



2019

2020



Clearpoint Elementary School Governing Board Minutes of Meeting

Written by: Dov Bensimon

Location: Clearpoint Elementary School		Date: Wednesday, February 12, 2020		Time: 6:35-8:02 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 ● Katherine Wiebe ● Liz Lopez ● Louise Sudia ● Marc Lucke ● Marie-Flore Gignac 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Miranda Tubbeh ● Sabrina Lazier ● Sandra Fisher ● Stuart Kemp ● Suzanne Larkin ● Tassie Fyon ● Wayne Clifford 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Audrey Lambert ● Danny Trotto ● Tayba Huot ● Wendy Mendoza 	
				Absent:	
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Carol Rabbat ● Catalina Clavero ● Garry Saunders ● Maria Benavides ● Rebecca-Ann Belmonte ● Tatiana Mendez 	

Agenda		
1. Welcome	5. Business Arising	9. Varia
2. Approval of the Agenda	6. 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

1. Welcome

- Dov, in absence of Liz who arrived later, welcomed everyone to the February meeting of the Governing Board at 6:35 p.m. Wendy agreed to fill in to meet parent quorum, but after a few minutes, this was not necessary, as sufficient parent members ended up being present.

2. Approval of the Agenda

- The proposed agenda was accepted unanimously, after a motion by Suzanne which was seconded by Louise.

3. Approval of the Minutes

- The minutes from the last meeting (15 January 2020) were approved by all unanimously, following a motion by Katherine, which was seconded by Louise.

4. Public questions

- A question was asked about the snow day on Friday, 7 February 2020 as to whether or not this day will be made up. The meeting was informed that a decision has not been made, but if it is to be made up, it will have to be presented to GB as an amendment to the school calendar.

5. Business arising

- Update on the use of “[Remind](#)”: Mr. Estok informed the meeting that this application has limitations since it doesn’t exist for all cell phone providers. Other options are being explored to inform parents of urgent messages.

6. New Business

- Dov informed the meeting that the following documents had been sent to all GB in the school board, for their information:
 - i. By-law #10 amended effective February 1, 2020
 - ii. Rental of Facilities Policy adopted on January 27, 2020
 - iii. Extracurricular Activities and Field Trip Policy (addition of addendum J)
 - iv. Guidelines on Home Schooling Services at LBPSB
- Mr. Estok mentioned that there are some changes to the Rental of Facility Policy. In the past, the GB gave approval to outside organisations. The board has now brought this rental policy in line with the 3-year policy on immovables. The GB no longer has to be consulted for rental of the gym or school yard after 6:00 p.m., though the school still has priority on use of these facilities. The meeting was also informed that there are many changes to the Extracurricular Activities and Field Trip Policy. There is a change in the student-teacher ratios that needs to be reported. If some students have special needs, that has to be indicated. Regarding Home Schooling Services at LBPSB, there are guidelines for how the board interacts with parents that are home schooling. Parents have the right to petition the board for schools for services or use of some facilities.
- **LBPSB Budget 2020-2021 Consultation** : A discussion on the school budget is deferred to the March meeting since members didn’t have much time to consult the document and comments are only due at the end of March. Carol informed the meeting that a questionnaire needs to be filled out by the GB at the end of the consultation document which was circulated. A financial update will be presented to the next GB meeting as well, since a new format for the school budget is being adopted and this will require some explanation.

7. Field Trips, Fundraisers & Activities

- **19 March 2020**: Grade 3 students will have a field trip to Lindsay Place High School for a production of James and the Giant Peach. There is no cost to students.
- A motion to accept the above field trip was moved by Suzanne and seconded by Stuart. All were in favour and none were opposed.

