Appendix B

GOVERNING BOARD RESOLUTION FOR Merton SCHOOL CONCERNING CHANGES TO THE CYCLE ONE PROGRAM TO TAKE EFFECT IN AUGUST 2021.

WHEREAS the Basic School Regulations require that a minimum of 150 minutes of ELA be taught in each year of Cycle One in French Immersion Programs;

WHEREAS this has not been the case at the EMSB in recent years AND the error has been brought to the attention of the EMSB leadership;

WHEREAS in order to fulfill this requirement the Cycle One program needs to be modified immediately to accommodate the additional minutes of ELA instruction;

THEREFORE, IT IS MOVED BY Sheree Gouldson AND RESOLVED THAT arrangements be made by the Principal to ensure the Basic School Regulation is respected by adding 150 minutes of ELA instruction to the Cycle One program at **Merton** School.

IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Music and Science classes currently taught in Cycle One be removed from the program in order to free 90 of the 150 minutes required to accommodate the ELA instruction AND

IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the current 135 minutes of Physical Education taught to each class in Cycle One be reduced to the minimum required 120 minutes to free an additional 15 minutes, for a total of 105 minutes, which added to the 45 minutes of ERC now to be taught in French, will produce the necessary 150 minutes of ELA instruction.

ALL THIS TO BE communicated to all stakeholders through the usual channels.

_____ _____

Signature, GB Chairperson / Date Signature, Principal / Date

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

Governing Board Meeting (held virtually)
Thursday, May 27, 2021 – 7PM

AGENDA

Attendance: Jessica Aflalo, Rosana Caplan, Josh Gonshor (guest), Merrill Matthews, Jamie Fabian, Carla Lionti, Shoshana Weinberger, Cindy Norman, Jill Selick, Michael Gonshor, Sheree Gouldson, Samantha Patel, Jordana Kujavsky, Georgia Gotsis, Jordy Reichson

1. **Welcome & Call to Order: 7:06pm**

2. **Approval of Agenda**

Motion to approve: Jill, seconded by Cindy
Unanimously approved

3. **Approval of the Minutes from the April 20th, 2021 Meeting**
Motion to approve: Sheree, seconded by Carla
Unanimously approved

4. **Business Arising from the Minutes of the last Meeting**
Nothing

5. **New Business**

1. Approval of Code of Conduct 2021-2022-

- Nothing has changed from last year. Protocols from COVID have accounted any adjustments.
- A few minor corrections were noted re language changes, and correcting old email addresses for Governing Board & Home & School

Motion to approve pending corrections: Motion by Cindy seconded by Jill
Unanimously approved

2. Adoption of School Calendar 2021-2022

- Some adjustments were made with the timing of report cards & PED days to work better with government deadlines as well as to facilitate teachers needs & timing
- October interviews have been suspended(the ones usually by appointment) because the school board pointed out the it will be a slow start to the school year (due to many virtual learners coming back) and

therefore better to allow more adjustment time. Teachers will always be in contact with parents if ever there is a need.

- Some discussion was had around the dates of Winter Break as the timing this year works out in a way that there are some days off, then some days in school, and then more days off, which may result in kids missing the school days in the middle. The school doesn't make those decisions, so we just see what happens and do our best.
-
- *Motion to adopt the school calendar: Jessica seconded by Jill*
- *Unanimously approved*

3. Approval of Fundraising Initiatives for 2021-2022

Samantha**:** The list is usually the same loosely, because we don't know what will be re COVID next year we tried to add a few things to account for new ideas. Not all the ideas are developed yet, but would like to explore further. List of fundraisers was read out. The actual list of initiatives must be included, otherwise there is no point in approving them because nobody would be able to contest them. Please ask Samantha for the list we approved. This was last year's list:

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: Cindy seconded by Jill
Unanimously approved

4. Delegation of Powers to the Home and School Association

Motion to approve delegation of powers (power to run daycare, run activities, sell uniforms etc) The actual list of powers must be included, otherwise there is no point in approving them because nobody would be able to contest them. Please ask Samantha for the list we approved. This is last year's list:

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

Judith, seconded by Sheree
Unanimously approved

5. **Delegation of Premises to the Home and School Association**

Motion to approve delegation of premises (to use the premises for other activities)
Please specify "for daycare and extra curricular activities".
Jill & Sheree
Unanimously approved

6. **Approval of School Fees and Lunch Fees for 2021-2022**

- At a bit of a deficit this year because we gave money for back to families last year, yet we paid the employees the whole time. We are not at a deficit. "The surplus in the lunch fees budget that we had last year may not appear because money was refunded to parents while lunch supervisors continued to be paid."
- The government is supposed to repay the schools which has not happened yet "The money is expected to be refunded by the government at some point.
- All the fees stay the same, except for grade 1 which are going down by $10.
- Another change that may be coming might be due to the changes *we made last meeting*.made to the ELA program in Cycle 1. The ELA teacher will need books.
- We will look at this in June if need be.

Motion to approve Michael, 2nd Judith
Unanimously approved

7. **Approval of the School Supply Lists for 2021-2022**

Motion to approve: Jessica, seconded by Cindy
Unanimously approved

8. **Dedication of 250$ budget from the GB to the Graduation Exercises**

Motion to approve Jill seconded by Sheree
Unanimously approved

6. **Reports**

a) Home and School Report (Samantha)

- IXL has been renewed, waiting on Netmath program to see if the teachers want it back and will renew if they want.
- Working with Tania for Jump Rope for Heart, kids will get a TCBY treat
- Working on a field day, working to see what we can do for the kids for that.
- Elections are coming up.
- We had a great Virtual comedy show.
- Home and school bought a branded tent for events (ex graduation etc)
- We are getting ready for the end of year

b) Regional Delegate's Report (Michael)

- Attended the parent conference and said it was an excellent resource.
- He would like to find ways to get the word out to more parents about it next year so everyone can benefit
- In other meetings, there was an initiative to set up a virtual school not necessarily for COVID reasons, but for people who need it going forward and for future years. It could be an additional route for parents who opt to home school.
- Discussion around low enrolment in east end schools (drastically) which is a major problem because then schools get closed. They were looking for ideas for how to increase enrolment, and are trying to learn how they can up their enrolment.
- Relevant to see that these things are happening.

c) School Commissioner's Report (Jamie)

