



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" or "Board") Minutes for October 22, 2024

Present:

- 1) Noémie Battista
- 2) Alison Beck ("**Chair**")
- 3) Bertin Bateng Tcheunkwa
- 4) Despina Michakis ("**Principal**")
- 5) Kelly Chatzis
- 6) Vanessa Contenta
- 7) Tina Lanni
- 8) Daniel Gervais
- 9) Amel Hadjoudj
- 10) Mary Kyres
- 11) Mélissane Mathieu
- 12) Lena Stuart
- 13) Diana Theophilopoulos
- 14) Éric Pausé
- 15) Melanie Carreira - substitute

Absent:

- 1) Emmanuel Koinoglu – substitute

Guests:

- 1) Miranda O'Reilly – parent and President of the DGFA
- 2) Irene Petsinis - parent

1. Welcome

The meeting was called to order at 6:36 pm.

2. Adoption of the Agenda

The Agenda was modified as follows:

Add new Section 3 entitled "**Adoption of Minutes of Meeting of June 11, 2024**" and renumber the sections of the Agenda accordingly.

Motion to adopt the Agenda as modified above (Vanessa Contenta, Noémie Battista)

Motion passes unanimously



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3. Adoption of Minutes of Meeting of June 11, 2024

Motion to adopt the Minutes (Tina Lanni, Vanessa Contenta)

Motion passes unanimously

4. Governing Board Operations

4.1. Election of the GB Executive

4.1.1. Chair

4.1.2. Secretary

4.1.3. Treasurer

Motion to appoint:

Alison Beck as Chair (nominated by Vanessa Contenta);

Diana Theophilopoulos as Secretary; and

Noémie Battista as Treasurer

(Mary Kyres, Mélissane Mathieu)

Motion passes unanimously

4.2. Appointment of community representative

The Principal discussed the role of the community representative. No potential representative was proposed. Accordingly, no community representative was appointed.

4.3. Appointment of Committee Chairs (Marketing, Schoolyard Beautification, PPO)

The GB discussed the role of the various committees. The Principal indicated that with respect to the Schoolyard Beautification, there was money raised in the past that needed to be spent.

Motion to appoint:

Marketing: Noémie Battista as Chair;

School Beautification: Mary Kyres and Daniel Gervais, as Co-Chairs; and

PPO: Vanessa Contenta and Kelly Chatzis as Co-Chairs

(Mary Kyres, Mélissane Mathieu)

Motion passes unanimously



4.4. GB Internal Rules of Management 2024-2025

This point is tabled to the next meeting to allow such document to reflect the decisions made in the present meeting. When ready, a document will be sent to GB members by the Chair for review and approval.

4.5. Day and Frequency

The GB agreed to tentatively schedule the Board's meetings on the last Tuesday of most months, as follows (with location (Zoom or in-person) and time (6pm or 6:30pm) to be determined):

- November 26, 2024;
- January 28, 2025;
- March 18, 2025;
- April 29, 2025; and
- June 3, 2025.

Motion to approve the foregoing (Tina Lanni, Daniel Gervais)

Motion passes unanimously

5. Principal's Report

The Principal's Report was presented by the Principal:

- a) "Meet the Teacher" night occurred in-person on September 19, 2024. There was a very high turnout of parents. Each grade's Standards & Procedures ("S&P") was posted online. The only change to the S&P was to the evaluation of the Preschool program's five (5) competencies. More specifically, a change was made to provide teachers with more flexibility when a student was struggling in a given competency, whereby the teacher would not be required to evaluate the student in said competency.
- b) Attestation Day took place on September 30, 2024. There are currently 326 students enrolled at DG.
- c) A memorial took place at DG on September 30, 2024 in recognition of Orange Shirt Day (Truth and Reconciliation). Classes created flowers in remembrance of the children who attended residential schools. A 2-minute moment of silence was observed.
- d) A student assembly took place on September 10, 2024 to discuss DG's values and expectations.
- e) On September 19, 2024, Lauren Hill Academy came to speak to the Grade 5 and 6 students.
- f) On September 27, 2024, DG held a "Wacky Hair Day" contest. A 10\$ gift card from Renaud-Bray was awarded to one student per cycle.
- g) The Terry Fox Walk took place on October 1, 2024. DG raised over \$10,000. Certain parents provided rewards such as gym memberships and Milano gift cards that were raffled off to DG families that donated to the Terry Fox foundation.
- h) On October 6, 2024, the Grade 2 students went on a field trip to Intermiel.
- i) On October 17, 2024, the Preschool students were offered a vision screening.



