

*DRAFT MINUTES FROM DECEMBER 8<sup>TH</sup>, 2020*



106 Dorset Road, Baie d'Urfe

Governing Board

MINUTES

Tuesday, December 8th, 2020 – 5:30 PM

**Attendance:** France Bourassa, Claudia Perez, Rhiannon Sparkes, Sylviane Martinis, Suzanne Black, Tracey McKee, Emma McGillivray, Bill Petersen, Betty Cindric, Lisa Gonsavles, Natalie Maurice, Julie Hanck, Mike Besner, Cristina Baranello, Danielle Nethercott

**Regrets:** Mo Namazi

1. **Approval of Agenda** – Motioned by Claudia Perez. Seconded by Danielle Nethercott. All in favor.
2. **Approval of Minutes of October 15th, 2020 meeting** – Motioned by Emma McGillivray. Seconded by Sylviane Martinis. All in favor.
3. **Public Question Period** – No public present.

**4. Reports:**

**4.1 Principal**

HEPA FILTER UPDATE / INSTALLATION

Dorset elementary had 18 HEPA FILTER units installed on Monday, November 23<sup>rd</sup> and Tuesday, November 24<sup>th</sup> since it is a naturally ventilated building. The school board has completed the installation of HEPA air purifiers in all classrooms and common rooms. The staff were very accommodating, and the installers were quick and efficient. Although the school has HEPA air purifiers, these are considered the last line of defense in risk mitigation strategies for COVID. We encourage all to remain vigilant in the fight against COVID including keeping windows slightly open during the winter to continue with air exchange and circulation in classrooms. CTV news came to film a HEPA air purifier installed at Dorset. A camera person- reporter was at the school on Wednesday, November 25<sup>th</sup> at 11:15 to film the HEPA air purifier in the library.

<https://montreal.ctvnews.ca/video?clipId=2084589&jwsourc=cl>

<https://montreal.ctvnews.ca/air-quality-in-quebec-schools-secret-tests-show-ventilation-issues-that-favour-covid-19-spread-1.5203862>

The Lester B. Pearson School Board passed a resolution on November 9<sup>th</sup> approving the purchase of 420 HEPA air purifiers for schools which are naturally ventilated. Schools which are naturally ventilated rely on windows and doors being open to circulate and exchange air in classrooms. The school board has been researching risk mitigation methods for the spread of COVID-19 since the early summer. Quebec Public Health, the Centre for Disease Control, the Harvard T.H. Chan of Public Health and other studies recommend the following for preventing the spread of COVID-19.

### REMEMBRANCE DAY

Remembrance Day was recognized at Dorset. A huge **THANK YOU** was extended for all the generosity and support to the Dorset Families who donated \$640.00 for our annual poppy drive!!! As well, we had a wonderful celebration that began with video of the Peace Pal Recognition Ceremony. This also included a reading of Flanders Fields. The students and staff observed a moment of silence. We had a traditional bag piper who walked around the exterior of the school for all to see (and hear). The students and staff were also encouraged to wear red.

### PROMOTIONAL VIDEO

On Tuesday, November 17<sup>th</sup> – we filmed the Dorset Promotional Video for Kindergarten OPEN HOUSE 2021! The crew managed to capture many moments of student life (not to mention interviewing staff and a parent)

### PARENT – TEACHER INTERVIEWS

Parent - teacher interviews took place on November 19th and November 20th via ZOOM. The families also had the opportunity to sign up with the Phys. Ed, Music, Art and Drama specialists. The integration aides updated their first aid training on the Friday, November 20<sup>th</sup>.

### SUPER RECYCLERS

“Have you been wondering what to do with all those clothes and linens you had put away after your spring and fall cleaning? Thanks to Covid, donating items became complicated. Here is an easy way to donate all those items and maybe even find some more. Your donations will go to a good place and you will be helping to fundraise for outdoor equipment that students can enjoy.” The Super Recyclers came to Dorset on November 30<sup>th</sup> and December 1<sup>st</sup>.

### FRANCISATION

Dorset welcomed Rose – who will be working primarily with our K, 1 and 2 students for Francisation. She will be with us until the end of January.

