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# Governing Board Meeting Minutes - November 24<sup>th</sup>, 2020 (via zoom)

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## Attendees:

Mr. Lambert, Ms. Silke Sas, Mme Lucy Filiatrault, Mme Tanya Caza, Ms. Marisa Furino, Daniel Olivenstein, Melinda Paradis (chairperson), Chris Couture, Corrie Pacitto, Dustin Traylen, Sarah Simunic, Bobbi Hamilton, Jennifer Gilligan (secretary), Ms. Lindsay Reid, Stephanie Basanese, Vanessa Gareau-Dominguez, Susan Nowak (Suzy Q), Sarah Matthews, Melissa Bindon, Melanie Doutre, Athena Soupliotis, Georgia Kollias, Danny Raie

## Call to order

Meeting was called to order at 6:33 by Melinda.

\*Melinda advises that the meeting will be recorded for Jennifer and deleted once the minutes have been completed\*

\*\*Jennifer advises Melinda off-record to delete the recording since complete minutes were taken during the zoom meeting\*\*

## Verification of Quorum

Confirmed.

## Approval of the Agenda

Corrie motions to approve/Mme Lucy seconds/approved by all.

## Approval of October 27<sup>th</sup>, 2020 minutes

Bobbi motions to approve/Chris seconds/approved by all.

## Motion to approve land acknowledgement at the start of GB meetings

Melinda explains that Evergreen sits on Indigenous land and we need to present the land acknowledgment at the beginning of each meeting (see Appendix A); Mme Tanya motions to approve/Corrie seconds/approved by all.

## Motion to approve meeting time allotting

Melinda confirms that as per the Internal Rules of Operation, meetings will run from 6:30-8:00 with a 15-minute period allotted for Public Question period; Corrie asks if questions go longer than 15 minutes, can the time be extended; Melinda advises that we can motion throughout the meeting to extend timing/table items, etc; Ms. Furino motions to approve/Sarah Simunic seconds/approved by all.

## Reports

### a) **Principal's Report:** (presented by Mr. Lambert)

- Heartfelt thank you to all the staff during the current COVID situation; as of November 11<sup>th</sup> 2020, there are 15 positive cases (6 staff / 9 students); discussions daily with Santé Publique who advised that despite the numbers, this is a controlled environment because the spread of the virus can be traced; Santé Publique does not want to close the school even though Mr. Lambert has been asking to go online; Santé Publique ensures that all protocols are being met; due to the recent increase in cases, as per Santé Publique, all staff have been mandated to get tested (effective November 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2020 at 2:30); a second caretaker has been hired strictly to sanitize and disinfect after hours; staff eating areas/spaces have been expanded; all protocols have been reviewed with the staff; as per Santé Publique, Evergreen has been sending out more information than required but Mr. Lambert informed them that he is, and will continue to be, completely transparent with the Evergreen community
- as per the government, December 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> are now online school days
- back to school date January 4<sup>th</sup>, 2021
- three new pedagogical days need to be added to the calendar: LBPSB has assigned January 25<sup>th</sup> and February 8<sup>th</sup> as board specific days; Evergreen already had January 25<sup>th</sup> as an approved pedagogical day; therefore Evergreen has two additional days to be determined at a later date
- November 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> will be virtual parent/teacher interviews

### b) **Teachers Report:** (presented by Ms. Furino)

Nothing much else can be said after Mr. Lambert's principal's report; the staff is feeling the same stresses and are just as concerned and worried with the recent COVID situation; Mme Tanya mentions that the students are kind of oblivious to the recent situation and seeing the students happy is making it easier to get through the days; Melinda re-iterates a huge thank you to all the staff for all that they are doing.

### c) **Grad Activities & Fundraisers:** (presented by Melinda)

Grad t-shirts have been ordered but no update yet on delivery; no additional details.

### d) **Parent Committee Representative:** (presented by Melinda)

There have been several zoom meetings throughout the month; COVID is the major topic being discussed.

