

**Annual General Assembly September 17, 2020, 6:00pm
Draft Minutes**

Attendance: Kelly Arfin-Gurevitch, Elan Gurevitch, Mr. Rabinovitch, Alaina Charszan, Mark Kashetsky, Adam Novek, Gamoon Lau, Kristina Alvarez, Steve Geffen, Sherri Rabinovitch, Caralee Salomon, Darryl Levine, Lana Geller, Erica Bishin, MA Davoli, Phil Pinsky, Lauren Katz, Sara Chiasson, Corey Szwarcok, Elisa Laxer, Jo-Anna Posner, Kenny Mandel, Amir Eid, Heidi Oppen, Matthew Gorelik, Irina Nedelcu, Vito D'Ana, Cassandra Blue, Matthew Reinblatt, Steve Grinevitch, Elena Grinevitch, Liam Hang, Corrine Montagna, Stacey Liberman, Julia Stein, Karl Griffin, Anastasia Wilhelm, Cindy Litwin, Kellie Goldfield, Randy Levitt, Steven Small, Saima Mughal, Andrew Shotton, Ian Skolnick, David Miller

1. Opening and Welcomes

- 1.1. Meeting called to order at 6:05 pm by Alaina Charszan.
Introduction of Principal Michael Rabinovitch, Vice Principal Kathryn Byrne, and our commissioner Craig Berger.
- 1.2. Thank you to parents for coming to the meeting.
- 1.3. As this AGA is being held virtually, there are 2 types of voting, by show of hands and through *Atleon*. Mark Kashetsky will be communicating with *Atleon* for this meeting and the voting.
- 1.4. All parents asked to please change their names on zoom to indicate if one or both parents are present, and to indicate their full name.
- 1.5. All parents asked to please activate their camera.
- 1.6. It is mentioned where the raise hand option is for participants.
- 1.7. It is mentioned that all messages in the chat box will only be sent to the hosts.

2. Naming of Secretary:

- 2.1. Kelly Arfin-Gurevitch is named as secretary with thanks for accepting the role repeatedly.

3. Approval of Agenda

- 3.1. Agenda is shared on screen and read through briefly.
It is stated that a vote to approve is assumed unless hands are raised to oppose or abstain.
- 3.2. Motion to approve AGA agenda: Gamoon Lau
All in favor, none opposed, no abstentions – motion carries

4. Approval of Minutes from AGA September

- 4.1. Minutes were sent by email.
- 4.2. Request for any corrections to the minutes – none.
- 4.3. Motion to approve AGA 2019 minutes: MA Davoli
All in favor, none opposed, no abstentions – motion carries

5. Adoption of the online election procedure:

With the AGA being held virtually this year, the LBPSB contracted the organization Atleon to manage the election of parent representatives and substitutes to the governing board, as well as the election of the Parents' Committee delegate and alternate delegate. In order to vote for your representatives, you have to register your attendance with Atleon and they will send you your unique credentials for voting at the appropriate time. For anyone who had not previously registered, send an email immediately to westparkaga@gmail.com and include your full name, your email address, and the name and grade of at least one of your children at Westpark. Everyone is advised to keep an eye on both their inbox and junk folders for an email from Innovision, titled eVooX-Online voting.

Motion to approve online voting with Atleon for the 2020 AGA: Phil Pinsky
All in favor, none opposed, no abstentions – voting procedure adopted

6. Governing Board

6.1. Roles and functions of the GB

The Westpark Governing Board is a body of individuals, made up of 9 parents, 7 teachers, 1 member of the support staff, our daycare coordinator, and 2 community representatives, who play an important role in the decision-making and consultative process of the school. Members of the GB represent their peer group and work collaboratively to deal with collective issues rather than individual ones. The GB meets approximately once per month and members commit to participate actively in discussions and to be well informed before making decisions. The GB has the responsibility to ensure that all decisions are made in the best interest of the students.

To be approved at the Westpark Governing Board Annual General Assembly, September 13, 2021

6.2. Introduction of current members

The 5 parents beginning the second year of their 2-year term: Stacey Knecht, Kelly Arfin, Mark Kashetsky, Steven Small, and Alaina Charszan.

A heartfelt thank you goes to the 4 parents who are completing their 2- year term tonight: D'vorah Bowen, Sherri Rabinovitch, Michelle Sternszuz, and Kenny Mandel.

