded by Bill.

5. Public questions

- None.

6. Business arising

- There were no items to discuss.

7. New Business

- **IEP Rep/Liaison to SNAC position** : Katherine explained the role of the Special Needs Advisory Committee ([SNAC](#)) to the GB. She mentioned that it is not a mandatory position that needs to be filled on the GB. As no interest was expressed in assuming this role by any of the GB parent members, no liaison was chosen.
- **Consultation Launch - Policy for the Rental of Facilities – December 2019** : A discussion of this topic was postponed to the next GB meeting.
- **PEF Grants to Schools and Classrooms** : The meeting was informed that funding is limited for STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Mathematics) activities. Some schools which are branded as STEAM schools are trying to obtain funding, but not much is available. At this point, there is no action for the Clearpoint GB to take. Should any Clearpoint staff members come forward with applications, it can be presented to GB for discussion.
- **Review of the GB Essential Agreement** : After all were in agreement that the existing document is still relevant, a motion to approve the said document was moved by Suzanne and seconded by Louise. All were in favour and none opposed.
- **Bio submissions for Clearpoint web page**: most GB members indicated that they have descriptions that can be re-used. New members were invited to submit their bios to Mr. Estok as soon as possible.
- **Water quality**: the Lester B Pearson School Board was approached by an engineering student from McGill who is investigating copper content in drinking water. The board agreed to give access to various schools, including Clearpoint. The lead content of drinking water will be tested as well. The Minister of Education announced recently that all schools would have to be tested for lead in drinking water. The sampling will be done in the school early in the morning and in the middle of the day. It is not expected that the results will be of concern. It is not yet known when the results of the study will be made available. It was asked if the city of Pointe-Claire has any responsibility in this matter: it was not known, but it was thought that they may be responsible for the water delivered in pipes until the property line of the school.

8. Field Trips, Fundraisers & Activities

- **4 November 2019**: Kindergarten students will visit the [Ecomuseum](#) in the context of their unit on migration. They will leave by bus at 9h00 and will be back at school at noon. The cost is \$13/student and there is a 1 to 6 ratio of teachers to students. Parent participation will be limited to 2 parents.

- **7 November 2019:** Grade 4 students will visit the [TOHU recycling facility](#). They will leave bus at 8h15 and return to school at 11h45. The cost is actually \$15/student, but parents are only being asked to pay \$8/students. There will be a 1 to 7 ratio of teachers to students.
- **16-17 April 2020:** The grade 6 graduation trip will be to Québec City. Although the same itinerary as in past years will be followed, the cost is increased, since a second bus will be needed because of the size of the cohort. The cost will be \$282/student, minus whatever fundraising is done. The dates were chosen so as to avoid any overlap with exams.
- A motion to approve these field trips was moved by Miranda and seconded by Tayba. All were in favour and none opposed.
- **Rentals:** The meeting was informed that the Girl Guides and a ringette group are renting the school. Ringette takes place on Mondays from 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. and Girl Guides on Wednesdays from 6:00-8:30 p.m. A motion to approve these rentals was moved by Suzanne seconded Catalina. All were in favour and none opposed.
- **Home & School (H&S) Fundraisers:**
 - i. Recipes in a Jar: the deadline for submission is 22 November 2019. Delivery will take place in the first week in December. The cost is \$12/jar. If one buys 10 jars, there will be a donation made to a Christmas basket.
 - ii. [Budding Artists](#): the art students are making needs to be done by 31 October 2019 and orders placed by 22 November 2019. Prices will be similar to those in the past.
 - iii. Extension for Scholastics Book Fair – it was proposed to extend the book fair until reading week, which will take place from 25-29 November 2019.
 - iv. H&S would like to hold a total of three community events this school year, hosted by H&S at no cost to parents. The first was the corn roast held on 20 September 2019. There may be another one on 8 November 2019 when vegetable baskets will be picked up (another H&S fundraising activity). Finally, a \$200 budget was approved at last night's H&S meeting for a third event. It remains to be determined if there are other events, and if so, what.
 - v. A motion to approve these fundraisers was moved by Stuart and seconded by Tassie. All were in favour and none opposed.