8. 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. There was a question about the new kindergarten for 4-year-olds (K-4) and where the students would be housed. The meeting was informed that the location has not yet been determined. Tardiness is much less significant now: the situation has been much improved than in the past. Most parents have been understanding and cooperative.
- **Teachers :**
 - i. **Kindergarten:** Suzanne recounted that students are learning about “Who we are”.
 - ii. **Grade 1:** Students are learning about the planet and living beings.
 - iii. **Grade 2:** Pupils have started the “How we express ourselves” unit. They also learned about the history of masks recently.
 - iv. **Grade 3:** Sandra informed the meeting that students are doing a unit on money, which prompted one student to want to sell items at school. Now they started a unit on societies. The Leadership Committee for English Education in Quebec ([LCEEQ](#)) recently held a conference that half a dozen teachers plus Mr. Estok attended. One topic covered was looking at the whole child and the environment they are raised in. Miranda mentioned that artist came into class to do work with bottles. A presentation about composting is coming up on Friday.
 - v. **Grade 4 :**Sabrina mentioned that students are doing a unit on space and the laws of the universe. There will be a trip to the Cosmodome in Laval this week. Next month, students will lead a school assembly. A company is also coming to the school soon in order to build sundials with the children.
 - vi. **Grade 5:** No report was presented.
 - vii. **Grade 6:** Students participated in Exhibition on 6 February 2020. Students were very engaged, as were the teachers. There is much effort put into going into the community to find resources. Students prepared for a long time and discussed how to present their work.
 - viii. **Gym:** Bill informed that JungleSport was a big success. Skating is in its second week and only this past Monday was missed because of snowfall. Junior ski club has been going well with mild weather. Senior ski club forms have been handed out with 34 participants thus far: they will ski on 11 March 2020 in Morin Heights. Grades 5 and 6 lunchtime basketball is ongoing now. The annual McGill Jamboree for basketball was recently held, with 35 students participating. Grade 4 students are playing soccer at lunchtime and are being refereed by grade 5 students. An outing to the [CEPSUM](#) is coming up Feb 24 for grades 5 and 6. Over 100 students have been registered. The meeting was informed that an animator stays with each class when they arrive at CEPSUM. Bill thanked Home and School for helping with costs of outings and events like JungleSport. It was mentioned that some donated skates are available for families that cannot afford. Tayba informed the meeting that one parent will be working with Bill to prepare for Skating Night on Tuesday 25 February 2020. Parents will be asked if they would like to donate any equipment for

skating. It was mentioned it would be good to announce to parents that skates are available for those who need.

- **Daycare** : Tassie informed the meeting that the outing to [Funtropolis](#), originally scheduled for 7 February 2020 is now being planned for 30 March 2020. It had to be re-scheduled since a snow day occurred on 7 February 2020. Cooking classes have started again. Students will be making Red Velvet cupcakes in a cone: a theme chosen for Valentine's Day. The next pedagogical day will take place 17 February 2020 with students learning curling in the gym. Tassie has been contacting some parents for missing information needed to issue tax receipts. These will be posted on the [Fusion](#) website at the end of February. A switch has now been made for lunchtime: grades 1 and 2 go outside and then eat, with the opposite true for older grades.
- **Home & School (H&S):**
 - i. Tayba informed that the **Scholastics** fundraiser held in December was disappointing, with much lower profits than last year. It was suggested to have Scholastic gift certificates of \$10 for Carnival Week with the intention of using them for books. Scholastics rewards can be used for books or other items.
 - ii. A H&S **Instagram** account was created today.
 - iii. The Volunteer Essential Agreement was discussed at H&S. This is timely since Mr. Brasseur asked for volunteers to help with **skating**. H&S discussed the possibility of offering hot chocolate during skating session for students, but the logistics were such that it was decided to not offer it during the day. Instead, nut-free gummies were bought for the students for this activity.
 - iv. H&S is organizing more community events and the next one will be **Family Skating Night**, from 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. on Tuesday 25 February 2020 at Clearpoint Park. Hot chocolate will be served that night. Paper cups will be used so that they can be composted. There was a question about insurance for an event like this. Parents and children will be expected to have helmets. It was suggested to have parents sign a waiver. This will also allow organisers to have an idea of the number of participants.
 - v. [Librarie Clio](#) in Pointe-Claire Plaza wanted to run a fundraiser for the school. They asked to run it at their store during March break, with 20% of sales going to H&S.
 - vi. **Movie Night** will be held at school on Friday 1 May 2020. A 3\$ entrance fee will be charged and popcorn bags will be sold. The movie shown will be The Addams Family.
 - vii. **Maple Syrup Fundraiser**: Marie-Flore recently contacted the supplier and there will be a slight increase in cost this year. It will be sold for \$9/can, \$68/8 cans and \$13 per glass bottle. This fundraiser had already been approved, but GB approval for the prices is sought.
 - viii. **School supplies** for 2020-2021 school year: H&S would like to use [School Kits](#) again, but this will depend on whether or not all items on the lists can be optional. [Éditions Vaudreuil](#) is another option for school supplies, but is not a fundraiser.

