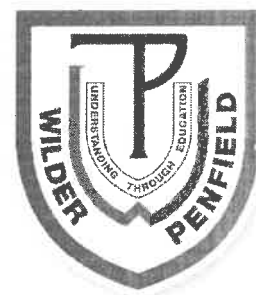


Governing Board - Wilder Penfield Elementary School

Minutes of the Meeting – October 19, 2021 6:15pm



ATTENDEES:

Christina Bakalis, Resource Representative,
Lindsay Knowlton, Teacher Representative,
Meghan Marak, Teacher Representative,
Susan Mansour, Teacher Representative,
Magda Natkaniek, Teacher Representative,
Tracy Torok, Secretary,
Mary Vassiliakis, Daycare Representative,
Raffi Alexanian, Parent Representative
Onnig Kouyoumdjian, Parent Representative, Chair
Samantha Simeone, Parent Representative
Josh Zemel, Parent Representative
Genevieve Bienvenu, Parent Representative
Daniela Cimaglia, Substitute Parent Representative
Heather Lambert, Substitute Parent Representative
France de la Rochelle, Principal,

PUBLIC ATTENDEES:

Scott Szermeta, Substitute Parent Representative
Eric Thibault, Substitute Parent Representative
Merrilee Wolsey, Substitute Parent Representative

ABSENT

Greg Bagshaw, Parent Representative
Andrea Bailey, Parent Representative

1. Call to Order

Meeting called to order at 6:15pm by Onnig Kouyoumdjian. Quorum established.
Onnig Kouyoumdjian read the land acknowledgement.

2. Approval of the Agenda- Amendments, revisions, adoption

One item requested to be added to the agenda by Onnig Kouyoumdjian:
6.7 School Website & Communication

Motion to adopt the agenda with amendments was moved by Genevieve Bienvenu and seconded by Samantha Simeone.

14 Votes in favor

0 Votes opposed

0 Abstentions

Motion passed unanimously.

3. Approval of Minutes

Heather Lambert asks for the spelling of 'attendees' to be corrected

Motion to approve the minutes for the September 21, 2021 with corrections was moved by Christina Bakalis and seconded by Mary Vassiliakis.

14 Votes in favor

0 Votes opposed

0 Abstentions

Motion passed unanimously.

4. Business Arising

4.1. K-4 K-5 Play Structure Project Update

France de la Rochelle has a meeting on October 20th with Bruno Cote from the school Board to give all information about the project.

The grant application form for 2021 - 2022 has not been released yet. Since the forms do not change much year to year, last year's forms will be used for the time being.

It was recommended to France that a play structure project committee is created so in the case that the principal changes there will be continuity on the project. Onnig added that it would be more beneficial that it be an independent committee rather than a GB subcommittee, so that we can make use of anyone in the Wilder Penfield community which may have skill sets that would help the project. France will send out an ERMS this week to recruit parents.

France is also hoping to will receive the board letter by Friday so it can be sent to the city next week.

Genevieve Bienvenu asked how many parents will be involved in the subcommittee? France says this is not decided yet. Once she gets more details from the board, she will out an ERMS specifying skill sets that are desired by members (playground creation, graphic design, city planning, etc). Genevieve works for the city of Pierrefonds and suggests that members of administration from other cities would be helpful.

France added that these playground improvement grants tend to go to schools in impoverished areas, so our presentation needs to be excellent if we are going to secure a grant.

4.2 Covid Update

France reported that there was a grade 6 class closure. It was the second closure of the school year.

A student had tested positive. That student played on a sports team outside of school with a classmate. The classmate also tested positive. 2 positives in the same class means the class is to go to distance learning. Using Public's Health's, the class was closed for 3 school days, returning Tuesday October 19. The teachers took 1 day to prepare to teach online. Both the French and English teacher taught the group 1 day each on zoom.

Contact tracing during lunch has been a challenge, but this needs to be done to isolate at risk students. Upcoming changes from public health guidelines may lift the need to contact trace during lunch. Sanitation and cleaning is still going well. There is more risk of contagion with no bubbles but the students seem happier.