The staff who served on the GB for the 2019/2020 school year were: Mary Lawrence, Margaret Gogoris, Pina Garritano, Julia Carosielli, Lisa Peress, Steven Santella, Christine Donald, Lesley Banks, and Kiara lafano who was replaced by Chelsea Bayer in January.

Many thanks to all of you for your time.

To our community members, MA Davoli and Tara Sadeh, and to our commissioner, Craig Berger, we extend our gratitude to you for your dedication.

Thank you so much to our secretary, Sara Chiasson, who really rose to the occasion, as well as to Kelly & Michelle who pitched in with the minutes on a couple of occasions.

To our Administrative team, Mrs. Nathia Messina and Mrs. Kathryn Byrne, many thanks for your commitment to Westpark School.

6.3. Presentation of Annual Report

The annual report was sent out to the Westpark community by ERMS and in the interest of time, it is not read through in its entirety tonight. A few key points to mention are the notable work that our GB did this past year, namely in collaborating with the administration and staff to expand our drop-off procedures and to develop tools for addressing the issue with lateness. We also had very important conversations about diversity and tolerance, and about bridging the gaps between parents and staff when dealing with important collective issues. The Westpark governing board is committed to continuing the work of fostering healthy and collaborative relationships between all of the members of the school community as well as with members of the community at large. We would also like applaud the Westpark community for engaging in all of the various fundraising efforts that will ultimately lead to improving our children's experiences at Westpark. Going forward, the GB's priority is to continue collaborating on every level to ensure the safety and health of everyone in the school, especially in the face of these unprecedented times.

6.4. Election of Parent Representatives

This year, we have 4 parent representative positions up for election. As a parent representative to the Governing Board, your role is to represent the interests of the student and parents as a whole. These positions carry a 2-year term and are open to any parent who currently has a child enrolled at Westpark Elementary, including those whose oldest child is in grade 6. In the event that a parent of a grade 6 student is elected, or in the case of a parent elected whose child leaves the school for any other reason, the position will be vacated and it will be up to the remaining parent representatives on the Governing Board to appoint a new parents rep. to carry out the remainder of the 2-year term.

6.4.1. Nominations Received Ahead of Time

Six nominations placed in advance, only 5 are in attendance.

The nominees are:

MA Davoli, Amir Eid, Karl Griffin, Kenny Mandel, Phil Pinsky

6.4.2. Call for nominations at the meeting

Additional Nominations from parents who would like to self-nominate or who wish to nominate someone are asked to raise their hand using the zoom function

Nominations at the meeting:

Cassandra Blue

6.4.3. Closing of Nominations

Nominations are now closed, verified that everyone who wishes to cast a vote has received their credentials by email.

6.4.4. Presentation of Candidates

Each candidate is asked to take 1 minute to present themselves.

6.4.5. Voting

Voters are reminded that they can vote for up to 4 parents, that they cannot vote for the same person more than once, and that if they are a nominee, they can vote for themselves.

Voting process is open for a period of 5 minutes, after which the voting closes.

6.4.6. Election results

The winners of the vote, in no particular order are:

To be approved at the Westpark Governing Board Annual General Assembly, September 13, 2021

Karl Griffin, Kenny Mandel, MA Davoli, Phil Pinsky

Congratulations and welcome to the GB.

Request for new members to please send an email to WestparkAGA@gmail.com with their full names, email addresses, and telephone numbers.

6.5. Election of Substitute Parent Representatives

6.5.1. Nominations Received Ahead of Time:

Amir Eid

6.5.2. Call for nominations at the meeting

Additional Nominations made at the meeting using the zoom raise hand function:

Lana Geller, Cassandra Blue, Sara Chiasson, Sherri Rabinovitch, Anastasia Wilhelm, Cindy Litwin.

6.5.3. Nominations are closed

With only 7 candidates and 9 positions, there is no need for an election.

6.5.4. Presentation of Candidates

No need to present ahead of a vote, as there are not enough nominations to need a vote.

6.5.5. Voting

No need for a vote, as fewer than 9 parents are nominated.

6.5.6. Presenting the GB substitute parent reps

All seven nominees are acclaimed as parent rep substitutes, welcome and congratulations. They are requested to send an email to WestparkAGA@gmail.com with their full names, email addresses, and telephone numbers.

