

Governing Board Election Minutes

Tuesday, October 6th, 2020 at 6:30pm

Via Microsoft Teams

Attendees: L. Bélanger, M. Arfanis, S. Milonas, G. Stamatopoulos, M. Argyriou, E. Zervas, T. Nicholls, R. Ayas, H. Zereik, K. Der and L. Kansou. **Absentees:** None

1. Welcome and Opening Remarks

- Tia Nicholls welcomed all the members of GB to our first meeting and shared her well wishes for the new school year.

2. Additions to the agenda

- 6c) School safety for dismissal
- 6d) Not enough homework

3. Adoption of the agenda

- Motion to adopt the agenda by Helen Zereik
- Seconded by Lydia Kansou

4. Review of the minutes from June 16th 2020 (virtual meeting)

5. Approval of minutes

- Motion to approve by Raymond Ayas
- Seconded by Tia Nicholls

6. Business issues:

A) Assignment of roles:

- Motion to nominate Tia Nicholls as chair by Lydia and seconded by Raymond Ayas.
- **Chair** – Tia Nicholls
- Motion to nominate Helen Zereik as alternate chair by Lydia Kansou and seconded by Tia Nicholls.
- **Alternate Chair** – Helen Zereik
- Motion to nominate Karen Der as secretary by Lydia Kansou and seconded by Tia Nicholls.
- **Secretary** – Karen Der
- Motion to nominate Lydia Kansou as treasurer by Tia Nicholls and seconded by Raymond Ayas.
- **Treasurer** – Lydia Kansou
- **Parent Committee:** Raymond Ayas will represent the parents.

B) Daycare:

- Due to Covid 19, daycare would like to limit the attendance on Ped. Days to regular and sporadic students only for this 2020-2021 academic school year. This will avoid

additional “bubbles”. Also, these limits will only last until the health measures of “bubbles” in a classroom are lifted. It will be revisited again next academic school year.

- Motion to approve by Lydia Kansou and seconded by Helen Zereik.

C) School Safety for dismissal:

- When picking up their children, parents are concerned about the safety on Déguire Street. Cars are turning into the street while children are being picked up by their parents. Some cars are also in a rush to leave while students are still being dismissed.
- E. Zervas will be sending out a letter to the community regarding student safety and dismissal at the Déguire pick-up area.

D) Homework:

- Raymond Ayas expressed his concerns for students not getting enough homework.
- Lydia Kansou mentioned that she believes the students are getting enough homework. From her personal experience, homework is about an hour and a half per night.
- Helen Zereik also thinks that the students are getting enough homework. However, she believes that students should be given more reading as homework.
- Elena Zervas asked Raymond Ayas to contact the teachers directly and they will be happy to send additional work home if needed.

7. Reports:

A) Principal's Report:

- Enrolment is at 289. Down from last school year.
- **IT budget is 6800\$.** A survey to the parents was sent for IT loans. Many parents requested loans for laptops/tablets/Chrome books. Only one per family is issued. Loans have not yet been sent out.
- **Digital Sets:** 9000\$ for tablets, robotic material, 3D material, etc. The iPads that we presently have in school are of older generation; therefore we cannot download new apps.
- **Measure 15029 Money:** We have roughly 5700\$. This allocation will go towards a project for “**Une cours d'école vivante**”. This money will assist for a dynamic school yard, specifically the second recess. Provide opportunity to be active during recess or Phys. Ed. Plan and organize outdoor projects. Purchase material. However, this allocation cannot be used to fill or fix the concrete of the school or beautifying the yard.
- **School Photos:** Tuesday, October 13th. Green Apple is our photographer once again this year. There will be no class picture due to social distancing measures. Each child will take an individual picture and Green Apple will create a

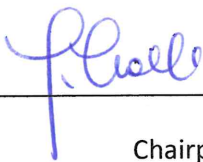
collage/mosaic style class picture. Disinfecting booth after each use will be done by the personal of Green Apple.

- **Budget:** Last June, parents were reimbursed 84\$ for paid lunch fees as a result of closure. We are in deficit of 13 000\$ as a result of long term closure of COVID-19. Lunch monitors were still getting paid when school was shut down. Workbook fees are lower than previous year. In the workbook fees school agenda is included. Art supplies are paid by the school. Presently, school is spending a lot of money on COVID-19 products (sanitizers/paper towels/soap, etc)
- B) Teacher's Report:** Teacher's are glad to be back at work even through these unprecedented times. Teachers and students alike are adjusting to their "new normal" in school. Younger students are happy to be back and to see their friends. As for the older students, they are also happy to be back but are more aware of the situation. They have some level of anxiety of transmitting the virus to their loved ones.
- C) Commissioner's Report:** Absent
- D) Parents Committee's Report:** First meeting is on Tuesday, October 20th via Zoom. Raymond Ayas will attend and report to us on our next GB meeting.
- E) Daycare's Report:** 130 students about 99 of these students are regular.
- F) Home and School's Report:** The account has 25 000\$. Teachers were asked to submit a wish list of items they need. The items were approved by H&S and Elena Zervas. Teachers were allowed to go ahead and purchase their items. They will be reimburse within two weeks of purchase. H&S is having a difficult time planning events due to COVID-19. They are presently speaking with Mr. Katsifolis to organize a welcome back event. Perhaps distributing a small individual snack to students. Also, H&S is also organizing something for Halloween. They are brainstorming ideas for now. Some of their ideas was to purchase individually wrapped Bad Monkey popcorn, bingo threw the intercom, decorate a mask, etc. On a last note, if teachers need any extra help, please feel free to contact H&S.
- 8. Questions Period:** Raymond Ayas asked the GB committee their thoughts on a project to install solar panels on the school's roof. Perhaps connect this idea as a school wide project. He would look into all the logistics of this project and get back to us. Elena Zervas mentioned to Raymond Ayas that we would have to speak with Costas Spyridakos of **Material Resources** at the board. GB members expressed that although it is a great idea in the long run, for now, we need to focus on more relevant projects, such as, the ventilation system in our school, having students use less plastic at school, etc.
- 9. Meeting Adjournment:** At 8:20pm

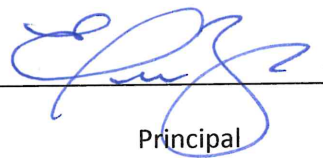
10. Next Microsoft Teams GB Meeting: Tuesday, November 10th, 2020 at 6:30pm

11. Minutes by: Maria Arfanis

Signatures:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "P. L. L.", written over a horizontal line.

Chairperson

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "E. L. L.", written over a horizontal line.

Principal



Cedarcrest Elementary School
1505 Muir, St-Laurent, QC H4L 4T1
Tel: (514) 744-2614



Commission scolaire English-Montréal
English Montreal School Board

CEDARCREST SCHOOL
Governing Board Meeting Minutes
Tuesday November 10, 2020

Attendees:

Maria Arfanis, Maria Argyriou, Raymond Ayas, Lorraine Belanger Karen Der, Lydia Kansou, Sandy Milonas, Tia Nicholls, Georgia Stamatopoulos, Helene Zereik, Elena Zervas

Absentees:

None

1. WELCOME AND OPENING REMARKS

Welcomes and opening remarks for the second meeting of the 2020-2021 academic year from chair Tia Nicholls. The meeting was held via Microsoft Teams.

2. ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

Members asked to add drinking water (6h), lockers 6(i), and the revised daycare handbook (6j) to the Agenda.

Motion to add these items to the Agenda was put forth by Helene Zereik and seconded by Lorraine Belanger. The motion to add these items to today's Agenda was carried.

3. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Motion to adopt today's Agenda as amended was put forth by Helene Zereik and seconded by Lydia Kansou. The motion to adopt today's Agenda as amended was carried.

4. REVIEW OF THE MINUTES FROM OCTOBER 6, 2020

Member Raymond Ayas noted that the Minutes list him as the Parent Committee Representative instead of Helene Zereik.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion to approve the October 6, 2020 Meeting Minutes as amended was put forth by Tia Nicholls and seconded by Lorraine Belanger. The motion to approve the October 6, 2020 Meeting Minutes as amended was carried.

6. BUSINESS ISSUES

a. Revised Reporting Session

- As per Ministry directives, due to this year's unique circumstances, teachers will issue only two report cards this year. The first report card will be issued on January 22nd and the second report card will be issued on June 23rd.
- This will give teachers more time to focus on their students' learning.
- The school year will be split into 2 terms instead of 3. Each term will count for 50% of the final mark.

b. Revised School Calendar

- The parent-teacher conference scheduled for November 26 is still in effect.
- However, due to the revised reporting session, the Term 2 parent-teacher conference will now take place on April 22nd instead of February 25th. The PED days associated with the Term 2 parent-teacher conference are now April 22nd and April 23rd.
- The school calendar remains status quo until the Christmas holidays but will fluctuate after January 4th with the addition of 3 other pedagogical days (below).

c. Additional 3 Pedagogical Days

- As per a recent Ministry directive, there will be 3 additional pedagogical days added to the school calendar for training workshops for the teachers.
- Two of the pedagogical days will be assigned by the Board and the third will be chosen by Cedarcrest.

d. Grade 6 Hoodies

- The Principal reported that due to the huge increase in sanitation expenses i.e. soap, disinfectants, paper towels etc., there is no budget surplus.
- Members asked if Cedarcrest would be reimbursed for these Covid related expenses by the Board or Ministry. The Principal said at the moment they are not being reimbursed.
- The quotes for the pullover hoodies is \$29 and the zipper hoodie is \$35. Once the school pays for the Graduation hoodies, there will be few funds left over for the yearbook and Graduation party.
- The Principal noted that consequently there will have to be some sort of cost sharing with parents for the Graduation.
- Staff member and Graduation Committee member Sandy Milonas noted that from her experience, parents, staff and students have always pulled together to raise the necessary funds.
- Chair Tia Nicholls remarked that there may be some pushback from parents about paying for Graduation this year since in the last few years, parents were not asked to contribute to Graduation. The Principal noted that in previous years there was a budget for Graduation. Furthermore, Cedarcrest can no longer charge for certain school fees which has further restricted its budget.
- Graduation and its funding fluctuates year to year. In some years, there are not enough parent volunteers to organize and fundraise. As such a standard or benchmark for Graduation should be set. If parents have to pay, they should pay every year and not only in some years. Students should have a standardized Graduation concept and format that does not vary from year to year. For example, it should not be a fancy banquet hall one year and pizza takeout in the school gym in another year.
- As for the yearbook, Ms. Gianna quoted a cost price of \$5 per yearbook at the last Home and School Meeting. It is very plausible to recoup most of the yearbook expenditures by selling the yearbook to all students instead of only the Grade 6 classes.

