

BEACON HILL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Governing Board Minutes

170 Alton, Beaconsfield

Wednesday, April 23rd, 2025 – 5:00PM

Attendance: Jennifer Dolik, Jim MacKinnon, Marcia Ploplis, Kim Policarpio, Natalie Maurice, Jessica Bedard, Marie France Cousineau, Katherine Malard, Marie Pierre Khouzam, Elizabeth Loeub, Jessica Bedard, Nathalie Mancini, Jeff Pyper, Jordan Lupovici, Betty & Jim MacKinnon

Regrets: Isabelle Belanger (Jessica filling in), Kim Policarpio

Territorial Land Acknowledgement

1. **Approval of Agenda** – Motioned by: Marie Pierre Khouzam
Seconded by: Jessica Bedard
2. **Approval of Minutes of the February 13th, 2025 meeting** –
Motioned by: Marcia Ploplis Seconded by: Marie Pierre Khouzam
3. **Public Question Period** – No public present.
4. **Reports:**

4.1 Principal / Staff

The office has been getting ready for next year. We currently have 275 students registered for next year. Class organization and groupings are still a work in progress.

The K4 and K5 will be holding an in-person orientation day on Tuesday, May 20th in the morning. We will have one session and divide the kindergarten students to spend an hour in Grade 1. While the students are with the teachers – Lynn, Jennifer and Natalie will meet with the parents in the library to fill out forms and answer questions from new parents.

Graduation for Grade 6 will be on Friday, June 13th. The ceremony will take place – in-person – with parents in the gym in the morning. We will then have lunch and the pool in the afternoon for the students.

Articulations for high school are beginning. We are preparing to meet and share information with the high schools about our Grade 6 students. The grade 6 teachers, as well as resource filled out forms that are sent to the receiving High Schools about the BH grade 6 students regarding academics and other pertinent information.

We also just finished our IEP School PDIG Grant and our Robotics in Math PDIG Grant. A total 7 teachers and I met for 6 full days to create an equitable intervention plan for our students who are on IEP plans that our integration aides may use when working with students. Our Robotics in Math PDIG involved creating bilingual plans that will help support teachers who teach math, while being able to incorporate robotics when teaching key concepts. This will truly help to solidify key concepts. We will also share our plans with the English School Board community in Quebec. They will be using our plan and suggestions moving forward to help the students. We are very proud of our accomplishments. We have already begun writing new grants for next year.

The extracurricular activities by Enfant et Compagnie have once again been a huge hit. The feedback from parents has been positive and the students really enjoy the classes. We will continue to work with them moving forward! As well, the extra funding has really helped our Home and School. Truly a win - win partnership.

We will be preparing for a junior and senior talent show in the coming weeks. It was such a huge success last year and the students have already been asking when the next one is.

Carnival week was a huge success. We had the coronation of the Royal Court, the Just Dance Contest, Crazy Tie Day, school wide Bingo in the gym, sledding, skating, the Grad 5 triathlon, Mt. Rigaud ski, students vs staff dodgeball and to conclude the week – movie and snacks in the gym.

All funds raised from the coronation of the Royal Court was donated to a local Breakfast program.

Black History Month was recognized with many creative art projects, classroom discussions, projects and a school wide assembly that was led by our Kindness Committee.

We also celebrated Kindness with activities animated by our Kindness committee. We once again had our “caught you being good” contest with three classes winning a TCBY treat! We ended the month with our Kindness virtue assembly.

All staff and students wore PINK for Pink Shirt Day. Once again, the Kindness Committee prepared presentations for all Grade levels regarding this very important day. Teachers recognized this day through activities and discussions in class.

The last grade fundraiser took place at Valentine’s - “Guess How Many in the Jar.” The grads raised over \$500.00.

Our March Virtue assembly was DETERMINATION. And what a good choice this was as we begin Term 3! We got this!

The Grade 6 students had a wonderful time at the Tchoukball Tournament on the March PED Day.

