

# Dorval Elementary School Governing Board Meeting



## Meeting Minutes

January 22, 2025	6:45 PM	DES Staff Room and virtual
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Meeting called by	DES Principal, Heather-Anne Denton
Parent Members	Jinny Conte, Patrick Dubeau, Guy Vezina, Erin Mullins
Alternate Members	Madeleine Steinmetz-Wood
Staff Members	Heather-Anne Denton (Principal), Brenda Collazos-Alva, Corine Stibor, Melanie Bougie-Richer (teachers), Rosa Gatto (SEED)
Community Member	Chelsea Doret
Commissioner	Patrick Whitham

### AGENDA ITEMS:

1. **Call official meeting to order (Quorum, Welcome) at 6:53 p.m.**
2. **Adoption of Agenda**
  - Approved by G. Vezina, seconded by B. Collazos-Alva.
3. **Adoption of the Meeting Minutes from November 27, 2024**
  - R. Gatto asked that the spelling of her name be adjusted.
  - Approved by P. Dubeau seconded by M. Steinmetz-Wood.
4. **Business arising**
  - No business to address.
5. **Public Question Period**
  - No questions raised.
6. **Reports**
  - 6.1 **Principal Report (Heather-Anne Denton)**
    - Students have received their high school letters of acceptance into the various enrichment programs.
    - 34 out of 39 students were accepted into their program of choice.
    - Open House took place on January 15<sup>th</sup> where two sessions were offered, and registration is currently underway.
    - Some families are choosing to remain in their current K4 school while others are looking to transfer to Dorval Elementary.

- Information about race is now being collected during the registration process.
- The Francisation Program began on January 20 which will be benefitting 24 students.
- Sofia Gonzalez-Herrero is currently teaching at 20% with classes 341 & 401.
- The Entrepreneurship Grants have been discontinued by the government.
- Ms. Denton is taking part in a book study group with other administrators. The book is entitled "Courageous Conversations About Race". The first meeting will be taking place on January 29<sup>th</sup>.

### **6.2 Teachers report (Melanie Bougie-Richer)**

- On November 29, S. Smyth and her students sang at The Dorval Tree Lighting ceremony.
- On November 29, J. Barette's Kindergarten class went on a winter forest walk.
- On December 2 and 3, the Math Olympics competition and The Robotics Challenge offered grade five and grade six students opportunities to shine outside of the classroom. The Math Olympics was held at Lakeside Academy and The Robotics Challenge at PCHS.
- On December 4, class 341 presented their play to the school and parents.
- On December 10 and 11, the grade six students presented their play to the school and parents.
- The grade one students are now becoming readers and writers and are very proud of their accomplishments.
- The week before the holidays, students and teachers ended their week with the Holiday Breakfast which was organized by the Home and School. It was appreciated by all.
- In January, the Kindergarten students have been learning about snowflakes and the grade six students were challenged to calculate distances using paper airplanes.
- On January 7, the grade six students attended a volleyball tournament at John Abbott College.
- On January 14, the grade six students had their first transition session for high school. The second session took place on January 21.
- Open House took place on January 15 from 4:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. and was a great success.
- The auditions for the DES Variety Show began on January 20.

### **6.3 SEED report (Rosa Gatto)**

- R. Gatto explained that everything is running smoothly. The upcoming ped day in June will be announced shortly.

### **6.4 Support Staff report (Carole Gauthier)**

- There is no news to report.

### **6.5 LBPSB Parent Committee (Jessica Dings and Madeleine Steinmetz-Wood)**

- On December 16, parent committee representatives, Kris de Forest and Shane Ross (former chair), were winners of the Connie Held Award and recognized for their LBPSB PC volunteer contributions throughout the many years.
- Reminder of LBPSB's December 20th shortened day (school dismissal at 12:30)
- Information regarding the SNAC (Special Needs Advisory Committee) is located on their LBPSB SNAC website. The website offers links to informative videos as a resource

to parents. Reminder that every parent can attend SNAC meetings and is encouraged to do so especially if their child(ren) is on an IEP.