e. Air Purifying System

- At the last Home and School Meeting in October, a parent who is also a Lauren Hill teacher enquired about what it would take for Cedarcrest to acquire air purifiers. She had researched the subject and had communicated with other schools who were in the process of implementing air purification systems.
- The Principal contacted the Material Resources Department on this subject. The Board at this moment will not be paying for any air purifiers.
- The Board has stipulated that if a school wants to purchase them, it has to be funded by Governing Board i.e. Home and School. Even then, the school would have to follow stringent guidelines. They have to use a Board certified electrical engineer to assess and verify the electrical panel. This assessment report alone costs \$3,150 and does not include any necessary repair or upgrade to the electrical system. Home and School would have to buy the Board approved purifiers and filters. Home and School would have to pay for the electrical system upgrade, the setup of the purifiers, the future maintenance of the filters and any utility bills associated with the running of the air purification system.
- Cedarcrest Home and School doesn't think it will have the money to fund such a project nor maintain such a system.
- Parent member Lydia Kansou enquired if there is a Plan B if an air purification system is not feasible.
- The Principal responded that the only thing they can do is keep the windows open all day and when it is winter to open the windows at recess when the students are outside. Staff member Sandy Milonas noted that the windows freeze shut during the winter and cannot be opened.
- The Board suggests that if any Home and Schools are exploring purchasing air purifiers, they should delay for now since guidelines or policies may change very shortly.
- The Lester B. Pearson school board is already moving towards implementing air purifiers in their older schools. Santé Publique is also currently studying this issue. Therefore, Governing Board will table this issue for a later date since it will have to wait for more information from the Ministry and the Board.

f. 2019-2020 Safe School Action Plan

- The Safe School Action Plan outlines the measures for preventing and responding to acts of bullying and violence.
- Many of the measures proposed in the plan could not be implemented due to the school closure last March.
- From the data collected from the 'Tell Them From Me' Survey, 88% of Cedarcrest students feel a strong sentiment of belonging among the student population compared to the national average of 70%.

Motion to approve the 2019-2020 Safe School Action Plan was put forth by Lydia Kansou and seconded by Georgia Stamatopoulos. The motion to approve the 2019-2020 Safe School Action Plan was carried.

g. Establishing Future Governing Board Meeting Dates

- The future Governing Board Meeting Dates for this academic year will be December 8th, February 9th, March 16th, April 13th, May 11th and June 8th.

h. Drinking Water

- Parent member Helene Zereik asked if students could refill their water bottles at the water fountain.
- The Principal noted that per current safety guidelines, a teacher or caretaker would have to supervise and disinfect the water dispenser button after each usage.
- Staff member Sandy Milonas noted that a lot of instruction time is already being lost to the multiple handwashing routines throughout the day.
- Staff member Lorraine Belanger added that she had been informed that her classroom sink water is safe after running for 5 minutes. Her routine is that after a student washes his hands, he can fill re-fill his water bottle at that moment.
- The new water fountains comply with Health Canada safety guidelines but the Principal will follow up with the Board to confirm that the classroom sinks also comply.

i. Lockers

- The lockers are open. The current routine is for the students to remove their boots or outdoor shoes outside their classrooms and put on their indoor shoes inside the classroom. Students take turns afterwards to put their coats into their lockers.
- Parent members remarked that once there is snow and puddles in the hallways, students will be walking around in wet dirty socks throughout the day. They asked if it was possible for students to remove their coats and boots at their individual lockers if they all wore masks.
- The Principal responded that at the moment it is not feasible due to the staggered entry in the mornings. The hallways will be too busy and students will end up congregating with the classrooms across the hall.
- This issue of the lockers and changing in and out of winter gear can be brought up at Staff Council.

j. Additions to the Daycare Handbook

- Ms. Stamatopoulos reported that the Daycare Handbook for this academic year had to be revised to reflect the new regulations implemented due to Covid.
- The Daycare Handbook now stipulates that the Extra Curricular Activities (ECA) offered by external educators cannot happen until further notice. ECA will be administered by daycare staff.
- There is no outside field trips on PED days until further notice.
- As approved at the last Governing Board meeting, only regular registered daycare students can attend Daycare on PED days.
- Any student asked to self-isolate will be credited the days they are not using Daycare.
- Parents cannot enter the school building to drop off or pick up the students. At pickup, the children will be brought to the Daycare exit.
- As per Ministry directives, parents are asked to monitor and evaluate their children's health before bringing them to school and daycare.

Motion to approve the revised Daycare Handbook was put forth by Maria Arfanis and seconded by Lydia Kansou. The motion to approve the revised Daycare Handbook was carried.

7. REPORTS

a. Principal's Report: Elena Zervas

- The Principal will bring up the business issues of the locker situation and refilling water at the fountain or sink to Staff Council.

b. Teacher's Report: Maria Arfanis

- On behalf of the Teachers, Ms. Arfanis thanked Home and School for the Welcome Back Fun Day, Halloween and Teacher's Wish List.

c. Commissioner's Report

- There was no Commissioner Report.

d. Parent Committee Report: Helene Zereik

- Most schools represented at the Parent Committee meeting are concerned about air purification as discussed in the business issues.
- There is concern about school enrolment in the east side of Montreal.
- At the Parent Committee Meeting, Ms. Zereik brought up the issue of water quality in the schools and feels that we need to be more pro-active in following up with this issue and the condition of the pipes in the schools.

e. Daycare Report: Georgia Stamatopoulos

- There was no daycare report to present; things are going well at Daycare.

f. Home and School Report: Tia Nicholls

- This year, Home and School did not want to limit teachers to Indigo for the wish list. They were told to order whatever they needed for their specific classrooms to promote safety, well-being and learning during this pandemic. For example, teachers asked for extra copies of novels to avoid book sharing, storage solutions for the classrooms, more yoga balls and noise cancelling ear muffs.
- For the Welcome Back / Fun Day, Home and School paid for individually packaged waffle breakfasts from Allo Mon Coco for students and staff.

- For Halloween, Home and School sponsored the popular school-wide Bingo Game and treated students to individual packs of 'Bad Monkey' popcorn and chips.
- Home and School is working on ideas for Christmas. Ideas include decorating stockings, virtual Santa greeting, and the school-wide intercom Bingo Games. Again, to support local community businesses, Home and School is thinking of treating the students to individually packaged Christmas cookies.

8. QUESTION PERIOD

There were no questions raised.

9. NEXT MEETING DATE

The next meeting of Governing Board is scheduled for **Tuesday December 8, 2020 at 6:30** via Microsoft Teams.


10. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 8:24 PM.

Minutes By: Karen Der



chairperson



principal



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Commission scolaire English-Montréal
English Montreal School Board

CEDARCREST SCHOOL
Governing Board Meeting Minutes
Tuesday December 8, 2020

Attendees:

Maria Arfanis, Maria Argyriou, Raymond Ayas, Lorraine Belanger Karen Der, Lydia Kansou, Sandy Milonas, Tia Nicholls, Georgia Stamatopoulos, Helene Zereik, Elena Zervas

Absentees:

None

1. WELCOME AND OPENING REMARKS

Welcomes and opening remarks for the third meeting of the 2020-2021 academic year from chair Tia Nicholls. The meeting was held via Microsoft Teams.

2. ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

Member Lydia Kansou asked to revisit the locker and shoes issue (6c) from the last meeting and add to the Agenda.

3. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Motion to adopt today's Agenda as amended was put forth by Raymond Ayas and seconded by Lorraine Belanger. The motion to adopt today's Agenda as amended was carried.

4. REVIEW OF THE MINUTES FROM NOVEMBER 10, 2020

Members had no revisions or additions for the minutes.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion to approve the November 10, 2020 Meeting Minutes was put forth by Helene Zereik and seconded by Raymond Ayas. The motion to approve the November 10, 2020 Meeting Minutes was carried.

6. BUSINESS ISSUES

a. Sexuality Plan Approval

- This Quebec Ministry of Education distributed to the schools its Sexuality Education Plan for 2020-2021, a copy of which was circulated to members. It requires Governing Board Approval.
- The themes covered this year include "Pregnancy and Birth", "Sexual Growth and Body Image", "Comprehensive View of Sexuality", "Emotional and Romantic Life", "Sexual Assault Prevention" and "Identity, Gender Stereotypes & Roles, and Social Norms".
- It is mandatory for Grades 1 through to 6 and will be taught in English.
- The Principal noted that the themes seem very deep and blunt but assured members that all content will be carefully tailored to the age of the students. Not every theme will be covered for each grade.
- The students' teachers have been trained by the EMSB to deliver some of the material covered in the Sexuality Education Plan.
- Some themes are taught by the school nurse or a nurse from the School Board. Other themes are presented by Board approved organizations like SHINE which is part of the Missing Children Network.
- Member Raymond Ayas enquired what recourse there is for parents who may not deem the themes covered in the Sexuality Education Plan to be appropriate and want to opt out.
- The Principal responded that it is a compulsory subject mandated by the Quebec Ministry of Education. However, parents can request an official form of exemption that is on the EMSB web site. The Principal noted that parents must have a specific and valid reason for an exemption. For example, a parent could apply for an exemption on the theme of Sexual Assault Prevention because their child experienced sexual abuse and they believe the theme will be too traumatic.
- Member Raymond Ayas believes that parents should be made more aware about this exemption. He also enquired how parents can be better informed. The Principal replied that the EMSB will be sending all parents the same letter regarding the mandatory Sexuality Education Program in January.
- Member Raymond Ayas thinks that parents should have a clear letter from Cedarcrest advising them of the exemption. Chair Tia Nicholls responded that Cedarcrest as a neutral body cannot issue such a letter.

