École Merton School
5554 Robinson Avenue, Côte-Saint-Luc, QC H4V 2P8

Governing Board Meeting
Thursday, November 28, 2019 – 7PM

MINUTES

In Attendance: Rosana Caplan (Principal), Merrill Matthews, Jill Selick, Shoshana Weinberger, Jordy Reichson, Jessica Aflalo, Lisa Black, Pascale Lallouz, Judith Haziza, Michael Gonshor, Samantha Patel (Home and School), Georgia Gotsis, Carol Meindl

Absent: Bernie Praw, Audrée Anne Dupont, Nathalie Beauregard.

1. **WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER**

   7:08 PM

2. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

   Motion to approve amended agenda by Jill, seconded by Shoshana
   Unanimously approved

3. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM OCTOBER 24, 2019**

   Motion to approve the amended minutes by Jessica, seconded by Judith
   Unanimously approved

4. **BUSINESS ARISING**

   Appointment of Community Representative

   We are delighted to have Carol Meindl as our community representative once again this year. She took a few moments to introduce herself to the new GB members.

PELO Presentation

- Rosana was asked to speak about the PELO program in the last meeting and so prepared a presentation. She relayed the following information to the GB:
- There is a re-occurring issue in the higher grades with families of grade 6 students having a difficult time. PELO teachers need to have a particular inclination for older students and it's difficult to find teachers who can properly address the unique challenge of this age group. Efforts are being made to address this.
- Rosana read the GB description of the Jewish Heritage Program
- PELO is funded by the government and most schools in QC can only provide their students with thus type of education 1 hour per week. At Merton, we get Jewish studies 2x per week (an hour each).
- Rosana has 3 meetings per year with the PELO coordinator. The August meeting took place, but they were missing a number of teachers. Moreover, some teachers quit at the beginning of the year. This made the fall difficult and so the PELO team had to scramble to get new teachers. Because these new teachers missed the orientation meeting, there was a lack of preparation and cohesion amongst the group.
- In order to rectify this, Rosana pushed up the December meeting. The meeting went well and the following topics were discussed:
    - HR reminders
    - Communication with parents regarding expectations
    - Merton technicalities (e.g.: space sharing & photocopying)
    - Classroom climate and relationship between students and teachers
    - Curriculum – There was a lot of effort made to ensure progression from K to 6. A full curriculum review was done to make sure that the program content grows with the children. Examples include:
        - Focus more on Jewish vocabulary
        - Review how teachers teach symbols
        - Mapped out how to evolve the holidays curriculum (what the means from year to year)
    - Rosana will send a letter to parents letting them know that this meeting happened and also efforts will be made to better communicate the curriculum with parents moving forward.

5. NEW BUSINESS

Selection criteria for the appointment of Principal

- The GB reviewed the selection criteria for the appointment of the principal and would like to add the following sentence:
    - *Ensure the overall safety of the entire school population on school grounds.*

Motion to approve amended agenda by Judith, seconded by Georgia
Unanimously approved

Report on the meeting of the Space Sharing Committee

- Earlier this month, Merrill and Michael met with Samantha and Elka (from Home and School) to try and find a solution to space sharing challenge at Merton.
- Everyone was positive and wanted to find a solution that worked for both parties.
- A number of ideas were proposed and the team needs to continue investigating potential solutions.
- There will be a follow up meeting with the committee and more news will be shared with the GB at a later date

Science Room Renovations Update

- We decided to table the discussion for next meeting. Rosana will keep us updated as things progress

6. REPORTS

a. Commissioner's Report

Bernie Praw was not present, thus no report given

b. Principal's Report

- **Parent-Teacher Interviews:** The interviews went very well, great feedback from parents regarding the teachers' work, the students' artwork and the availability and advice of the Staff at all levels. **Special thanks to Home and School for the wonderful Book Fair** this year, to Gesell for the special effort she invested in supporting parents so they can access report cards online, and to the teachers that give Merton its good name. Graduates sold raffle tickets and held a bake sale, having great fun and success!

- **Spirit of Giving:** We will once again support this CTV initiative. The beneficiary will be the The Depot Community Food Centre (previously known as the NDG Food Depot). Gifts of non-perishable food will be collected until December 17. Also getting us in the Holiday Spirit, some of our students have been **selling bookmarks** at the Book Fair to support Ellie, a little girl in the community who needs to have expensive experimental treatment to extend her life.

- **Jewish Studies Pre-Hannukah Party:** The Jewish Studies students and their families will gather for a pre-Hannukah celebration at the CSL Aquatic Center on Tuesday, December 10 from 5:00 to 7:00. The celebration will be for ALL grade levels and it is fully organized by volunteer parents. Special thanks to Joshua Gonshor who helped organize a partnership with PJ Library, who will be running some of the activities.

- **Extended Lunch:** The first of what we hope will be monthly extended lunches was very successful, due in no small part to the fabulous weather on that day. Small kinks will need to be worked out, but overall the extra time was appreciated by the teachers, and the extra pay by the lunch monitors who are working 10 minutes less each day due to the changes in our recesses.

- **Mohawk Culture Workshops:** Grades 5 and 6 students will be attending two free workshops each at the CSL Library in January and February. They are covered by our neighborhood waiver. The students will walk to the Library. In case of inclement weather the workshop will come to Merton. The workshops are offered by a partnership: **PAAL** is a not-for-profit organization dedicated to encouraging inclusion and social cohesion by creating opportunities for exchange guided by inter-cultural mediators with the objective of eliminating prejudice and discrimination. **The Traditional Kanienkehaka Council** is the Traditional Long House of the Confederacy of Five Nations.
    b. Grade 5 classes (2 classes, 43 students): January 30 and February 13.
    c. Grade 6 classes (2 classes, 45 students) February 6 and February 20.

- **Painted Desks:** We have applied for a grant to have the hallway desks painted with first nations' artwork from communities throughout Canada. A visiting artist will prepare the desks, and 20 families or classes will take on one desk to do the painting. The project will be done the week before March Break, and will give a facelift to the desks that are beginning to look dirty. In addition, the artwork can be incorporated in the design of learning units (creative writing, visual arts, etc.).

- **Social Skills Workshops**: Our usual partner, CCS, has not been available to schedule workshops yet (their coordinator has been sick), but our CCWs will start social skills workshops at lunchtime right after the December break. Priority groups will be identified by the CCWs with my support and each CCW will only give a maximum of one workshop a week to make sure sufficient supervision is available in the school yard and that the children get enough time outside.

- **Active School Initiative update:** The latest improvements include lunch and recess-time games facilitated by Mme. Stefanie with different classes, a developing list of websites featuring kinesthetic activities that can be done in the classroom, and a rotating schedule of classes for the use of the gymnasium when outdoor recess is cancelled. New equipment is being purchased to refill the winter bins for outdoor play. Many thanks to Mme. Stefanie for taking this initiative to new heights.

- **Physical Education**: The Senior students have now participated in a Soccer Play Day and a Volleyball Play Day organized by the GMAA. They have made us proud by their

behavior and participation and we are grateful to all the teachers that accompanied them, and especially to Mme. Tania for organizing them.

- **Francofete:** Our first celebration of Quebec culture is being planned for March. Activities may include a dance workshop, a French movie, and a Cabane a Sucre that will come to the school – an energetic committee is working on this initiative and we look forward with excitement to this program.

