

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

General Meeting

*held online via MS Teams
Wednesday November 22nd, 2023, 8:00 PM*

MINUTES (Draft)

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE :

Melissa POWELL, President
Julie DEZIEL, President
Tim ROBERTS, Vice-President
Lily WU, Treasurer
François PROULX, Secretary
Julien HÉNON, Director
Annick VACHON, Director
Ginette MILLS, Director
Nathalie CHALOIN, Director
Genevieve NOËL, CECRÉA Rep
Aurelia MERADOU
Katherine HUME
Magali LARIVIÈRE (Teacher Rep and Parent Member)
Mathieu LÉGARÉ
Roja BAGHERI
Marta TOESEV
« Tim and Rhys”
“Mary »

GUESTS :

Monica MARTIN, Principal
Valentine BARETTA, Student Rep
Annelise DeBONNIÈRES, Afterschool Theatre Project Rep

1. Meeting called to order at 8:05 PM.
2. First Nations Land acknowledgement was done by Melissa POWELL.

3. **Agenda adopted as modified**, Nathalie CHALOIN proposes, Julie DÉZIEL seconds.
4. **October 18th 2023 General Meeting Minutes adopted as is**, Nathalie CHALOIN proposes, Magali LARIVIÈRE seconds.
5. Update from Student Rep.
 - a. Valentine BARETTA speaks of organizing a Spirit Week, celebrating High School birthdays.
 - b. She says High Schoolers would like sitting area part of school reno project, with table and/or benches.
6. Updates from Presidents.
 - a. Julie DÉZIEL gives update on recent Wine and Cheese event. It was a success. Feedback received still being reviewed.
 - b. Julie reminds people about Jingle & Mingle Holidays event. There will also be a Book Fair for the kids.
 - c. There is an online Christmas Market to be launched via Munch-A-Lunch later this week per Melissa POWELL, there will also be links in emails for products that can be purchased outside of Munch A Lunch.
 - d. Julie invites parents with ideas for other events to come forward.
 - e. After-School activities registration will start this coming week of November 29th, activities for adults will take registration in January 2024.
 - f. Julie reminds parents of older kids grade 6 and up who are available for babysitting to come forward so that a list can be shared with parents who may be interested in hiring them.
7. Update from School Principal.
 - a. Monica MARTIN says School Report Cards to be available online only, on MyEducationBC, on December 08th.
 - b. The following two days will be early departure days, and time will be set aside for Parent Teacher Meetings.
 - c. Monica suggests to parents who may already have concerns to approach teachers about scheduling a separate meeting on some other day, because time available on main Parent Teacher Meeting days will be short.
 - d. There will be a Chess Tournament at Jules-Verne next week. 36 grade 4 to 9 students participating.
 - e. Youth Care Worker starting this coming week working with First Nations Students. This new worker was initially approached by

parent: Monica appreciative of parents help with recruitment. This was the last unfilled position at school for this school year.

- f. There was a meeting with Grade 12 parents recently to plan graduation celebrations.
- g. There may be an end of the year Grade 12 trip: CSF allowing school trips gain, CSF France exchange trip may not be best option because of conflict with IB exam, other options being explored with other CSF schools.
 - i. François PROULX asks about trips for other levels. Monica says maybe grade 8 leadership camp will start again this Spring.
- h. Monica reminds parents that Kindergarden registration is approaching. Pre-Kindergarden programme available for interested families in January.
 - i. Marta TOESEV asks if registration process still the same for kids currently registered with Trottin preschool. Monica says that Trottin children must still register, as school and Trottin are separate entities.
 - ii. Julie DÉZIEL asks how many students are enrolled. Monica says we have 459 students, plus one potential student who had left for high school and now wants to come back.

8. Update from Teachers Rep and Librarian-Teacher Proposal items combined re. no other Teacher Rep in attendance.

- a. Magali LARIVIÈRE says she taught grades 1 to 3 about self-identity, which went quite well. Themes of language as part of one's identity were raised, a First Nations themed book was also read.
- b. Magali has gotten students to draft wishlists for library books, and is also gathering books on identity and self-respect.
- c. Magali is setting up a Book Fair. Scholastic is main partner. There will be info in the school newsletter. This will be held December 13th, 14th and 15th lunch time, but she would need parent volunteers to come forward so she can also hold it 1400 to 1800 on Thursday and Friday December 14th and 15th. Magali wonders is she could use SignUp to recruit volunteer. Julie DÉZIEL clarifies that teacher would need to create own SignUp account.
- d. Magali is still planning on using MakerSpace for projects, Book Club with 4th and 5th graders, Robotic project. Magali plans to focus her work with different grades each month.
 - i. Nathalie CHALOIN is asking if Magali would like to invite a local French 2nd hand bookseller at Book Fair.