- Approval for Family Skating Night, the Clio fundraiser, Movie Night and the prices for the Maple Syrup Fundraiser was granted unanimously, following a motion by Louise, seconded by Suzanne.
- **Clearpoint Parent Representative to [LBPSB Parents' Committee](#):** *[Due to time constraints, this report was presented after the Commissioner's report].*
 - i. Marc informed the meeting that at the last Parents' Committee (PC) meeting, discussions took place about the Basecamp website (used for communications for the PC). Recent aggressive behaviour has been displayed on this tool which needed to be addressed.
 - ii. At the same meeting, a vote was taken to ask the English Parents Committee Association ([EPCA](#)) to make a statement on climate change. The following resolution was adopted: "Whereas in June 2019, the Canadian government declared a National climate emergency, Therefore, be it resolved that the LBPSB Parent Committee, requests our EPCA delegates to ask EPCA to lobby the Quebec Government to include Environmental Awareness education for all grades in the curriculum and to fund and support effective recycling and composting programs in all schools (including the ban of single use plastics and the use of reusable resources for school events) to ensure long-term sustainability."
 - iii. The third issue discussed was [Bill 40](#), which took up most of the meeting. Much of the meeting was spent discussing the responses to the bill from the English Parents' Committee Association (EPCA) and the Alliance for the Promotion of Public English-language Education in Quebec (APPELE-Quebec), two groups openly opposed to it. EPCA has devoted a page to it: <https://bill40.com/>. There is still confusion about what exactly is in this bill because of changes made to it until just prior to it being adopted. Most in the PC are opposed to the bill, but some were in favour of parts of it. A motion was passed to condemn the government's use of closure to pass the bill in the National Assembly. Closure is a tool used by government to prematurely end debate on a bill. PC members overwhelmingly felt that there were too many last-minute changes to the bill for closure to have been used.
 - iv. The next meeting of the PC is scheduled for 19 March 2020.

9. Varia

- None.

10. Correspondence

- None.

11. Dates of next meeting

- The next meeting of the GB will take place on Wednesday, 18 March 2020, starting at 6:30 p.m. in the school library.



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12. Adjournment

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

Annex A – Report of the Commissioner

Commissioner's Report Governing Board – February 2020

Bill 40 Update

- Bill 40, the CAQ legislation designed to significantly modify the current governance of public education in Quebec, was made law through closure in the National Assembly on February 8, 2020. French School Board Commissioner positions were abolished immediately. Changes affecting the English School Boards will be effective November 1st. This link gives more background:
https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/montreal/bill-40-kills-school-boards-after-175-years-1.5458564?ref=mobilerss&cmp=newsletter_CBC%20Montreal_476_1019

Highlights of the January 27th Council Meeting

- Further to a public stand recently taken by EMSB trustee Marlene Jennings, Council adopted a resolution strongly urging the Quebec government to consider modifying **Bill 101** such that immigrants to Quebec whose first language is English would be eligible to choose to attend English schools.
- On the recommendation of the Audit Committee, Council approved the distribution of the document entitled **Budget Consultation Plan 2020-2021** to the consultative partners of the LBPSB in order for the community to provide input on the allocation of subsidies, school tax proceeds and other revenues of the School Board (budgetary priorities), with responses to be returned to the Secretary General no later than March 31st.
- Following extensive consultation earlier this school year, on the recommendation of the Facilities and Security Committee, Council adopted the revised **Rental of Facilities Policy**.
- As a Quebec-wide **Homeschooling Regulation** is now in effect and as a consequence, the LBPSB's Home Schooling Policy is no longer required and also as a guideline has been developed for the registration of home schooled students with the LBPSB, on the recommendation of the Programs and Services Committee, the LBPSB's Home Schooling Policy was rescinded and the guideline entitled **Home Schooling Services at the Lester B. Pearson School Board** (Dec. 2019) was approved.
- Chair Noel Burke reported that with the recent completion of the MSC process, the **Long-Term Planning Committee** will be turning its attention to a review of the elementary schools network, in particular the impact of the widespread introduction of the 4-year-old Kindergarten (K4) program.
- In her report, Director General Cindy Finn noted that the LBPSB will be holding its first-ever **Job Fair** at the PACC Adult Centre (8300 George St., LaSalle) on Wednesday, Feb. 5th from 3:00pm to 7:00pm. featuring LBPSB employment opportunities in Teaching, Daycare & Support to Students, Office Administration and more. Please see <http://pearsonnews.lbpsb.qc.ca/post/director-general-s-report-january-2020> for her entire report.

