



**JOHN RENNIE HIGH SCHOOL
GOVERNING BOARD
Minutes of Meeting 2021-2022 #4
February 22, 2022
Meeting Held on Zoom**

Parent Reps: D. Bensimon, C. Chabot, S. Golding-Mullings, J.-A. Leblanc, S. Hassanien, W. Kogan (alternate)

Staff Reps: M. Fuga, K. Gardner, R. Lobaton, A. Sayfy, S. Sievers

Administration: E-M Durand, J. Kurta, M. Larocque, S. Newton

Student Reps: A. Heron, N. Lakatosh

Commissioner: none

Public: Olivia O'Malley - reporter from Global News

Secretary: none

Regrets: N. Gupta, K. Pellegrino, S. Pelletier, S. Ross, K. Santaguida, A. Saunders, K. Vatne

1. Call to Order/Verification of Quorum

- The governing board chair, D. Bensimon, called the meeting to order at 6:37 p.m.

2. Approval of Agenda

- 21-22-22: With the addition of an activity entitled "Battle of the Books", the agenda was approved unanimously, via a motion from R. Lobaton and seconded by W. Kogan.

3. Approval of Minutes from January 25, 2022

- 21-22-23: The minutes from the previous meeting were approved unanimously, via a motion moved by K. Gardner & seconded by J.-A. Leblanc.

4. Business Arising from The Minutes

- Nomination of a community representative: it was announced that YMCA interventionist Massimo Venturino accepted to attend future governing board meetings in this capacity. This nomination was approved unanimously via from M. Fuga and seconded by A. Heron (ref. 21-22-24).

5. Question Period

- No questions were received from the public attending the meeting.

6. New Business

6.1 Selection of a parent representative to the Governing Board

- Following the previous chair's departure from the governing board, the remaining parent representatives were tasked with selecting a replacement amongst the alternate parent representatives. This parent will fill in for the remainder of the two-year term that was begun in October 2021.
- S. Hassanien and W. Kogan both expressed interest in becoming a regular parent representative. Following a vote amongst the regular parent representatives present, S. Hassanien was selected as a regular parent representative. Three votes were cast in her favour, versus one for W. Kogan.

6.2 Policy on Principal Selection Criteria 2022-23

The members of the administration were asked to be absent for the discussion regarding the consultation on selection criteria for principal. The response sent last year was used as a starting point. A couple of suggestions were made regarding the list of criteria from last year, but it was agreed that it could largely be re-used. Pending these changes, the selection criteria were approved unanimously on a motion from K. Gardner and seconded by J.-A. Leblanc. D. Bensimon was tasked with modifying the list based on the two suggestions made and sending a response to the school board by the 11 March 2022 deadline.

6.3 Policy on Budget Consultation 2022-23

Given that the response to this consultation is due on 31 March 2022 and that not everyone had a chance to look it over in detail, it was decided to table further discussion on this topic until the March meeting. D. Bensimon will send the consultation document to all members following the meeting, so that all have ample time to peruse it. Comments are to be sent to D. Bensimon, who will compile them and present them at the March meeting. A suggestion was made to increase funding for special needs and Individualized Education Plans.

6.4 Fundraisers

The Moose Hide Campaign and On Rock fundraisers were described by R. Lobaton and approved unanimously following a motion by C. Chabot, which was seconded by W. Kogan (ref. 21-22-25). The Moose Hide Campaign will run from May 12-26 and aims to raise money to counter domestic violence. The On Rock fundraiser will be a food drive in lieu of Christmas drive, as many shelves are bare at this time. Leadership participants will be collecting non-perishable items.

6.5 Activities

The leadership camp, "Rewrite the Future" leadership activity and the "Battle of the Books" were described and approved unanimously following a motion by J.-A. Leblanc, which was seconded by K. Gardner (ref. 21-22-26).

6.6 Governing Board Composition 2022-2023 Consultation

Given the full agenda already in place for the meeting and given that the deadline for this consultation is 8 April 2022, it was decided to table this discussion until the March GB meeting.

6.7 Consultation on Council of Commissioners and Executive Committee Meetings 2022-2023

Given the full agenda already in place for the meeting and given that the deadline for this consultation is 8 April 2022, it was decided to table this discussion until the March GB meeting.

6.8 Response to a recent Montréal Gazette article on the events of February 8th

D. Bensimon informed the meeting that the chair of the St-Thomas Governing Board had contacted him regarding the tragic death of Lucas Gaudet. The St-Thomas community wished to extend their condolences to the whole John Rennie community. The chair also mentioned that parents at St-Thomas were upset by an article in the Montréal Gazette about this (available at <https://montrealgazette.com/news/local-news/west-island-gazette/students-and-parents-in-fear-after-stabbing-death-of-lucas-gaudet>), and the negative fall-out from it. It was suggested to respond to the article and D. Bensimon indicated that he would bring any proposed response to the John Rennie GB for comment and approval. D. Bensimon will liaise with the St-Thomas GB chair and keep the John Rennie GB apprised of any developments on this front.

6.9 Request from Global News for a parent representative interview

D. Bensimon informed the meeting that Olivia O'Malley, a reporter from Global News was in attendance as a member of the public. O. O'Malley was interested in speaking with parents on camera about the incident leading to the passing of Lucas Gaudet. J. Kurta reminded the meeting that the incident is still under police investigation. D. Bensimon suggested that any parents interested in speaking with O. O'Malley let him know and he could establish a contact between them.

7.0 Reports

7.1 Principal

In addition to the report that was shared with GB members in advance of the meeting, J. Kurta spoke of the passing of Lucas Gaudet and the impact that it has had on the community. She mentioned the important of parents and the school working in partnership with each other and countering false information that may circulate. It is important for people to come together at times like these.

7.2 Staff

- K. Gardner mentioned that many clubs in school were in full swing, such as chess, newspaper, macramé and many others.
- M. Fuga shared the Student Services report, which was uploaded to the shared drive following the GB meeting.
- M. Fuga mentioned that the school nurse has been present much more than usual in the last couple of weeks at the school. A psychologist has also been available to help students and staff cope with the recent tragedy.
- M. Fuga also mentioned that students were preparing for the 1 March 2022 deadline to apply to CEGEPs and trade schools. N. Lakatosh thanked M. Fuga and the guidance counsellors for their help with this task.

7.3 Students

In light of the tumultuousness of the previous two weeks, no formal student report was

presented.

7.4 Region 3 Representative for the LBPSB Parents Committee

S. Ross was unable to attend the meeting, but did share a report from the Parents' Committee which was uploaded to the shared drive following the GB meeting.

7.5 Commissioner

A. Saunders was unable to attend the meeting, so no report was presented.

8 Correspondence

- J. Kurta mentioned that condolences were received for Lucas Gaudet's passing from Francis Scarpallegia, Member of Parliament for the federal Lac-Saint-Louis riding. Sympathies were also received from two Pointe-Claire city counsellors as well as from Kuper Academy, Loyola High School and Lower Canada College.

9 Varia

None.

10 Date of Next Meeting

Given that the meeting originally planned for March 8th is immediately following March break, it was suggested to hold the next meeting on Tuesday, 15 March 2022, starting at 6:15 p.m. via Zoom.

11 Adjournment

21-22-27: The meeting was adjourned at 7:49 p.m. following a motion by A. Sayfy, which was seconded by M. Fuga and unanimously accepted.

Respectfully submitted by Dov Bensimon, Chair, JRHS Governing Board

Approved _____

J. Kurta, Principal

Approved _____

D. Bensimon, Governing Board Chair