9. After-School Drama Workshop Proposal.

- a. Annelise DeBONNIÈRES is leading project, 11 students participating, play to be presented December 11th, and wonders if school would be interested in watching play Thursday December 07th.
- b. Annelise wishes for money to pay fee of students in need, and to pay royalties to use play.
 - i. Julie DÉZIEL wonders about what specific amount is needed. Annelise says 3 participants have not been able to pay. Annelise says she charges \$15 per student per individual 1h45 lesson, and there were 9 lessons this semester, there will be more weekly lessons next semester, which will run January to June.
 - ii. Annelise thought that she could only register grade 6 and up due to school policy about not releasing younger students to non-parents at the end of the school day. Nathalie CHALOIN says this is not the case, and that younger students could participate. Annelise says Grade 2 and up could then participate, but there would have to be separate groups according to age groups.
 - iii. Julie invites Annelise to contact her if she wants to have her registrations merged into the same process as other afterschool activities.
 - iv. Annelise has heard of a Quebec government programme paying for royalties when schools put up plays. Lily WU wonders if "Pass ART" grant programme could help, and she is to meet with this programme, and can follow up with Annelise afterwards. Annelise to forward info to Lily about the Quebec programme. Monica says only one Pass ART grant awarded per school, and school may wish to use it to bring a play to school, for example.
 - v. Melissa POWELL asks what is the fee for royalties. Annelise says it was \$39 for the text, and \$60 per show. Melissa suggests including royalty fees in future registration price.
 - vi. Francois PROULX asks Annelise whether a global PAC subsidy to lower price for all participants would help families in need. Annelise thinks a modest price decrease across the board from such a grant would not help those particular families be able to participate. Francois asks what is the global amount being asked tonight. Lily suggests that we award a fixed amount, and that instructor will do what they can with that amount. Annelise suggests \$100.

- vii. Francois wonders if PAC subsidizes other after school activities, Julie says no. Francois wonders about equity towards families in needs and facilitators of other after school projects. Julie and Nathalie suggest increasing price next semester to cover all expenses and fees of students in need.
- viii. Annelise says she will need costumes, Monica MARTIN says some are available in school, and Annelise can use those.
- ix. Nathalie asks if school can subsidize After School activities for families in need. Monica says school will help families in need for school or class activities and outings, but for after school activities.

→ Julie proposes that **\$100 be awarded to Projet Théâtre from Student Clubs**, François seconds.

10. Update from CECRÉA.

CECRÉA representative called, but not in attendance at this time.

11. Schoolyard Reno Project Update.

- a. Marta TOESEV updates, on behalf of Schoolyard Reno Project Committee that discussions were held with CSF's Board Member Jacques Dufresne.
- b. Group is working on Project Charter.
- c. Some ambiguity about what is needed for project to meet Truth & Reconciliation requirement from CSF. CECRÉA consulted for input about Truth & Reconciliation.
- d. Different options still being considered: bigger sports court, with or without artificial turf, some parents have questions about health and environmental impact of different options. Considerations heard include a desire for natural space, but also for a bigger sport area, as requested by teachers.
- e. Marta wishes to consult with landscape architects about blending the two options into a hybrid. Marta got quote for costing analysis, which would need us to provide them with clear directions about what we want. Quote was for \$5,500. Price would be less if there were less options being considered.
- f. Monica MARTIN says CSF interim operations manager coming to school tomorrow to look at grounds and at existing plans, Monica says PAC attendance not required at this point. Tim ROBERTS wishes for a meeting between him and Marta and this manager. Monica invites Tim to send questions for CSF to her.

- g. Monica says she asked for framework from CSF, whereas CSF takes position of waiting for a proposal to be submitted.
- h. Annick VACHON clarified that expenses higher than \$2,000 must be voted over two different meetings. Annick VACHON says that, to help with efficiency, in the past, a large amount was voted at once each year to then be spent at discretion Reno Project committee.

→ Melissa POWELL **proposes to allocate \$10,000 on Reno Project expenses for this year, from existing Reno Project account.** Tim seconds. This will have to be submitted again in January 2024 for approval, before any money can be spent.

- i. Marta asks for volunteers to take over fundraising initiatives, grant seeking. An email could be sent to the community. Tim supports splitting fundraising from delivery team, but cautions about getting too deep into detailed grant options until project is more defined.
- j. Melissa and Annick VACHON remind us about requirements from Capital Projects grants from Gaming Fund. Tim asks about cap on this particular grant, and Annick suggests we may get more than one grant by doing project in phases, but there is a cap of \$250,000.
- k. Marta also asks for volunteers with skills and knowledge in e.g. environmental sciences to inform community about potential health impacts of proposition.

12. Outdoor Toys Purchase Proposal.

- a. Nathalie CHALOIN says teachers and EAs feel there is a need for outdoor toys and structures such as balls and benches. Nathalie says it would be good for Reno project if current students could see concrete improvements this year.
- b. Marta TOESEV says it was promised that something would be delivered last year, but nothing came, so she supports this. She mentions wooden structure for little kids, benches and tables for high schoolers.
- c. Julie DÉZIEL says it was challenging to pursue Gaga Ball idea last year.

→ Nathalie **proposes that \$3,200 from Schoolyard Reno Project be allocated on outdoor toys and structures such as balls and benches, at discretion of school principal.** Marta seconds.

13. The meeting was adjourned at 9:45PM.

François PROULX,
Secretary.