



ST. EDMUND GOVERNING BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Jan 30th, 2024, 6:30pm

Attendees: Maureen Baron, Sophie Belzile, Patricia Carroll, Louise Cavaliere, Neil Dixon, Nathalie Duhamel, Ronnie Lawand, Tessa MacLean, Stephanie Myers, Courtney Paul, Marie-Josée Ricard, Valerie Sembinelli Belland, Tina Simetic, Amy St-Amour, Guylaine St. Georges,

Regrets: Alessandra d'Amico, Mylene Gosselin, Christian Knudsen, Karina Tarapore

1. Call to Order, Welcome & Land Acknowledgement (6:36 pm)
2. Approval of the Agenda for January 30, 2025

Motion: Guylaine St. Georges

Seconded: Neil Dixon

- 3) Approval of the Minutes of December 5, 2024

- a) Amendment: Only grade 3s attended the biodome

Motion: Marie-Josée Ricard

Seconded: Nathalie Duhamel

- 4) Questions from the Public

- a) Amy St Amour mentioned that she has still not received an update on how St Edmund can become a participating and voting member on the Special Needs Advisory Committee (SNAC). Mme. de la Rochelle is looking into it.

- 5) New Business

- a) For Approval:

- i) Field Trips & Fundraisers

- (1) Grade 5: Science centre Thursday June 12th. This was cost at \$2,161 but now it is free for students because it is covered by a grant. 8:20am-2:00pm. "Exploring the wonders of science and innovation."

- (2) Grade 6 students are going to Ottawa for their grad trip on Friday April 11th. Leaving at 7:30am and getting back at 8pm. Cost is \$6200. The Grad committee is donating \$4500. So each student will only pay \$34. 50. Grade 6 teachers are going. Students will attend the museum of natural science and Governor General's residence, followed by Adrenaline Plus
- (3) Mme Sophie's class will attend "My Goal Performance Hockey" on March 18th. Cost is free. Leaving at 8:15am, back after recess. Travelling via carpool. Half gym and half skate.
- (4) Home and School fundraiser. May 15th at Pigeon cafe. 5 à 7. \$45 - includes drink and finger foods, and there will be a silent auction. Will be looking for donations.
- (5) Bingo night - date changed to April 4th.
- (6) Pizza lunch dates: New sign up. March 14, 21, 28, April 4, 25, May 2, 23, 30, June 13th.

Motion: Amy St-Amour

Seconded: Stephanie Myers

ii) Lunch & Afterschool Activities

(1) Upcoming PED days.

- (a) February 7th - Inside winter palooza: winter activities, castle competition, scavenger hunt, etc. Students will receive a St Hubert BBQ lunch (cost covered by the daycare). Only \$16 fee.
- (b) Feb 17th (Monday): Zone Aquaterre - they come from Quebec city. Transform gym with different apparatuses: golfing, bowling, etc. \$22 + 16 = \$38.

Motion - Tina Simetic

Seconded - Valerie Sembinelli Belland

b) Principal Selection Criteria

- i) Reviewed and small additional comments added. Ronnie will submit.

Motion - Louise Cavaliere

Seconded - Sophie Belzile

c) Budget 2025-2026 Consultation

- i) E-mail comments to Ronnie before the next meeting and we can discuss the points.
- ii) A request was made for greater transparency in this document- budget wording is extremely vague and does not lay out priorities in such a way as to be clearly interpreted.
- iii) Question regarding when we see the actual numbers for the budget (this document is only a proposal for how the budget process takes place). Miss Baron mentioned that the full budget will be communicated at the June commissioners' meeting.

6) Reports:

- a) Administrator's Report: Miss Carroll
 - i) Honoured to take this position. Staff is rallying behind Ms. Carroll!
 - ii) Registration is going very well. Re-reg ends tomorrow (January 31st).
 - iii) Cycle 1: Musical date changed from Tuesday March 25th to Wed March 26th because there is a PED day on the Monday. Dress rehearsal will be on Tuesday.
 - iv) Recess protocol for cold weather: Will stay inside if it is lower than -20 (with no sun, and lots of wind). If it is sunny and no wind, then they will plan for one recess outside.
- b) Commissioner (*Dec 17 2024*)
 - i) Jan 28th - last meeting
 - ii) School board is updating the student evaluation policy, attending to concerns about the lack of report card comments at St. Edmund. This process will take about a year to complete. Pearson union members have been consulted and will continue to be. Once they have a draft, other stakeholders will be asked to read it and give comments. November reports, especially for cycle 1, are being taken into account given that only receiving numbers does not seem appropriate for that young an age. Minimal flexibility though, due to the fact that report cards themselves are handled by the Ministry.
 - iii) Reach back credits - webinar by the board was well received. You can find a recording on the board website. This is only for grade 9 (if you have older kids). School boards across the province have submitted concerns about this, particularly regarding special needs kids. Everyone is waiting for answers from the administrators. The ministry is trying to achieve more coherence in the valuing in the marks.

