



**John F. Kennedy High School
Governing Board
Minutes for meeting held on:
Nov 21st, 2017 at 7:00 PM
JFK Meeting Room**

PRESENT:

Parents: Ms. Carmie Lato ⁽¹⁾, Stephanie Beaumier ⁽¹⁾, Johnny Leoci ⁽²⁾, Joanna Peters ⁽²⁾

Administration: Mr. Otis Delaney (Principal), Mr. Vito Guerriero (Vice Principal)

Teachers/Staff: Ms. Nathalie Cloutier, Ms. Jennifer Olders, Ms. Maria Raskin, Mr. Gerry Tullio

Student Reps: M. Jessica Di Franco, Ms. Miranda Gallay

Commissioner: Mr. Agostino Cannavino

PPO: Ms. Alessandra Zanello, Ms. Sylvy Gomes

Community Rep: (none)

Public/Guests:

Regrets:

1. Adoption of the Agenda

The agenda was unanimously adopted as presented on a motion by N. Cloutier, seconded by J. Peters.

Welcome and thank you to Mr. Cannavino for his presence tonight.

2. Approval of the minutes

The Minutes were unanimously approved as written on a motion by S. Beaumier, seconded by J. Olders.

3. Business arising from the Minutes

- Election of Chair – vote resulted in a tie once again. Will be postponed to Dec meeting. C. Lato acting as interim Chair.
- Internal Rules – postponed to January meeting
- CPC Allocation – C. Lato remitted her allocation of \$267 to JFK to be used for student activities.

- Transportation (J. Leoci)
 - no response yet from STM (private option is expensive – approx \$50K/year)
 - gathered postal codes of students, proposal to STM for 2-3 potential lines, waiting to see what they can offer and at what cost
 - E. Alfonsi (Regional Director, East) has agreed to be part of the communications
 - Mr. Cannavino suggested to bring the issue to the EMSB Transportation Committee
 - G. Tullio observed that if bussing proposal comes through, school start time might have to be changed
 - N. Cloutier suggested we need to promote our program (ie: media) to help stimulate interest in students wanting to come to JFK (highlight what distinguishes us from what other schools are offering)
 - J. Olders suggested we reach out to Laval whose English schools are busting at the seams, especially for special needs and G. Tullio suggested we then also consider bussing from Laval
 - Some issues to be taken into account:
 - Adult center
 - adjoining French schools
 - pulling busses off rush hour to create line(s) – STM
 - will this be seen as “stealing” from other schools
 - consensus is that all schools should have a line, perhaps this will pave the way
 - could a carpooling program/schedule help?
 - J. Leoci will report progress at future meetings
 - A sub-committee comprising of J. Leoci, C. Lato, G. Tullio and V. Guerrierio was set-up to help move project along, moved by G. Tullio, seconded by J. Leoci and unanimously approved.

4. **New Business**

- MESA
 - Mr. Delaney reviewed JFK's MESA Report
 - Both the MESA and MESSR will be posted on website
 - Mandatory tutorials implemented for at-risk students
 - Saturday school will also be available this year – preps students before exams
 - History most difficult, Science: technology lab an asset
 - Need to change the “ok to fail” culture
 - Our WOTP program is one of the best in the province
 - Look further into the Accelerated Reading program
 - Study and note-taking skills need to be addressed
 - “Tell Them for Me” survey was not done this year
 - * survey exhaustion
 - * answers not always valid as students “joke around”
- International Program
 - * lack of English
 - * slows teaching
 - * hard to integrate
 - * cannot teach at higher level
 - * evaluation – how are students evaluated for the program?
 - *

It was motioned by C. Lato, seconded by J. Peters and unanimously resolved to adopt the MESA Report.

