

**Verdun Elementary School  
GOVERNING BOARD  
MINUTES**

*Tuesday November 22, 2022 – 6:00pm  
Verdun Elementary School Staffroom*

**Present:** Patrick Bagstad, Sarah Davey, Sterling Downey, Marilyn Henry, Elizabeth Huyer, Lori McKergow, Erika Meere, Diane Tierney, Cheryl Vienneau, Simone Viger

**Audience (non-voting):** Neil Simmons

**Regrets:** Chelsea Scallan, Heidi Van Regan, Daniel Bartlett, Margelaine Lameurte, Tracey Brenie, Lori Morrison

1. Welcome: Patrick Bagstad calls the meeting to order at 6:12pm and reads the land acknowledgement.
2. Approval of agenda:
  - a. Removal of high school visits and John Rennie theatrical production.

MOTION #20: To approve the agenda with modifications. Moved by Sarah Davey, seconded by Diane Tierney. Carried unanimously.

3. Approval of minutes from September and October 2022 meetings

MOTION #21: To approve the minutes from September 2022. Moved by Diane Tierney, seconded by Sarah Davey. Carried with two abstentions.

MOTION #22: To approve the minutes from October 2022. Moved by Cheryl Vienneau, seconded by Sarah Davey. Carried unanimously.

4. New Business
  - a. Budget: This will be reviewed at the January GB meeting.
  - b. Field Trips:
    - i. Bleu Blanc Rouge Skating: Blanket approval is requested for classes to walk to the skating rink between the dates of January 23 and February 28. Skates and helmets are provided, and there is no cost to students. Permission forms will be sent home to parents in advance of each class' chosen date.
    - ii. MOTION #23: To approve the Skating field trip as presented. Moved by Cheryl Vienneau, seconded by Sarah Davey. Carried unanimously.
  - c. Nutritional Workshops - Dietetic Students wish to organize some nutritional workshops for students in various grades, given during class time. More information to come.

- d. Pearson Education Foundation Fundraiser: Students and staff would be invited to wear blue, yellow, and white on Friday December 2nd and bring \$2 to donate to the Pearson Education Foundation.
    - i. MOTION #24: To approve the PEF Fundraiser as presented. Moved by Cheryl Vienneau, seconded by Sarah Davey. Carried unanimously.
  - e. Creation of dedicated gym space at VES for adults working at VES, with possible inclusion of older students. More information to come.
  - f. Daycare Activity: Request for approval of a \$3 fee for a sports day activity on January 20th's Ped Day (this fee would be on top of the regular ped day fee).
    - i. MOTION #25: To approve the sports day daycare fee as presented. Moved by Cheryl Vienneau, seconded by Diane Tierney. Carried unanimously.
5. Public Question Period:
- a. Question answered about Blue, Blanc, Bouge
6. Reports
- a. Principal's Report:
    - i. New Daycare Tech, Tracey Brenie, is working out very well. She has been hiring and organizing staff to optimize both the safety and activities for the kids. She is a really nice new addition to our community and already knows several people in the building!
    - ii. New grade 2 teacher, Brittany MacMillan, was able to complete report cards and meet parents. She is also a lovely addition to the staff.
    - iii. Halloween paired activity was a great success! So nice to be able to pick up the old traditions. Thank you so much for organizing Miss Sarah!
    - iv. We had a beautiful Remembrance Day assembly, organized by our spiritual animator Beverly! Thank you so much Beverly! We had a bagpiper here as well as 2 guest speakers. The students were great! It was really nice to have everyone in one assembly together!
    - v. Report Cards: Had some serious issues with the new platform for report cards. It seems that all schools had some issues. Some students not showing up, some subjects not appearing, some teachers not able to enter anything at all. Comments showing up in the wrong place, not showing up at all, or being duplicated. Then we had issues with printing. We started trying to print on Tuesday morning and weren't able to get the reports printed until Thursday afternoon, even though IT was involved all along the way. Once printed, reports were read for typos and errors. This took all weekend and I wasn't in on Monday and Tuesday. Miss Sarah got the corrected reports to the teachers so they could make their changes. Thank you so much again, Miss Sarah!! That's when we discovered the issues with class averages and modified students appearing in the class average, skewing the results. The decision was made to send reports out on Wednesday in order to give everyone the chance to make the corrections properly and have the reports re-printed. The community was informed about the error with the class averages and the reports went home. While we were struggling with all of this, I was away at a school board event.

Miss Sarah had to deal with all of this in my absence. A HUGE thank you to Miss Sarah for dealing with this in my absence!!

