



**Governing Board  
February 23, 2021  
3:45 pm to 5:35 pm  
via ZOOM online  
Minutes**

**Attendees:**

Scott Cavers, Sheldon MacGillivray, Martin Scheinberg, Gillian Lusignan-Roussy, Anthony Sabourin, Melanie Dawe, Chris Schaler, Rita Arbique

**Regrets:**

Nicholas Miller

**Quorum:** Melanie Dawe was Chair. Gillian Lusignan-Roussy was Secretary.

**Approval of the Agenda:** The Agenda was approved with one addition from Scott Cavers, under Varia – Criteria for Centre Director

Motion Number 2021-02-23-01  
Martin Scheinberg, Rita Arbique

**Approval of the Minutes:** Minutes were approved as is.

Motion Number 2021-02-23-02  
Martin Scheinburg, Anthony Sabourin

**2020-2021 Meeting Dates:**

1. Oct 13, 2020 – Completed online via TEAMS
2. Nov 24, 2020 – Completed online via TEAMS
3. Jan 12, 2021 - Postponed
4. Feb. 23, 2021 – Completed online via Zoom
5. April 13, 2021 -
6. June 1, 2021 –

**Principal's Report**

**Budget:** Scott presented the Budget. Each department still has some money to spend before the end of May. No new revenue has been added since we are unable to rent out the school during evenings and weekends. \$4000 was spent to provide teachers with the necessary equipment they needed for online teaching and to keep them safe and healthy in class during the pandemic.

**Re-confinement plan:** Scott explained that the first two weeks of school in January were completely online. On January 18<sup>th</sup>, the Centre resumed the hybrid system it had started in September with Group A & B alternating days in class and online. A decision was taken after

consultation with the staff to begin a new schedule for the month of February with students coming into the building only once per week: Group A on Tuesdays and Group B on Thursdays. Today, it was announced to staff & students that this new schedule will continue for the month of March. The situation will be reassessed every month. This measure is to ensure good health, both physical & mental, for both staff and students during this pandemic. In the meantime, students have access to the Centre on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, in order to write exams and pick up new workbooks. On average, there are 5-10 students writing exams on these days. This allows students to continue to progress at a good pace and receive their credits.

**Free Tutoring:** This week, a new free online tutoring service has been made available to all adult learners in our school board. Tutoring is available for English, French and Math, by qualified teachers. This is a service to help students get the extra help they need to succeed in their studies. They simply go to the school website and they can access the link to the tutors via Teams. This service will continue until early June.

**Social Worker online:** Scott mentioned that students can now book an appointment online with the social worker. The appointments are done either in person or online. This is to support students at this difficult time, where many are struggling with mental health issues. All staff is aware and making efforts to support all students who are deemed at risk.

**Term 3:** This year, due to the pandemic, all students have remained with their subject teachers since the beginning of the year. All teachers have kept the same teaching schedule for Term 1 and 2. Staff Council has discussed the possibilities of changing the status quo for Term 3. Two options will be proposed to Staff Council, who will decide which is best-suited for teachers and students.

**Building Renovations:** Scott reported that both the Main Entrance and the north end entrance are scheduled to be renovated this summer at a cost of \$350,000. There is a major problem under the Main Entrance, which also extends into the reception area, because there is no foundation. This needs to be fixed for safety reasons. The major renovation planned for the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor is now delayed. He will keep the Board up-to-date on any developments.

**Gift cards – follow-up:** Scott thanked Gillian & Rita for getting prizes for the raffle. It added some fun and everyone had an opportunity to win great prizes. This effort, along with the donations from staff and students, allowed us to support 15 students with \$100 grocery gift cards. Another \$100 (\$25 X4) in gift cards from Jean Coutu were also distributed to students in the night classes, who missed out on participating in the raffle. This could easily be redone next year. The Video Tournament organized by Nick Miller had fewer participants than was expected, but the four teams who did participate had fun. Scott provided \$40 in prizes for that event.

### **Teacher's Report**

Marty commented that students seem to be doing well on their exams and progressing at a good pace, despite being mostly online. Days in class are typically very hectic and most teachers are exhausted on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Gillian mentioned that it's harder to teach language classes (FSL) online. Many students are struggling to stay focussed and motivated and they state it openly. They were hoping to return to the original hybrid schedule, so some were disappointed with the announcement today. Sheldon mentioned that the decision was taken for everyone's

safety in light of a potential variant strain of the virus, as well as teacher's mental health. It's important to decrease their stress levels.

Last week was Teacher Appreciation week. Teachers were treated to lunch on both days they were in the Centre. Sheldon stressed how important it is to support and encourage teachers at this time. Scott thanked Chris for sending homemade donuts for the staff last week. Everyone loved them. Gillian thanked Melanie for bringing in treats for the staff. They were also delicious and greatly appreciated.

### **Student report**

Melanie mentioned that she prefers to be in school, but understands the need for prudence. She is making progress in her Math course and really appreciates all of the support she has received from this Adult Ed Centre. Anthony is now a student at WQ Career Centre. Most of his classes are online and he's enjoying his program. He can go into the Centre whenever he wants to, but mostly does the work online.

### **Community Report**

Rita had nothing specific to report, but she expressed her gratitude at being asked to be on the Governing Board. She is proud and honoured to be part of this group. She mentioned that she is a recovering alcoholic (15yrs) and had attended Adult Ed to complete her own education, so she's very happy to offer her time to support the Centre.

Gillian mentioned that it's important to have some fun during this school year and suggested some kind of activity or contest to celebrate St. Patrick's Day. Rita offered to make cupcakes for every student and we discussed how this could be done safely. Everyone thought this would be a fun surprise. **ACTION: Scott will inquire if this can be done. Melanie also offered to bake cupcakes to help Rita.**

### **Commissioner's Report**

Chris Schaler reported that he would be attending a Council meeting later that night. The Council is in constant adaption with all the new measures put forth by the government. It's not clear what will happen in the next 6 months, so they are very busy. There is a slight increase in the number of Covid cases in our schools, but nothing compared to the region of Montreal. There is a lot of concern about students' mental health, which has been deteriorating during the pandemic, especially for the teens who are craving social interaction. The effect is an increase in behavioural issues. There's also a lot of concern about the effects of technology on the youth: the impact on children's brains, as well as the social and emotional impact. There's also an increase in addictions and mental health issues. This is why it's important to bring the students up. An effort is being made to have more outdoor activities. The Council is trying to prepare for the next school year. There is no expectation to be back to "pre-Covid" status, but rather we should expect more of the same.

With regards to Bill 40, the court challenge is expected to be successful, however, it's a long process and there have been many delays due to Covid. On the French side, Service Centres are having issues, which impact both staff and students. So, there are lessons to be learned.

### **Varia**

Upon Scott's departure from the meeting, the Governing Board created a list of criteria for a Centre Director that will be sent by the Chair, Melanie Dawe, to Rachel Vincent on Friday at Western Quebec School Board. The discussion and elaboration took 35 minutes.

### **Next Meeting**

April 13, 2021

**Meeting adjourned** – A motion to adjourn at 5:35 p.m. was put forth and unanimously accepted.

Motion number 2021-02-23-03

Gillian Lusignan-Roussy, Rita Arbique