- **Kindergarten Holiday Celebrations:** Both Kindergarten classes will be having Holiday celebrations: Mme. Pascale on Wed. Dec 18, and Mme. Lise on Fri. Dec. 20. A school-wide sing-along is also in the works.

- **Book Fair Improvements:** Feedback from the book fair indicated that the children's list was too long. Moving forward the teachers will encourage children to limit the lists to 3-4 books.

- **Graduation Trip:** The graduation committee, which is essentially fundraising committee, would like the Merton staff to find a new trip that is less expensive and more fun. Rosana and the teachers will take this under advisement and report to the GB at the next meeting

- **Field Trips:**

  Grade 4
  Morgan Arboretum
  150 Pine St, Sainte-Anne-de-Bellevue, Québec H9X 3L2
  January 13th, 2020
  No Cost to Parents

  Grade 6
  Royal West Academy Science Fair
  189 Easton Ave, Montreal West, Quebec H4X 1L4
  February 13th, 2020
  No Cost to Parents

  There are also 2 workshops on Mohawk culture that are happening for Cycle 3 students.
  January 13th and January 30th – Grade 5
  February 6th and Feb 20th – Grade 6
  No Cost to Parents

c. Regional Delegate's Report

The meeting was attended by Shoshana Weinberger (Alternate) so she gave the report:

- The meeting starting with Caroline Phaneuf (executive chair) thanking everyone for voting for her and she introduced the rest of the executive committee.
- Caroline talked about the potential closure/merging of EMSB schools in the East End. A sub-committee was formed to discuss possible solutions to this issue.
- The head of the transport and safety committee discussed the M transport app. Two schools are currently using the app. It logs kids in as they get on the bus and tracks them using a GPS. Someone asked if there is a policy on the amount of turnover of drivers. The head of the committee responded that she would check, but the issue is that there is a major shortage of bus drivers.
- The head of the parent's committee discussed the ongoing lawsuit against Bill 21. The lawsuit has been filed and will not be affected by the trusteeship. Someone asked where the budget is coming from to pay for the lawsuit. The head of the committee explained that the money comes from a surplus in their budget
- Caroline discussed the current situation with the EMSB trusteeship.
  - The partial trusteeship took effect on November 6 headed by Marlene Jennings.
  - The council of commissioners is suspended for 6 months.
  - The executive want to meet with Marlene along with the senior administrators of the EMSB to discuss the partnership she will have with the parent's committee
  - They are planning on inviting her to sit in on the next parent's committee meeting (taking place on December 5)
  - An official statement will be posted on their Facebook page (see attached)
- D. Benoit did a presentation on the impact of Bill 40 that will come into effect between September to November of 2020. All the details of this Bill are found in the attached presentation (see attached)
- A letter was sent out to the Ministry indicating the issue that the EMSBPC have with Bill 40 (see attached)

d. Home and School Report

- Open house was successful with many new parents in attendance
- The book fair was also successful, but H&S is having trouble getting volunteers and so the used uniform sales had to be cancelled
- ASA will have its holiday party next month
- One of the grade 6 parents would like to run a fitness night as a fundraiser for graduation – This needs approval as it's a brand-new fundraiser

Motioned to approve the graduation fundraiser "fitness night" by Shoshana, seconded by Pascale
Unanimously approved

10. QUESTION PERIOD

There were no questions.

11. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 8:53 pm approved by Jill, seconded by Jessica
Unanimously approved

SIGNATURES:

Rosana Caplan Principal Jill)	Merrill Matthews Chair	Shoshana Weinberger Secretary (replacing

École Merton School
5554 Robinson Avenue, Côte-Saint-Luc, QC H4V 2P8

Governing Board Meeting
Thursday January 16th, 2020 – 7PM

AGENDA

In Attendance: Rosana Caplan (Principal), Merrill Matthews, Shoshana Weinberger, Jordy Reichson, Nathalie Beauregard, Lisa Black, Pascale Lallouz, Michael Gonshor, Audrée Anne Dupont, Georgia Gotsis, Carol Meindl
Absent: Jill Selick, Bernie Praw, Judith Haziza, Jessica Aflalo, Samantha Patel (Home and School)

1. **WELCOME & CALL TO ORDER:**
   7:06 pm

2. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA with the following adaptions**
   - Change from Budget Budget to Budget Building
   - Add to the Business Arising – Space Sharing Committee

   Motion to approve amended agenda by Jordy, seconded by Nathalie
   Unanimously approved

3. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM NOVEMBER 28th, 2019 with the following adaption**
   - Rosana made changes to some points in her PELO presentation
   - Rosana mentioned that Bernie Praw is not attending meetings during the time of trusteeship and that is why there was no report available at last month's meeting

   Motion to approve the amended minutes by Michael, seconded by Pascale
   Unanimously approved

4. **BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES OF LAST MEETING**

   a) **Science Room Renovation**
      - Rosana explained that room 13 is the smallest room in the building because the cupboard was carved out of that room
      - There used to be a resource room between rooms 5 and 9 and then it was moved, so that made those classrooms bigger. Room 9 is the biggest classroom in the school.
      - The teachers suggested that the science room move to room 9 and move the cupboard to that room as well
      - The cupboard would be placed where the old resource room used to be which would have a door to access it
      - The architect took the final measurements today and the building manager will go to tender at the School Board
      - Hopefully in the summer, the next phase of this project will begin

   b) **Space Sharing Committee**
      - A meeting will be set up after the GB meeting is adjourned

5. **NEW BUSINESS**

a) **Approval of MEES Mesures 2019-2020: Monies dedicated and protected for Decentralization to Schools**

- When the monies were given to the School Board, the count of schools was not correct. When they divided the total amount of monies, it was not the correct amount. The actual number has been changed and is reflected in the current document
- Pages 1-8 reflects the amount of money the School Board keeps from the total amount and the School Board explains their reasons for keeping that amount of money
- Pages 9-12 is the money specifically given to Merton School
- The slight discrepancies in the 2 columns is due to the miscalculation of the total amount of schools mentioned above
- If we use the money from the field trip fund found in Mesure protegée 15186 it must be an approved location from the school board
- All of the amounts seen in this document match the amount of money that Merton actually received from the School Board

Motion to approve the approval of MEES Mesures 2019-2020: Monies dedicated and protected for Decentralization to Schools by Shoshana, seconded by Jordy
Unanimously approved

b) **Budget Update**

- In terms of the regular budget the school is in a similar position to where it was last year
- Last year, the budget for "support to parents" were used for lectures, but they were not successful due to low attendance
- Rosana asked for suggestion as to how to use the "support to parents" funds for this school year ($1300)
- Many suggestions were given
- Rosana asked to continue this discussion in "business arising" at next month's meeting
- In the surplus budget, the school board gave us $5000 less than last year
- In the building budget we have more money left this year than we did last year
- In the parent fees we are on track to have less of a surplus than last year
- Overall, the budget looks good

c) **Budget Building Process 2020-2021**

- Nathalie spoke about wanting more money for speech therapists and specialists for other learning difficulties
- Pascale mentioned wanting OT help in the younger grades
- Georgia mentioned wanting to renovate parts of the school and the school yard
- Rosana mentioned wanting to improve pay to CCW's to attract personnel; provide regular PD sessions for CCW's; increase availability of ASD trained personnel in elementary schools as support to teachers provide extra help in Kindergarten, where students needs are often unknown and for early intervention; designate VP's for all elementary schools regardless of size; continue investing in improvements to the physical plans of schools, especially the yard; increase professional supports: SLP, OT and others
- Nathalie asked Rosana to move the "increase in professional supports" to the top of her priority list

d) **Field Trips**

Retroactive: Cycle One (Grades One and Two, all classes):
L'Arsenal Contemporary Art Centre, Van Gogh Exhibit
2020 William St. Montreal
January 14 2020
97 students and 11 adults
All morning (staggered, short visits)
11$ per child