- The Central Students Committee report to Council focused on the growing concern about the issue of **mental health and anxiety**, in particular among high school students, and the need for adequate resources to be made available in the schools to help deal with it.
- The Quebec government has announced it intends to abolish the **Ethics and Religious Culture** course introduced in 2008 to make way for a so-called 21st Century Themes course. See: <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/montreal/ethics-religious-abolish-1.5421846>. There is an online consultation survey related to this initiative which is available until February 21 though it focuses solely on the possible content of the 21st Century Themes course: https://formulaire.education.gouv.qc.ca/dev_ti/online_consultation_erc/en
- The **Pearson Educational Foundation** announced that it had contacted all the schools which applied for STEM-related grants and had been able to award them the amounts they had requested from PEF.
- Following a public tendering process, Council awarded the contract to supply and service all of the LBPSB's 192 low, mid and high-volume multifunction **photocopiers** and one color production copier, for the period of February 1, 2020, to January 31, 2023, with a possibility of renewal for one (1) additional one-year term to Konica Minolta Business Solutions (Canada) Ltd.

The next regularly-scheduled meeting of the Council of Commissioners will be held on Monday, February 24th at the LBPSB Head Office and, as always, is open to the public and will be live webcast (access via the LBPSB homepage). Previous meetings of the Council of Commissioners can be viewed at: <https://boardsite.lbpsb.qc.ca/council-of-commissioners/webcast-archives>

Respectfully Submitted,

Wayne Clifford,
Commissioner, Ward 12

Annex B – Report of the Principal

February 12, 2020



Governing Board Principal's Report

-Enrollment update – K-4 : 15 siblings; 15 non-siblings all in-zone. Registration for the group will not exceed 17 students and may in fact end up being a smaller number.

K-5 : 57 confirmed registrations (puts us at max for 3 kindergarten classes).

-Exhibition is the PYP in action – We are extremely proud of the work done by our grade 6 students as they presented their exhibition projects last Thursday. The students were motivated, as well as engaged in and enthusiastic about the topics they were explaining. One of the things that IB is emphasizing more and more is a concept called ‘Agency’ wherein students’ voice, choice and ownership are supported by the learning community. All of this was clearly in evidence on Thursday evening. I want to thank all of the parents and the entire community for the tremendous show of support that evening, and thank our grade 6 teachers, Mme. Suzanne, Mr. Dufresne, Mme. Caroline and Ms. Brownie – also our IB coordinator for their work. Each of the student groups was guided with a mentor or mentors – staff and parents – and we would like to extend our appreciation for their work with the students as well. Thank you all!

-Student Actions keeping Clearpoint alive! – As you know, each of the grade 6 student groups who presented their projects last Thursday also have to commit to a meaningful action. Many have happened, but many are also on-going. We have a collection of items for animal shelters, socks for the homeless, and a re-forestation club all happening now. The students who presented to the H&S at the last meeting finally decided on purchasing metal spoons for TCBY. The fitness challenge was also a hit, with many Clearpoint students participating. Thank you to the Clearpoint community for your support of these and other actions. They are part of what makes the IB program relevant to the students.

-Composting is in action– We have an enthusiastic group of student who have volunteered for compost duty in our pilot classrooms. Things are going smoothly and GUEPE is scheduled to come in to present to classes about the composting process. Thank you to the H & S for help and support in getting this program running. A small enclosure will be built outside near the metal shed to house the green bins once the temperature warms up.



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-Black History Month – Our new Community and Spiritual Care Counsellor – Sarah Zaslov – has been organizing classroom presentations that are focusing on the book Big Dreamers by local African Canadian Author Akilah Newton. Akilah was fully booked through Feb. but will be visiting Clearpoint in March.

-Clearpoint Caring Crew – Our peer mediator program is back in action, and students are outside during recess time to help resolve minor conflicts. Thank you to Ms. Hardinge and Louise Sudia – two staff members who are overseeing this initiative.

-Open – Minded Certificates – We are changing our approach slightly with the LEAP certificates, which will be awarded in each classroom. The hope is that we can make the process more meaningful in discussing why students are receiving the certificates as part of the presentation.

Respectfully submitted,

David Estok