- Responding to Mr. Ayas' concerns, member Helene Zereik remarked that based on her children's feedback over the years, the presentation of the material has always been well done, respectful, and dealt with relevant contemporary issues. If parents truly have concerns about the themes, they will surely contact Ms. Zervas who can then point them to the EMSB exemption.
- Member Lydia Kansou also reassured that the material taught was not anything her children didn't already know about.
- Member Raymond Ayas questioned why Governing Board even has to approve the Sexuality Education Plan if schools are mandated by law to teach this material.
- If the Sexuality Education Plan is compulsory, member Raymond Ayas would prefer that the students' teachers cover all the material without outside personnel or organizations like SHINE.

Motion to approve the Quebec Ministry of Education Sexuality Plan with all themes presented only by Cedarcrest teachers was put forth by Raymond Ayas. The motion was not seconded or carried.

Motion to approve the Quebec Ministry of Education Sexuality Plan as presented by Ms. Zervas i.e. theme content delivered by Cedarcrest teachers, nurses and Board approved organizations like SHINE was put forth by Sandy Milonas and seconded by Maria Arfanis. The motion to approve the Sexuality Education Plan as presented by Ms. Zervas was carried by a majority of members. The objection of member Raymond Ayas was duly noted.

b. M Transport School Bus Tracking Tool Approval

- Cedarcrest has been selected to be part of a pilot project for a new School Bus Tracking Tool from M Transport to enhance student safety.
- Parents would download this tracking tool onto their devices.
- The tracking tool would notify parents when their children get off the bus and arrive at Cedarcrest and when they get on the bus to go home.
- It would alert parents if the bus was late or if their children are near their home stop in real time. For example if bus #204 left Cedarcrest 20 minutes late, parents would be notified of this delay on their device.

- Students swipe their bus cards on an IPAD every time they get on the bus. They swipe it again when they get off the bus.
- There are built in safety features. For example if a K or Grade 1 student scans their bus card when they get off the bus at their home stop, the IPAD will alert the bus driver that this student must be met at the stop by an adult. It is very useful at the beginning of the school year when drivers are not familiar with the students or in the case of a substitute bus driver who would not know the students at all.
- The M Transport tracking tool is governed by Canadian laws. All information is on data encrypted servers. M Transport and the EMSB have access to the information.
- If Governing Board approves participating in this pilot project, the trial period would begin in January.
- In Phase 1 of the pilot project, the bus driver gets the IPAD and trains on the new software.
- In Phase 2 of the pilot project, the parents get the app to download onto their devices. However, due to Covid and the impracticality of disinfecting the IPAD after each bus card scan, not all the functionalities of the tracking tool will be available. However, parents will still get real time alerts if a bus is late or delayed.
- Member Raymond Ayas stated he is extremely pleased with this development. He lobbied very hard at the Board level for such a program when he was Parent Representative for the Transport Committee.

Motion to approve Cedarcrest participating in the M Transport School Bus Tracking Tool pilot project was put forth by Raymond Ayas and seconded by Georgia Stamatopoulos. The motion to approve Cedarcrest participating in the M Transport School Bus Tracking Tool pilot project was carried unanimously.

c. Shoes

- At the last meeting, parent members had noted that changing from outdoor footwear to indoor footwear in the classrooms would not be feasible once the winter weather began and there would be snow and puddles in the hallways. Parent member Lydia Kansou noted that her daughter had been in wet socks the whole day and enquired about the current protocol for changing in and out of winter gear. The Principal responded that at the recent Staff Council meeting, teachers were told that students can keep their indoor shoes in their lockers and switch from their outdoor footwear to indoor footwear at their lockers.

7. REPORTS

a. Principal's Report: Elena Zervas

- All the 16 classrooms will have an air purifier. The other 4 air purifiers will be installed in other spaces like the library or staff room.
- Member Raymond Ayas enquired about who would be responsible for the maintenance and utilities bill associated with the purifiers. At the last meeting, it was relayed by the EMSB that if Home and Schools undertook the purchase of air purification systems they would be responsible for all upkeep. The Principal confirmed that Cedarcrest Home and School would not be responsible.
- The Principal had a meeting with the Regional Directors. The December 17 and 18 classes will be online. There will be no Daycare services on those days. The time slots will be segregated in such a way so that families who may not have enough devices for each child will still be able to share and attend the class. Most teachers are planning fun activities for those 2 days.
- In the event of any future closures, Cedarcrest has received 70 requests for devices. The school is working to acquire all the devices. Devices will not be distributed for the December 17-18 classes.
- Cedarcrest was just informed that it was not chosen as an Emergency Services Daycare for essential workers in the community. It is good news for Cedarcrest; the 4 months that it was an Emergency Services Daycare last spring had a deleterious effect on equipment like the IPADS which were constantly Lysol wiped.
- In closing, the Principal applauded students for their positive morale. Student life has not changed much despite the pandemic. The school atmosphere is happy and welcoming. The Principal commended Staff and administration, thanked Home and School and wished everyone happy holidays.

b. Teacher's Report: Maria Arfanis

- On behalf of the teachers, Ms. Arfanis thanked Home and School in advance for this Thursday's Breakfast with Santa. She also wished members happy holidays.
- Cycle 1 had a theater workshop on November 30th. It was a fantastic animated presentation enjoyed by the students. A similar workshop will be scheduled in March and April for Cycle 2 and 3. Grade 2 had a Cosmodome workshop.
- On January 20, DJ Malik for Virgin Radio will be hosting two Anti-Bullying sessions at Cedarcrest.
- Online workshops are also planned for Black History Month.

c. Commissioner's Report

- There was no Commissioner Report.

d. Parent Committee Report: Helene Zereik

- Interim Director Russell Cooperman was present at the virtual meeting but left shortly after Question Period.
- In essence, the schools that have no mechanical ventilation will get the purifiers.
- Per the Council of Commissioners, the EMSB is paying for the purifiers but when pressed, they did not have any specifics.
- She raised the issue of schools being reimbursed for Covid related expenses i.e. soap, paper towels, disinfectants, cleaning products etc.
- There will be an online registration tool for Kindergarten.
- They are also having a hard time deciding when to hold the midterms for the high school students.
- There was a general consensus that meeting the teachers virtually in the fall went very well.

e. Daycare Report: Georgia Stamatopoulos

- There was no daycare report to present. Things are going well at Daycare and the students are happy.

f. Home and School Report: Tia Nicholls

- Home and School will help pay for the McDonald's pancake breakfast for Thursday's Breakfast with Santa. It will also pay for the popcorn and candy cane treats for students and provide four \$50 Maxi Gift Cards for Cedarcrest families in need.
- Chair Tia Nicholls also mentioned that Le Doral has a meal assistance program to give to families in need.
- Home and School's recent Holiday On-line Catalogue Fundraiser did well as per the Dieleman representative.

8. QUESTION PERIOD

- Members Lydia Kansou and Helene Zereik noted that the Grade 4 vaccinations were cancelled. In response to their query, the Principal confirmed that this year's Grade 4 students will get their vaccinations next year.
- Member Karen Der enquired whether it would be possible to bring back Student Council. The students could be mobilized to do some of the fundraising or event set up that Home and School cannot currently do at the school. Students could stay in their respective class bubbles and each class could be responsible for a specific event or task. For example, Student Council members in Ms. Gianna's class could work on the yearbook. Members in Ms. Milonas' class could work on fundraising. Members in Ms. Vathilakis' Grade 5 could take care of Grad decorating etc. Home and School had a lot of fun ideas for Halloween and Breakfast with Santa but none could be implemented because of the visitor restrictions. However, if Home and School could work with a Student Council that respects Covid guidelines, perhaps the school could engage the seniors to implement some of the ideas Home and School has for various events or fundraisers. Both organizations share a similar mandate of fundraising and giving back to the school community. The Principal responded that with staff and students now acclimatized to all the changes and new guidelines due to Covid, this is something that the school can consider.
- Member Tia Nicholls asked if the students do homework during Daycare and if there is a tutoring service. The Principal responded that at least 1 hour is allocated for homework. She has tutors available and students can ask for help as part of the Daycare Service. However, if a student requires regular tutoring help, parents should communicate with the school to see what can be arranged.

9. NEXT MEETING DATE

The next meeting of Governing Board is scheduled for **Tuesday February 9, 2021 at 6:30** via Microsoft Teams.

10. ADJOURNMENT


There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 8:08 PM.

Minutes By: Karen Der



CHAIRPERSON

- 7 -



PRINCIPAL



Cedarcrest School Sexuality Education Curriculum Plan 2020-2021

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 determined who will provide Sexuality Education content.

IT WAS MOVED BY Maria Arfanis AND RESOLVED THAT the 2020-2021 Sexuality Education Curriculum Plan be approved, as presented, by the Governing Board and that it be communicated to all parents on the school website.

Y. Liello Dec 9th 2020
Signature, Governing Board Chair/Date

[Signature] 2020-12-09
Signature, Principal / Date



Cedarcrest Elementary School
1505 Muir, St-Laurent, QC H4L 4T1
Tel: (514) 744-2614



Commission scolaire English-Montréal
English Montreal School Board

CEDARCREST SCHOOL
Governing Board Meeting Minutes
Tuesday February 9, 2021

Attendees:

Maria Arfanis, Maria Argyriou, Raymond Ayas, Lorraine Belanger, Karen Der, Lydia Kansou, Tia Nicholls, Georgia Stamatopoulos, Helene Zereik, Elena Zervas

Absentees:

Sandy Milonas

1. WELCOME AND OPENING REMARKS

Welcomes and opening remarks for the fourth meeting of the 2020-2021 academic year from chair Tia Nicholls. The meeting was held via Microsoft Teams.

2. ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

Members asked to include distance learning (6e), lead pipe testing (6f) and *Arts Dramatiques* (6g) to the Agenda.

3. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Motion to adopt today's Agenda as amended was put forth by Georgia Stamatopoulos and seconded by Lydia Kansou. The motion to adopt today's Agenda as amended was carried.

4. REVIEW OF THE MINUTES FROM DECEMBER 8, 2020

Members had no revisions or additions for the minutes.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion to approve the December 8, 2020 Meeting Minutes was put forth by Raymond Ayas and seconded by Maria Argyriou. The motion to approve the December 8, 2020 Meeting Minutes was carried.

