



**JOHN RENNIE HIGH SCHOOL
GOVERNING BOARD**

Minutes of Meeting 2022-2023 #5

22 February 2023

Meeting held in person in the school library

Parent Reps: D. Bensimon, C. Chabot, K. Leonard, C. Veillette

Staff Reps: L. Brabant, M. Fuga, R. Lobaton, K. Pellegrino, A. Sayfy, S. Sievers, S. Vann

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

Student Rep: G. Grenier-McDermott

Community Rep: M. Venturino

Commissioner: Absent

Public: No Public in Attendance

Secretary: Absent

Regrets: C. Boyarchuk, A. Cooper, S. Day, W. Kogan, S. Legore, C. Santaguida, R. Santamaria, A. Saunders, E. Schultz

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

- D. Bensimon called the meeting to order at 6:49 p.m.
- Territorial land acknowledgement was recited by D. Bensimon.

2. Approval of the agenda

22-23-29: The agenda was approved unanimously, via a motion moved by R. Lobaton & seconded by C. Chabot.

3. Approval of the Minutes from 25 January 2023

22-23-30: The minutes from 25 January 2023 were approved unanimously via a motion moved by L. Brabant & seconded by R. Lobaton.

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

- Meetings of the subcommittee are planned for 14 March 2023, 3 April 2023 and 1 May 2023, via Zoom, all starting at 5:30 p.m.
- A survey, led by the Student Council, was sent to students to gather opinions on an eventual dress code. Some mentioned that if a top were to be required, they would like it to be simple with lots of variety in styles. Those not in favour cited the fact that it would not be comfortable and the loss of the ability to express individuality. Students also expressed a preference for casual wear and a gender-neutral option.
- There were roughly 300 responses per cycle, representing about half the student population.
- The results of the survey will be shared at the next subcommittee meeting.
- The parent community will also be surveyed.

5.2 Replacement of a parent member of the GB and PC representative

- The meeting was informed that Carlo Santaguida offered to take over the rest of the term vacated following David Spinner's resignation from the GB in December 2022. This change was vetted by the other parent members of the GB and no other expressions of interest in the position were received. With no opposition to this nomination, Carlo was welcomed to the GB as a regular parent representative until September 2024.
- C. Boyarchuk agreed to fill the vacancy of Parent Representative created by the resignation of S. Hassanian.

5.3 Principal Selection Criteria for 2023-2024

- The meeting was informed that D. Bensimon sent the response letter to the school board on 28 January 2023, copying J. Kurta as per the instructions from the board.

5.4 LBPSB Budget 2023-2024 Consultation

- D. Bensimon reminded the meeting that this consultation had been presented at the GB meeting on 25 January 2023. Inputs for a response were thus sought.
- J. Kurta suggested mentioning inclusion of mental health services, initiatives in harm reduction and increase in student services.

- K. Leonard mentioned training that she had followed regarding [mental health first aid](#), as well as training in decolonization and indigenous knowledge, which may be helpful to include.
- A. Sayfy gave examples of aging infrastructure in the school. It was suggested to increase capital operating budgets in order to modernize or repair aging infrastructure (such as washrooms) and allow purchasing of more consumable items (such as desks) would be helpful.
- D. Bensimon informed the meeting that he will compile these points and reply to the consultation before the next meeting on 22 March 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 informed the meeting that since this consultation was only received in the morning, a discussion would be tabled until the March meeting, given that comments are only due 13 April 2023.

7 New Business

7.1 Option Courses

- J. Kurta explained that the school can offer option courses each year, but these may not end up being given, if no qualified staff are available, or if there is insufficient interest from the student population.
- Students choose optional courses via the Mozaik platform. Arts options are available to students in secondary I and II, while more options are available to students in the senior grades. The school endeavours to have students follow their first choice of the option courses.
- New courses suggested for the 2023-2024 school year are:
 - **Media:** this course for grades 9-11 will discuss marketing and social media, amongst other topics.
 - **Theatre tech:** students will learn about sound, lighting, etc. and will supplement what the Actor's Studio does for school productions.
 - **Adulting 101:** this course will cover all students need to know about being adults, including topics in finance, health and wellness, etc. It will be offered

to grades 10 and 11.

- **Digital photography:** students will learn about design, framing and technology. Students will work with the yearbook committee as well.
- A course on sports leadership (grade 9) will be removed and a yoga course was being considered, but may not run if no certified teacher can be found.

7.2 Modification to Grade 9 Immersion Program

- With efforts to make French classes more prevalent at the CEGEP level, the school wishes to make efforts to address the level of French of students at JRHS.
- Students in the regular stream, as well as those in French immersion can take history in French or in English.
- In grade 10, enriched students take history in French, while others can choose the language of their choice.
- Final exams in history must be taken in the language of the course designed for one's mother tongue. As a result, some students find it difficult. It is suggested to have grade 9 immersion students take history in French, to help them become more comfortable before exams in this topic in grades 10 and 11.

