



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 this 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 it 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 adaptations

- 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 Measure protégée 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 JANUARY 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 Lioni, 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 Lioni, 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 Lioni, 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.

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 Lioni, 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 started 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 Lioni, 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 Merrill 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/Enrichment 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 be sent 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 launched

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 than 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.
 - o Tuesday, January 25th – Homework Program Starts
 - o Monday, January 31st – EMSB Ped Day, NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS
 - o Tuesday February 1st – Normal Day of School!
 - o Tuesday, February 8th – Report Cards available online (MOZAIK)
 - o Wednesday, February 9th – Parent-Teacher interviews by appointment only, NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS.
 - o 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