



Dunrae Gardens (DG) Governing Board (GB)
Minutes for April 30, 2024

Attendance:

Noémie Battista
Alison Beck
Bertin Bateng Tcheunkwa
Cynthia Canale (Principal)
Fabiana Ciacciarelli
Vanessa Contenta
Despina Kouremenos
Tina Lanni
Mélissane Mathieu
Marie Anne Polonia (Chair)
Diana Theophilopoulos
Karolina Weclas

Regrets:

Cathy Auger
Pietro Gasparini
Lena Stuart

Guests:

Chanta Patel
Mary Kyres
Ugo Landry-Tolszczuk

1. Welcome

The meeting was called to order at 6:15 pm.

2. Adoption of the Agenda

Point 4.1, GB Approval of March 26, 2024 Minutes, was tabled to the next meeting

Under Business Arising:

Point 6.3, Daycare Week was added to the agenda

Point 6.4, Early Closure of Daycare for Fun Fair, was added to the agenda

Motion to adopt the agenda as modified above (Tina Lanni, Vanessa Contenta)

Motion passes unanimously



3. Question Period (10 minutes)

Ugo Landry-Tolszczuk asked a question about why, in DG's educational project, there is no mention of the gap in academic achievement between genders. He noted that a discussion of the goal of creating equity in academic achievement between boys and girls existed in the document in the past. He affirmed that this topic is important because studies show that boys are falling behind academically and the gap between academic achievement between genders is larger at DG compared to other schools.

Principal Canale asserted that she will discuss this point at the meeting of Principals. She noted that the framework for the educational project is given by the EMSB, but that she would ask the EMSB for clarification on this point.

Mary Kyres wished to confirm that there will be three separate classes Grade 3 classes next year.

Principal Canale noted that, as it stands, for next year, there are supposed to be three separate Grade 3 classes, but that remains subject to change if circumstances change.

There was further discussion amongst the GB and guests about the role of PPO and how it can be made more relevant and accessible to DG parents.

Finally, a question was asked about how to address violent children. It was highlighted that this was a complex question that is address in accordance with norms and protocols created by the EMSB.

4. Governing Board Operations

4.1. GB Approval of March 26, 2024 Minutes

Tabled, as discussed at point 2 above.

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

The Principal's Report presented by Principal Canale, the report on field trips presented by Noémie Battista, and the report on DG's enrichment program presented by Despina Kouremenos are appended to these minutes as Appendix A.

In light of the concert discussed in the appended report, a motion was proposed to hold a dress down day on May 10, with a \$2 donation to go toward stage risers.

***Motion to hold a dress down day on 10 May with a \$2 donation to go toward stage risers
(Karolina Weclas, Vanessa Contenta)***

Motion passes unanimously



6. Business Arising

6.1. School Calendar

The School Calendar for 2024-2025 was provided to the DG for information.

6.2. ACGC

Principal Canale discussed Academic and Career Guidance Content (ACGC), which is geared toward Cycle 3 to assist them in beginning to assess what careers they would like to pursue when they are older. This is something that is done in all schools to allow students to discover subjects of interest. The idea of ACGC is to create self-reflection and allow the students to decide what they enjoy.

Motion to approve ACGC (Fabiana Ciacciarelli, Despina Kouremenos)

Motion passes unanimously

6.3. Daycare Week

Tina Lanni requested \$250 from Fund 3 to be used to recognize daycare staff during Daycare Week for staff. This would be used to pay for a luncheon or breakfast for daycare staff.

Karolina Weclas suggested that the amount be increased to \$500.

Motion to approve to use \$500 from Fund 3 (account 503) for recognition for Daycare Week for daycare staff (Karolina Weclas, Vanessa Contenta)

Motion passes unanimously

6.4. Early Closure of Daycare for Fun Fair

GB approval is needed to close Daycare at 4:30 pm on the day of the Fun Fair, which will likely be Thursday June 6, or Thursday June 13 in the case of inclement weather.

Tina Lanni confirmed that daycare parents will be informed of the change.

Motion to approve the closure of Daycare at 4:30 pm on the day of the Fun Fair (Noémie Battista, Diana Kouremenos)

Motion passes unanimously

7. Reports

7.1. Central Parents Committee (CPC) Report

No report was presented.



7.2. Dunrae Gardens Family Association (DGFA) Report

Diana Theophilopoulos presented a report on behalf of the DGFA.

As discussed above, the Fun Fair will take place on June 6, weather permitting. There is also planning for movie night in May. Furthermore, there is a plan for there to be a gelato truck for students on June 11.

The DGFA annual meeting will take place in June. Reports will be presented and positions for next year will be voted upon. Any questions may be directed to the DGFA Executive.

7.3. PPO Report

No report was presented.

7.4. Marketing Committee

Noémie Battista presented on behalf of the Marketing Committee.

The committee is currently focusing upon social media. Teachers are contributing and they are getting good feedback.

Newsletters and other content are being uploaded to the DG website by the EMSB.