22-23-31: A motion in favour of the option courses and the modification to the grade 9 immersion program was put forward by C. Veillette, seconded by R. Lobaton and adopted by all unanimously.

7.3 Google Calendar invitations for remaining GB meetings

- D. Bensimon informed the meeting that GB participants received 5 Google Calendar invitations for the remaining GB meetings before the summer of 2023. He explained that some participants who have Lester B Pearson accounts may have received two invitations per meeting (for a total of 10) because of multiple email addresses for some. Certain participants have an email address on the lbpearson.ca domain as well as an address on the lbpsb.qc.ca domain. He apologized for generating multiple emails and asked how many people wished to use such invitations in their calendars. With more than half of participants responding positively, he indicated that he would bear that in mind for the next school year.

8 Fundraisers

8.1 Moose-Hide Campaign (Domestic violence against women)

- This fundraiser is for all grades and students can donate the amounts they wish to.
- It is planned for 8-11 May 2023.

8.2 International Development and Relief Foundation for Earthquake

- This student-led fundraiser aims to offer hot meals, winter support and shelter for victims of the earthquake in Turkey and Syria that occurred on 6 February 2023.
- It is planned for 27 February - 3 March 2023.

22-23-32: Approval for both fundraisers was given unanimously, following a motion from M. Fuga and seconded by A. Sayfy.

9 Field Trips

9.1 21 March 2023 - Battle of the Books (grades 7-8)

- Destination: Beaconsfield High School
- Transportation: Car and taxi
- Cost to student: \$0
- Ratio: 2:7

9.2 21 March 2023 - Robotics (grade 9)

- Destination: Grand Quai de Montréal
- Transportation: Carpool
- Cost to student: \$0
- Ratio: 1:5

9.3 12 April 2023 - Trip to Ottawa (grade 7)

- Destination: Canadian Museum of History and Canadian Museum of Nature
- Transportation: Coach bus
- Cost to students: \$60
- Ratio: 1:10

9.4 13 April 2023 – Trip to Ottawa (grade 10)

- Destination: Canadian Museum of History and Canadian War Museum, lunch at the Byward Market
- Transportation: Coach bus
- Cost to students: \$60
- Ratio: 1:10

9.5 21 April 2023 – Encourage leadership in Cycle 1 girls (grades 7 and 8)

- Destination: The Study, Westmount, QC
- Transportation: Carpool
- Cost to students: \$110
- Ratio: 1:5

9.6 24 April 2023 – Cascades Factory (grade 8)

- Destination: Kingsey Falls, Québec
- Transportation : school bus
- Cost to students: \$45
- Ratio: 1:20

9.7 26-28 April 2023 – Visit Canadian Heritage City (grade 8)

- Destination: Québec, Québec
- Transportation: coach bus
- Cost to students: \$507
- Ratio: 1:14

9.8 11-15 October 2023 – [Canadian Student Leadership Conference](#) (grade 11)

- Destination: St. John, New Brunswick
- Transportation: plane, bus, car
- Cost to students: \$1500
- Ratio: 2:3

22-23-33: All of the above-mentioned field trips were approved unanimously, via a motion moved by C. Veillette & seconded by K. Pellegrino.

10 Reports

10.1 Principal

- The principal report was presented and is available on the [shared drive](#).

10.2 Staff

- M. Fuga presented a report on the sexual education plan for 2022-2023 which is available on the [shared drive](#).

10.3 Students

- The student report was presented and is available on the [shared drive](#).

10.4 Region 3 Representative for the LBPSB Parents Committee

- No report was presented, as the PC rep was absent.

10.5 Commissioner

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

11 Correspondence

- No correspondence was received.

12 Varia

- J. Kurta informed the meeting that an incident took place at a hockey game in December 2002 that was part of the sports program of the school. There has been recent media attention regarding this incident. She denounced misinformation regarding this incident that circulated in the media, including false claims that the school did not meet with parents about this. The school has followed this topic closely since it was made aware of it. The school also handed out suspensions to some involved and organized workshops on the topic. There were a number of inappropriate comments made on a group chat that were difficult for the school to monitor. Some of the issues raised by this incident are larger than the school: societal issues such as hockey culture, how children are raised and appropriate use of social media. The meeting was also informed that the school will be reworking contracts with some sports partners based on lessons learned from this incident, but that this will take several months to complete.

13 Date & Location of Next Meeting

- The next governing board meeting will be taking place on Wednesday, 22 March 2023 @ 6:45 p.m. in person in the school library.

14 Adjournment

- **22-23-34:** A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by C. Veillette and seconded by M. Fuga at 8:20 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