## Reports (continued)

e) **Commissioner:** (presented by Danny)

Commissioner report was distributed with meeting package; Danny extends his thanks and appreciation to everyone at Evergreen; Santé Publique unfortunately controls the situation which almost enforces a total loss of control; best plan of action is to write the local MNA to express concerns.

f) **Daycare:** (presented by Mme Lucy)

Ped day numbers are very low; ped day hours will be adjusted based on what parent's needs are, possibly 7:00-3:00 or 8:00-4:00; the student:adult ratio will now be 1:10 for Kindergarten - Grade 2.

g) **Home & School:** (presented by Bobbi)

Thank you to Evergreen for all they have done, it's not easy for anyone;

Initiatives requiring approval:

1. TCBY: originally approved for December 18<sup>th</sup>, can the date be moved to December 11<sup>th</sup>; \*approved by all
2. Holiday Treat: since there will be no pancake/pj breakfast, can H&S make a pre-made hot chocolate treat given to all the students to take home; \*Dustin motions to approve/Corrie seconds/approved by all; Mr. Lambert adds that the items need to be peanut free and must be in the school for three days prior to distribution

## Business Arising

a) **Emergency Preparedness Approval:** tabled to December meeting

b) **COVID-19 protocols / Santé Publique guidelines:**

- COVID-19 procedures to follow was included in meeting package
- Melinda advises that there are rumors going around about an Evergreen parents Facebook group that even the Regional Director is aware of; Melinda states that the rumors about the group trash-talking the school and staff are completely false
- Mr. Lambert understands the need for support and a sense of community but he advises that speculation causes un-necessary stress and anxiety; the Facebook posts are hurtful, disheartening and impacts the staff negatively
- Melinda clarifies that this Facebook group is not E-Green Parents Community which was shut down at the end of October 2020, this is a separate page not affiliated with the school in any way

c) **Bullying incidents at school / internal review of AVAB policies :** tabled to December meeting.

## New Business (presented by Mr. Lambert)

- a) **School Budget:** tabled to December meeting.
- b) **Addition of three pedagogical days:** see 8A
- c) **School Board Elections:** Melinda and Danny both stress the importance of the election and voting; early polling will be December 13<sup>th</sup>, 2020 at Westwood Junior, new voting cards will be mailed shortly.

## Correspondence

N/A

## Public Question Period

- Suzy asks if 'volunteers' be added to the AVAB statement plan; Melinda needs to verify if it is not already there and if not, it will be added to the 2020-21 plan since this was approved at a previous meeting (2018 or 2019, to be confirmed)
- Chris asks Mr. Lambert if he is always dealing with the same person at Santé Publique; Mr. Lambert advises that as of November 24<sup>th</sup> there was one nurse who was assigned to Evergreen but a new CISSMO nurse has been appointed and he recently spoke with a Santé Publique doctor; Mr. Lambert will look into whether the Evergreen community can be assigned a direct point of contact.

## Date / Time of Next Meeting

December 16<sup>th</sup>, 2020, 6:30 pm.

## Adjournment

Ms. Furino adjourns the meeting at 7:42 pm/Mme Lucy seconds/approved by all.

## SIGNATURES

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**PRINCIPAL**

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**CHAIR**

**APPENDIX A -  
Land Acknowledgement**

**“In order to show our deep respect for the land on which our event takes place today”** we would like to acknowledge that Lester B Pearson School Board is located on the unceded territory of the Kanien’keha:ka People. Lester B Pearson School Board honours, recognizes and respects Kanien’keha:ka People as the traditional stewards of the lands and waters on which we meet today and recognizes that this land has long served as a site of meeting and exchange amongst nations...

**“We also acknowledge the harms and mistakes of the past and commit to informing ourselves about this truth in order to move forward in partnership with Indigenous communities in a spirit of collaboration and reconciliation”.**