- iv) Government cuts -Dec. 13th the Director Generals of all School Boards and Student Centres were given an envelope and an amount to cut. Transportation was taken into account. Several government grants are also cut, which isn't included in the initial amount they had to cut. Question: can we take out of the surplus? Answer: Only 15% per year. \$2.5 million needs to be cut by March. We don't know the answers about what the ministry will approve and won't approve, but it isn't supposed to affect students directly in the classroom (no staffing cuts). All school boards and service centres have created a bank of questions and sent it up.

c) Parents Committee

- i) Budget cuts discussed (see Commissioner's report above)
- ii) English Parents Association is giving lots of workshops: Feb 4th: concussions; then dates TBD: digital literacy, AI, The Anxious Generation. They welcome other workshop ideas.
- iii) Workshop provided by Alloprof: Tessa highly recommended this program. It is nearly 100% translated now, with many great features for elementary as well as secondary students: study guides and videos, individual support (access to a teacher), and peer-support, reading and math games (can be downloaded on their tablets or played via web browser; launched yesterday as a multiplayer mode), motivational timer - organizing study time, parent resources, etc. Suggestion to make a free account to access all features.

d) Daycare

- i) Champs started last week for grades 4-6 at lunch. Karate coming back for k-6 after school on Tuesdays. Italian starting in February and going for 12 weeks.
- ii) Stephanie made the suggestion that there is a problem of equity when activity signup takes place on a 'first come first serve' basis, as it is for several clubs at St. Edmund. Such a model disproportionately affects single parents, shift workers, and other caregivers who may not be able to sign up at a certain time. Request was made that we find a way (such as a lottery) to ensure that programming is distributed equitably, while still retaining a reasonable deadline for submission. Teachers expressed concerns about students not bringing in forms on time, and a *very* high volume of communication from parents about the process of selecting students, particularly regarding the ski club.

e) Teachers:

i) Student council events to be approved:

(1) February 14th Kids CAN help - food drive for WIM.

(2) Carnival week, last week of February:

(a) principal for the day: students can buy tickets (1 for \$2 or 2 for \$5) Money raised will go to Jumpstart (charity through Canadian Tire). Through a random draw, one child from each cycle gets to "become principal" for a half day. They could dress up, do the announcements, etc.

Motion: Stephanie Myers

Seconded: Neil Dixon

ii) Cycle 3 (Mme Guylaine)

(1) Thanks to Miss Carroll for stepping in in Mme. de la Rochelle's absence.

(2) The 2nd term is ending soon; lots of evaluations occurring in Cycle 3. The second report card will have a mark for writing (which was not in the first report).

(3) 'Qui lira vaincra' - first event will be at St Edmund in April. Already starting to read as there are 13 books to read. 3 grade 6s and 3 grade 5s.

iii) Cycle 2 (Mme Valerie): It is a more difficult time of year, but the kids are still having fun. Kids loved the ski club outings. Dance club led by Mme Alessandra, Miss Carroll, and Mme Valerie. Field trip at the end of February.

iv) Kindergarten (Mme Marie Josée) - Skating outings (2 so far) have gone very well. Expressed thanks for the support of the classroom aides and parents. Appreciate the smiles and warm welcome as the kids arrive at the rink (especially given the one bus delay).

v) Junior wolf pack - 60 kids involved!! 6 teams of grade 5 and 6 students work every other Wednesday at recess to make lunches for the unhoused.

vi) Cycle 1 (Mme Nathalie)- Musical in preparation. Prof dino in January - Static electricity, family of animals. Making great leaps in writing in grade 1.

f) Home & School -no report

7) Questions from the Public - none.

8) Adjournment 7:51pm

Next GB Meeting - Thursday February 27, 2025 @ 6:30pm

Signatures:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "France de la Rochelle", written over a horizontal line.

France de la Rochelle, Principal

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ronnie Lawand", written over a horizontal line.

Ronnie Lawand, Governing Board Chair