As it stands, enrollment is stable for next year.

During the June 3 PED Day, parents who have expressed interest in enrolling their children in preschool will have a preschool orientation. Parents will be able to attend in-person presentations and the children will be able to meet the teachers and see the classrooms.

8. Varia

Karolina Weclas inquired as to why DG is no longer on the list to participate in TMR's Security Operation with schools.

Principal Canale expressed that she was reticent to have DG participate in this instance of the operation given that, upon short notice, it required the school to select two children in Grade 5 or 6 to wear a live radar and warn speeding drivers about the danger of their actions. She indicated that perhaps DG will participate next fall.

Karolina Weclas gave some feedback on a presentation that was made to parents about the transition to high school. An interest was expressed in holding a parent workshop on cyber safety.

9. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned (Karolina Weclas, Tina Lanni) at 8:27 pm by unanimous consent.



Dunrae Gardens Elementary School Governing Board

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Next meeting will be held in person.

Approved by the GB on _____

Alison Beck
Secretary

Marie Anne Polonia
Chair

Cynthia Canale
Principal

DRAFT



APPENDIX A

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT, FIELD TRIP REPORT AND ENRICHMENT ACTIVITIES REPORT

Principal's Report – April 30th, 2024

I'm pleased to present the April 2024 update for Dunrae Gardens Elementary School.

Storytelling Success:

Following our storytelling presentation in March at Dunrae Gardens school, I'm thrilled to announce that two of our students, Matias Batista and Chiara De Cesaris, represented Dunrae Gardens at Willingdon Elementary School on **Friday, April 5th, 2024**, and won!!

Their achievement is a testament to their talent and hard work, and we couldn't be prouder.

Health Education:

On April 11th, 2024, our school nurse, Mrs. Cathall Louis, visited the Grade 6 students. (Mental Health discussions and physical changes-puberty discussion)

Sustainability Efforts: (Go Green Project)

As we embrace the season of spring, we're excited to share the progress of our sustainability initiatives at Dunrae Gardens Elementary School. In line with our commitment to the environment and our school values, we've embarked on an exciting journey to establish a vibrant school garden. This initiative is complemented by Grade 5's compost unit.

To begin the teachers applied for a grant and it was approved. It was a pilot project spearheaded by our Concordia University student teacher Ms. Christina Tremonte, alongside our Grade 5 teachers Mrs. Fabiana and M. Eric.

Our students have been actively engaged in learning about composting, waste reduction, and the importance of sustainable practices.

Their enthusiasm was evident during our recent waste-free lunch day.

Now, we're delighted to announce the next phase of our project: **The creation of our school garden!** This garden will serve as a hands-on learning environment where students can further explore concepts of sustainability, biology, and nutrition.



We believe that involving our students in projects like this not only teaches them important life skills but also instills in them a sense of responsibility and connection to the world around them. We're excited to see the positive impact this initiative will have on our school community and beyond.

We'll keep you updated on the progress of the garden and invite you to get involved wherever possible. Together, we can make a real difference in fostering a more sustainable future for our children.

Pedagogical Day: Was held on April 22nd, 2024

Vernissage: Mr. Mike Venditti may be holding another vernissage this year in June. Once we have more precise information regarding this event I will advise accordingly.

Grade 6 Teacher Returns

We are delighted to welcome back Mrs. Laura Fagnani to our school community after her maternity leave. Mrs. Fagnani has been an integral part of our team for several years, and we are thrilled to have her return to her role on ***Monday, May 6th, 2024.***

During Mrs. Fagnani's absence, Mrs. Victoria Failla graciously stepped in and demonstrated remarkable dedication and commitment to her teaching duties. We would like to express our sincere gratitude to Mrs. Failla for her hard work and efforts during her time as a replacement teacher at our school. Her contributions have been invaluable, and we wish her all the best in her future endeavors.

CCQ Presentation: (Noemie)

Ethics and Religious Culture (also known as ERC) will be replaced by a new subject called CCQ (Culture et Citoyenneté Québécoise). This change will be effective as of next school year- 2024-2025. It is very similar to the ERC program that has been in place since 2005 with a few differences. It is a mixture of sociology and Ethics where students are encouraged to share their thoughts on multiple subjects/ points discussed in class (encourages critical thinking and dialogue). The religious aspect is still incorporated within the subject matter (theme 3) although it is not a large portion of the subject anymore.

All subjects have more than one competency although CCQ has only has one competency that changes from cycle to cycle to adapt to the students' level of learning:

- Cycle 1 : Explorer une réalité culturelle
- Cycle 2 : Examiner une réalité culturelle
- Cycle 3 : Réfléchir sur une réalité culturelle

Like ERC, the course will be 60 minutes a week.

Sensitive topics are woven within the program. Sexuality Education is now part of the CCQ program and the learnings will be evaluated. The content for this part of the program will be similar to what has been taught in the past with some additions and modifications specific to the grade level being taught.

