

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

General Meeting

via MS Teams

Wednesday, February 21st, 2024, 8:00PM.

Minutes

ATTENDEES:

Julie DÉZIEL, President

Melissa POWELL, President

Lily WU, Treasurer.

François PROULX, Secretary

Nathalie CHALOIN, Director

Julien HÉNON, Director

Annick VACHON, Director

Kathryn FOWLES

Sarah McCURDY

Roja BAGHERI

Leah BLASSET

Emmanuel BLASSET

Aurelia MERADOU

Anaïs FERRARI

Caroline LOUI-YING

Joss LAINCY

Marta TOESEV

Mathieu LEGARE

Sarah MARSHALL

Shah MIRSAEIDI

Valerie DAVIS

Alex DAVIS

Mitra CHANDLER

Melanie JOURNOUD

Isabelle MIRABAUD

GUESTS:

Monica MARTIN, Principal

Valentine BARETTA, Student Rep

REGRETS:

Tim ROBERTS, Vice President

Ginette MILLS, Director

1. The meeting was called to order by Melissa POWELL at 20:03.
2. Land acknowledgement performed by Melissa POWELL.
3. **-> Agenda adopted as amended, proposed by Melissa POWELL, seconded by Lily WU.**
4. **-> Minutes from January 24th 2024 Minutes adopted as circulated, proposed by Nathalie CHALOIN, seconded by Julie DÉZIEL.**
5. Nathalie CHALOIN (with her son Arthur) discuss sad state of soccer goals in schoolyard.
 - a. **-> Nathalie proposes that PAC spend \$500 for a soccer net from \$881 from Budget Line 22 "Parent & Teacher Proposals". Francois PROULX seconds.**
 - b. Julie DÉZIEL suggests that we consider purchasing other nets at May 2024 General Meeting if budget allows.
6. Presidents Update.
 - a. Julie DÉZIEL shares results of parents vote for Spring Break 2024-2025 (same as this year: 2 weeks at end of March).
 - b. Julie asks Monica MARTIN about Brackendale. Monica says M. Litalien confirmed that trip will happen for this year's grade 3 students. François asks whether 3rd graders from split level classes will be participating. Monica says all 3rd graders will go. Lily WU wonders if BC Gaming Grant money can be used if only one grade goes, and suggests that Annick VACHON would know the answer to that question (Annick not in attendance). Roja BAGHERI asks about nature of trip, Monica suggests that this is best discussed with parents of concerned students.
 - c. Julie shares about concerning state of elementary level student water fountains. Monica will look at whether they need replacement. Roja shares that her child finds that water fountain is over solicited.
 - d. Julie reminds members about upcoming Dance Night for children and their families this coming 23.FEB.2024. There will be a hired DJ, bake sale from high school students, juice, chips and alcoholic drinks for parents will be on sale.
 - e. Julie shares project of holding Yard Sale in May, then a Run event of smaller magnitude compared to last year's. There will be a need for volunteers.
 - f. Roja shares about plan for Persian New Year Norouz. Roja says Norouz is celebration of Spring observed in Iran, but also by people from Afghanistan, Pakistan, and other places, as well as by families

and staff at our school. Roja has asked for volunteers in the school newsletter. There are plans to have a Haft Sin.

7. Principal Update.

- a. Monica MARTIN says that school is still recruiting SEA position, full time, welcomes referrals from school community. School also recruiting 2 days a week English teacher for 4th and 5th grader (no English teacher since JAN.2024). Mme Anne-Sophie hired for reception.
- b. Grouse Ski lessons not ideal given conditions this year, but still running. Basketball team playing tonight. Pink Shirt Day coming up 28.FEB: a mural will be created. Black History Month celebrated in class. Teacher/Student Volleyball game was held. 1st Nations family celebration coming up 05.MAR and is put up by Mme Monique GIARD. High School Open House was held by High School students themselves and was successful.
- c. "Tiens-moi la main, j'embarque" Kindergarden prep programme running: 42 students already registered. Monica invites parents to register future kindergardeners early so they can participate in this programme.
- d. Celebrations being planned for 1st High School graduating class in many years.
- e. "Feeding the Future" grants available for families in need: Hot Meals subsidized for those families and food hampers, and accessible snack baskets in each class.
- f. Francophonie Week coming up.
- g. School reports and Parent-Teacher meetings coming up in MAR.2024.
- h. CSF to assign school operations grant for 2024-2025 school year prep soon.

8. Teacher Rep Update.

- a. No Rep in attendance.

9. Student Rep Update.

- a. Valentine BARETTA says that High School student just had Fun Week with a number of activities, and they are planning a Skating Day at Harry Jerome for High School students.
- b. Separate dance for just High School students being planned.
- c. Potential grade 11 student leaders being mentored to take over once current 12 graders graduate.
- d. Graduating class planning bake sale at Elementary School Dance Night put up by PAC.

10. CECRÉA Rep Update.

- a. No Rep in attendance.
- b. Monica MARTIN updates members on CECRÉA meeting held yesterday. 1st Nations school worker Mme Monica GIARD taking lead. Monica says academic outcomes less in 1st Nations students at provincial level, and school is mindful of how to support our own 1st Nations students. Monica says 1st Nations celebration day planned in June.