9. Reports:

- **Commissioner's Report:** The full report is included as an annex to the minutes of this meeting.
- **Principal Report:** The report from the principal is included as an annex to the minutes of the meeting. In the context of the principal's report, some discussion took place about [Bill 40](#) - an Act to amend mainly the Education Act with regard to school organization and governance. Should this bill pass, GB members would come up for reelection on 31 July 2020. Some discussion also took place on the topic of [Major School Change](#) (MSC). It was mentioned that the GB should respond formally to the board regarding MSC, even if it's just to agree with what is proposed. A sub-committee regarding MSC was formed by Marc, Suzanne, Garry, David, Carol and Katherine and will draft a response. The meeting was also informed the the Clearpoint Kindness Committee got some funding and was able to bring in 7 people to decorate some of the school washrooms with positive messages and artwork. Children wrote messages about kindness on t-shirts as well.

- **Primary Years Program (PYP):** since the PYP coordinator is not part of the GB, it was agreed that reporting on PYP issues will be done through the staff present at the GB meetings.
- **Teachers :**
 - i. **Physical education:** Bill mentioned that the cross-country run is coming up in a couple of weeks, with approximately 100 students participating. Training for the event is ongoing. The touch football final is taking place tomorrow. Grade 4 students who are playing tennis will be able to continue until November, weather permitting.
 - ii. **Kindergarten:** Suzanne reported that the students are busy working on schools unit. They are intervieweing key players in education in the building, including the principal. They made posters during this unit and will be hanging them up soon. There will be a hibernation/adaptation unit following the schools unit.
 - iii. **Grade 3:** Sandra informed the meeting that the habitat unit was successful. A bearded dragon was brought into the class. One student brought in aloe vera plant to class. Students will be ending this unit with a trip to [Intermiel](#) to learn about bees. The next unit will be on leaders. Students visited Stewart Hall this week and met author [Marianne Dubuc](#). Her inspiration comes from nature and animals. Students participated in an art activity based on how the author does her art.
- **Daycare :** Tassie mentioned that the Cabaret Kids activity is going well. She informed the GB that the calendar of pedagogical days for 2019-2020 is as follows:
 - i. 27 September 2019 - Club FY (cost of \$28/student)
 - ii. 4 October 2019 - Pop-up Paints (cost of \$30)
 - iii. 21 October 2019 - Cineplex Kirkland Abonimable (cost of 30\$)
 - iv. 22 November 2019 - Games day (cost of \$10)
 - v. 6 December 2019 - Dynamix (cost of \$25)
 - vi. 7 February 2020 - Funtropolis (cost of \$30)
 - vii. 17 February 2020 - Winter Fun and pizza lunch (cost of \$15)
 - viii. 30 March 2020 - Spring Fun and picnic (cost TBD)
 - ix. 31 March 2020 - Sport Life (cost of \$25)
 - x. 8 June 2020 - Stewart Hall (cost TBD)
- A motion to approve these activities was moved by Suzanne and seconded by Louise. All were in favour and none opposed.
- It was mentioned that the school will not be used as a polling station for the federal elections on 21 October 2019.
- Tassie mentioned that 208 students were in daycare for attestation. 3 students missing during the week, but these are expected to be included in make-up attestation dates.
- Students were making butter this week in daycare.
- **Home & School:** Tayba recounted the corn roast, which was a big success. She mentioned that the children were amazing and were eager to help shuck corn. Comedy night will be held on 18 October 2019. The annual Halloween Dance will take place on 25 October 2019, and will be split into younger and older grades. The dance for junior grades (kindergarten to grade 3, inclusive) will take place from 6:30 p.m. to 7:45 p.m. The senior grades (4-6) will have their dance from

8:00 p.m. to 9:15 p.m. The vegetable basket fundraiser will see baskets delivered on 8 November 2019, and media may be present on that day. H&S is preparing a document on a volunteer code of conduct. It was asked if the code of conduct could be framed as an essential agreement to be consistent with the IB philosophy.

