

Chelsea Elementary School
Governing Board Meeting Minutes

January 22, 2009

Present

Francois Simard - Chair
Ralph Mason - Principal
Kristine Ronn - Secretary
Lauren Barbour - Secretary
Benoit Monette (Parent Committee Rep)
Christine Faveri
Joanne Haddad Lawson
Louise Larose

Celine Brault
Maia Pudifin (SEAC)
Laurie Garbutt (WQSB/Parent Commissioner)
Amanda McKeown
Lise Favreau
Kate Lob
Erin (A4 Rep)

Regrets

Richard Bieri

Guests

Carol Green, Bruce Devine

Minutes from December 4th meeting were unanimously approved.

Business arising (10 min)

- Guests: Carol Green re: Meredith Centre
Bruce Devine from the Chelsea Municipality

September 2008, announcement re: \$6m grant approved by both governments for construction of the new Meredith Centre. The remaining \$4million (total \$10m needed) would be sourced from sale of existing community centre, increased taxes and community support. Construction expected to commence March 2010.

The project has been 10 years in the making; Carol showed us a model mock up of the proposed centre. There will be 2 gyms, arena and other 'tenant space' i.e. CCNS, Step-up gym and possible others – our A4???

Carol and Bruce said they were “here to listen to our school’s needs”, especially given the proximity of the new centre to Chelsea school. They were planning to meet with the WQSB Feb 12 to see what ‘partnering’ plans could be put in place – no details were available at this time. It seems to be the GB’s view to ideally have a physical link between the school and the new centre.

Bruce thought despite the new facilities, there would still be a need for the use of the school’s facilities – given the expected increase in programs being offered to the community.

Grand Boise school has also shown interest in participating in the ‘programming’ of the new centre.

The Board/Minister may consider a “Sport Etude” school curriculum for Chelsea School.

Action Item: Carol thought that it would be a good idea if our specific needs could be put in

writing for when they meet with the board Feb 12th.

- Technology update and needs
Ralph presented: Budget nearly all spent on networking 4 computers/class, including one on each teacher's desk. Unfortunately, "smart boards" not possible at this time, due to a significant price increase i.e. 12 smart boards = approx \$50-60,000.

Possibility of having Home&School support to purchase one smart board = approx \$3500.

Concerns about fundraising money raised by parents – then not having a say on how funds are spent by H&S.

The Chairman felt that the GB should voice parents concerns – seemed to be a grey area which needed clarification. [Clarification – 10 March 2009 - GB guidelines specify consultative areas: impact of activities on the school routines, curriculum issues, budget, building usage, and proposals from the principal. Organizations outside of the GB, such as Home and School, make their own decisions but are nevertheless obliged to consult the GB when dates for fundraising, for example, are being established. The role of the chair is to help set an agenda, moderate discussion, and direct / re-direct questions. Should a chairman need to state an opinion at a meeting, the procedure calls for the chair to invite a sitting parent to temporarily replace him/her and this is usually done by a vote – RM].

- Fundraising Plans: .65c of funding/day – letter outlining this to parents
Smart sale – demonstrate potential to parents – late April Garage sale
Shop and Support

It was proposed that fundraising campaign plans – should get approval through the GB since it uses staff time to channel (GB board gives staff this voice). Motion Passed.

- A4 Sub Committee Report
Lauren Barbour, Kristine Ronn, Gerard Holmes formed a sub-committee to look at better space solutions for A4.

Funds provided by the school board (\$10,000) in compensation for the loss of portables, have been used for purchase of portable storage units, storage construction solutions.

Use of classrooms for A4 have been working well – all cleared from Grand Hall – better organization and use of space.

- Liaison with Grand Boise – Chairman presented letter drafted "an invitation for dialogue" with Grand Boise. Concerns whether letter should be sent just in French, or English or both. It was motioned that the letter should be in both languages – will be refined by Francois and sent out in February for their March meeting.

1. Information Items (10 min)

- Bus safety week Feb. 4-9th. A planned bus safety day at Chelsea School – children will be taught safety rules. Also, a 'bus safety' poster competition.
- Volleyball Tournament: Feb 13th. There will be visiting schools, classes will run as normal.
- Heritage Week (Feb 23-27) and Student Led Conferences (SLC) (Feb 26-27).

- Reporting: SLC, Term 3 reports, Term 4 year end.
- Criteria for principals – discussion “closed door” with principal.
- Criteria for class formation – Ralph to discuss with staff and share with GB in the future.
- Choir – going well, good interest. Approx 10 people. Lauren asked whether could be open to younger children, Ralph stated that it would be too much for A4 staff to manage.

2. Open Forum (10 min)

- It was suggested an information session be given to parents so they could get a better understanding of “Tribes” – teaching approach – and could then provide better support and understanding. Work better with staff’s efforts if parents knew the ‘plan’.

Ralph suggested that he could do a workshop evening to present “Tribes” and add other items of need/interest. **Action Item:** Ralph was going to do a preceeding letter. Amanda added that it would be a good idea to get parents versed with Tribes terms giving parents a better understanding.

- Francois heard that some parents didn’t know the change in PD days. Further to this, he added that perhaps we needed a better communication strategy i.e. a telecommunication screen in the Grand Hall.

Also, that items of importance get sent as separate emails, not together within a newsletter.

Input was requested to be sent to Francois – formed a sub committee with Ralph.

3. SEAC Report (10 min)

Maia discussed C-17 report (which Francois said he would email) – a policy poorly managed per Maia.

SEAC asking for our GB feedback on report – which Kate said she would lead.

IEP = individual education plan

Maia proposed that a letter should be drafted up for parents with kids with special needs. That they be provided with a handbook, outlining their options/support for special needs child – a ‘road map’.

4. Community Representative – Benoit – mentioned he would email his notes from meeting.

Benoit outlined presentation by Paul Lamoureux:

- change in demographics
- large decrease in student populations
- population will continue to decline
- harder to attract teacher to Quebec – they have to do more schooling for less salary.
- A shortage in French teachers.

5. Budget Update (10 min) - see attached
Ralph outlined attached budget statement and expenses.

Stated that any unused monies are now used against any liabilities – per the board.

6. School Success (10 min) - see attached
Draft prepared by Sandra Burgess – open to review.

Please read and have comments for next meeting.

7. Entent: MRC and Chelsea School (10-15 min)
The Chairman suggested that he discuss this with Ralph (the subcommittee) and provide a summary to Carol Green.

8. Daycare Report (10 min)
Report provided by Erin: Sports activities going well, Jump Rope for Heart in April, Seed fundraiser.

Again, it was the view that there was a need for communication to parents of upcoming fundraisers so parents could plan their use of funds.

Francois had some concerns about Chelsea participants in sports tournament, not showing and having to forfeit game – didn't think a good representation of school.

Ralph has made helmets a mandatory requirement on the skating rink.

9. Cycle Reports (15 min)
 - Proposal: Ethics and Religious Cultures Program (see handout)
During Heritage week, SLC, Units in French around engineering needs/constructing rescue devices – seeing “science in action”. One team will be selected to participate in the Science and Tech Museum competition.

Celine to continue to seek grant to develop curriculum in Ethics and Religious Cultures program – approved by the school board in ‘process’, but would like our GB feedback/approval.

Francois proposed that we should have a week to review program handout, and to email him if we had any objections.

10. Staff changes: Kalli Lahtinen has been replaced by Cindy Resendes
Mrs. Cyr has replaced Ms. Baily.[Update – 10 March 2009 – Ms. Cyr has returned to the school].

Kindergarten registration Feb. 19th – expecting to have two full classes.