

Governing Board

St. John Fisher Sr. Elementary School

MINUTES OF THE MEETING – June 10th 2015

Attendance:

Parents:	Bridget Bagshaw Sandra Gesualdi Balgovind Pande Jennifer Pastor Karl Santaguida	Regional Parent Rep. Secretary & Vice Chair Chair
Staff:	Rachel Éthier Lise Lecompte Linda Néron Debbie Poirier Laura Sulano	Teacher Teacher Teacher Librarian Daycare
Principal:	Tony Di Vittori	
Commissioner	Noel Burke	
Public:	None	

7.1 Call to Order & Welcome

Having attained quorum, the meeting was called to order by B. Pande at 6:40 pm.

7.2 Adoption of the Agenda

L. Néron requested the addition of 7.6.7: PTU Letter to Parents to the agenda.

14-15-52 *It was moved by L. Lecompte to adopt the agenda with the above mentioned addition. The motion was seconded J. Pastor, and was carried unanimously.*

7.3 Adoption of Minutes of May 14th, 2015.

14-15-53 *It was moved by B. Bagshaw to adopt the minutes of the May 2015 meeting with the correction in 6.6.1 (correction of date). The motion was seconded R. Éthier, and was carried unanimously.*

7.4 Questions from the Public

None.

Please note that items 7.5.1, 7.5.2, and 7.6.6 were actually discussed following 7.7.3 due to the Junior GB members joining this meeting, following their meeting. The order of the minutes will follow as presented in the agenda.

7.5 Business Arising

7.5.1 Major School Change (Jointly with Junior GB)

- a. According to MELS, set for September, they will not fund buildings under 50% capacity. This was a surprise to the LBPSB. Eight (8) buildings are in this category.
- b. LBPSB is ahead of the game in that MSC is already in motion (which some believe is being overshadowed by the MELS budget cuts). The initial intent of MSC was to “keep and enhance” services but now with the government budget cuts, things will have to change.
- c. Must look at the long term solution, to avoid having MSC every four years; shuffling students is a short term solution.
- d. There is a decline in the high school student numbers; due to students going to French high schools? If so, maybe these students would stay in the English system if more French was taught at the high school level. Should this be a change needed, this is a five year process.
- e. Surpluses from certain envelopes (handed from MELS) were used to fund non-funded services. Now, the Board isn’t allowed to have a surplus or deficit.
- f. There is no hope in having differential funding between French and English Boards. Maybe there is a chance to have some leniency with the closed envelope process (where certain envelopes can only be used for intended purpose of that particular envelope).
- g. Discussion ensued around the table, and there was a concern that it seems inevitable that there will be school closures in a couple of years.
- h. Transparency is requested. It appears that the Board has a plan and poor communication is a downfall.

Budget cuts = the rules of the game has changed. Where does this put the consultation? The rules have changed.

- o Should the Board bring the occupancy level of all schools in the system to 68%?

Questions and Answers: *(answers given by Mr. Nolet)*

- i. It isn’t clear how The School Board Chair and Committee are advocating for the services to our students. Should cuts be done evenly across all school boards, disregarding student success rates?
The School Board Chair has advocated; our success rates highlight the inadequacy of the French schools.
- ii. How is it possible that the School Board Chair didn’t know about the budget cuts before the launch of MSC? *According to the Board, the MSC intention is being overshadowed by the budget cuts. Now the Board has to justify to MELS, as to how/why they are keeping schools below 50% capacity, open.*

- iii. Services will be reduced, which are contrary to what the School Board Chair said would occur; does the School Board Chair and Committee know where the cuts will occur?
The Board has an idea but not the exact scope of the cuts. Services will have to be cut.

In conclusion, budget cuts to education limit the ability for school boards to be successful – which in turn, limits the resources available for our students. Transparency and clear communication is imperative.

7.5.2 AGM Date (Jointly with Junior GB)

The date of the AGM will be September 2nd, 2015.

An informal update was given on TrottiBus.

- o Over 100 people interested.
- o 35 volunteers.
- o A parent has volunteered to coordinate the program.
- o 9 back-up volunteers.
- o 7 parents on the TrottiBus committee.
- o Free program, run by volunteers.
- o Ratio 1:10
- o Parents have refused to use the free service due to the fact that they are paying for courtesy bussing. It is not possible for transportation to offer a reduced fee for those interested in using courtesy bussing during winter months only.

7.6 New Business

7.6.1 School Budget

Principal Di Vittori presented the school budget 2015-16, proposed. The school is in good standing. This is truly a proposed budget due to the consideration of all the budget cuts from MELS. Please take note that the approval of this budget is done with great emphasis that this is a proposed budget.

14-15-54 It was moved by K. Santaguida to approve the 2015-16 Proposed School Budget. The motion was seconded by R. Éhier, and was carried unanimously.

7.6.2 Daycare Budget 2015-16 (proposed)

L. Sulano presented the proposed Daycare Budget for 2015-16 school year.

- As of July 1st 2015, the daycare fees will increase to \$8/day from \$7.30/day.
- Handicap grant remains the same.
- PED day funding has decreased. PED day activity fee has increased from \$15 to \$20 (Daycare continues to subsidize the activities).
- Extra-curricular activity fees have increased from \$50 to \$70.

Embellissement Quebec Project remains a working project. \$25,000 has been allocated to this project from the surplus of past years.

