



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 November 28, 2023

Attendance:

Noémie Battista
Alison Beck
Cynthia Canale (Principal)
Vanessa Contenta
Pietro Gasparini
Alexandra Lynn Hindler
Despina Kouremenos
Tina Lanni
Marie Anne Polonia (Chair)
Lena Stuart
Diana Theophilopoulos
Karolina Weclas

Regrets:

Cathy Auger
Bertin Bateng Tcheunkwa
Mélessane Mathieu

1. Welcome

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

2. Adoption of the Agenda

Motion to adopt the agenda (Pietro Gasparini, Tina Lanni)

Motion passes unanimously

3. Governing Board Operations

3.1. GB Approval of October 24th, 2023 Minutes

Motion to approve the minutes of the GB meeting of October 24th, 2023 (Noémie Battista, Despina Kouremenos)

Motion passes unanimously

3.2. GB Internal Rules of Management



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Motion to approve the GB Internal Rules of Management (Alexandra Lynn Hindler, Lena Stuart)

Motion passes unanimously

4. Principal's Report (presented by Principal Canale)

- There were numerous Halloween celebrations, which included a maze, decorated pumpkins, and many costumes. It was a lively and festive time for all.
- A beautiful Remembrance Day ceremony was held with special guests Danielle Carbert and retired Lieutenant Colonel Boutilier. Principal Canale expressed gratitude to Carolina Choy, spiritual animator, for organizing such a meaningful and memorable event.
- Parent Teacher Interviews were rescheduled to November 30, 2023 due to the teachers' strike.
- DG Open House will take place on December 7, 2023.
- The P.E.L.O. program, in Greek, Italian and Spanish, has begun, with Greek offered in person and the other two languages offered online.
- Principal Canale expressed thanks to staff, students and parents, including the DGFA, who have contributed and continue to contribute to all events at DG.
- Regretfully, DG's application for a \$100,000 grant to beautify the front of the school was not accepted by the government, but there may be openness to DG reformulating the request and reapplying in the future.
- Targeted tutoring is being provided in English and French to students who are experiencing difficulty. The tutors are supported by the assistance of Despina Kouremenos.
- The government has provided a budget so that more daycare and lunch monitors can supervise recess in order to allow more teachers to be released during that time. A new schedule has been developed which will ensure the safety and proper supervision of the students. That schedule began on November 27, 2023.
- Noémie Battista presented the following to the GB regarding field trips:
 - o Cycle 2 had an enjoyable trip to CEPSUM on October 27, 2023. While they did not have the opportunity to go in the pool but all future groups that go to CEPSUM will be able to do so.
 - o Cycle 3 went on an overnight trip to camp, along with six DG staff members. They bonded and had a great time.
 - o Comedy for Kids will be holding workshops with Cycle 3 students on January 31, 2024, and on February 1, 7 and 8, 2024.
 - o In addition, the field trips below were approved by Staff Council, but remain subject to change:
 - Cirque de Verdun, for students in Grade 2 on January 12, 2024
 - Maison du theatre, for students in Grade 2 on April 4, 2024
 - Science Centre for students in Cycle 2 on April 12, 2024
 - Quebec City for students in Cycle 3 from June 5-6, 2024. This trip is being planned through an agency, which has reserved a coach bus. All meals will be included except for one lunch, which will be provided by parents. Attendees will sleep in university dorms.
- On November 27, 2023, the mural on DG's building was unveiled. There were several special guests, including: MP Anthony Housefather; Joe Ortona and several other representatives of the



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EMSB; DG parents and students; Mayor Peter Malouf as well as other TMR representatives; Adam Viera, the artist who painted the mural; Mr. Mike along with members of his family; and Ms. Michakis. It was a celebration of creativity, collaboration and community spirit. Principal Canale expressed that she was grateful for the positive impact of this mural and that she is looking forward to more collaborative projects that enhance student life going forward.

5. Business Arising

5.1. Sexuality Education Curriculum Plan 2023-2024

The proposed approach remains consistent with previous years. Themes are age-appropriate in line with government requirements. Teaching begins in Kindergarten. There will be a nurse who will assist in the teaching.

WHEREAS section 85 of the Education Act states that the curriculum plan for the compulsory content in Sexuality Education must be approved by the school's governing board;

WHEREAS the principal, together with a committee of school staff and professionals from the health and social services system, have made recommendations for the implementation of the Sexuality Education Program and the information for the implementation of the Sexuality Education plan;

IT WAS MOVED BY Dunrae Gardens Governing Board AND RESOLVED THAT the 2023-2024 Sexuality Education Curriculum Plan be approved, as presented, by the Governing Board and that it be communicated to all parents on the school website. (Noémie Battista, Pietro Gasparini)

Motion passes unanimously

5.2. Safe Action School Plan 2023-2024

The Safe Action School Plan 2023-2024 is a lengthy document that expresses the procedures pursuant to which the school treats and reacts to bullying. Currently, there is no access to the most recent survey of the DG community, the results of which have been delayed. Furthermore, a new survey is in the process of being completed. Once that information is collected, the EMSB will provide it to the school, which will provide it to the GB. While current specific events are still being solidified, DG will continue to act in partnership with parents and anti-bullying activities will proceed.