### HOLIDAY NEWS

Dorset students and staff will participate in many festive events leading up to the Holidays:

Monday – December 7<sup>th</sup> – Plaid Shirt Day

Tuesday – December 8<sup>th</sup> – Holiday Colors Day / School Spirit wear Day

Wednesday, December 9<sup>th</sup> – Holiday Sock Day

Thursday, December 10<sup>th</sup> - Holiday Ugly Sweater Day

Friday, December 11<sup>th</sup> - Holiday Recipe Exchange Day (students can bring a favorite Holiday recipe to exchange with a friend)

Monday, December 14<sup>th</sup> – Holiday Hat Day

Tuesday, December 15<sup>th</sup> – Bring your favorite Holiday / Bedtime Story to school day

Wednesday, December 16<sup>th</sup> – PJ Day and bring your own breakfast to school

For the past few years, the Dorset School Community has very generously helped provide many families in need with Holiday Baskets and vouchers; during this particularly difficult time, we are once again asking for your support.

**MONETARY DONATIONS**, in the form of **CASH ONLY PLEASE**, would be gratefully accepted and used to purchase perishables. Please label the envelope HOLIDAY COLLECTION.

**GIFT CARDS**: gas, groceries, pharmacy, etc, would be appreciated as well.

Below is a list of non-perishable items divided by grade level.

The collection will begin on **WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 25<sup>TH</sup>** and end **WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 9<sup>TH</sup>**.

**KINDERGARTEN**: - CRACKERS, HEARTY SOUPS, BOXED STUFFING, GRAVY

**GRADE 1**: - HOLIDAY COOKIES, CANDIES, PUDDINGS, JELLO, APPLESAUCE

**GRADES 2**: - PASTA, PASTA SAUCES, KRAFT DINNER, RICE

**GRADES 3**: - CANNED VEGETABLES, CANNED FRUIT, CANNED CRANBERRIES, BEANS

**GRADE 4**: - TOILET PAPER, KLEENEX, TOOTHPASTE, TOOTHBRUSHES, SOAP, SHAMPOO

**GRADE 5**: - TUNA, FRUIT AND VEGETABLE JUICES, FLOUR, SUGAR, OIL

**GRADE 6**: CEREAL, PANCAKE MIX, JAM, HONEY, SYRUP, OATMEAL

### SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIR

We will be hosting an online Scholastic Book Fair at Dorset. The fair will run from Monday, December 7<sup>th</sup> to Sunday, December 13<sup>th</sup>. A huge thank you to Valerie Desmarais (who is no longer at Dorset) who will be running this event ☺

### **4.2 Staff**

Staff report included with the principal report.

Mme. Bourassa thanked Natalie, Claudia and Lisa for their guidance and safety.

### **4.3 Parent Rep**

No report.

### **4.4 Home and School**

No report.

### **4.5 Daycare**

Since our last meeting, we have had 3 Ped Days.

-On October 30<sup>th</sup> students enjoyed coming to daycare dressed in their Halloween costumes and decorating their own pumpkins.

-On November 20<sup>th</sup>, our theme was "Construction Zone". The students had fun building with a wide variety of materials.

-The theme for November 27<sup>th</sup> was "The Artist in Me". Everyone had fun creating their own masterpieces.

As you may have heard, the government has announced the addition of 3 Ped Days. 2 have already been chosen by the school board and one Ped Day is to be chosen locally by each individual school. Since January 25<sup>th</sup> is one of the days chosen by the school board, we have decided to move our Ped day originally scheduled for January 27<sup>th</sup>. The second day chosen by the school board is Feb. 8<sup>th</sup>. The Ped Day originally scheduled for February 15<sup>th</sup> will now be used as a day for professional development. The school and daycare will be closed.

The daycare will be closed as of December 16<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. Emergency daycare services will be provided to parents of essential workers on December 17<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup>. Dorset has not been chosen as an emergency daycare.

### **Business Arising**

The government has said that the 3 additional Ped Days are to be offered to registered daycare users only, for free. We are still awaiting further directives as to whether we are permitted to charge an activity fee. The "free" is only for the \$10.00 supervision fee.

- Monday, January 25<sup>th</sup> our theme will be "Mindfulness"

Motioned by Betty Cindric. Seconded by France Bourassa. All in favor.