Retroactive: Grade Three:
L'Arsenal Contemporary Art Centre, Van Gogh Exhibit
2020 William St. Montreal

January 14 2020
12:15 to 1:50
41 students and 6 adults
15$ per child

New: Cycle One (Grades One and Two, all classes):
Musée des Beaux Arts, 2075 Bishop St.
February 12 2020
97 students and 7 adults
8:00 AM to 11:00 AM
NO COST TO PARENTS

Motion to Approve the field trips by Jordy, Seconded by Nathalie
Unanimously approved

6. **REPORTS**

a) **Principal's Report**

DONATIONS: Two new donations have come in. We are very grateful to the following families for their generosity and support!

- Carly and Ryan Etinson (Carter Gr3 and Dylan Gr2) have donated 5200$ towards new furniture for the school (the 200$ were contributed by their children from their own received birthday gifts). This is the second such gift from this family.
- Jamie Berman and his family (Jack, K) have donated 1000$ towards the PELO program. The specific use for these funds will be discussed at an upcoming meeting. It is their first gift.

As usual, we will always use budgets that have no roll-over before touching our donation budgets, so a nice amount is accumulating in our donation account for flexible use.

PERSONNEL: Three teachers who were working at 80% have been increased to 100%: Mme. Stefanie, Mme. Emiliya, Mme. Bianca. The additional hours are going to extra support in French. All tutor contracts were renewed. Mme. Nancy, M Loic, Ms. Rhonda. The CCW team is now complete: Louise McCartney and Jason Medeiros who were formerly lunch monitors have been hired as CCWs. That leaves us tighter in terms of lunch monitors, but we have been able to manage, and we can now offer the full number of hours of support to all the classrooms where there are students with special needs. Special mention to Mme. Heidi who has been doing and re-doing the schedules with me as every change came in! One item of negative news: our SLP is on leave and we are waiting for a new appointment.

REGISTRATION: Much interest, lots of last-minute requests for tours, requests for spots in the higher grades. We have a healthy waiting list already. No changes in format, unfortunately. I sent in a detailed proposal to Regional Office, but the current registration policy does not allow for any changes. Sibling registration will be the week of January 27th, general registration the week of February 3rd.

VALUES: It has taken longer than expected to agree on the visuals for this project. The banners and posters have finally been ordered and we will roll-out this initiative very shortly, continuing into next year. Many thanks to Samantha and Home and School for logistics and financial support of this!

GOOD AND WELFARE: Sima Shalev, Coordinator of Jewish Studies, lost her mother this past month. We offer our sincere condolences. A donation was made by the PELO teachers in her memory.

WINTER CAMP: All preparations are being made. Nine Staff Members are attending, including myself, and 76 students at last count. We should not take for granted the extra effort made by these staff members, nor the support of Home and School who is buying snacks for the students and paying for an extra bus. Thank you!

EXTENDED LUNCH: Next ones are scheduled for February 14th (Valentine's Day) and March 9 (first day back after March Break) to minimize disruption.

STORYTELLING COMPETITION: Preparations have started. The local competition will be on March 10th and the regional celebration on March 19 at Elizabeth Ballantyne School.

Discuss briefly:

- Daycare situation with Kindergarten student (confidential) – lawyer has recommended not to allow this child in any after school or daycare programs at Merton. Rosana offered to the family a bus service to Hampstead school for their BASE program which is equipped to accommodate children with disabilities
- Music Program for next year – to be discussed more extensively at the next meeting. Decisions need to be made fairly soon for staffing purposes
- Uniforms – Samantha asked Rosana to ask the teachers for any recommendations about potential changes in the uniforms

b) Home and School Report

- No report was given as Samantha was not present

c) Regional Delegate's Report

- Michael did not attend the last meeting so no report was given

7. QUESTION PERIOD

8. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 8:55 pm approved by Nathalie, seconded by Georgia
Unanimously approved

SIGNATURES:

Rosana Caplan Principal	Merrill Matthews Chair	Shoshana Weinberger Secretary (replacing Jill)

École Merton School
5554 Robinson Avenue, Côte-Saint-Luc, QC H4V 2P8

Governing Board Meeting
Thursday, May 21, 2020 – 7:30PM

MINUTES

In Attendance: Rosana Caplan (Principal), Merrill Matthews, Jill Selick, Shoshana Weinberger, Jordy Reichson, Jessica Aflalo, Lisa Black, Pascale Lallouz, Michael Gonshor, Samantha Patel (Home and School), Georgia Gotsis, Carol Meindl, Audrée-Anne Dupont, Nathalie Beauregard, Judith Haziza.

Absent: Bernie Praw

1) **WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER**

   7:36 PM

2) **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

   Motion to approve amended agenda by Jessica, seconded by Jill
   Unanimously approved

3) **APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM JANAURY 16TH, 2020**

   Motion to approve the amended minutes by Shoshana, seconded by Pascale
   Unanimously approved

4) **BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES OF LAST MEETING**

   None.

5) **NEW BUSINESS**

   a) **Approval of Code of Conduct 2019-2020**

- The GB had reviewed the Code of Conduct prior to the meeting and had the following feedback:
    - Lisa suggested adding a table of contents
    - Shoshana mentioned that the dates were wrong and pointed out one typo. Rosana had already corrected the dates and will correct the typo.
    - Shoshana asked about our policy on allergies. Rosana mentioned that these policies are included in the school board section of the agenda, but this will be removed moving forward. As such, Rosana will look through these pages and add it to the Merton policy. Rosana read the allergy policies from the EMSB to the GB and everyone agreed that they were complete.
    - Nathalie mentioned that we should include a policy that all children bring home what they don't eat in their lunch. This will be considered for the future.
    - Samantha mentioned that the H&S email address is incorrect. Rosana will correct it.
    - Samantha also suggested to remove "or cardigan" in the uniform policy
    - Jordy mentioned that many parents will read it the COC on an iPad and that the document doesn't look nice a tablet. Natalie suggested that it be shared via PDF to avoid any formatting issues.

    Motion to approve the Code of Conduct by Natalie, seconded by Jessica
    Unanimously approved

b) Adoption of School Calendar 2020-2021

- GB appreciated the decision to highlight the Merton PED days so as to bring this to the attention of parents. Shoshana suggested that all the PED days be highlighted (including the ones from the EMSB). GB agreed.
- Jessica asked about the PED day January 4th,2021. Rosana explained that this extra day allows teachers to prepare for the term coming ahead post vacation.

Motion to adopt the School Calendar by Jill, seconded by Judith
Unanimously approved

c) Uniform Policy Update and Approval

- H&S launched a survey to get feedback on the uniforms. Samantha said the survey went well.
- Ultimately, the final decision is that the dress code will remain navy & white (non-gym days) with no requirement for the Merton logo. The gm uniform remains red and the decision was everything should have the Merton logo.

