



Minutes of Governing Board Meeting Edinburgh Elementary School

Wednesday, March 13 2024 at 7:00 p.m.
Virtual meeting on Microsoft Teams

We would like to acknowledge that Edinburgh School is located on unceded Indigenous lands. The Kanien'kehá:ka/Mohawk Nation is recognized as the traditional custodians of Tiohtià:ke/Montréal, which has long been a site of meeting and exchange for many First Nations and is currently home to diverse groups of Indigenous and other peoples. We are grateful to live, work, and learn here, and recognize the important role of education in reconciliation and in maintaining connections between the past, present, and future.

Present: Parents: Steven Szabo, Johanna Miller, Robyn Buckland Dalton, Anne-Marie Yaworski,
Staff members : Laetitia Kachmar, Catherine Brault, Geneviève Guay, Pina Trengia,
Abdelghafour El-Hama, Marco DeCrescentis

Absent: Steven Muoio, Alessandra Cesari, Stéphane Vaval

Guests: Vanessa Gangai

1. Welcome

Anne-Marie Yaworski (Chair) called this meeting to order at 7:04 pm

2. Adoption of agenda

First : Anne-Marie Yaworski

Second : Robyn Dalton

Motion carries unanimously

3. Approval of Minutes of January 11, 2024

It was noted that Catherine Brault should have been listed as absent for the last meeting replaced by Stéphane Vaval

First : Anne-Marie Yaworski

Second : Robyn Dalton

Motion carries unanimously

4. Business Arising from Previous Minutes (January 11, 2024)

No specific items to report here.

5. New Business

Interim principal Ms. Kachmar reports on the budget-building process and provided insight into how best funds can be used to improve the educational experience for Edinburgh students and members of staff.

6 Reports

6.1 Principal's report

Interim principal Ms. Kachmar has been a welcome addition to the Edinburgh community since February 1st, 2024, as Principal Sifoni has been away on parental leave. Ms. Kachmar reported on the many wonderful Edinburgh activities that have taken place at our school such as celebrating Black History, staff appreciation week (Home and School), and the many interesting fun-filled Winter Carnival activities which were adapted to our snowless 2024 winter season. Ms. Kachmar mentions that the guest speaker Samara O'Gorman, accompanied by our local entertainment star Marc Bergman representing the Inspirations organization, spoke to the students about the importance of empathy, kindness, and being true to oneself.

6.2 Commissioner's report

No report available

6.3 Treasurer

There is a balance of 182\$.

6.4 EMSB Parents Committee delegate

Steven Szabo reported on EMSB parents committee meeting held virtually on February 1st, 2024. The EMSB PC approved a letter to be submitted to EMSB senior administration to insist that all stakeholders including parents are consulted upon when designing the educational project. It had been brought to the PC's attention that parent consultation could have been improved in certain schools prior to educational projects being submitted for final approval.

6.5 Teacher's Report

Mme. Genevieve Guay presented on numerous educational initiatives at Edinburgh. Recently students from Grades 1 and 2 had the opportunity to watch a live French language theatre production from La Petite Valise Théâtre. Student at Edinburgh rallied their support to raise awareness of bullying by donning a pink shirt on our annual Pink Shirt Day. Students competed in the annual storytelling tournament. Students tell stories in French and English to their peers and the best storytellers are invited to a school board storytelling tournament at the end of March.

On March 21 Mr. Abdelghafour will be coaching the Grade 6ers during the annual Science fair, taking place in the gymnasium and invitations are extended to parents and close friends of Edinburgh. Mme. Guay is reporting that a select group of teachers will be attending professional education sessions on Culture and Citizenship Quebec. Mme. Guay explains that this course will be replacing Ethics, Culture and Religion or ECR as it is more commonly referred to. M. El-Hama will be in Quebec City March 26,27, and 28 representing teachers from Edinburgh at the "Grand congrès sur l'intelligence artificielle".

6.6 Home and School liaison

Ms. Vanessa Gangai reported on recent H&S activities such as the Pasta Night and Spring book fair. H&S will be raising funds from pasta night to contribute to revitalizing the staffroom and proceeds from the book fair will go towards stocking the school's bookshelves.

6.7 BASE

Mr. Marco de Crescentis provided his report on recent activities at BASE. The month of February was chockful of opportunities for senior grade students to exercise leadership through planning activities with the younger students and participating in student council initiatives. The Chinese year was celebrated with a wonderful presentation by Spencer Bazinet. On Valentines Day student were treated to a special snack and a game of Valentines Bingo. BASE organized a perseverance themed workshop for students with the goal of raising students' awareness of perseverance and using teamwork to accomplish common goals. Student were tasked with creating a pinwheel that when spun would land on various motivational quotes. For black history month at BASE students were tasked with identifying influencers, inventors, or activists that have made important contributions to promoting equality and justice. This year's Heart to Heart campaign saw students prepare cards and loot bags for young patients at the Montreal Children's Hospital as well as young people with complex medical needs living at le Phare (a local palliative care centre for children). BASE students prepared and delivered up to 300 Heart to Heart packages! This coming St. Patrick's Day, students will learn about the tradition of Saint Patrick and of course special treats will be on hand for those lucky enough to find them.

7. Varia

No items for varia

8. No correspondence

9. No questions

10. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned.

First : Anne Marie Yaworski

Second : Robyn Buckland Dalton

Motion carries unanimously

Next meeting to be virtual on Teams on April 18, 2024