

**Merton School
Governing Board Meeting
Tuesday, October 14, 2009**

Present:

Raizel Candib, Sara Abudarham, Harvey Caron, Kimberley Davey, Joe di Pasquale, Maureen Gay, Judith Haziza, Robin Hornstein, Catherine Legault, Marco Petroni, Franco Sauro, Brian van Frank. At 7:35pm Gary white joined.

Absent:

None

1. **MEETING CALLED TO ORDER** at 7:29pm by Marco Petroni.
2. **APPOINTMENT**
 - Community Representative, Harvey Caron -Merton Home and School
3. **ADDITIONS TO AGENDA**
 - Item E: Grad committee fundraiser – Movie Night
 - Item F: Request from Lisa Triestino – Robotics Fundraiser
 - Item G: Policy on delinquent fees – discussion requested
 - Item H: Nut-free vs peanut free school
 - Item I: Generals Rules of Conduct re Governing Board
4. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

As amended, moved by Sara Abudarham, seconded by Catherine Legault.
5. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES** of June 9th, 2009
 - Regional delegate report presented by Marco Petroni, not Harvey Caron.

Approval of minutes of June 9th, as amended, moved by Kimberley Davey, seconded by Franco Sauro.
6. **BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES** of April 28th, 2009
 - Governing Board attendance should be restated and made clear as per the handbook.
7. **NEW BUSINESS**
 - a. **Presentation of Governing Board Executive 2009-2010-2011**
 - Marco Petroni, Chair 2009-2011
 - Franco Sauro, Vice Chair 2008-2010
 - Brian van Frank, Treasurer 2009-2011
 - Robin Hornstein, Secretary completing Gary White's term 2008-2010

- Joe di Pasquale, Regional Delegate 2009-2011
- Harvey Caron, Home and School Representative 2008-2010

b. Nominative Information Form

Form was signed and sent to school board.

c. Field Trip Policy – Discussion Review and Approval

- Principal reviewed policy stating GB passed motion approving all day field trips ahead of time, with exception of overnight trips, presented individually for approval.
- MP to email hardcopy of this

Moved to approve by Marco Petroni, seconded by Robin Hornstein.

d. School Yard Beautification Grant

- Every few years ministry provides beautification funds, this year up to \$75,000 per project is available- \$45,000 is total target Merton would need.
- Previous surplus allowed \$10,000 to trickle to Merton for textbooks with purchases of new ethics, science and science humane programs with \$5000 remaining.
- Breakdown of Beautification Funds is 1/3 EMSB, 1/3 Ministry and 1/3 Merton School with Merton Home & School guarantee of \$10,000 and Merton surplus, as indicated above, \$5000.
- Previous plans: City of Cote Saint Luc was to provide easy access to local park with playground costs prohibitive, drainage problems, etc. therefore Merton will not enjoy the fruits of this
- Deadline for submission to Ministry to present above project is November 15th, 2009
- Merton's presentation premise (and ace in hole) is that Merton owns the property over which it can control
- Playground will have capacity for 40 children with wood-chip ground

Vote on earmarking \$5,000 for Beautification Project: Unanimous.

e. Graduation Committee Fundraiser – Movie Matinée

- Grad committee movie matinée (PG rating) in order to request permission ultimately for grad field trip – committee runs event – Nov 15th, 2009 13h00 – seeking approval – open to entire school
 - movie is played on Merton equipment
- Grad committee meeting Oct 26th, 2009 to discuss and determine movie
- No budget, although revenues usually \$300-\$400

- Sandra Simboli, Grad Committee Chair, requesting permission to advertise the Tuesday evening fitness class to parent community, in addition to web exposure for participation to sign up

Movie matinee vote to approve; Unanimous

f. Robotics Fundraiser Special Request - from Lisa Triestino

- Request from Lisa to operate jewelry sale, on-line, via Merton Website in order to purchase 12 more RCX motors to be used for Cycle 2 and 3 during class time
- Sale period will run end October-end November, in addition to fashion show (recycled clothing to fit strategically with overall plan) planned end May
- Comment regarding a look at the big picture approach to fundraising so as not to stretch parent community resources such as grad, circus, robotics, etc.