- A big topic discussed at the recent meeting was Bus Management, in terms of students' behaviour, for the safety of all those on board. Discussions of adding a supervisor on board buses (as was the case in the past) was looked at as a possible solution to help manage inappropriate behaviour. Elementary East's Director, Debbie Dixon, explained that they are leaning more towards installing surveillance cameras on school buses as a resolution.
- At the meeting on January 16, 2025, it was announced that the PC sub-committee website is almost complete.
- A discussion ensued regarding the mid-December announcement of LBPSB budget cutbacks of 2.5 million. Judy Kelley, LBPSB Chair, explained that RD is looking at where the cuts can be made without directly affecting students too much, but realistically it will affect them in some way. Kathleen O'Rielly, LBPSB RD, responded that to her knowledge, these cuts will not impact SEED.
- PC Information by V. Marin included that the Enrichment Exam took place in November and a total of 1002 students registered to write the exam. There were 868 students from LBPSB and 134 students from other schools. Results will be available to parents the week of January 13th, 2025. The final numbers were that 913 students wrote the exam, of which 547 students were accepted.
- LCEEQ (Leadership Committee for English Education in Quebec) Conference: The theme for the annual conference is "Enriching a Culture of Belonging". Many schools and service teams from the 9 English Boards will be attending this professional development opportunity February 10th and 11th in Laval.

#### **6.6 LBPSB District Commissioner (Patrick Whitham)**

- P. Whitham reported that there have been some staff changes to the Council of Commissioners.
- The Council approved the consultation document entitled Budget Consultation Plan for FY 25-26. It should be submitted no later than March 28.
- The council of committee's membership was approved. P. Whitham is involved in the long-term planning committee.
- The new council meeting will be taking place at the beginning of February.

#### **6.7 Community Representative (Chelsea Doret)**

- "Craftapalooza" Ped Day will be taking place on February 7 from 13:30 - 15:30. There is no registration and cost required. This activity is for children under the age of 10 and they must be accompanied by an adult.
- Special Story Time – La voix de la jungle will be taking place on February 8 from 10:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. Advance registration is required and it's a free French activity for children ages 3 to 8 accompanied by a parent or guardian.
- Young Explorer Series - Junior Reactors will be taking place on February 16 from 1:30-2:30 p.m. Advance registration is required. It is a free bilingual activity for ages 6 to 12.

#### **6.8 H & S report (Jinny Conte)**

- The last Home and School meeting took place on January 7, 2025.
- The holiday staff collection was discussed and all went well. Emails from class parents were sent out a few times leading up to the deadline. It was suggested to involve the students in the collection for community aid around the holidays.

- J. Conte's family foundation, Rosetta's Angels, provided Christmas baskets for nine DES families and we will try to continue supporting some throughout the year.
- The Grinch themed coffee cart in December was a success. The next coffee cart will be taking place in April.
- It was discussed having another H&S fundraising event in the spring. In the past there was a quiz night and a spaghetti night. This year they are thinking of doing a Zumba night. This may include a couple of nights; one just for adults and one for adults and kids.
- There was a meeting on January 19 to discuss Staff Appreciation Week in February and what details will be included.
- The next Home and School meeting will be taking place on February 12 at 7:00 p.m. in person at Dorval Elementary School.

## **7. New Business**

### **Approval of Field Trips & Fundraising**

- Ms. Denton reported that the grade 6 fundraising committee adjusted the details of the movie night fundraiser. There will be two nights in April with one movie. There are nine teachers who are willing to supervise the night.
- A field trip to La Ferme Andre was discussed. The field trip will be taking place on May 28 and will be a full day for all three kindergarten classes. A motion to approve the field trip was made by R. Gatto and seconded by P. Dubeau. Unanimously approved.
- During Carnival week on February 25, the students will be going to the Edgar Rouleau arena to go skating. There will be no cost for this outing and the students will be walking to the arena. The students will be asked to bring their own skates and helmets. A motion to approve the field trip was made by E. Mullins and seconded by M. Steinmetz-Wood. Unanimously approved.
- A ski outing will be held at Mont Habitant on February 21 in the evening. The students and parents will depart the school at 2:00 p.m. A motion to approve the field trip was made by M. Bougie-Richer and seconded by B. Collazos-Alva. Unanimously approved.
- R. Gatto asked for approval on a ped day activity with Nomad Fit on June 2. Obstacle courses will be set up in the park adjacent to the school. A motion to approve the field trip was made by C. Stibor and seconded by B. Collazos-Alva. Unanimously approved.
- A field trip for the grade one students and the combined grade 1-2 class will be going to Clip n' Climb in Brossard. A motion to approve the field trip was made by P. Dubeau and seconded by R. Gatto. Unanimously approved.

## **8. Varia**

- No items raised.

## **9. Next Meeting:**

- The next meeting will be taking place on February 19, 2025 at 6:45 p.m. (hybrid)

## **10. Adjournment at 7:33 p.m.**

- The motion to adopt the adjournment of the meeting was made by G. Vezina and seconded by E. Mullins. Unanimously approved.