

## **ST. EDMUND GOVERNING BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

Dec 5th, 2024, 6:30pm

**Attendees:** Alessandra d'Amico, Maureen Baron, Natalia Camargo Santos, Louise Cavaliere, Nathalie Duhamel, Mylene Gosselin, Brenna Ellerton, Georgiana Laudi, Ronnie Lawand, Tessa MacLean, Stephanie Myers, Courtney Paul, Bessy Prillo, Marie-Josée Ricard, France de la Rochelle, Valerie Sembinelli Belland, Amy St-Amour, Karina Tarapore

**Regrets:** Sophie Belzile, Neil Dixon, Christian Knudsen, Tina Simetic, Guylaine St. Georges

### **1. Call to Order (6:39), Welcome & Land Acknowledgement**

### **2. Approval of the Agenda for December 5, 2024**

*Motion to approve: Louise Cavaliere*

*Seconded: Nathalie Duhamel*

### **3. Approval of the Minutes of October 24, 2024**

*Motion to approved: Marie-Josée Ricard*

*Seconded: Nathalie Duhamel*

### **4. Questions from the Public**

- Stephanie Myers posed a question regarding the way subject competencies are shown on the report card: are competencies being posted for each subject (i.e. some subjects such as art, music, and phys ed. do not break down into competencies? Are specific competencies weighted? (without comments, the suggestion was a clearer indication of how competencies are broken down).
  - i. Answer: Certain competencies are graded each semester (see reporting document sent out in September). What is shown on the report card for competency break down is created at the ministry level, and not adjustable by local schools.
- *Note: further questions regarding reporting can be seen below in point 7.*
- Amy St-Amour shared the difficulties she has encountered trying to become a representative of the SNAC committee of the LBPSB for the past 2 years. Mme de la Rochelle will look into it to ensure we can have representation on this important parent committee.

### **5. New Business**

- For Approval:
  - i. Field Trips & Fundraisers: none this month
  - ii. Lunch & Afterschool Activities: none to approve
- 2024-25 School Budget
  - i. Spending approx. \$3,500 less this year to makeup for last year's deficit last year
  - ii. Funds allocated for the library being well spent by Kelly to improve books and library resources
  - iii. Received \$11,000 for starting the new K4 classroom
  - iv. New this year: 70 hours a week of additional support for "aide dans le class" - i.e. daycare educators are assisting throughout the day.
  - v. Cultural outings - \$11,830 (already spent \$4000-5000 of that)
  - vi. Received funding for Italian club which will start again after the holidays
  - vii. \$1000 for anti-bullying education (Options for this include: seeing a play, bringing in a speaker, Dare to Care. Has not yet been allocated)
  - viii. Balance of \$10,285 from previous years of student teacher fund. This is a fund teachers are able to spend and the government does not have access to this fund.
  - ix. Technology fund is for both new tech and upkeep of current devices: \$16,597. This fund carries over from year to year, but Mme de la Rochelle is still trying to spend it, as prices go up with time.
  - x. Achieving a balanced budget is a high priority for Mme de la Rochelle
  - xi. If we don't spend the "support to student success" budget, the money goes back to government
  - xii. New government regulation about suppliers means there is less flexibility for shopping, and money typically doesn't go quite as far.

*Motion to approve: Amy St-Amour*  
*Seconded: Valerie S-Béland*

- 2024-25 Daycare Budget
  - i. Enrollment of 214 regular students, total of 354
  - ii. Day care fees are set by government (including 16\$ for PED days)
  - iii. LBPSB chooses to keep students in individual classrooms for daycare, which couldn't be paid for on lunch fees alone (other boards put several classes together for daycare).
  - iv. Daycare educators who have to leave and come back during the day are allotted a "split shift" of \$6.50 per day.
  - v. "Fringe benefits": When a daycare educator gets sick, they still get paid but then Lousie pays for a second teacher.

- vi. Daycare uses all their own materials, even gym equipment, food for kids if necessary, etc.
- vii. At the end of last year, we had a surplus of \$65,000 (didn't have as many staff). We can keep 15% of the daycare surplus into the next year, so we have \$9,681.

*Motion to approved: Karina Tarapore*  
*Seconded: Nathalie Duhamel*

- Daycare Handbook
  - i. PED day cost went up to \$16.00 this year.
  - ii. Option to stay at school during PED day activity: New governmental rule is that if even 1 student wants to stay back from the activity, there must be staff to accommodate. (Used to be 15-20 in order to have an educator).
  - 1. Request that this new policy is communicated to parents explicitly on the next PED day form.
  - iii. The Daycare will be closed Jan 24th and March 24th for professional development. The School board has now agreed that daycare is an integral part of the school and should be receiving professional development.
  - iv. SEED fees this year is \$9.50 (new rate); \$2.63 a day for lunch program.

*Motion to approve: Stephanie Myers*  
*Seconded: Marie-Josée Ricard*

## 6. Reports:

- Administrator's Report
  - i. November was an academic month with report cards, parent-teacher interviews, and IEPs went out
  - ii. Remembrance day assembly was held
  - iii. Grade 6 enrichment exams took place on Nov 15 –they went well
    - 1. Thank you to Miss Edgar and Miss Kayla who invigilated the exams.
  - iv. Gearing up for fun in December!
- Commissioner's Report (Nov 19 2024)
  - i. Monthly reports are sent out directly after the commissioner's reports by the communications officer, so Maureen won't be doing that separately.
  - ii. Committees will begin to meet in January. Maureen is on several committees, including the Executive Committee, Human Resource, and Long Range Planning.
  - iii. Dec 16th: next meeting. Ratification of memberships of the committees, and scheduling the committees.

