

## St. John Fisher Elementary

### Governing Board Agenda 2021-02-15

8:00 a.m. to 8:20 a.m.

Online via ZOOM

Type of meeting: **Governing Board – 2020-21 Meeting #6 - Emergency**

#### Distribution:

**Parent Members:** Angela Kovalak, Phil Lambert, Nadia Lawand, Naomi Proctor, Christina Cory

**Parent Substitutes:** Christine Archambault, Allison Gerhart, Matthew Knox

**Staff:** Nadine Emond, Michèle Larin, Martine Létourneau, Tania Nouvet

**Ex-Officio:** Natasha Mentore, Evelyne Hornblower, Rebecca Cherry, Sandi Hammock

**Community Reps:** Andrew Gunther

## Agenda Topics

6.1	Call to Order & Welcome	N.Lawand
6.2	Territorial Acknowledgement	N. Lawand
6.3	Adoption of the Agenda	N. Lawand
6.4	Questions from the public	N.Lawand
6.5	School Late Start Change Letter	N.Lawand
6.6	<b>Questions from Public</b>	
6.7	<b>Varia</b>	N. Lawand
6.8	<b>Adjournment:</b> Next regular meeting April 7 <sup>th</sup> , 2021	N. Lawand

**St. John Fisher Elementary – Junior Campus  
Governing Board Minutes – 2021/02/15  
8:01 – 8:20 AM  
Zoom Meeting**

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**Type of meeting: Governing Board – Meeting 20-21 #6 - Emergency**

**Participants:**

Parents: Christina Cory, Angela Kovalak, Phil Lambert, Nadia Lawand, Naomi Proctor, Christina Archambault (alternate), Allison Gerhart (alternate), Mathew Knox (alternate)

Teachers: Nadine Emond, Michèle Larin, Martine Létourneau, Tania Nouvet,

Support Staff: Sandi Hammock

Principal: Natasha Mentore

Commissioner: Judy Kelley

Community Rep: Andrew Gunther

Visitor(s): Evelyne Hornblower (SNAC)

Absent: None

Regrets: Rebecca Cherry (H&S), Judy Kelley

**AGENDA TOPICS**

**6.1 Call to Order & Welcome**

N. Lawand called the meeting to order at 8:01 AM. Quorum was established with 8 parent representatives (including three alternate parent representatives).

P. Lambert asked that the meeting be recorded for the purpose of preparing the meeting minutes.

**6.2 Land Acknowledgment**

N. Lawand read the Land Acknowledgment statement aloud.

### **6.3 Adoption of the Agenda**

**20-21-33** *N. Lawand then called for a motion to approve the agenda. It was moved by M. Létourneau and seconded by E. Hornblower that the agenda be approved as presented. Motion carried unanimously.*

### **6.4 QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC**

No questions from the public at this time.

### **6.5 SCHOOL LATE START CHANGE LETTER**

N. Lawand explained the reasons for why this emergency meeting was called.

The LBPSB requested that both the junior and senior Governing Boards attend a special meeting that was held on February 10<sup>th</sup>, 2021. During this meeting Mr, David Meloche advised those present the change to the school start time for both the junior and senior campuses.

The junior GB would like to send a letter jointly prepared by both the junior and senior GBs to the school board outlining our thoughts on the start time change.

The letter contains

- A request to delay of the final decision to the time change in order to allow sufficient time for a consultation;
- An outline the impact the time change will have on the community;
- Proposed possible solutions to transportation and timing issues
- Proposed the steps that should be taken prior to making a final decision on the time change.

**20-21-34** *N. Lawand called for a motion that both N. Lawand (SJF Jr. GB Chair) and S. Compeau (SJF Sr. GB Chair) work jointly on the response to the recommendation put forward by the school board on February 10<sup>th</sup> 2021. It was moved by E. Hornblower and seconded by N. Emond that the motion be approved as presented. Motion carried unanimously.*

## 6.6

### QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

Question : Is it possible to get the number of families that are opposed to the time change?

Answer : If the time change was a presented in advance as a consultation then the GB would have polled the parents. Unfortunately, the GB was presented the time change on Wednesday February 10<sup>th</sup> and was therefore unable to poll parents. This is why the GB is preparing this letter voicing the general sense of what parents feel.

Question : How can we voice our opinions?

Answer : You can write to Mr. David Meloche or to our Commissioner Judy Kelley. The GB is also responding on behalf of the school.

Question : When was the school and staff made aware of the time change?

Answer : N. Mentore mentioned that the staff was made aware of the school time change on February 8<sup>th</sup>, 2021.

Question : Will the letter be shares?

Answer : N. Lawand mentioned that the final letter will be part of the official correspondence and annexed to the minutes of the next regular meeting.

Question : When was the process started for the decision making?

Answer : We are not aware of when the process was started.

Question : Is the traffic congestion the main reason for the time change?

Answer : N. Lawand mentioned that from the presentation by the school board the main reason is due to the twinning of the busses and that changing our school's start time will affect the least amount of schools.

Question : Can the Power Point presented by the School Board be shared?

Answer : At this time the presentation cannot be shared as it belongs to the school board. We invite you to write Mr. Meloche and N. Lawand mentioned that from the presentation by the school board the if you would like a copy of the presentation.

Comment : A research paper was attached in the comments that there details the merits of starting school later for teens and earlier for elementary students research has been vocal for years on this matter, it is time that decision makers take this into advisement.

Response : N. Lawand, mentioned that many agree with the research, however the LBPSB have many elementary schools with late start times. The school board looks at the bus scheduling and the twinning of buses and this is the reason for the proposed time change.

**6.7**            **VARIA**

No varia

**6.8**            **ADJOURNEMENT**

**20-21-35**      *Motion duly proposed by C. Cory and seconded by M. Larin that the meeting be adjourned.*

**Meeting adjourned at 11:55 am.**

**Next meeting is scheduled for April 7<sup>th</sup>, 2021**

**Minutes submitted by Secretary, Philip Lambert**