Lots of Green and maybe a leprechaun for St. Patrick’s Day – lots of Irish spirit was had by all!

And to kick off April – April Fools! This one was the best one that I have seen yet at BH! Toothpaste filled OREOs, the 4/5 class standing outside waiting for Google Earth to fly by, upside down desks and so much more! I think this has now become a tradition that we will continue to enjoy each year.

Evaluations for the senior grades will begin soon, as well as year-end field trips, picnics, senior music show and making more great memories.

4.2 Parent Representative

Parents Committee meeting - April 17th, 2025

1. Call to Order with Land Acknowledgement
2. Word from the Chair

- . Reminder that the third term is worth 60% of the year. Use Alloprof to help students.
- 2. Approval of the Agenda: Motioned by: Marie Pierre Khouzam
Seconded by: Jessica Bedard
- 3. Approval of the Minutes (February 2024) Motioned by: Marcia Ploplis
Seconded by: Marie Pierre Khouzam
- 4. Correspondence
 - . Dorset governing board: concern that library is only open for 2.5 hours per week.
 - . Discussed at council of commissioners
 - . Letter can be found online
- 2. Business Arising
 - . Internal rules sub-committee met and has new rules
- 0. Questions from the Public
 - . Following appointment of new Commissioner for well-being and rights of children, is the English community aware of their role and responsibilities? French press has more information than English press.
- 0. New Business

8.1 Library Access and Parent Volunteers

-before COVID, parent volunteers were common in elementary school libraries. Now there is less volunteering. Governing boards can vote to allow parent volunteers in the library, provided parents have a police check and agree to the code of conduct.

-can't replace a unionized position. Idea is to add to the hours of the librarian, not to replace her.

-St. Edmund rep: librarian is there one day and parent volunteers are there one day so only half of the students benefit from the librarian's expertise.

-St. John Fisher rep: Could parent volunteers give the government an excuse to remove funding?

-Can money come from anywhere else? Can Home and School money be used for books?

-Veronique Marin: government measure only covers a part of the librarian's salary and school

board is increasing. Some schools are supplementing the hours of the librarian to allow a full

day. Other schools make a different choice for that money.

8.2 Bill 94 Review And Discussion For EPCA's Brief On Bill 94

-Concern about support staff, teachers and volunteers having to avoid all religious symbols /

head coverings.

-Concern about teachers being evaluated yearly and submit lesson plans.

-English school boards also providing a brief to the government against the bill.

-Logistics of implementing this bill?

-See provided summary of this bill after the minutes of the meeting.

8.3 Discussion On Appropriate Response To Government Bills

-Should school board funds be used for court cases? Not a good use of the money.

-letter to be sent to the board asking that the Parents committee and governing boards be consulted before the board decides to spend any money to fund court cases against proposed bills.

-unanimously approved.

-Other groups can fundraise to fund court cases.

-There are other ways to make our voices heard that are less expensive. Write to press, demonstrate, etc.

9. Reports

9.1. Administration

9.2. School Board Committees

- Transportation Advisory Committee
 - Transportation plan adopted for next year

- Communications Committee

-new website is up

- Facilities And Security: no report

- Intercultural Advisory:

- 2 meetings so far, another on May 5th
- opportunities for First nations presentations and educational programs
- blanket exercise with Council of commissioners and Parents Committee to be planned
- Programs And Services
 - new program for students with disabilities
 - also had discussion about library services
- Safe And Caring Schools
 - had first meeting
- goal for the year is to review the policy of safe and caring schools and make it shorter and more accessible to the community
- Green Committee
 - had first meeting: Green fair for school board is in planning stages
 - microforce: planting trees densely in a small area (can be done on school grounds)
- SNAC
 - presentation by Lighted Dream and movie by graduate of the board

9.3. External Committees

- P.E.F (Pearson Educational Foundation) : more members now, more initiatives
 - EPCA
- Link sent for meeting on Tuesday: get results of survey that was done about Quebec families (11 000 responses)
 - more responses than last year
 - Many workshops coming up by EPCA