- Monday, February 8<sup>th</sup> our theme will be "Be my Valentine"

Motioned by Claudia Perez. Seconded by Rhiannon Sparkes. All in favor.

- Friday, March 19<sup>th</sup> our theme will be “Pajama Day”

Motioned by Rhiannon Sparkes. Seconded by Claudia Perez. All in favor.

If we are permitted to charge an activity fee, we would like to charge \$5.00 for each of these days to help with purchasing supplies for our activities. (Governing Board approval needed)

The school board has recognized the challenges that daycare educators are facing in trying to provide quality daycare services to students for 11 hours on Ped Days while maintaining multiple bubbles. As a result, they have announced that starting in 2021 until the pandemic is over, we will only have to provide 8 hours of service. This will help with our staffing shortages that we are experiencing across our schools as well. We currently open at 7:00 a.m. and close at 6:00 p.m. for all Ped Days. We have been given 3 choices.

1. 7:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
2. 7:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.
3. 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

We currently have approximately 5 students who arrive between 7:00 – 8:00 a.m. and another 4 students who are picked up before 4:00 p.m.

As a result, I am proposing that in order to best meet the needs of our community, we select option 3. (Governing board approval needed).

Motioned by Betty Cindric. Seconded by Cristina Baranello. All in favor.

## **4.6 Commissioner**

### **November Report**

The DG gave a COVID update of the current realities for the school board. The school board has also been planning for potential eventualities such as an outbreak in a school (as defined by Health Services) or as mandated by the government. The DG reiterated at the meeting how the minister has exceptionally moved to a two report card year. The government has granted three additional pedagogical days for the 2020-2021 school year (youth sector only – no explanation from the government was offered why continuing education and vocational was omitted), and so the calendar must be updated. The school board has launched a consultation for the best use and timing of the pedagogical days. The responses to the consultation are due by December 3<sup>rd</sup>. It would be possible to move a later local ped day to before the December 7<sup>th</sup> council meeting, if that is desired. Two of the pedagogical days will be scheduled by the school board, giving schools the opportunity to schedule a pedagogical day that works best for them.

All staff across the school board were commended for their efforts in these times. School life remains alive and well, even if current modalities have necessitated that everyone be flexible at keeping students engaged.

Lester B Pearson school board recently posted the highest success rate in the province, a five year cohort percentage of 85.1% success rate for the last numbers available, 2019 (the number in Quebec is approximately 70.5%).

The school board will have a new Director of Human Resources, Alana Quinn-Leroux, effective January 4<sup>th</sup>, 2021. Darren Becker has been named as Director of Communications.

Dr Lashley is chairperson of the Task Force on Equity and Inclusivity. They are interested in evidence based testimonials from the public from within the LBPSB, both good and bad. Testimonials can be sent to [taskforce.equity@lbpearson.qc.ca](mailto:taskforce.equity@lbpearson.qc.ca) . You can access the webpage giving information about meeting dates and past meetings here <https://boardsite.lbpsb.qc.ca/council-of-commissioners/task-force-on-equity-and-inclusivity> .

The November 25<sup>th</sup> SNAC meeting will be replaced by a special Zoom presentation on Sexuality and Autism Spectrum Disorder given by Dr. Isabelle Henault. Up to 500 parents will be able to access this presentation. Go to <http://snac.lbpsb.qc.ca/> for more information, including how to attend.

Council approved the installation of new high efficiency particulate air (HEPA) filters for naturally ventilated buildings, which is the ventilation system used at Dorset. In total there are 16 schools which will have the new air purifiers installed. It is expected that installation will be completed by mid-December. The new air purifiers will purify the air five times per hour. The ratings on the filters and purifiers is rated as MERV 13 (for those who are inclined in this kind of detail).

For the remainder of the 2020-2021 school year, the meeting dates for the Council shall be: November 9, December 7 (Exception), Monday, January 25, Monday, February 22, Monday March 22 (Exception), Monday, April 26 Monday, Monday, May 31, and Monday, June 28.

There were several consultations that were launched at the November meeting, some of which will limit the time for governing boards to submit a response. Council is very aware of the short turnaround time, some of which was precipitated due to the absence of council meetings held since the beginning of the current school year.

