

Dorval Elementary School Governing Board Meeting



Meeting Minutes		
January 24, 2024	6:45PM	Via Zoom

Meeting called by	DES Principal, Heather-Anne Denton
Parent Members Alternate Members	Christina Del Zingaro, Sanjay Rajakumar, Sara Valle, Jinny Conte, Jessica Dings
Staff Members	Stephanie Boulet, Brenda Barrera, Joanne Barette , Heather-Anne Denton (Principal), Carol Gauthier, Ashley Kennedy, Joan Fenner, Fe Manibog
Community Representatives	Chelsea Doret, Patrick Whitham

AGENDA ITEMS:

1. **Call official meeting to order (Quorum, Welcome) at 6:50pm.**
2. **Adoption of Agenda.**
 - Approved by Joanne, seconded by Jinny.
3. **Adoption of the Meeting Minutes from November 29th, 2023.**
 - Joanne noted a necessary correction to minutes: Teachers’ report was provided by Ashley Kennedy, not Mme Stephanie. Correction to minutes will be made and circulated accordingly.
 - Adopted by Miss Fe, seconded by Carol.
4. **Business Arising from previous meeting.**
 - Ms. Denton requested that the next meeting date be moved from February 28th to February 27th as she will be unavailable on the 28th. Unanimously approved.
5. **Reports**
 - a. **Principal Report (Ms Denton):**
 - i. On Dec. 18th, the school welcomed Alain Pelletier who conducted two assemblies (Junior & Senior) on Anti-Bullying. Positive feedback was received regarding the assemblies.
 - ii. Approval of Daycare budget is required (see New Business). Discussion at School Council for Ideas on Spending regarding Fund 4 and 5.
 - iii. Ms. Denton attended a DYP Presentation on Dec. 13th which covered amendments to the Youth Protection Act.
 - iv. The DES Open House took place on January 17th with two sessions. Kindergarten registrations are currently underway and going well.
 - v. Currently working with Staff to maximize supervision and ensure safety for all students while in the school yard. These efforts include the participation of student leaders.
 - vi. The Transco Bus Strike is ongoing which currently affects students on Bus 15. Extended supervision has been offered to those families.

b. Teacher report (Mme Barrera):

- i. Mme Suzanne and her choir participated in the Dorval Tree Lighting on Dec. 1st, 2023.
- ii. Some grade 6 students participated in the Robotics competition held as PCCHS.
- iii. Teachers were on strike for approximately 1 week during December with teachers from DES represented at different striking zones throughout the city.
- iv. Different daily themes were organized for students during the week leading up to winter break (ex: silly sock day, Christmas sweater day, etc.)
- v. DES welcomed an amazing anti-bullying speaking to speak with the juniors and seniors of the school. He delivered a beautiful monologue about someone being bullied and how they felt. Each session was tailored for the age groups and were very powerful.
- vi. Grade 6 students are participating in a Transition to High School Workshop.
- vii. Two sessions of the DES Variety Show took place showcasing the many talents of the DES students.
- viii. Open House went really well with students inside the classrooms showing parents what goes on in the classes.
- ix. Grade 6 students participated in a Volleyball tournament with other LBPSB schools
- x. Grade 1 had a field trip to l'École du Cirque. Students really enjoyed themselves.

c. SEED Program Report (Ms Fe)

- i. The program continues to run smoothly.
- ii. The problems that had arisen in November with the Avant Garde program have now been corrected. A lot of the parents are using the system which is further confirmation that it is working. However, everything is being backed-up with Mosaic, as a fail-safe.
- iii. Jan. 26th Ped Day activity is bowling.
- iv. Feb. 9th Ped Day activity is skating.
- v. Feb. 19th Ped Day activity is an in-house pancake party.
- vi. Hot lunch is going well but parents must be reminded to always send cutlery for the kids.
- vii. Ask that parents be reminded when dropping their kids off in the morning to ensure that they are appropriately dressed for the weather otherwise the process of getting them outside is delayed.

d. Support Staff (Ms. Carol)

- i. Nothing to report at this time.

e. Home and School (Christina)

- i. Planning for Staff Appreciation week (Feb 12th to 16th) currently underway.
- ii. H&S will organize a planning meeting to coordinate a tentative schedule for the next school year and also assess potential needs going forward. Such planning will also ensure smoother transition and execution with new incoming members.

