



ACADÉMIE HILLCREST ACADEMY
Meeting Minutes of the Governing Board
Zoom Meeting
December 7th, 2020

Present: S. Georgakis, E. Pace, M. Knox, A. Gurevitch, A. Hétu, V. Guindi, A. Abramovitch, J. Georgiopoulos, C. Mourad, M. Kwarczyk, N. Bakali, L. Andradi. T. Djerrian

Administration: M. Lazaris (Principal)

Absent: T. Limberis

1. Call to Order

The third regular Zoom meeting of the Governing Board for the 2020-2021 school year was called to order at 7:04pm by C. Mourad.

2. Welcoming Remarks

a. Welcome Guests

C. Mourad welcomes everyone to the meeting.

3. Adoption of Agenda

- The Governing Board members declare having received and reviewed the agenda for the meeting. No changes are proposed.

- ✓ **GB-20201019-3.0** Upon motion made by V. Guindi, seconded by L. Andradi, and carried by unanimous show of hands, the December 7th, 2020 Governing Board agenda as proposed is adopted.

4. Approval of the Minutes

a) Approval of the Minutes from the October 19th, 2020 Governing Board Meeting

The Governing Board members declare having received and reviewed the minutes of the October meeting. No changes are proposed.

- ✓ **GB-20201019-4.0** Upon motion made by C. Mourad, seconded by J. Georgiopoulos, and carried by unanimous show of hands, the minutes of the October 19th, 2020 meetings are approved.

5. Internal Rules of Order

a) Internal rules of procedures

- Discussion is tabled for the January 18th meeting.
- Ms. Lazaris suggests looking over the Internal Rules and bringing discussion points to

the next meeting.

- C. Mourad will send the document to all members by email after the meeting.

- C. Mourad notes that the public question period will be moved to after the reports in point 7.

6. Standing items and/or business arising

No items.

7. Reports

a. Principal's Report [M. Lazaris]

- Ms. Lazaris notes that on the additional ped days allocated for trainings by the Government Daycare services will be available for free for students who are regularly registered for daycare.
- On December 17th and 18th daycare services will only be offered to essential workers who are approved by the government. This also includes students who do not attend Hillcrest but live in the school's vicinity. Daycare staff will be called in as the numbers are received.
- On the report cards every competency must be evaluated, there cannot be a Not Reported (NR). The evaluation period will cover from the beginning of the school year until January 8th.
- The staff is trying to make the everyday school life as enjoyable for the kids without access to the usual activities.
- The second parent-teacher night will be held in April according to government directives.
- The end of year grade 6 exams will only be held on 1 day instead of 3. The government has given only specific dates to write the exams, so the school is in communication with the school board to determine the best course of action due to the one-week/one-week schedule.
- In terms of school finances there are 38 families who have yet to pay their school fees so there is a bit of a dent in the budget at the moment, but the school has until the end of the school year to collect the amounts.

b. Chair's Report [C. Mourad]

- C. Mourad would like to thank the school and the team for bringing everyone into December safely. Everyone has contributed to the feeling of safety for both students and parents.

c. Parent Committee [J. Georgiopoulos]

- J. Georgiopoulos mentions that one of the school board's language pathologists spoke of various programs that are in the process of being applied to schools to aid in bridging the difference francophone and anglophone students.

- The English Parents' Committee Association of Québec (EPCA) representative brought up that a survey was sent out to parents concerning what they thought about the government plan. Half of the parents wanted the children in the school and the other half did not.

- Parent Committee is looking into hosting workshops on stress levels to help parents understand how things are going for their child(ren), to notice the signs of stress in the students and ways to communicate with them. These workshops would be provided to parents of elementary and high school students.

d. Daycare Report [S. Georgakis]

- S. Georgakis adds that on the January 4th ped day daycare services will be closed as educators and support staff will be taking part of an embracing diversity workshop.

e. HAHSA Report [L. Andradi]

- The next HAHSA meeting will be held on December 9th.

- The first virtual cooking event was held in the past week and was a big success with 16 families participating.

- The distribution of pizza kits went very well; 165 kits were sold. There is a big demand for another round of sales and HAHSA is looking at holding it sometime in February or March.

Ms. Lazaris would like to add that the process went very smoothly and would like to thank HAHSA for bringing the fundraiser to the school.

- The Epicure fundraiser has been pushed back to later in the school year.

- A Governing Board e-vote was held after the October meeting concerning the FundScript fundraiser after having obtained more information from HAHSA. The votes were 9 in favour and 4 abstentions to trying out the fundraiser for a period of one month.