- Progress is being made with the grass roots initiative stared by parents to look into making a new West End High School
- Equity committee is seeing to fix potential systemic inequalities within "240 High Schools" & to promote equity
- A motion was moved & resolved that *"the English Montreal School Board continue to promote activities dedicated to understanding the causes, consequences, and victim of the holocaust as well as on negative ideology of Nazi Germany." As well it was resolved that "the EMSB adopt & implement the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance definition of Antisemitism in order to protect all the Jewish Students, teachers, and staff."*
- There were emails about systemic racism, to help parents address it with their kids, & some families were not comfortable with it. As a result they are working on how to do this in a way that feels comfortable to everyone
- Questions/Topics brought up:
    - è School territories and if it was considered that this might contribute to systemic racism/inequalities
    - è Creating a number system for exams so that no name associations are made in the grading process
    - è Putting surveys out to be able to compare one school to another and learn from that
    - è Is standardized testing unfair
    - è Could there be various methods of evaluation

d) **Principal's Report**

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT TO GB – MAY 27 2021

It has been wonderful to get back in touch with Staff members and parents, and I cannot wait to see the students! I want to express my gratitude for the truly overwhelming kindness and support I have received from the school community over the past weeks, which has been a source of strength and encouragement for me and my family. I also want to particularly acknowledge the work of Mr. Vince Timpano who replaced me, and Ms. Gesell and Mme Heidi who have gone above and beyond to keep everything in order with the support of Ms. Penny and the full teaching team.

Scoliosis Fundraiser: Merton privileges fundraisers that are related to causes that affect our own school community members. In support of two of our students who suffer from severe Scoliosis, we will have a free dress day on Wednesday, June 16 The students involved will participate in awareness-raising activities that day, while respecting our COVID protocols.

Renovations: It is now officially confirmed that the EMSB will be extensively renovating our schoolyard and school façade, as well as improving some aspects of our building infrastructure. Throughout this summer, work will be done to replace the asphalt sections of the parking lot and school yard as well as all the entrances. Nothing will be changed in the layout but everything will be fully removed and re-done. Next summer the façade of the building will be renovating and the roof will be re-done (long overdue since we had leaks in several classrooms for the last couple of years). In addition the crawl spaces and other less visible aspects of the building will be upgraded (crawl spaces were getting flooded, etc.). All in all, a welcome upgrade to address serious concerns that comes after years of lobbying.

Student Teachers: This year we have had an unprecedented number of Student Teachers, including from UQAM which is a University we had not worked with in the past. This was of great benefit to our school, as the advanced teachers (Y3 and Y4) were able to:

- Release teachers to work with small groups and individual children to bridge academic gaps
- Replace teachers when they were absent, including long term replacements
- Contribute technical on-line knowledge and comfort to our classes for the benefit of students

At the same time, these students represented an additional responsibility for our teachers and forced them to re-organize the learning situation in complex ways. I would like to acknowledge our teachers' extraordinary professionalism and investment in this regard. I have had exit conversations with each of the Student teachers and they all mention that Merton was their best student teaching experience. They too acknowledge and appreciate the mentoring they have received and the example provided by Merton's Staff.

Upcoming Events:

- Friday, June 4: Orientation for new families (NOT Kindergarten)
- Monday, June 7: Double Dutch Program – All School
- Friday, June 11: PED Day. Orientation for Kindergarten 2021 Families
- Tuesday, June 15: GRADUATION CEREMONY online
- Wednesday June 16: Free Dress Day: Scoliosis
- Friday, June 18 (moved from the 9th): Jump Rope for Heart – All School
- Monday, June 21: Field Day – All School
    - Drive-By Diploma Pick-Up for Room 23 at 5:00 PM
- Tuesday, June 22: Field Day Rain Date.

- In July the school will be rented to a camp. Many conditions have been put into the contract to assure the building is treated well and returned in the same condition it is given in.
- The school has been registered for another for a water check, since it is being offered
- PELO: Have been advised to reserve PELO registration until the Fall as it is too early to make a commitment
-

7. Question Period

Have there have there been any issues been brought up regarding speeding on Robinson?

- There have not!

8. Adjournment:

Next meeting change from June 15th to another day.
Changing it to Thursday June 17th

Motion to adjourn Cindy seconded by Jill
Adjourned at 8:52pm

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

Governing Board Meeting (held virtually)
Thursday, June 17, 2021 – 7PM

AGENDA

Attendance:
Jessica Aflalo, Rosana Caplan, Merrill Matthews, Jamie Fabian (left early), Carla Lionti, Shoshana Weinberger, Cindy Norman, Jill Selick, Michael Gonshor, Sheree Gouldson, Samantha Patel, Jordana Kujavsky, Jordy Reichson, Samantha Patel (Home and School), Carol Meindl

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

2. **Approval of the Agenda**

   Motion to approve by Carla, seconded by Jill
   Unanimously approved

3. **Approval of the Minutes from the May 27th, 2021 Meeting**
   Motion to approve by Carla, seconded by Merill

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

   a. **Approval of School Fees (revised)**
   - Fees have been refined, working with slight surplus so we have some buffer room
   - Asking for approval of additional reductions made
     Motion to approve by Jill, seconded by Carla

   b. **Approval of Code of Conduct (corrected)**
      Motion to approve by Sheree, seconded by Jessica

5. **New Business**

   a. **Approval of the Budget for 2021-2022**
   - Rosana updated us on the budget for 2021-2022 school year
   - We have a slight surplus
   - We had great donations this year
   - About $8000 of donation money remains

- The school board and government ended up covering more COVID expenses that we weren't sure would happen
- The donation money will allow us more freedom in the Fall to work with!
- *Move to approve the 2021-22 projections*
- *Motion by Jill, seconded by Jessica*
- *All in favor- unanimously approved*
-

b. Plans for School Reopening in August 2021

- Government is planning for a regular school year (no masks, extra activities, no bubbles, etc) putting a large emphasis on the academic recovery of our students.
- Rosana had a meeting with representatives from Governing Board, H&S and Teachers to discuss this& how we are going to restart in the new year.
- Much thought was put into how to handle space sharing within the building & how to support student and teachers alike in all
- We will be adding more homework program to support the students (a free of charge program)
- PELO takes up the majority of the space in the building the way it was run previously (classes per grade 2x per week)
- Recommending to offer it exactly under the parameters the government sets & subsidizes:
    - ➔ 1x per week, for 28 weeks
    - ➔ Program would be free
    - ➔ Grade 1-4 would be run by the school
    - ➔ Kindergarten (NOT subsidized) would be offered within Home & School enrichment programs for a fee
    - ➔ Gr 5/6 would be given lists of resources for Jewish studies classes outside of school (these groups are generally much smaller and struggle to have enough students to run as many kids are already working with outside programs to prepare for Bar & Bat Mitzvahs)
- Merton usually offer it 2x per week and run it longer into May. (Parents pay additionally for this)
- This would reduce 4 days a week of PELO to 2 days a week which will allow for more breathing room to the teachers and allow us to offer more support for homework.
- - Discussion around how many kids are in need of homework program vs demand for PELO, in order to ensure that the Governing board is properly representing the entire Merton community.
- Different options were discussed to look into as alternate options such as:
    -> adding lunch programs,
    -> offering PELO one day a week in person and one virtual,
    -> having classes in alternate locations within CSL
- This would be a transitional year as we get back into things, and are not a forever change
- We will continue to monitor the situation and as governing board will look at this again in November to evaluate usage of everything, and demand of everything to see if we should make changes.

