



2019



2020



Clearpoint Elementary School Governing Board Minutes of Meeting

Written by: Dov Bensimon

Location: Clearpoint Elementary School		Date: Wednesday, November 13, 2019	Time: 6:32-8:33 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 • Liz Lopez • Louise Sudia • Marc Lucke 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Marie-Flore Gignac • Rebecca-Ann Belmonte • Sandra Fisher • Suzanne Larkin • Tassie Fyon • Wayne Clifford 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Audrey Lambert • Danny Trotto • Maria Benavides • Tatiana Mendez • Wendy Mendoza • 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carol Rabbat
Absent:			
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Catalina Clavero • Garry Saunders • Katherine Wiebe • Miranda Tubbeh • Selina Catinelli • Stuart Kemp • Tayba Huot

Agenda		
1. Welcome	6. Business Arising	10. Varia
2. Election of Chair	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

- Dov, in the place of Katherine (interim chair), welcomed everyone to the November meeting of the Governing Board.

2. Elections of the Chair

- Liz offered to take over as Chair of the Governing Board. As no other parents were interested in the role or opposed to this offer, she was acclaimed as Chair.

3. Approval of the Agenda

- An item discussing daycare rules and regulations was added to the agenda.
- A motion to accept the proposed agenda was initiated by Marie-Flore, seconded by Suzanne and approved by all unanimously.

4. Approval of the Minutes

- It was pointed out that a correction to the October minutes was required on page 3, in the section of the Principal's report. It should mention that volunteers from the Kind foundation worked on decorating washrooms in the school.
- Pending this correction, the minutes from the last meeting (9 October 2019) were approved by all unanimously, following a motion by Louise, which was seconded by Suzanne.

5. Public questions

- Danny read an email from a parent concerned about early dismissal that took place on 1 November 2019 due to a power outage affecting the school. He voiced concern over the fact that only email was used to inform parents to pick up their children. As he didn't have access to a working computer, nor a data plan on his phone, he wasn't aware of this message. He suggested the school look into other ways to inform parents of such events.
- A discussion of this topic ensued. Tassie assured everyone that all the children were safe and sound at school that day. There was no emergency situation in which the children had to immediately leave the school, and the school was not cold without heating. It was mentioned that parents were given the choice to pick their children up early if they wished and were able to, otherwise their children could stay at school as usual. Tassie explained that she and 4 other staff members called all parents whose children were taking the bus to confirm that they were still to be sent home by bus.
- There was talk of the "[Remind](#)" platform, which the school has used in the past. This used to be a free service, but would now be a paying service if the school chose to continue using it. It was mentioned that although a text message sent to parents may help for those that don't have an internet connection on their phone, this would not resolve the bigger issue of how to keep devices operating on battery power charged for a prolonged period.
- In response to the question of what would happen in a longer emergency was brought up, it was mentioned that if the school needed to evacuate, the students would go to the neighbouring church. Mr. Estok will look at text messaging platform and will review options. It was also suggested to look into getting battery packs to charge cell phones. Although the school does not have a generator, it was mentioned that perhaps an agreement with a company such as Hewitt could be made so as to have one brought to school if needed. Some questioned whether the cost of such an arrangement is worth the investment. It was mentioned that a gas generator was brought to school to operate the sump pump so as to avoid flooding and further problems. Finally, the meeting was informed that the decision to close the school rests with the school board and not the principal of the school.

6. Business arising

- No comments were made about the consultation launch on the Policy for the Rental of Facilities.

7. New Business

- Maria presented a request for services for persons with disabilities. She feels more should be done in the school for inclusion and suggested offering sign language interpretation for those who have difficulty hearing. She asked that such interpreters be present at both GB and Home and

School to allow her to attend and follow the goings-on. She has been using an app on her phone that generates a written transcript of the conversation taking place, but mentioned that it doesn't always work well. She presented information on the [ASLIS interpreting service](#). Maria was asked about the cost of this service, which the meeting was informed is roughly \$75 per hour, for a minimum of 2 hours. This would represent a cost of about \$3000 per year. Carol informed the meeting that Canada was a signatory to the [U.N. Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities](#) which makes provision for accommodations for persons with disabilities. As such, persons with disabilities in Canada have the right to request that accommodations be made in order to allow them to participate fully in areas such as public education which includes parent participation at the elementary school level. In the ensuing discussion, it was suggested to look into the details of this as well as other options. The possibility of displaying the minutes of the meeting as they are being taken will also be examined for future meetings. It was also suggested that a letter be drafted by the Chair of the GB to make a request for such services so that the school board can investigate options. A motion to petition the board for monetary support for the services described for meetings and public assemblies for a parent was moved by Suzanne and seconded by Louise. All were in favour and none opposed.