There are three objectives and five main themes:



- 1) Conscience de soi et construction identitaire (Self-awareness and construction of identity)
- 2) Relations entre humains (Relationships between people)
- 3) Quête de sens (Search for meaning)
- 4) Relations entre humains et environnement (Relationship between humans and the environment)
- 5) Médias et vie numérique/ Digital Life (not for cycle 1 but still can be integrated if the teacher wishes to cover it)

FIELD TRIPS: (NOEMIE)

In the last month, students have gone on multiple field trips and many field trips will be coming up. Also, new trips were reserved and can now be added to our school calendar. Again, the school was able to cover the full amount or a fraction of the amount of most of the field trips with the budgets that were given by the government this school year.

- ⇒ Our cycle 2 students went to the Science Centre on Friday, April 12th
- ⇒ Our first-grade students went to the Cosmodôme on Friday, April 26th
- ⇒ Our second-grade students were supposed to go to “La Maison Théâtre” on Thursday, April 4th and unfortunately the trip was cancelled on that day due to a snow day. Thankfully, the company understood the situation and we were able to reschedule this outing for the kids without any monetary penalties. Our second-grade students will now be going to “La Maison Théâtre” on Wednesday, May 22nd.
- ⇒ Once again, our cycle 3 students will be participating in the Halo Race on Thursday, May 9th. The race will be taking place at Beaver Lake. There are four races scheduled and each race is 2km long.
- ⇒ As mentioned in our last meeting, grade 5 students will be going to Quebec City on Wednesday, May 15th. They will spend the entire day there (7am to 8pm).
Grade 6 students will be attending this field trip as well although they will be spending the night in the beautiful city. They will be leaving at 7am on Wednesday, May 15th & they will be returning approximately at 6:45pm on Thursday, May 16th.
- ⇒ As previously mentioned, cycle 1 students will be going to CEPSUM on Friday, May 31st and our preschool students (K4 & K5) will be attending the same field trip on Friday, June 7th.
- ⇒ Our second-grade students will be going to Intermiel on Friday, June 7th. Intermiel is a honey farm situated in Mirabel with 5,000+ honeybee hives.
- ⇒ Finally, our first-grade students will be going to the Biodome on Tuesday, June 11th. They will be visiting two museums at the Olympic Stadium: the Biodome and the Insectarium.

Music Concert & DG’s Got Talent:

There will be a spring concert for the entire school. The concert will be held on Wednesday, May 29th and since there is a maximum capacity of people that fit in our school gymnasium, there will be two presentations of the same concert. The first show will be in the morning, after entrance and the second concert will be in the afternoon, after lunch. Tickets will be distributed to every child in the school (there will be more information to come on this point). Friday, May 3rd will be a free dress day for the entire



school. Students do not need to wear the school uniform if they bring a \$2 donation. All monetary proceeds will help pay the rental of the stage risers for the concert.

DG's Got Talent will be held at the end of the year during the last week of school (the date is still to be determined).

ENRICHMENT PROGRAM UPDATES

We also wanted to share very some exciting news:

On Saturday, April 20th, our Dunrae Gardens Global Issues Problem Solving teams participated in the 1st Canadian National Future Problem Solving International event hosted at Laurenhill Jr Academy, alongside other EMSB schools.

We are thrilled to announce that one of the DG teams (Marcus Khairy, Nolan Hernu, Francesco Pace) qualified as Junior Champions!! Their booklet on 'Autonomous Transportation' was read & evaluated by the official evaluators at the University of Indiana. As a result of their victory, our Dunrae team has earned the opportunity to represent Canada at the Future Problem-Solving International event. This is an amazing experience for our students, and we're thrilled that they have the chance to showcase their talents on an international stage.

We are happy to hear that all 3 boys will be attending the event that takes place June 5th-9th.

This is a remarkable achievement, and we couldn't be prouder of their hard work, dedication, and problem-solving skills.

We believe that exposure to enrichment programs like FPSPi is invaluable for our students. It fosters critical thinking, teamwork, and creativity, all of which are essential skills for success in the 21st century.

We want to extend our heartfelt congratulations to the students for their outstanding achievements and to Mrs. Camelia Birlean, MEd., PhD, and her dedicated team to help support our students each step of the way.

Some other updates: Tomorrow, May 1st is the final Caribou Math competition for this school year. Once again, our DG students had remarkable results in the April contest! Two students in Grade 2, Izaak & Max both ranked 1st at the school board level, provincial, national, and international levels (1st out of 2217!!) and received their certificates from Caribou Math.

Our finalists from the Debate group will be competing against the other EMSB schools on May 3rd at Willingdon.

The Battle of the Books group will attend their competition on May 17th at Roslyn. We have a team of students from Grades 4 & 6 representing Dunrae: Charlotte, Victoria, Juliette, Charlene, Bianca & Isla. We also have a reserve team: Austin, Mason, Felix, Miriam & Anna that will be attending.

Congratulations to all the participants & competitors for their engagement & dedication throughout the Enrichment program!!