10. Varia

- Budget cuts to mentorship programs (for new teachers)
- message from Vice Chair: bring your questions to the committee, to Doug (chair of EPCA)

11. Adjournment

Re: Bill 94 – An Act to Reinforce Laicity in the Education Network

Overview

Bill 94, introduced by the Minister of Education, Bernard Drainville, aims to reinforce laicity within the Quebec education system by amending the Education Act and the Act Respecting Private Education. The Bill sets out new obligations for schools, administration, school/centre staff, students, and all people volunteering or offering services in school to ensure compliance with state secularism and democratic values.

This Bill represents a significant shift in education policy and governance.

Key Provisions

1. Reinforcement of State Laicity in Schools

- o Statement: The public school system is explicitly founded on democratic and Québec values, including gender equality and state secularism.

- o Schools must ensure compliance with these values in all operations.

2. Face Uncovering Requirements

- o Students, parents of homeschooled children, and educational personnel must keep their faces uncovered on school premises and while receiving/providing educational services, with exceptions for health or disability reasons.

3. Religious Symbol Prohibition

- o Extends the ban on religious symbols to all school service center personnel and contractors, except those employed before the Bill's introduction.

4. Regulation of Religious Accommodations

- o Strict limits on accommodations for religious reasons, particularly regarding work absences and school attendance. This means that any staff members wishing to observe a religious holiday during a school day will be required to use from their eligible contractual days or request a non-remunerated day.

5. Conduct and Ethics Requirements

- o Governing board members, educational staff, and contractors must act in a manner free of religious influence.

- o Schools are prohibited from using facilities for religious practices.

o School service centers must adopt a Code of Ethics for governing boards.

6. Curriculum and Instructional Oversight

o Teachers must submit lesson plans for approval by the principal

o Principals must conduct annual teacher evaluations for all teachers.

o Creation of an Educational Services Quality Committee at the school board level

(composed of member from Educ Service, Complimentary Services, Human Ressources, former administrator and former teacher) to monitor instructional standards and provide required support to schools and school boards.

7. Ministerial Authority and Compliance

o The Minister gains powers to enforce compliance with laws and set exam schedules.

8. French Language Usage in Schools (Only applicable to CSS)

o Personnel in French-language school service centers must use French exclusively in communications with students and colleagues, except in cases of health or safety concerns.

8. Constitutional Override

Transition to High School Workshop

-This is the first of 8 workshops that will be offered this year by EPCA

-common feelings child may have about leaving elementary school:

-Fear of not making friends, getting lost, bullying, everything changing, work getting harder

-Feelings of parents: less supervision, losing control, bullying, getting lost, routine change, work getting done

How can we address these?

1. Inform yourself how to help

2. Normalize and validate children's feelings

3. Understand 12/13-year-old emotional and social milestones:

-rebellious streak

-family values questioned

-emotions

-fluctuating self-esteem

- concerned about physical development and appearance
- seek trust and acceptance from peers
- strive for independence but want adult approval
- see themselves as center of stage

Supporting your child's anxiety:

- be prepared for ups and downs
- Anxiety increase by ours: be mindful of body language, choice of words and tone
- choose neutrality (avoid judging - 'it is what it is').
- listen with your heart - what are the emotions and beliefs you hear?
- share and validate what you are hearing and ask for confirmation and clarification
- use high-expectation messages that demonstrate you have faith in your child to handle this new life experience.
- encourage your child to brainstorm with you ways to manage their stress and problems that arise. (instead of giving them the answer).

Support child in finding coping strategies:

- take deep breaths
 - ask for help
 - be mindful (verbalize what is going well in the present moment)
 - talk it out
 - problem-solve together or with someone you trust.
 - self-compassion
- Behaviours are the result of feelings and feelings result from the beliefs we hold about ourselves and others.
- encourage child to get curious about operating beliefs that may fuel emotions (recognize your beliefs)
- transform anxiety into excitement: find things to get excited about

-how to teach responsibility?

