

## **Governing Board - Wilder Penfield Elementary School**

Minutes of the Meeting – Feb 15, 2022 6:15pm



### **ATTENDEES:**

Christina Bakalis, Resource Representative  
Lindsay Knowlton, Teacher Representative  
Meghan Marak, Teacher Representative  
Magda Natkaniec, 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  
Merrilee Wolsey, Substitute Parent Representative  
Scott Szermeta, Substitute Parent Representative  
France de la Rochelle, Principal

### **PUBLIC ATTENDEES:**

Eric Thibault, Substitute Parent Representative  
Debbie Cobrin, Parent

### **ABSENT WITH REGRET:**

Susan Mansour, Teacher Representative  
Greg Bagshaw, Parent Representative  
Heather Lambert, Substitute Parent Representative  
Daniela Cimaglia, Substitute Parent Representative  
Jason Doan, LBPSB Commissioner, District 7

### ***1. Call to Order***

Meeting called to order at 6:21pm by Onnig Kouyoumdjian. Quorum established.

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

Motion to adopt the agenda was moved by Christina Bakalis and seconded by Mary Vassiliakis.

13 Votes in favor

0 Votes opposed

0 Abstentions

Motion passed unanimously.

### ***3. Approval of Minutes***

Motion to approve the minutes for the January 18, 2022 was moved by Christina Bakalis and seconded by Lindsay Knowlton.

13 Votes in favor

0 Votes opposed

0 Abstentions

Motion passed unanimously.

#### **4. Business Arising**

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

The presentation for the grant application was presented to members. Presentation describes all phases of the project. The presentation included a timeline and budget. Lots of work has been done. The feedback from the board in regards to the presentation was very positive.

After March, we committee is planning on looking at actual structures to be able to choose from, given the budget. Mme. de la Rochelle expects that by May we should have an answer back about the approval of our application.

##### **4.2 Covid Update**

Mme. de la Rochelle explains that frequent hand washing is still in place. Children are being separated by grade. She is expecting that things will be back to normal by mid-march.

##### **4.3 Consultation: Selection criteria for the appointment of the Principal of the School - Response due March 11, 2022**

Discussion of the consultation was done at the end of the meeting, allowing principal to exit the meeting. The chair presented the selection criteria from the 2020 – 2021 school year.

Motion to use the same selection criteria was moved by Christina Bakalis and seconded by Genevieve Bienvenu.

13 Votes in favor

0 Votes opposed

0 Abstentions

Motion passed unanimously.

##### **4.4 Consultation: LBPSB Budget 2022-2023 - Response due March 31, 2022**

The chair reviewed the role of governing board as explained in the budget consultation document.

Genevieve Bienvenu suggested that improving the air quality and infrastructure should be a priority. Samantha Simeone suggested funds could be allocated to deal with impacts of COVID-19 in terms of lag in academic performance. Merrilee Wolsey suggested that teacher resources for mental health should be a top priority in budgeting.

Onnig Kouyoumdjian said that he will word the consultation document and forward it to the governing board members for feedback.

#### **5. Question Period No.1**

No Questions

#### **6. New Business**

##### **6.1 Youth Violence – Incident near St-Thomas High School**

The chair invited discussion about the incident.

Magda Natkaniec brought up the importance of prevention. She emphasized the impact of violent video games and media on desensitizing children to violent acts. She also emphasized parents' responsibility to be involved in their children's lives and activities. She mentioned that this tragedy points to larger scale societal issues and that we all need to be involved.

Onnig Kouyoumdjian mentioned some of the existing measures currently in place such as the peer mediation program “the Encouragers”.

Genevieve Bienvenu suggested that there could be something added into the anti-bullying plan to include preparation for high school. Mme. de la Rochelle also spoke about measures that have been taken in the past including inviting a police officer to come in to talk to cycle 3 students about cyber bullying. In the past there have been programs where sec 4 students come into the elementary school to build relationships with grade 6 students. But with the increasing number of children advancing into the different schools it can be difficult to maintain a program like that from the elementary school. Mme. de la Rochelle said that more could be done to bridge the gap for children from grade 6 going into secondary 1.