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- iii. Voted on a final fundraising activity to be organized for this school year. Planning for a Quiz Night, an adults-only activity, will begin shortly. Official approval request to GB will be forthcoming.

f. LBPSB Parent Committee (Jinny Conte)

- i. Jinny was unable to attend the previous meeting but will brief the GB once the Meeting Minutes are received.

g. LBPSB District Commissioner (Patrick Whitham):

- i. Mr. Whitham provided a report from the last last regular Council of Commissioners meeting held December 18, 2023.
- ii. Mr. Whitham emphasized that the main item in the report was approvals for budget consultations.
- iii. Congratulations to Ms. Denton on her receiving permanent status.
- iv. Jessica asked for clarification on what permanent status means. It was explained that Ms. Denton's status is now "official", meaning that she is not replacing someone. Also, Ms. Denton is now the principal of John Fisher Junior Elementary School. The chair is officially there, however, there is someone in place at that school. The intention is to move the chair to Dorval.

h. Community Representative (Chelsea)

- i. Chelsea delivered a message from the librarian:
 - 1. Clients/students are often disappointed to find that the library does not have books on every single topic. Some education on how and why a library operates the way it does may be useful.
 - 2. Students come in wanting to research the same topic which means there are often not enough books for everyone. Some advance warning and coordination with the library could be beneficial for all in terms of the timing of projects.
 - 3. Great appreciation of the example from Mrs. Fanous (Grade 3 DES teacher), choosing a theme per month where the kids can read anything on the topic. If teachers could provide the librarians with a list of topics for the year, they would be able to create book lists of the library's selections on any given topic to help parents and students when selecting books. Would be very helpful, especially for more abstract subjects.
 - 4. Library contact: Marjorie Le Cavalier-Parant (mlcparant@ville.dorval.qc.ca)
- ii. There will be an Exposition with Valerie Gobeil – Mediation dates with the artist are for kindergarten to Grade 3. The dates for the exhibition are:
 - 1. Feb. 27th, 11am to 12pm
 - 2. Feb. 29th, 1pm to 2pm
 - 3. Mar. 1st, 9:45am to 10:45am
- iii. Upcoming Library Activities for March:
 - 1. French Board Game Night: Game – L'Aventure don't vous êtes le héros
 - 2. Advance registration is required: infoinscriptions.ville.dorval.qc.ca
 - 3. Registration code: **BIBJEUX01**
 - 4. Free activity for ages 8 to 12, presented in French by Ludologue
 - 5. Mar. 4th, 1:30pm to 3pm

- iv. Young Explorer Series – Quebec Animal Tracks
 1. Advance registration is required: infoinscriptions.ville.dorval.qc.ca
 2. Registration code: **BIBATELIER01**
 3. Free bilingual workshop for ages 5 to 12, presented by Nous les arts
 4. Mar. 6th, 1:30pm to 2:30pm
- v. Creative Workshop – DIY Compass and Orienteering
 1. Advance registration is required: infoinscriptions.ville.dorval.qc.ca
 2. Registration code: **BIBATELIER02**
 3. Free bilingual workshop for ages 10 to 14, presented by Dawn of Imagination
 4. Mar. 7th, 1:30pm to 3pm
- vi. Workshop – Campfire Singalong with Shawny!
 1. Advance registration is required: infoinscriptions.ville.dorval.qc.ca
 2. Registration code: **BIBACT01**
 3. Free bilingual activity for ages 5 to 12, presented by ShawnyKids Music
 4. Mar. 8th, 1:30pm to 2:30pm

6. New Business

a. Approval of SEED program budget

- i. Ms. Denton presented the SEED Program budget. Approved by Mme Stephanie, seconded by Mme Barrera

b. Approval of Field Trips & Fundraising

- i. Request by Mme Joanne for skating and/or tobogganning at the Dorval Arena as part of the winter carnival, Feb. 29th – no costs, mandatory helmets, students will be walking to the Arena, teachers will sign up for blocks of 45 minutes.
 - Sara inquired if there is something in place for those students that don't have the necessary equipment. Joanne advised that teachers will reach out to the class community if any child needs skates or helmets.
 - Jessica mentioned how helpful it was to have a parent drive to the Arena with all the students' equipment, especially the younger grades. Mme Joanne agreed and will ask teachers to reach out to their class communities.
 - Unanimous approval
- ii. Request from Mme Joanne for a blanket approval to bring students to the Courtland Park ice rink, provided that the teacher organizes it with a class and adult ration is met.
 - Approved by Jessica, seconded by Miss Fenner.

7. Varia

- No items raised.

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8. **Next Meeting:** Changed from February 28th to February 27th on Zoom at 6:45pm (link to be sent prior to meeting)

9. **Adjournment at 7:35pm.** Unanimous approval.