Motion to approve the Safe Action School Plan 2023-2024 (Alexandra Lynn Hindler, Vanessa Contenta)

Motion passes unanimously

6. E-Vote Report



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6.1. Parent-Teacher Interview Modification

Motion to approve the following proposed Parent-Teacher Interview schedule: interviews to be held on November 30, 2023, from 9:00 am to 8:00 pm

Motion passes (7 in favour, 6 against, 1 abstention)

The DG held a significant discussion with respect to this motion.

The teaching staff members of the DG expressed that they preferred holding Parent-Teacher Interviews on one day only. It was noted that in most schools Parent-Teacher Interviews are only one day, and that holding them over more days is challenging for the teaching staff for multiple reasons.

Some parent DG members raised some concerns about holding the meetings only on one-day, especially given that there was only a two-week notice for this year.

It was further noted that there were technical issues with the bookings, for which Principal Canale apologized.

That being said, the idea was put forward that, to avoid the 'competitive' aspect of interview scheduling, instead of parents booking specific times, they could reserve time slots. Parents would then have the precise timing of the interviews with teachers scheduled by the school, bearing in mind the circumstances of the parents (e.g., need for additional meeting time, parents of multiple children, etc.). Other members of the GB supported this approach.

In the end, the DG agreed to proceed as indicated in the motion set forth above and to rediscuss in January 2024 how to proceed going forward.

7. New Business

7.1. Volunteers for DGFA Led Activities and Events

Parents have brought forward preoccupations with the conduct of certain volunteers during DGFA activities. These concerns relate to behaviour and photography during events. It was emphasized that it is not the role of DG staff to regulate the conduct of volunteers.

The GB discussed the need to implement a code of conduct for DGFA volunteers, which clarifies roles and expectations for volunteers as well as the sanctions for breaching those expectations.

With respect to the photography consent, the ability to take pictures of students and post them online is subject to a confidential consent document agreed to between students' parents and the school. Student photographs cannot be taken by volunteers.

Diana Theophilopoulos affirmed that parent-volunteer issues have been a top issue for the DGFA. She indicated that the DGFA is developing an action plan to address the following: the



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decline in parent participation; fairness in volunteering both in terms of who volunteers at an event and of what roles they have; and standards of volunteer behaviour. Any documents drafted or amended will be shared with the GB.

8. Reports

8.1. Fundraising Reports

8.1.1. Used Uniform Sale

A Used Uniform Sale occurred on October 10, 2023. It was very successful, raising \$763.

8.2. Central Parents Committee (CPC) Report

Lena Stuart presented what occurred at the CPC.

Some concerns were raised about Bill 9 and its potential effect into eligibility for English education. Pursuant to a lack of clarity on this point, Principal Canale agreed to obtain more information from EMSB.

8.3. Dunrae Gardens Family Association (DGFA) Report

Diana Theophilopoulos presented on behalf of the DGFA.

The ECA program was successfully launched, with over 140 students, or approximately 45% of DG students, registered in at least one activity, with a total of 220 registrations. There are 11 different activities being offered including a new activity for pre-k students, musical awareness. Tutoring programs are also going well.

The Halloween Maze occurred on October 31, 2023, and was enjoyed by the students.

Also, the Olive Oil Fundraiser was held, and the items purchased will be distributed during Parent-Teacher Interviews. The GB will be informed of the final proceeds for the fundraiser at a future meeting.

Furthermore, during Parent-Teacher Interviews, there will be a DGFA booth with information, coffee, and refreshments.

Moreover, the DGFA launched its Instagram page.

There are several activities planned for the holiday season at DG, including the much-loved Pancake Breakfast on September 19, 2023. Petit Lem, which is owned by a family that is part of the DG community, has graciously provided a 20% off code for pyjamas. There will also be some dress up themed days, holiday movie days and the book flood.



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It was acknowledged that flexibility may be required given that the teacher strike could affect the timing of its events.

8.4. PPO Report

Vanessa Contenta presented on behalf of the PPO.

The PPO met on November 27, 2024. Four parents presented themselves to assist with the PPO, and a new Chair was appointed.

It was noted that there is confusion surrounding the role of the PPO. This role may be clarified in a future newsletter, which will be distributed to the DG community by Principal Canale.

Motion to extend the duration of the GB meeting by 15 minutes (Marie-Anne Polonia, Pietro Gasparini)

8.5. Marketing Committee

Noemie Battista presented on behalf of the Marketing Committee.

The Marketing Committee is working on the Open House, with which Robert David is graciously helping. The timing of the teachers' strike does not coincide with the Open House, so it will not be affected. The Open House will proceed in the same manner as it did last year, with a morning session and afternoon session which will two Grade 6 students and one existing GB parent leading prospective DG parents to eight stations around the school. More parent volunteers are currently being sought.

DG parent Emmanuel Koniglou's contribution of all the printed documents for Open House for free was highlighted.

Furthermore, it was noted that Robert David will be further assisting by advertising the Open House within the community newspapers.

9. Question Period

It was affirmed that, due to the importance of students' moving throughout the day, careful consideration should be given as to if it is appropriate to remove a student's recess as a punishment.

10. Varia

11. Adjournment



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The meeting was adjourned (Noémie Battista, Pietro Gasparini) at 8:59 pm by unanimous consent.

Approved by the GB on _____

Alison Beck

Secretary

Marie Anne Polonia

Chair

Cynthia Canale

Principal