Samantha Simeone, who is a teacher at John Rennie who taught the young man who died, explained how shocking the incident was. She emphasized that parents do need to be involved in the lives of their children. This includes supervising their social media accounts and online activities.

Merrilee Wolsey suggested that more could be done to help teach and support parents at earlier stages in their parenting through the school community. She mentioned that the book *Hold on to Your Kids: Why Parents Need to Matter More Than Peers* by Gordon Neufeld and Gabor Maté was given to all parents of children entering kindergarten by the principal of the school where her children used to attend. It has been an excellent resource for her and suggested it be used and shared widely in the parent community.

#### *6.2 Approval of Field Trips*

There were no field trips to approve.

#### *6.3 Approval of Fundraisers scheduled*

There were no fundraisers to approve.

### *7. Reports and Correspondence*

#### *7.1 Principal & Teacher Forum*

Wilder Penfield’s Virtual Open House was held on January 20th. Registration is going well. So far, we have enough enrollment for 3 kindergarten classes, 43 students, including 2 autistic children. We are anticipating a total of around 50.

We currently only have 9 students registered for K4. A minimum of 10 students is required to have a class. Mme. De La Rochelle is hopeful that we will meet the minimum criteria. Advertising and outreach are being done and more is being planned.

Report cards were delivered and Parent-teacher interviews were held. Teachers have been reviewing the Dare to Care curriculum and it will be implemented soon in the classrooms. Once that is in place the school plans to hold zoom presentations to provide training and support for parents and hold discussion on this topic.

Ms. Lindsay thank the home and school for the \$50 they gave to every teacher to use. She reports that teachers have been providing stimulating activities about Groundhog Day, Chinese New Year, the Olympic and Black History Month. They continue to work on school spirit. Mr. Blake has been supervising a lunch time chess club, which has been very popular. Pilo Polo and Omnikin tournaments are ready to go as soon as restriction are lifted. Teachers thank parents who attended parent-teacher interviews. She also thanks Home and School for covering the cost of treats for Carnival.

Mme. Meghan reports that the kindergarten classes are gearing up for the "100th day of school."

#### *7.2 Daycare Forum*

Daycare has held several successful ped day activities for the kids. February 4th a special Valentine vending machine craft was done. February 11th there was pasta making and drumming. February 14th there were more fun Valentine themed crafts for the children. With tax season upon us, Daycare is busy working on preparing tax receipts for parents.

#### *7.3 Home and School Forum*

Home and School has been happy to support the school and teachers with the projects mentioned in the Principal and Teachers forum. Home and School will be providing funds for hot chocolate and popcorn during Carnival Week this week. Funds have been allocated from Home and School's budget to provide 15 chessboards for the Chess Club Being supervised by Mr. Blake. Funds have also been allocated to support "I love to read" Week.

Home and School is collecting money for staff appreciation week. They also hope to have school lunches starting again in March, especially since volunteers are back allowed into the school.

#### *7.4 Commissioner's Forum*

A report of the council meeting highlights was provided in the meeting kit.

#### *7.5 LB Parents Committee Forum*

February 3, 2022 was the last parent committee meeting. A breakout discussion was held to discuss what schools and individuals have been doing to promote positive thoughts and optimism during the pandemic and to counteract the difficult and disruptive (or challenging and complex) feelings that this pandemic has brought on.

#### *7.6 Chairperson's Forum*

Nothing to add.

#### *7.7 Other Correspondence*

No other correspondence.

#### *8. Varia*

No Varia.

#### *9. Question Period No.2*

No Questions

#### *10. Adjournment*

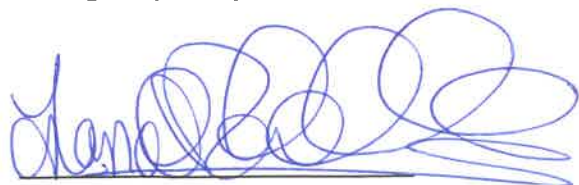
The meeting was adjourned by Onnig Kouyoumdjian at 7:42pm.

Next GB Meeting: Tuesday March 15, 2022 at 6:15pm

Minutes prepared in collaboration by Merrilee Wolsey & Onnig Kouyoumdjian



Onnig Kouyoumdjian  
Governing Board Chair



France de la Rochelle  
Principal