6. BUSINESS ISSUES

a. Educational Project Report 2019-2020

- Refer to the Cedarcrest's "Educational Project Annual Report 2019-2020" circulated to members.
- The Educational Project spans 3 years and "is a strategic tool for defining and making known to the educational community of a school the orientations, priorities for action and expected results to ensure the educational success of all students."
- 2019-2020 was the first year of implementation and schools are required to submit an annual report on their achievements of the objectives outlined in the Educational Project.

WHEREAS due to last year's school closure and the cancellation of Ministry exams, Cedarcrest cannot formally report on the achievement of its objectives as well as the effectiveness of its selected strategies for the 2019-2020 academic year;

WHEREAS for the academic year 2020-2021, the implementation of our Educational Project will used to guide and ensure students success towards continual improvement;

Motion to approve the Educational Project Annual Report 2019-2020 was put forth by Maria Arfanis and seconded by Maria Argyriou. The motion to approve the Educational Project Annual Report 2019-2020 was carried.

b. MEES Measures Allocation

- Refer to the « *Attestation des montants reçus par votre établissement pour les mesures protégées – année scolaire 2020-2021* » document circulated to members.
- The Ministry allocates funds every year to the school commissions or service centers for certain *mesures protégées*. Pages 1 to 6 of the document details the global amounts given to each school commission or service center for this academic year.
- The school commission or service center in turn allocates a specific amount to each of its schools. The funds allocation that pertains to Cedarcrest is detailed on page 7.

- A total of \$18,918 was transferred to Cedarcrest from the EMSB to cover the following *mesures protégées*.
 - École vivante -\$5,728. For example, painting of the schoolyard lines
 - Acquisition of library books - \$3,172
 - Acquisition of books for Kindergarten classes - \$272
 - Cultural themed field trips – \$9,746. This year field trips to the museum or Quebec City will not be possible. Monies from this allocation paid for workshops like the recent *Maison Théâtre* and will pay for Geordie Productions presenting a play.

In accordance with Ministry guidelines that Governing Boards acknowledge receipt of the funds for the Mesures protégées, motion to acknowledge Cedarcrest's receipt of the funds for the Mesures protégées was put forth by Maria Arfanis and seconded by Helene Zereik. The motion acknowledging the receipt of the funds for the Mesures protégées 2020-2021 school year was carried.

c. Budget Building Process

- Refer to the “Budget Building Process 2021-2022” and Cedarcrest’s “Appendix B: Suggestions for Budget Priorities / Feedback on Guiding Principles, Criteria and Related Orientations 2019-2020” circulated to members.
- Every year, Governing Board reviews the Budget Building Process document. This budgetary consultation document allows for those concerned i.e. educational institutions, Governing Boards, and Parent Committee an opportunity to provide input in the budget process.
- Along with the Suggestions for Budget Priorities identified in Appendix B, the Principal believes that another Budget Priority for 2021-2022 specific to Cedarcrest should be added to the list. Cedarcrest’s evening caretaker shift is from 2PM to 8:15PM. At most schools, the caretaker evening shift finishes at 10:30PM. In normal times, it is already difficult for the caretaker to finish cleaning the school by 8:15PM. In Covid times and the extra sanitation procedures required, his task is nearly impossible to complete by 8:15PM. Therefore, a budget priority should be to allocate more funds to pay for the evening caretaker to finish at 10:30PM.
- Another Suggestion for Budget Priorities 2021-2022 is to have additional resource staff. Many students at Cedarcrest have a code and follow an IEP and there are not enough resources to address this area.

Motion to approve Cedarcrest's Appendix B: Suggestions for Budget Priorities / Feedback on Guiding Principles, Criteria and Related Orientations for the Budget Building Process 2021-2022 was put forth by Raymond Ayas and seconded by Tia Nicholls. The motion was carried.

d. Criteria of a Principal

- The Principal was absent from the meeting for this Business Issue.
- Chair Tia Nicholls referred members to the "Criteria of a School Principal" document which has been the same for the last few years.
- She asked members if there were any other criteria that they would like to add.
- Members suggested the following:
 - "Is fully bilingual."
 - "Takes into consideration the voice of the community in the decision making process."

Motion to add "Is fully bilingual" and "Takes into consideration the voice of the community in the decision making process" to the Criteria of a School Principal document was put forth by Raymond Ayas and seconded by Lydia Kansou. The motion was carried unanimously.

e. Distance Learning

- During the first week of January the whole school was online. Also during the current quarantine of the grade 3 class, classes are online. Parent members enquired why on most days, on line school finishes at 11:15 AM instead of 2:30 PM. The Principal responded that per the Ministry guidelines for online classes, instruction time is only 14 hours per week.
- Not only was 3B quarantined but other individual students were pulled out from their classes. However, these students had no online classes and were just given homework on Google classroom. Parent members enquired whether or not for the future, these students could have remote access to the Cedarcrest classroom when the teachers are explaining the math or science lessons. These students are socially isolated from their classmates and miss out completely the instruction time. Staff members assured that these students are contacted daily by their teachers during their breaks. The Principal noted that this issue could be brought forward to Staff Council.

f. Lead Pipe Testing

- Member Helene Zereik who lives near the school received a letter from the City stating that there is a slight risk of lead pipes in the area. She enquired if there has been any update on the lead pipe testing issue.
- Until such time that the Principal receives written confirmation about the piping issue, staff and students will continue to run the classroom sinks for 5 minutes before drinking.
- In the bathrooms, there are signs that the faucet water is only for handwashing and not for drinking

g. Arts Dramatiques

- Member Lydia Kansou observed that the Drama class seems very theoretical. There is a lot of video watching and video reviews. Considering that this is a year with no extracurricular activities, she believes that Drama should be incorporating more dance and music.
- The Principal commented that an upcoming Business Issue for Governing Board will be to select Drama or Music for the Arts program for academic year 2021-2022.

7. REPORTS

a. Principal's Report: Elena Zervas

- The school ordered 15 new laptops exclusive to the school. During last year's school closure, 15 new Chromebooks were also given to the school for a total now of 30 new laptops.
- Cedarcrest is also working on having a portable computer lab.
- Parents will be credited for the daycare and lunch fees for December 17, 18 and the first week of January.
- Staffing has been an issue due to Covid. There are practically no substitutes. It is very difficult to find consistent subs to replace teachers. Therefore on days when a student has 5 subs, it is Cedarcrest teachers pitching in on their breaks to cover their absent colleague.
- Public Health Recommendations have also become more stringent. Now if a student presents with Covid symptoms, their siblings will also be pulled out of school. The whole family would also have to self-isolate.
- Recently, the 3B class was closed due to a positive Covid case. They are currently doing online classes. The Principal commended parents on their collaboration. Within 20 minutes of notification, all students had been picked up by their parents. The parents all wanted to know what they could do to help the situation.

b. Teacher's Report: Maria Arfanis

- On behalf of the teachers, Ms. Arfanis thanked Home and School for Staff Appreciation Week. She also extended best wishes for the New Year.
- Cycle 1 had a theater workshop on November 30th. Throughout January, the senior classes participated in their theater workshops with *Maison Théâtre*.
- On January 20, DJ Malik for Virgin Radio hosted an Anti-Bullying presentation at Cedarcrest.
- Youth Stars Foundation will be presenting online workshops for Black History Month throughout February.
- Michael Bourada, a well-known magician, will be at Cedarcrest on February 25th to present a live anti-bullying magic show for students.
- Cedarcrest is also booking a Geordie Productions play.
- Educazoo will visit the kindergarten classes.

c. Commissioner's Report

- There was no Commissioner Report.

d. Parent Committee Report: Helene Zereik

- The EPCA had considered a survey on cancelling the March Break since the French School Boards were floating the idea. However, members were not receptive to that idea and they decided not to circulate the survey.
- The Parent Committee is also forming sub-committees in areas such as school enrollment and mental health.
- In the last meeting, the Board indicated that it has allocated a lot of funds for mental health. The Principal stated that the school nurse is there on Mondays and the psychologist who comes regularly can always be scheduled for more time if needed.
- Member Helene Zereik also noted that the Parent Committee discussions seemed to suggest that funds were unlimited for maintenance items like salt. She wondered if this is actually accurate. The Principal replied that the 'Buildings and Maintenance' budget is not unlimited.

e. Daycare Report: Georgia Stamatopoulos

- Things are going well at Daycare.
- Daycare tax slips will be sent to Mozaik.
- To further reduce paper handling, Daycare statement of accounts will be emailed to parents.
- There will be 3 emergency Daycare Services for the March Break. The names of the schools will be announced soon.
- Chair Tia Nicholls enquired if Daycare would be allowed to roll over any budget surplus to next year. For example, daycare fees are still the same but things like field trips are cancelled.
- Member Georgia Stamatopoulos responded that if for example, the snack budget is not depleted this year, then the unspent monies cannot be rolled over.

- Chair Tia Nicholls noted that money not spent for a particular budget like snacks is not the same as monies allocated for field trips that cannot be used at all because the events are cancelled due to Covid.
- Daycare also mentioned that during the school and daycare closure, it did not earn any revenue despite having to still pay out the salaries of daycare staff and lunch monitors. Parents were reimbursed for all lunch fees and daycare services during the school closure.
- As mentioned in the Principal Report, parents will also be credited for lunch and daycare fees for the online classes of December 17, 18 and the first week of January. However, Daycare still has to pay staff for those days.
- Students that were recently quarantined will also be credited for lunch and daycare fees for the period applicable.

f. Home and School Report: Tia Nicholls

- Since Home and School cannot be in the building, there is little activity or events to report.
- Home and School is still in constant contact with the Principal
- This week Home and School is hosting Staff Appreciation Week. Every day, there will be a different treat for staff.
- Home and School thanked member Maria Argyriou for helping set things up for Staff Appreciation Week since its members cannot be on site.
- There will be a free TCBY on February 25 and another free one in mid-April.
- Many parents have communicated to Home and School about bringing back the social aspect for the students. Perhaps, the school can consider events like Movie Day in the gym that respects the classroom bubbles.

