

Westpark Governing Board Meeting
Minutes
October 10, 2023

Attendance: Alia Odubayo, Alaina Charszan, Ashley Smolar, Deppy Papandreou, Diana Martire, Giulia Carosielli, Kelly Arfin-Gurevitch, Kenny Mandel, MA Davoli, Marc Wetering, Margaret Gogoris, Mark Kashetsky, Mary Lawrence, Megan van der Sluys, Phil Pinsky, Stuart Becker, Sylvie Lepage, Tiffany Uman, Yolanda Galvez
Commissioner: Craig Berger
Community Reps: none
Public: 7
Secretary: Kelly Arfin-Gurevitch

222.0 Greetings and Land Acknowledgement
Meeting called to order at 7:10 pm

222.1 Verification of quorum

222.2 Appointment of a Secretary

The GB will look to appoint a secretary for the year in time for the next meeting. Kelly Arfin-Gurevitch will take minutes for tonight's meeting.

222.3 Approval of the agenda

Request to add an additional public question period earlier in the meeting for this meeting and all future meetings.

With that change, motion to approve: MA Davoli

Second: Tiffany Uman

All in favor, none opposed, no abstentions; approved

222.4

222.4.1 Election of the chairperson

Phil Pinsky nominated himself. No other nominations, Phil is acclaimed as chairperson.

222.4.2 Election of a vice Chairperson

Tiffany Uman and Ashley Smolar nominate themselves. Candidates present themselves. GB voted, Tiffany is named vice-chair of the Governing Board.

222.4.3 Appointment of a parent member to fill a vacant seat

One parent rep elected at the 2023 AGA has vacated their seat. The balance of their term (2023/2024 and 2024/2025) will be filled by a person appointed by the GB. Four candidates presented themselves: Ashely Smolar, Karene Benabou, Nadia Kahn, and Talya Michon. The board voted and appointed Ashley to fill the vacated seat.

222.4.4 Appointment of Community Representatives

Role and responsibilities of a community rep are shared with the public in attendance, and interested candidates will present themselves at the next GB meeting.

Motion to table appointment of Community reps: Mark Kashetsky

Second: Giulia Carosielli

All in favor, none opposed, no abstentions; approved

222.5 Approval of the minutes for the meeting September 18, 2023

Motion to approve: Giulia Carosielli

Second: Deppy Papandreou

All in favor, none opposed, no abstentions; approved

222.6 Governing Board Operation

222.6.1 Review of Rules of Operation (as outlined in the Education Act)

Clarification of the process of motioning. A motion is put forward, discussion opens, followed by a vote only once discussions are closed. Once a vote is cast, it is final, so all conversation about it must be before the vote.

222.6.2 Approval/Modification of Internal Rules of Management

Changes were made and adopted last year.

Motion to maintain the Internal Rules of Management as they are: Mark Kashetsky

Second: Stuart Becker

17 in favor, none opposed, 1 abstention; approved

222.6.3 Governing Board Budget

Our budget is given to cover costs of babysitting and transportation if members require this to be able to attend. It can also cover operating costs such as postage, photocopies, and meeting refreshments and the secretary stipend. Typically, we use whatever is left in the budget after any expenses for refreshments at the December and June meetings. Final amount not yet in but projected to be similar to previous years.

Motion to spend the budget this year as we have typically done in the past: Marc Wetering

Second: Alaina Charszan

All in favor, none opposed, no abstentions; approved

222.7 Dates and times of meetings

Typically the 2nd Tuesday of each month, exceptions are made for holidays and school closures.

Proposed list: November 14, December 12, February 13, March 12, April 16, May 14, and June 11.

Meetings from December through March are planned to be offered as a hybrid in person & virtual. Question to see if all meetings can take this format, to be discussed at the next meeting.

Motion to accept the list of dates: Mark Kashetsky

Second: Kelly Arfin-Gurevitch

All in favor, none opposed, no abstentions; approved

222.8 Correspondence

None

222.9 Business Arising

None

Additional Public Question Period

Foul language being used on the playground, exposing some of the younger kids to this type of talk before they are ready for it. Seems to be on the increase this year. School is implementing stricter policies and consequences for those caught, such as being sent to the office and losing the privilege of time outside.

Suggestion to make designated areas in the yard per grade, countered by the perspective that allowing the kids to mingle with kids of other grades offers a lot of positive aspects such as leadership development and learning how to play well with others. If separation would be implemented, it would be by cycle and not by grade. It is mentioned that a lot of these behaviors are not only being observed from kids in older grades towards kids in younger ones, but within the same grade levels so separation would not solve the issue. We need to give the new stricter rules being enforced a chance to see if they make a difference.