c. Parent initiative regarding the Music program

- Some unease about losing music within school hours
- Looking to create a subcommittee that involves teachers, as well as governing board so that we can explore if there is a way to bring this back into the school during school hours for all grades
- Possibility to bring in a choir program and a band program in Enrichment in the meantime

6. Reports

a) Home and School Report (Samantha)

- Getting ready for the end of year
- Elections happened last night, Cari Friedman has been added to the team as Vice President
- Excited for Field Day on Monday
-

b) Regional Delegate's Report (Michael)

- - Reported about last meeting
    - ➔ Discussions within the EMSB about racism and systemic racism
    - ➔ Mostly reports to finish up the year
    - ➔ West end parent committee gaining traction

c) School Commissioner's Report (Jamie) – had to leave

d) Principal's Report (Rosana)

- Many new babies in the school community amongst teachers families
- Graduation has been going great
- Jump Rope for Heart is tomorrow
- Field day on Monday is going to be extra wonderful with additions from Home and School, and coordination and planning by Mme Tania. It will be a big fun surprise for the kids!

7. Question Period

- Thank you to Merill for years of service (he is graduating!)

8. Adjournment- 8:54pm

Motion by Jill , seconded by Michael

Merton Home and School Meeting Minutes
Thursday, October 21, 2021

Attendance:
Samantha Patel, Cari Friedman, Dalia Gorgi, Josh Gonshor, Lianne Fransblow, Jessica Aflalo, Lisa Hochberg, Marissa Lydynia, Mindy Zunenshine, Lisa Kunitzky, Jackie Gonshor, Rebecca MacLean, Lisa Black, Jessica Tobman, Warren Gross, Melissa Falciani

Absent: Elka (Secretary)

7:49 pm - Meeting called to order

Agenda Approval – Approved by Jackie G and seconded by Lisa H.
Minutes Approval – Approved by Dalia G and seconded by Lisa B.

H&S Reports:

1 - ASA/Enrinchment Update:

Samantha read the report submitted by Amanda Beaver (ASA Coordinator):
"The start of the new year brings new excitement! Our Staff came with creative ideas and enthusiasm. We had 10 returning staff and 5 new hires. Our numbers in ASA are on the rise and with that we taking extra steps with sanitation protocol to ensure safety.

Our groups are excitingly planning for Halloween, and we're looking forward to a fun week filled with spooky craft, games and activities.

Every year bring changes and we are starting to adjust to:

- 3:45pm Dismissal is back and both returning staff and new staff have to relearn the process. This is a change for the children, most of them don't remember the dismissal.
- Larger numbers mean more creative and spontaneous moments. Monitors are noticing that they need to prepare back up activities for all quiet moments.

Everyday there are changes to the number of children in our After-Care program. Week by week, we re-evaluate when doing our staff schedule.
September Numbers: 47-67 children Daily in ASA
October Numbers: 50-72 children daily in ASA

Our groups are excited to begin bigger projects and themes next month and are already thinking about our holiday season!"

Enrichment update
210 students registered
Needed to refuse a few kids in some programs (full) Some classes , there will be two of the same classes.

2 -Financials for Year Ending June 30, 2021

Dalia presented the financials of last school year to be approved by the members. Financial statements and Balance Sheet attached to original copy of minutes.

A few questions regarding the fee of the credit card. Lisa brought up that some families don't like the credit card fees. Samantha explained that this was a decision that was made in one of the past H&S meetings to commence charging to help absorb some of the credit card charges that incur. Samantha explained that we try to be as transparent as possible in advising parents of changes and also clearly indicated on the forms when completing them. All due dates are also indicated on the form. If there are any independent/personal issues, Samantha mentioned that they should reach out. Also to remember that choosing to pay on the credit card is optional, not mandatory.

School year ended with a deficit of $58,475.87. This was explained and mostly related to the ASA program and some major fundraisers that could not happen.
Motion to approve the Financials of Year-ending June 30, 2021: Approved by Josh G and seconded by Dalia G.

3 – Budget for School Year 2021-22:

Dalia presented this year's budget for H&S. Budget attached to original documents. 2021-2022- we should be on the way to getting out of the deficit. More in revenue, we should do well!

Office supplies- Lisa H may have contact to save us money. Spreadsheet of supplies will besent to her.

November 8th book Fair - In person and online

Pelo question: regarding 1 day school vs 2 days (lisa Black question)

4 – Fundraising Update:

Jessica A, Chair of Fundraising Committee, quickly reviewed the contents of the fundraising report – see attached.
A Lot of interesting ideas were brought up at their meeting. Food,flowers Will follow up at the next meeting.
Holiday Fundscrip to start, just a reminder that Fundscrip is ongoing
Book Fair nov 8th – details to be launced
Grad had meeting regarding their fundraiser – details to come

It was favorable and agreed to look into the family outdoor event, Animation Workshop (offered by a Merton Parent – Shalom), to commence the Sandwich Crew Outreach program, and Felix and Norton cookies. Also, a small fundraiser for Mother's and Father's Day.
Sub-committees to be formed to look into the various ideas.

Pet Therapy was mentioned – either for a workshop or enrichment?
Tam Tam's for Music – KOSA – to be looked into

Governing Board Report:

Jessica and Marissa reported briefly in turns. They spoke about who and what positions were assigned:

Governing board teachers - Georgia, Judith, Kim, Pascale and Tania

Shoshana: Chairperson
Jordy – Vice Chair
Jill – Treasurer
Jessica - Secretary
Parent Rep- Michael

$250 budget- spent nothing

Principal Report: Absent

Samantha presented report written by Rosana. See attached.

President Report - Samantha

- Samantha mentioned that the QFHSA Fall Conference was coming up and that emails were being sent out for parents to register. All workshops are free. Also offering Free Cooking Classes (virtual) for family fun on Saturdays. If interested, please feel free to sign up.

