

Westmount Park Elementary School | Governing Board Minutes

Date: March 27, 2025

Start time: 4:04 pm

Present:

In person: Marco, Chrissy, Rony, Mujdat, Tina, Caitlin

Online: Deborah, Chirstine, Cristina, Crystal, Joanne, Ashley (guest)

Land Acknowledgement:

Westmount Park School (Tiohtiá:ke/Montréal) is situated on the traditional territory of the Kanien'kehà:ka, a place which has long served as a site of meeting and exchange amongst many First Nations including the Kanien'kená:ka of the Haudenosaunee Confederacy, Huron/Wendat, Abénaki, and Anishinaabeg. We are grateful to live, learn, and work on this land - home to a diverse population of Indigenous communities and people from around the world. As parents and guardians, we strive to foster communities that embrace diversity, equity, and inclusivity for all.

1. Welcome:

1.1 Additions to the agenda: 3.3 Governing Board social media consent.

1.2 Approval of February 2025 minutes: 1. Deborah 2. Mujdat, approved

1.3 Public Question Period: none

2. Business Arising From The Minutes:

2.1 School Fence Project Update: (former Narnia fenced area along Melville on school property). Currently in the process of approving IPO, architect info from the city has been sent to upper management for approval. Still pushing for installation this school year. Current cost estimate: \$40,000; this covers only the fence. Further infrastructure can be fundraised (ie. PPO future projects) or via beautification grants (Christine will begin to keep an eye out for fitting opportunities).

2.2 More Library Services Letter for WPS Update: the letter has been sent via internal mail. The budget building process is still ongoing.

3. Business requiring approval:

3.1 Grade 6, four x \$50 bursaries from GB: these funds will come from excess Governing Board budget. Four gift cards will be purchased for graduation bursaries, one per class. Chrissy will consult with teachers and follow up on where to purchase the gift cards.

Motion: 1) Tina 2) Deborah, approved

3.2 Grade 6 Trip to Ottawa:

3.2.1 Overnight trip: investigated, however found to be too expensive to pursue

3.2.2 Day trip: the total cost \$140/student. The school will subsidize the trip (\$60/student) bringing the cost to \$80/student. This will be collected in two payments of \$40. The school will absorb the cost for anyone who is not able to pay so that all students can attend.

Motion: 1) Tina 2) Caitlin, approved

3.3 Governing Board Social Media Consent: the governing board will have a designated spot on the school webpage for the governing board members, with pictures and contact

as approved unanimously. Permission granted to allow the governing board to publish information and contact information on social media platforms, including Instagram, Facebook, PPO Newsletters and via Google Classroom. This is to increase school families' awareness of and access to their GB members especially given that we have a significant number of students register throughout the school year, many familiar with the function of a governing board. Caitlin will work on an image with all Governing Board Members for publication.

Motion: 1) Tina 2) Mujdat, approved

4. Items requiring discussion:

4.1 Status of school resources and enrollment: the 3rd enrollment report has been resubmitted; an increase of 20 students. Mid April, teachers will find out their assignments for next year. Many families have to wait for their eligibility certificates to come in before enrollment. The new laws (Bill 96) should take about 3-6 years before we really feel the impact and anticipate our population to remain consistent for the next few years.

4.2 Daycare Registration:

4.2.1 Returning students: dates April 1-18th on Mozaik. Reregistration for daycare and lunch supervision.

4.2.2 New students: new families can schedule an appointment with Deborah to enroll (via email) April 1-30th. New parents in PreK and K will be contacted by daycare to enroll in daycare services.

Families will be notified about daycare registration from both Admin and the EMSB.

4.3 Ave Melville fencing concern discussion: 4.3.1 Background: The school has little control over this, it is city property. Parents are encouraged to write emails to the city in support of the fence citing safety and security concerns. Rony observes that what the city calls a "natural barrier" - the bushes and trees along the sidewalk - reduce visibility along the street and increases the safety risk for students. Last year, Shalani raised the issue with the mayor. This year James initiated collecting signatures as a concerned parent on the matter.

