



**JOHN RENNIE HIGH SCHOOL
GOVERNING BOARD**

Minutes of Meeting 2022-2023 #6

22 March 2023

Meeting held in person in the school library

Parent Reps: C. Santaguida, C. Veillette, C. Boyarchuk, D. Bensimon, E. Schultz, K. Leonard, W. Kogan.

Staff Reps: A. Sayfy, A. Cooper, K. Pellegrino, L. Brabant, S. Sievers, S. Vann

Administration: J. Armstrong, E-M Durand, J. Kurta, M. Larocque

Student Reps: Absent

Community Rep: M. Venturino

Commissioner: Absent

Public: No Public in Attendance

Secretary: Absent

Regrets: A. Saunders, C. Chabot, G. Grenier-McDermott, M. Fuga, R. Lobaton, R. Santamaria, S. Legore, S. Day.

1. Call to Order/Verification of Quorum/Territorial Acknowledgement

- D. Bensimon called the meeting to order at 6:50 p.m.
- Territorial land acknowledgement was recited by D. Bensimon.

2. Approval of the agenda

22-23-35: An additional outing and fundraiser were added to the agenda. The agenda was then approved unanimously, via a motion from A. Cooper & seconded by A. Sayfy.

3. Approval of the Minutes from 22 February 2023

22-23-36: The minutes from 22 February 2023 were approved unanimously via a motion from L. Brabant & seconded by A. Sayfy.

4. Question Period

- No public was present therefore no questions were asked.

5 Business Arising from the Minutes

5.1 Update from Dress Code Subcommittee

- The most recent meeting of the subcommittee was held virtually on 14 March 2023.
- Following this meeting, a survey will be sent to the three main stakeholders: students, staff and parents.
- The survey will not only ask if people are in favour of dress wear, but also present options and examples of what the clothes would look like. There will be room in the survey for comments or concerns to be provided.
- A show of hands amongst subcommittee members showed that nearly all were in favour of continuing to meet virtually. Given some difficulties with Zoom for some participants, Google Meet will be tried as a platform for future meetings.

5.2 Replacement of a parent member of the Governing Board (GB) and Parents' Committee (PC) representative

- The meeting was informed that C. Veillette offered to take over the role of alternate parent representative to the Parents' Committee, after C. Boyarchuk took over the regular representative role following the resignation of S. Hassanian.

5.3 LBPSB Budget 2023-2024 Consultation

- D. Bensimon informed the meeting that he sent the response of the GB to the school board on 25 February 2023.

6 Consultations

6.1 Day, Time and Place of the regular meetings of the Council of Commissioners and of the Executive Committee

- D. Bensimon presented the proposed meeting dates. There were no comments made about them, so D. Bensimon indicated that he would send in a response to the school board stating that these dates were met with approval.

6.2 Governing Board Composition 2023-2024

- D. Bensimon presented the current structure of the GB. It was mentioned that since it was difficult to meet quorum amongst parent members, it might be beneficial to reduce the number of parents required to be on the GB. However, given that the school receives

funding based on the number of GB members, this may not be a desired option. Also, before the COVID-19 pandemic, it was easy to meet quorum, so it is hoped that, with a return to pre-pandemic life, this will no longer be an issue. After some discussion, the meeting agreed that it would be best to maintain the current structure of the GB. D. Bensimon indicated that he would send in a response to the school board stating that John Rennie High School Governing Board does not wish to request any changes to the size or structure of its current board.

7 New Business

- None

8 Fundraisers

8.1 Bake sale to raise funds for school trip

- This fundraiser is planned for 30 March 2023 and is organized by secondary II students.

8.2 Pizza fundraiser

- This activity will take place on 4 or 11 April 2023.
- Participants will be given a code to use when ordering from Domino's and proceeds will go to the school.

8.3 Moosehide campaign

- This activity will take place on 24 April 2023.
- It is an Indigenous-led grassroots movement to engage men and boys in ending violence towards women and children.