- Enrichment: 210 registrations received. More coming. Very great turnout.
- H&S is currently sponsoring 5 families in the food fundraisers - 2 families for Merenda lunches and 4 more families by EMSB and H&S are covering weekly meals.
- H&S has subsidized 2 families for After-Care
- We are looking for a guitar and Pelo teacher – please reach out if you know anyone
- Donations page – will follow up. This was tabled at the moment
- Halloween: H&S will be purchasing pumpkins for the whole school and loot bags with goodies (no candies!) – hall decorating "Haunted Halls"

- Scholastic Book Fair is coming – both in-person and virtual. Nov 8 to 10th. In-person will be by appointments. Details will be going home soon.
- November 3rd – Virtual Open House
- Holiday Fundscrip being launched.
- Grad to raise funds – possibly a raffle
- Outreach program – Sandwich Crew – to commence. We will allow 3-4 families with sibling to come make sandwiches once a week. Full details by email soon.
- H&S need Food fundraiser coordinators
- H&S is paying for the busses for the Grade 5 and 6 field trip
- We may be once again funding the Netmath program for Grade 4 – to confirm
- Amendment to By-Law to change the school year ending. Votes will be needed in next meeting to make this change.

Date of Next Meeting: November 24, 2021

Adjourned.

Merton Home & School – Fundraising Meeting - MINUTES
Thursday, September 23, 2021; 8:00 PM (via zoom)

In attendance:
Jess Aflalo (Fundraising Chair), Josh Gonshor (H&S Vice Treasurer), Maia Bensoussan, Pina Sheinart, Hernan Ciecha, Soulmaz Najafi, Shalom Sharon Iluz, Marissa Lydynia, Mindy Zunenshine, Lisa Hochberg, Samantha Patel (H&S President), Melissa Felsky

Meeting began at 8:08pm and has the video has been recorded.

1. Jessica explained the goal:
   - To encourage and find ways to include and involve the many parents eager to do stuff for the school
   - To explain the process of how a fundraiser happens, the rules and procedures to follow
   - To brainstorm ideas
   - To form committees, assign chairs, and get them rolling

2. How do fundraisers have to happen:
   - Idea
   - Committee created to work on it
   - Committee elects chair/co-chair and secretary
   - All meetings must have minutes produced which are sent to H&S afterwards
   - Conceptualize idea
   - Get at least 3 quotes for pricing
   - Create a budget, including costs and projected income/profit
   - Present it to Home and School Executive for approval
   - Once approved, take ownership over executing it (with the support and help from Jessica, Josh and Home and School Executive)

3. Everyone Introduced themselves ☺

4. Brainstorming session:
   IDEAS:

   - Lots of talk of food! Ideas for lunches:
     - Grilled Cheese lunch (Lisa)
     - Chicken leg or tender lunch (Lisa)
     - Samosas
     - Empanadas
   - Which led to the idea of doing one monthly special cultural lunch, where we determine each one in advance and give the parents a clear list of what it will be each month, as well as a synopsis of what the food is, where it comes from etc. We ensure as always that it aligns with the EMSB food regulations. This idea allows for the kids to be exposed to new foods, learn about different cultures, try something new in an environment where they are more likely to do so, raise money for the school, and test out new lunch ideas to potentially do more regularly the following year - Pina to start looking into this

- Sock Fundraiser - Company Sock Footage which donates socks to charity for every pair purchased - Jess to get info, Josh willing to execute

- Cookies – Felix and Norton- Jess to get info, Pina and Lisa and Josh to work on

- Shalom offered his services for a "one -off" online animation workshop for kids- He is working on info that will be presented

- Sandwich outreach – There's a group of people who collect sandwiches for the homeless, and we want to get Merton to help! – Jess to get info, Marissa to work on making this happen

- "Back to School" fundraiser- Many ideas discussed: Josh, Mindy, Pina, Maia are all interested in working on this

- Holiday Donut Fundraiser- Marissa and Pina want to work on this

- Ski or Family Tubing Day- Jess to inquire with the city regarding sledding hill

- Things to sell for Father's Day, Mother's Day, Valentine's Day- want these things to be researched, approved and ready to GO at least one month prior to each event- easy, and could yield great profit- Mindy, Josh willing to work on this!

5. It was mentioned that combining fundraisers with a charitable element could incentivise people to participate more

6. We talked about how we have an outreach committee whose focus is less on profit and more on building community, making sure families at Merton know each other and feel a part of something

7. Next Steps:
   1- Minutes to be written and sent out
   2- Meeting recap to be included
   3- Clear layout of the committees
   4- Call to the rest of the Merton Community to see if anyone would like to jump onto any of the committees (Anyone is welcome to join a committee at any time! Never too late!)
   5- Meetings setup for each individual fundraiser
   6- Let the planning begin!
   7- Highest priority at the moment: Back to school event, Sandwich making setup, and holiday anything as that will sneak up on us quicker then we think!
   8- Meeting ended at 9:30pm

Dear Home and School Members,

I truly regret not being able to attend this special meeting. My husband is sitting shiva for his beloved mother, my dear mother-in-law, and I trust you understand that I must be at his side. She was the matriarch of our little family and her loss has really shaken us up.

At the same time, this is a wonderful time of the year at Merton. We have had a very smooth and energetic start to the school year. For you, our indefatigable partners, who have already overcome all restrictions and obstacles to continue standing at our side, the year ahead will hopefully be one of renewed inspiration and new ideas. We are grateful that you continue to hold us up in so many ways.

You all follow the updates I send in my emails. Let me fill you in with some additional good news:

- Today we "counted heads" for the purposes of reporting to the Government. I am happy to report that Merton is 310 students strong and that we continue to be a highly sought-after school. We are not only very lucky to have a full teaching Staff at a time of great personnel shortages, but to count on teachers that exemplify the best of the teaching profession in every aspect of their work.

- The Etinson family has doubled their yearly donation to Merton this year. This family's generosity has, in the past, allowed us to complete parts of the Science Room renovation (in partnership with you, of course), re-place the furniture of one of our Grade One classes, and make other necessary improvements. This year we hope to use the gift to bring back the excellent mindfulness instructor we had last year and, if possible, re-outfit the other Grade One one class with new furniture. We are, needless to say, very grateful for their generosity.

- We are returning to our socially active and community-minded selves. The Shriners Hospital has acknowledged our donation of 481$, made last year through the initiative of Emma Corbett's family. We participated for the first time in "World Diabetes Day" late last year in support of the Etienne-Krieff family and just today we marked "Orange T-Shirt Day" for the first time. Fundraising for the Terry Fox Marathon of Hope reached over 2000$.

- The Jewish Studies Program will return with 120 plus students registered in six groups between Grades 1 and 4. Classes will start right after Thanksgiving, on October 12th. We have finally been able to recruit two bilingual tutors and will begin registration for our in-person Homework program next week. We will continue to keep our focus on the academic recovery of our students and to prioritize initiatives that serve that goal. 4 tutors are already working in the classrooms during the day to supplement the efforts of our teachers and our Resource Teacher.