- Modifications were made to the gym uniform. Red leggings are no longer allowed as part of the gym uniform (and are only to be worn under skirts). H&S is now offering jogging pants for girls with a slim fit and thinner material.
- The kindergarten uniform remains the same (combination of gym uniform and free dress). Pascale, the kindergarten teacher on the GB re-enforced this decision.
- Jordy suggested that when we survey parents, we provide them with a little more time to complete it, as the deadline for this one was quick.

d) Approval of Fundraising Initiatives for 2021

- H&S is hurting this year on the fundraising front due to COVID-19.
- Samantha mentioned that the H&S took the fundraising list from last year and suggested keeping everything the same due to the uncertainty from COVID-19.
- GB agreed that this was the best route and re-iterated that H&S can always come back during the year with new ideas

H&S Fundraisers for 2020-2021

1. Catalogue Sales (Recettes en Pot/Coupon book)
2. Fundscrip
3. Scholastic Book Fairs
4. Comedy/Casino Night
5. Pizza Lunch/TCBY frozen yogurt
6. Pasta Lunch
7. Soup Lunch
8. Chocolate Sale
9. Bake Sale (Grad)
10. Used Uniform Sale
11. Labels & Bag Tags
12. School Supplies
13. Vendor Fair
14. Bingo Night
15. Calendars
16. Yoga/Zumba Classes (to be explored further)

Motion to approve the Fundraising Initiatives for 2021 by Jessica, seconded by Pascale
Unanimously approved

e) Delegation of Powers to the Home and School Association

- Samantha mentioned that the delegation or powers would be the same as this year.

H&S Activities 2020-2021

1- ASA After-School Program

2- Enrichment Program
3- PELO
4- Music Program for Grades 3-6 (to be explored to offer After-School)
5- Merton Band
6- Annual Year-End BBQ
7- Uniforms
8- School Photos

Motion to approve the delegation of powers to the Home and School Association by Jill, seconded by Shoshana
Unanimously approved

f) Request to Transfer Monies from Fund 3

- Rosana mentioned that the schoolboard asked schools to stop spending money in light of COVID-19 shutdowns. The EMSB is continuing to pay all employees in addition to the additional expenses. They have put a break on spending, so Merton will lose some funds due to this.
- Rosana mentioned that Merton did a good job of spending and there are not large amounts in the budget. This is positive as many amounts are not allowed to roll over
- Ideally, she will have a budget to share at the June GB meeting, as budgets are expected to come imminently.
- Rosana gave an update on Fund 3:
    - We were carrying a surplus in lunch fees and school fees ($20K). We received an additional $20K for this year, and are ending the year ahead.
    - This year, we did a good job of calculating the monies that were required and have used what was budgeted. That said, we did not use the surplus.
    - Rosana asked for permission to use some of the surplus to replace the blinds in the building. We have not replaced them for kindergarten or grade 1. Cost is likely $5K-$10K.
    - Due to COVID-19 and the possibility of distance learning next year, the teachers suggested that some of the funds (within school fees) be used to buy additional books. What we are currently charging parents in school fees is completely compliant with government rules. However, the new reality creates a moving target. Should we have to do a significant amount of online teaching, the teachers (and those in cycle 1 especially) they feel like their program is very hands on, and they found that they may need regular traditional booklets that the children could have at home.
    - Judith mentioned that if we invested in books, they money would not go to waste either way and Audrée-Anne said that there are promotions now for Cycle 3 books.

- Ultimately, the GB decided to put the decision on hold until we know what the school fees will be for next year so that the decisions can be approved or denied together.

g) Dedication of $250 budget from GB to Graduation Exercises

- Due to COVID-19, no prizes will be awarded for this year's graduation. This means that there will be a surplus next year. For this year's graduation, there may be a drive-by pickup of the graduation certificate for students. Possible banner in front of school. These activities will be funded through the monies raised from the graduation committee.

Motion to apply the $250 budget from GB to graduation exercises by Natalie, seconded by Jessica
Unanimously approved

6) REPORTS

a. Principal's Report

- COVID 19: Online teaching proceeding well. Plans that had been created for welcoming students in May will be preserved in case they are needed in September. Great appreciation to all the teachers for their professionalism and all the efforts invested in adapting to this new reality.
- Tremendous appreciation to all parents for the many messages of support they have sent throughout this period. Also, particular appreciation to Home and School and to the Graduation Committee – both groups have been working under unprecedented pressures and in unusual circumstances and deserve great credit.
- Deeply regretting that we will not be able to thank parent volunteers through our annual volunteer event. All our Staff appreciates very much the support shown by these volunteers throughout the year.
- Alternative Graduation celebrations are being planned. No prizes will be given out this year.
- Alternative Welcome to Kindergarten is planned – at the very least a zoom meeting for parents of Kindergarten 2020 will take place very soon.
- Registration for 2020-2021 is at 319 students, 2 students more than we had this year. There may still be some minor fluctuations. Healthy waiting lists for most grades.
- Music Program: No arrangements are possible. Recommendation to take a year's time to allow Home and School to research what they had intended to put in place this year, given the situation.
- Science Room renovations are set to proceed if nothing changes in the COVID progression.

- End of year preparations are well under way: book orders, agendas, etc. Summer cleaning is being planned. No updates on school yard improvements that were planned by the EMSB. There is a great challenge in ordering materials without knowing the reality that we will be encountering in the Fall and calculating school fees (for the same reason).

b. Home and School Report

- Home and School is adjusted its game plan in light of COVID-19. They have transitioned the after-school activities to virtual programs. Kids are having a great time.
- H&S has been having meetings with other H&S's to get new ideas.
- H&S is looking to create an extended package so that children can continue to participate in these activities until the end of the year. This extended package is launching this weekend.
- The Merton H&S will be around all summer to support the school community.
- Ordering uniforms and school supplies as well as registration for PELO will all be done online
- H&S is currently showing a deficit as major fundraising efforts were only supposed to be done in 2nd half of the year. Logistics still need to be worked out.
- Chocolate monies will try to be recouped, as this was already paid out.

c. Regional Delegate's Report

- Michael mentioned that there have been a number of emergency meetings and regular meetings, both of which have had a strong focus on COVID-19. Everything else feel to the wayside.
- There were many discussions the week after things shut down as parents wanted to know why the EMSB didn't move to online learning sooner.
- The EMSB encouraged schools not re-open are were against the government directives at the time when we thought the children were to return to school.
- Michael felt that there was nothing specific for Merton to takeaway.

7) QUESTION PERIOD

- GB received two questions from parents:

1. Question: Can we resurrect the community garden?
   Answer: Rosana needs to talk to Mrs. Debbie about it, but has no objections to parents taking the lead.
2. Question: What would be possible scenarios for the fall?
   Answer: Rosana said that this is beyond the scope of the GB and nothing was discussed.

8) ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 9:50pm and approved by Georgia, seconded by Audrée-Anne.
Unanimously approved

SIGNATURES:

Rosana Caplan Principal	Merrill Matthews Chair	Jill Selick Secretary

École Merton School
5554 Robinson Avenue, Côte-Saint-Luc, QC H4V 2P8

Governing Board Meeting (held virtually)
Tuesday, December 8, 2020 – 7PM

AGENDA
MINUTES

In Attendance: Rosana Caplan (Principal), Shoshana Weinberger, Merrill Matthews, Jill Selick, Jessica Aflalo, Carla Lionti, Cindy Norman, Michael Gonshor, Samantha Patel (Home and School), Judith Haziza, Sheree Lynn Gouldson, Jordy Reichson, Carol Meindl, Georgia Gotsis. Jordana Dobski Kujavsky, & Joshua Gonshor (Guest)

Absent: N/A

1. **Welcome & Call to Order**
   7:04pm
   Introduction of people who were not at the first meeting. Judith Haziza, Sheree Lynn Gouldson, Carol Meindl (Community Representative), Jamie Fabian (representative of school board)

2. **Approval of Agenda**
   Motion to approve: Jessica and Jill
   Unanimously approved

3. **Approval of the Minutes from the October 13th, 2020 Meeting**
   Motion to approve: Merrill & Carla
   Unanimously approved

4. **Business Arising from the Minutes of the last Meeting**
   a) **Approval of the Minutes from the June 11th 2020 Meeting**
   Motion to approve: Jessica and Jill
   Unanimously approved

   b) **Adoption of GB Annual Report for the 2019-2020 School Year**
   Motion to approve: Jessica and Jill
   Unanimously approved

5. **New Business**

a) **Approval of the Sexuality Education Curriculum for the 2020-2021 School Year**

Rosana highlighted the changes/additions/adjustments:

- We continue to not teach sexuality education as a separate program in K. We cover body image, emotional life, pregnancy/birth etc. within the classroom.
- As of grade 1 there is now identity something or rather, taught by various teachers depending on to whom that pertains. As well, the total number of hours is 7. Each grade level has 5-10 hours that has to be covered
- Gr 2- Addition of having pregnancy and birth as a section to be taught later in the year (very basic level)
- Gr 3- Addition of comprehensive view of sexuality section
- Missing a document with the specific content, will be sent to us by email
- Gr 4- Identity stereotypes and social norms
- Gr 5- Nothing new added
- Gr 6- New: Comprehensive view of sexuality section, and Identity stereotypes and social norms.
- Sexual Abuse section is supposed to be taught, school has asked for more resources to teach this.

Motion to Approve the curriculum: Sheree & Jill
Motion approved.

b) **Budget Update and Decisions Regarding the Budget**

Fund 3: (our budget from Parents) Money was placed in Elementary Education (books, photocopies etc.). We had a rollover of approx. 18,559k from last year (has carried over for a few years). Revenue of 30k is misleading because it includes 14k cheque that H&S gave for science renovation. School board has to take it, but it has not been taken yet.
Likely will end up with the same surplus at the end of this year. It looks like we have more than we do!

Lunch Supervision: Still shows a negative balance of 20k that we still have no explanation for. We collected lunch fees, school board continued to pay monitors, yet school refunded families for lunch fees that were not used. We are waiting on clarity as we should not be "blamed" for that. Likely will be resolved by school board.

Fund 5: Page 1- Operating budget. Large portion already spent, however that's usually what happens (gets spent at the beginning of the year). Comparatively this is normal. Last year at this time we had the surplus money that we used for operating budget things. Therefore, it might get depleted more this year.

Cour Ecole Vivant: New Budget item- money from government to make sure that the school yard is an active place. Can only spend it on very specific things. Miss Tania is working with a committee to decide what is purchased with this money.

Support to Parents: Real challenge to spend this year given that we can't provide many events for parents given COVID. If anyone has any ideas please let her know. A speaker, or something like that, workshops, etc. Virtual for now.
Wellness: Usually this used to support the Winter Camp, there will be no winter camp this year so we will be engaging a young animator who will be present in the school yard 3x week during lunch hour, switching from class to class each lunch/recess who will animate structured activities within classes. While she can't work with more than 1 class at a time, if an adjacent class wants to pay attention and emulate, they of course can do so quite easily!
Homework Assistance budget: Used in different ways, as we can't run the homework program this year. Will be making new use of this money.
Most frustrating- 24520 (Ecole Inspirant) & 27311 (Sorties-Milieu Culturel); we can't bring people into the building, and can't go on any field trips. Have money there that we likely cannot use this year. We have bought a series of 3 music concerts that come with workshops. These are high quality virtual musical programs from Jeunesse Musicale Canada. Teachers can watch the concert with the children, then do the workshops. For the 17th and 18th of December for distant learning, there will be a special link provided that families can watch from home at families' leisure.
$32,800 cap- was money given to us to give nutritional supplement to students. We don't have many needs in that respect, so we have shared that with a neighboring school that didn't have enough for their students who needed it.
Caretaking Budget: $103 left. *Way way* less then we have ever had at this time, last year at this time we had 6k left there. Of course, due to COVID and are reported as COVID expenses, so one day maybe we will get refunded. At the moment we have no money to buy toilet paper for the school. Rosana tried to buy from another account but is not allowed.
In summary the caretaking and operating budget are struggling at this point. Rosana reached out to the regional director about it- hoping it will yield results. Many other schools are in the same position. We are all using more soap, disinfecting, plumbing for water fountains etc.

Rosana would like to request that governing board allows for a small amount of money (for now) some bridging funds of 3-5 k total for now to put into the caretaking budget for the upcoming expenses. We will monitor it, and see what happens with operating budget, and then decide whether we take from this, or donation budget for future.

Rosana putting forth a request to transfer $3000 from the elementary education section of Fund 3 into the centralized budget of fund 5 for caretaking relating to the Merton building. There would still be about 15k left in the account. Rather ask for a little bit as we go.

Jill moves the motion, Seconded by Jessica
Unanimously Approved

6. **Reports**

a) **Principal's Report**

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT TO GB DEC 8 2020

Thank you(s): To Home and School for keeping us cheerful and creating wonderful events for us: pasta lunches, soup days, gifts, pancake breakfast, it all breaks the routine and creates a wonderful feeling – all this in a year that is particularly difficult for them. Also, to the daycare personnel who decorated our school for Halloween and for the Holidays, placed mystery cards for Staff members in our boxes, and generally supports our work with real responsibility and caring. I cannot overemphasize, of course, the ongoing efforts of **every Merton Staff member (teachers, CCWs, support personnel, substitute teachers, professionals)**, for whom this year has so far been so challenging so far – they have made this first period safe for all our students.

Gesell will be working from home until the end of this term – her daughter's classroom has been closed (they are both well!).

Audrée Anne Dupont is on preventative leave as of today. She will be replaced by Ms. Louise Standjofsky until the December break and will be involved with the school through virtual teaching using the smartboard. I have requested that Ms. Dupont be kept on Staff at Merton rather than being reassigned to the virtual school so that she can continue to monitor learning in Grade 6 because no substitute teachers are likely to be found, and my request was received favorably but not approved yet.

The EMSB has approved and will fund the purchase of **Air Purifiers for the classrooms**. Merton will receive 20, no date has been confirmed. The Press release is **attached** here: VentilationResolution.pdf You can also read this article in the Montreal Gazette. https://montrealgazette.com/news/local-news/emsb-to-spend-1-75-million-to-buy-and-install-air-purifiers-in-schools

On Wednesday, November 9th we will mark **Diabetes Awareness Day** in school, in support of one of our dear students, who has Diabetes Type A, and her family. The 9th is the anniversary of her diagnosis. We will all wear blue on that day and information will be sent to parents about Diabetes – we can and should all be better informed on this subject.