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- j) "Picture Day" took place on October 21, 2024. The Principal thanked the parent volunteers who assisted on this day.
- k) Also on October 21, 2024, Grades 3 to 6 enjoyed a Black Theatre Workshop by Moe Clark.
- l) On October 22, 2024, a fire drill was held. Students had completely evacuated the school within 3 to 4 minutes. The students were very quiet during this exercise. The Principal confirmed that a Lockdown drill would be held soon.
- m) Finally, the Principal discussed certain upcoming events:
 - Minions Dress Down Day on October 23, 2024 (an initiative of the Student Council);
 - Camp Dynamix for Grades 5 and 6 on October 24-25, 2024; and
 - Contest for most creative Halloween Costume on October 31, 2024.

6. Business Arising

6.1. DGFA Operations

In June 2024, by way of an evote (Karoline Weclas, Pietro Gasparrini), the GB adopted the following motion:

The Governing Board votes to disallow the DGFA from operating at Dunrae Gardens School and suspend all Dunrae Gardens Family Association activities involving the school and until the following conditions are met:

1. *The Dunrae Gardens Family Association holds a general assembly and elects a new executive.*
2. *The new executive meets with the incoming Principal to present their activity plan for the 2024-2025 academic year and obtain the Principal's approval.*
3. *The Dunrae Gardens Family Association attends the first meeting of the incoming Governing Board in the fall to present their fundraising plan for 2024-2025.*

Motion was approved with 12 e-votes in favour and 1 abstention.

The DGFA has met conditions 1 and 2 above. As per condition 3, the President of the DGFA, Miranda O'Reilly, attended the present GB meeting and presented the DGFA's fundraising plan for the 2024-2025 academic year, which includes the following initiatives and projected fundraising goals:

- "Big Box" greeting cards: \$1,100
- TCBY: \$3,500
- Pizza Days: \$8,000
- Editions Vaudreuil school supplies: \$500
- Olivers' Labels: \$200
- Used Uniform sale (Fall and Spring): \$2,000
- Olive Oil sale: \$1,500



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Considering the foregoing, the conditions set forth in the above motion have been met and the suspension of the DGFA was lifted.

7. New Business

7.1. Field Trips (Series) Blanket Resolution Request

Please see below.

7.2. Cultural Artists

Sections 7.1 and 7.2 were discussed jointly.

Mme Noémie presented the following proposed school trips/cultural activities for this 2024-2025 school year:

<u>GRADE</u>	<u>ACTIVITY</u>
Preschool (K4 and K5)	CEPSUM – April 11 th Ecomuseum – April 17 th
Grade 1	Insectarium and Biodome – November 8 th Théâtre Outremont – January 27 th CEPSUM – April 14 th
Grade 2	École de cirque de Verdun – January 10 th GUEPE – February 19 th CEPSUM – April 14 th Maison Théâtre – May 9 th
Grade 3	Château Ramezay – November 8 th CEPSUM – January 17 th Nid d'Otruche – May 30 th
Grade 4	Musée des Beaux-Arts – November 15 th Château Ramezay – December 6 th CEPSUM – January 17 th Nid d'Otruche – May 30 th
Grade 5	Camp Dynamix – October 24-25 CEPSUM – December 13 th Pointe-à-Callière – February 19 th Planetarium & Jardin Botanique – May 23 rd
Grade 6	Camp Dynamix – October 24-25 CEPSUM – December 13 th



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	Holocaust Museum - January 20 th Musée des Beaux-Arts – May 7 th
Cultural Speakers/Shows	Moe Clark - October 28-30 (K5 to Grade 6) Alain Pelletier – December 10 th (Grades 1 to 6) Geordie Productions – January 30 th (Grades 3 to 6)

With respect to cultural activities, the government covers 75% of the cost. An attempt is made by DG to use government funding for field trips fairly amongst the grades.

DG administration would like to have the flexibility to add more field trips during the school year. Therefore, a blanket resolution is requested to allow DG to add additional school trips and/or cultural activities that are (i) reasonably priced and (ii) tied to the school curriculum or have a cultural component.

Motion to pass the blanket resolution as set forth above for field trips (Mary Kyres, Melanie Carreira)

Motion passes unanimously

Motion to pass the blanket resolution as set forth above for cultural activities (Mélissanne Mathieu, Vanessa Contenta)

Motion passes unanimously

7.3. Calendar and Term Dates

The Principal indicated that there were errors in the school calendar integrated into the student agenda. There are 3 terms in the academic year. The third term must be afforded a greater weight and, accordingly, must have more school days. The Principal confirmed the correct end-date for each of the 3 terms, as follows:

- 1st term: November 18, 2024 (53 days)
- 2nd term: February 21, 2025 (55 days)
- 3rd term: June 20th, 2025 (73 days)

In addition, the academic year should consist of 180 days. Considering the school calendar provided 181 school days, March 24, 2025 would be a Pedagogical Day (no school for students).

