

MINUTES

Honoré Mercier Home and School Committee

Monday, May 6th, 2024, virtual meeting

Meeting called to order by Maria Scicchitano at 18:00.

In Attendance (obtained via Zoom chat)

Maria Scicchitano, (Co-Chair)	Marilena Carciero	iphone 3 = ?	Ana Lucas
Nancy Cantini (Co-Chair)	Adriana Giannini	Nadia Ghanoudi	Sonia Varrone (end)
Arianna Holowka (Treasurer)	Lucy Cancilla	Daniela Mercadante	
Aileen Montesclaros, (Secretary)	Romina Mancini	Mike?	
Patrizia Tummillo (Principal)	Carmen Rizzuto	Michelangelo Smith?	
Ms. Angie Dilella(Teacher)	Marysa Crisci	Diego Di Stefano	
Mme Elisa Infusini (Teacher)	Felicia Spadafino	Catherine McGregor	
Peter Tsatoumas (Teacher)	Emily Gervasi	Antonella Scalia	
Andrew Martinez (Teacher)	Adrianna Di Pardo	Terri Valiante	
Marlyn Brown Rigg (QFHSA)	Stephanie Rossy	Nicky Mongelli	
Scott Pinsky	Mary Baccari	Massimo?	
Sabrina Dykes	Merika Ramundo	Julia Avanzato	

Regrets from committee: n/a

Approval of Meeting Agenda

Agenda approved

Approval of Minutes

- Minutes of January 30, 2024:
 - Minutes approved by Felicia Spadafino and Romina Mancini
- Minutes of April 9, 2024:
 - Minutes approved by Emily Gervasi and Aileen Montesclaros
 - Principal Tummillo requests correction or addendum to approved April 2024 minutes.
 - Motion to address correction or make an addendum was not provided by the floor.

Special Guest: Marlyn Brown Rigg from Membership Services at Quebec Federation of Home and School Associations (QFHSA)

- During the previous H&S meeting, Principal Tummillo raised questions re: H&S elections, and the process for electing new H&S executives.
- Marlyn was invited by H&S executives to answer questions re: H&S executive positions, how and when these are elected, and the rationale for having elections in May vs September of the following academic year.

- Principal Tummillo asked why 2 Co-Chairs vs 1 Chair and 1 VP: As per Arianna Holowka, at the time, no one wanted the position of president, thus the role was shared by 2 co-presidents, instead of having a president and vice-president.
- As per Marlyn: by-laws are updated to define the role and responsibilities of executive positions.
- In the event of Co-Chairs, the role of VP is eliminated.
- By-laws are written by a sub-committee from H&S membership, and then forwarded to QHFSA for approval.
- H&S elections are done in May prior to the Annual General Meeting.

Treasurer Report

See attached documents provided by Arianna Halowka: Treasurer report May 2024 and Budget report 2024.

- Budget report was shared and viewed online by H&S membership.
 - Motion to accept budget 2024-2025 carried unanimously.
- Question from Principal Tummillo: If school enrollment has declined, why has the budget for Fun in the Sun doubled since 2021-2022? Part of the reason is the selection of activities by teachers as this impacts budget costs.
 - Principal Tummillo suggests: For H&S to provide a 1-page summary of its fundraising activities that includes: dates of activities, cost of products, profit margins and to submit the report to Governing Board(GB).
 - Of note: All school fundraising initiatives , including the ones proposed by Home & School are presented to Governing Board for approval.
 - Comment from membership: Funds that were set aside for a Mindfulness room with Ms. Dimitra = \$800.00.
 - Motion to release the funds for general H&S spending carried unanimously.