8. QUESTION PERIOD

- Member Lydia Kansou noticed that the report cards had no comments. The Principal replied that it was a pressure tactic from the teachers' union. Staff member Maria Arfanis noted that teachers still don't have a contract and are asking the Ministry for smaller classrooms and more resources.
- Member Helene Zereik revisited the after school walker pickup situation on Deguire Street. Despite emails from the Principal, a few cars still continue to park and double-park by the school yard exit. As they reverse or make U-turns to leave the street, it creates a safety issue with the children and parents that are standing in the area waiting for all the students to exit. Ms. Arfanis has had to resort to knocking on car windows and instructing these parents not to drive their car away until all students have left the area. Ms. Zereik suggested that perhaps the Principal could come out to the walker exit and speak with some of these parents. The Principal is aware of the situation and noted it is the same few parents. She can call Public Security but unless they are double parking, they legally have the right to park on the street. She is considering other options like having parents wait in the school yard. However, this just encourages parents and children to linger and play in the school yard. Another option is to dismiss the K, 1, and 2 walker students at the Daycare door. This would at least reduce the number of parents waiting by the school yard exit. However, they would still have to return to the Deguire exit to collect their older children.
- Member Helene Zereik asked if Governing Board has any say in the school curriculum. For instance, this year there is no looping schedule so that subjects like Math or French are not taught daily. The Principal replied that the one day French and one day English schedule was adopted this year only to facilitate compliance with Covid guidelines. The Principal responded that it is Staff Council that decides on school curriculum. However, valid issues raised by Governing Board like the looping schedule are brought forward to Staff Council.


9. NEXT MEETING DATE

The next meeting of Governing Board is scheduled for **Tuesday March 16th, 2021 at 6:30** via Microsoft Teams. However, members were advised that an earlier meeting may be called regarding whether Cedarcrest will be staffing Drama or Music for next year.

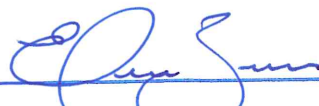
10. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 8:32 PM.

Minutes By: Karen Der



Chairperson



PRINCIPAL



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Commission scolaire English-Montréal
English Montreal School Board

CEDARCREST SCHOOL
Governing Board Meeting Minutes
Tuesday February 23, 2021

Attendees:

Maria Arfanis, Maria Argyriou, Raymond Ayas, Lorraine Belanger, Karen Der, Lydia Kansou, Sandy Milonas, Tia Nicholls, Georgia Stamatopoulos, Helene Zereik, Elena Zervas

Absentees:

None

1. WELCOME AND OPENING REMARKS

Welcomes and opening remarks for the fifth meeting of the 2020-2021 academic year from chair Tia Nicholls. The meeting was held via Microsoft Teams.

2. ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

There were no additions to the Agenda.

3. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Motion to adopt today's Agenda was put forth by Helene Zereik and seconded by Lydia Kansou. The motion to adopt today's Agenda was carried.

4. REVIEW OF THE MINUTES FROM FEBRUARY 9, 2021

Principal Zervas had one revision in the last bulleted paragraph in the section Question Period. The sentence "The Principal responded that it is Staff Council that decides on school curriculum" should read as "The Principal responded that it is Governing Board that approves school curriculum. The internal organization of the student timetable is determined by Staff Council".

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion to approve the February 9, 2021 Meeting Minutes as amended was put forth by Maria Arfanis and seconded by Georgia Stamatopoulos. The motion to approve the February 9, 2021 Meeting Minutes as amended was carried.

6. BUSINESS ISSUES

a. Arts Program

- The Ministry **Arts Program** or *Domaine des Arts* is composed of four disciplines. They are Dance, Music, Dramatic Art (*art dramatique*) and Plastic Arts (*arts plastiques*).
- Tonight's meeting is to determine if Dramatic Art or Music will be the complementary discipline to Plastic Arts for next year's Arts Program.
- Parent members had some comments regarding this year's new Dramatic Art class which was initially brought up at the last Governing Board Meeting.
- They observed that the Dramatic Art class seems very theoretical. There is a lot of video watching and writing technical reviews of these videos.
- Parent members had assumed that this class would have more active participation and physical movement. They thought production of mini plays, musical/dance numbers similar to the Choir Club, improv or skits would be the format of the Dramatic Art class.
- Considering that this is a year with no extracurricular activities such as Dance Club, Zumba Club, Choir Club or Merlin Club, parent members had hoped that the Dramatic Art class would have been able to incorporate some of these dance and music elements into the curriculum.
- Especially for the mental health of the children during these Covid times, it is important to have a class that is fun and gets the children moving and dancing to release all their pent up energy.
- They noted that Music class was very interactive. The children were moving either through singing or dancing on the spot. Their hands were busy clapping or playing with musical instruments.
- Since the students' other classes focus on the rational, it is important that the Music or Dramatic Art Class focus on the emotional aspect.
- Per parent member feedback, the children love their Dramatic Art Teacher but do not find the video content or theoretical material very interesting or engaging.
- The Principal acknowledged and thanked parent members for their feedback.

- In response to parent member queries, the Principal commented that the Ministry determines the curriculum for Dramatic Art and not the teacher. The Dramatic Art discipline comprises three competencies from which to teach and evaluate the students.
 - Competency 1: To invent short scenes
 - Competency 2: To interpret short scenes
 - Competency 3: To appreciate dramatic works, personal productions and those of classmates
- Music also comprises three competencies.
 - Competency 1: To invent vocal and instrumental pieces
 - Competency 2: To interpret musical pieces
 - Competency 3: To appreciate musical works, personal productions and those of classmates
- In response to other parent member questions, the Principal replied:
 - Music appreciation is appreciating the era of the piece, how it makes them feel and the social/cultural traces of the piece.
 - Music and Dramatic Art cannot be combined into one discipline.
 - The students have Dramatic Art with Ms. Jessica once a week for 30 minutes.
- Staff feedback included that one cannot compare this year's Dramatic Art class to previous year's Music class. If Music had been taught this year, it would have been very different to comply with Covid safety guidelines. For example, classes would not have combined to work on a musical presentation.
- The Principal also noted that depending on the Music teacher that is hired, the instruments used in class could also change. The new teacher may not be comfortable using the merlin and may want to use the recorder instead.
- As in any class, there will always have to be some theory but eventually the 'fun part' of the course will follow. Even in Music, there is a theoretical component to the class.
- If Music is chosen, there would also have to be constant disinfection of musical instruments due to Covid which will still be around next September.
- As mentioned in earlier Governing Board meetings, the constant hand washing routines due to Covid diminishes instruction time. For the 30 minute Dramatic Art class that is after recess, 5 minutes is lost just to handwashing. The classroom desks also have to be rearranged to maximize space and then put back in order at the end of the class. This 30 minute class quickly becomes only a 20 minute class. Therefore the Dramatic Art teacher is working with a significant time constraint.

- Chair Tia Nicholls enquired if the Gym could be utilized for Dramatic Art. The Principal responded that it is a good idea but in any given week there are only about two 30 minute blocks when the gym is not in use.
- Parent members commented that Ms. Jessica is the ideal person to teach Dramatic Art. She is young, fun, dynamic and has a background in dance and choir. However, the time constraint discussed above and the current Ministry content or curriculum does not allow her to maximize her artistic talents for the Dramatic Art class.

WHEREAS the majority of members voted to keep Dramatic Art for the 2021-2022 academic year instead of Music;

WHEREAS Governing Board agreed to revisit the Arts Program in a year to determine whether Music or Dramatic Art would be one of the disciplines for the academic year 2022-2023;

WHEREAS for the academic year 2021-2022, the status quo of 60 minutes Plastic Arts and 60 minutes Dramatic Art will be maintained;

Motion to approve Plastic Arts and Dramatic Art as the two disciplines for the Arts Program for the academic year 2021-2022 was put forth by Georgia Stamatopoulos and seconded by Maria Arfanis. The motion was carried by a majority of members.

7. REPORTS

a. Principal's Report: Elena Zervas

- There was no report to present.

b. Teacher's Report: Maria Arfanis

- There was no report to present but on behalf of the teachers, Ms. Arfanis thanked Home and School for Staff Appreciation Week.

c. Commissioner's Report

- There was no Commissioner Report.

d. Parent Committee Report: Helene Zereik

- There was no report to present.

e. Daycare Report: Georgia Stamatopoulos

- There was no report to present.

f. Home and School Report: Tia Nicholls

- Home and School again thanked member Maria Argyriou for setting things up for Staff Appreciation Week since its members cannot be on site. She also commended Home School member Voula Papacostas for coordinating the event.

8. QUESTION PERIOD

There were no questions raised.


9. NEXT MEETING DATE

The next meeting of Governing Board is scheduled for **Tuesday March 16th, 2021 at 6:30 PM** via Microsoft Teams.

10. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 7:38 PM.

Minutes By: Karen Der



CHAIRPERSON

- 5 -



PRINCIPAL



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Commission scolaire English-Montréal
English Montreal School Board

CEDARCREST SCHOOL
Governing Board Meeting Minutes
Wednesday March 31, 2021

Attendees:

Maria Arfanis, Maria Argyriou, Raymond Ayas, Lorraine Belanger, Karen Der, Lydia Kansou, Sandy Milonas, Tia Nicholls, Georgia Stamatopoulos, Helene Zereik, Elena Zervas

Absentees:

None

1. WELCOME AND OPENING REMARKS

Welcomes and opening remarks for the sixth meeting of the 2020-2021 academic year from chair Tia Nicholls. The meeting was held via Microsoft Teams.

2. ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

Not applicable. The scope of this meeting is limited to the business item regarding the Cycle 1 Program.

3. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Motion to adopt today's Agenda was put forth by Georgia Stamatopoulos and seconded by Sandy Milonas. The motion to adopt today's Agenda was carried.

4. REVIEW OF THE MINUTES FROM FEBRUARY 23, 2021

Due to the limited scope of this meeting, Governing Board agreed to review the Minutes from February 23, 2021 at the next regular meeting on April 13th.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The approval of the Minutes from February 23, 2021 will be deferred to the next regular meeting of Governing Board on April 13th.