On Monday, December 14 students will enjoy a **pancake breakfast and pajama day** in school in celebration of the upcoming Holiday Season. The pancakes are made by the same company that makes hot lunches for our school (Merenda). Parents of children who have dietary concerns have been asked to send a healthy breakfast that their children can enjoy on that day at the same time.

Jeunesses Musicales Canada: We have purchased 3 high quality concerts and a series of workshops for students. The performances are online, the workshops virtual, and one of the packages will be available to parents online on the 17th and 18th to watch from home.

December 17th and 18th: We will not be distributing computers in large numbers for those two days. Teachers will be sending materials home that your children can use with or without computer access. There will be no new material taught on those days, only valuable review activities and holiday celebration – each teacher will contact the parents in her class with her plans.

Donations: Special mention of the Etinson and Bakshani families who follow us closely and provide all sorts of support as the year progresses. Donations, legwork, constant generosity and support that is much appreciated and makes a real difference.

Registration: A pilot project has been designed by the EMSB to avoid overnight lineups outside. All principals in the affected schools have participated and the press conference and press releases to announce it are forthcoming.

Respectfully submitted,
Rosana

Carol had a question:
Noticed you have a music teacher, was confused about that. Rosana explained that we have it just for younger kids. Reminded the decision was made as per that.
Asked about meeting with David Birnbaum- was nice to have it 1:1 instead of full of principals, she voiced concerns and he promised to bring that to national assembly. He is involved in initiatives that he wanted to hear what principals feel about them.

b) Home and School Report

Samantha:

- Halloween went well, the school was decorated, loot bags were given to the kids, the kids played Halloween games with teachers, and each student was given a mini pumpkin which they decorated with their class.
- Book fair went well, not the same but good. Scholastic is not giving a cash value but they give it to us in rewards, just over $500 in rewards that we will figure out how to share it out either to the teachers, or a gift to the school.
- Catalogue sales 50/50 as they always are- will have a better idea of numbers soon
- Pancake breakfast coming up, everyone is excited about it!
- Grad committee in full swing, first fundraiser the online raffle. Waiting on numbers for that. They have planned out what they are doing for the end of the year. They have created a few different scenarios so they have backups for everything. Great team who work very well together.

Regional Delegate's Report
Michael:

- Most recent meeting was last week. Mr. Copeland joined the meeting. He was recently appointed to be the Director General of the EMSB- for a short-term contract. They talked about that, as well as about criteria for future Director General candidates
- Air Purifiers was a hot topic, there were a lot of questions about them that were discussed.
- Installation will not be completed until the end of February.
- Disappointing but it's clear that everyone is doing their absolute best to make it happen asap.
- There was a survey that was sent out to see if parents wanted to send kids to school or not on Dec 17/18 now that the regulations surrounding the holidays have changed and the 4 days are not happening anymore.
- It is worth noting that Kayleigh, the EPCA representative has been in direct contact with government to represent English schools and what she does actually hold weight, power and influence with the government. So, Michael encourages us to fill out these surveys that come about to represent ourselves the way we feel inclined.

- Michael reminds us to let him know if we ever have anything we want him to bring up on our behalf at these meetings.

c) **School Commissioner's Report:** Jamie Fabian
Jamie introduced himself as the new EMSB rep. Reiterated what Michael had said.
Mr. Copeland is the interim director general of the EMSB- 3-month term
Air Purifiers; Merton will be getting 20 of them.

7. Question Period

Shoshana: *Has a question/suggestion:*
Since there is so much talk in the city of shutdown, maybe we should send home all of our workbooks?

Rosana said we have plan a, b, c, d etc. in the case of any type of shutdown… Some teachers were already planning to do exactly this. As well, they are ready for evaluations (January report cards) as we don't know what might be for our return. In the event that we don't return, teachers will be ready to input everything.

Jill: *What are the plans in the eventuality of the schools being shut down?*
Rosana- we have strict directives of how many hours kids are supposed to have re everything: screen time, subject time, on screen/off screen time etc.). Some subjects are not even assigned hours to be taught. So, on Dec 2 PED day the time was used to fine tune schedule for home learning, and sharing expertise re online learning, tips and tricks amongst the staff. A lot of organizational work was done to make sure we are as prepared as possible.
Judith added that we shouldn't worry, we are really well prepared comparatively to March. Be reassured they are ready!
Judith added that we are so lucky to be part of a school community that takes great care, Rosana, and the measures in place in the school truly keep everyone safe and we are so lucky.

8. Adjournment
8:32pm
Will meet again on Tuesday Jan. 19 at 7pm

École Merton School
5554 Robinson Avenue, Côte-Saint-Luc, QC H4V 2P8

Governing Board Meeting (held virtually)
Tuesday, January 19, 2021 – 7PM

MINUTES

In Attendance: Rosana Caplan (Principal), Shoshana Weinberger, Merrill Matthews, Jill Selick, Jessica Aflalo, Carla Lionti, Cindy Norman, Michael Gonshor, Samantha Patel (Home and School), Judith Haziza, Sheree Lynn Gouldson, Jordy Reichson, Carol Meindl, Georgia Gotsis. Jordana Dobski Kujavsky, & Jamie Fabian (EMSB Rep)

Absent: N/A

1. **Welcome & Call to Order**
   7:07pm

2. **Approval of Agenda**
   Motion to approve: Jill & Cindy
   Unanimously approved

3. **Approval of the Minutes from the December 8th, 2020 Meeting**
   Motion to approve: Jamie & Jill
   Unanimously approved

4. **Business Arising from the Minutes of the last Meeting**
   Re-approval of the additional PED days mandated by the Government
   Motion to confirm approval of Dec 2 PED Day: Jessica & Carla
   Unanimously approved

5. **New Business**
   a) **Advise the EMSB on the Budget Building Process**

   Document- budget priorities / guiding principles criteria
   Thoughts:

Jill: Should we add in anything COVID related- health, safety, etc.…?
It was discussed that we should likely add something to the caretaking budget as a priority
Jamie: If you have ideas, suggestions, now is the time. He wants to know what we want to prioritize. He wants to know as much as possible, so he can represent what his schools need.
Shoshana asked teachers if they have a wish list?
Carla- 2nd resource teaching position. Second set of hands and eyes on the kids would make a big impact.
Judith: More and more we have kids with difficulties who are integrated into regular classes and we can definitely use more help.
Rosana agrees that additional support should be there (prof and resource teachers), and thinks are should keep on the list:

- ➔ Extra help for kindergarten
- ➔ The physical plant of our school on the list

Cindy: Better desks for the students, furniture

Rosana will update and send to us for our approval. If there's anything that isn't accurate let her know and she will tweak it.

b) Report on the Educational Project- Generally every year we report on it. This is confirming that we saw and accept that we won't be reported to on it this year (due to COVID)
Motion to approve the educational project annual report for 2019/20: Jill & Georgia
Unanimously approved

6. Reports

a) Principal's Report (this was switched to be D instead of A in the order of the agenda)