222.10 New Business

222.10.1 CONSULTATION - By-Law 9 - Complaint Process

LBPSB no longer appoints their own ombudsman, it is now a ministry appointment. The policy outlines the expectations of anyone wanting to file a complaint against any employee, and the steps they must take, and GBs are being asked for feedback on the new policy. The one-page visual document is very helpful and succinctly describes the process, and more in-depth info can be found in the longer document. We will review the policy in more detail and report back at the next meeting before the response is due.

Motion to draft a response that we will review at the next GB meeting: Mark Kashetsky

Second: MA Davoli

All in favor, none opposed, no abstentions; approved

222.10.2 CONSULTATION - Commitment to Success Plan

The Ministry sends guidelines to Council, who sends them to GBs to see if measures implemented are attainable. This document is the board's plan, not that of our particular school.

Motion to review policy to be discussed at the next GB meeting: Kenny Mandel

Second: Ashley Smolar

All in favor, none opposed, no abstentions; approved

222.10.3 CONSULTATION - Enrolment Criteria Policy

222.10.4 CONSULTATION - Policy on School Daycare and Lunch Program and School and Continuing Education Fees Policy

Motion to table 222.10.3 and 222.10.4 to next meeting: Stuart Becker

Second: MA Davoli

All in favor, none opposed, no abstentions; approved

222.10.5 PELO

Survey went out to the school community to gauge interest in PELO in heritage languages of interest.

In the past we ran Hebrew and Italian PELO classes.

Just over 100 families responded.

There was sufficient interest for 2 classes of after school Hebrew PELO for junior grades and 1 class of after school Hebrew PELO for senior grades. Not enough interest in lunchtime PELO classes, or for any other heritage language to meet minimum class sizes.

To run Hebrew PELO, we would need 3 teachers (\$52/hour) and one coordinator (\$24/hour). The classes would run for 20 weeks. Mark and Alaina will help find the appropriate staff for these positions.

Motion to approve Hebrew PELO up a maximum charge per student of \$200 for 20 weeks: Alaina Charszan

Second: Mark Kashetsky

All in favor, none opposed, no abstentions; approved

Motion to extend the meeting until 9:30 pm: Alaina Charszan

Second: Deppy Papandreou

17 in favor, 1 opposed, no abstentions; approved.

222.10.6 Communication

Motion to table to the meeting: Ashley Smolar

Second: Giulia Carosielli

17 in favor, none opposed, 1 abstention; approved.

222.11 Service Contracts

None

Discussion regarding the competencies being included in the Kindergarten report cards. There are 5 competencies (psychomotor, emotional, self awareness, cognitive development, language development) that are evaluated throughout the year, the school can decide when to evaluate each one. Proposal to evaluate 3 competencies in the first term report, 4 in the 2nd term and all 5 in the 3rd term report.

Motion to approve: MA Davoli

Second: Yolanda Galvez

All in favor, none opposed, no abstentions; approved

222.12 Field Trips & Fundraisers

1. ECO Museum for grades 1 and 2, grade 1 to go October 27 and grade 2 and the split class to go on November 6. 9:30-12:15, no charge (covered by grants), school bus transportation. Will find out if they bring lunch or eat when they get back. Ratio 1:10

2. Kindergarten pumpkin patch. On site so no transportation. Cost \$4.50 per student to cover the cost of the pumpkins and delivery.

Motion to approve: Kelly Arfin-Gurevitch

Second: Stuart Becker

All in favor, none opposed, no abstentions; approved

Fundraiser: Dress down day for the victims of the violence in Israel. Non-political, non-religious, simply for humanitarian relief and assistance for anyone in need. Help for Hurt. To be held on Friday, October 20th. Recipient charities were named by the representative who moved the fundraiser, who further agreed to email the principal with the details about these charities the following day.

Motion to approve: Alaina Charszan

Second: Tiffany Uman

All in favor, none opposed, no abstentions; approved

222.13 Reports

222.13.1 Principal

The construction project is coming to an end. It is a pleasure to see the parking lots complete and pavement markings indicated. Any day now all the fencing/gates will be completed with the garbage bin section closed in as well. Mid October the new lighting is scheduled to be installed, there is a delay of all railings and the school yard markings will be completed following the drying of the spring rains with 4 car charging stations marked and to be installed next school year. The admin team has gone door to door to thank the adjacent neighbors for their patience and understanding.

There have been changes to our resource department staffing. Currently, there is a third sub in place with a potential candidate starting soon. Our integration aide team is in place and will remain as is for the balance of the school year. We will continue to replace an aide as best as possible for sick days but will try to adjust the schedules for PLA days as these days are not typically replaceable by substitutes. However, the safety and well being of all our students remain a priority and where there may be a risk of safety, the child and class would always be replaced.