- Finally, a strong and talented Governing Board has been voted in at the school's AGA and our first official meeting will take place on October 12th. I am confident that Governing Board and Home and School will continue building on the positive synergy they have enjoyed in the past. The collaboration between these two bodies is a source of confidence and positive energy for the professional Staff at Merton, especially during uncertain and challenging times.

Once again, I regret not being with you tonight. I will look forward to joining you in the near future and thank you for choosing to be engaged and involved in your children's education by supporting Home and School.

Respectfully and with warmest regards,

Rosana

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

Governing Board Meeting (held virtually)
Tuesday, November 23, 2021 – 7:30 PM

MINUTES

Minutes reconstructed from memory due to technical breakdown of the original document.

In Attendance:
Shoshana Weinberger, Rosana Caplan (Principal), Jordy Reichson, Michael Gonshor, Samantha Patel (Home and School), Jill Selick, Georgia Gotsis, Cindy Norman, Tania Siconolfi, Kimberley Davey, Lisa Black, Carol Meindl, Jessica Aflalo, Josh Gonshor (Guest), Lianne Barski (Guest)

Absent:
Judith Haziza, Jamie Fabian (EMSB Rep), Marissa Lydynia (alternate), Pascale Nizri-Lallouz (replacement)

1. **Welcome & Call to Order**

2. **Approval of the Agenda**

3. **Approval of the Minutes from the October 12th, 2021 Meeting**

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

   a) **Discussion about Finding a Second Community Representative**
      - We will leave as is with one, and reach out to others as needed if needed. We have a great pool of people we can do this with.

   b) **Update on the Merton Music Sub-Committee Meeting**
      - Unfortunately, there is really no way to bring this back into the school day as of now. Two great options for after school are in the works; one is a choir, another is a 1:1 with a university student paired with an elementary school child. The choir could reach more students, so this is the focus.

5. **New Business**

   a) **Discussion about the possibility for a Pride Day at Merton**
      - Adam Klein was not able to be there so we tabled it to be discussed in more detail

- Can we find a way to implement this at Merton?
- How do other schools do it?
- We would love to do this, and will do the research to make sure that it is done properly, that the messaging is clear, and positive. Rosana to discuss with teachers.

b) Budget Update and Decisions Regarding the Budget

- Rosana presented the most recent state of the budget. In particular, she pointed out the large budgets assigned to field trips which will be unlikely to be spent. She said that in terms of spending, we are not far from the amounts we have spent in the past (year-to-date).
- The goal will be to put every cent possible into support to students, so all budgets that can be used for additional tutors and teachers will be used for that purpose (Support to Special Needs, Homework Assistance, Ecole Inspirante, Joining Forces, support for FSL (All in Fund 6).
- Regarding Fund 3, not all school fees have been paid yet and we are working on collecting.
- The lunch supervision issue we have been following since last year remains unexplained, but Financial Services is aware.
- We are using our CAP budgets to sponsor hot lunches for a few deserving students.
- The shortage of lunch personnel should result in a surplus this year.

c) Review the PELO program

- Having a LOT of issues finding teachers this year. Welcome any help from anyone with any contacts, and this is being worked on very hard! Subcommittee to explore possibilities with different organizations that could help.

d) Review Merton Ped days versus other EMSB School's Ped days

- A parent brought up the issue of lack of alignment in some PED days causing difficulty in finding affordable PED day program options. Could this be taken into consideration in choosing the Merton PED days going forward? 3 Ped Days are set by the EMSB, different schools set their 7 PED days according to their different needs, but we could try to at least match some of them.

e) Report on the Educational Project

- Needs to be re-approved

6. Reports

a) Home and School Report

- Halloween festivities went well, thank you to the parents who helped out
- Book fair raised about $1800, in house and it was a lot better than virtual and went really well vs only virtual. Having both benefitted everybody. Next one in winter.

- Working on choir program- looking into a project that is going to start in the winter time
- Looking into a percussion program for students after school
- The Sandwich Crew community project is going really well. We are getting a great response from the community in school and people doing it from home

b) Regional Delegate's Report

- Michael offered to share concerns that Merton parents have at the next EMSBPC meeting. He mentioned to email him directly with these issues and he would happily bring it up at their next meeting

c) School Commissioner's Report

- Jamie was absent so no report was given

d) Principal's Report

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT – November 23, 2021

Parent Volunteers: We have begun incorporating very cautiously parent volunteers into school life. One parent is volunteering in a classroom, he provided proof of vaccination and is adhering to all the health requirements. Others have participated in field trips outdoors. We are evaluating as we go.

COVID: No additional cases were reported since the first three. First rapid test was done today and it was negative. Meetings regarding vaccination of students are coming up tomorrow and Thursday.

Meetings with Teachers: Currently meeting with each teacher to go over the needs of every child in the school, to make sure we are attending to all students and not only to those with highest needs. I am always impressed by the great knowledge each of the teachers displays about her students and their good sense of priorities and strategies to help them move forward.

Mindful Merton Program: Set to start on the week of January 17th for 10 consecutive weeks. . Trainer will be in school 2 and ½ days a week. We are excited about this program!

Lunchtime adjustments: The lunch hour routine has been adapted to accommodate the shortage of lunch monitors. The changes are working well.

Attendant team complete with the arrival of Matthew Sanders.

Holiday Plans: Boards have been decorated for the holidays, pancake breakfast will be sponsored by Home and School, pajama day will take place as well.

Schoolyard renovation in the works: We have started the process of applying for a government grant to this end. The government supports up to 50,000$. Even if we don't make it to this year's deadline, this is a process we have been waiting to start and we will be well on our way for next year. EMSB is supportive of this initiative.

Respectfully submitted,
Rosana

7. Question Period

8. Adjournment

Tuesday, January 25, 2022 – 7:30 PM

Governing Board Meeting (held virtually)

MINUTES:

In Attendance:

Shoshana Weinberger, Rosana Caplan (Principal), Jordy Reichson, Michael Gonshor, Jill Selick, Georgia Gotsis, Cindy Norman, Tania Siconolfi, Kimberley Davey, Jessica Aflalo, Judith Haziza, Jamie Fabian (EMSB Rep), Marissa Lydynia (alternate),

Absent:

Samantha Patel (Home and School), Lisa Black (alternate), Carol Meindl, Pascale Nizri-Lallouz (alternate)

1. **Welcome & Call to Order-** 7:33pm

2. **Approval of the Agenda-** *Jordy & Cindy*

3. **Approval of the Minutes from the November 23rd, 2021 Meeting-** *Jill & Jess*

4. **Business Arising from the Minutes of the last Meeting**
    a) **Re-approve Agenda from Nov. 23rd 2021 Meeting-** *Jordy & Kimberley*

    b) **Re-approve Minutes from October 12th 2021 Meeting-** *Jess & Tania*

    c) **Re-approve Motion of Educational Project-** *Moved by Jessica Aflalo and Unanimously approved. Since the resolution had already been approved and signed by the governing board. So, let the minutes reflect that information.*

    d) **Report on the PELO situation**

    - A small committee was formed and met to discuss. Decision to reach out to free Hebrew for juniors to see if they could help with teachers. We did that. We had a wonderful response, they want to start a partnership and are very happy. They will start with Kindergarten. We will be able to see them in action and decide if they are a good fit and then we can expand in following years. Also reached out to the "Shinshinim"- young people from Israel. Didn't get to finalize but there is interest to pursue activities with the school in future. Found someone very qualified to teach grade 2, has taught PELO before, so we moved another teacher to grade 4 and this one to grade 2.