- [Daycare Rules and Regulations](#): it was suggested to add the sentence "Students are not allowed to share food due to various allergies" to section 8b of chapter 3. A recent incident of food-sharing was brought to the attention of the school. Having this rule in writing allows the school to explain to parents that it is part of the school policy. In the ensuing discussion, it was mentioned that the school doesn't wish to give the parents the impression there is no danger due to allergies, but rather that the school does all it can to prevent exposure to allergens. It was suggested to say that the school is "peanut and nut safe school", so as to distinguish between these two types of allergies. A suggestion was made to remove reference to prohibiting food sharing due to allergies. It was also suggested to move this sentence under the paragraph for nutrition (chapter 3, section 8a). A motion to add the sentence "Students are not allowed to share food." to the end of the first paragraph in section 8a and change "We are a peanut safe school" to "We are a peanut and nut safe school" was moved by Suzanne seconded by Marc. All were in favour and none opposed. It was also suggested to add this information to an upcoming weekly newsletter.

8. Field Trips, Fundraisers & Activities

- **27 November 2019:** As part of the unit on leadership, a speaker will come to talk to grade 3 students about activities aiming for zero waste. The cost is \$5/student to help defray the costs of the speaker coming.
- **5 December 2019:** Grade 6 students will travel to the [Holocaust Museum](#) by school bus. The teacher-student ratio will be 1:9 and the cost will be of \$18/student.
- **Grade 3 visit to Stewart Hall:** students will visit on January 8/10 and May 14/15. This visit, whose aim is to expose children to art, is done in cooperation with the city of Pointe-Claire. Art kits will be provided to students as part of this initiative. Conditional to a commitment that the school send students at three times during the school year, there is no cost to students for this activity.

- **Spanish lessons:** the school would like to offer this program for a period of 10 weeks. The cost would be \$80/student and would take place after school, for one hour a week. A survey will be sent out to assess interest. The grade level(s) it will be offered at will be determined as a result of the survey. It was mentioned that it has been difficult to find a teacher for Mandarin classes, but that may still happen. It was suggested to give parents sufficient time to respond to survey.
- A motion to accept the above field trips and activities was moved by Suzanne and seconded by Rebecca. All were in favour and none were opposed.

9. Reports:

- **Commissioner's Report:** The full report is included as an annex to the minutes of this meeting. Some discussion about [Bill 40](#) ensued. One of the concerns mentioned was that the bill is trying to be passed by 6 December 2019, while many do not understand all this bill entails. Rebecca informed the meeting that there is a petition concerning this bill. She was invited to circulate this information to the GB members. It was also suggested to contact our local [MNA](#) concerning this bill.
- **Principal Report:** The report from the principal is included as an annex to the minutes of the meeting.
- **Teachers :**
 - i. **Physical education:** Bill mentioned that lunchtime handball is continuing, with over 80 kids from cycle 3 participating. Grade 4 have begun playing as well. The cross-country run took place recently with over 100 students participating. Ski club forms will be going home tomorrow for cycle 2 students. 40 students are needed to make it work. More students can participate if parents drive children. Price increased by \$10 compared to last year. January 27, February 4, 19 and 27, 2020 are the dates planned for this activity. It is not anticipated that grade 1 will participate in this activity.
 - ii. A motion was passed by Suzanne and seconded by Sandra to accept the increase of \$10 for the ski trip. All were in favour and none opposed.
 - iii. **Kindergarten:** Suzanne reported that the students are learning about hibernation migration. Students visited the Ecomuseum recently as part of this unit.
 - iv. **Grade 3:** Sandra informed the meeting that the students are learning about leaders and as part of this unit, a firefighter and a police officer will be coming to the class.
- **Daycare :** Tassie mentioned that the recent ped day featured an outing to the movies. Cooking classes at daycare have started again and students are making chocolate-chip cookies. It takes a month to ensure all the classes participate in this activity. Poppies were made for Remembrance Day. Poppies will be removed, as it is apparently customary to do so following the ceremonies. The "Broadway Bound" after-school activity is continuing. A motion to approve a continuation of a new session of this activity was brought forward by Sandra and seconded by Marc. All were in favour and none opposed.
- **Home & School:** As no Home & School representative was able to attend the meeting, Dov read an email from Tayba, which informed the meeting that:

- i. The Volunteer Essential Agreement is being reviewed and will be presented for approval at December's GB meeting.
 - ii. All are reminded to purchase « Recipes in a Jar ». Sales are much lower than last year and the deadline is approaching - Monday Nov. 18th is the last day to order.
 - iii. The Bad Monkey Popcorn Fundraiser will coincide with Movie Night in April. Prices and details will be presented at December's GB meeting as well.
 - iv. H&S thanked all the volunteers who helped with Comedy Night, Picture Day, Coat Drive, Lunchtime activities, Halloween Dance, Vegetable Basket Campaign, Budding Artists, Pizza Lunches and Grade 4 vaccines.
 - v. The Holiday Fair and Scholastics Book Fair is coming up fast - Saturday Dec. 7th. Scholastics preview and student purchases will happen during Reading week Monday & Tuesday Nov. 25th & 26th. Teacher Wish lists rewards was about \$6,400 last year and the aim is for \$8,000 this year.
- **Clearpoint Parent Representative to LBPSB Parents' Committee:** Marc informed the meeting that he was assigned to a Bill 40 subcommittee, as well as a few others, including a Marketing Committee. He mentioned that what is being done to the English school boards is not the same as with French school boards. It was mentioned that efforts are being made to show solidarity with French school boards. Marc will send a presentation about highlights regarding bill 40 when he receives it. The meeting was informed that the "Fédération Autonome de l'Enseignement" www.lafae.qc.ca has [information on this bill](#). One can obtain an explanation of the bill and information on how to fill out the petition to sign a letter that is destined to the Minister of the Education. It was suggested that the GB can send a message to Mr. Estok to send to the school community about this bill. Marc offered to send a short summary that could be distributed to the community. A motion in this sense was moved by Marc and seconded by Suzanne and was unanimously approved.

10. Varia

- Carol informed the meeting that a discussion at a recent meeting at a Marguerite Bourgeoys school indicated that that board's schools had been instructed to run the water each morning for each fountain for a minimum of one minute. It was mentioned that filters at Clearpoint filter out lead. Also, there has been no such directive issued by the LBPSB. It was mentioned that most of the plumbing has been changed at Clearpoint in the last 4 years, though some piping leading to the building may be older.

11. Correspondence

- None.

12. Dates of next meetings

- The next meeting of the GB will take place on Wednesday, 4 December 2019, starting at 6:30 p.m. in the school library.



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13. Adjournment

- A motion to adjourn the meeting was put forth by Suzanne and seconded by Marc at 8:33 p.m. All were in favour and none opposed.

Annex A – Report of the Commissioner

Commissioner's Report to Governing Board – November 2019

Report of the October 28th Meeting of the Council of Commissioners

Bill 40:

- The CAQ government introduced its proposed legislation on school board reorganization into the National Assembly on Oct. 1st. If adopted in its present form, all English school boards in Quebec will cease to exist in November 2020 to be replaced by so-called Service Centres with a (mostly) elected Board of Directors consisting of parents (from Governing Boards), community representatives and employee representatives. The chair and vice-chair would be parents. There would be little or no remuneration for the directors.
- The intent of the government appears to be to rush this legislation through on or before December 6th when the current National Assembly session ends so many are skeptical that they will be open to any suggestions regarding it from the public during hearings being held over the next week or so. The LBPSB is submitting a brief and our chair Noel Burke is/was part of the delegation from the Quebec English School Boards Association (QESBA made a presentation at the National Assembly hearings on Bill 40 on November 4th . Other groups heard include the Alliance for the Promotion of Public English-language Education in Quebec (APPELE-Quebec), the Association of Administrators of English Schools of Québec (AAESQ), the English Parents' Committee Association (EPCA) and the Quebec Provincial Association of Teachers. (QPAT). Council established a reserve fund of \$100,000, drawn from corporate accounts (i.e., non-pedagogical sources), to support a legal challenge to Bill 40 if/when one is initiated, and to disperse these funds dependent on the strategy proposed, and the will of the Council of Commissioners.

The Major School Change consultation process continues with Nov. 15 as the deadline for the submission of briefs. Public hearings providing an opportunity for schools and centres to expand on their briefs for Commissioners and others are scheduled for 7 pm on Nov. 26 and 27 at LCCHS and JRHS respectively. 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 is posted at https://boardsite.lbpsb.qc.ca/msc2019_2020

Following examination by the board's External Auditors, Raymond Chabot Grant Thonton, and a subsequent review by the Audit Committee, acceptance was given to the LBPSB's 2018-2019 Financial Statements showing revenues of \$309,282,908 and expenses of \$ 309,700,069, for a deficit of \$417,161.

The Education Minister has issued guidelines through the Gazette Officielle du Québec for the installation of carbon monoxide detectors in all schools. Assistant DG Carol Heffernan reported the Board is proceeding with the installation in order to meet the deadline of November 15th imposed by the Minister. Eventually, all CO detectors will be connected to existing intrusion alarm systems. The board is participating in an ongoing research project with McGill to test for lead and copper in the water supplies of our schools and centres. This program was underway before the recent announcement of a lead testing program by the Minister. (The board had already taken part in 2017 in a similar research project with Santé Publique Montréal and the

results were reassuring.) Ms Heffernan also reported that all such testing will be completed by next November.