Vote to approve online jewelry fundraiser; Unanimous

g. Fee Delinquency - Discussion and Policy

- Lunch fees and school supplies fees only
- School leverage EMSB policy, as per Director General Mr. Tirelli – given that lunch supervision is a service supplied and paid for, parents may remove children (and some do go home) so for those receiving service and not paying, it is permitted for the school to ask parents to remove children.
- Discussion ensued regarding enforcing step-wise policy on those parents who are seemingly able to pay, but refuse as well as about the effectiveness of impact upon the child.
 - Is it realistic to enforce given a parent's refusal?
 - Being in a deficit due to this problem, might this not give the school the right to intervene?
 - Affecting the child is an unfortunate implication of this problem although we should find creative solutions to manage this deficit of approx \$9000 over 5 years.
 - What recourse does Merton have in fact? What legal options does the school have?
 - In the past, we have prohibited children from going on field trips.
- A step-wise process of approach will dull the recourse should Merton be ineffective beginning with friendly reminder/warning, escalation to 2nd reminder with 10 days, and final notice (with or without interest). Child should be picked up from school at 11h30 or legal action to follow. Home and School functions independently and may in fact make more rigid demands while

GB must operate under auspices of EMSB. No legal entitlement to school services.

- Preference to avoid detriment to child with responsibility for parent act.
- It was addressed whether to consult legal counsel to manage the problem.

ACTION ITEM:

- Decision for Principal Candib to become informed regarding EMSB policy and move forward from there.

h. Nut-Free vs Peanut-Free School

- School is officially peanut-free although increased numbers of children with other nut allergies require GB to address new considerations such as 'Nut-Free'. (Chocolates are no longer permitted to be sold on school premises for this very reason).
- Begin to campaign gently via all communiqués that Merton is nut-free.
- It is important to have clarity and uniformity across the school.
- Other schools set the examples, such as St-George's that has been nut-free for many years.
- With respect to children suffering from allergies, it is the responsibility of the parent to properly inform the school in addition to providing medical preparations available to their child should an event arise during school time.
- Lunch monitors are made aware of a child with food allergies, such that the child is removed from the other children when eating.
- Merton has their own Epipen that accompanies teachers on trips.
- Each September, the Nurse runs Epipen Administration workshops, educating and training lunch monitors

ACTION ITEM:

Harvey Caron will send an email without delay, putting the Merton School Nut-Free policy into effect immediately

Vote to immediately effect Merton School as fully Nut-Free; Unanimous.

i. Internal Rules of Conduct re: Governing Board

- Tabled to next meeting

ACTION ITEM:

Marco Petroni to provide topical information to GB members for review and discussion.

8. REPORTS

- a. ***Principal's Report*** – Raizel Candib

- Ministry has allocated \$ for 'physical/emotional wellness' (cycle 3, Grades 5 and 6), money was spent on Camp Bout en Train trip in 2008-09 and homework program – *although funds on hold to date.*
 - EMSB has committed for 3 years henceforth \$3,000,000 to literacy such that children function consistent with their level in areas of reading, writing, and mathematics.
 - i. Eleven (11) French Immersion schools in EMSB, with testing in K, Gr. 1 and Gr. 2
 - Schools are provided with literacy facilitators (1 day/week) (Merton: Sara Abudarham) who would be released from regular teaching duties. Ms. Abudarham is devoting her time this year to developing and building the book room, setting up literacy resource centre to build a balanced literacy program. She described the guided reading as 'the key is to have small groups with unique strategic approach to meet unique needs of variety of levels. She cited example of such strategy as 'comprehension'.
- b. **Regional Delegate's Report** - Joe di Pasquale
- Hardcopy distributed
 - Election meeting for CPC (Central Parent's Committee)

ACTION ITEM:

Joe di Pasquale to email notes to Robin for inclusion in minutes.

Received – RH

- c. **Home and School Report** – Franco Sauro
- Oct 27-28, 2009 Open House
 - Hand sanitizers for the younger children – a foam variety will be made available, with no compromise to the children's health (younger children were inserting fingers in their mouths, following cleansing)
 - Information dissemination from Home & School on the court issue regarding the Unions vs. EMSB 'running daycare programs under auspices of Home & School'. Discussion ensued.
 - i. Legal action, represented by Ogilvy Renaud, continues with six (6) court dates set, Merton set as the case study.

9. QUESTION PERIOD

None

10. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

November 25, 2009 Wednesday 7:30pm

11. MEETING ADJOURNED at 9:25pm.