After discussion HAHSA has decided to not proceed with the FundScript fundraiser this school year.

8. Public Question Period

- No questions

9. New Business

a. Subject time allocation

- Ms. Lazaris explains that teachers voted on keeping the Subject Time allocation status quo. Art plastique in cycle 3 will be replaced by art dramatique in order to have one consistent subject for the entire cycle.

- Pre-K will stay at 50/50. During the 2021-2022 school year the teachers and administration will examine how having a 50/50 pre-k year affects those students when they go up to kindergarten and have 70/30 to determine if it will remain the same.

- The numbers indicated in red are the minutes that are below the ministry recommendations but since the school is 50/50 it has been approved by the school board.
 - N. Bakali asks what happens for the classes that are on Mondays or Fridays that only take place once a week.
Ms. Lazaris explains that the teachers are asked to try and avoid putting those subjects on Mondays or Fridays but sometimes to accommodate all classes it can't be avoided. At times some teacher will do 120 minutes of teaching for that subject one week and 0 the next such as to balance it out in the end. The teachers will always make accommodations so that students are not falling behind and get what they need from every subject.
 - M. Kwarczyk asks why the math allocation for Cycle 1 below the recommendation of the MEES.
Ms. Lazaris answers that the number of minutes is not in red, so it is not below the minimum requirement of the MEES. It is lower than the average distribution, but it is still higher than the minimum amount.
 - C. Mourad adds that every school decides on what they want to focus on and prioritize. In the past it was noted that math was one of the weaker subjects for students and that it only available one week out of two due to the one week/one week schedule. In the last few years accommodations were made so that now even during that second week math homework is assigned to help the students and reinforce concepts.
 - J. Georgiopoulos asks if there are any plans to continue with Art Dramatique instead of Art Plastique in subsequent years.
Ms. Lazaris answers that yes, the teachers are planning to keep it in Cycle 3.
- ✓ **GB-20201207-9.0a** Upon motion made by L. Andradi, seconded by E. Pace, and carried by unanimous show of hands, the Subject Time Allocation for the 2021-2022 school year is approved.

b. Evaluation of Learning addendum

- Ms. Lazaris explains that rather than redoing the entirety of the document an addendum was prepared and added into the document.

V. Guindi explains the additions and goes over the addendum (See attached document).

Ms. Lazaris specifies that this does not pertain to pre-k and kindergarten as they have different report cards.

- ✓ **GB-20201207-9.0b** Upon motion made by M. Kwarczyk seconded by M. Knox, and carried by unanimous show of hands, the addendum to the Evaluation of Learning document as presented is approved.

c. Educational Project

- Ms. Lazaris explains that the initiatives that were started last year could not continue because of Covid. As such it is being continued now so the end date has been removed to better reflect the current situation.
- V. Guindi goes over the document that compares the goals of the government, of the school board, and of the school.
- T. Djerrian asks what the Danielson framework is.
Ms. Lazaris answers that it is a type of evaluation and coaching sessions for teachers. The administrative staff observe the teachers and coach them into perfecting their craft.
- N. Bakali asks what the math result of 61% is based on.
Ms. Lazaris answers that it is the average of the end of year situational problems. In order to complete those problems inference and reactional skills are necessary and those are not easily taught.
- N. Bakali asks how Hillcrest is compared to other schools on those situational problems.
Ms. Lazaris answers that two years ago Hillcrest was doing well in comparison. Last year the exams did not take place, so no data was made available.
- N. Bakali asks if more math time was considered for the subject time allocation because of this situation.
Ms. Lazaris answers that adding in one extra hour will not bring a big change to the results and it is the approach to situational problems that needs to be applied. It has already been discussed with teachers that more practise needs to be done in class.
- C. Mourad adds that the question can be brought up to PC on math to discuss the situation with other schools.
 - ✓ **GB-20201207-9.0c** Upon motion made by A. Gurevitch seconded by M. Knox, and carried by unanimous show of hands, the Educational Project as presented is approved.

d. ABAV

- Ms. Lazaris explains that matters that were brought up in past GB meetings concerning the ABAV were kept in mind when evaluating the document.
- The “Tell Them From Me” survey was done in November for students in grades 4, 5, and 6. The same staff members presented the survey in each of the classrooms to stay consistent in the way the questions were asked. A lot of the student were feeling more anxiety than previously but were also thankful for their teachers. It should be noted that the surveys were conducted after the class closures occurred.
- The ABAV plan from last year is being maintained. At the beginning of the school year the students felt more harassment, notably about not wearing masks, but the increase was only of 2% which is good in comparison to other schools. The students had some

valid comments such as being worried about Covid or their class closing down but they felt safe with their teachers.