Council congratulated LBPSB Commissioner Josh Arless who has been recognized by the Quebec Community Groups Network (QCGN) with the Young Quebecers Leading the Way Award, presented for outstanding achievements of English-speaking Quebecers under the age of 30.

The Pearson Educational Foundation (PEF) reported that it has received its first School Grant applications for the year and that a number of additional ones are anticipated following their approval by Governing Boards. Upcoming fundraisers include the Alouettes playoff game on Sunday, Nov. 10th and the Canadiens game on Tuesday, Nov. 12th – full information on the board and PEF websites.

Entente with Hors Réseau Schools: On the recommendation of the Special Needs Advisory Committee (SNAC) and following review by the Program & Services Committee, Council approved the signing of ententes with the Montreal Oral School for the Deaf, Yaldei School, Summit School, and Peter Hall School. The 2018-2019 Annual Report presented by the LBPSB's Student Ombudsperson was received by Council further to Section 220.2 of the Education Act which states that the Student Ombudsperson must send the School Board an annual report stating the number of complaint referrals received and their nature, the corrective measures recommended, if any, and any action taken. Her report showed fewer complaints received and acted upon in 2018-2019 than in recent years. In addition, Council designated Laurence Sarrazin as the new Student Ombudsperson of the LBPSB for the next three years effective November 1, 2019 and Caroline Lemay and Isabelle Turgeon were designated as Student Ombudsperson Substitutes for the same term.

Council agreed to add a parent (to be designated by the Parents' Committee), a teacher and a student to the Green Committee which will henceforth be constituted of three (3) commissioners, one (1) parent representative, one (1) teacher, one (1) student and at least one (1) administrator. On the recommendation of the Facilities & Security Committee, Council awarded snow removal contracts for 2019 through 2022, in accordance with the tender documents, to the lowest compliant bidder for each sector.

The archived webcast for this Council meeting has been posted at <https://boardsite.lbpsb.qc.ca/councilof-commissioners/webcast-archives>

The next regularly-scheduled meeting of the Council of Commissioners will be held on November 25th at 7:30 pm at Head Office and, as always, is open to the public and will be live webcast (access via the LBPSB homepage).

Respectfully submitted,

Wayne Clifford
Commissioner – Ward 12

Annex B – Report of the Principal

November 13, 2019

Governing Board Principal's Report



Remembrance Day Assembly – Congratulations to our grade 6 class for an impressive student-led assembly on Monday for Remembrance Day. The focus of the assembly was the IB Learner Profile Attribute of being 'Reflective', and students were encouraged to think of ways 'To Make A Difference' and help create a more peaceful school and community. Thank you to our grade 6 teachers for preparing them so well, and thank you to our music teacher Mme. Lajoie for preparing all students to sing 'Make A Difference'. We would also like to acknowledge the participation as well of one of our grade 6 parents, Guy Cox who played accompaniment on the trumpet.

First Term Reports – First term reports will be issued through the Parent Fusion Portal on Nov. 20; Parent – teacher interviews will be booked on Nov. 21 / 22, also using the Fusion Portal.

GIMAC – Planning for GIMAC 2020 is underway, and several meetings have taken place with the planning committee. This year's theme is 'Show Your True Colours', which plans to focus on some aspect of acceptance of others, diversity, or Open-Mindedness. The date planned for this event is April 25th. More details to come as planning continues.

Congratulations and thank you to H&S again – for recent events and support, including a very successful Halloween Dance, Comedy Night, and Schools Take Root organic vegetable basket sale. Your assistance with grade 4 vaccinations as well as parent volunteers on many recent field trips is something we are very thankful for. We are appreciative of your tremendous support for our school.

Coat Drive A Success - Earlier this evening the principal of Verdun Elementary, Ms. Christine Dane came by Clearpoint to pick up the much needed, and greatly appreciated coat drive donations. A dozen large garbage bags of snowsuits, coats, snow pants, boots, scarves, hats etc. were donated by the Clearpoint community to support families in need both in our own community and the community served by Verdun Elementary. Thank you to all who contributed and again to the H&S for organizing this.

Reading Week– Planning is underway for Reading Week, with many fun-filled events, and a special thank you to Genevieve MacLean for her ability to track down a number of local authors of children's books who will be presenting as part of the week's events. As you know, viewing will take place for the Scholastics Book Fair on Nov. 25-26, and we will again be hosting our 'Community Readers Day' on Nov. 28. Lots more is being planned, including a possible 'Principal's Challenge' – where if Clearpoint students read a certain number of books, Mr. Estok will have to respond at a student assembly.



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Student Lates - We would like to draw your attention to the number of student lates each morning, which is becoming problematic. Please make every effort to have your child arrive at school on time.

Respectfully submitted,

David Estok