Genevieve Bienvenu asks if there is any news about the vaccination of children aged 5 to 11. France replies that there is no confirmation at the moment but the board is planning for a late November rollout.

The school does now have rapid testing. There is a consent form to test on Mosaic. One student who had a severe cough did not have the consent form to test completed. After a verbal consent from the mother, her was tested. France notes that the in-school test will need to be confirmed through by public health, since the school is not a registered testing site and due to the risk of false positives. If the test is negative the student is sent home until they no longer have symptoms.

France is in charge of the testing. Both she and Miss Sue in daycare have been trained to administer the test. France details that the test is not invasive as it is in the nostril only so it is ticklish and not scary. Training was from the CIUSSS via online videos and direct instruction.

4.3 "Tell them from Me" Girls Feedback

Adrienne Abramowitz and France have been thinking of the best approach to get further feedback. The thought is to have discussions with the 2 groups of grade 6 girls. Based on the how the discussions go, and if they are not comfortable sharing then an addition survey may be conducted. However, the concern is that no additional information will be obtained with another survey. Appropriate interventions will be planned depending on findings of these discussions. This plan was to be implemented before this meeting but had to be delayed because of the class closure.

4.4 Appointment of a Community Representative

The governing board may have up to 2 members from the community with non-voting seats. There has been no applications or suggested names. The assumption that there will be no community representatives.

4.5 Internal Rules

As a point of information, the Internal Rules have been updated and are available.

5. Question Period No.1

No questions.

6. New Business

6.1 Review of Student Code of Conduct / 6.2 Review of Anti-Bullying / Anti-Violence Plan

These agenda items are discussed together as the matter at hand is the same. Onnig Kouyoumdjian stated that these documents were reviewed last May and dated 2020 - 2021, and that while they were approved for this year, it appears that they are out of date. Onnig asks that the dates be updated on the documents without a full revision, and that the review of the documents be done at the end of the school year.

Merrilee Wolsey states that she takes issue with a lot of items in the documents. She suggested the book *Reclaiming our Students: Why Children Are More Anxious, Aggressive, and Shut Down Than Ever—And What We Can Do About It* by Hannah Beach & Tamara Neufeld Strijack as a resource which may be able to address a lot of issues. France said she has the book and will be reading it.

Onnig reaffirms that the question at hand is whether the dates should be updated because nothing has changed since the last update (because of the summer holidays), and that the review of the documents would proceed as usual at the end of this year to take into account how effective the current changes were. France adds that if she feels that there needs to be any immediate changes due to new information or problems with the current documents, these can be done at any time.

Motion to reaffirm the current Code of Conduct was moved by Samantha Simeone and seconded by Susan Mansour.

14 Votes in favor

0 Votes opposed

0 Abstentions

Passed unanimously.

Motion to reaffirm the current Anti-Bullying / Anti-Violence Plan was moved by Christina Bakalis and seconded by Samantha Simeone.

14 Votes in favor

0 Votes opposed

0 Abstentions

Passed unanimously

6.3 Review of Emergency Preparedness Plan

The emergency preparedness plan is not ready to be reviewed at this time. France clarified that some of the necessary documents have not been sent by the board and she will be requesting that they be sent.

6.4 Consultation - Policy on Student Representation at the Lester B. Pearson School Board

There is consultation request in regards to the Policy on Student Representation at the Lester B. Pearson School Board. Similar to the Parents' Committee, the Student Committee would have representatives from all high schools, and consultations would be considered so that student input could be obtained. The Governing Board agrees that no consultation response will be sent as we do not have a stake in this issue.

6.5 Approval of Field Trips

There are no field trips to approve at this time.

6.6 Approval of Fundraisers scheduled

There are no fundraisers to approve at this time.

6.7 School Website and Communication

Parts of the school website are not up to date. Information is sent to a third party at the school board for updates. Onnig has done a scan and it seems that all elementary websites are equally out of date, and have no character. Onnig asked France to see if we could be permitted to update this information ourselves.

For the Facebook page, France will speak to Rebecca Wilson and she would probably gladly post whatever we send.