- offer independence
- offer motivation
- celebrate their efforts in becoming independent
- baby steps

-We don't want kids to fail but failing is only way to engage our brains in seeing new ways to succeed and teaches you resilience

-praise child's efforts on the journey to getting to their goal (not the destination). It's not just graduating that is important.

-Celebrate:

- overcoming frustration, self-regulation

- overcoming failure

- small wins

-How to help improve Motivation:

- set your own goals

- your child's values (from family, peers, society, school) will influence their motivation

- negative influence of peers, etc.

- more responsibilities increases motivation

- may not be internally motivated (rewards,etc)

- help child by helping break down overwhelming tasks into smaller steps.

- help students create a schedule

-How to help your child make new friends:

- join activities, sports,

- keep in touch with old friends

- talk about qualities of friends (good/ bad)

-teach kids about healthy boundaries and consent

-relationships with teachers:

-encourage good relationship with teachers: ask questions, say good morning, say when you are struggling

- can also ask by email

-asking for help: teach your child to advocate for themselves

-role-play with child to practice

-ask question privately if it just concerns you

-how to help with getting organized:

- 9 subjects so you need to keep them organized

- no loose papers

-where to sit: near the front, not near someone who is distracting

-ask teacher politely and privately if you want a change to your seating

-When your child is struggling academically:

-ask child: why do you think you are struggling? Is it the teacher, the room, the subject, distractions?

4.3 Home and School

Home and School GB Report-April 23rd, 2025

Catherine Fini

H&S membership: 41 members

Seeking APPROVAL –entrance fee for end of year carnival. Price between \$7-10 per CHILD (no charge for adults). This will include a dessert, beverage, access to carnival games provided by everblast (foam pit, hamster balls etc), DJ etc. Teacher raffle and dunk tank for an additional small charge of \$2 for dunk tank of raffle tickets 1 for \$5, 3 for \$10 or 10 for \$25.

Motioned by: Jessica Bedard

Seconded by: Jenn Dolik

SUMMARY OF FUNDRAISERS/EVENTS: RED added since the last meeting

Fundraisers since September 2024:

- Ongoing pizza lunches-Round 1 from September to January
- School supplies with Editions Vaudreuil
- Lovable Labels-ongoing online
- Enfant et compagnie-\$10 from every registration to H&S
- Mitchell's soup fundraiser
- Scholastic in person Book Fair-raised \$ towards staff resources (Scholastic fund)
- Super Recyclers-Nov 13th
- GRAD: Monthly TCBY-all funds to grad activities/yearbook/ceremony
- GRAD: Halloween candy guessing jar
- GRAD: metro bagging fundraiser for Xmas baskets and camping trip
- Ongoing pizza lunches-Round 2 from February to June
- Online donations towards STRAW: Staff-Teacher-Resource Appreciation Week
- GRAD Valentine candy guessing jar
- **Big Box of Cards in March.**

Thanks for our fundraising dollars, H&S has been able to help fund:

- Teacher wish list items granted- music instrument repairs, covered half of the cost of rentals for band, class prizes for gr 5/6
- Beacon Hill Boo Bash family event on Oct 25th
- Library/gym murals
- Terry Fox walk -popsicles and participation gift cards for every class
- Welcome back treats for staff
- Pumpkins purchased for the seniors, decorated by Mme. LaFrance's gr 5/6 students (Maxwell residence)
- Bagpiper in recognition of Remembrance Day-Graham Batty
- Garden commemorative plaque for Anne Mumme for her many years at Beacon Hill
- Updated plaque for Carolyn Waldo

- Name plates including classroom numbers for staff doors
- Retirement gifts for Martha (daycare tech) and Anne Mumme (outdoor Ed)

Grad:

- Grad sweatshirts paid for through grad budget
- Teacher Wish list-Sticker rewards for grade 5 classroom, obstacle course ropes for phys ed.
- Hot chocolate for all students, welches and juice for movie day, and classroom bingo prizes leading up to the holiday break
- Open House-H&S helped with décor, snacks, and take-home gift.
- STRAW (Staff-Teacher-Resource Appreciation Week-(wk of Feb 10th): Around the World theme week, includes annual luncheon provided and served by parent volunteers as well as other treats and surprises throughout the week.
- **Carnival week: H&S contributions include: Bingo prizes for a school-wide super bingo in the gym, juice, snacks, Wild Willy gift cards for the winners of the Just Dance competition.**
- **Dance crew tees for grade 5 and 6 students**
- **Teacher wish list: Obstacle course ropes for phys ed**
- **Teacher wish list: New cross country ski equipment**

Other ways that our H&S volunteers are involved:

- Distribution of Merenda hot lunch service every Wednesday and Thursday
- Distribution of pizza lunch every Friday
- New school clothing with Royal Blush-order online through H&S website
- Monthly staff treat trolley-baked goods and coffee provided by parents
- Library is back up and running thanks to many H&S volunteers
- H&S survey sent out to all families to gather feedback on communication and engagement within the school community
- Monthly H&S newsletters to keep families up to date on all things H&S
- QFHSA information disseminated to all H&S members
- Holiday Market for all students (3 days of shopping in the library) Dec 3-5th
- Homemade Holiday treats for all staff
- Delivery staff organized holiday baskets to families in need
- QFHSA books for Staff organized holiday baskets, and volunteers to deliver the baskets
- **Grad committee organized activities outside of the school, including I saute and bowling**
- **Volunteers and snacks during grad 4 vaccinations**

Coming up...

- New doors for bookcase in the resource room
- **2nd in person Scholastic book fair week of May 26th**
- **Super Recyclers Spring collection on May 30th**
- **June 5th-end of year Carnival**
- **Grad yearbook**

4.4 Daycare

The Beacon Hill SEED (lunch/daycare) program is running well! Our skating and sledding times at the park have ended but will soon be replaced with time every week at the park/tennis courts for each group to enjoy. We were able to purchase new WINTER toys/equipment for everyone to use during recess and lunch. We now have many shovels, blocks of different sizes, and cones. In April the daycare was also able to purchase new WARM weather outdoor equipment for everyone to use. Each grade has their own colour-coded bag,

with colour-coded equipment to match such as soccer balls, tennis balls, z-square balls, sidewalk chalk etc which the children have been enjoying. Our theme of Space/Final Frontier for March/April is ending, leading into Animals for the rest of the year. We are excited to head into spring with new extra-curricular activities, a special Cookie Painting kit activity for the whole daycare on April 16 with nut-free cookies from "A Piece of Cake Montreal", Earth-day themed activities, Cinco-de-mayo Fiesta (special nacho snacks), 2 more cooking weeks and many more days of fun outdoor/indoor activities.

Lunch

Activities and Clubs – new and last session of lunchtime activities started April 7 (knitting, chess, Pilo Polo), and clubs continue (Pokemon, chess, dance, karaoke, yoga, dance).

Hot lunches (Wednesdays, Thursdays) and **Pizza lunches** (Fridays) **continue**. Thank you to our Home and School volunteers for all of their organizational help!

Daycare

Activities and Clubs – Our new and last session of after-school activities started April 7 (Soccer, Cake Decorating, Basketball, Wellness and Creativity Studio and Cosom Hockey) as well as our Pokemon Club on Thursdays and we have added a Garden Club on Wednesdays.

Cooking - Cooking week continues with groups getting very creative baking cupcakes, cookies from scratch, waffles with fruit, and many more fun munchies. We have 2 cooking weeks left!

Ped Days

We had a successful Spectacular Space Adventure ped day on March 24 (makeup for the snow day), with 62 children enjoying animation with Animation Kidz.

April 28 – Dynamic Superhero Dressup Day will be a fun day of superpowers, dress-up and imaginative fun and games!