Re money allocated for caretaking: It is in the process of being transferred, it did make an impact.
> Money will be transferred from the "donations account" (which was committed to be spent on COVID measures) to our regular budget for that purpose and will continue to report on it. Rosana has also sent all of this information to her school board superiors so they are aware and we are not the only school impacted this way.
> School board is proceeding with improvements to our building, we will be discreet with this info just in case something changes. There are 2 big projects in our horizon:
1- This summer all asphalt in school yard would be renewed. They will remove what's there, improve drainage and insulation under, for the grassy area etc. as well. It will not make a dramatic visual difference but it will be a huge improvement.
2- The summer following there will be a whole improvement of the roof of the building, as well as the outside aspect of the building- the metal paneling removed, the parts that look like wall will have a new covering. Architects are bidding right now with prices but also with recommendations for the best way to do this. Will include some improvements to drainage from the roof.
The work will likely need to start mid-May, but because we have such a big yard it shouldn't make too much of an impact. COVID is a big factor in everything but at the moment we are cautiously optimistic.
> Registration: Sibling registration started this week, no number news yet as its by appointment, but it has been busy and it's exciting. Next week new families will be calling for their appts, and Monday the

25th will be the day when people go online to try and get those spots and we will call them back to give them their appts for the week of Feb 5th.
> Coming back to the building: Students were reminded of all new measures, and old. Students are complying for the most part with no difficulty. We are not without challenges, it is a LOT of work, but we the teachers make it look like its easy and do it with a smile. We are in good hands and are in great admiration of the teachers for what they do every day. The children seem to be happy and feel safe coming to school. In terms of COVID reports, we have had more numbers of family members with COVID but no incidences of children. They are quarantining the way they are supposed to. Parents are being even more forthcoming than could have been expected. Communication continues to flow.
> Air purifiers: They are on, they are working, no reports of issues with noise.
> Teachers have been enjoying the microphones that were purchased with donated money.
> Donation: Of 10 computers by Bakshani family, they created a partnership with Asha's workplace and money they wanted to donate to make that happen. They are brand new and have been configured and will make a huge impact if we ever are re-confined and need to give students access to technology that they don't have at home and need for home schooling.
> Bad News: We had additional evening caretaking to help with end of each day cleaning and sanitization that we are not at the moment able to continue budget wise, however the caretakers have become more efficient with the use of the sanitizing guns. Teachers are helping a lot with that, but trying to work with caretakers to work this out. Yanni our main daytime caretaker is injured so he is not there but Rosana is doing all she can to make that work.

Samantha asked:
Have you noticed a big difference not having the extra caretaker at night?
What do the teachers think?
Cindy and Judith said they don't notice a difference.

b) Home and School Report (switched to A)
Samantha:
Getting tax stuff ready
Some events coming up: book fair, teachers' appreciation. Pancake breakfast went really well. Lots of thanks from parents. Will become a new tradition. Have a meeting tomorrow night and will present mid-year financials, and it looks pretty good. Launched our virtual enrichment program, have about 85 kids registered, holding about 40 kids daily in ASA. Doing well.

c) Regional Delegate's Report- (switched to B)
Michael: we met last week, a lot of it was about budget presentation planning. There are new committees that are great but haven't done too much yet due to not having too many meetings yet. There will be a conference in April which he will send the info about shortly to pass onto the parent body. Again if there's anything you want him to bring up please let him know and he will be happy to bring it to them.
The EPCA (English parents committee association) asked a question informally – should we create a poll to ask parents if we should cancel spring break. Apparently, teachers are expecting 40% of students to fail or be struggling a lot more than in previous years. Caused a discussion about perhaps spring break should be cancelled to help these students. No conclusion about it.

d) School Commissioner's Report (switched to C)
Jamie: Had a meeting in December

Update on improving mental health services: Jamie is trying to get more programs in place between McGill/Concordia and the EMSB.
Jamie went through his annual remuneration and appointments, in which he will be earning approximately $6300 this year and will be on the audit committee and an EMSB representative for the Quebec English School Boards Association.
Merton Budget priorities will be passed on once he gets the doc from Rosana and will push for them for us.
Looking to create a student services committee within the board so students have some input, more contact between students and commissioners to allow direct accountability to students. If anyone has any feedback or questions they can contact him.

7. **Question Period**

Shoshana: What's the update on the gr 6 teacher that is on leave?
Rosana advised that it was difficult to find anyone external. Mme Olivia Gaulin who was the Santé teacher has been made the grade 6 French teacher and Mme Taryn Senkiw who has been teaching in Mme Lise's class one day a week has now become the santé teacher. She is able to keep the Wednesday in Lise's class AND is able to teach santé. Mme Audrée Anne has been extremely supportive and helpful so everything worked out very well.

We discussed doing the meeting on Google Meet next time.

Next meeting was supposed to be on Tuesday March 16th, 2021, but it is parent teacher interviews so we rescheduled to March 10th, 2021 at 7pm

8. **Adjournment 8:13**

Motion to adjourn: Jamie & Michael 8:13pm

École Merton School
5554 Robinson Avenue, Côte-Saint-Luc, QC H4V 2P8

Governing Board Meeting (held virtually)
Tuesday, April 20, 2021 – 7PM

MINUTES

Attendance: Jessica Aflalo, Jordana Dobski Kujavsky, Rosana Caplan (Principal), Shoshana Weinberger, Carla Lionti, Samantha Patel, Sheree Gouldson, Judith Haziza, Jamie Fabian (EMSB) Jill Selick, Johanna Miller (Guest), Merrill Matthews, Jordy Reichson, Michael Rodger (Guest), Michael Gonshor, Cindy Norman, Georgia Gotsis

Absent: Carol Meindl (Community Rep)

1. **Welcome & Call to Order 7:04pm**

2. **Approval of Agenda**
   Approved by Michael & Carla
   Unanimously approved

3. **Approval of the Minutes from the January 19th, 2021 Meeting**
   Approval of minutes by: Jill
   Unanimously approved

4. **Business Arising from the Minutes of the last Meeting**

5. **New Business**
   a) **Johanna Miller to present a demand to the board for a West End High School**

   Working on an attempt to create a mainstream high school in the west end. They presented a deck with a lot of information showing number of students in the area, and the lack of schools. Ultimately, they are looking for our support in their attempt to make this happen. Michael Rodger presented his own experience this year with his son. His son got accepted into Royal West but the process was intense and he feels it is just plain wrong. They think that this is an urgent need, and long overdue, and needs to be fixed. They believe strongly in the public-school system, and there's a lot of opportunity to make a change. Hoping to appeal to governing boards of elementary schools as they/we have a vested interest. They are NOT looking to speak against anyone, or any school, it's simply about trying to fill what they feel is an urgent void. They are not trying to take anything away from any of the existing schools, they are wonderful, but they are almost at capacity.