5. **New Business**

a) **Review the Selection Criteria for the Appointment of the Principal-** *Motion Jordy & Cindy, unanimously approved*

b) **Approval of the Sexuality Education Plan-**

- Not much has changed
- There's not much way to verify that we actually execute it as stated
- Are boys & girls separated for more sensitive topics?
- We tried NOT separating last year, got some feedback from the shyest kids. The consultant recommends that we do it together so that boys and girls learn to talk to each other about these topics. We try to communicate as much as possible.
  Moved by Cindy, seconded by Jill, unanimously approved

c) **Approval of Field Trips**

- Feb 17- Pont des Carrières
- Cycle 2 (Gr 3/4)
- Entrance fee will be covered by budgets we have dedicated to field trip (no charge for field trips)
- All precautions will be taken

Approved by: Jill and Jordy

- Planning a full day outdoors at Boute en Train for Grade 6, in lieu of the winter camp 2 days they usually do. Will be done soon (Winter)
- Will be approved when details are solidified.
- Feb 25- Snow shoeing activity in our neighborhood, doesn't require approval.

d) ***Collectinfo*** **Resolution- Tabled for now**

- report for the government about how we plan to spend money, and then confirmation about how we did or didn't actually spend them.

e) **Home and School - Camp Rentals**

- We have had rentals in the past, often with damages that could have happened to anyone. Samantha is hoping that the company she works for rent it this year, which would be nice as they know the ins and outs of the building

f) **Discussion about a term limit for Governing Board Members-**

- Idea proposed that there be a 4 year/term maximum
- Want to encourage people to participate
- Turnover can ensure this

- We currently have a large demand, but we might not always. Should note this and be careful. Perhaps add a note that (for ex:) If no new representatives present themselves to be elected then a person could be voted in for an additional term.
- Does this apply to teachers too? There seems to be a natural turnover now that the meetings are virtual.
- Does this apply to alternates?
- If we move forward, we should be prudent about the terms being laid out clearly.
- We will think about terms, and bring potential phrasing to future meetings, with the goal of finalizing prior to May meeting
- Maybe we can find ways to engage the people who are so interested in being involved? Sub committees for example.
- Jordy volunteered to research, to find the verbiage for us to work with.

g) Rainbow (Pride) Day Update

- Was discussed at a recent meeting with staff
- Was met with positivity, and some staff will look into it.

h) Possibility of Merton School Twinning with an Israeli School

- Anthony Housefather had a conversation with an ambassador of Israel out of Ottawa who is looking for a school that has Jewish and non-Jewish students to put together with a school in Israel. We have no other details, but want to explore our (Governing Board) thoughts on whether or not to explore further.
- Let's get more info
- At first thought, this could be very enriching for the students, let's find out more.

6. Reports

a) Home and School Report

- Samantha will give a report next time.

b) Regional Delegate's Report

- There's been a lot of drama! Loss of confidence in EMSB PC, a lot of letters going back and forth. Nothing super relevant to bring back. It is a great diverse group, but nothing major to report. But I would like to bring in our discussions here or ideas to bring to this group because they are a great resource for that (ex: terms for governing board).

c) School Commissioner's Report

- Nov- Re-establishment of committees (Jamie will be on audit committee)
- Dec- Motion to declare May as "Jewish History Month"
- Jan- Endorsing the QCGNs ???

d) Principal's Report

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT TO GB – JAN 25 2022

- CO2 sensors have been installed in all our classrooms to help us ensure that the air quality is within the acceptable range at all times, and the air filters have been changed in all our air purifiers.
- Despite the frigid temperatures, teachers continue to do their best to ensure fresh air circulation in their classes and children are sent outside to play as much as possible.
- Registration: So far only 16 siblings, making room for a nice number of new families. Calls are being made but we are waiting for the final sibling situation to be clear. Waiting list is already in place for other grades.
- Music initiatives: On ice because extra-curricular activities are not allowed yet. However, everything can jump into action on a moment's notice. We have a choirmaster for the choir, good registration, and tutors ready for the other program.
- HOMEWORK PROGRAM: started today because it is not considered an extracurricular but an essential service to students. MEQ online tutors are working hard and many of our students are benefitting from LEARN Quebec online tutors as well.
- Tutors/Budgets: We have added tutoring hours for this second part of the year and, according to plan, are devoting every possible cent allowable from the budget to academic support of students.
- Mindfulness: Classes have started for Grades 1 to 6. The classes will take place during ELA (for cycle 1) or Santé (for cycles 2 and 3). An ambitious program and also an important financial investment in the emotional well-being of our students.
- Drama Therapy: An intern supervised by our school psychologist will be offering Drama therapy sessions to students starting in February. Services will focus on the younger students (especially K) but others will be selected throughout the school.
- Our School Survey: Measuring the social-emotional well-being of students in terms of their own feelings of safety, perceptions of bullying, sense of being cared for and community connectedness. Results are encouraging and will be used for our Educational Project.
- COVID Vaccination Campaign: Second Doses (and first doses if needed) will be available once again at Merton on Wednesday, February 16.
- PELO: New teacher hired for Grade 2, organization changed so that Room 2 will be on Tuesdays and Room 4 on Wednesdays. Free Hebrew for Juniors will open the K classes and we will explore expanding the partnership moving forward if we are

satisfied with the service. Current teachers may be incorporated in the FHJ program, which was a concern.

