



# 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 April 25<sup>th</sup>, 2023**

### **Attendance:**

Bertin Bateng Tcheunkwa  
Noémie Battista  
Alison Beck  
Vanessa Contenta  
Robert David  
Emmanuel Koinoglou  
Tina Lanni (note: left at 7:30)  
Mélessane Mathieu  
Despina Michakis (Principal)  
Marie Anne Polonia (Chair)  
Karolina Weclas

### **Regrets:**

Cathy Auger  
Iris Del Degan  
Despina Kouremenos  
Erato Papageorgiou

### **1. Welcome**

The meeting was called to order at 6:37 pm.

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

***Motion to adopt the agenda. (Karolina Weclas, Robert David)***

***Motion passes unanimously***

### **3. Governing Board Operations**

#### **3.1. GB Approval of March 28<sup>th</sup>, 2023 Minutes**

***Motion to approve the minutes of the GB meeting of March 28<sup>th</sup>, 2023 (Robert David, Mélessane Mathieu)***

***Motion passes unanimously***

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

- Since the previous GB meeting:



## Dunrae Gardens Elementary School Governing Board

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

- Preschool and Cycle 1 students benefitted from a culture course wherein the outdoor classroom was used to experience sounds from outside and then students attempted to recreate the sounds with instruments.
- Following storytelling presentations by a few students, two students were selected and represented DG in a friendly competition with other schools.
- Representatives from the CLSC came to discuss the transition to high school and hygiene with the older students.
- An amazing talent show was held. Recognition and special thanks were offered to Mme Noémie and all the teachers who helped.
- As a free service from the CLSC, Grade 2 students had sealant put on their teeth by dental hygienists.
- Youth 365 came to present to students about being kind to themselves and kind to their bodies while still pushing themselves. The presentation, which was paid for through a grant, was motivational and empowering for the students.
- Certain students went on field trips to CEPsum, and to the McCord Museum.
- The whole school went to a cabane à sucre. While the food was good and there was a train ride, a walk in the woods, a petting zoo and other fun activities, the visit was somewhat rushed due to the timing of the buses. The students nonetheless enjoyed themselves.
- The students had a great time participating in an Easter egg hunt. Different activities took place in different rooms through the schools, including an obstacle course, an art activity, a chicken dance, a minesweeper game, etc.
- A kindness assembly was held where students who have stood out for their kindness were honoured with awards.
- DG will be hosting an inter-school debate competition on Wednesday, April 26, where five finalist schools, including DG, will participate.
- A PED Day will be held on Friday, April 28.
- Mr. Mike may hold a vernissage.
- Finally, Principal Michakis informed the GB that the new Principal for DG for 2023-2024 has been confirmed. It will be Cynthia Canale, who is currently the Vice-Principal from Easthill Elementary.

### 5. Business Arising

#### 5.1. School Uniforms

Principal Michakis provided the GB with samples of different materials offered by Top Marks, DG's uniform supplier. The materials currently used at DG are stiffer than the alternative materials suggested, but the current materials are more durable and certain items are made of more natural and breathable fabrics than the alternative materials. The alternative material for the polo shirt is softer but is also approximately \$2 more expensive per shirt. The alternative, dress pants are softer, have slightly more stretch and are the same price as the current material.

The GB discussed if DG should switch to the alternative materials for the uniforms, especially given feedback received from the PPO that certain students are not comfortable in the current fabrics. The GB decided that Principal Michakis should send a survey asking all current DG



## Dunrae Gardens Elementary School Governing Board

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

parents for their opinion as to whether to maintain the same fabric or to switch materials. The majority opinion of the parents will decide whether to keep the same material or to switch.

***Motion to for:***

- 1. Principal Michakis to send a survey to have parents choose which materials they prefer for the uniform's polo shirt and dress pants;***
- 2. The maintenance of the current material for the uniforms or their change, as decided by the majority of the parents who vote as part of the survey; and***
- 3. Principal Michakis to inform Top Marks of the material preferred by the majority of parents (Tina Lanni, Noémie Battista)***

***Motion passes unanimously***

### **6. E-Vote Report**

N/A

### **7. New Business**

#### **7.1. School Calendar 2023-2024**

The GB discussed whether the appropriate approval body for equalization days (i.e., 'Friday switches') is the GB or the DG staff council. Principal Michakis noted that it is currently impossible to know when equalization days will take place for next year because the precise course schedule for next year has not yet been determined.

***Motion to approve the School Calendar for 2023-2024 (Vanessa Contenta, Mélissane Mathieu)***

***Motion passes unanimously***

#### **7.2. ACGC**

The ACGC Global Planning Grid was presented to the GB by Principal Michakis. ACGC allows Cycle 3 students to be exposed to different jobs, careers and career fairs.

***Motion to approve ACGC Global Planning Grid (Tina Lanni, Karolina Weclas)***

***Motion passes unanimously***

### **8. Reports**

#### **8.1. Fundraising Reports**

N/A



## **Dunrae Gardens Elementary School Governing Board**

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

### **8.2. Marketing Committee**

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

A nice article was published about the enrichment programs at DG. The article, however, came out on the Wednesday of the recent Ice Storm, so it may have been missed by some.

The Marketing Committee would like to publish one more article before the end of the academic year, perhaps in late May or early June. Topics are currently open for discussion but could include DG's Got Talent or the Fun Fair.

The GB discussed a potential motion to the GB to use funds previously earmarked for marketing activities for that purpose.

Emmanuel Koinoglou confirmed his employer's generous offer to print materials for DG, which could include booklets and signage, at no extra charge. The GB expressed its continued gratitude.

### **8.3. Central Parents Committee (CPC) Report**

The CPC had nothing of note to report.

### **8.4. Dunrae Gardens Family Association (DGFA) Report**

Karolina Weclas presented on behalf of the DGFA.

It was again emphasised that there is a lack of volunteers for the DGFA activities, both for this year and for next year despite numerous requests to DG parents for assistance.

Volunteers are still needed for the Fun Fair on June 1. Furthermore, there are still no volunteers to act as directors of the DGFA or to run ECA next year. Additional attempts will be made to request volunteers, but without significant additional interest from DG parents, there could be significant issues with the running of DGFA activities in the 2023-2024 school year.

### **8.5. PPO**

Vanessa Contenta presented on behalf of the PPO.

Recently, the PPO had discussed:

- The material used for the school uniform.
- Moving PELO back to in-person classes next year.
- Interpersonal issues between some students. Further to consultation with Principal Michakis, a decision was made to address these interpersonal issues by, among other things, holding roleplaying exercises with students.



## Dunrae Gardens Elementary School Governing Board

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

### 9. Question Period

It was confirmed that enrollment for DG for the 2023-2024 academic year is currently stable, with approximately 330 students registered.

The GB was also informed that receipted gifts-in-kind from companies cannot be directed to a particular school. Instead, the EMSB decides to which school(s) a gift will be directed.

### 10. Varia

It was noted that, on Thursday April 27, there will be a livestreamed presentation by EMSB with respect to Bill 96.

### 11. Adjournment

***The meeting was adjourned (Emmanuel Koinoglou, Noémie Battista) at 7:49 pm by unanimous consent.***

Approved by the GB on

*June 14<sup>th</sup>, 2023*  
~~*April 25<sup>th</sup>, 2020*~~

Alison Beck  
Secretary

Marie Anne Polonia  
Chair

Despina Michakis  
Principal