

MINUTES

Honoré Mercier Governing Board

Wednesday, October 26, 2022 | Meeting called to order by Verena Garofalo

In Attendance

Verena Garofalo	X	Robert Panetta	X
Daniela Buttino	X	Merika Ramundo	X
Nancy Cantini	X	Maria Scicchitano	X
Tony Campione	X	Peter Tsatoumas	X
Lisa Ida	X	Jennifer Uniat	X
Veronica Graniero	X	Lino Faratro (Alternate)	R
Angelo Irrera	X	Sonia Ranellucci (Alternate)	R
Andrew Martinez	X	Michelangelo Smith and Diego Di Stefano	X
Administration:		Commissioner, Ward 8:	
Sonia Marotta, Principal	X	Mario Pietrangelo	R

X = present

R = Regrets

Additions to the Agenda

None at this time.

Approval of Meeting Agenda

- Motion to approve the agenda called by Robert Panetta, seconded by Jennifer Uniat. Passed unanimously. Motion carried.

Approval of Adoption of the Minutes September 2022

- Motion to approve the September 2022 adoption of the meeting minutes called by Andrew Martinez, seconded by Peter Tsatoumas. Passed unanimously. Motion carried.

Business arising from the minutes

- Assign minute-taking duties amongst parent GB members:** Robert Panetta volunteered to take the minutes at the next meeting on Wednesday, November 23, 2022 at 7pm.
- Communication channels from GB to parents:**
 - HM's website: Governing Board to be removed from under Home and School tab in order to have its own tab.

- Add the missing minutes on the website of the following dates from January 2022 until June 2022, as well as update the GB member names.
 - Governing Board would like to communicate directly to the HM community – introduce the GB’s roles and responsibilities. The HM parents can have a better understanding of the Governing Board and that the GB and Home and School different organizations with their own objectives and goals.
 - Ms. Marotta would require approval from the schoolboard to send out the meeting minutes in a condensed format from the Governing Board to the HM community. We are able to send the full format of the minutes since it is approved by the administrator and GB chair.
 - Ms. Marotta will contact her supervisors and request if GB can send out a monthly newsletter outlining important points from the meeting.
 - To create a montage of the members of the GB committee with a picture with their name and position. Any parent who has questions or any concerns to reach out to any of these members.
- **Update from the committee on enrollment:**
 - Ms. Marotta sent an email with a review of the current steps taken, including the workshops.
 - Mario Pietrangelo informed us that the leadership program will begin again. The elementary schools involved are Honore Mercier, Pierre de Courbetin, Dante in collaboration with Laurier MacDonald high school. The goal of this program is to create a sense of community among the students and to encourage the teenagers to take on more leadership roles. Finally, a workshop about online bullying to the parents and students, grade 4, 5, and 6 about online safety and security, and to be better informed about cybering bullying. We will further discuss ways to have the younger grades participate in this workshop.
 - Ms. Marotta informed us that HM students complete an unanimous online survey, yearly, on how safe they feel in school. Our results reached above the Canadian norms. The children feel safe in school and can reach out to the adults for help if they have issues.
 - On Ped Days, teachers are receiving training in STEAM, robotics and science. What arose is that teachers are concerned that they do not have enough time to plan. Ms. Marotta allotted one hour every month for them to plan and receive help and support.
 - A copy of the staff meeting dates were sent to the consultants at the board, when they are available, they can join the meeting and give support to the teachers.
 - Regarding the concern about not having enough Professional Development in the field, every school receives a fund called Director Days where teachers attend workshops. This fund was allotted to workshops on STEAM, robotics, and science.
 - Money was set aside for the younger grades to purchase transparent pocket mats for the VBOTs
 - A green initiative by the Grade 5, an extra hydroponic tower was requested and given to them
 - Ms. Marotta is giving free Educational Technology workshops for the daycare children in grades 5 and 6
 - Members of the GB will participate at the Open House on Thursday, November 10, 2022.
 - Potentially ask Vito Montesano, professional videographer, to create several small videos to create a campaign for our school
 - Ms. Veronica has been posting pictures and videos on HM’s Facebook and Instagram. She can reach out to the GB members for any help to post on the social platforms.

Principals’ Report

- The Enrollment Committee, the teachers are taking workshops on STEAM and robotics. In Cycle 3 will start the STEAM program with the help from a STEAM consultant from the schoolboard.
- On November 1, 2022 HM will host a “Teaching Movement in the Classroom” workshop for the teachers, other schools in the area were welcome to attend.
- Ms. Marotta would like to thank Daniela Buttino - the daycare students will participate in the Educational Technology workshop until the end of November. Potentially extend the activity to a later date.

- For the fundraiser, CMT (Charcot-Marie-Tooth) walk, HM raised \$1001. Ms. Marotta wanted to thank Andrew Martinez, Peter Tsatoumas and Maria S (Home & School) for their help.
- Ms. Marotta initiated a Golden Apple Award – in recognition of the teacher’s hard-work. This award will be given out on a monthly basis during the staff meetings.
 - Mr. Peter, Mr. Andrew, Ms. Veronica and Ms. Franca for giving their time and helping out
 - Ms. Dina Martino for decorating the school walls
 - Ms. Morena for “Learning Beyond the Four Walls of a Classroom”
 - The caretakers Tony and Mike who worked diligently over summer to clean and maintain the school and still maintain the cleaning Covid schedule during the year
 - Ms. Urmi for her continuous support and collaboration with Ms. Marotta
 - Congratulations to you all!
- Ms. Morena had a virtual meeting with Mr. Dan Gill about his upbringing in a segregated neighborhood in New Jersey and how his experiences lead write a book and teach others about equality. On November 29, 2022, Mr. Gill will speak virtually to the HM students about his story on inclusion, diversity and equality.
- EduAction after school activities – unfortunately, due to low enrollment, all activities were cancelled.
- **Field Trips:**
 - **Segal Center (October 28, 2022):** Grade 2
 - **Muse des enfants (November 8, 2022):** Pre-K
 - **Cirque du Verdun (January 31, 2023):** Grade 1
 - **Maison Symphonique (February 1, 2023):** Grade 5 & 6
 - **Maison Symphonique (March 23, 2023):** Grade 3 & 4
 - **Camp Bout en Train (February 27, 28, &1):** Grade 6
 - **Cosmodome (April 11, 2023):** K
 - **Biodome (April 28, 2023):** Grade 2
 - **Biodome (May 8, 2023):** Pre-K
 - **CEPSUM (May 24, 2023):** K
 - **Intermiel (June 9, 2023):** Grade 1