6. BUSINESS ISSUES

a. Cycle One Program

- Tonight's meeting is to present an Information Item from the Ministry to Governing Board. This information item is not subject to a vote.
- The Ministry recently had a meeting with the School Boards. At this meeting, the Ministry advised the English School Boards that in Grades 1 and 2 (Cycle 1), English Language Arts must be taught for a minimum of 150 minutes per week. As an English School Board with the language of instruction of English, it must offer English Language Arts. The prevalent format of French Immersion Programs only teaching *Éthique et Culture Religieuse* (ECR) in English in Cycle 1 and introducing English Language Arts in Cycle 2 is not sufficient.
- The English Language Arts in Cycle 1 must be comprised of three competencies from which to teach and evaluate the students as is done in Cycles 2 and 3.
 - Competency 1: Uses language to communicate and to learn
 - Competency 2: Reads and listens to spoken, written and media texts
 - Competency 3: Produces written and media texts
- Currently, when the students reach Grade 3, they are expected to read and write in English but they have no formal instruction in English at Cedarcrest until Grade 3.
- Parent members were surprised by this Ministry directive. It is not in the interest of a French Immersion Program to have the French instruction time diminished. Many parents chose Cedarcrest School for its French immersion program that was mostly in French (96%) during Kindergarten and Cycle 1.
- Parent member Raymond Ayas proposed that Cedarcrest School write a formal letter to the Ministry as soon as possible to express its displeasure and objection to this mandate.
- Chair Tia Nichols asked Delegate Helene Zereik to bring this matter up at the next EMSB Parent Committee meeting to see what formal procedures can be followed to object to this Ministry mandate. The Principal commented that it will most likely be an item raised since it affects many EMSB elementary schools. The Chair hopes that if this can be discussed at the PC level, then perhaps other schools will join Cedarcrest in a collective formal response to disapprove of this Ministry mandate instead of Cedarcrest doing its own standalone objection.

- Staff member Lorraine Belanger asked if we could teach ECR in French in Cycle 1 to gain back some instruction time in French. The Principal responded that this could be implemented by a Governing Board resolution.
- Some parent members noted that ECR has challenging and abstract material and it may be difficult for Cycle 1 students to express themselves in French in this subject. The Principal remarked that this is a valid concern and often schools opt to teach ECR in English at Cycle 1.
- Parent members asked for teacher feedback about teaching ECR in French. Mme Lorraine (Kindergarten) had previously taught ECR in French. She does not think that it would be a problem for the students to learn this material in French since the ECR curriculum is introduced at a very basic level in Cycle 1. Mme Maria (Grade 2) believes that it is easier for the students when ECR is taught in English.
- Chair Tia Nicholls enquired why Math is taught in English in Cycles 2 & 3 since it will be taught again in French when students go to Grade 7. Ms. Milonas responded that in her over 20 years teaching career, this has always been the format.
- In response to other parent member questions, the Principal replied:
 - Having to teach English Language Arts in Cycle 1 was always the law but was not implemented in Cedarcrest's French Immersion Program.
 - Cedarcrest's French teachers are bilingual but they must be certified to teach English Language Arts. Ideally, in Cycle 1, another teacher and not the French teacher would be teaching English Language Arts. Different teachers in English Language Arts and French is the standard in Cycles 2 & 3.
 - The 60 minutes per week of ECR that is currently taught in English in Cycle 1 cannot count as part of the 150 minutes of English Language Arts. A minimum of 150 minutes must be allocated solely to English Language Arts especially since 3 competencies (mentioned above) must be taught and evaluated.
 - If a resolution is passed changing ECR instruction from English to French in Cycle 1, it can always be changed back to being taught in English in the following academic year by Governing Board resolution.

WHEREAS Cycle 1 of the Ethics and Religious Culture Program at Cedarcrest School has previously been taught in English;

WHEREAS Article 24 of the Basic School Regulation states that “for students admitted to an English language school, French as the language of instruction for subjects other than French as a second language may be used with the parents’ authorization”;

WHEREAS the English Montreal School Board’s Policy on the Language of Instruction for the Ethics and Religious Culture Program states that schools may be exempt from teaching this course in English at the discretion of the Principal and the Governing Board, with confirmation from the Educational Services Department;

Motion that Cycle 1, 2, & 3 of the Ethics and Religious Culture Program at Cedarcrest School be taught in French was put forth by Sandy Milonas and seconded by Maria Arfanis and approved by a majority of members in attendance.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT Cycle 1, 2 & 3 of the Ethics and Religious Culture Program at Cedarcrest School be taught in French.

- After complying with the Ministry mandate that English Language Arts must be taught in Cycle 1 for a minimum of 150 minutes per week and with the passing of the above resolution to teach ECR in French in Cycle 1, the Governing Board approved **Subject Time Allocation Effective for 2021-2022** will be as follows:

CYCLE 1		CYCLES 2 & 3	
Français	630	Français	345
Mathématique (F)	420	Maths (E)	300
Arts Plastiques (F)	60	English Language Arts	315
Art Dramatique (F)	30	Arts Plastiques (F)	60
Éthique et Culture Religieuse (F)	60	Art Dramatique (F)	60
Éducation Physique (F)	150	Géographie (F)	120
English Language Arts	150	Éthique et Culture Religieuse (F)	60
		Science & Technology (E)	90
		Éducation Physique (F)	150
TOTAL:	1,500	TOTAL:	1,500

7. REPORTS

a. Principal's Report: Elena Zervas

- There was no report to present

b. Teacher's Report: Maria Arfanis

- There was no report to present.

c. Commissioner's Report

- There was no Commissioner Report.

d. Parent Committee Report: Helene Zereik

- There was no report to present.

e. Daycare Report: Georgia Stamatopoulos

- There was no report to present.

f. Home and School Report: Tia Nicholls

- There was no report to present.

8. QUESTION PERIOD

There were no questions raised.

9. NEXT MEETING DATE

The next meeting of Governing Board is scheduled for **Tuesday April 13th, 2021 at 6:30 PM** via Microsoft Teams.

10. ADJOURNMENT


There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned.

Minutes By: Karen Der



CHAIRPERSON

- 5 -



PRINCIPAL



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Commission scolaire English-Montréal
English Montreal School Board

**CEDARCREST SCHOOL
Governing Board Meeting Minutes
Wednesday May 19, 2021**

Attendees Members:

Maria Arfanis, Maria Argyriou, Raymond Ayas, Karen Der, Lydia Kansou, Sandy Milonas, Tia Nicholls, Georgia Stamatopoulos, Helene Zereik, Elena Zervas

Attendees Non-members:

Tina Oppong (Guest speaker)
Nick Romano (Guest speaker)
Greg McPherson (Cedarcrest parent)

Absentees:

Lorraine Belanger

1. WELCOME AND OPENING REMARKS

Welcomes and opening remarks for the seventh meeting of the 2020-2021 academic year from chair Tia Nicholls. The meeting was held via Microsoft Teams.

2. ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

There were no additions to the Agenda.

3. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Motion to adopt today's Agenda was put forth by Karen Der and seconded by Tia Nicholls. The motion to adopt today's Agenda was carried.

4. REVIEW OF THE MINUTES FROM FEBRUARY 23 AND MARCH 31, 2021

Members had no revisions for the February 23, 2021 minutes. Principal Zervas had one revision for the March 31st minutes. The sentence "Having to teach English Language Arts in Cycle 1 was always the law but was not implemented in Cedarcrest's French Immersion Program" should read as "Having to teach English Language Instruction in Cycle 1 was always required but not implemented in French Immersion Schools."

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion to approve the February 23, 2021 Minutes and the March 31, 2021 Meeting Minutes as amended above was put forth by Helene Zereik and seconded by Georgia Stamatopoulos. The motion to approve the February 23 and March 31, 2021 Meeting Minutes was carried.

6. BUSINESS ISSUES

a. PC Anti-Racism Sub Committee Tool Kits (Guest Speaker Mrs. Tina Oppong)

- Tina Oppong is a former Cedarcrest teacher and is the Gardenview PC Delegate. She co-founded the PC Anti-Racism Sub-Committee in April.
- The Sub-Committee distributed Anti-Racism Tool Kits to PC delegates to disseminate to their respective GBs. She attended today's meeting to explain and field questions about the tool kits.
- This past year has seen more people willing to talk about race and parents are trying to start this conversation with their children. However, the information out there is immense and overwhelming.
- The goal of the Anti-Racism Sub-Committee is to compile the information into tool kits and make it simple for parents and educators to use. The information is research based and vetted by experts. Each tool kit would have a different focus. For example, the next tool kit could be about racism and Canada's indigenous communities.
- The Sub-Committee believes that it is important to have this conversation about race and equity and that it should not be a taboo subject. These tool kits help parents bring up what many feel is an uncomfortable conversation.
- In response to some concerns about what could be heavy and mature subject material upsetting to children, Ms. Oppong assured that the content in these tool kits are designed to be age appropriate. For example, Kindergarten students would learn about the beauty of different colours and cultures.
- In response to a query about disseminating this material, Ms. Oppong said that the Board will not send out a mass email. The Board wants the individual schools to decide whether or not to email these tool kits. Therefore the Sub-Committee's goal is to disseminate the tool kits via the school Principals. If the school's Governing Board approves it, the Principal can send a mass email with these tool kits.

- Most parent members felt these tool kits are a good idea since this knowledge will empower the children. In response to member queries about being a guest speaker at the school, Ms. Oppong replied that she would be happy to be a guest speaker on this topic.
- Parent members asked if these tool kits could be discussed in the Ethics class since school is a safe place to have this conversation. The Principal responded that the tool kits could be a unit in ECR or even a topic taught by the Spiritual Animator.
- Ms. Oppong thanked members for all their feedback which she can bring back to the Sub-Committee.

Motion for the school to distribute the Anti-Racism tool kits to the general school population was put forth by Karen Der, seconded by Lydia Kansou and passed by a majority of members in attendance.

b. Cedarcrest Hockey Program (Guest Speaker Mr. Nick Romano)

- Mr. Romano discussed introducing and integrating an after school hockey program at Cedarcrest.
- The program would last about 20 to 25 weeks and practices would occur twice a week. One practice would be on ice for about 90 minutes to work on power skating, skills and game play. The other practice would be in the school gym before or after school for conditioning and hockey related exercises.
- All instructors have certifications and would have passed police verifications.
- For the on-ice session, students would be bussed directly from Cedarcrest at school dismissal time to the local hockey arena. Parents would pick up their children at around 4:45 – 5 PM at the arena.
- Ideally to keep the prices lower, there would be at least 15 Grade 3 & 4 students in one group and 15 Grade 5 & 6 students in the second group. Cost factors are the number of students registered, ice time and bussing.
- Students can be beginners and do not need to have previous hockey training.
- Parent members were interested in the idea of a hockey program since it would be directly after school and occur during a time when parents are still at work.