7. LBPSB Parents' Committee:

7.1. Roles and functions of the Parents' Committee

At each school, 2 parents from the governing board are elected as the delegate and alternate delegate to represent all parents of the school. The Parent's Committee is an advisory and consultative body of delegates from every school within the school board. The role of the parents' committee is to ensure that the parents' needs and advice are communicated to the Council of Commissioners and to the board's administration, with delegates representing all parents at the school and not just the governing board. The delegate for 2019-20 was Alaina Charszan. The alternate delegate for 2019-2020 was Michelle Sternszus. PC members attend a minimum of 3 meetings per month with additional meetings for those members elected to the advisory and to the school board's subcommittees. The PC is also very active in training GB members and chairs as well as in planning presentations for the board's parent community at large.

7.2. PC Annual Report

The annual report for the parents committee can be found on the PC's website (parents.lbpsb.qc.ca). It highlights the main topics that were addressed this past year. The beginning of the year was focused on understanding the implications of bill 40 and then supporting the QESBA (the Quebec English School Board Association) in standing firmly against Law 40 from a constitutional standpoint. However, what most impacted the education system this year was the global Coronavirus Pandemic, which resulted in the closure of our schools. There were a multitude of issues that the school closures caused and in the end, the LBPSB PC joined and supported the Safe Schools Coalition, along with EPCA (the English Parent Committees Association) and the EMSB PC, advocating for a more comprehensive online learning commitment and platform from our government. The PC has a lot more work ahead of it this coming year and is committed to continuing to improve communication with the parent community and to striving to be more proactive with developing topics.

7.3. Election of the parent delegate

At this time, with Alaina running for the position of delegate to the Parents' Committee, the meeting is passed to Kelly.

It is noted that both the delegate and alternate delegate must be current members of the GB.

Thank you to Alaina and Michelle for their dedication and service this past year.

7.3.1. Nominees declared in advance

Alaina Charszan

7.3.2. Call for additional nominees

None

7.3.3. Nominee presentations

7.3.4. Vote for parent delegate

No vote required; Alaina Charszan wins by acclamation. Congratulations.

7.4. Election of the Alternate Parent delegate

7.4.1. Nominees declared in advance

Mark Kashetsky

7.4.2. Call for additional nominees

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Karl Griffin self-nominates.

7.4.3. Nominees present themselves

7.4.4. Vote for parent alternate delegate

Voting opens for a period of 5 minutes

7.4.5. Presenting the winner of the election for alternate delegate

Mark Kashetsky is announced the winner of the vote and is named alternate delegate. Congratulations.

8. Home & School Presentation

Presented by Kelly Arfin-Gurevitch, chair of Home & School.

Up until the school closures in March, Home & School was on track for yet another very successful year. We were very successful in 2019/20 with the chocolate bar drive, raising over \$15,000. The ongoing fundraisers of Pizza lunch, Jadon uniform sales, FundScrip, and others, were all successful last year as well. We began the project of revamping the school yard with 2 new play structures. Unfortunately, the shutdowns put the plans on hold. We switched out Bingo night fundraiser to a virtual formal and it went very well. We thank the community for all their support as our success is always driven by the generosity of the Westpark families.

9. Parent Participation Organization

9.1. Presentation of Annual Report

There is no annual report as there was no PPO in 2019-2020 school year. Moreover, Westpark has not had a PPO since 2016, when its activities were minimal because of the vibrance of our H&S, our leadership team, and the initiatives of teachers and support staff. Our school has been very successful at adding so much to the school culture and to our children's academic experience, in the absence of the PPO. It is added that most schools do not have both Home & School and PPO committees. With Westpark having a very strong Home & School, it would be to its detriment to have both committees running simultaneously, in terms of the requests made of the community, the volunteers needed, and the time and participation of the school's administration. It is also stated that forming a PPO this year in particular will not help with pandemic related measures.

9.2. Formation of PPO

Call for motion to form a PPO. No motion, no formation of a PPO for 2020-21.

9.3. Election of Chair

No PPO formed, no election for chair is called.

10. Varia

None at this time.

11. Date of first meeting

Meetings will typically be held the first Tuesday of the month.

Date of the first GB meeting will be October 6th at 7pm.

11.1. The date of the first meeting will be sent out by ERMS, as meetings are open to the public and any parent is welcome to attend these meetings.

12. Adjournment

Alaina Charszan adjourns the meeting at 7:18pm.

Respectfully submitted by Kelly Arfin-Gurevitch