- Website
 - C. Lato wants GB more prominent and readily accessible
 - Copies of minutes need to be reposted (they are not the “final” copies, C. Lato will coordinate with O. Delaney)
 - Mr. Delaney reported that the website is being revamped, so we will address any residual issues once all has been completed

- Outreach to parents via emails
 - effort was made to harvest emails directly from parents during Meet the Staff evening but not all parents were on board
 - S. Beaumier suggested that many parents may be reluctant to give email because some schools bombard/abuse the emailing privilege
 - Mr. Delaney reported that they are looking into an app that is specifically for such communications, but it is expensive (approx. \$7000)
 - Will revisit the issue at a future meeting

- Homework debate –
 - C. Lato pointed out that there is currently much discussion in media in regards to the value of homework and suggested JFK be the pilot to model ourselves after the Finnish model, which is touted as the best in the world
 - After a healthy discussion, the consensus from staff and other parents is that it is not as simple as just stopping assigning homework – that it revolves around our educational and social systems and that many educational and societal factors need to change before we can adopt and implement anything similar to the Finnish model
 - A suggestion to perhaps, as a first step, for JFK to learn more about the Accelerated Learning program (amazing program overall, but especially for special needs) and look at the feasibility of implementing that

5. Principal's / Vice Principal's Report

- Hockey Program – Nov 17
 - * 30 Sec-I and Sec-IV (acting as mentors) were involved, great time on ice
 - * students received free equipment for the duration of this activity
 - * rented buses to facilitate getting to arena on time and as a group
 - * 2 more dates scheduled in December
 - * will consider outdoor arenas for the remainder of the year
- Mentor Program – Nov 29
 - * expecting about 40
- Book Fair (Scholastic) – running this week of November 20th
- Parent/Teacher Interviews – Nov 22 (3:30-5:30 and 7:00-9:30 p.m.) in the Cafeteria
- Beehive and Chicken Project
 - * following the successful beehive project, still on-going, JFK is now being considered for a “chicken project” whereby we will have chicken coops to tend
 - * will be located in the courtyard
 - * still waiting approval from Board
 - * harvested eggs, like the honey, will be sold
 - * WOTP / Aim High involved
- Website – being refreshed and revamped
- Grad Pics – Nov 23 (10:00 am – 2:00 pm)
- Teacher Convention – Nov 24
- Student Business Project
 - * internship, vet clinics, science etc.
 - * 2 of the participating students received awards for doing well at their jobs

- Toy Tea – Dec 6
 - * at the Ritz Carlton
 - * 2 students will be participating, along with Mr. Guerrierio
- Sun Youth – Dec 1
 - * Aim High + volunteers

The above activities were approved unanimously on a motion by J. Olders, seconded by N. Cloutier.

6. **Treasurer's Report** - \$250 new budget for 2017-18 +
\$411 carry-over from 2016-17
Total: \$661.00

Mr. Delaney suggested considering a scholarship at the end of this school year for unused funds. Everyone was in favour. We will revisit this in June and motion accordingly then.

7. **Teachers' Report**

- N. Cloutier reported that the Toronto / NYC trips were being organized – May 10-12
- Parent Teacher Interview – staff ready
- Schoology codes can be available for those parents who want
- Technology – need to use more
- Accelerated Learning Program – students are told ahead of time what will be addressed so that they may learn/study prior to the classroom time

8. **Students' Report**

- will be trying dress-down day on Mini-Day this month – the usual \$2

9. **PPO Report**

- served coffee and water at Open House – Nov 2nd
- thank you to J. Leoci for sponsoring coffee and water for the evening
- book fair sales satisfactory

10. **Delegate's Report** (CPC) --J. Leoci

- Bill 105 presented – long & monotonous, didn't learn much!
 - * document was distributed to all GB members prior to the meeting (Impacts of Bill 105 amending the Education Act)
 - * ministry has more power
 - * school boards viability
 - * if anyone has any questions, email J. Leoci
- Nice team spirit in the CPC's Executive Committee
 - * important issues will be tabled
 - * the next Executive Committee meeting – Nov 30th -- will be here at JFK

11. **Correspondence** - Principal Selection Criteria (B. Sellato – EMSB) – will be on Jan agenda

12. **Question Period** - nil

13. **Varia**

- Parent participation is low across the EMSB – this needs to change, we will take up this discussion at a future meeting

Adjournment – Meeting was adjourned at 9:50 p.m. on motion by N. Cloutier, seconded by J. Peters.
-- Next meeting: Dec 19, Holiday Social (Restaurant TBD, info will be emailed)

Chair

Principal