



# Dunrae Gardens Elementary School Governing Board

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

## **Dunrae Gardens Governing Board (GB)** **Minutes for October 18, 2022**

### **Attendance:**

Bertin Bateng Tcheunkwa  
Noémie Battista  
Alison Beck  
Robert David  
Iris Del Degan  
Despina Kouremenos  
Tina Lanni  
Despina Michakis (Principal)  
Erato Papageorgiou  
Marie Anne Polonia (Chair as of point 4.1.2 below)  
Anna Tsoulhas (Chair from outset of meeting until the conclusion of point 4.1.1 below)  
Emmanuel Koinoglou  
Karolina Weclas  
Mélessane Mathieu

### **Regrets:**

Vanessa Contenta

### **1. Welcome**

The meeting was called to order by Anna Tsoulhas at 6:36 pm. She chaired the present meeting and took minutes until the election of a new Chair and Secretary (point 4 below).

### **2. Adoption of the Agenda**

The following changes were made to the agenda:

- Point 6 (E-Vote Report) moved to Point 3
- Date correction in Business Arising, so that it reads 'Cultural Outings 2022-2023'

***Motion to approve the agenda as modified pursuant to the above. (Tina Lanni, Iris Del Degan)***  
***Motion passes unanimously***

### **3. E-Vote Report**

#### **3.1. Dunrae Gardens Family Association (DGFA) Fundraising Mandate 2022-2023**

An e-vote of the GB was held between September 27, 2022 and September 29, 2022, with respect to the motion set forth below. The results were as follows:



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***Motion to approve of the DGFA Fundraising Mandate for 2022-2023 (Karolina Weclas, Vanessa Contenta)***

***Motion was passed pursuant to a majority vote (12 for, 0 against, 2 abstentions)***

### **4. Governing Board Operations**

#### **4.1. Election of GB Executive**

##### **4.1.1. Chair**

Karolina Weclas nominated Marie-Anne Polonia.

No other GB member nominated.

Marie-Anne Polonia accepted and named Chair, GB by acclamation.

##### **4.1.2. Secretary**

Alison Beck was the only GB member to volunteer.

Alison Beck named Secretary by acclamation.

##### **4.1.3. Treasurer**

Noémie Battista was nominated as Treasurer and accepted the nomination.

Noémie Battista named Treasurer by acclamation.

***Anna Tsoulhas left the meeting at 6:52 PM***

#### **4.2. Appointment of community representative.**

While it was acknowledged that there were potentially two spots available for community representatives, at the present time, the GB decided to only nominate one representative and to reserve the right to appoint another at a later date, should the GB wish to do so. It was suggested that Anna Tsoulhas be nominated.

#### **4.3. Appointment of the Committee Chairs**

The GB discussed the roles of the various committees.

Field beautification: tabled until a future meeting

Marketing: Robert David is nominated as Chair of the Marketing Committee, and Emmanuel Koinoglou agrees to sit as a member of the Marketing Committee.

***Motion to appoint Robert David as the Chair of the Marketing Committee (Tina Lanni, Emmanuel Koinoglou)***

***Motion passes unanimously***



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PPO representative: tabled until the next meeting

#### **4.4. Daycare Committee**

Pursuant to Tina Lanni's confirmation that a daycare committee is not needed, the GB unanimously decided not to constitute the Daycare Committee.

#### **4.5. GB internal rules of management**

Tabled to the next meeting so that such document may reflect decisions made in the present meeting.

#### **4.6. Day and frequency**

The GB unanimously agreed to tentatively schedule the meetings of the GB as follows: November 29, 2022; January 31, 2023; March 28, 2023; April 25, 2023; May 30, 2023; and June 13, 2023. All meetings will occur at 6:30 and may be in-person or held virtually, weather dependent.

### **5. Principal's Report (presented by Despina Michakis)**

- Late in the previous academic year, there was discussion as to if pre-k should be French immersion. The EMSB decided that pre-k would be provided as French immersion because kindergarten is French immersion, and there is a joint pre-k and kindergarten class.
- The Meet the Teacher Night occurred in person. It has yet to be determined if Parent-Teacher Interviews will be in person or virtual.
- Attestation Day showed a drop in enrollment. Where there were 340 students at the beginning of summer 2022, there were 320 students on Attestation Day.
- Picture day as well as retakes and sibling picture day have been completed.
- In order to equalize missed classes and given that, in the 2022-2023 academic year, there will be more Fridays missed than other days of the week, there will be a few instances where other days of the week will proceed by the Friday schedule.
- There will be a dental hygienist coming to check the teeth of Grade 4 students.
- Lunch ECAs for sports for the older students have begun. Eventually, there will be tournaments.
- Fire drills have been held.
- There have been discussions with the staff about lockdown drills. In addition, police have come to discuss them. Furthermore, lockdown drills have been held in classes.
- The Terry Fox walk took place, during which over \$5,000 was raised.
- There have been a number of assemblies held, including ones to discuss the values of the school and one for Orange Shirt Day.
- Lauren Hill came to present their school as well as to dance for Cycle 3 and Cycle 2.
- Registrations for ECA will be held this week.
- PELA has begun with three languages: Greek, Spanish and Italian. The courses are taught online by exceptional teachers.
- Activities at CEPSUM are being organized. Cycle 2 will go at the end of the month.