- Graduation: We have reserved the Wagar auditorium and we are planning a Grade 6 day-trip to Camp Boute en Train for outdoor winter fun.
- Calendar changes: So far, no changes have been caused by the snow day of January 17th.
  - Tuesday, January 25th – Homework Program Starts
  - Monday, January 31st – EMSB Ped Day, NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS
  - Tuesday February 1st – Normal Day of School!
  - Tuesday, February 8th – Report Cards available online (MOZAIK)
  - Wednesday, February 9th – Parent-Teacher interviews by appointment only, NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS.
  - Monday, February 28th – MARCH BREAK STARTS

Respectfully submitted,
Rosana

7. **Question Period**: N/A

8. **Adjournment:** *Motion Jordy & Michael*
   Adjourned at 9:14pm

Governing Board Meeting (held virtually)
Tuesday, February 22, 2022 – 7:30 PM

In Attendance:

Shoshana Weinberger, Michael Gonshor, Georgia Gotsis, Cindy Norman, Tania Siconolfi, Kimberley Davey, Jessica Aflalo, Judith Haziza, Jamie Fabian (EMSB Rep), Marissa Lydynia (alternate), Samantha Patel (Home and School), Carol Meindl, Lisa Black (alternate), Jordy Reichson

Absent:

Pascale Nizri-Lallouz (alternate), Rosana Caplan (Principal), Jill Selick

MINUTES

1. **Welcome & Call to Order-** 7:33pm

2. **Approval of the Agenda-** *Judith & Kimberley*

3. **Approval of the Minutes from the January 25th, 2022 Meeting-** *Cindy & Jessica*

4. **Business Arising from the Minutes of the last Meeting**
   a) *Collectinfo* Resolution
   Motion to approve: Jessica & Tania
   Unanimously approved
   b) Update on the discussion about a term limit for Governing Board Members
   Jordy looked into wording, and is looking into what other schools do as a reference.
   Will look into it more and check back at the March meeting.
   c) Update on the possibility of Merton School Twinning with an Israeli School
   Rosana hasn't met with the ambassador yet, but has been in contact.
   More news to come in the March meeting.

5. **New Business**
   a) Budget Building Process
   Tabled to March Meeting.
   b) Creation of a Sub-Committee for Backyard Renovations
   There is a family that made a very large donation, Etinson family. They have asked that this be used towards the yard.
   Would like to create a committee for this.
   People who are interested:
   Tania, Georgia, Cindy, Samantha, Michael, Jessica
   c) Uniform Policy
   An Issue was brought up that there are mass amounts of lost and found, mostly red sweatshirts. This has a ripple effect: Cost to the family, Families ask teachers to

find them and send them home & Environmentally people buy too many because they know they will get lost.

-Proposing that an adjustment be added to the uniform policy that a big label (blank, or with the name) be built into the sweatshirts.

Governing Board unanimously agrees to add this to the uniform policy

6. Reports

a) Home and School Report

- New music programs
- 1- Alliance chorale- 15 kids registered- paid program; portion by home and school, portion by parents
- 2- School of Music Montreal- Volunteers universities in Montreal.
    - 25 kids in the program. Not allowed to charge the parents, funded by Home & School. They ask that we pay their transportation cost, snacks for the children, and print their materials.
    - Subjects being offered: Piano, guitar, vocal, saxophone, violin… Kids are very happy so far.

- Drums and percussion instruction will be a new class in the next enrichment session.

-The drums and percussion will be offered to Gr 1-6 students.

- K PELO by "Free Hebrew" has begun, kids are enjoying it
- Hot Chocolate truck today
- Teachers appreciation week went well
- Hired more staff for ASA
- Kids attending after school is becoming more "normal"- aka more kids

b) Regional Delegate's Report

Michael:

-Parent conference will be virtual (could change)

- There was sharing of documents from their anti-racism sub-committee, Michael was curious to know if any of these topics had come up before, and if we wanted the tools that have been created, if Merton had taken advantage of resources, if it is needed, etc.

c) School Commissioner's Report

Main things of interest:

- Idea of introduction of a grade 12 program is being looked at. They feel that it might be difficult, because of CEGEP in Quebec.
- Repurposing of Saint Dorothy school that would be used for special education and to increase resources for students who need additional support.

**Jamie had to leave, GB had some questions about it, we will circle back at the March meeting.*

d) Principal's Report- N/A

7. Question Period

- Lisa offered to help with verbiage of the term limit for Governing Board Members
- Samantha offered to give the terminology used by the QFSHA for their bylaws on this subject

- Discussion about what needs to be taken into consideration if we implement this.
- We will do more work on this and follow up in March.

8. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn Jordy & Cindy 8:16pm

Governing Board Meeting Minutes (held virtually)
Tuesday, March 29, 2022 – 7:30 PM

In Attendance:
Rosana Caplan (Principal), Shoshana Weinberger, Michael Gonshor, Georgia Gotsis, Cindy Norman, Tania Siconolfi, Kimberley Davey, Jessica Aflalo, Judith Haziza, Jamie Fabian (EMSB Rep), Marissa Lydynia (alternate), Samantha Patel (Home and School), Carol Meindl, Lisa Black (alternate), Jordy Reichson, Jill Selick

MINUTES

1. **Welcome & Call to Order- 7:33pm**

2. **Approval of the Agenda**

   Jordy, seconded by Judith

3. **Approval of the Minutes from the February 22nd, 2022 Meeting**

   Cindy, seconded by Kimberley

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

   a. **Update on the discussion about a term limit for Governing Board Members**

   - Jordy recapped from last meeting had done research of other schools and boards to try and get an idea of wording & was working on it.
   - Jordy presented text he worked on via shared screen to be a starting point in the conversation
   - Discussion about do we want to add this? Why are we looking at this?
   - Merton is fortunate to have many people wanting to participate, & we want to ensure that they all have equal opportunity to be voted in
   - Jordy will send the text out for people to make comments on within one week
   - We will revisit this at the next meeting with revisions made based on members' feedback
   - Jordy, Rosana & Marissa (who is a lawyer) will review it together before next meeting

   b. **Update on the possibility of Merton School Twinning with an Israeli School**

   The Ambassador of Canada in Israel is interested in finding a school to pair with an Israeli school. Her hope is that the Israeli school will gain an experience of the diversity that exists in Canadian schools and our students will benefit from exposure to a different culture and customs. The Ambassador will put Rosana in contact with the principal of the school, who is very interested in the project, to see what can be worked out. The scope and length of the project are up to the two schools.

Rosana would match a class room with a teacher who is interested and wanting to participate

Would they match only students with students? Or also parents with parents?

- Rosana will discuss this as well

Likely will start in 2022/23 school year

Rosana participated in a similar project and will use her experience to help.

c. Revisit the Creation of the Sub-Committee for the Backyard Renovations

- Revisiting to solidify a committee to discuss & plan
- People who volunteered can be included as well as Etinson family
- Rosana will reach out to people to set up meeting

5. New Business

a) Budget Building Process

Where we think the school board as a whole should be placing their priorities

Rosana shared a draft she prepared to open the discussion

The things to consider are:

1- Name the priorities

1. **Add support teachers to Kindergarten**, where academic needs are still for the most part not diagnosed. Young students have been seriously impacted by the pandemic and are coming to school with significantly less developed readiness to learn, including pre-literacy and social/emotional skills.

