

**Edinburgh Home and School Association  
500 Hudson Avenue, Montreal West QC H4X 1X1**



**Minutes of the meeting of March 15, 2011  
7:30 pm -Teacher's Lounge**

**Present:**

**Officers:** Leah Auclair, Valerie Buchanan, Beatrice Genest, Heather Ogden,  
Kathleen Piggott and Lidia Spagnuolo

**Executive:** Talia Edwy, Blythe Ennis, Margo Pedersen, Tanya Radhakrishna and  
Dale Stack

**Members:** Esther Bolofer, Sissi Gravel, Bill Itovitch, Cindy Itovitch, Christine  
Laberge and Natasha Savoie

**Teacher:** Jim Reimer

**Regrets:** Tara Durley

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**1. Welcome**

The meeting began at 7:35 p.m. with Lidia welcoming everyone to the meeting.

**2. Approval of Agenda**

Moved by: Sissi Gravel

Seconded by: Jim Reimer

**3. Approval of Minutes - January 25, 2011**

Moved by: Heather Ogden

Seconded by: Tanya Radhakrishna

**4. Principal's Report**

Regarding school staff, Ms. Auclair advised members that Mme Louise has returned 3 days per week; she will gradually increase to a 4-day schedule and be back full-time by the end of the school year. Mme Mary will be filling in on the days Louise is absent. Mme Jojo was on leave for a few weeks in February during which Mme Mélanie diligently took on her duties. The school currently has a total number of 51 kindergarten students registered for next year. Ms. Auclair anticipates that

numbers will remain roughly the same for 2011-2012: around 340 students. Please note that both Mme Lucie and Mr. D'Abramo will be retiring at the end of this year.

Last month, Ms. Auclair attended a wonderful conference titled Learning and the Brain; it was inspiring and thought-provoking. The juniors and school band concert took place at the end of January and the gym was overflowing with friends and family. The senior concert is scheduled for May 16<sup>th</sup>. Geordie Theatre was at the school on Friday, February 25<sup>th</sup>, performing a play titled Story Wars. The students enjoyed this presentation, which was based on Greek mythology. We are now planning an equivalent French activity.

Senior students have been out for sports and activity days and the kindergarten kids have done an outing to the Aquadome. Other school clubs and activities are progressing well. The grade 4s went to the McCord Museum last week and the grade 1s went to the *cabane à sucre* with their pen pals from L'Orée des Bois School. Last week, the SLC sold hot chocolate to raise funds for The Plan. It went very well; proceeds have yet to be tallied.

Outdoor day was chilly on February 8<sup>th</sup> so the hot chocolate provided by the Home & School was much appreciated and helped to warm everyone up. The students then watched movies in the afternoon. Parents once again spoiled the staff during teacher appreciation week; Ms. Auclair was unable to attend but thanked parents on behalf of the rest of the staff.

The first session of kindergarten chess ended and the second one has begun. The children (and volunteers) received certificates at the end of the first session. PGL activities are now complete; organizers now await donations and the list of finalists. Grade 6 students went on an outing to the Montreal Neurological Institute yesterday. It was a very well organized visit. Some of the grade 6 students at the MNI appeared on Global News. The choir has approval to go on an overnight trip to Québec City (May). The grade 4 students' trip to P'tit Bonheur (June) has also been approved.

### **5. Teacher's Report**

On the behalf of all staff, Jim Reimer expressed gratitude to the Home & School for its contribution for the purchase of new staffroom chairs. The Halo race will take place on May 4<sup>th</sup> and volunteers are needed; a notice will go out with students in due time. One of the teachers suggested to Jim that the rummage sale be once again held at Spring Fair.

### **6. Treasurer's Report**

Kathleen Piggott reported that the H & S' financial situation is good. We have finished paying for the SMART boards and are dipping into our balance.

### **7. Governing Board Report**

Leah Auclair gave a brief overview of the main points discussed at the last Governing Board meeting. For more information, please consult the GB minutes available on the school's Web site.

### **8. QFHSA**

**a. Dreams, Drugs and Decisions: A Sobering Look Inside the World of Illicit Drugs - Monday, April 4, Lakeside Academy, Lachine**

Randy Johnston will be speaking at this conference for pre-teens, teens and parents.

**b. Annual General Meeting - Saturday April 30, 2011**

Any interested member may go; there is a dinner the night before and the meeting runs all day.

### **9. Fundraising Activities**

**a. Yogurt Days - Grade 6 Fundraiser**

This is the last grade 6-fundraiser yogurt day.

**b. Entertainment Cards**

Lidia explained that the H & S was approached by reps about a fundraiser: selling entertainment coupon booklets to the school community. The booklets would cost \$20 with half going to the H & S. Other schools are doing this, including Merton. They have offered to give us 100% of the proceeds for the first 20 books sold, i.e. \$400. Cindy Itovitch mentioned that this fundraiser did not work very well when her child was at Merton; there were problems getting the unsold books and the money raised back. Lidia said that the reps need an answer by the end of March. It was decided we would proceed with this fundraiser and Natasha Savoie volunteered to coordinate it.

**c. Coffee Sales**

Tanya will be coordinating another coffee drive (the last one was in November). She will send a letter mid-April and have orders ready to be picked up on May 3. The H & S usually makes \$700-\$900 in profit from this fundraiser. She will require 4 or 5 volunteers to help her package the orders.

Tanya also mentioned that the H & S has been supplying teachers with coffee, at a rate of 2 large cans per month. However, Marie-Claire told her that the coffee has been running out. It was agreed that 20 cans would be purchased for the teachers

per year; the teachers would then have to purchase any additional coffee themselves. Tanya said that Marie-Claire thanks the H & S for this gesture.

#### **10. Committee Reports / Events**

- a. **Teacher Appreciation - recap**  
Christine and Esther stated that this was very successful once again with each grade responsible for providing the teachers with goodies on specific days: a good system where the work is spread out. Heather wished to thank Christine for her contribution, as this is her last year at the school.
- b. **Kindergarten Chess**  
The second session started today; it is a popular activity that runs for 7 weeks.
- c. **Food Drive - week of March 14<sup>th</sup>**  
Non-perishable food items will be collected this week and will benefit the NDG Food Depot.
- d. **Spring Fair**  
Sissi and Christine Downey have been meeting weekly to organize this event and are hoping to make this Spring Fair bigger than last year's. A letter will be sent in both hard copy and email form to ask for volunteers and coordinators. The event cannot happen without many volunteers to run the various stations; this event's success depends on everyone's participation.
- e. **Skating Party**  
This event is scheduled for April 1st, from 6 to 8 pm. Christine Downey is coordinating with Pat Summers at the CRA.

#### **11. President & Vice-President positions for September 2011**

Heather, Lidia and Beatrice will not be returning in their current positions; the positions of President and Vice-President are therefore available for the upcoming school year. Please note that the position of Secretary is also available for 2011-2012. Anyone interested in running for one of these positions should contact Valerie Buchanan at [valeriebuchanan@videotron.ca](mailto:valeriebuchanan@videotron.ca). Please note that you must be a member of the Edinburgh Home & School Association to run.

#### **12. Parental Concerns re. H&S affairs**

There were no parental concerns.

#### **13. Correspondence**

There was no correspondence.

**14. Closing Remarks**

- a. **Date of next Home & School meeting** - April 26, 2011.  
Thanks to everyone for coming tonight.

**15. Adjournment**

The meeting closed at 8:30 p.m. with a motion to adjourn by Natasha Savoie, seconded by Christine Laberge.

Respectfully submitted,  
*Valerie Buchanan*  
Secretary