- vi. We held our Interviews Thursday night and Friday morning. The interviews were held in person and were very well attended! We had a lovely meal from Bossa, organized by Meghan. Thank you so much Meghan, I think everyone was very happy!
- vii. Nursing students on Tuesday, November 22, to do a presentation on hygiene for our grade 6 students.
- viii. A sincere thank you from the parents for all of the detailed information provided in student IEPs.
- b. Central Parents' Committee Report: No report.
- c. Commissioner's Report: No report.
- d. Community Representative Report:
  - i. A book launch took place for the book by local graduate Karen Birdgenaw: "Le Hockey Rink". Copies of the book will be provided for schools in the area.
  - ii. The bike racks were installed on Verdun Ave
  - iii. Snow removal in the winter: The procedure is that should snow removal operations take place during student entry or dismissal, operations would cease while students are moving in or out of the building, and then resume when there are no students present.
- e. CLC Report:
  - i. RECLAIM Literacy is launching a Family Holiday Reading Challenge for students and their families to complete over the December holiday break! Families who complete a Bingo Card with reading challenges will receive a chance to win a special prize. We are pleased to partner with an organization who has been serving the adult community of Verdun for so long. Keep an eye out for the Reading Challenge Bingo Cards in December!
  - ii. The Verdun Cooking Club has been busy! After an abundance of expressed interest, the school Family School Support Treatment Team (FSSTT) have teamed up with the Community Learning Center (CLC) to add more resources for this area of student activity. There are 30 students in grades 3 to 6 registered in the program. Families were asked for an optional donation to help cover the costs of the cooking club. Thanks to student, staff, and family donations, we have been able to equip the kitchen with six sets of cooking utensils as well as other essential special materials. So far, they have made: granola, apple sauce, and fruit smoothies. More recipes are to come as students develop their skills and interests. We are seeking community partners and more donations for equipment and ingredients.
  - iii. Les Scientifines are excited to come back to Verdun Elementary to offer the Girls Science Club! This weekly group will be supported by Grade 3 & 4 teachers in January.
  - iv. Beurling Academy is holding their Open House on November 30th, from 6 to 8 pm. Families who are interested are welcome to visit the school and

learn more about their unique Project-Based Learning approach. Lakeside Academy and Lasalle Community Comprehensive High School are holding Open House activities on January 19, 2023.

- f. Teachers' Report:
  - i. We were happy to welcome parents in person last Thursday and Friday for Parent Teacher Interviews.
  - ii. Our Spiritual Animator did an excellent job organizing and creating a virtual "Remembrance Day" assembly, the students were really appreciative. Grade 1 teachers prepared artwork to provide the guest speakers as a token of our appreciation.
  - iii. Staff is starting to plan activities for the month of December to make sure that we make it festive for the students.
  - iv. Music teachers are starting preparations for the Senior Music Concert on the evening of December 8th
  - v. Winter clothing has been distributed to students that were in need.
  - vi. Academic exam for high school programs was written on Friday November 11th, 8 students attended
  - vii. Visit from nursing students to grade 6 classes, presentation on hygiene and puberty
- g. Support Staff Report: Things are going well. Some integration aides received CPR training on November 18th.
- h. Daycare Report:
  - i. Staffing: We continue to seek staff for lunch programs, however the team does such an excellent job of working together and filling in for each other. We did hire extra staff for the afternoon daycare services and we do have an integration aide who is helping us until we find a replacement in January for our grade 3 afternoon group.
  - ii. Programming: Both pedagogical days were successful with 28 students for the ped day on November 11th and 31 students for November 18. On November 11, we did Peace, Love & Remembrance. We had students making poppy wreaths, poppies out of lego, a moment of silence outside at 11:00 am, then we spent the afternoon tie dying socks for everyone! For November 18th we did a holiday crafts day, we made reindeer, had a scavenger hunt putting together a snowman with candy canes as a treat at the end. We had an indoor snowball fight, played outside and in the gym as well. During lunch programs we have one of our grade 6 students who loves to help out with the kindergarten classes so she spends her time with them, reading to them, helping them get ready to go play outside and joins them out there as well. She is a great leader and role model to our K5 students. We also have several other grade 6 students who help Ms. Tammy get everyone ready for outside play. In the afternoons, our eldest daycare group (grades 4-5-6) are more of a leadership club, doing things that they choose, playing champ indoors, cooking, arts & crafts (not weekly, they voted to have it once every two weeks), helping relocate the lost and found near the senior yard.

- iii. Upcoming: Our next pedagogical day is January 20th (Winter sports) and we are hoping to book the Willibrord skating rink for our group, possibly have a baking activity in the morning and hot chocolate for when we get back in the afternoon.
  - i. VESPA Report:
    - i. Lost and Found organized - many parents appreciated the efforts of VESPA in making lost and found items visible and available in the school on parent teacher night.
    - ii. Bake sales - parents are wondering if homemade goods would be allowed for fundraisers. The answer received from the school board has been no. Parents are encouraged to ask about this at the central parents' committee.
    - iii. Hot lunch - An update is requested about whether this might begin. There are three options that are being explored, but all three rely at least partially on having a regular volunteer in the building, which is a concern for the consistency of having food available. More information is being gathered from the school board's food services and an update will be provided.
    - iv. Fundraisers proposed - these will be brought to staff council for approval before coming back to the governing board.
    - v. Volunteers are being organized for the following upcoming events: Pizza Day, Holiday Bazaar, Holiday Breakfast
7. Public Question Period: No questions
8. Correspondence & Varia - Parents were very impressed with how the report cards and parent teacher interviews were carried out.
9. Adjournment - 7:30pm

MOTION #26: Be it resolved that the meeting be adjourned. Moved by Diane Tierney , seconded by Sarah. Carried unanimously.