## **December Report**

Council was joined by Dr Lashley to give an update on the work of the task force on Equity and Inclusivity. Dr Lashley's efforts to obtain testimonials from students and staff for the task force used many forms of social media and singled out student commissioner Finn Poirier in his efforts to get younger students a forum to reply using Instagram when some of the other forums were inaccessible to certain age groups. The collection of letters will continue until the end of the first week of February (as opposed to January 31<sup>st</sup> as indicated on the original timeline). Information about the task force, including a timeline, can be accessed at <https://boardsite.lbpsb.qc.ca/council-of-commissioners/task-force-on-equity-and-inclusivity>.

The chair congratulated the staff and management of the school board for their incredible work around everything that has happened around the pandemic. Thanks to all the staff for the risks they take, going to work every day, under difficult circumstances. Special mention to the people in the school board that made it possible to upgrade the ventilation and filtration of the air in our schools. The chair also discussed the deficit, some details are outlined below.

The Director General's gave an update on the COVID situation. Any outbreaks that have occurred lately at any LBP schools have been contained. Carbon dioxide testing in some schools is in progress. In person learning for the youth section will end December 16<sup>th</sup>, with distance learning for the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>. Elementary schools will resume January 4<sup>th</sup>, and the high schools will resume January 4<sup>th</sup> for distance learning, and a return in school under the current conditions on January 11<sup>th</sup>. Ministry exams any changes will be announced to the community. Daycare services in elementary schools will be offered for students of parents who are deemed essential service on the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> of December. Dr Finn thanked everyone who made it possible to upgrade ventilation equipment with a very short timeline. Congrats to all who are making the student experience as "normal" as possible, and thanks to the students for their resilience through this time. Wellness will continue to be an important, recognized, theme for 2021. The Director General announced the hiring of a new Assistant to Human Resources, Ann-Marie Lavoie.

The financial statements for the school board were released, and it shows that the school board is in a deficit situation of just under \$8M, on a budget of roughly \$302M. It was pointed out to the government that a majority of the LBP deficit is due to the way that vocational education is funded (3-year running average, as opposed to the usual September 30<sup>th</sup> attendance confirmation) and the extra services given for daycare at the height of the pandemic shutdown, as well as PPE required for staff, and the extra sanitation required for all schools (\$398 743 has already been sent to the school board for this). The government has sent some funds to the school board, and negotiations continue between the assistant director general and the government. It is yet to be determined if the government will be reimbursing all the costs associated with extra measures that have been required due to pandemic related additional costs. The school board will be releasing a full press release.

The school board has received funding for \$252 091 for school yard embellishments. This is above and beyond the amounts that schools have managed to fundraise. These funds will likely be used for projects that are already well in progress, not projects that will be initiated in the weeks or months to come.

## **5. Business Arising:**

### **5.1 Field trips:**

### **5.2 Fundraising:**

### **5.3 Alphabetik Workbook for Grade 3 (\$17.44)**

Motioned by Emma McGillivray. Seconded by France Bourassa. All in favor.

## **6. New Business:**

### **6.1 Dorset Elementary November Revised Budget 2020-21 Resolution**

Motioned by Emma McGillivray. Seconded by France Bourassa. All in favor.

### **6.2 Amendments to PED Days**

Monday, January 25<sup>th</sup> (newly added PED DAY)

January 27<sup>th</sup> (NO PED DAY)

Monday, February 8<sup>th</sup> (newly added PED DAY)

Monday, February 15<sup>th</sup> (already a PED DAY – but NO DAYCARE services now)

Friday, March 19<sup>th</sup> (newly added Dorset PED DAY)

Wednesday, April 28<sup>th</sup> (newly added Dorset PED DAY)

Motioned by Cristina Baranello. Seconded by Betty Cindric. All in favor.

## **7. Correspondence**

**8. Date and Times of Meetings:** The next Governing Board meeting will take place on February 18th on at 5:30 pm.

**9. Adjournment:** Meeting adjourned at 5:57. Motioned by Emma McGillivray. Seconded by Lisa Gonsalves. All in favor.

A discussion was had about equity and inclusivity. Mme. Bourassa will be forming a committee in the New Year. Tracy McKee expressed interest in joining.