

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



**Minutes of the meeting of April 26, 2011
7:30 pm -Teacher's Lounge**

Present:

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

Executive: Robert Barnes, Tara Durley, Talia Edwy, Blythe Ennis, Margo
Pedersen and Tanya Radhakrishna

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

Regrets: Dale Stack and Jim Reimer

1. Welcome

The meeting began at 7:40 p.m. with Lidia welcoming everyone to the meeting.

2. Approval of Agenda

Moved by: Sissi Gravel

Seconded by: Tara Durley

3. Approval of Minutes - March 15, 2011

Moved by: Blythe Ennis

Seconded by: Heather Ogden

4. Principal's Report

Ms. Auclair advised members that May 2nd is a PED day. Regarding staff, she announced that Lucie Bergeron announced her retirement two weeks ago. Staff is in the planning stages for next year; there will be no curriculum changes for 2011-2012.

Literary week was wonderful! Ms. Auclair expressed thanks to Lucie Sarrasin, Mélanie, Catherine and the rest of the staff, as well as to the volunteers and children. The character day was a lot of fun: many of the children dressed up as

their favourite characters. We hope to repeat this event next year. As Ms. Auclair pointed out in the school's April newsletter, the purchase of cycle 2 and 3 French textbooks *Littérature en action* was recommended by EMSB Pedagogical Services this year. However, Edinburgh School had already purchased this collection last year with funds from the H & S. The Kindergarten orientation session will be held on May 10th at 8:30 am. Enrolment for kindergarten now stands at 53 students.

A cheque for \$150 was sent to Dans La Rue on behalf of the school. The SLC and grade 6 students raised \$566.52 for the Plan for Japan disaster relief. Both fundraisers went very well with the children baking, preparing hot chocolate and managing the money. Thanks to the parents and staff who helped. The final tally for the Dictée PGL was \$2,382.20, half of this amount will be re-invested in the French classes. Thank you to Marie-Claire and all participants.

Ms. Auclair mentioned that she was extremely impressed by the calibre of student storytellers; 15 students told their stories in French in English. The Mathematica Centrum contest went very well. Thanks for Ms. Farrell and Mr. D'Abramo for their help, and thank you to Tanya and helpers. The H & S skating party went very well; all attending children were accompanied by adults. We did well once again with our food drive with 20 boxes of non-perishable goods collected. Grade 5 students will be collecting used books for St-Gabriel school shortly. MESA is in its final stages and will be approved by the Governing Board at the end of the month.

5. Teacher's Report

There was no teacher's report.

6. Treasurer's Report

Kathleen Piggott reported that the H & S' financial situation is good. The balance of the account now stands at approximately \$34,000.

7. Governing Board Report

Talia Edwy 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. Fundraising

a. Coffee Sales

Tanya reported that 170 lbs of coffee was ordered; this total is on target with previous springtime sales (usually less is ordered at this time compared to in the fall). The cost of the coffee has increased but we did not raise prices. Prices will need to be increased in fall 2011. The profit for this

fundraiser was \$650. Please note that order pick-up will take place on May 3rd, not May 2nd.

b. **Spring Fair**

Sissi reported that she and Christine Downey are currently compiling volunteers; they have received 50 forms back so far but are hoping for a total of 75 volunteers. Spring Fair takes place May 19th.

9. Disbursement requests

a. **Chess sets**

Beatrice reported that the school currently has 8 chess sets. Additional sets are needed. Tanya moved that no more than \$120 be spent on the purchase of five more sets (at a cost of \$19.95 each). Esther seconded the motion, which was then passed unanimously.

10. Committee/Activity Reports

a. **Skating Party - recap**

Sissi reported that the skating party went well with approximately 50 people participating; hot chocolate and fruit snacks were served. Bob Barnes raised the issue of insurance coverage in the event that non-Edinburgh families participate in such events.

b. **Food Drive - recap**

Heather reported that 20 big boxes were filled with non-perishable food items and delivered to the NDG Food Depot. Thank you from Vicky Princz to all volunteers.

c. **Book Drive**

Mrs. Cudzinowski is organizing this book drive starting on May 30th. Grade 5 students are encouraged to bring in gently used books (kindergarten-grade 6 level) to benefit St. Gabriel School.

d. **Kindergarten Open House**

A letter has gone out inviting future kindergarteners to an Open House on May 10th.

e. **Mentor Program**

Heather asked if all members were in favour of continuing this program. Everyone agreed this was a good idea.

f. **Kindergarten breakfast**

Heather reported that we require a new coordinator for this event. Ideally, this would be a grade 1 (2011-2012) parent matched with the current coordinator. For the kindergarten breakfast, this year's kindergarten parents provide breakfast for next year kindergarten parents.

g. **Math contest**

Tanya reported that the contest went smoothly. Results will be known in late May and an announcement will be made in June.

12. 2011-2012 Executive & Officer nominations

Please note that all Home & School officer and executive positions (except membership and 2 executive positions) are open to nominations until May 31st. Natasha Savoie is a confirmed candidate for Secretary, Sissi Gravel is a confirmed candidate for Executive member and Tanya Radhakrishna is a confirmed candidate for Co-president. For further information, please contact Valerie Buchanan at valeriebuchanan@videotron.ca.

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 and elections** - Tuesday, May 31, 2011. Thanks to everyone for coming tonight.

15. Adjournment

The meeting closed at 8:30 p.m. with a motion to adjourn by Blythe Ennis, seconded by Beatrice Genest.

Respectfully submitted,
Valerie Buchanan
Secretary