**École Élémentaire Michaëlle Jean**

**School Council Meeting Minutes**

**January 16, 2017**

**Members Present:** **Suzanne Hall, Jeremy Galea, Chantal Roberto, Kham Keochanh, Rana Legault, Panos Gatsinos, Stephanie Curtis**

**Regrets:**

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| **Agenda Item** | **Discussion/Action Taken** | **Person(s) Responsible** |
| Welcome & Attendance | Council was welcomed by: Suzanne Hall  The meeting was called to order at 6:06 by: S. Hall  Introductions were made of Trustee Alex Johnstone and Superintendent Jamie Nunn.  Quorum was established. | S. Hall |
| Review & Approval of Previous Minutes | Agenda was reviewed. Motion to pass made by P. Gatsinos. 2nd- K. Keochanh  Previous meeting minutes were reviewed by: S. Hall  A motion to approve the minutes was made by: P. Gatsinos  Seconded by: K. Keochanh | S. Hall |
| **Question and answer period:**  A. Johnstone provided an explanation of what a Trustee is (elected).  Responsibilities include wards 11 and 12 (a total of 13 schools). An explanation of responsibilities followed.  J. Nunn explained the enrollment pressures at Bellmoore.   * 4 more portables to be placed at Bellmoore but need alternative plans as these are not sufficient to house the school community. * Projected enrollment requires alternative spaces (outside of Bellmoore land) for September of 2018 * New Summit Park school will be ready (potentially) for fall 2019. * Temporary accommodation is needed at Michaelle Jean for 1-2 years. * Bellmoore population (Oct. 2016) is 973, Sept. 2017 it is projected at 1000+. Sept. 2018 projected at 1100+ * To alleviate strain on Bellmoore, 6 portables to be placed at Michaelle Jean (in July 2017). These portables are in good condition and are coming from Ancaster Meadows. They will be placed on property and locked (for one year or until needed). * Sept. 2018, 6-8 portables at Michaelle Jean will be used for Bellmoore students. These will be attached to the building. In summer 2018, an additional 2 portables will be added. * In preparation, in summer 2017, an upgrade to the M.J. sewer system will occur as well as an electrical panel upgrade. * Enrollment at Bellmoore will be closely monitored. If a spike occurs, portables will be used earlier than predicted. * Idea is to move one entire grade to M.J. (not primary, most likely grade 4). These students will be bussed from their homes. * This will not be a holding school scenario for Summit Park * M.J. can house 12 portables, but the board recognizes that transportation will be a challenge. * Architect has come twice to draft alternatives to address immediate safety concerns with parking lot. We are awaiting drawings for immediate modifications to the parking lot that will also help to alleviate concerns for future growth. Students are encouraged to take the bus.   **Questions:**  **How will this change the operation of the building (i.e. English vs. French)?**  Conversations will take place with principals around school operations and culture. Discussions will surround bell times, timetable, culture (extracurriculars, traditions, concerts, arts, etc). A welcoming committee will be established (parent involvement is encouraged).  **Who do we speak to about bus routes? Bell times and bussing schedules don’t always work. Distance from houses, rural roads, missed busses, no shows, etc.**  Parents can call the office to give feedback. Call HWSTS first for alternatives. They are currently working on building the routes for next year.  **Why are the portables being placed on site early?**  The board feels the need to be cautious, proactive. This also allows time for permits, etc.  **If M.J. registrations increase (as has been the trend), will we have access to use these portables?**  In this case, more portables will be added. In 2020, it is estimated that M.J. will be over capacity, at this point they can use the portables already on site. 45% of M.J. enrollments come from the Bellmoore FDK.  **Will gym upgrades occur? Lockers?**  Trustees are currently working on facilities benchmarks. This process requires an audit of all buildings in the board. There is a limited budget ($11 million for 96 schools). Schools are ranked based on need.  They will be looking at the M.J. gym. It is currently too small for standards but they are unclear on how it can be expanded. The problem is that being in the GreenBelt, construction cannot occur. The Director is pushing the city to allow for this. At this time, we cannot hook up to the water for this reason.  **What about cubbies/hooks? Our hallways are very congested.**  The portables will be self-sufficient and have their own hooks.  A letter has already been sent to the board in regards to organization and safety.  **Do the improvements to the parking lot take into consideration the long-term changes (i.e. Kiss and Ride)?**  Yes, we are looking for an immediate fix as well as a long-term plan.  **What is the water quality? When does testing occur?**  The water is safe to drink.  A report from Health and Safety was read to council.  The water is checked 3x daily. It is disinfected with UV and chlorine. The water has an automatic shutoff if the readings are ever abnormal.  Testing for E Coli and others are done monthly (as per regulations). None of the tests in 2015-2016 showed irregularities. No nitrates have been detected in the water. Herbicides and Pesticides are tested for every 5 years (last test June 2015).  **What about the water smell and taste? Can we not put in a cistern?**  Jamie Nunn said he would find out about putting in rehydration stations.  **What about maintenance to the fountains? The primary fountain has a strong smell and students do not like to use it.**  Jamie Nunn is to look into this.  **In terms of school events where parents attend, can we make considerations for parking? Parents are forced to park on highway and walk on to property.**  Access to the back lot will be made available. This can be accessed even with portables in place.  **Could we not reopen Bellstone?**  This property has been sold. In terms of long-term planning, to build a new school the board needs to show a deficit. Therefore, they cannot have holdings as that would not qualify them for a new school. Bellstone could never accommodate the growth that we are facing. Summit Park will become a holding school for Binbrook students until the property at Fletcher and Binbrook Rd. is built.  **Could we not open an FDK class at M.J.?**  Immersion is a grade 1 start (funding). We do not have capital to make renovations for FDK. There are enough schools with FDK to cover our needs. This keeps M.J. as single track.  **Is planning happening for a surge in the population?**  Yes. This forecast is based on 4 areas but has many variables. They are currently planning for all developments on the roster. Fletcher South (up to 535 homes), Fletcher North.  **What about an upgrade to M.J.? Long-term plans?**  Renewal process with board every 15 years. If we are ever over capacity (including our 12 portables), a new site may be constructed (dual track). F.I. registrations are now done centrally so board can keep track of numbers.  **What about air conditioning?**  Portables will have air conditioning. There are usable windows.  **Final Remarks:**  **J. Nunn-** The board would like to keep communication open and welcomes feedback. In the Spring, an opening committee will be created to address operations and culture. Any developments will be reported before the next school council meeting.  **S. Hall**- Thank you to both A. Johnstone and J. Nunn. | | A. Johnstone  J. Nunn |
| **Previous/On-going Business** | | |
| Other Items | S. Hall motioned to table all other agenda items. Seconded by S. Curtis. All in favour. | S. Hall |
| Meeting Schedule | Next meeting: February 23rd, 6:30 p.m.  Fundraising committee to meet prior to this to discuss Valentines. |  |
| Adjournment | The meeting was adjourned at 7:29 p.m.  Motion to adjourn : S. Hall  Second: P. Gatsinos |  |