- iv. If parents have any questions, please contact Maureen at:  
[maureen.baron@lbpsb.qc.ca](mailto:maureen.baron@lbpsb.qc.ca) - she is very open to communicating via email

- Parents Committee

- i. The regional subcommittees have been redrawn this year. We are now in Elementary West and our Regional Director is David Chisholm. Subcommittees will meet next PC meeting (Dec 12th on Zoom).
- ii. Current GB meeting dates for April, May, and June conflict with the PC. Request from Tessa for us to alter our GB meetings for those months.
  - 1. Will be considered for next meeting
- iii. SNAC: The IEP presentation from Nov. 20th is now on the LBPSB website
- iv. Reminder to sign up for the EPCA newsletter. Helpful information, such as how to best prepare for P/T interviews, and so on.
- v. Governing Board Training was held: you can find the presentation on the LBPSB website under "Governing Board Info". Important information was discussed regarding procedures for emergency meetings, and particulars about the role of GB in approving or adopting proposals.

- Daycare

- i. Daycare closes at 4pm on Dec 20th

- Teachers

- i. Parent teacher interviews: teachers spoke about the value of these meetings to learn more about the students and how to best support them - we are a team!
- ii. Cycle 1: attended a theatre production– the students were captivated, they laughed hard, and asked many questions about theatre logistics, etc. Great experience for them.
- iii. Maternelle: In November, they held class in nature at the waterfront and did an art project from a nature seek and find. The teachers appreciated the class aides accompanying them. Parent teacher interviews were really appreciated by the teachers and they felt they went well. They are busy preparing for their holiday concerts!
- iv. Cycle 2: They are attending the Casse Noisette tomorrow. In November they went on a field trip to the biodome which integrated an animal theme they were doing in science. Concert next week.

- Home & School

- i. Fundraising pillars: replace the library air conditioner (need to use school board electrician-\$7000); tackle outdoor classroom - shade that area

(\$25,000) - cemented into the ground. Border for the play structure (wasn't included in original plans last year).

ii. Events for approval:

1. Staff Appreciation will be held on February 17th (week before usual).  
The decision was made that it was too difficult to do SAW and Carnival because volunteers are often the same folks.
2. Family bingo night as a fundraising initiative. It will be held in the school gym on April 11th, so we need a license from Loto Quebec. Concessions will be sold.
3. Discussed, however not for approval: "Spring Fling" social just for the adults. Brenna has spoken to Pigeon cafe (\$40 per ticket, includes one drink and finger food). A silent auction would be held at the same time.
4. Edstock: June 11 (rain day June 12). The H&S is requiring at least 20 volunteers in order to offer food, so that no one is at risk of missing their children's performances this year.

*Approved by Valerie S-Béland  
Seconded: Nathalie Duhamel*

7. Questions from the Public

- A parent shared concerns about how reporting is taking place and whether there are new changes (other than the lack of report card comments) that have taken place. This parent stated that only 2 tests had been used to grade the term.
  - i. Mme de la Rochelle said that the only change this year is that not all competencies need to be assessed.
- Tessa argued that while St Edmund teachers are highly engaged with students through their formative learning in class, providing only numerical summative feedback does not encourage students to think of their educational "outcomes" in a holistic, growth mindset. The way in which the Quebec report card is laid out also does not clearly indicate students' growth in learning skills or work habits. Thus, without qualitative comments indicated on the report cards, students are encouraged to compare their mark to the class average, rather than to consider the skills that would enrich their educational outcomes. Stephanie similarly stressed the hazards of such numerical emphasis about education, arguing that students shouldn't even be shown numerical grades at this age, let alone comparisons to class averages. Several teachers present at the meeting strongly agreed that the numerical grades were problematic in elementary school. However, they contend that the qualitative feedback is occurring in the classroom and during P/T interviews.



- i. Concern from several parents was expressed that students without report card comments might be at a disadvantage compared to peers from schools with more qualitative information on the report cards when it comes to high school entrance. Mme de la Rochelle stated that the LBPSB holds articulation meetings where principles meet to discuss each student that is moving into the high schools. If students are heading to private schools, they don't communicate between schools in this way, but the private schools hold interviews to get to know students.
- From this discussion, it is well noted that the feedback from the parents is that there is a gap in communication about reporting. It is not always clear how mark breakdown is occurring, and without comments, this issue is exacerbated. Mme de la Rochelle will have this discussion with teachers. Parents are encouraged to speak directly to teachers if they have a specific question or concern about reporting.
- Question regarding the new sexual education curriculum and how it is implemented.
  - i. The new curriculum is out now. Mme de la Rochelle said she would consider sending this out to families to better understand how it is integrated into the curriculum

8. The next GB meeting will take place on January 30th at 6:30pm

9. Adjournment (8:25pm).



RONNIE LAWAND  
GB Chair



Principal

