

PAG (Parents' Advisory Group)

École Robert H. Smith School

Meeting Minutes

Date: May 18, 2021, 7:00 PM

Location: Virtual Zoom Call

PAG Executive Committee Present

Melanie Dorrington - Chair
Whitney Smith - Treasurer
Ainsley Price – Secretary

Randi Keefe (Fun Lunch Chair)
Kristy LeBaron (Staff Appreciation)
Saul Hillel Benjamin (South District Advisory)
Cynthia Mitchell (French Advisory)
Rebecca Kirk (Family Picnic)

School Administration

Principal - Andrea Powell
Vice-Principal - Warren Nickerson

PAG Board of Directors Present

Tanis Knowles Yarnell (Environment Chair)
Jennifer Upton (Environment)
Gail Johnston (Environment & Grade 6 Farewell Chair)
Julie Garcia (Environment)
Debbie Armstrong (Fundraising)
Sara Epp (Communications)

Other Valued People Present

Sarah Snider
Jennifer Dueck
Kim Antonio
Veangeline Lachance
Sara Lauman
Aimee Goyer
Mê-Linh Lê
Owen Preston
Katie Findlate

Minutes

Agenda / Speaker	Discussion	Notes / Responsible for Action/ Timeline
Welcome <i>Melanie Dorrington</i>	Introduction to the meeting & Review of meeting Cadence	
Voting Items <i>Melanie Dorrington</i>	<p>1. March PAG meeting Minutes</p> <p><i>Anonymous Zoom voting function utilized for PAG position appointments</i></p> <p>2. PAG Position Nominations Staff Appreciation – Velangeline Lachance nominated and accepted <i>(Review of experience)</i></p>	<p>Motion to approve March 16 Meeting Minutes Motion – Melanie Dorrington Seconded – Whitney Smith No Objections</p> <p>Motion – Melanie Dorrington Unanimous Approval – 22 Yes</p>

	<p>Volunteer Coordinator – Kim Antonio nominated and accepted <i>(Review of experience)</i></p> <p>Grade 6 Farewell – Julie Garcia nominated and accepted <i>(Review of experience)</i></p> <p>Family Dance Committee – Sarah Lauman nominated and accepted <i>(Review of experience)</i></p> <p>Vice-Chair Saul Hillel Benjamin – nominated <i>(Review of experience)</i> Sarah Snider – nominated and accepted <i>(Review of experience)</i></p> <p>An objection was noted to record a concern surrounding ██████’s ability to execute key technical responsibilities regarding Google Suite within the Chair role. ██████ had the opportunity to respond and countered that they were confident they were in a position to meet the technical requirements of the position.</p> <p>Babysitting Course – Andrea Saj Appointed (non-voting position)</p> <p>- Update provided on status of Secretary position</p>	<p>Motion – Melanie Dorrington Unanimous Approval – 22 Yes</p> <p>Motion – Melanie Dorrington Unanimous Approval – 22 Yes</p> <p>Motion – Melanie Dorrington Unanimous Approval – 22 Yes</p> <p>Motion – Melanie Dorrington Saul Hillel Benjamin – 6 Yes Sarah Snider – 17 Yes</p>
<p>Chair Report <i>Melanie Dorrington</i></p>	<p>Review of key events and accomplishments during the 2020-2021 school year. A few highlights include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Encourage continuation of SDA / FLA meetings - Pay it forward Fun Lunch funds donated to Ma Mawi Chi Itata - New Initiative – Thank a Teacher Thursday (4 events) - New Initiative – Pay-It-Forward Thank a Teacher Thursday (4 events) - 4 successful PAG fundraising events held - 1st virtual Family Dance held - Staff Appreciation initiatives executed throughout the year - Environment Committee completed new landscaping in the school field, conducted a parent survey and will continue with further initiatives - PAG Executive full review of PAG Constitution & By-Laws, aiming for final review / voting on 	<p><i>Report Provided</i></p>

	<p>changes in fall</p> <p>Babysitting course proceeded virtually</p>	
<p>Staff Appreciation <i>Kristy LeBaron</i></p>	<p>Review of Staff Appreciation events for 2020-2021 School Year:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - National Custodian Appreciation Day – Oct 2, 2020 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Boxed Chocolate Gift - Staff Appreciation Lunch – Feb 11, 2021 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Lunch catered by Greek Market - Administrative Professionals Week – April 19, 2021 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Decorative Gifts - Support Staff Recognition Week – May 10, 2021 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Potted Gerbera Daisy <p>Thanks and Appreciation provided to Kristy for her 3 years of service</p>	<p><i>Report Provided</i></p>
<p>Treasurer’s Report <i>Whitney Smith</i></p>	<p>Review of 2020 / 2021 Financial Statements year to Date</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Balance Sheet <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Review of savings o GST rebate - Income Statement <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Review of specific statement items - Review Budget Sheet 	<p><i>Documents Provided</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Income Statement</i> - <i>Balance Sheet</i> - <i>Budget Template</i>
<p>Principal’s Report <i>M. Nickerson</i></p>	<p>Review of Principal’s Report Review of Key final School Dates Updates/Initiatives</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Remote Learning Status <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o 75 kids at school - ESD Project update - Musical Performances for virtual sharing - Review of Enrolment, classroom composition & staffing process - School Fundraiser – Student Wellness Month - Grade 6 Farewell Planning <p>Review of Separate Presentation: Discussion Multi-age classrooms</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Discussion around intentional grouping of multi-age classrooms (French & English) as early as fall 2021 	<p><i>Report Provided</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Principal’s Report</i> - <i>Presentation Re: Review of Multiage Classrooms</i>
<p>Environment <i>Tanis Knowles Yarnell</i></p>	<p>Review of Environment Committee Report General Update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Continue to work with school on environmental topics - Wood chip paths installed in community veggie garden - Outdoor classroom garden boxes prepared for sprint planting / Repair of edging - General spring clean-up of perennial beds - Challenging getting volunteers <p>Update on Future Projects</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Reviewing additional amenities to the playground <p>Funding Request for Spring 2021 Projects</p>	<p><i>4 Documents Provided</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Committee Report</i> - <i>Painted Games – Idea Overview</i> - <i>Painted Games – Basic Quote</i> - <i>Painted Games – Full Hardtop Quote</i>

