

St. Patrick Elementary - Governing Board

Annual Report 2016-2017

As ever the St. Patrick Elementary Governing Board have been busy and hard at work during the school year of 2016-2017, reviewing and responding to Consultations from the Board, as well as school initiatives and budgets. This year with the introduction of Bill 105 there are exciting things for the School, the Board and the Governing Board ahead.

Membership:

Due to an increase in seats voted in the previous year, and unavailability of a member in the middle of a term, members this year were staggered between 2 and 1 year terms. This coming year all members should be back on to 2 year terms.

The 2016-2017 Governing Board membership included,

Voting Members.

John Bateman, Parent Representative, first year of a 1yr term.

Marc Blanchard, Parent Representative, first year of a 2 year term.

Ryan Getty, Parent Representative, first year of a 2 year term.

Anne Lanteigne, Parent Representative, first year of a 1 year term.

Donnalynn Rainey, Parent Representative, first year of a 2 year term, Chair 2016-2017, Elementary West representative, Parent Committee representative.

Jennifer Taylor, Parent Representative, second year of a 2 year term, Vice Chair 2016-2017.

Niru Bhola, Teacher representative.

Nancy Leblanc, Teacher representative.

Carol McCrae, Teacher representative.

David Patterson, Teacher representative.

Lorrie Pompeo, Staff Representative.

Mary Vassilkas, Daycare Representative.

Non-Voting members.

Michael Rabinovitch, Principal, ex-officio

Wayne Clifford, Commissioner

Community Representative, (empty)

Meeting Dates:

The 2016-2017 Governing Board was formed at the annual AGA held at St Patrick Elementary on September 8th 2016. Subsequent meeting dates went as follows;

Nov 8th 2016

Nov 29th 2016

Feb 7th 2017

March 21st 2017

April 4th 2017

May 9th 2017

June 13th 2017

Meetings:

Traditionally the GB holds its meeting on the first Tuesday of the month. The 2016-2017 year however was plagued with difficulties, from ice rain to blizzards to flooding. This meant our meeting dates were often moved around, or in the case of January 2017 cancelled outright. However, we fulfilled our meeting criteria as per our internal rules and met the required amount of times.

Our meetings are always open to the public and this year we were well attended by regular interested parents and representatives of our Home and School.

Achievements:

Separate from School and Board consultations and requirements the GB of St. Pat's have been working hard. This year after years of talk with the City of Pincourt, meetings were held

between members of the GB, the school principal, and the City and school safety measures were put in place. We are very pleased and proud to have a crossing for our children and higher visibility with flashing lights. The safety of our students at pick up and drop off has always been a high priority for the GB and this year, along with the physical measures, the cooperation of parents in not blocking up dangerous junctions has increased and been greatly appreciated. It is noted that together we are providing a much safer passage for all our students. We will continue to look forward to new ways to keep our student body safe on the roads around our school.

We have worked hard this year on raising the visibility of the GB amongst parents, while many options were discussed, including the uses of social media, it was decided to record an end of year round up newsletter and distribute to parents via the school webpage. The newsletter on the whole was well received, with many parents unaware how much GB did for the school, however, as with all new things, we are on a learning curve and perhaps for the new incoming GB the visibility of the board could again be discussed.

Training sessions with the Board were attended by Donnalynn Rainey and Anne Lanteigne throughout the year and each member of the Board was provided with a Training Manual for reference through the year to keep us up to date.

This year, in line with the Education Act, the GB set its own Internal Rules for all members. This ensures that all members meet and understand the high standard expected when representing St. Patrick Elementary at the table. These rules are always open for improvement and change to meet the ever evolving heart of the school and to be certain we stay up to date.

Consultations:

Following other years, the GB is responsible for responding to Consultations from the School Board. Generally a Consultation is launched by the Board and comes to our table; we discuss its contents and determine if we need to respond. If we do then we work together to put forward our ideas and input then we send these back to the relevant contact. This year we split in to a sub-committee to work on our response to the Budget consultation for the school board and were able to put forward our ideas for school board spending. Consultations worked on this year included;

School Budgets

Daycare Budgets

LBPSB Budget response

Code of Conduct.

Code of Ethics

School Success Plan

Bill 105

The introduction of Bill 105 has brought with it some changes to Governing Boards. A main feature is the limit on email voting. Boards are only allowed to use an email vote in between meetings in an emergency situation or if students will miss opportunities without them.

Staff and parents on Governing Boards are now expected to be prepared in advance with issues and field trips that require votes so that they are brought to the table to be discussed and voted on. Last years' Governing Board at St. Patrick's had already raised this issue so we were aware and have been able to keep our email voting to a minimum and only when strictly necessary throughout the year.

Financial:

With school fees being approved by GB in May 2017 there came a small increase for most grades. For older grades this was due to extra workbooks, these workbooks are part of our overall school success plan, to keep our students on track with the plan and increase their learning.

Younger grades had an increase due to the removal of a work book from the school supplies list and added to the fees. While generally the adding of consumables is not allowed in fees under the education act, these workbooks are designed specifically for the school, and can therefore be added. The benefits to parents being that if the school buy in bulk, the savings can be passed on to them.

There is some concern amongst the board as to the collection of school fees and this will be discussed over the coming year.

GB approved school budgets as put forward by M. Rabinovitch and Daycare budgets as put forward by M. Vassilakis.

The year ahead:

The 2017-2018 year ahead for St. Patrick looks to be busy as ever. Bill 105 continues to change and evolve and bring new challenges to Boards.

The addition of substitute members is an exciting development. Each Board member will have a substitute position to compliment them. The substitute will only have voting rights in the

absence of a board member and they are not committed to attend every meeting. However their voice is entitled to be heard at the table and will add to the strength of St. Patrick's GB.

We intend to continue to participate actively in School Board Consultations and maintain our presence at the board level with our Parents Committee representative, and we look forward to the new personnel additions to the board for our Region.

We are especially looking forward to the changes at St. Patrick, mainly the addition of our new vice principal. We are all excited to work with her and look forward to the new dynamic.

Acknowledgments:

A school is never one body alone, the St. Patrick Governing Board needs and would like to recognise everybody that makes the smooth running of our school possible.

Thank you to our amazing Home and School who provide such a huge amount of support and love to our school. You are an inspiring team of parents and our school is so lucky to have you championing us.

Thank you to our Staff and personnel. Your love and respect for the students and professionalism for your work shines through. As a Governing Board we have been lucky to work with so many of you and we appreciate everything that you do for us.

Thank you to our Principal, Mr. Rabinovitch, your leadership and guidance keeps us together and constantly moves us forward. We are privileged to have such a diligent head to our team.

Thank you to our Commissioner, Wayne Clifford, for being there for St. Patrick, your knowledge and respect for your position has been so greatly appreciated through the year.

Thank you to the Governing Board of St. Patrick Elementary for 2016-2017. You stepped in to a position and you filled it with passion and commitment. You have been instrumental in keeping our students moving with educational and fun activities, your sense of duty and humour has provided a positive, fun and productive board for everybody this year and it has been a privilege to work with you.

Respectfully Submitted,

Donnalynn Rainey

GB Chair, St. Patrick Elementary 2016-2017

Adopted by St. Patrick GB on this date _____