

Association des parents d'élèves de l'École André-Piolat

General Meeting

via MS Teams

Wednesday, January 24th, 2024, 8:00PM.

Minutes

ATTENDEES:

Julie DÉZIEL, President
Melissa POWELL, President
Tim ROBERTS, Vice President
François PROULX, Secretary
Nathalie CHALOIN, Director
Julien HÉNON, Director
Ginette MILLS, Director
Annick VACHON, Director
Aurelia MERADOU
Eliam CRESPIIN
Katherine HUME
Marta TOESEV

GUESTS:

Monica MARTIN, Principal
Luc PREST, Student
Parsa PIRAN, Student

REGRETS :

Lily WU, Treasurer.

1. Land acknowledgement was done by Melissa POWELL.
2. Agenda adopted as is. Proposed by François PROULX, seconded by Melissa POWELL.
3. Minutes for November 22nd, 2023 General Meeting adopted as is. Proposed by Nathalie CHALOIN, seconded by Aurelia MERADOU.
4. Update from Presidents: Julie DÉZIEL and Melissa POWELL had no update.

5. Principal Update :

- Théâtre de la Seizième and YesTess planned thanks to PassPART grant.
- lots of outings planned.
- M. Litalien thinks that Brackendale trip may happen in June.
- Mme Béanger (K) on leave, job posted, TOCs x 2 are currently sharing. M. Litalien (3), M. Thériault filling in. Reception desk position also posted. M. Daniel (English) resigned, new person hired, but this is not working out, so position posted again. Mme Marie-Ève (PE) going on mat leave, position to be filled as well. Language Instructor position also posted.
- Graduation activities being planned.
- Principal has started no computer during lunch break position, and invited kids to make proposals for what they would like to have to keep busy during lunch hours.
- Grade 7 and 8 families (and rest of school) invited to High School info night February 08th.
- RCMP came to do talk on bullying.
- 34 registrations for 2024-25 Kindergarden (big number for this time of year). Prep meeting for interested families being held.
- Middle Years Development Instrument being used by school. Questionnaire given to grade 6 and 8. Data to be used by school and CSF to assess needs.
- Parents to be solicited via PAC about which option they prefer for 2024-25 school calendar:
 - 1) 2 weeks off in March and + 8 mins class time each day
 - 2) 1 week off in March, no additional minutes
 - 3) 4 weeks off around Remembrance Day in November, 1 additional day around Family Day in February, 1 week off in March, +8 additional minutes class time each day
- François PROULX asked about future plans to keep access to Brackendale programme for our students. Monica says that this is not necessarily linked to one staff person, and would depend on future interest.
- Aurelia MERADOU asked about about discrepancy in school calendar this year. Monica says it has been corrected on website, Tuesday April 02nd is off.

6. Teacher Update: no staff in attendance.

7. CECRÉA Update : no representative in attendance.

8. 2024-2025 School Calendar : item adressed during Principal Update.

9. Budget Update : provided by Melissa POWELL and Julie DÉZIEL, as Lily WU sent regrets. \$2,626.71 profit from after school activities. \$1,470.94 profit from Mingle & Jingle and Christmas Market.

10. Dance Night : Melissa POWELL updated that a Dance Night for students and parents to be held Friday February 23rd. DJ confirmed. Liquor license sales for parents, juice and water for kids. Grade 12 students to be approached to see whether they would like to hold bake sales to fund graduation events.

11. Cabane à sucre: Melissa POWELL updated that PAC Executive cannot set this up this year, but is open to other members taking the lead. Otherwise, it will not happen this year. Julie DÉZIEL emphasizes that this year's PAC is trying different activities, such as Dance Night, or a planned benefit yard sale for La Boussole non-profit.

12. Piano Purchase : Julie DÉZIEL discusses PAC buying piano up to \$1,000 to be used to offer after school piano lessons, e.g. with MiFa. Katherine HUME says that an acoustic piano would be more preferable. Julie says that there are acoustic pianos already in lobby and in music room, but MiFa does not have access to music room, and we cannot easily move acoustic pianos. Julie says that MiFa instructor has advised weighted key digital piano. Monica MARTIN says that we cannot move piano out of music room per school music teacher, and music room licensed for child care and used by Trottin. Eliam CRESPIAN asks in chat why we should pay for piano to be used for private lessons. Julie replies that many parents have come forward to PAC and to Principal about school offering such private after school lessons. Monica says that PAC purchased keyboard could also be used by school for other purposes. Marta TOESEV asks whether there would be a 'trade off' where money will be taken out of. Julie explains that profit from after school activities would cover this. Nathalie CHALOIN shares that an acquaintance of hers who is a music teacher is interested in volunteering at school. Julie to ask MiFa to resend invitation to parents who would like to register their kids, that would be after Spring Break.

- Julie proposes that up to \$1,000 be allocated for digital piano purchase, Nathalie second. Julie asked for vote. Yeas 7, Nays 4. Motion carried.

12. Student Update (moved in Agenda): Parsa PIRAN and Luc PREST present their project of renovating basketball rings in courtyard. Total cost would be \$900. Parsa says they may also fundraise part of the budget. Ginette MILLS asks about funds from last year's Run. Julie DÉZIEL wonders if money set to purchase tables for High School students. Monica MARTIN says that tables being considered are not sturdy/durable enough, which will cost more, \$1,000 per table, and that table purchase will exhaust monies set aside for that. Melissa POWELL proposes taking \$450 from Parents & Teacher Initiatives line in budget. François PROULX seconds. Motion carried.

13. Marta TOESEV (addition from President Update item in agenda) wonders about school-wide nut ban. She says that some school will allow students from grade 3 and up to bring nuts, as older kids with allergies better able to stay away from nuts. Marta says that this may allow for healthier snacks. Marta acknowledges the opinion of parents of children with nut allergies should be taken into consideration. Monica MARTIN says she is open to modifications but needs to check with CSF whether there are district wide

proposals. Melissa POWELL agrees. Nathalie CHALOIN says that nuts were allowed at Waldorf. Julie DÉZIEL reminds us of importance of consulting parents of allergic children. Monica says there are about 15 students with anaphylactic reactions. Marta says it would be important to specifically seek feedback from the parents. Parsa PIRAN reminds us that peers have nut allergies. Luc PREST says that having a severe peanut allergy himself, he feels he has grown more able to manage his allergy, and agrees that older kids may be able to manage. Marta TOESEV says students with allergies should also be consulted. François PROULX wonders if individual students at school may need more substantial accommodations in the environment.

13. School Yard Reno Update : Marta TOESEV says that a meeting is planned soon. Marta thinks that community would like to see something built by this summer. Marta and Annick VACHON to follow up with each other regarding last year's invoices from consultants. Marta asks for volunteers for grant writing. Melissa POWELL says that Roja BAGHERI (kid in grade 2/3 class with Mme Mehrnaz's class) may be interested.

- Melissa proposes that an additional (to November 23rd's budgeted amount) \$10,000 from existing Reno Project account to be spent on Reno Project this year. Annick VACHON seconds. Motion carried.

14. Miscellaneous: Monica MARTIN suggests that we include standing item of Comité de partenaires update on PAC General Meeting Agenda. Comité des partenaires meets every week. Roja BAGHERI is parent rep.

15. Meeting was adjourned at 21:19.

François PROULX,
Secretary