Principal's Report

Budget

1. Building update :

- a. K4 playground: Mulch needs to be replaced. An earth section will be replaced with concrete to avoid mud entering the school.
- b. Former K5 playground: Hinges of door repaired. Dangerous tree branches removed.
- c. Main playground: \$10,000 grant received. Basketball tree to be installed. For the younger students, a pole with 3 different holes to throw a ball through will be installed.
- d. Summer repairs - Rooftop ventilation:
 - Currently 4 out of 6 ventilation towers don't work. 2 towers will be replaced, 4 others will be repaired. Replacement cost for all 4 towers is about \$80,000. Repair cost for 1 tower is about \$2,000. The towers being replaced are associated with the wings of the school (i.e. the 2 extensions to the original building). Infrastructure is also being set-up for future air conditioning installation (future project request).
- e. Summer repairs – School roof:
 - Recent fire alarm incident with school evacuation: Water infiltration from the roof caused the fire sensors to malfunction.
 - Wings of the school
- f. The “Herman Nelson” heaters that provide heat at the back of classrooms via air vents will be replaced by baseboard heaters to provide a secondary source of heat once the rooftop ventilation will be restored.

2. Clarification of school spending:

a. Sensory room:

- The decision to have a sensory room was made before the arrival of Principal Tummillo at HM.
- \$2,500 fundraised 2 years ago.
- Approved by Honoré Mercier's (HM) Governing Board:
 - i. The school matched the original \$2,500 with the QST/GST return from "fund 3 spending" (money collected by parents).
 - ii. The cost of building a new wall was covered by the EMSB.

b. Games room:

- Data from school survey provided the motivation to build a games room.
- Teachers supported the initiative to be used as a means of incentive and reward.
- Expenditures covered by "fund 6 spending", a special fund from the government that helps implement/mobilize projects from HM's Educational Project.
- Fund 6 cannot be used to pay for school furniture, blinds, or field trips.

c. Upcycling of old school desks:

- Repurposing of old desks for the sensory room and resource room.
- Some desks will be repainted: Thank you to Mme Sabrina for helping to purchase the art supplies with her member discount.

3. Other updates

a. Grade 2: Dental prevention, letters sent home today

b. Rattrapage funds:

- Literacy camp. Ms. Julia will be an additional tutor.
- Joint summer camp with Pierre de Coubertin Elementary School.
- HM will send 20 students.

c. Seko the dog: Principal Tummillo provides clarification.

- The EMSB removed all animals from schools, including e.g. Reptizoo.
- Seko is a certified with Companion Paws of Canada in comparison to other school animals that were uncertified yet present in schools. The EMSB didn't recognize this certification, thus Seko was removed from HM.
- Seko belongs to Principal Tummillo. Seko's certification papers were submitted to EMSB to recognize his certification. To expedite the process of Seko's return to HM, Principal Tummillo consulted with Health and Safety. Seko is back at HM and will remain in the principal's office.
- A memo was not issued to the parents about this.

d. Principal Day: Thank you to all the students for their appreciation.

e. Reminder: Principal Tummillo urges parents to encourage their children to address her directly with their questions and concerns about HM and grad.

Color Run event on Friday, June 7, 2024, at Honoré Mercier

- Planning began last year. Activity aimed to bring the community together.
- \$20 per ticket, includes a t-shirt and meal
- Snacks and water will be sold on site.
- There will be music and speeches before the main event.
- Participants may walk or run. The course will be around the school yard, out the walkers' gate, along the sidewalk until returning to the school yard via the bus gate. The course should take about 20-25 minutes to complete.
- Students must be accompanied by an adult. HM family and guests are welcome to the event, but everyone must have a ticket prior to the event. Tickets will not be sold at the door.

Committee Report (Co-Chairs)

Nancy Cantini

- Felix & Norton Cookie fundraiser: There has been an issue with delivery of orders. Families will be notified once an update is received from the company.
- Fun in the Sun: We are working with the gym teachers and Ms. Veronica. Information about the event will be provided to parents ASAP.

Maria Scicchitano:

- H&S election of executive positions: A detailed email will be sent to members about the election and the positions available. Nominations are currently ongoing for the positions of 2 co-chairs and 1 secretary. The election must be held before the H&S Annual General Meeting on May 30, 2024.
- H&S end of year dinner plans: H&S will cover the cost for dessert and wine. Details about the event to be emailed to members in June.

Q + A period

- Suggest a community corn roast to be held before the start of school: a meet & greet for the entire HM community in August 2024. A fundraiser could be organized by H&S to cover the costs.
 - The event must be proposed to GB first.
- Suggest having a used book sale as a fundraiser for the whole school.
 - The event must be proposed to GB first.

Adjournment

- Motion to adjourn the meeting at 19h29.