- **Clearpoint Parent Representative to LBPSB Parents' Committee:** Marc could not attend the first part of the AGA, but the second part of the AGA is slated for 10 October 2019. He mentioned that discussing concerning the abolition of school boards as part of Bill 40 will take place. Many are concerned that more responsibilities are being offloaded to schools without the funding to ensure enough manpower is present to handle these extra responsibilities.

10. Varia

- None.

11. Correspondence

- Katherine mentioned some correspondence around Bill 40, but no new information was included compared to what had been discussed earlier in the meeting.

12. Dates of next meetings

- The suggested dates for the GB meetings for 2019-2020 were as follows:
 - i. 13 November 2019
 - ii. 4 December 2019
 - iii. 15 January 2020
 - iv. 12 February 2020
 - v. 18 March 2020
 - vi. 8 April 2020
 - vii. 13 May 2020
 - viii. 10 June 2020
- All of these meetings are on Wednesdays and will start at 6:30 p.m. They will be held in the school library.

13. Adjournment

- A motion to adjourn the meeting was put forth by Tayba and seconded by Danny at 7:58 p.m. All were in favour and none opposed.

Annex A – Report of the Commissioner

Commissioner’s Governing Board Report- October 2019

Highlights: June, Aug. & Sept. Meetings of the Council of Commissioners

In **June**, following a comprehensive selection process, Council was very pleased to appoint Cindy Finn to the position of Director General of the Lester B. Pearson School Board for a five-year term. Cindy has over 20 years of experience in education and has been with the LBPSB since 1999. She holds a Ph.D. in Educational Psychology from McGill University. Prior to moving into educational administration, she worked as a non-teaching professional and then served as the LBPSB’s Director of Student Services from 2005. An excellent interview with our new DG can be found at: <https://montrealgazette.com/news/local-news/west-island-gazette/new-lester-b-pearson-school-board-director-general-talks-challenges>. Cindy succeeds Michael Chechile, who has retired as Director General, after a career of outstanding leadership and innovation in public education. At the June Council meeting Council thanked Michael for all of his hard work over the years to the LBPSB community and to wish him a most enjoyable retirement.

Council also appointed Joanne Malowany as Coordinator of Community Services replacing Mario Barrette who has retired. Joanne most recently served as the principal of St. Edmund School. (In August, Council appointed Stéphanie Stever to replace Cindy Finn as the Director of Student Services. Stéphanie has been the Coordinator of Student Services for a number of years.

Council adopted the LBPSB’s 2019-2020 operating, investment and debt service budget anticipating revenues of \$316,270,238 and expenses of \$317,042,455, which will be balanced by using an amount of \$772,217 from the accumulated surplus.

Bill 21: LBPSB Chair Noel Burke recently stated that the Council of Commissioners remains adamantly opposed to Bill 21 which targets such religious garb as hijabs. However, as the law gives the sole responsibility for the administration of the law to the Director General, Council will not direct administrators to defy the law. DG Cindy Finn’s position is that it is a sensitive topic and a divisive issue. She said “we will continue to work to be respectful of the different opinions (within the board community)”.

On the recommendation of the Human Resources Committee, and following the appropriate consultative process, Council adopted the Youth Sector School Calendar for the 2020-2021 school year. As Labour Day is not until Sept. 7, 2020, the first day of classes will be Monday, August 31st .

Following the annual consultation required by the Education Act, Council adopted the LBPSB’s Three Year Plan of Allocation and Destination of Immovables 2019-2020 to 2021-2022.

Council launched a consultation on the LBPSB Rental of Facilities Policy with responses to be returned to the Secretariat no later than Dec. 1, for consideration of responses. The final version of the Policy is expected to be adopted at the Dec. 16 regular meeting of the Council of Commissioners.

At the **August** meeting of the Council of Commissioners, Commissioner Judy Kelley paid tribute to the memory of longtime BHS librarian Mike Lyon as follows: “Michael Lyon, a retired BHS AV specialist and librarian passed away earlier this month (August) at the West Island Palliative Care Residence. Mike was a ‘determined defender of the key role of librarians in schools, especially during budget cutbacks’. People like Mike Lyon help to enrich the lives of students and staff, through their dedication and support.” Mike will be sorely missed by all of us who knew him.