Motion to approve field trips called by Robert Panetta, seconded by Merika Ramundo. Passed unanimously. Motion carried.

- Mr. Vince, the spiritual animator, would like to have a “Socks in the Box” fundraiser and to donate to less the fortunate within the community. On November 24, 2022, a memo will be sent home and the collection will last for 2-3 weeks.

Motion to approve “Socks in the Box” fundraiser called by Tony Campione, seconded by Robert Panetta. Passed unanimously. Motion carried.

- Tony Campione requested to have these fundraisers advertised – such as a social media post with the total amount raised. Inquire if local printing companies, such as MOXO Inc, can provide printing solutions.

Teachers’ Report

- Music Report:
 - Veronica Graniero reported that the music band has 22 students enrolled
 - CBC Music Classroom Competition – recording on November 9, 2022.
- Physical Education: classes will focus on manipulation and receiving
 - Volleyball starting with Grades 3, 4, 5 & 6
 - Playground ball, hockey sticks, and hops with the younger grades

- Tuesday and Thursday will begin volleyball at lunch time
- Cross-country with grade 3, 4, 5 & 6. The grade 6 girls won 2nd place and boys won 3rd place
- Virtue of the month done by Ms. Maria the spiritual animator
 - Monthly assembly to issue an award and will be rewarded on a specific theme
 - A student in each class will be chosen for being a role model to his/her classmates
- Pre-K hosted a "Friendship Festival" – their parents spent a half-day in class with them

Daycare Report

- Daniel Buttino reported that the government changed the rate of daycare fees to \$8.95.
- All EMSB daycare handbooks have the same information, rules, and regulations
 - The information is available on the Honore Mercier website to be viewed by parents.
- Tony inquired if the staff is up to date: CPR certification, bullying and other situations concerning the well-being of the daycare children.
- Activities available for daycare activities: gardening club, rolling plants, cooking classes for 4, 5, and 6, and Ms. Marotta's Educational Workshop
- Toy Fundraiser for the Montreal Children's Hospital:
 - Bake sales: homemade cupcakes, cookies, and oatmeal cookies. Three dates for the bake sale to raise money to purchase toys. The sale price will be \$2 each.
 - Selling tickets to win 1 of 3 three baskets.
 - Last year's fundraiser raised \$2,600.
 - Honore Mercier students want to donate hand-made items such as bracelets, crafts to sell. To relook at this fundraiser later.

Motion to approve the fundraiser for the Montreal Children's Hospital called by Veronica Graniero, seconded by Andrew Martinez. Passed unanimously. Motion carried.

Motion to approve daycare handbook called by Merika Ramundo, seconded by Jennifer Uniat. Passed unanimously. Motion carried.

Home and School Report

- Maria Scicchitano and Nancy Cantini reported on fundraisers
 - Laura Secord chocolate fundraiser was a huge success. The remaining chocolate might be sold during the open house and parent-teacher conference.
- Home and School has 70 members
- Contact the media to advertise our Haunted House at HM

Treasurer's Report

- Angelo Irrera reported that there is a no change in the budget.

Central Parents Committee Report

- Merika Ramundo reports 32 new parents at the meeting
- Committees were elected

- Success Plan has been initiated – more information to follow
- Standing committees who report back on the following antiracism, focus group on enrollment which we can be a part of lead by Maria Corsi.
- Subcommittees of sexual misconduct, antibullying, digital citizenship

Question Period/Varia

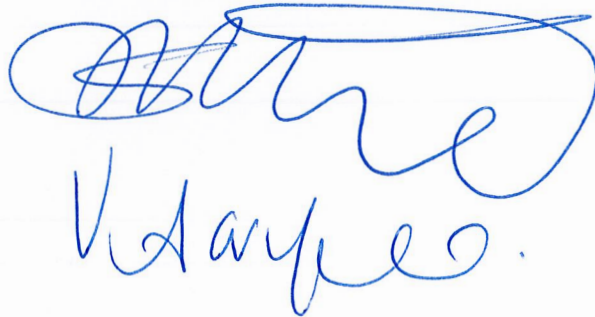
- Anti-bullying and anti-violence plans
 - Safe school action plan which will be presented to GB in January 2023 an the current plan is available on the HM website for parents to view
 - Each school has a specific plan created by a committee of HM professionals
 - Informs the parents on how the school deals with any issues that may arise
- Suggestion to have the musical band perform for the elderly
- HM school confirmed that they compost

Next Governing Board Meeting Date(s)or

- The following meeting dates were proposed:
 - Wednesday, November 23 at 7:00 p.m. (Virtual meeting)
 - Monday, December 12 at 6:00 p.m. at Honore Mercier School

Adjournment

- Motion to adjourn was made at 9:50 PM by Robert Panetta, seconded by Tony Campione. Passed unanimously.



A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Tony Campione". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial "T".