

**Verdun Elementary School  
GOVERNING BOARD  
MINUTES**

*Thursday February 8, 2024 – 6:00pm  
VES Staff Room & Zoom*

**Present:** Patrick Bagstad, Daniel Bartlett, Chantal Condon, Deborah Devine, Dominic Durocher, Elizabeth Huyer, Lori McKergow, Danielle Michelin, Pablo Miyazono, Lori Morrison, Diane Tierney

**Audience (non-voting):**

**Regrets:** Tracey Brenie, Sterling Downey, Simone Viger

1. Welcome and Land Acknowledgement: Patrick Bagstad calls the meeting to order at 6:12pm and reads the land acknowledgement.
2. Approval of Agenda:
  - a. Addition of the following items:
    - i. Cycle 3 - End of Year Trip
    - ii. Cycle 2 Field Trip - Museum of Fine Arts
    - iii. K4 Field Trip - Ecomuseum
    - iv. Cycle 1 - Black History Month Activity
    - v. Cabane à Sucre Field Trip
    - vi. Music Fundraiser
    - vii. Melrose parking
  - b. Tabling of both Police items to the following GB meeting

MOTION #41: To approve the agenda with alterations. Moved by Elizabeth Huyer, seconded by Danielle. Carried unanimously.

3. Approval of Minutes from December 2023 meeting:

MOTION #42: To approve the minutes from December 2023 Governing Board meeting. Moved by Diane Tierney, seconded by Danielle Michelin. Carried unanimously.

4. School Activities

- a. Scholastic Book Fair: Students will have the opportunity to purchase books on February 15th and 16th. Parents are welcome to come to shop from 3-5pm on February 15th. Online shopping is also available. A percentage of sales is provided back to the school to purchase books for classrooms.

MOTION #43: To approve the Book Fair as presented. Moved by Elizabeth Huyer, seconded by Pablo Miyazono. Carried unanimously.

- b. Grade 6 Field Trip to Hydroelectric Dam in Beauharnois. Date & time: March 15th 8:15-2:45 pm. No cost to students. Transportation by school bus.

MOTION #44: To approve the Grade 6 Hydro Field Trip as presented. Moved by Chantal Condon, seconded by Diane Tierney. Carried unanimously.

- c. McGill Child Phonology Study. Cycle 2. McGill would like to come in and conduct a literacy study in Cycle Two. Parent consent will be sought for the selected students. Dates are not confirmed but will be worked around exam dates.

MOTION #45: To approve the McGill Phonology Lab Study as presented. Moved by Pablo Miyazono, seconded by Diane Tierney. Carried unanimously.

- d. Valentines Day paired grade activity. On the afternoon of Wednesday February 14th, younger grades will be paired with senior grades to complete a themed activity together.

MOTION #46: To approve the Valentines paired activity as presented. Moved by Diane Tierney, seconded by Chantal Condon. Carried unanimously.

- e. Music Fundraiser: On Tuesday March 19th, Cycle 3 students will be invited to bring in baked goods for a St. Patrick's Day bake sale. All students will be invited to bring money to purchase baked goods. Funds that are raised will go towards ongoing costs of the music department.

MOTION #47: To approve the Music Fundraiser as presented. Moved by Deborah Devine, seconded by Diane Tierney. Carried unanimously.

- f. Cabane a sucre: Full school field trip on Friday April 26th from 9:00am-2:30pm. Location is Erablerie Charbonneau. Cost is \$25 per student. Transportation is by schoolbus.

MOTION #48: To approve the Cabane a Sucre field trip as presented. Moved by Deborah Devine, seconded by Pablo Miyazono. Carried unanimously.

- g. Cycle 2 Field trip to the Musee des Beaux Arts. Students in Grades 3 and 4 will travel by schoolbus to participate in workshops at the Musee des Beaux Arts. No cost to students. Date is Tuesday June 4th.

MOTION #49: To approve the Cycle 2 Musee des Beaux Arts Field Trip as presented. Moved by Pablo Miyazono, seconded by Danielle Michelin. Carried unanimously.

- h. Cycle 3 End of Year Field Trip. On Tuesday June 18th from 8:45-3:15pm, Grade 5 & 6 students will travel by school bus to Archipel Amelio to participate in team building activities. Subway lunch included. Cost is \$20 per student.

MOTION #50: To approve the Cycle 3 End of Year Field Trip as presented. Moved by Diane Tierney, seconded by Deborah Devine. Carried unanimously.

- i. Cycle 1 Black History month: Danielle Cox, author, designer & illustrator. Grade 1 & 2 classes will participate in a Meet the Author guest workshop with Danielle Cox (author, designer, and illustrator) She will share her publications and other designs (coloring books, stuffies), and explain why she decided to create her children's books. She is from Lasalle, is a black woman who writes about self acceptance and celebrating black hair. Workshop takes place during class time, and there is no cost to participate.

MOTION #51: To approve the Cycle 1 Black History Month Activity as presented. Moved by Dominic Durocher, seconded by Deborah Devine. Carried unanimously.