14-15-55 *It was moved by B. Bagshaw to approve the 2015-16 Proposed Daycare Budget. The motion was seconded by R. Éthier, and was carried unanimously.*

7.6.3 LBPSB Tournaments 2015-16

- Ultimate Frisbee, - Sept. 22, 2015 (23rd)
- Cross Country Run – Oct 6.7 (8, 9)
- Handball - Oct. 20, 21 (22, 23)
- Volleyball – Jan 5, 6, 7, 2016
- Cross Country Ski – Feb. 12, 2016 (18th)
- Basketball – April 22, 2016
- Junior Cross Country Run – May 10.11, 2016 (12, 13)
- Track & Field – May 31, June 1, 2016 (June 2, 3)

Ms. Cindy has made a request to schedule the track and field tournament later in the month so as not to conflict with the exam period.

14-15-56 *It was moved by K. Santaguida to approve the above mentioned LBPSB Tournaments. The motion was seconded by L. Sulano, and was carried unanimously.*

7.6.4 Student Code of Conduct & Anti-Bullying Plan

One addition was made to the Code of Conduct; the addition of “skateboard” to the responsibilities of the Right to be Safe: Riding my bicycle and skateboard safely and to walk it on school property.

14-15-57 *It was moved by L. Néron to approve the above mentioned addition to the Code of Conduct. The motion was seconded by D. Poirier, and was carried unanimously.*

7.6.5 GB Annual Report

Included in the kit.

7.6.6 Elementary School Librarians (Jointly with Junior GB)

- a. The elimination of Librarians represents 10% of the total budget cuts.
- b. Librarians are non-funded (from MELS), untenured positions. For many years now, MELS hasn't funded librarians but LBPSB has funded the position. Now with the budget cuts and the date of contract renewal of the librarians' being June 1st, librarians were the positions to cut. School board administration made this decision (Administration

reports to the Director General; Director General then reports to the Council). At this time, school board administration and Council have not discussed the 2015-16 budget. The budget will be discussed at the end of June. There is a very small window of time therefore the budget will be handed in July 1st and then be amended.

- c. The manner in which the cuts were made was very poor considering we are a school community. School Board Chair Suanne Stein-Day apologized for the manner in which the cuts were announced and carried through.
- d. More cuts to be made; 90% more of the budget cut to be done.

Can the decision to cut librarians be reversed?

Only if MELS reverses the budget cut. There will be discussion of this at Council during the discussion of the budget. At this time, awareness has to be made to MELS (encourage to reverse the budget cuts to education). Pressure has to be made to government – letters written to MNA (CPC sent a letter). Pressure also has to be made to the School Board: the Board has funded this “non-essential service” therefore the Board believes that it is important.

A study has shown that there is a correlation between success rates in schools and having a librarian in the school.

This leads us to the question: What is essential in the perspective of the Board?

Lists have to be formulated to establish what is an essential service and what is a non-essential service. The Board has to re-evaluate what is essential to the students. Also, the question has to be asked: How can we offer these services at a reduced cost?

In conclusion the librarians were the first to be eliminated due to the budget cuts because they were non-funded, untenured positions and their contract was due for renewal on June 1st, 2015.

7.6.7 PTU Letter To Parents

On behalf of the teacher’s union (PTU), L. Néron presented a letter to the GB. Teachers cannot directly inform parents or students about the Union concerns in relation to the MELS budget cuts. The letter presented can only be circulated by parents.

Teachers believe that the government is being short-sighted in making cuts to the education department.

The teachers thanked the parents for their support.

7.7 Reports

7.7.1 Regional Parents’ Committee Report

No report.

7.7.2 Commissioner's Report

Notes included in the kit.

A resolution was tabled at Council: Governing Boards are encouraged to have a parent of a special need's child on the GB; to add a seat on the GB or to ensure a parent member position is reserved for such a parent.

Commissioner N. Burke was also part of the discussions about Major School Change (7.5.1) and Elementary School Librarians (7.6.6).

7.7.3 Principal's Report

On behalf of the GB, B. Pande thanked Principal Di Vittori for his commitment to St. John Fisher School.

- ✓ Report cards go out June 23rd. If a child is absent that day, parents are asked to pick-up the report card the following week.
- ✓ June 23 will be a regular school day.
- ✓ Supply lists have gone out to Editions Vaudreuil (school-supply company) and will be posted on our website.
- ✓ The Graduation will be Thursday June 22nd at 12:30pm at Lindsay Place H.S. auditorium.
- ✓ Teachers return to work on August 27th. Students begin school September 1st, 2015
- ✓ The first day of school will proceed as last year. Grade 3 parents and students will meet in the gym. All other classes will meet in the schoolyard. Notification of homeroom number will be sent out by email and signs will be posted along the building in the schoolyard.
- ✓ The Schoolyard Embellishment grant has been approved. In discussion with the Board's maintenance manager re: how to proceed with the plans.
- ✓ Governing Board members: Thank you for all your support and help towards the staff and myself in order that we can continue to maintain a positive school culture and engaging learning environment.
- ✓ I'd also like to thank the teachers and support staff for their support. This has been another busy and successful year. Students have had the opportunity to participate in many activities and clubs all the while worked very hard in their academics. The staff's hard work and never ending dedication to the students, families, and the school is certainly to be commended. I am extremely proud and fortunate to work with such a professional staff and appreciate all that they do here at our school.

At 7:45 pm, the Junior GB members joined this meeting. Junior GB members in attendance:

Principal S. Martin

Parents: J. Smith (Chair), A. Saunders, B. Pande.

Teachers: S. DeGraff, Y. Galvez, F. Bourassa

Daycare: R. Krauza

At 9:00 pm a vote was taken to extend the meeting past 9:00 pm.

14-15-58 *It was moved by K. Santaguida to extend the meeting past 9:00 pm. The motion was seconded by R. Éthier, and was carried unanimously.*

7.8 Questions from the Public

None.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 10:06 pm.

14-15-59 *It was moved by J. Pastor adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by L Lecompte, and was carried unanimously.*