France feels that she does not have the skills to update the website and is unwilling to take it on. She will explore if it can be assigned to a GB member and/or teacher so that we can manage it directly.

7. Reports and Correspondence

7.1 Principal & Teacher Forum

The government and school board have mandated a literacy program for grade 2 and 3 students because of the gap caused by online teaching during Covid. Wilder Penfield teachers have been working with consultants on strategies to bring students at need up to expected levels. All students in these grades have now been screened and grouped according to needed skills, and the new literacy program will start at the beginning of November. Hopefully this approach will be continued in future years.

Christina Bakalis reports that assessments of each child were done: in Grade 2 in French phonics, and French and English phonemics; Grade 3 in phonemic awareness and phonics in English in French. The goal is that as a student masters a skill they will change groups. The hope is that these students will be reading at or near grade level by the end of the year. The program is for 45 minutes, 3x per week.

Genevieve Bienvenu asks if this will affect the current curriculum in that so much time is assigned to reading. The answer is no, because this is time that is spent on reading anyway, and the teachers are simply using a different approach. Even students that were strong had missing skills so help was needed by all. Strong students will be pushed even further.

Special ed tech Adrienne Abramowitz is beginning a program she calls "Helping Hands Mission Possible" to increase students' community engagement. Cycle 2 will be knitting hats, scarves, and twiddle muffs for the elderly. Cycle 3 will be making insulating sleep mats for the homeless out of recycled bags. ERMS will be sent in the near future looking for yarn, bags, crochet hooks, needles etc.

There has been a change to the end of day release procedure at the school. A student was unaccounted for approximately 45 minutes at the end of the day as he decided to walk home alone instead of finding his mother who was there to pick him up. He left through the right door, but was talking to some bussers and just kept walking when his friend got on the bus, at which point he kept walking home.

Dismissal has now been changed so that 3 classes are going out each door, so that the number of students to supervise is more manageable for staff.

Renovations are still incomplete. The sinks that were chosen were not available so the board substituted out of date ones in beige fake rock and they do not mesh with the decor. In addition, one of the water fountains does not work, and there is some paint missing in Tracy's office. The new alarm system has not been connected, but the old one has been fixed and is still functional. In the teacher's room upstairs, the washroom is still waiting for a shower to replace the old bathtub, as there was an issue with the fit of the ordered shower stall. The shower will be made in tile.

The Terry Fox walk went very well and the students asked when they will have it again. On Orange shirt day, children enjoyed it and were engaged in the discussion of issues. Classes are now preparing for Remembrance Day. The annual pumpkin decoration contest for the police station is underway. Pumpkins will be picked up on Friday, and Officer Potts and her Lieutenant will come back to give the results for best pumpkin vote and give candy to the children. The cross country run and handball tournament went well.

Parents are now being allowed back into the school to volunteer. This will help with pizza lunches, etc. Parent teacher meetings will still be online for the time being.

Grade 6 should be enrolled for their qualification exams for high school enriched programs.

7.2 Daycare Forum

The November 19 ped day will be brunch in pyjama day and scavenger hunt.

Bussing is expensive this year so an outdoor ped day will hopefully happen after the 19th. The bus holds 48 people. There are approximately 50 children at each ped day, and with a 1:10 ratio of adults, we would require 2 buses. The cost of 2 buses increases the ped day price substantially. The bus company's do not allow to reserve smaller buses.

7.3 Home and School Forum

The first meeting went well with a great turnout. There were more attendees than any meeting in the last 4 years.

The website home and school website is up and running. Wilder Wear can be order through the website. Deadline is October 31. Distribution will be from the door of the gym, as oppose to from the garage of the executives as it was last year.

The Grad committee has had meeting and is presently having their first fundraiser, Candygrams. There is also the plan to have 2 or 3 pizza lunches before the holidays. With parent volunteers allowed in the school, the pizza will not have to be individually packaged.

The next Home and School meeting is Wednesday Oct 27 at 7:00.

7.4 Commissioner's Forum

Nothing to report from Jason Doan. There is various communications and meeting summaries in our GB meeting kit.