- j. K4 Ecomuseum. On February 22nd, K4 students will travel by schoolbus to the Ecomuseum to see winter animals. There is no cost to students.

MOTION #52: To approve the K4 Ecomuseum as presented. Moved by Danielle Michelin, seconded by Pablo Miyazono. Carried unanimously.

- k. Pickup and Parking on Melrose: There are concerns related to finding parking at 2:40 dismissal and safety during this time. The cause seems to be due to the addition of paid parking spots on Melrose as well as the Transco strike adding more parents picking up. Patrick will reach out to Sterling to see if there are any possible solutions to this.
- l. Verdun Elementary School Budget. Lori McKergow presents the 2023-2024 Budget.

MOTION #53: To approve the 2023-2024 VES Budget as presented. Moved by Diane Tierney, seconded by Dominic Durocher. Carried unanimously.

- m. Upcoming Meeting Dates: the following meeting dates are confirmed:
  - i. March 14th
  - ii. April 18
  - iii. May 16
  - iv. June 13
- n. Recap of Jan 31-Feb 1 E-vote. Both items (trip for bikes to the old port and McGill Teddy bears) were passed with 6 votes in favour.

5. Reports:

- a. Principal - see report below
- b. LBPSB Parent Committee - The last meeting took place on January 18th, which mostly involved the Tell Them From Me Survey. The bus strike was also

addressed, and it was stressed that the school board is not involved in the negotiations. The next meeting will be February 15th.

- c. Commissioner - see report below
  - d. Community Report - no report.
  - e. CLC - no report.
  - f. Teacher - see report below
  - g. Support Staff - On February 2nd, the integration aides received the great news that integration aide hours would be increased for this school year. Negotiations are ongoing.
  - h. SEED - no report.
  - i. VESPA - no report.
6. Public Question Period - No questions
7. Adjournment - 7:28pm

MOTION #54: Be it resolved that the meeting be adjourned. Moved by Diane Tierney, seconded by Chantal Condon. Carried unanimously.

## **ATTACHED REPORTS**

### **Principal's Report for Governing Board**

- The registration process for the 24-25 school year has begun. I will bring the numbers to next month's meeting
- We are STILL eagerly looking for parents to join VESPA! Please come and have your JR done!
- Strike days are over but not everything has been settled
- We are getting close to the end of term 2 and report cards. Which go home on the 15th
- Grad photos have been taken
- parent/teacher interviews will be on March 21st
- We had an AMAZING senior concert. Thank you Miss Elizabeth
- All of our DEcember activities were fantastic!! Thank you to everyone who helped out. It seems so long ago already,
- We have had so many wonderful events! We had Sam Ojeda and a Chinese Lion dance, Volleyball, in class science experiments in Cycle 2, in class theatre workshops in cycle 3 and other things
- Dental sealants for our grade 2 students went off without a hitch
- Our Open House was a GREAT success thank you to Miss Katie and her committee!
- Met with the deputy of Verdun and was surprised by how they can help[ the community: ex interfering with a ren- eviction
- The bike donation was FANTASTIC!!!

## **Commissioner's Report for Governing Board**

February 2024

I had the pleasure of visiting VACC recently with the Mayor of Verdun and her team, as well as the DG, Assistant DG, and the Chair of the Council of Commissioners of the LBPSB. We were given a tour by the centre's director, Michael Clark. The centre has expanded and now offers refrigeration as a new course option, as well as larger spaces for their construction program. The centre has also opened up several new groups for certain programs as their career programs are very popular, with students coming in not only from as far as the north shore and south shore of Montreal, but they have a good number of international students. For more information on their offerings: <https://lbpce.ca/vacc.html>

The City of Verdun will celebrate its 150th anniversary next year, and they are currently prepping activities and events to mark this milestone. I sit on their 150th anniversary committee, and the celebrations will run almost all year. The schools in the area are being asked to participate but that's still in the planning process.

If there are any activities or events that I should know about, please do not hesitate to let me know.

Respectfully submitted,

Lori Morrison  
Commissioner, Ward 1

### **Teachers' Report for Governing Board:**

- With the help of many sponsors, we were able to give out many holiday baskets to our families in need.
- Students enjoyed dressing up for the holiday spirit week that took place before the break.
- Santa's breakfast took place on January 13th.
- Students enjoyed the volleyball tournament on January 10th at John Abbott. They played very well.
- Open House took place on January 17th. Teachers worked together to get the news out through social media and printed pamphlets.
- We welcomed parents into the building for the Senior Music Concert on January 25th. Food donations collected were distributed locally.
- Students enjoyed the dancers who came to present a Lion Dance to celebrate Lunar New Year
- Grad sweatshirts have arrived and are being distributed
- Teachers are planning paired activities for Valentine's Day
- Teachers have been implementing Black History activities with their classes, with whole school activities to come throughout February and march.
- Teachers have been working hard on IEPs and report cards for term 2.

- We are looking forward to recharge our batteries during March break and be ready for the last 4 months of school.