	<p>1. Garden Projects – Budget Requested \$470</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Garden Soil / Native Perennials for Butterfly way <p>Vote to approve \$470 Budget for Garden Project Updates</p> <p>2. Playground Enhancement – Painted Games on Track</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sidewalk Mural Art (Painted games) will fade over time therefore temporary but deemed worthwhile due to restrictions during recess - Discussion regarding various options, benefits & budget levels <p>Vote to approve \$5,000 Budget for Painted Games</p>	<p>Motion – Melanie Dorrington 18 Yes / 1 Abstain – Vote Approved</p> <p>Motion – Melanie Dorrington 18 Yes / 1 No – Vote Approved</p>
<p>Fundraising <i>Debbie Armstrong</i></p>	<p>Review of fundraising initiatives completed for the 2020/2021 school year</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mabel’s Labels (on-going) – Will promote in June - Wine Raffle (December) – Very Successful nearly \$5,000 raised - Sunset Gourmet (40% of Sales) – just over \$1,000 raised - Genlea Greenhouse Bedding Plants – Extremely Successful with nearly \$3,500 raised, 126 orders <p>2021/2022 Beginning of year fundraisers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Fall Mums - Peak of the Market <p>Noted it was a very successful year, especially given challenge of circumstances due to Covid-19 limitations</p>	<p><i>Report Provided</i></p>
<p>South District Advisory <i>Saul Hillel Benjamin M. Nickerson</i></p>	<p>Review of Report from SDA Committee Meeting held April 29th, 2021</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Key focus of meeting “Bill 64 – Education Modernization Act” - July 2022 target implementation date - Key Priorities Highlighted <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Design / rewiring overall education system through “New Governance Model” of 15 Regions & DSFM o Increase Parental Engagement by elimination of PAG / PAC & replace with School Community Councils o Consolidation of procurement, IT, workforce planning (claim \$40m savings) <p>Areas of question</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Replacement of funding from elimination of property tax revenues? - What is the real priority behind Bill 64? - How will consolidation of divisions impact classroom quality? - Will any programming be eliminated? 	<p><i>Report Provided</i></p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - How will Bill 64 affect teacher training, recruitment & retention? - What will role of SCC be? - How will French Language operation be impacted? - How will Educational Directors be selected? 	
<p>French Language Advisory <i>Cynthia Mitchell</i></p>	<p>Review of Report from French Language Committee Meeting held May 4th, 2021</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Bill 64 – Education Modernization Act <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Link to Response shared o Division and Trustees recommend writing letters to MLAs, registering at Better Education Starts today, and using social media to share positions related to Bill 64 o Review of concerns of how Bill 64 impacts French Language Learning Programs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Funding a concern - French Immersion Program <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Slight decrease in student population in grade 4, second dip in Grade 8 o Overall most students retained o Recruitment of teaching staff continues o Language assessment tool to be re-evaluated o Build from within program determined to be too costly o Possible database of French Immersion graduates to maintain connections for future employment o Possible retention incentives for teaching staff - Next steps for Greenway School (possible renaming) reviewed 	<p><i>Report Provided</i></p> <p><i>Link to Trustees’ response to Bill 64:</i> https://sbwsdstor.blob.core.windows.net/media/Default/medialib/wsd-bot-response-to-bill-64.c1cdad14659.pdf</p>
<p>Grade 6 Farewell <i>Gail Johnston</i></p>	<p>Review of Status of Grade 6 Farewell planning</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 61 kids graduating / Date June 24th - Planning for several scenarios (Plan A, B & C) with consideration to Covid-19 safety and health protocols - Photos of students were taken on May 29/30 outside - Communication to be drafted for parents by end of May - Review of Budget requirements <p>Vote to approve up to an additional \$1,000 Budget for Grade 6 Farwell event</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - School responsible for formal ceremony No Fundraising initiatives will occur 	<p><i>Report Provided</i></p> <p>Motion – Melanie Dorrington 15 Yes / 4 No – Vote Approved</p>
<p>Bill 64 <i>Open Discussion</i></p>	<p>Open discussion regarding “Bill 64 – Education Modernization Act”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Significant Changes to PAG structure / impact <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Concerns about dependency 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- PAG Chair noted Bill 64 will remain as agenda time at PAG meetings going forward- Discussion around informing & educating parents<ul style="list-style-type: none">o PAG committed to providing information for parents via the PAG websiteo Parent volunteer to help assemble information- Concerns expressed by school administration- Information should be obtained at SDA / FL committee meetings during the 2021 / 2022 school year	
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Meeting Adjourned at 9:36 pm