Jordy asked: A couple years ago this was attempted re Wagar and didn't work, what are you doing differently?
Johanna- We are approaching the board with the question, not with an existing solution. We don't want to approach this with any "in fighting". They are trying to work with(in) the board to find a solution, as opposed to coming with a solution and fighting for it. Michael said that the first step is acknowledging the problem, EMSB is not doing that, so that's the first step (a parent led initiative to push the board to acknowledge that there is a problem, and then hoping to find a solution together). Jordy is in the situation with his daughter this year and understands.
Jordana talked about how they decided that the petition was the first step to be able to bring clear need to the board and then find a solution.
Rosana asked if they brought it to the central parents committee and what the thought was there?
Johanna is on this committee, and the executive parent committee and they support it, and the parent commissioners do too. They have decided to not be the ones pushing it so as to make sure they are representing all parents and not make John Grant feel targeted in any way.
Johanna and Michael left so that the governing board could discuss and vote.
Jill- Does anyone see any downside to supporting this?
Rosana- Did the parents consider that this has not been presented to all the parents as opposed to the entire parent body. Did they consider presenting to the entire community?
Jordana said that everywhere it's posted has been met with positive responses.
Jamie adds that this is step one in a multi-step process.
Shoshana read the motion.

Passed by Merrill, second by Jill- approved
Unanimously passed

b) Resolution regarding the language of instruction for ERC (See Appendix A)

Moved by Georgia
Unanimously approved

c) Resolution regarding the teaching of ELA in Cycle One (See Appendix B)

Moved by Sheree
Unanimously approved

As these issues are tied together they were discussed hand in hand.
The context: The government pointed out that there was an issue that was lacking that hadn't been caught.
Problem: Cycle 1 and 2 students are supposed to be receiving instruction in English- which has not been happening. So govt demanded that it be addressed immediately.
How? 150 mins a week of English instruction in gr 1 and 2 (take away from French) which can have a spiral effect on the French teachers and their workload, or you have to find those minutes in additional French instruction to balance it out. Depending on the size of the school this has to be addressed differently. In our school it was not too difficult to find the solution, but it wasn't easy for us to come to

terms with the solution. It feels like a lot of directives over the last few years have taken away from the wonderful things we do.
How have we done it?

1- By making Ethics and Religious instruction be taught in French instead of English. 45 mins now taught in French (ERC). So, we need to
2- 45 mins from Music program which would remove it completely from Cycle 1
3- 45 mins from Science
4- 15 mins from physical education program (currently offering more than min requirement)

This feels like a big loss. The "silver lining" is that science can still be added into French curriculum- this is permitted. For music- the teachers would need to add drama into French language arts as a replacement. This is the best way to not lose teachers.
Michael- How will we address making sure we aren't sacrificing the comfort level in speaking English during ERC?
Jill- What is mandated for ERC- is there any way to find ways to play with that? No, but the teachers are flexible
Jessica- Losing music is tough pill to swallow as it was a huge selling point for her family, and already lost most of it. Feels that it being part of the curriculum helps create exposure as opposed to it being a chosen extra-curricular.
Jordana- What happens if we say no?
Rosana clarified that we are not voting on that we agree to the changes, we are voting on the fact that we are aware & we understand that this is happening.
Shoshana- To respond from a teacher perspective, works in a 50/50 school, we teach the ERC in French, we use a lot of pictures, songs, and everything that little ones better respond to. She wanted to clarify that they aren't marked on their French comprehension or written anything, so no need to panic that the kids won't feel comfortable to express themselves or will not understand.

6. Reports

a) Home and School Report

Teacher appreciation went really well! We are so happy that they enjoyed!
Trivia Night and workout went really well too. We are limited in what we can do this year so we are happy about that.
Virtual Comedy night coming up, excited, great lineup.
We have given 5 subsidies, sponsored 2 lunch program meals.
Had to send out some legal letters for outstanding payments from last year.
Financials are tighter due to low enrolment etc. Hoping next few fundraisers will help balance that out. Working on welcome packages for new students. Mini polo will set up individual appointments.
Working on end of year stuff, no BBQ but our thinking caps are on to try and do something!

b) Regional Delegate's Report

Michael- It's been awhile! Conversation around racism, how public-school system is working in that regard, how to tackle it in school. Is there anything you want me to bring up? Let me know!!!

c) School Commissioner's Report

Jamie- In February they had vote on extra-curricular rollovers, voted in favor of rolling it over to the next year of ECAs. We have a new director general, who will be taking over shortly. Bill 21- big headline, don't have too much info. Will have more info tomorrow. Represent the schools as well as the English community as a whole. We created some committees, one of which is equity which looks to address systemic imbalances, how to address the issues, and have been advocating to have a student within that committee – feels it would be really beneficial.

d) Principal's Report

We are grateful to H&S for continuing their fundraising efforts and working hard to support our school. Despite lower than usual fundraising proceeds, they made available 200$ stipends to the teachers that complement the class budgets provided from school funds, they will re-fill the woodchips in the school yard, and they will purchase a gazebo that can be used for Graduation and other functions during the year. Thank you!

TEACHER STRIKE: The strike last Wednesday, April 14, went quietly and respectfully as was to be expected from our wonderful Staff. The disruption to learning was undeniable, as the strike ended after the main hours of virtual teaching would have been completed, but the schedules were observed and there were no problems reported.

CONSTRUCTION EXPECTED: The EMSB has a 2-year plan of improvements to our physical plant that are starting this summer with the renovation of the asphalt sections outdoors. No changes will be made to the layout, the areas as they exist now will be completely removed and re-done and drainage will be improved. In the second part of the plan, to be accomplished next summer, the entire outside of the building will be renovated and beautified and the roof will be re-done. Crews have already been at work taking samples and surveying.

FUNDRAISERS: Two Free Dress Days are planned for the spring. FREE DRESS DAY for MYRA on Friday, April 30th: Myra's Kids Foundation offers monthly bereavement support groups for children and extended family, and work with a network of grief support services to connect families with the appropriate and specialized resources. They also provide youth aged 5-17 a valuable yearly summer camp experience. The CURE breast-cancer awareness denim day on Tuesday, May 11.

PERSONNEL: Due to the changes approved at this meeting to the Cycle One program, Mme Sheree will be working an additional 30% of time for a total of 50% teaching English to Cycle One. Mme Audrée Anne is expected to be on Maternity leave, Mme Sylvia Brandao will be teaching Grade 5 French, and both a Grade 6 French Specialist and a Grade 3 bilingual teacher are being sought.

MAY MEETING: The May meeting will be important, as we will approve the school calendar, code of conduct, fundraising events etc. and GB will delegate powers to Home and School. I hope all GB members can join us!

7. Question Period

Shoshana- There's the potential that the current grade 5 kids will have the same French teacher in grade 6 that they had in grade 3 and in grade 5. That might not be ideal for them, she asks that it be considered when making decisions.

Rosana- definitely considering it!

Adjournment 8:36pm
Motion to adjourn: Jill & Judith
Unanimously approved
Wed May 19 next meeting
June meeting date will have to change- and we will decide in May when June meeting will be.

Appendix A

GOVERNING BOARD RESOLUTION FOR Merton SCHOOL CONCERNING CHANGES TO THE ERC PROGRAM'S LANGUAGE OF INSTRUCTION

WHEREAS Cycle 1 of the Ethics and Religious Culture Program at Merton School has previously been taught in English;

WHEREAS Article 24 of the Basic School Regulation states that "for students admitted to an English language school, French as the language of instruction for subjects other than French as a second language may be used with the parents' authorization";

WHEREAS the English Montreal School Board's Policy on the Language of Instruction for the Ethics and Religious Culture Program states that schools may be exempt from teaching this course in English at the discretion of the Principal and the Governing Board, with confirmation from the Educational Services Department;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT Cycle 1 of the Ethics and Religious Culture Program at Merton School be taught in French.