



Willingdon Governing Board Minutes

Monday, January 20, 2025

Meeting commences at 6:32 p.m.

Present: Halah Al-Ubaidi (community rep), Nick Batzios (teacher), Eugenia Carystios (vice principal), Nadine Collins (community rep), Silvana Crigna (principal), Jessica Doubt (vice principal), Daniella Fietta (Home & School co-chair), Lynn Grunberg (teacher), Karen Kleihauer (parent), Felicia Maccio (teacher), Kristin McNeill (parent), Karyn Moffatt (parent), Laurice Morcos (teacher), Sharon Nelson (commissioner), Daniel Quinn (Chairperson), Kevin Reeves (parent), Alex Ruaux (parent), Nadine Thomas (daycare tech member) and Kathleen Usher (teacher).

Regrets: Sandy Sidhu (parent member for PAC).

Minutes taken by Kristin McNeill.

1. Welcome and Land Acknowledgement

Read by Daniel.

2. Approval of Agenda

One item was added: Valentine chocolate sale for Grad Committee Fundraising (as Item 5k).

Moved by Karyn M. and seconded by Kristin. Adopted unanimously.

3. Approval of Minutes of November 18, 2024 meeting.

Moved by Felicia and seconded by Laurice. Adopted unanimously.

4. Business Arising

- a. Update on crossing guard for corner of Monkland/Royal discussion. Silvana reported that a request was sent for a crossing guard there. Info about peak periods was provided to the SPVM. Discussions are ongoing.
- b. For safe crossing at Terrebonne/Draper, Silvana spoke with NDG borough councillor Despina Sourias. Silvana will also meet with SPVM. But the issue is more about making that whole corridor much more safe. The EMSB regional director has taken over the dossier.

5. New Business

- a. School agenda for 2025-2026
 - Daniel asked the question about whether a paper agenda should be reinstated. He suggested a paper agenda would help students organize their work and help parents keep track.



- Silvana: Staff must be consulted and parents need to make a case one is needed. She asked whether the idea was for paper or virtual. There would be an added fee for paper.
 - Lynn: The paper agenda becomes an environmental issue and is time consuming regarding some age groups and abilities. Agendas can be forgotten at school or home. Some children get nervous when the teacher writes in it. Emailing parents is very effective. She is a proponent of online agendas.
 - Kathleen: The paper agenda was discontinued because parents didn't like it. (Agendas were forgotten, lost, etc.). At the time, when staff council voted, they wanted to streamline and make things more accessible and organized. The current system is working well, despite glitches. Also, some parents complain about too many emails. She prefers Google classroom and judges the paper agenda untenable.
 - Daniela: There are too many emails as it is. She tries to keep her child off screens at home. Somehow the child needs to be responsible one. She said trying to go through all the Classrooms tiring.
 - Laurice: We need to keep in mind the types of students. For some, either paper or Google Classroom will be difficult. Many parents are on top of it, tracking things. Also, some have a device, some don't; the same with a printer, but teachers can help those without the technology. She favours technology, where things can be found easily and in one place.
 - Karen K.: At secondary school, where she works, the paper agenda is going strong. It's an equity issue. Some aren't using Google Classroom because it's not available at home. Teachers put their Classroom up on screen and students take notes.
 - Karyn M.: prints from Google Classroom and puts papers in a binder. The search function is not handy. She feels it falls too much on parents to teach the agenda skills.
 - Laurice: In Grade 6, there is a transition-to-high-school course, where students learn about time management and how to use an agenda. She said Cycle 3 students get a printed monthly calendar.
 - Kathleen: She, along with some other teachers, provides a hard copy for projects. The agenda is a staff council decision because it's a teacher workload issue. She welcomes parent feedback. She asked to meet with a parent on GB to look at how Classroom appears for them.
 - Daniel: No consensus among the GB. But could GB consider an online platform, where work is one central location. He finds the current situation untenable.
 - Silvana: Let's re-evaluate Google Classroom. It will be discussed at staff council.
- b. Principal selection criteria (Silvana, Eugenia and Jessica absented themselves.)



- Daniel: There are only a few changes made to last year's criteria. He explained that GB is always consulted on this document. It forms part of values we want to uphold as a school community.
- Karyn M.: Requested that bullet #3 be reworded.

Moved by Kathleen and seconded by Laurice. Adopted unanimously.

c. Approval of Educational Project

- Silvana: The EP is in place from 2023-2027. This year, it's a report on what is being put into place, based on targets, baseline and June 2024 exams.
- Objectives 1 to 3 include math, ELA, French subjects. Objective 4 School Climate (based on school survey), she said the school hopes to bring the 23% of students reporting feeling unsafe at school due to disrespect and exclusion (including virtually) down to 21%. The percentage is within the norm of the national percentage.
- Objective 5 deals with outreach events for pre-school parents.
- Objective 6: Aim to increase target to 70% from 59%, which means more skillset-building for digital competencies.