There was a great turn out of enthusiastic parents at the first Home & School meeting for this school year. Home & School presented staff with a "gift" of money to purchase items for their classroom and they have been busy with our first big fundraisers bringing Chocolates, pizza and TCBY to our students. They will also be supporting a Halloween Door decorating contest, with a team of judges and prizes awarded to the winners.

National Truth and Reconciliation Day was appropriately marked with many of our staff and students participating in Orange Shirt Day, an entire school assembly with grade 5 students reading the Land Acknowledgement and singing before the story of Phylis Webstad's book, The Orange Shirt Story was read, followed by in class activities led by our CASCA professional Sarah Zaslov.

222.13.2 Teacher representative

Great start to the school year.

Assemblies were held by cycle to welcome everyone back.

Grade 6 kids received visitors from LBPSB high schools.

222.13.3 Daycare

Harvest sale will take place next week.

Champs Basketball is running twice a week for different age groups, and hot lunch with Merenda is on Wednesdays. Both Running well.

Ped Day activities are presented. The fees below are in addition to the \$14.75 daily rate for ped days.

1. FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 22, 2023 – GARDENING - \$10.00
2. FRIDAY OCTOBER 13, 2023 - CLOSED
3. WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 1, 2023 - TIE DYE SHIRT IN SCHOOL – \$10.00
4. FRIDAY NOVEMBER 17, 2023 - SPORT LIFE IN SCHOOL - \$13.00
5. FRIDAY NOVEMBER 24, 2023 - FILMING \$10.00
6. FRIDAY JANUARY 26, 2024 - LE CERAMIC CAFÉ IN SCHOOL – \$18.00
7. FRIDAY FEBRUARY 9, 2024 - CLUB FY IN SCHOOL - \$20.00
8. FEBRUARY 19, 2024 - CLIMB N CLIMB OUTING - \$39.00
9. MONDAY MARCH 18, 2024 – CLOSED
10. FRIDAY MAY 10, 2024 – GARDENING - \$10.00

For the outing day, there is the option to stay in at the \$14.75 daily rate fee only. There is no opt-out option for the in-house activities on ped days; either the child participates or does not attend SEED that day. It is mentioned that the costs are high especially for families with multiple children. The costs are compared to the price of hiring child care for the day, which could end up being more expensive. It is also mentioned that there is a lot of demand at our school for these activities, and participation is very high. The full list with prices has been sent out so families are aware in advance and can plan accordingly. It is mentioned that there are accommodations and payment plans made for families who cannot afford the costs.

Motion to approve daycare ped day activities: Giulia Carosielli

Second: Mary Lawrence

17 in favor, none opposed 1 abstention; approved

Many parents have been asking for an app to use to facilitate pickup from end of day daycare. Margaret spoke to the people at HopHop. They have not worked with a daycare the size of Westpark's but have agreed to a trial run for a month. They would put in the request to have their child/children getting ready when they are 6 minutes away. There might be logistical issues due to the size of the school, and it would be optional for parents, so running 2 pickup lines (this one and the typical request at the window) could cause confusion and delays. Cost would be \$22 for the year paid by parents who opt in after the trial. If parents do not respect the rules of operation, they could be denied access to the app.

Motion to test HopHop for daycare pickup: Margaret Gogoris

Second: MarK Kashetsky

16 in favor, 1 opposed 1 abstention; approved

222.13.4 Home & School

Home & School is off to a strong start. Pizza lunch is going well with 575 slices ordered, as is TCBY with 487 orders placed. Chocolate sales are being tallied, the deadline is tomorrow for the money and unsold bars.

We had a great turnout at our first meeting and are actively discussing potential fundraisers.

Upcoming: Halloween Door Decorating Contest

222.13.5 Parent Representative

The AGA took place and committees have been formed. More to report at future meetings after the Parent Committee meetings are held.

222.13.6 Commissioner

Ceremony for truth and reconciliation was held.

Two student commissioners have been appointed.

Many consultations are under review and there will be more sent out for review coming up.

Engineers and architects have been appointed to outline next year's capital projects. There are already 20 projects slated to start next summer.

Judgment passed on Bill 40, allowing us to continue to govern our own schools and prevent the government from overruling decisions made as they can do with service centers. This is a huge victory for our board.

Council of commissioners stands behind the teachers and all sectors who are in contract negotiations and acknowledges that the way they are being treated is very disrespectful. Council is in support of the unions and their actions.

222.13.7 Community Representative

None present

222.14 Public Question Period

No questions

222.15 Next Meeting Date

November 14th 2023 at 7pm

222.16 Adjourn

Phil Pinsky adjourns the meeting at 9:48 pm