2. **Add resource teachers to schools and improve the in-service training of resource teachers, tutors and attendants**. Ensure that all classes receive at least two to three full periods of professional resource support and that resources (financial and human) are made available to train personnel that are hired as tutors and attendants without full qualifications due to the shortage of personnel.

3. **Support administrators.** A vice-principal is needed in ALL schools, not just large ones. An administrative team is essential to adequately support teachers, students and families, fulfill administrative tasks required by the School Board and Government, and provide the necessary pedagogical leadership and vision that have suffered most during the pandemic.

4. **Physical Plant:** Continue investing in improving and updating the physical plant of the schools to ensure a respectful and orderly environment for learning. The building should always reflect the priority given to education.

2. Explain the guiding principles and criteria that determine the priorities

Our recommendations for budget priorities are based on the principles of **equal and adequate** access to **education and academic success** for **all** our students and the need to **safeguard their overall well-being**. There is a present and urgent need to **increase academic and social/emotional support to students** in light of the setbacks caused by the current pandemic. We feel that unless this is addressed, the **retention of teachers** will become an even greater problem and the **achievement of educational excellence** will be increasingly difficult.

Additional ideas:
Judith: Provide a specialized aid to help the students who have additional needs

- Rosana clarified that this is an internal decision that can be discussed with teachers internally. We decide with budget allowed for teachers whether to hire tutors or resource teachers
- Do we know why we only get 1 resource teacher? EMSB assessed our needs and with overall budget they have we don't require as much as others and therefore resources have been allocated
- In the past we added to invest in the physical plant of the school, we added this

6. Reports

a) Home and School Report

Getting ready for end of year stuff.
Elections coming in May, 3 positions up for re-election

b) Regional Delegate's Report
n/a was not able to attend last meeting, nor was alternate
c) School Commissioner's Report
Last meeting:
Audit committee gave recommendations to approve the new audit - only one company applied
Had a resolution in support of Dawson and project
Ukrainian refugees- we are ready to take them

- Last meeting you talked about a potential for gr 12, some people had questions, Jamie explained there had been no progress since last meeting. Jamie read the resolution about it. He will report back if there is more discussion about it.
-

d) Principal's Report

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT GB MEETING MARCH 29 2022

Having only recently returned to school, I can only start this report by expressing my profound gratitude to Merton's entire Staff for carrying on the school's business during my absence without interruption and with the same devotion that characterizes them. I am particularly indebted to Ms. Gesell and Mme Heidi for being in frequent contact with me – their leadership preserved my peace of mind and my ability to attend to my family at this difficult time.

Upcoming activities:

SCHOOL YARD RENOVATION: On the basis of a donation promised by the Etinsons, we will convene a committee to steer this project. We must apply for the grant next December, so this should give us ample time. We hope to have the painting done on the asphalt this spring. Budgets devoted to playground activity and equipment are ample and protected (can only be used for this purpose).

GRADE 6 EXPO: On the basis of research projects on different countries done during French class, Grade 6 will be presenting an exhibit for Grade 4 and 5 students in the gymnasium on April 7th.

CLIMATE CHANGE WORKSHOP: In recognition of the EMSB commitment towards climate change awareness, and in conjunction with Earth Day, Environment Canada research scientist Dr. Jason Cole has graciously agreed to host a TEAMS info session with **all Elementary Cycle III classes**. This session will be broken into two components; an initial 20-minute talk on climate change issues, followed by a 20-minute Q&A. This session will take place virtually via TEAMS from **1:00pm to 2:00pm, Friday, April 8th**.

FRENCH CANADIAN DANCE: Guest speaker Pierre Chartrand will speak to our students about **Quebec culture through music and dance.** He has been pursuing his career in dance for nearly 45 years, and is both a founding member (and president for several years) of Danse traditionnelle Québec, and a member of the Conseil Québécois du patrimoine vivant (CQPV) of which he was president from 2015 to 2019. His presentation will take place virtually on Tuesday, **April 12, from 12:55-1:35.** All Grades 3 to 6 students and some younger students will participate.

PROGRESS REPORTS: New progress reports will be issued to parents on April 14th. This is not a simple exercise – it is unusual to provide a general progress report after having done a full report earlier in the year. I wish to recognize the efforts of our teachers in this regard. Communications to parents are forthcoming.

Ongoing Concerns:

COVID GUIDELINES: The situation continues to evolve and the complexity of the situations that are created is increasing. We are making every attempt to clarify as much as possible both to ourselves and to our school community, and are staying in direct contact with the families where cases appear. For the first time we have had 2 staff members out at the same time and we are beginning to experience the shortage of substitute teachers in a more direct way.

PELO TEACHER SHORTAGE: The Grade 4 groups are missing one teacher. Until one is found, the groups will have classes on alternating weeks so that both can benefit from some exposure to the upcoming major holidays of Passover and Shavuot.

SUPERVISION RELEASE FOR TEACHERS: As of the latest collective agreement, monies have been made available by the government to replace the teachers during recess supervision so they can be available to do remediation and other teaching-related work. The process involved is complex and the Staff Council is being consulted on the best way to proceed. Monies not used this year will be rolled over to next year.

FIELD TRIPS:

April 20

Grade 4 – 41 students

Parc Nature Bois de Liesse in St Laurent

Cost: $20/student

June 1

Grades 3 and 2 (Cycle 2) – 99 students

Bois de Boulogne

Free of charge to parents

Motion to approve field trips: Jessica seconded by Jordy
Motion to approve Halo Race dates- May 11 or 12, optional activity for Grades 4, 5, 6 at the Mountain, and parents have to provide permission/ parental consent, buses will be provided by the school.

7. Question Period

Lisa Black- Is Merton interested in doing something, or is doing something about the situation in the Ukraine? Is it being addressed? Rosana replied that it has been a discussion. School is feeling that kids are feeling increased anxiety due to COVID, older kids vs younger kids are different. We will have '' help the helpers' day" where we raise money for the Red Cross. Older kids will discuss and address Ukraine more directly, whereas for the younger kids it will not be the center of attention but will address that when there is something happening in the world, we want to help however we can.
Note: There is a lockdown drill coming, but we are trying to find every possible way to avoid adding anxiety to students, so we have been avoiding it, but it will be coming.
PELO Committee had an individual who can provide an activity for Passover, but can only do one date, and on another date later on, which might mean that only one class can benefit from it on the day- how do we feel about this?
Suggestion: Maybe they can record it over zoom and provide the link after the fact to people who did not get to have it.

8. Adjournment 8:59

Cindy seconded by Georgia