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- There will be Halloween activities.
- A Grade 6 election happened, with 11 exceptional candidates. As a result, there will be a student council this year.
- Covid remains an issue. If students test positive, they must stay home for five days. Currently, there is no Covid testing at school and, if a student falls ill at school, their parents will be called to bring them home, as is the case for any other illness.
- Based on new collective agreements, an allocation of the budget has been made which has allowed for the hiring of additional staff so that teachers may be released from some exterior supervision responsibilities. Currently, during lunch and recess there are two attendants circulating and six supervisors outside with the students. Pursuant to concerns expressed by the GB, it was agreed that consideration would be given with respect to having space for Cycle 1 students to kick balls.
- The enrichment program has begun, with Caribou Math for Grades 2 to 6.
- Jungle Sport will be rescheduled for February. The company has experienced staff shortage and was not able to offer their services on the scheduled date.

### 6. Business Arising

#### 6.1. Field Trips

Instead of coming to the Board on multiple occasions with each field trip suggestion, Principal Michakis requested blanket approval for field trips. The GB discussed if a cost limit should be set but it was explained that there is normally external funding for cultural programs and that the costs are often driven up by the cost of bussing and not of the activity itself. The GB discussed the possibility of reserving a bus from the STM for field trips.

***Blanket motion to approve field trips (Karolina Weclas, Emmanuel Koinoglou)***

***Motion passes unanimously***

#### 6.2. Education Project

The EMSB will be revising the educational project and presenting a new one in September 2023, based on the needs of all of the different schools in the school board.

Success in Mathematics and English Language Arts (ELA) is measured based on exams. There has been a significant drop on certain measures from 2019, when the last exams were administered, to 2022.

In addition, Students in Grades 4-6 answer survey questions to gauge their well-being and motivation in school. These results are used to implement programs. These surveys show that 91% of responding students feel as though they have positive relationships, as opposed to the Canadian average of 84%. With respect to anxiety, 33% of surveyed Dunrae Gardens students reported anxiety, compared to the national average of 22%.



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A new educational project will be built in the future, which will be approved by the GB.

***Motion to approve the annual report (Emmanuel Koinoglou, Robert David)***

***Motion passes unanimously***

### **6.3. PELO**

Motion to approve that Dunrae Gardens run a PELO program for the school year 2022-2023

Motion passes unanimously

### **6.4. 2022-2023 Sexuality Education Curriculum Plan**

Tabled to the next meeting.

### **6.5. Cultural outings 2022-2023**

This point was discussed under point 6.1.

### **6.6. Thematic and Dress Down Days**

A list of themes has been established, which will be discussed with and agreed to by the student council.

The Board suggested adding the following to the list of potential themes: Black and Orange on the day of the Halloween maze; World Book Day in April.

***Motion to have one day per month which shall be a theme day or a dress down day (Noémie Battista, Emmanuel Koinoglou)***

***Motion passes unanimously***

### **6.7. DGFA Operations**

A brief discussion on this topic occurred.

### **6.8. Dunrae Field Effort & Communication**

Discussion was tabled, as it was not seen as an opportune time to pursue this project.

### **6.9. Subject Time Allocation**

Two years ago, the Ministry stated that Dunrae Garden would need to add more English instruction to Cycle 1. This is being implemented this year.

Time for this instruction had to be taken from somewhere. Given that taking time from fine arts would have a significant effect the school's arts program, it was decided last year to take an average of one hour per week from Math and French, respectively. In addition, it was decided to take an average of 30 minutes per week from ERC to meet the requirements for English



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instruction in Cycle 1. In total, Cycle 1 students will obtain 150 minutes of required ELA instruction per week, as per governmental requirements.

***Motion to confirm the reduction from an average of 60 minutes of ERC per week to 30 minutes of ERC per week (Mélissane Mathieu, Karolina Weclas)***  
***Motion passed unanimously***

### 7. New Business

#### 7.1. Fundraising requests.

##### 7.1.1. DGFA Grad committee.

The Grad committee requested to ask Grade 6 parents to make a \$125 voluntary contribution per child, which will be used toward graduation event, hoodies, yearbooks and other events throughout the year for the grade 6 students. Any additional funds will be returned to contributing parents on a prorated basis.

***Motion to approve the DGFA Grad Committee's fundraising request (Karolina Weclas, Emmanuel Koinoglou)***  
***Motion passes unanimously***

***Motion to extend the meeting by 15 minutes***  
Motion passes unanimously

### 8. Reports

#### 8.1. Central Parents Committee (CPC) Report

No report was made.

#### 8.2. DGFA Report

Fundraising proposals were approved virtually prior to the present meeting.

Unfortunately, the first fundraiser was already cancelled because there were no volunteers and pumpkins have a disease this year.

The maze will only proceed if there are sufficient volunteers.

ECA signups happened this week.

### 9. Question Period

There were no questions.



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### 10. Varia



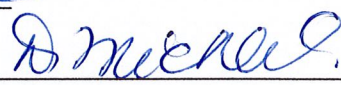
There was discussion regarding the declining enrollment. Prior to the December 1, 2022 Open House, consideration will be given as to marketing efforts, including but not limited to placing ads and getting articles in local papers. Parents will also be asked to participate in the Open House.

There was also discussion of the school's website and of the desire to have additional parental involvement on the Marketing Committee.

### 11. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 8:43 pm by unanimous consent.

Approved by the GB on November 29 2022

		
Alison Beck Secretary	Marie Anne Polonia Chair	Despina Michakis Principal