June 6 – Biodome Excursion

The Beacon Hill SEED (lunch/daycare) program is running well! We are enjoying our current theme of Pirates/Medieval times, which will become Space/Final Frontier for March/April. On January 24 our staff participated in workshops and CPR training. All our team is now up to date with CPR, and excited to utilize the acquired skills from the different workshops. We are grateful for the opportunity to continue our Professional Development.

Lunch

Activities and Clubs - Lunchtime is busy with activities (Science, knitting, chess, Pilo Polo), and clubs (Pokemon, chess, dance, karaoke, yoga, dance).

Hot lunches (Wednesdays, Thursdays) and **Pizza lunches** (Fridays) **continue**. Thank you to our Home and School volunteers for all their organizational help!

Daycare

Activities and Clubs - Our after-school activities are continuing, (soccer, DIY crafting, chess, cooking and Cosom hockey) as well as our Pokemon Club on Thursdays.

Cooking - Cooking week continues with groups getting very creative and making pastries, pirate islands out of veggies, pizza roll ups and a snake shaped fruit kebab in honour of the lunar New Year! Our next cooking week before the break will be February 10th – 14th.

Skating/Sledding Week – January 27 – 31 is our first skating/sledding week! All groups will enjoy the winter activities (on their scheduled day) followed by hot chocolate and marshmallows, (weather permitting).

4.5 Commissioner

5. Business Arising:

5.1 Field trips:

Site Archeologique Droulers
Grade 3
Wednesday, June 18th, 2025
School Bus
8:30 – 2:00
1:8
\$0

Motioned by Nathalie Mancini. Seconded by Elizabeth Loeub. All in favor.

Eco Museum
Grade 1
Monday, June 16, 2025
School Bus
9:00 – 2:00
\$0

Motioned by Katherine Malard. Seconded by Jessica Bedard. All in favor.

Hike and Bike
Grade 5
Tuesday, June 3rd, 2025
School Bus
9:00 – 4:00
\$30 - \$32

Motioned by Jordan Lupovici. Seconded by Jeff Pyper. All in favor.

Swimming
K4 – Grade 6
Friday, June 13th, Tuesday, June 17th and Thursday, June 19th
Walking
10:25 – 2:05 (depends on the child's scheduled time TBA)
\$7.00

Motioned by Jessica Bedard. Seconded by Marcia Ploplis. All in favor.

5.2 Fundraising:

Jump Rope for Heart.
Friday, May 16th at the school.
Pledge form link will be sent home and families can choose to participate.
Motioned by Jessica Bedard. Seconded by Nathalie Mancini. All in favor.

6. New Business:

6.1 School Supply Lists

Motioned by Jennifer Dolik. Seconded by Marie France Cousineau. All in favor.

6.2 Consumable Fees

Motioned by Marie Pierre Khouzam. Seconded by Elizabeth Loeub. All in favor.

6.3Calendar 2025-2026

Natalie to send correct version of calendar in the morning.

6.4Blanket Permission – Fundraising 2025-2026

Motioned by Elizabeth Loeub. Seconded by Katherine Malard.

6.5ABAV 2025-2026 and ABAV Evaluation 2024-2025

Motioned by Jeff Pyper. Seconded by Marie France Cousineau. All in favor.

6.6Annual Report – to Adopt

Motioned by Jordan Lupovici. Seconded by Jessica Bedard. All in favor

6.7School Colors

The one-year trial of removing school colors is ending. The Governing Board discussed whether to bring them back or continue with the status quo. While consulting the community was considered, the Board agreed they represent parent voices.

Only two concerns were reported last fall. Survey results showed students feel free to express themselves, and staff noted stronger student connections. No dress code issues have been reported.

A vote was held: 10 in favor, 2 against. The decision was made to continue without the red, white, and blue school colors.

7. Correspondence: There is no correspondence to share or report on.

8. Date and Times of Meetings: Our last Governing Board meeting will take place on Wednesday, May 28th, 2025.

9. Adjournment:

Motioned by Marcia Ploplis at **5:58**. Seconded by Jeff Pyper. All in favor.