



Dunrae Gardens Elementary School Governing Board

235 DUNRAE AVENUE, MOUNT ROYAL, QUÉBEC, H3P 1T5 TEL: (514) 735-1916 FAX: (514) 735-7051

Dunrae Gardens (DG) Governing Board (GB) **Minutes for January 31st, 2023**

Attendance:

Bertin Bateng Tcheunkwa
Noémie Battista
Alison Beck
Vanessa Contenta
Robert David
Iris Del Degan
Despina Kouremenos
Tina Lanni
Mélessane Mathieu
Despina Michakis (Principal)
Marie Anne Polonia (Chair)
Karolina Weclas

Regrets:

Emmanuel Konoglou
Erato Papageorgiou

1. Welcome

The meeting was called to order at 6:39 pm.

2. Adoption of the Agenda

Motion to adopt the agenda. (Iris Del Degan, Karolina Weclas)
Motion passes unanimously

3. Governing Board Operations

3.1. GB Approval of November 29th, 2022 Minutes

Motion to approve the minutes of the GB meeting of November 29th, 2022 (Karolina Weclas, Tina Lanni)
Motion passes unanimously, Iris Del Degan abstains

3.2. Consultation Selection Criteria for the Appointment of a Principal

Principal Michakis was not present for the discussion with respect to this point.
Marie Anne Polonia proposed to the GB selection criteria similar to the ones adopted by the GB last year. She further read to the GB a draft letter from the GB to the EMSB strongly recommending the re-appointment of Despina Michakis as Principal.



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Motion to approve the consultation section criteria for the appointment of a Principal (Noemie Battista, Robert David)

Motion passes unanimously

4. Principal's Report (presented by Despina Michakis)

- One of the Kindergarten teachers is currently unfortunately on leave but, fortunately, excellent substitutes had been found.
- A Physical Education teacher who was at DG part-time is currently pregnant and a new graduate has been recruited.
- Enrichment activities are running well. All kids participating in the Caribou math competition are doing well. In particular, one Grade 1 student ranked first in his category. The debate program will be starting shortly, with DG potentially hosting a tournament later in the school year.
- Soon after the return from Winter Break, students enthusiastically participated in a cultural activity with Gumboots. A *Conseillère pédagogique* with the EMSB came and took pictures.
- The theme day 'Twins Day' took place and many students dressed up.
- For Physical Education, an external company organized some outdoor activities and, also, McGill is running leadership activities.
- A nurse is leading discussions regarding puberty and other relevant topics with cycle 3 students.
- Registration for the 2023-2024 academic year has begun, first for existing students, then for siblings, and it is now proceeding for new students.
- February is Literacy Month. Every day, students will tally their pages read and then the school will figure out the cumulative number of pages read by all the students during the month. There will be a theme day on February 3 for which students will be allowed to dress up as a book character. There will also be an assembly on February 22.
- February is also Black History Month. Teachers will be providing students with relevant resources. There may also be speakers.
- There will be a Pedagogical Day on February 10.
- Graduation pictures will take place on February 22.
- Report cards will be distributed right before the March Break. Parent-Teacher Interviews will be happening by invitation.

5. Business Arising

5.1. Budget Building Process 2023-2024 Submission

Last year's work was presented by Principal Michakis to the GB for information. She will also meet with the staff to get their comments. A proposed submission will then be brought back to the GB for comments. There will be an e-vote before the next meeting.

6. E-Vote Report

6.1. Motion to approve the application for a \$100,000 grant offered by the government

Motion to approve the application for a \$100,000 grant offered by the government (Alison Beck, Robert David)



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Motion passes by majority, with one abstention

6.2. Motion to approve description of work to be done with \$100,000 grant

Motion to approve that the following work paid using the \$100,000 grant offered by the government [discussed at point 6.1 hereof]:

- ***Cobblestone (pavé) for both the main and secondary walkways (1 130 square feet); PRICE: 31 640\$ plus tax***
- ***New grass (6 665 square feet); PRICE: 19 995\$ plus tax***
- ***Repair of the playground area asphalt and existing cement border; PRICE: 26 280 \$ plus tax***
- ***New vegetable garden (2 275 square feet); PRICE: 20 850 \$ plus tax***

(Alison Beck, Robert David)

Motion passes by majority, with one abstention

6.3. Motion to ensure the admissibility of the \$100,000 grant application and motion to approve that a letter be annexed confirming that the school intends to pay 10% using the following sources: money from annual fund for beautification and money from the fund 3 budget surplus

Motion to ensure the admissibility of the \$100,000 grant application [discussed at point 6.1 hereof] and motion to approve that a letter be annexed confirming that the school intends to pay 10% [of the amounts required to complete the work discussed at point 6.2 hereof] using the following sources: money from annual fund for beautification and money from the fund 3 budget surplus (Iris Del Degan, Vanessa Contenta)

Motion passes by majority, with five abstentions

7. New Business

7.1. Fundraising Requests

N/A

7.2. Safe School Action Plan

Every year, a Safe School Action Plan (the “**Action Plan**”) needs to be submitted. The being said, due to Covid-19, it has been a while since DG’s Action Plan was updated.

The Action Plan deals with issues such as bullying, racism, prejudice, and how our community knows to whom to reach out.

A team of employees worked on the Action Plan using the ‘Our School’ survey and other resources, as well as employee feedback.



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They found the following areas of strength at DG:

- Strong student motivation
- Strong sense of belonging
- Sense of positive relationships
- Students report enjoying their friends
- Commitment of anti-bullying

However, they also found the following area of concern:

- While there is potentially an issue of the influence of social media and of varying definitions of terms, in the 'Our School' survey, 37% of students reported bullying.

It was noted that there are existing measures at DG including student incentive program, workshops, assemblies, anti-bullying activities, plays discussing positive choices, the Code of Conduct, strong collaborations between the school and students' families, etc. Response procedures are also put into place, including reporting forms, support to victims and perpetrators, and disciplinary measures.

Discussion occurred in the GB around the alignment between the Action Plan and the school's values, as well as particular measures that are undertaken to address concerns. It was suggested that certain wording in the Action Plan be tweaked to reflect that staff members may intervene during lunch and recess time, as appropriate.

Subject to tweaks discussed above, motion to approve the Safe School Action Plan (Tina Manni, Noemie Battista)
Motion passes unanimously

8. Reports

8.1. Fundraising Reports

N/A

8.2. Marketing Committee

Robert David presented a report on behalf of the Marketing Committee.

The Open House which occurred in December 2022 was successful, with approximately 50 people in attendance in the morning and approximately 30 people in attendance in the afternoon. Attendees provided very good feedback. Thanks was extended to all who volunteered, including students, parents and teachers. Of note, this was the first in-person Open House in three years.

Parents who missed the Open House are encouraged to contact Principal Michakis. If there is enough interest, another Open House could potentially be scheduled.



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As discussed during the previous GB meeting, an article was published in TMR Poste newspaper. It focused on STEAM elements of the school. Robert David requested ideas from the GB for future articles.

The potential to reach out to daycares in the area and distribute pamphlets was suggested to the Marketing Committee.

8.3. Central Parents Committee (CPC) Report

No report was made.

8.4. Dunrae Gardens Family Association (DGFA) Report

Karolina Weclas presented a report on behalf of the DGFA.

In December, the Pancake Breakfast went well. Also in December, the Book Flood was held during which books and chocolates were distributed to students.

8.5. PPO

Vanessa Contenta presented a report on behalf of the PPO.

She noted that the PPO now has access to the email and no concerns were raised.

9. Question Period

No questions were posed.

10. Varia

Marie Anne Polonia should be able to present an update with respect to DG's field at the next GB meeting.



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11. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned (Karolina Weclas, Tina Lanni) at 7:57 pm by unanimous consent.

Approved by the GB on March 28th, 2023



Alison Beck
Secretary



Marie Anne Polonia
Chair



Despina Michakis
Principal