



Governing Board Meeting Notes

Wednesday February 19th, 2025

Location: Virtual

1. Welcome

1.1. Land Acknowledgment

A statement that recognizes both the land and the Indigenous people who lived and continue to live on the land prior to Canada's colonial history was read.

1.2. Welcome Message

Alexander Kulczyk and Jennifer Rutt (Chair) welcome everyone.

1.3. Attendance

Jennifer Rutt (Chair), Farah Mulki, Erika Marsan, Jean-Philippe St-Louis, Darlene O'Connor, Mathew Maxham, Julien Feldman, Sam Karimi, Alexander Kulczyk (Principal), Lise Kuhn (Vice Principal), Ethan Kam-Tong (student)

Regrets:

Jonathan Sbrollini, John Devlin, Samantha Forget

1.4. Public Question Period

No questions from the public were asked.

1.5. Additions to the Agenda

No additions were made to the agenda.

1.6. Approval of the Agenda

Farah Mulki moved for the approval of the agenda, and the motion was seconded by Jean-Philippe St-Louis.

2. Business Arising from the Minutes

2.1. Approval of January 22, 2024, Meeting Minutes

Mathew Maxham moved for the approval of the minutes, and the motion was seconded by Jean-Philippe St-Louis.

2.2. Building Renovation Update

Mr. Kulczyk states that the girls' bathroom has been almost completely renovated. The renovation of the changing rooms will begin in April and should be completed by August 2025. The work will be carried out after school hours. The new intercom has been installed, but adjustments need to be made.



3. New Business

3.1. Election, vacant seat – Parent Member for 2024-2026 term

Mr. Kulczyk informed the Governing Board (GB) members that Gloria Lombardi had resigned. Her seat is therefore vacant. Erika Marsan (alternate member of this GB) expressed her interest in being elected as a full member of the GB. She introduced herself and was elected by acclamation. The GB members officially welcomed her as a new full member.

3.2. Budget Report Process 2025-2026

Mr. Kulczyk shared the ongoing process of establishing the budget priorities for 2025-2026. He presented the School budget priorities of the current school year and members of the GB were encouraged to comment what should be prioritized for the next budget exercise. After this discussion, the following priorities were agreed on:

- Maintain nutritional funds allocated to the school in order to help students be prepared to learn and help families;
- Additional Teachers to help the various needs of our student population created by the end of “déboulage”;
- Additional resources (Professionals, Behaviour Technicians, Attendants and Youth Mentors) to best meet the various mental health needs of our school population;
- Increased budget for additional technology equipment (laptops) for the classrooms and assistive technology;
- Increased funding to replace old/broken chairs/desks and capital equipment.

3.3. Modification to school hours for February 21, 2025

Mr. Kulczyk asks the GB to approve the change in the school hours for February 21, 2025. It will be 2:30 p.m. instead of 3:20 p.m., as the students will be participating in various outside activities on that day and it will be possible to leave earlier if they wish. The school will remain open until 3:20 p.m. and students may remain at school until 3:20 p.m.

Mulki Farah moved for the approval and this specific modification, and the motion was seconded by Mathew Maxham.

4. Reports

4.1. Student's Report

Ethan presented the student's report. He said that everything is fine and brought up Internet connection issues (connection being slow and sometimes students can't access the Internet). Mr. Kulczyk answered that EMSB will improve the Internet access in their schools. They started in elementary schools. High schools are next.

4.2. Teacher's Report

Mathew explained that the teachers were very busy correcting exams. He mentioned that many activities were being presented for Black History Month. He also mentioned that many activities were being organized in a short period of time and that some teachers would appreciate it if they were better distributed throughout the year.

4.3. Support Staff Report

Darlene explained that the support staff have been very busy recently helping students prepare for their exams. They are working hard to teach students organizational skills, they have prepared mock exams to alleviate some anxiety, etc.

4.4. Principal's Report

Mr. Kulczyk shared the following information:

- The 4-day exam period was a busy period for all school staff and students. He mentioned that teachers offered many tutorials before exams;
- Déboulage was presented to all Sec. III students during an Assembly and visited Sec IV students to explain it;
- February 3-7, 2025 is Teachers Appreciation Week, many activities will be organized to celebrate it;
- Two presentations were offered to the students, one from Maison Jean Lapointe and another one called “Unpacking the N Word” for Black History Month;
- Students watched “Dear Jackie, a film that tells the personal stories of residents of Little Burgundy;
- February 14, 2025: Mr. Julien Grau-Brown and some generous donators and volunteers donated a pair of sneakers to every James Lyng students during the “Bring the Sneaker Drive” event;
- February 21, 2025: Winter Activity Day: every student participated in one of the many activities organized (sports, artwork, woodland hike, cat yoga, bowling, etc.);

4.5. Parent's Committee Report

Jennifer shared that a presentation was recently offered by Ometz Agency, a charitable organization who is offering services for youth and their families and they can also provide training for students and staff.

Jennifer also mentioned that the awards of merit are being prepared by the parents' committee. Each school will be able to award them to one of their students who demonstrate excellence.

4.6. Commissioner's Report

Julien indicated that the Supreme Court of Canada had agreed to hear the appeal of the Quebec law on secularism.

He also emphasized the promotion of the various activities of Black History Month.

He mentioned that budget cuts were planned in the education sector, equivalent to 200 million across the province. Approximately 2.6 million will be requested from the EMSB. Julien explained that the school board wanted to limit the cuts affecting services for children. As a result, administrative services could be more affected by these budget cuts.

4.7. PPO Report

No PPO report was presented. A meeting has to be organized in March or April.

5. Varia

6. Public Question Period #2

No questions from the public were asked.

7. Date of Next Meeting: April 16 , 2025

8. Adjournment

Mathew moved for the approval of the adjournment and the motion was seconded by Darlene.