- Ms. Lazaris explains that there tends to be more in school suspensions given than out of school suspensions.
- J. Georgiopoulos mentions that from the information presented at PC meetings some schools seem to overlook bullying situations.
Ms. Lazaris responds that some students are not able to differentiate what bullying is. The school has posters that explain the difference between bullying, teasing, and conflict and the school staff tries to educate students and parents on what is bullying and what is not so that students can properly express themselves.
- M. Kwarczyk asks if there is an opportunity to survey the younger students to get their views on bullying.
Ms. Lazaris answers that for the younger students the teachers have daily conversations with the kids and the teachers are the ones that go to the office to bring up situations. From there the administration will intervene if needed.
 - ✓ **GB-20201207-9.0d** Upon motion made by J. Georgiopoulos, seconded by E. Pace, and carried by unanimous show of hands, the ABAV for the 2020-2021 school year is approved.

e. Field Trip Approval

There are no field trips.

f. School-Wide Activities Approval

- PJ day should be listed under activities instead of fundraiser.
- Ms. Lazaris explains that the Art Comes to School is a replacement for the ceramics activity that was voted on during the last Governing Board meeting since they were unable to come to the school.
- The Gumboots activity will be held during the phys. ed. class during their regularly scheduled times. The parents will not be charged for this activity.
- N. Bakali asks if the Art Comes to School is partially paid for by HAHSA.
Ms. Lazaris explains that yes, it is but the money comes from the ceramics activity that already had a certain amount allocated so it isn't extra money from their budget.
 - ✓ **GB-20201207-9.0f** Upon motion made by M. Knox, seconded by V. Guindi, and carried by unanimous show of hands, the school-wide activities as presented in the spreadsheet with the change mentioned above are approved.
- Ms. Lazaris explains the cookie activity that will take place in school before the holidays.

- ✓ **GB-20201207-9.0f2** Upon motion made by M. Knox, seconded by J. Georgiopoulos, and carried by unanimous show of hands, the cookie decorating activity is approved.

➔ T. Djerrian leaves the meeting at 8:28pm.

g. ECA (extra-curricular activities) Approval
There are no ECAs.

h. Fundraisers Approval
HAHSA fundraisers:

- ✓ **GB-20201207-9.0h1** Upon motion made by M. Knox, seconded by A. Abraovitch, and carried by unanimous show of hands, the second sale of HAHSA pizza kits is approved for February/March.

- L. Andradi explains that HAHSA is looking at hosting a virtual comedy event with catering services offered in February. The event would take place on a Friday in February, laws permitting at that time. A portion of the funds raised will go towards air conditioning for the school building.
- C. Mourad asks if the school board would allow the use of a school building if the comedian will not be family friendly.
L. Andradi answers that it will be a family event.
- C. Mourad asks how the catering service will operate.
L. Anradi answers that when tickets are bought there will be the option to order a meal with the option to choose how many and which meals are preferred. The catering company will deliver the meals a few hours before the event and they will be able to be reheated.
- ✓ **GB-20201207-9.0h2** Upon motion made by J. Georgiopoulos, seconded by A. Gurevitch, and carried by unanimous show of hands, the use of the school gym to broadcast the comedy special is approved.

i. Rentals
There are no rentals.

10. Confirmation of date and time of next GB meeting

- a. The list of dates for the upcoming Governing Board meetings is as follows:
 - *Monday, January 18th, 2021*
 - *Monday, February 15th, 2021*
 - *Monday, March 15th, 2021*
 - *Monday, April 19th, 2021*
 - *Monday, May 17th, 2021*

The next meeting will take place on Monday, January 18th, 2021 at 7:00pm on Zoom.

11. Meeting Adjournment

- ✓ **GB-20201019-11.0** There being no further business and upon motion made by M. Knox, seconded by A. Hetu and carried by unanimous show of hands, the Chair declared the meeting to be adjourned at 8:37pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted by:

Melissa Ayotte

Minutes approved by the Governing Board members on: January 18, 2021

Acknowledgement of approval by the members of the Governing Board on date stated above made by:

Chair: _____
Charbel Mourad

Principal: 
Ms. Lazaris