On the recommendation of the Green Committee, Council adopted a resolution “in order to contribute in protecting the environment, as a first step, the use of glasses or refillable water bottles be encouraged at the Lester B. Pearson School Board”.

The new LBPAugust SB Guidelines for Extreme Heat have been posted at:

https://boardsite.lbpsb.qc.ca/Modules/FileManagement/files/Root/LBPSB_GUIDELINES_FOR_EXTREME_HEAT_April_9_2019.pdf

On the recommendation of the Executive Committee, Council approved be the continued participation of the LBPSB in the Montreal Hooked on School Network for the school years 2018-19 to 2020-21. MHSN initiatives have been key in the effort to lower the school dropout rate throughout the Montreal area over the last decade.

At the **September** meeting of the Council of Commissioners, Casey De Andrade Kiss of Lindsay Place and Serena Masciotra of St. Thomas were appointed as the representatives of the Central Students Committee to the Council of Commissioners of the LBPSB for the 2019-2020 school year and were sworn in as student commissioners. Their initial report raises the concept of a possible board-wide high school dance.

A number of administrative appointments were made to replace people who have been promoted or who have retired since June. These will appear in the official minutes at the end of October.

Congratulations were offered to Westwood High School (formerly Hudson High School) and Soulanges Elementary School for celebrating their centennial years.

The Executive Committee reported it had approved the 2019-2020 Allocations to the Governing Boards of each school and centre (\$24,618 total), the Parents’ Committee (\$5,000), the Central Students’ Committee (\$1,000) and the Special Needs Advisory Committee (\$2,000). There were no changes to last year’s formula. The Program & Services Committee reported that the LBPSB is committed to another 3 years of the TTFM (Tell Them From Me) student survey. The Board is looking at new features and tools to enhance the understanding and analysis of the survey’s results to ensure a more meaningful understanding of the students’ responses. The plan is to alternate surveys, once a year, with bullying and school safety in one year and school engagement in the second.

The Pearson Educational Foundation (PEF) reported its Grants to Schools and Classrooms program is about to launch with information on how to apply and the timelines involved being communicated to staff and teachers. In addition, tickets (as low as \$16) are now on sale for the annual Alouettes/LBPSB partnership game to be played at Molson Stadium on Saturday, Oct. 26th at 1 pm. Light a Dream will be holding its major fundraiser of the year, the annual Casino Night and Auction, at the Beaconsfield Golf Club on Friday,

Nov. 1st beginning at 7 pm. Finally, PEF announced HELP!, a Beatle themed musical fundraiser to be held on Friday, Oct. 25, 2019 at 7 pm at John Rennie High School. Ticket information for these fundraisers is available on the website: <http://pef.lbpsb.qc.ca/>

Two moving White Pine tree planting ceremonies were held on Sept. 23rd celebrating our recognition and connection to First Nations values and culture, one at Lakeside Academy and the second at our head office.

Statistics on the Ministry Exam success rates across the province have been released. Media reports indicated that the EMSB has the highest success rate (92.4%) versus LBPSB (89.5%); however, it is important to note that this result is based on a 7-year cohort. In the five years of high school, after which students are expected to graduate, our school board maintained the highest graduation rate in 2018 of 84.1% versus 81.0% at EMSB. (Data from page 15 of: http://www.education.gouv.qc.ca/fileadmin/site_web/documents/PSG/statistiques_info_decisionnelle/taux-diplomation-secon:daire-CS-2019.pdf)

The LBPSB will receive about \$55 million dollars (9% of Montreal Island funding) over the next three years in capital investments for the renovation of our buildings to maintain their integrity and upgrade to current regulatory and educational standards, where applicable. The final allocations are based on the age and condition of buildings throughout the network.

The Programming & Services Committee reported that the online/virtual summer school which was the 2019 option for Secondary 1 and 2 students proved very successful and will probably be expanded next summer.

The Major School Change consultation process is ongoing with a number of information meetings having been held or planned for the near future. As a reminder, final decisions are to be taken by Council no later than January 15, 2020 for implementation in the 2020-2021 school year. Full documentation related to MSC will be posted at https://boardsite.lbpsb.qc.ca/msc2019_2020

On October 1st the CAQ government tabled its proposed legislation on school board reorganization. The documents are currently being studied by all parties but it will likely become interesting over the next few months.