- Members' concerns were the pricing since hockey is an expensive sport. Another concern was the issue of children's safety since the school would be releasing them to an off-school site.
- Members decided to send a Google poll email to the parents to gauge their interest in an afterschool hockey program. If there is sufficient interest among parents, this business item can be brought forward for further discussion at a future GB meeting.

c. 2021-2022 School Calendar

- The School Board presented the proposed 2021-2022 School Calendar for GB approval.
- However, the School Board will have to be notified that there is one too many teaching days in the calendar.

Motion to approve the 2021-2022 School Calendar as presented with the necessary amendments to be approved at a later date by e-vote was put forth by Helene Zereik, seconded by Maria Arfanis and carried by a majority of members in attendance.

d. Le Doral

- Governing Board voted whether to keep Le Doral as the vendor for the hot lunches.
- Their price will remain \$6.50 per hot meal for the 2021-2022 and 2022-2023 academic years.
- Members enquired if there are other suppliers that we can choose from. There are only about 2 or 3 other suppliers that qualify due to the stringent health and food safety guidelines and requirements.
- Ms. Georgia Stamatopoulos will ask Le Doral what is the cut-off time for last minute hot lunch orders.

Motion to approve Le Doral as the hot lunch supplier was put forth by Maria Arfanis, seconded by Lydia Kansou and carried by a majority of members in attendance.

e. PELO

- Governing Board voted whether to have PELO offered next academic year if government health and safety guidelines permit.
- The other extra-curricular activities – Choir, Karate, Enfant & Co. will be a business item for the next meeting in June.

Motion to approve PELO for the 2021-2022 academic year if government health and safety guidelines permit was put forth by Karen Der, seconded by Maria Argyriou and carried by a majority of members in attendance.

f. Governing Board Funds

- Chair Tia Nicholls asked to add a business item regarding GB funds.
- Every year, Governing Board has a \$250 budget. This is usually spent for a meal at the last meeting of the academic year. However, due to Covid, the \$250 from 2019-2020 and the \$250 from 2020-2021 was not used. Per GB's financial report, there is a total of \$518 sitting in the account.
- Ms. Stephanie and Ms. Lisa are organizing school-wide fun activities for Field Day on June 15 and June 16. Home and School was approached to donate about \$500-\$600 for the field day activities occurring on June 16.
- Chair Tia Nicholls proposed that Governing Board donate its \$518 for the June 16 Field Day.
- This will allow Home and School to fund and sponsor another school-wide activity or treat for all the students.

Motion to approve the donation of \$518 for Field Day was put forth by Sandy Milonas, seconded by Helene Zereik and carried by a majority of members in attendance.

7. REPORTS

a. Principal's Report: Elena Zervas

- There will be two report cards next year. The first one will be issued on January 28 and the second one on the last day of school. There will be the cycle marks in the report cards. For example, if a student is in grade 4 (cycle 2), the report card will also display their grade 3 marks (cycle 2).
- There will also be two progress reports. The first one will be issued on November 19 and the second one on April 22nd.
- The weighting of the two terms will again be 40% (term 1) and 60% (term 2).
- As a follow-up to an earlier meeting query, the seven water fountains at the school comply with Health Canada regulations.
- There is a potential strike regarding the support staff unions on May 26 and May 27. Classes will be virtual in this scenario. More details will be communicated to parents in the next few days.
- There is currently a class that is closed. The Principal thanked parents for their continued support and asked them not to send their children to school if anyone at home has symptoms.

b. Teacher's Report: Maria Arfanis

- There was no Teacher Report.

c. Commissioner's Report

- There was no Commissioner Report.

d. Parent Committee Report: Helene Zereik & Karen Der

- At the last meeting, Governing Board was discussing the possibility of sending a letter of disapproval to the Ministry regarding their mandate that English School Board schools must teach English Language Arts for 150 minutes per week in Cycle 1. PC Delegate Helene Zereik was tasked to follow up with the EMSB.

- The Board's feedback was that since this was a Ministry mandate it cannot do anything. However, Cedarcrest's Governing Board can send a letter to the government.
- Based on the feedback from the Board, PC delegate Helene Zereik feels that sending such a letter may bring unwanted scrutiny on Cedarcrest from the Ministry.

Motion to send a letter to the Ministry to express Cedarcrest's disapproval of teaching English Language Arts in Cycle 1 since it will decrease the overall instruction time in French was put forth by Raymond Ayas and seconded by Lydia Kansou. There were 3 votes in favour for the motion, 2 abstentions and 4 votes against the motion. The motion was not carried.

- Governing Board agreed to revisit and table this issue for next year.
- **PC Meeting March 11, 2021**
 - The EMSB has plenty of devices in the event of a shutdown. For families with no Wi-Fi, the devices will have Wi-Fi pre-installed in the devices.
 - A few health issues were brought up at the meeting during the public discussion:
 - One parent mentioned that her children thought the school masks had a funny smell and wondered if these masks in general have ever been tested for anything toxic and the effects of long term use.
 - In response to an enquiry about the hand sanitizers Pela assured that the Materials Departments has a list of vetted hand sanitizers that the schools must purchase.
 - The Ministry has selected a few schools for voluntary testing but none are EMSB schools.
 - The EMSB submitted the draft 2021-2022 and 2022-2023 calendars for PC input. The PC suggested that the 2021-2022 Christmas Break should span Friday December 24 to Thursday January 6th with Friday January 7th as a PED Day. The PC suggested that the 2022-2023 Christmas Break should span from Saturday December 24 to Friday January 6th.
 - There was an item regarding Discrimination and Diversity. It was proposed to encourage diversity when choosing novels for study or speakers that present at the schools. A motion was passed to provide sensitivity training to all teachers and staff so that they can be comfortable to have conversations on discrimination and equity. It was also suggested to have this motion sent to EPCA to be put forth for consideration by other Parent Committees and at the Ministry Level.

- EPCA was invited by the Ministry to be part of the consultation process for a “*sommet de réussite*” for students
- **PC Meeting May 6, 2021**
 - There was a presentation from the Student Services Department discussing the different IEP Resource Models available at the different EMSB schools at the elementary and high school levels.
 - They mentioned a pilot project studying the possibility of a special program for gifted students.
 - There was a motion brought forward that for students currently enrolled in the virtual school program not to have to re-qualify for exemption in August. Also, the same motion wants the School Board to look into offering the online school as an additional school beyond the pandemic.
 - As a follow-up to the medical masks, Pela confirmed that none of the masks, distributed by the EMSB were on the recall list.
 - Another issue brought up was that in the West End, there are not enough high schools. A parent delegate was saying that up to 60% of grade 6 students in the West End do not end up in an EMSB high school. Many end up in French high schools or private schools. Lauren Hill, although considered a West End high school, is not really that close for those in the NDG, Cote St Luc, Cote des Neiges, and Westmount area. Meanwhile, Marymount is not even at capacity. The Board should look into having more French immersion and special needs programs in the high schools that are below capacity such as those in the East End or Marymount. This will make them more attractive to prospective high schoolers.

e. Daycare Report: Georgia Stamatopoulos

- The Daycare numbers are down with only 93 students registered for the upcoming fall as of today's date. Many parents will still be working from home in September.
- With parents at home, many students are even going home for lunch which further decreases income for Daycare.
- Daycare has retained their staff but some of their hours have been decreased.
- As mentioned in meetings, every time a class is closed or a child has to self-isolate, Daycare refunds the parent for those days that they are not using the

Daycare services. However, Daycare still has to pay their staff whether or not the students are in school.

f. Home and School Report: Tia Nicholls

- Home and School will be having a meeting in 2 weeks to discuss how they can help out with Field Day.
- In June, Home and School will pay for an ice cream treat for the whole school. There will be an ice cream kiosk and the students will be able to order an ice cream with a choice of toppings and sprinkles.
- On another day, there will be a freezie treat for all the students.

8. QUESTION PERIOD

- Member Helene Zereik asked if there would be class bubbles or grade bubbles in September. The Principal responded that as of today, the Regional Office has no news for September.
- Member Lydia Kansou enquired about plans for Graduation. Grad Committee is organising an outdoor picnic on June 17th with Decarie Hot Dog food truck serving them a choice of trios. The Graduation Ceremony will be virtual and take place on June 22nd.

9. NEXT MEETING DATE

An email will be sent to members regarding the next meeting of Governing Board. It will likely occur during the first week of June via Microsoft Teams.

10. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at **9 PM**.

Minutes By: Karen Der



CHAIRPERSON



PRINCIPAL



Cedarcrest Elementary School
1505 Muir, St-Laurent, QC H4L 4T1
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Commission scolaire English-Montréal
English Montreal School Board

CEDARCREST SCHOOL
Governing Board Meeting Minutes
Wednesday June 9, 2021

Attendees Members:

Maria Arfanis, Maria Argyriou, Raymond Ayas, Karen Der, Lydia Kansou, Tia Nicholls, Georgia Stamatopoulos, Helene Zereik, Elena Zervas

Attendees Non-members:

Mr. Rocco Placentino (Guest Speaker)

Absentees:

Lorraine Belanger
Sandy Milonas

1. WELCOME AND OPENING REMARKS

Welcomes and opening remarks for the eighth and final meeting of the 2020-2021 academic year. The meeting was held via Microsoft Teams.

2. ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

There were no additions to the Agenda.

3. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Motion to adopt today's Agenda was put forth by Maria Arfanis and seconded by Maria Argyriou. The motion to adopt today's Agenda was carried.

4. REVIEW OF THE MINUTES FROM MAY 19, 2021

Principal Zervas had one revision for the May 19th minutes. The sentence *"There will be the cycle marks in the report cards. For example, if a student is in grade 4 (cycle 2), the report card will also display their grade 3 marks (cycle 2)."* should now read as ***"The report cards will be presented on an annual basis and not the two year cycle as part of Minister Roberge's Back To School Plan for 2021-2022."***

Regarding business arising from the Minutes, Ms. Zervas noted we are waiting for the Board's Education Services to approve the Anti-Racism tool kits before emailing them to parents.