Motion to approve the calendar and term dates as set forth above (Lena Stuart, Daniel Gervais)

Motion passes unanimously



7.4. PELO

The Principal presented the PELO heritage program. This school year, Spanish, Greek and Italian in-person classes are being offered after school.

Motion to approve the PELO program (Kelly Chatzis, Melanie Carreira)

Motion passes unanimously

7.5. Enrichment and Support Programs

DG would like to offer the following enrichment programs:

- a) Caribou Math Competition
- b) Global Issues & Problem Solving
- c) Debate Team
- d) Destination Imagination
- e) Let's Talk Science
- f) Battle of the Books

Students who participate in the foregoing programs must be capable of handling their full course load as well as the additional work of the enrichment program. Students are made aware that they may miss class time to participate in these programs and are responsible for completing missed work/assignments.

DG would also like to offer a support program to students who require additional help/resources. These students may be pulled out of class to receive this focused help.

Motion to approve the Enrichment and Support Programs (Kelly Chatzis, Noémie Battista)

Motion passes unanimously

7.6. Thematic and Dress Down Days

To create more school spirit, DG's Student Council would like to organize the following thematic and/or Dress Down Days:

- a) *Movember* event, where students will be asked to "wear moustaches"
- b) Upside Down Day
- c) Wear your favourite sport shirt Day
- d) Twins Day
- e) Valentine's Day colours
- f) Reading/Camping in class.



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- g) Pink for Intimidation
- h) Scientific Character
- i) Fun socks
- j) Day at the Beach

The Student Council is also asking for approval to add any additional thematic days, within reason, during which the full school uniform would not be worn.

Motion to approve the Thematic and Dress Down Days as set forth above (Vanessa Contenta, Mary Kyres)

Motion passes unanimously

****** Motion to extend the meeting by 15 minutes to complete all items on the Agenda (Vanessa Contenta, Daniel Gervais)***

Motion passes unanimously

7.7. Fundraising Requests

7.7.1. DGFA Grad Committee

The Grad Committee would like to host a bake sale at the school during Parent-Teacher Interviews (November 21, 2024).

Motion to approve the fundraising request from the Grad Committee as set forth above (Diana Theophilopoulos, Daniel Gervais)

Motion passes unanimously

7.7.2. DGFA Fundraising Requests

The GB received the following fundraising requests from the DGFA

- a) Used Uniform Sale
- b) TCBY
- c) Oliver's Labels
- d) Olive Oil sale
- e) Edition Vaudreuil school supplies
- f) Big Box greeting cards

Motion to approve the DFGA's request to proceed with the fundraisers as set forth above (Lena Stuart, Noémie Battista)



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Motion passes unanimously

8. E-Vote Reports

8.1. DGFA Pizza Days

On October 8, 2024, there was an e-vote submitted to the GB whereby the DGFA requested the approval of the Pizza Day fundraiser, as detailed in the Fundraising Request form.

Motion to approve the DFGA's request to proceed with the Pizza Day fundraiser for the 2024-2025 academic year (Daniel Gervais, Lena Stuart)

Motion passes, with 12 votes in favour, 0 against

8.2. Intermiel and Breast Cancer Awareness

On October 2, 2024, there was an e-vote submitted to the GB whereby the Principal requested approval for the following:

- a) Intermiel Field Trip on October 4th (Grade 2) at a cost of \$20 per student; and
- b) Breast Cancer Awareness Day (October 17th) – an initiative of DG's Student Council. The Student Council would like to collect \$2 from students in exchange for a pink ribbon. The money raised would go to the Breast Cancer Foundation.

Motion to approve the Intermiel Field Trip and Breast Cancer fundraiser (Mélissanne Mathieu, Noémie Battista)

Motion passes, with 11 votes in favour, 0 against

9. Reports

9.1. Central Parents Committee ("CPC") Report

Daniel Gervais presented on behalf of the CPC. Mr. Gervais indicated that the only CPC business conducted at its last meeting was the election for various positions.

9.2. DGFA Report

The DGFA President did not have any additional information to provide.

10. Question Period

- a) Kelly Chatzis asked whether the Pizza prices for the DGFA Pizza Fundraiser had been approved. The Principal confirmed that the prices were provided to the GB.



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- b) Daniel Gervais inquired as to whether it would be possible to take students on a field trip to Upper Canada Village. The Principal and Mme Noémie confirmed that they would look into this excursion.

11. Varia

No items or issues were raised.

12. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned (Tina Lanni, Vanessa Contenta) at 8:12 pm by unanimous consent.

Next meeting will be held on November 26, 2024.

Approved by the GB on _____

Diana Theophilopoulos
Secretary

Alison Beck
Chair

Despina Michakis
Principal