11. Comité des partenaires Rep Update.

- a. Roja BAGHERI updates on membership of Comité des partenaires: School Principal, CECRÉA Rep, Student Rep, Parent Rep, Early Childhood Rep, Ancillary Staff Rep.
- b. Roja says Comité met 4 times since SEP.2023.
- c. Comité wants to update School Plan (“Projet éducatif”) as mandated by CSF, as well as improve (1) literacy and (2) well-being, as well as sense of belonging.
- d. For literacy, Comité wishes for 1st Nations School worker Mme Monique GIARD to teach basic 1st Nations language skills in each class. Comité also wishes also to start Francophone Music lounge for High School students during lunch time, as students reporting that there is no place for High Schoolers to hang out during lunch.
- e. For well-being and sense of belonging, Comité is brainstorming on potential for High School run francophone podcast or school journal. Survey to High Schoolers about interest. Comité is also wondering about offering workshops for students during Pro-D day. Workshops could be run by volunteer parents. Survey to be sent to High Schoolers about interest.
- f. Monica tanks Roja and Comité for their work. Monica says that school results on provincial Grade 4 and 7 standardized test results show our school has consistently demonstrated strength in literacy compared to province as a whole, and compared to CSF.

12. No Nuts/Peanuts Policy.

- a. Julie DÉZIEL reminds us of Marta TOESEV’s thoughts shared at last meeting about the possibility of allowing students grade 4 and up to bring allergens to school, as they are potentially more mature and could be trusted to monitor their own exposure. Julie wishes to open this topic for discussion amongst members.
- b. Leah BLASSET says that she has a child with severe allergies, and that nut and peanuts allergens can be airborne, or be triggered by peers touching the allergic child after themselves having touched an allergen. Leah also shares that allergic kids experience anxiety about the potential for reactions. Leah acknowledges that their older son is at Jules-Verne High School where the school does allow nuts.

Emmanuel BLASSET says that his 10 years old is relatively mature but has experienced allergic reactions at public playgrounds possibly from allergens left on play equipment by peers. Emmanuel is grateful that his child has not experienced allergic reactions in school. Emmanuel wishes for school to remain a safe environment. Emmanuel says that up to 3% of allergic patients may be vulnerable to airborne allergens.

- c. Julie asks Leah to clarify what she means by “airborne”. Leah says that different patients may experience different reactions from the same exposure.
- d. Monica MARTIN says that coincidentally today a high school student was administered epinephrine in school and was sent to the ER.
- e. Caroline LOUI-YING wishes to have nuts in school as her child is selective in their eating and does eat nuts. Caroline points that, in her view, shellfish are not restricted the same way, yet can trigger severe reactions as well. Caroline says that airborne allergens do not trigger life-threatening reactions, only ingested allergens do.
- f. Sarah McCURDY works for NVSD and says that they restrict nuts and shellfish class by class, rather than in school as a whole.
- g. Marta says that nuts are healthy foods for non-allergic children. Marta suggests that a committee should be formed that includes parents of allergic children to have a discussion that is respectful of people’s legitimate worries.
- h. Alex DAVIS shares about his own experience of allergic reactions as a child. Alex acknowledges that there is an age at which older children gradually should become responsible for avoiding allergens. Alex says that there are now effective treatments to eradicate allergies.
- i. Francois PROULX reminds members that there may be medically required individual accommodations to any school wide policy, and members may not be privy to such private information.
- j. Monica MARTIN is open to hear from parent sub committee members.
- k. Julie invites interested parents to communicate with one another. Marta invites Leah to meet, and wonders about a broader discussion about healthy foods in school.

13. Schoolyard Reno Project Update.

- a. Marta TOESEV says that Committee met a few weeks ago and acknowledged that members want to see some progress on project. Marta says that consultants will be asked to price out project by MAR.2024. Marta says Committee is still looking at volunteers to write grants.
- b. Melissa POWELL suggests asking for volunteers on ÉAP Parents Facebook group. Marta will prepare an update to be posted on Facebook group and to be emailed to parents.

14. Treasurer Update.

- a. Julie DÉZIEL clarifies that it was moved at JAN.2024 meeting to allocate \$454 for basketball nets from Parent & Teacher Project line 22, and that Piano is to be funded from profits from After-School activities.
- b. Lily WU updates us on expenses made so far this year. Many teachers have yet to use their Division allocated amount (Line 2). Annick VACHON reminds us that each teacher should forward their receipts for reimbursement by 31.MAY.2024.
- c. Lily wonders about who is going to expend Emergency Preparedness funds (Line 3) as Mme Renée BÉLANGER is on leave. Lily suggests that someone else may need to take the lead.
- d. Lily confirms that funds are still reserved for Brackendale.
- e. Lily says that funds allocated to Library Teacher project have yet to be expended.
- f. Julie asks for confirmation that Théâtre La Seizième will be coming to school, which Monica MARTIN provided.
- g. Annick says that BC Gaming Grant Money can be used for grade 3 Brackendale trip. Annick says that funded activity has to benefit more than one class.
- h. Lily updates on profits generated by various fundraising activities and afterschool activities. Lily reminds us that all profits generated from afterschool activities are to be dedicated to schoolyard reno project.

15. Varia.

- a. Nathalie CHALOIN updates that sand for schoolyard sandbox purchased with Run profits. Nathalie invites members to donate good quality used sandbox toys.
- b. Sarah MARSHALL asks clarifications about keyboard purchase, which is to be used afterschool private lessons, and about basketball hoops purchase proposed by High School students. Melissa POWELL provided clarifications.

16. The meeting was adjourned at 21:48 by Melissa POWELL.

François PROULX,
Secretary