4.3.2 Approach:

- a. Admin letter with a fencing request to city hall
- b. Letter of support from Governing Board members referencing safety issues and concerns and the impact on our school population
- c. Collect signatures from community
- d. Letter sent out for an evote approval: April 16, 2025. Approved April 22, 2025.
 - 1) Mujdat 2) Cristina, approved
- e. Official submission has been made for this matter in April 2025.

5. Reports

5.1 Teacher's Report:

Whole School:

1. *ENUF* refresher workshops on March 27th to remind students and staff how to dispose of items - garbage/recycling/compost.
2. *I Am River* workshops for K4-G2 in April; activities related to St-Lawrence River ecosystem
3. Earth Month activities (Wasteless Lunch Wednesdays, upcycled art, drawing competition, etc.)
4. Grades 4-6 had an Anti-Bullying Presentation with Svens Telemaque
5. World Down Syndrome Day

K5:

1. Celebrated Nowruz
2. World Down Syndrome Day- K Parent guest speaker
3. Green bfast and Leprechaun parade for St Patrick's Day
4. Weekly letter celebration
5. BLG firm bi-weekly readers

Grade 1:

1. Grade 1 Fundraiser April 17th towards our field trip in June and educational materials, 'Sweets for Spring'
2. 108 & 104 had a Nowruz celebration in the classroom, with an incredible presentation from one of our classroom parents
3. 'Stone Soup' Reader's Theater in 108 & 104 in honour of Nutrition Month
4. Lollipop Fundraiser
5. Board Games with Everblast
6. Cara Carmina art workshops

Grade 6:

1. Grade 6 classes continue with their **All Aboard Games Workshops** (to be completed at the end of the month)
2. In April all Grade 6 classes will be starting their Transition to High School program with Ms. Sharon Klar

Closed classrooms:

1. Music and dog therapy continues

5.2 Daycare Report:

- March 21 was a Beach Day PED day. Students celebrated with a beach mural, beach volleyball, music, dancing and fruit cocktails.
- PreK-K continue with the Funky Feet Dance program
- Gr 1 has finished their art project
- Gr 2-6 have soccer
- with nice weather, there will be a shift to outdoor activities and walks to the park.

5.3 Principal's Report:

- March 10th to 20th Cycle 2 ELA formative exam
- March 11th Alloprof workshop for teachers at staff meeting; GB discussed sharing Alloprof on parent PPO page to better share school resources
- March 13th we had our Lockdown Drill & K4 had a visit from Daniel Murrell Cox
- March 17th St Patrick's day, K5's had a green breakfast

- March 18th TNT from the Harlem Globetrotters came to visit our basketball club
- March 19th Anti-Bullying presentation from Svens Telemaque grades 4,5,6
livestream to all EMSB Schools
- April 28th is a PED day due to the election.

5.4 PPO Report

1. Slow March, no pizza day out of consideration for Ramadan
2. Two remaining Pizza Days: April 25th and May 23rd
3. School End of Year Picnic has been set for May 30th with a rain date: June 13th.
These dates work around class and grade trips so all students can attend.
Pickrell's Ice Cream Truck has been hired again. The PPO will subsidize the cost of ice cream again bringing the cost down to \$2 per cone. The event is scheduled from 4-7/8pm.
4. End of year freezies at recess.

5.5 Regional Parent Committee Report:

1. The EMSB responded to the PC letter requesting an explanation for denying Governing Board emails by coming in in person (a written response was requested from PC).
2. Unproductive discussion took place, EMSB presented their reasons for denying the request which were frequently the same reasons PC council shared for the need for a Governing Board specific email. (Ie. Privacy, sensitive material, etc.) The request for an email remains denied.
3. For our school: we will continue to receive GB mail through the Admin email address. We will advertise GB members through school social media and PPO newsletters and send out information at key times (end of Sept, January, and March Break) when we have a population shift so new school families (often international) can understand the function and how to connect with the school governing board.

6. Varia

7. Date of next meeting: May 1, 2025
8. Adjournment: 5:30pm 1.Caitlin, 2. Rony