

St. Patrick Governing Board Annual Report 2015-2016

The Saint-Patrick Elementary School Governing Board (GB) was quite busy for the 2015-2016 school year. Every year, GB has several consultations to reflect on and reply to, as well as school budgets, school board budgets, and policy revisions. In addition, following its launch in spring 2015, the Major School Change closed this year, as well as the new Strategic Plan which will be brought to school boards for implementation in 2016-2017.

Membership:

The 2015-2016 GB members included:

Voting Members -

Mike Besner, Parent Representative, Second Year of Two year term, chair 20152016;
Niru Bholá, Teacher Representative
Marc Blanchard, Parent Representative, Second year of two year term;
Carol McRae, Teacher Representative
Dave Patterson, Teacher Representative
Lori Pompeo, Staff Representative
Tom Samolis, Parent Representative, First year of two year term, Region 1 representative, CPC representative for Region 1, vice-chair of CPC;
Jennifer Taylor, Parent Representative, First year of two year term;
Veronica Ticknor, Parent Representative, Second year of two year term; and
Mary Vassiliakis, Daycare Representative

Non-voting members -

Wayne Clifford, Commissioner;
Michael Rabinovitch, Principal, ex-officio; and
(empty), Community Representative

Meeting Dates:

The governing board was formed at the school's annual general meeting on September 10th, 2015. Subsequent governing board meetings were on the following dates:

September 10
October 6
November 3
December 1
February 2
March 8
April 5
May 3
June 7

Consultations:

As in years past, the GB was responsible for either submitting a brief or providing feedback for numerous consultations for the school board. The regular process for the consultations includes a consultation launch, followed by discussion at a GB meeting. Then, either a brief would be written and submitted to the appropriate person at the school board, or feedback would be sent to the Region meeting, and then CPC, via the parent representative. Our representative again this year was Tom Samolis. Likewise, certain issues would be brought to our GB table from Regions and CPC.

Lester B. Pearson Budget
Enrollment Criteria
Principal Criteria
Three Year Plan of Allocation
Governing Board Composition
The Major School Change (implementation will be in fall 2016)
Strategic Plan

In May, the GB requested, and was approved, for an additional parent representative as the school population is set to increase in the coming years. St. Pat's currently has five parent representatives. Next year, there will be six parent representatives, as well as six members of the school staff (teachers, support staff, and one daycare representative). We have also been approved for a second community representative.

For the 2016-2017 school year we need to elect 5 parent representatives for the governing board. Three of the newly elected members will serve their normal two year terms. One elected member will be the newly approved parent representative and will serve a one year term. The last parent representative to be elected on September 8th will be a replacement for a parent representative who cannot complete their two year mandate for work related reasons. This will also be a one year term.

Hopefully for the 2017-2018 school year we will be back on track to vote three parent representatives for two year terms.

Financial Reports:

At the January meeting, the GB approved the final financial and daycare reports submitted by the principal, M. Rabinovitch for 2014-2015. At that time, 2015-2016 proposed budgets were also submitted. The 2015-2016 reports were then approved at the June meeting.

This year at the St. Pat's daycare we had a two tiered system for pedagogical days. Parents generally had the choice between an outing and stay at school ped day. If parents chose the outing, they were responsible to cover the full cost of the outing; in-school days were generally \$10 per child, unless a special event was planned such as bringing in an outside group. For most of the ped days, the daycare had sufficient students in both groups to run in and out of school activities. It did occur on one occasion that it was not possible to offer in school daycare as there were simply not enough demand from parents.

GB again approved a small increase in the lunch program for students who are not part of the daycare program. We also saw a small increase in 2014-2015. Both years the increase was an attempt to bring us closer to the board average, assuming the other schools are also not raising

their lunch time monitoring fees. Despite the increase, the lunch program still runs a deficit which is offset by the students who use daycare. (Daycare parents do not pay separate lunch time and before/after school fees. The fee structure is set up on a per day basis.)

Meetings:

Meetings were held the first Tuesday of the month at 7:00pm. All members of the community were invited to attend, although except for a few meetings when the Major School Change response was being drafted, attendance was generally GB members and one or two parents.

In going over the Annual Report for 2014-2015, it was mentioned that GB was concerned about the escalation of prices for different activities that exceeded the rate of inflation. This year's boycott on extracurricular activities as teacher's negotiated a new collective agreement did result in no field trips for the first half of the year. Once a settlement was approved, the St. Pat's teachers immediately went to work in getting students to enjoy the joy of the words "Field Trip". There were a couple events which GB thought were expensive, but after discussion were approved.

In last year's annual report, it was mentioned that the preferred method of approving field trips was to be done at the meetings, to allow for proper discussion. This year, there were far less email requests for field trip approvals, although that could be because for the first half of the year there were no field trips to approve. This should be monitored moving forward to ensure that meetings are the primary approval mechanism.

Drop-off/Pick up Safety

Drop-off safety is something which has been brought back several times at the GB table. The area from the corner of Shamrock and Bayview to Maple and Bayview is proving to be very congested between 7:48am and 7:55am (and sometimes even a little later). At this time, the part of the road on Bayview between Shamrock and Maple is a drop-off zone only all times, including after school. The GB has been working with the city in trying to find a solution for this, as some people have been ticketed for leaving their car when parked in the drop-off zone. How can you let your children out of a child-lock back door if you don't get out of the car? This will be monitored as the school population increases.

What's Ahead?

The school board is drafting its strategic plan. By January 2017 St. Patrick's will be expected to use the school board plan and draft its own plans which reflects the realities locally. After the Major School Change new catchment zones have been added to the school. This will lead to an increase in the number of students in the school. Initial estimates are for up to 100 new students in the fall of 2016, including five (5) kindergarten classes. Next year GB will continue to have the numerous consultations we see every year, plus there will be revisions of some outdated policies now that the Major School Change consultation is done.

Several years ago the Lester B. Pearson School Board began doing testing for Radon at its schools. The levels at St. Pat's were very slightly elevated, but still well within the acceptable norms. At the time it was partially attributed to a part of the sub-basement where the school simply stands on pillars. A negative pressure system was installed and seemed to take care of the elevated Radon levels. A follow up to ensure the safety of our children should be done to confirm the levels are safe.

Acknowledgments

The Governing Board would like to recognize the amazing efforts of the entire Home and School Team.

Thank you to our wonderful staff and personnel. You are an amazing team of professionals. Special thanks to our Ms. Pompeo, her wealth of knowledge and expertise are truly indispensable for the day to day success of our school and our Governing Board.

To our wonderful parent volunteers, your presence, on-going support, and excellent efforts continue to make St. Pat's a flourishing collaborative learning institution. We are very fortunate to have such a dedicated parent body in our community.

Thank you to Mr. Rabinovitch, our Principal, Commissioner, Mr. Wayne Clifford and all members of the St. Pat's Governing Board 2015-2016. Your knowledge, opinions, time and respect were most appreciated and were instrumental in creating a positive atmosphere in which to govern our school and provide our students with a safe, motivating and enriching learning environment.

Adopted by the Saint-Patrick Elementary School Governing Board this seventh day of June, 2016.

Respectfully Submitted,
Mike Besner