7.5 LB Parents Committee Forum

Onnig Kouyoumdjian is the new Vice-Chair of the LBPSB Parents' Committee. The Parent Committee had their 2-part AGA meeting, which elected the executive members and representatives to various sub-committees.

The parent committee meetings are generally the first Thursday of each month.

7.6 Chairperson's Forum

Onnig Kouyoumdjian confirms that everyone has access to the GB Google Drive. He also asked if someone is not able to attend a meeting, to let him know. All members of the GB have full access if we wish to add anything to the meeting kits.

The Zoom link will be the same for all meetings.

7.7 Other Correspondence

No other correspondence.

8. Varia

No Varia.

9. Question Period No.2

Josh Zemel asked with volunteers allowed back in the school, are any extracurricular activities planned? Not for now. Before COVID we were planning on having a company facilitate a variety of activities. France will need to contact the school board to confirm if we are allowed to do this now, but for the time being there is nothing planned. She added for exterior rentals, these go through the board and none have come forward for Wilder.

Merrilee Wolsey ask for clarification in regards to the review Student Code of Conduct and of Anti-Bullying / Anti-Violence Plan.

Onnig confirms that presently only the date is changed on the current documents, and that nothing else will be changed until the next planned review. What we have done in the last couple of years, was to do the review late in the school year; this was done last year in May/June. Moving forward this will be done in October, although if France finds that there are changes that need to be made, she will take it through Staff Council and bring it forward to the GB on an as-needs basis. Onnig confirms that anything can be discussed at any time, the item tonight was simply to apply the correct dates to the documents.

Merrilee Wolsey ask what is done for documentation of incidents, and does the GB have access to this information?

Onnig confirms that this information is administrative and not under the GB purview, but that the GB does receive reports on the effectiveness of the ABAV and Code of Conduct policies.

Merrilee Wolsey asked are the actions in the code of conduct actually followed? If a parent reported bullying, what measures are taken to show that these procedures are followed?

France clarifies that the possible outcomes of interventions are outlined in the Code of Conduct, that actions are planned on a case by case basis. Bullying cases that are reported are investigated by France (often is conflict not bullying), the bully is suspended, there are meetings with France, the children and the parents. When the bully returns to school after suspension, there are daily check-ins to make sure behaviour changes, and also check-ins with the victims to be sure that the situation has improved. The regional directors of the school board are responsible for checking that the principal is doing her job. This is outside the GB's purview. There is also an issue of confidentiality that must be respected. Magda Natkaniek clarifies that there is internal reporting of every incident that occurs.

Merrilee Wolsey when will the document will be reviewed?

Onnig responds that this will be at the beginning of the 2022-2023 school year. The document that we just changed the date on has been circulated for this year in the agenda etc. ...

Samantha Simeone asks if revision in October would prevent publication of the Code of Conduct in the agenda?

Onnig clarifies that the Code of Conduct will be reviewed in May 2022 so that it can be included in the agenda. The ABAV will be reviewed in October 2022. Onnig adds that the documents do not prescribe the actions that will be taken by the school in cases of bullying or poor conduct; rather they define the procedures that are followed in terms of reporting. The documents cannot be used to prescribe interventions. The document defines conflict and bullying, so that the situation can be dealt with appropriately. Sections of the documents can be changed during revisions, but the bulk of the text is prescribed by the board.

10. Adjournment

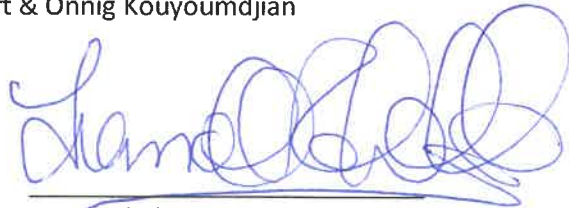
The meeting was adjourned by Onnig Kouyoumdjian at 7:39pm.

Next GB Meeting: Tuesday November 16, 2021 at 6:15pm

Minutes prepared in collaboration by Heather Lambert & Onnig Kouyoumdjian



Onnig Kouyoumdjian
Governing Board Chair



France de la Rochelle
Principal