The next meeting of the LBPSB Council of Commissioners will be held on Monday, October 28th at 7:30 pm at the board Head Office. As always, the public is welcome and the meeting is also webcast live.

Respectfully submitted,

Wayne Clifford, M.Ed.
Commissioner for Ward 12

Annex B – Report of the Principal

October 9, 2019

Governing Board Principal's Report

Respectfully submitted by David Estok



-IB Conferences – A number of staff members are attending IB conferences through the month of October, including me – over this coming weekend. Most of these conferences have the theme of Building for the Future which will focus on some key changes to the PYP program that we are obviously very interested in finding out more about. Most of the changes it seems have to do with assessment and evaluation. More about this soon!

-Bill 40 – Reports on changes to school boards have been rife in the media since bill 40 was deposited on October 1. The scope of the changes appears to be significant, although the specific implications are not entirely clear. The current position of the school board is to wait for further clarification before making any information available to parents and school staff.

-Water Quality – The LBPSB was approached by a graduate student from McGill wanting to conduct research related to copper content in drinking water. A number of schools were selected to participate in this study including Clearpoint. Sampling will be done to assess copper and lead content in drinking water. This was done ahead of recent announcements by the minister that all schoolboards will be mandated to assess the levels of lead in drinking water in all schools.

-Major School Change – As has been discussed at GB previously, the school board has initiated its Major School Change consultation process, with any subsequent changes to take effect Sept. 2020. Governing Boards are encouraged to participate in the consultation process, even though the focus is on the Secondary and Continuing Ed. sectors of our system. This is an opportunity for GB's to express views and obtain feedback from their communities to be shared with the School Board as part of the consultation process. Any briefs submitted are due Nov. 15.

-Thank you to H&S – From apples for the Terry Fox Run, an amazing Corn Roast, Pizza Lunches, soon to start Lunch Hour Activities, and volunteers at the drop of a hat (such as on Picture Day), we appreciate all that our H&S does for Clearpoint Elementary. Your support makes such an incredible difference in to our school.

-Terry Fox Run - Thank you also to our entire community for the many donations that have come for the Terry Fox Run – at last count \$8574, but more is still coming in. Thank you to Mr. Bill, Ms. Yates, Mr. B (Jamie Bresseur – our dance teacher) and for organizing this important annual event.

-Kindness – Last Thursday, we welcomed a group of volunteers from the Kind foundation, a non-profit organization with a mission to facilitate interaction between students and in the process foster mutual understanding, and respect. Part of this project took place last year when students in 401 and 402 connected on-line with kids from another school in Portland Oregon. The second part happened here at Clearpoint when

the Kind volunteers came to help decorate some of the washrooms in our school with positive messages and artwork. Our students also created their own t-shirts with special kindness messages, and had a fun time meeting and talking with the Kindness volunteers. Thank you to Mme. Frances and Ms. Fisher for making this happen.

-Visitors From China– On Sept. 26, Oct. 1 and Oct. 3, we hosted three different groups of school teachers and administrators from China. The visit was coordinated by the International Programs Dept. of the Lester B. Pearson School Board, and our guests spent the day visiting classrooms, exploring the school, and asking staff and students many questions about Clearpoint, about our IB program, and about how education works here in Quebec. We are happy that Clearpoint staff and students had the opportunity to be a part of this exchange project.

-Green Committee – Our staff has struck a Green Committee, and we have started to discuss new environmentally conscious ideas and projects that we can plan and run as a school community. One of the first things we would like to try to get off the ground is a school-wide composting program. We would definitely like to partner with the Green Team, and look forward to collaborating on this and hopefully other projects.

-Student Action - As you know we have been promoting student action, and have been getting great results! Students are coming in with their action logs filled out, which allows us to have an opportunity to promote important elements of the IB program. From doing extra chores around the house, to participating in the climate march on Sept. 27, to doing gardening, our students are showing how they are taking action – great stuff!

David Estok,
Principal