8.4 Mushroom sale

- This activity will take place from 6 to 28 April 2023.
- Fungi that have been growing will be sold and proceeds will be used to buy seeds for next year's activity.

22-23-37: Approval for the above fundraisers was given unanimously, following a motion from C. Veillette and seconded by E. Schultz.

9 Field Trips

9.1 27 March 2023 - Montreal Children's Hospital (grade 11)

- Destination: Montreal Children's Hospital
- Transportation: Carpool
- Cost to student: \$0
- Ratio: 1:1
- Toys collected for the Montreal Children's Hospital will be dropped off there.

9.2 29 March 2023 - CSC: Inspire and provide training for teen leaders (grade 9)

- Destination: Lester B. Pearson School Board headquarters, Dorval.
- Transportation: Carpool/public transit
- Cost to student: \$0
- Ratio: 1:6

9.3 5 April 2023 - Mini Career Fair at Place Cartier (grade 11)

- Destination: Place Cartier
- Transportation: by foot
- Cost to students: \$0
- Ratio: 1:5

9.4 10 May 2023 - Trip to Old Montréal (grade 7)

- Destination: Old Montréal, to examine historical origins of a metropolis
- Transportation: School bus
- Cost to students: \$20
- Ratio: 1:15

22-23-38: All of the above-mentioned field trips were approved unanimously, via a motion from K. Pellegrino & seconded by L. Brabant.

10 Reports

10.1 Principal

- Renovations are planned in the school over the summer. The aim is to bring the building up to code by replacing aging infrastructure, such as plumbing and ventilation.

- The staffing process for the 2023-2024 school year has begun and the master timetable is being built.
- Transfer forms for students switching schools are being received. Current expectation is for the total population of students to remain the same as this year (just over 1300 students), with a smaller secondary I cohort being compensated by a larger secondary V group.
- Planning for the final exam period will take place on the pedagogical day on 27 March 2023.
- Secondary I students participated in a painting activity with seniors. The tulips painted will be donated to the Ste-Justine eating disorder clinic. Students will also partake in an Easter egg hunt with seniors, with the latter needing to find the eggs that the students hide.
- Staff appreciation took place recently and was organized by Home and School. Gratitude to the organizers was expressed by staff members.

10.2 Staff

- The yearly "Black and Gold" variety show is planned for March 23, 24 and 25. A bake sale organized by Home and School will take place at the same time.
- A student-led assembly was held last month for Black History Month and was very successful.
- The school celebrated recent victories in both basketball and futsal.
- The annual Girls Night at the school is planned for 24 March 2023.

10.3 Students

- No report was presented, as no students were present.

10.4 Region 3 Representative for the LBPSB Parents Committee

- C. Boyarchuk informed the meeting that at the most recent PC meeting, there were discussions about the use of racial slurs in schools and how best to address them. In the ensuing discussion at the GB meeting, it was mentioned the importance of letting the administration of the school know about incidents of this type.

10.5 Commissioner

- No report was presented, as the commissioner was absent.

- D. Bensimon informed the meeting that a summary of the most recent meeting of the Council of Commissioners was available on the [shared drive](#).

11 Correspondence

- No correspondence was received.

12 Varia

- J. Kurta informed the June GB meeting is sometimes held in person, off site from the school. Because the budget for the 2023-2024 school year will be presented at that meeting, it was suggested that it may be easier to hold the meeting at the school. Options to have the meeting catered will be explored and discussed further at upcoming meetings.

13 Date & Location of Next Meeting

- The next governing board meeting will be taking place on Wednesday, 19 April 2023 @ 6:45 p.m. in person in the school library.

14 Adjournment

- **22-23-39:** A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by C. Veillette at 7:54 p.m. & was passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted by Dov Bensimon, Chair, John Rennie Governing Board

Approved _____
J. Kurta, Principal

Approved _____
D. Bensimon, Governing Board Chair