



Governing Board Minutes
106 Dorset Road, Baie d'Urfé
Thursday, November 7, 2024 – 5:00 PM

Attendance: Lauren Broad (Chair), Lisa Gonsalves, Debbie Shizgal, Wendy Knechtel, Holly Lawson (joint secretary), Harmoni Herbert (joint secretary), Zoë Valadez, Jessica Leclair, Amanda Rae, Harriet Mitrikas, Suzanne Black, Claudia Perez, Gabrielle Canstonguay.

Absent with Regrets: Sara Abbott, Phil Anderson, Cindy McCartney.

Welcome & Territorial Acknowledgement. Lauren Broad welcomed everyone and began the meeting after reading the Territorial Acknowledgement at 5:15 p.m. Debbie Shizgal will send the new version of the territorial acknowledgement to Lauren Broad for the next meeting.

1. **Approval of the Agenda:** Motioned by Lisa Gonsalves, seconded by Gabrielle Castonguay. All in favour.
2. **Approval of the Minutes from the Meeting held September 26, 2024:** Motioned by Holly Lawson, seconded by Zoë Valadez. All in favour.
3. **Public Question Period:** No public.
4. **Business Arising from the Minutes of the Meeting held September 26, 2024:** After discussion with the staff council, Harriet Mitrikas informed us that a nurse will be speaking to the cycle 3 students about eating disorders and mental health. They are looking for a nurse to address the topic.
5. **Reports**
 - 5.1 **Principal:** See attached report.
 - 5.2 **Staff:** October was a busy month. Cycle 3 hosted haunted houses for all the students for Halloween and they enjoyed it very much. Claudia Perez's son, Olympic medalist in diving, visited the school and it was very popular with the students. The Music program has received almost all the new instruments, the trombones are still on backorder.
 - 5.3 **Parents' Committee:** No meeting yet. The first meeting is scheduled for November 21, 2024.
 - 5.4 **Home & School:** See attached report. There were 500 entrance bracelets sold for the Halloween trunk or treat event. For the school fridge, H&S was able to contribute \$750 and asked the local Maxi to donate a \$250 gift certificate, for a total contribution of



\$1,000. It was asked if we receive government subsidies for this purpose, however Debbie Shizgal confirmed that Dorset does not qualify for these subsidies.

5.5 SEED/Daycare: See attached report. SEED started the year short staffed by 7, but now they are fully staffed.

5.6 Commissioner: No report submitted. Maureen Baron was elected for District 9. She will be invited to all future meetings and added to the email group going forward.

5.7 Special Needs Advisory Committee: See attached report. SNAC is hosting the LBPSB Individualized Education Plan Information Free Webinar on November 20th for parents of students on an IEP: registration is required as space is limited.

6. **New Business**

6.1 Adopt Governing Board Operating Budget: Tabled for the next meeting as it had not yet been received by Debbie Shizgal.

6.2 Comfort Pet: Debbie Shizgal's mother has a dog that has been brought to schools in the past. It is very good with children, it does not bark and tolerates many people petting and touching it at the same time. Debbie Shizgal would like to propose bringing in the dog to Dorset for the benefit of students. Staff will decide how best to introduce the dog to the classrooms. Studies show that pets can lower suspensions and can help students to overcome shyness around reading when "reading to the pet". Motioned by Claudia Perez, seconded by Zoë Valadez. All in favour.

6.3 Field Trips

6.3.1 Grade 6 would like to go to BHS for the play "Oh look a kitten" on November 21, 2024 from 9:30am-12pm. Transportation by school bus, cost \$10/student. Motioned by Holly Lawson, seconded by Harriet Mitrikas. All in favour.

6.3.2 Wendy Knechtel would like to bring grades K-3 to the "Nutcracker" at the Salle Pierre Pelladeau on December 6, 2024. She is still waiting for an answer from the government if an amount will be subsidized. If there is no grant, the cost would be \$40/student, with a grant it would be \$20/student. Transportation by bus from 12-2:30pm. Motioned by Zoë Valadez, seconded by Claudia Perez. All in favour.

6.4 Fundraisers: See attached.

H&S would like to change the Holiday event from December 6th to December 13th, 2024. The event will take place from 5-7:30pm, with time before hand to set



up in the gym. Two parents have offered to sell samosas with profits going to the grad committee. They would also like to add pictures with Santa to the event. Motioned by Claudia Perez, seconded by Lisa Gonsalves. All in favour.

Online raffle through Rally Up, similar to last year. Set to begin November 15, 2024 for 1 month. Motioned by Holly Lawson, seconded by Zoë Valadez. All in favour.

H&S would like to have 3 tables at the upcoming craft fair. A grade 5 student will sell the 3D printed keychains he has created; grade 6 parents will sell samosas and H&S will sell raffle tickets. Motioned by Holly Lawson, seconded by Zoë Valadez. All in favour.

6.5 Library hours: Gabrielle Castonguay would like to know what can be done to increase the students' access to the library. Presently, the librarian is only at the school for half a day per week. It was agreed that we need to push the school board to approve more hours for a librarian. Gabrielle Castonguay will draft a letter that we can send to the appropriate people. The letter will be shared with the Governing Board for approval at the next meeting.

7. Correspondence

See attached correspondence about personal information.

See attached correspondence about the new school board website.

See attached correspondence inviting all Governing Board members for training.

Lauren Broad was sent a letter from a parent concerning private companies entering the school and hosting activities that can exclude certain kids because of the price. Lisa Gonsalves and the rest of the staff pointed out that those are the only 2 lunch time activities that require payment and that there are many more free clubs that the teachers volunteer to run during the same time. It was noted that Enfants et compagnies is one of the lowest-priced companies found in the area. Since space is limited for these activities and they are offered on a first come, first served basis, many students cannot participate, not just students who cannot afford to. It was also noted that the K to Grade 2 grades do not have as many of these extra-curricular clubs since developmentally, it is better for them to run and socialize during lunch and recess. Lauren Broad agreed to provide these details in a response to the concerned parent and a list will be prepared by staff to note all the free activities offered for reference.

8. Varia. None.



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9. **Next Meeting:** Although the next meeting was scheduled for December 12, 2024 5pm at Dorset Elementary, the members of Governing Board agreed that it would be better to move it until January 16, 2025, considering the busy weeks ahead and that there were no anticipated urgent matters to be discussed or approved. Lauren Broad agreed to confirm by email with all members.
 10. **Adjournment:** Motioned by Lisa Gonsalves, seconded by Claudia Perez. All in favour.