Also, regarding the hockey program, the school has to review the logistics of transporting the children from Cedarcrest to the hockey arena as well as any potential liabilities for the school. Until these points are clarified with the Board, approval of the hockey program will be on hold.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion to approve the May 19, 2021 Meeting Minutes as amended above was put forth by Maria Arfanis and seconded by Georgia Stamatopoulos. The motion to approve the May 19, 2021 Meeting Minutes was carried.

6. BUSINESS ISSUES

a. School Supply List 2021-2022

- The 2021-2022 school supply list was approved via e-vote by a majority of members.

b. 2021-2022 School Fees Budget

- The Principal reviewed the school fees budget with members. The school fees are for the workbooks and agendas. The amount asked from parents is the actual amount the school paid for these materials.
- With a forecasted school population of 267 in September, the projected school fees budget is \$19,130. This figure assumes all parents pay the fees but there is always an uncollectible amount.
- The current lunch supervision fees are \$225 per year for parents whose children don't go to Daycare. However, salaries have gone up and the \$225 per year amount is not sufficient. The lunch supervision fees have to increase to \$234 per year to cover the salary increases. With a projected 149 students paying the lunch fees, the initial forecasted budget is approximately \$34,866. Taking into consideration the projected uncollectible amount, the forecasted lunch fees budget stands at \$32,994. Parents were reimbursed for the lunch fees covering the period March to June 2020. However, Daycare was still obligated to pay the staff even though the school was closed. Therefore, there is a deficit in this category.
- Caretaking expenses for paper towels, soap and disinfectants increased significantly this year.
- In response to a member query, the Principal responded that the full IT budget allocation was spent. The school has 25 new laptops. There is a portable caddy with charging stations that the teachers can bring from class to class.

Motion to approve 2021-2022 School Fees Budget was put forth by Helene Zereik, seconded by Raymond Ayas and carried by a majority of members in attendance.

c. Safe School Action Plan

- The Safe School Action Plan outlines the measures for preventing and responding to acts of bullying and violence. It is a template plan from the EMSB.
- Every year, the school analyzes areas for improvement based on the results of the survey.
- From the data collected from the confidential surveys completed by Grade 4, 5 and 6 students, 83% of Cedarcrest students feel a strong sentiment of overall positivity and 71% feel a strong sense of belonging.
- An area of concern was that only 54% felt safe at school. However, this number was largely associated with students worried about wearing masks, catching Covid and bringing Covid back home.
- Ms. Vittoria has conducted workshops throughout the year about kindness, resilience and anti-bullying.
- Next year, there should be more workshops to sensitize the children and parents to technology, social media and bullying.
- Member Robert Ayas, noted that the EMSB PC often offers similar workshops but it is hard to get parents to attend these meetings held at various locations throughout the island. Chair Tia Nicholls suggested that we could hold these workshops at Cedarcrest.

Motion to approve the Safe School Action Plan was put forth by Helene Zereik and seconded by Tia Nicholls. The motion to approve the Safe School Action Plan was carried.

d. Agenda Inserts

- The code of conduct inserts are unchanged.
- The Covid Section will be removed since any official letter or documentation will come from Santé Publique.
- September 8th is scheduled as the Curriculum Night for parents to meet the teachers. However the Governing Board Assembly date has to be chosen for the Agenda inserts. Last year, the Governing Board Assembly was held at Cedarcrest while the Curriculum Night was online.

- It was decided to hold the Governing Board Assembly on Curriculum Night as in previous years to maximize the number of parents attending.

Motion to approve the Agenda Inserts and set the Governing Board Assembly for September 8th at 8PM was put forth by Maria Arfanis, seconded by Mary Argyriou and carried by a majority of members in attendance.

e. After School Activities

- Every year, Governing Board reviews and approves the after school activities offered at Cedarcrest. PELO was approved at the last meeting. The following after school activities were reviewed and put to a vote.

i. Hockey Program

- There were 65 replies to the Google Poll sent by the school to gauge parents' interest in a hockey program at Cedarcrest.
- Out of 65 replies, 48 responded to being interested in a hockey program as an after school activity.
- The poll confirmed high interest in the hockey program which could distinguish Cedarcrest from other schools.
- However, as mentioned earlier, the school has to review the logistics and safety measures of transporting the children from Cedarcrest to the hockey arena as well as any potential liabilities for the school. Member Helene Zereik was tasked with following up with Mr. Ricardi on the details of transportation and supervision of the children from Cedarcrest to the arena.
- **It was agreed to table approval of the Hockey Program for a later e-vote once there is more information.**

ii. Soccer Program

- Mr. Rocco Placentino presented his Soccer Program to Governing Board.
- Kindergarten, Grades 1 and 2 would have the 2:30 – 3:30 PM time slot while Grades 3, 4, 5, and 6 would have the 3:30 – 4:30 PM time slot.
- The price is \$13 per class or \$130 per semester and there is a sibling discount.
- **A majority of members voted to approve Mr. Placentino's Soccer Program as an after school activity.**

iii. **Enfant & Co.**

- In response to a parent member query, Enfant & Co. does offer tutoring as one of its many classes. The school could ask Enfant & Co. to offer an Oxford-type tutoring class as one of its choices.
- ***A majority of members voted to approve Enfant & Co. as an after school activity.***

iv. **Karate Program**

- The prices remain unchanged for Di Bella Karate Kickboxing. It will be \$95 per semester.
- If government regulations delay the start of the karate semester, the prices will be adjusted accordingly.
- If necessary, Di Bella Karate Kickboxing will limit registrations to comply with any Ministry health guidelines.
- ***Members voted unanimously to approve Di Bella Karate as an after school activity.***

v. **Choir Club – Mr. Dimitris Ilias and Ms. Maria Diamantis**

- The prices remain unchanged for Choir Club. It will be \$120 per student.
- The session runs from late September to April with a concert in April.
- For Choir Club as well, if government regulations delay the start of the Choir semester, the prices will be adjusted accordingly.
- ***A majority of members voted to approve Mr. Dimitris' Choir Club as an after school activity.***

- Daycare brought up the point that all organizers of the external extra-curricular activities must be reminded that they cannot leave the school until all the students registered in their programs are collected by their parents.
- Daycare also noted that they offer many extracurricular activities through their BASE program and that they would require the Gym for some of their own activities. Since most of the external ECAs use the 2:30 – 3:30 time slot, Daycare needs to have access to the Gym for the 3:30 – 4:30 time slots when necessary.

Motion to approve Mr. Rocco Placentino's Soccer Program, Enfant & Co., Di Bella Karate, Mr. Dimitris Ilias' Choir Club for the 2021-2022 academic year if Ministry health and safety guidelines permit was put forth by Tia Nicholls, seconded by Georgia Stamatopoulos and carried by a majority of members in attendance.

f. Recycling and Composting at Cedarcrest

- Member Helene Zereik remarked that the recent PC Meeting passed a resolution for a Climate Change Education Plan. Cedarcrest should strive to recycle more and reduce the waste at school.
- We can mobilize the Student Council or a few students from each class to organize and collect recyclables. For example, pens and markers can be collected into bins and brought to Bureau en Gros who will recycle them.
- We can ask the city for more bins to recycle and compost. Ville Saint Laurent can provides boxes to recycle masks and gloves.
- There are also organizations that come to collect used or stained clothing that we would normally throw away.

g. Discord Chat Site

- Touching on the issue of social media and bullying brought up in the Safe School Plan business item, member Helene Zereik noticed that some of the high school teachers allowed their students participating in school projects to use Discord to communicate amongst themselves.
- However this chat site is not 100% safe and allows other people who are not part of the group project to join their conversations. There were issues of inappropriate conversations.
- She enquired if the school could mandate for school group projects not to use these apps. Principal Zervas responded that only Google Classroom and MS Teams Meeting are approved by the Board for the students to use at the school level.
- The Principal will make a note for the new administration to remind students, parents and staff that only Google Classroom and MS Teams can be used for school.

7. REPORTS

a. Principal's Report: Elena Zervas

- At the last Staff Council meeting, parents' concern about having French on a daily basis was communicated to Staff. This past year, due to Covid, the teaching schedule for Grades 3 and up was one day French and one day English. It was decided after some debate, that in September, the school day will be half day French and half day English.
- The Grade 6 students will have an outdoor party at lunchtime on June 17th with pizza, snacks and dancing. Mr. Ryan will DJ the event. The Graduation Ceremony is tentatively scheduled for June 22nd at 9:30 AM. It will be held outdoors and only parents will be invited. In the event of rain, it will be a virtual ceremony.
- The Principal will not be at Cedarcrest in September. She has a new interim posting at another school.
- Her tenure at Cedarcrest was short and she was unable to implement many things due to Covid.
- However Cedarcrest was one of the best school communities she has had the privilege to work with. The Principal thanked Staff and parents for all their cooperation and dedication.

b. Teacher's Report: Maria Arfanis

- On behalf of the staff, Ms. Arfanis thanked parents. She thanked the Principal for her dedication and wished her good luck at her new school.

c. Commissioner's Report

- There was no Commissioner Report.

d. Parent Committee Report: Helene Zereik

- The issue of low enrolment in the east end schools while the west end schools are over capacity was discussed again.
- There was discussion about trying to implement a pilot project of Grade 12 at high schools. The students graduating from Grade 12 would bypass Cegep and go straight to University. However, University undergraduate degree would be for 4 years instead of 3 years. Currently, it is getting harder for students from the English School Boards to get into English Cegeps because they are fighting for limited spots from students coming from the French School Boards.

- A motion was passed to have a Climate Change Education Plan taught to students.
- The Anti-Racism workshop was excellent and the residential schools will likely be included as a theme in the next tool kits.

e. Daycare Report: Georgia Stamatopoulos

- There was no Daycare Report to present.

f. Home and School Report: Tia Nicholls

- Home and School recently paid for an ice cream treat for the whole school. Feedback from the students was that the ice cream was delicious but the portion too small. It cost \$900 and for that price Home and School will consider another end of year treat for the students next year.
- Home and School approved three scholarships that will be presented at the Graduation. Since the President has a Grade 6 student, she removed herself from the voting process this year.
- Home and School hopes to get back to fundraising next year.
- If the teachers have a need for their classrooms for next school year, the President urges them to communicate with Home and School.

8. QUESTION PERIOD

There were no questions raised.

9. NEXT MEETING DATE

An email will be sent to members regarding the next meeting of Governing Board.

10. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at **9:40 PM.**

Minutes By: Karen Der