Moved by Karen K. and seconded by Kristin. Adopted unanimously.

d. Approval of Anti-Bullying/Anti-Violence Action Plan (ABAV)

- Silvana presented the ABAV
 - o All EMSB schools follow a template. Willingdon made an initial plan and this year made adjustments. She showed GB the plan, which is posted on the school website.
- Daniel: commends the teachers for handling different situations. He expressed his concerns about supervision when lunch monitors need to handle incidents.
- He inquired about the cellphone policy at Senior Campus
- He also asked if it's a school board policy to keep students' names private. As a parent, it's helpful to know who is involved in the incident.
- Silvana said supervision is always a concern and we continue to provide training and monitor its efficiency. Re: devices: It's EMSB policy to not have cell phones exposed in school. Re: sharing names: Usually parents of an aggrieved child know the name of perpetrator, but the admin protects the name of the student when working on a case.

Resolution: Requesting that the plan be approved as presented.

Moved by Lynn Grunberg and seconded by Kathleen. Adopted unanimously.

e. Approval Academic & Career Guidance Content (ACGC)

- Silvana presented the ACGC Plan for 2024-2025.
 - o Grade 5 and 6 teachers do this with their students.



Resolution: Requesting the plan be approved as presented.

Moved by Nick and seconded by Kathleen. Adopted unanimously.

f. Approval Budget 2024-2025

- Silvana presented budget allocations for 2024-2025 school year.

Resolution: Requesting adoption of the school budget as presented and indicating the forecasted revenues to be \$491,939.00 and expenditures of \$491,939.00.

Moved by Nick and seconded by Karen K. Adopted unanimously.

g. Approval Extra-Curricular Activities

- Eugenia presented the activities for the winter session for K5 to Grade 6.

Moved by Karen K. and seconded by Kathleen. Adopted unanimously.

h. Extra-Curricular Activities (ECA) Dismissal Process

- Eugenia: Dismissal will take place using Terrebonne door to avoid BASE dismissal. BASE students will return to BASE.

i. B.A.S.E. Daycare Dismissal Process

- Nadine T.: Many were asking why they needed to wait outdoors. It's to facilitate dismissal process. Congregating creates a crowd and adds confusion for dismissals. Also, parents were approaching other children about issues. In extreme weather, parents can wait indoors.
- Silvana: The current process does not allow students to be released to parents waiting in cars.

j. Le Mini Bistro Meal Options

- Silvana: Head office has confirmed it will offer a vegetarian option. She invited people to come forward with any other requirements.

k. Grad Committee chocolate sale: Feb. 13 at senior at lunch.

Moved by Laurice and seconded by Lynn. Adopted unanimously.

6. Question Period

- A parent raised a question about videos being played in gym class.
- Silvana: There is a health component to Phys. Ed. classes. Videos can be related to this. But she suggested parents should reach out directly to a specific teacher first when there is a concern. If the answer is not satisfactory, she asks parents to send her an email providing details.



7. **Reports:**

a. Principal

None.

b. Vice-Principal (Junior Campus)

- Jessica: RECLAIM literacy activity took place and draw was coming up.

c. Vice-Principal (Senior Campus)

- Eugenia: 36 participants are taking part in a babysitting course for Cycle 3. Hooked on School Days coming up in Feb. (green ribbon).

d. Home and School

- Daniela: Thanks for ongoing support. [

e. Teachers/MTA

- Laurice: L'art oratoire is a Willingdon tradition. Finalists from Grade 4 to 6 will be presenting Feb. 4. The Storytelling festival takes place after.
- Nick: Cycle 2 concert will take place on Jan. 23. Thomas Macleay, an orchestral Tenor, gave a workshop to Grade 6. The grade 5 and 6 music club choirs are singing in harmony. They are singing "Vois sur ton chemin." The Grade 6 students will be visiting Place des Arts on Feb. 3 to watch the Montreal Symphony Orchestra.
- Kathleen: Paper-making science workshop was a success with Grade 6. Also, they will be going on a science field trip to visit the Royal West science fair Feb. 13 after lunch.
 - o Students at senior have been cross-country skiing with Ms. B. She held a cross country ski workshop for other Phys Ed specialists - a great opportunity to teach about the benefits of place-based learning.
 - o Grade 6 will have its 2-night camping trip February 5,6 and 7 at Les CampsREP.
 - o Local negotiations are ongoing between MTA and the EMSB.

f. B.A.S.E. Daycare

- Nadine T. gave her report prior to meeting online.

g. Parent Advisory Committee

None.

h. EMSB Parents' Committee Representative

- Karyn M. gave her report prior to meeting online.
- Among topics discussed at EMSB PC were cyber bullying, road safety ombudsman and the rare occurrence of classes starting after Labour Day.

i. School Commissioner

- Sharon Nelson introduced herself.

j. Community Representatives

- Halah gave her report.
- Nadine C. gave her report.



8. **Varia**
None.

9. **Adjournment**

8:46 p.m.

Motion to adjourn. Kathleen.

Principal's: _____
signature

Date: March 24, 2025

Governing Board Chair's: _____
signature

Date: March 24, 2025