

**DANTE SCHOOL
Governing Board Minutes**

MINUTES: January 7, 2010

PRESENT:

Interim Principal:	Pisano, Ida
Interim-Vice-Principal:	Evangelista, Frank
Chairperson/Delegate:	Le Piane, John
Secretary:	Papineau, Genevieve
Parent Representatives:	Annibale, Maria Choltus, Sabine Fuoco, James Iammateo, Fil Nadeau, Nobuko Pompa, Rosy Randazzo, Rita
Teacher Representatives:	Campoli, Giovanna Frenette, Elaine (Replaces Romina Corbi) Gentleman, Melissa Monaco, Maria Seid, Judy Trigatti, Maria
Daycare Representative:	Berardi, Mimma

ABSENT:

Support Staff:	Prioriello, Lina
Non Teacher Professional:	Tony Di Francesco

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Meeting called to order at: 7:10 PM

4.1 Welcome and Call to Order

The Chairperson welcomed and wished everyone a happy new year.

4.2 Question Period

There is a problem with parents parking in the teacher's parking lot. Parents are blocking the entrance and the teachers are sometimes late because of this. Mr. Sylvain is also outside turning parents away. There will be a notice going out to parents reminding them not to park there.

ITEMS FOR DECISION:

4.3 Additions to the Agenda

Drop Zone to be added in Varia

4.4 Acceptance of the Agenda

MOTION: Be it moved by Giovanna Campoli and seconded by Nobuko Nadeau that the Agenda be accepted with additions. Motion carried unanimously.

4.5 Adoption of the Minutes (Minutes of November 5, 2009)

Item 3.9.1: Change students pasted to students passed a CAT 4 exam.

MOTION: Be it moved by James Fuoco and seconded by Fil Iammateo that the Minutes be accepted with changes. Motion carried unanimously.

4.6 Business Arising from the Minutes

4.6.1 Green

With the money received from environmental grants, compost bins will be purchased, they are approximately 25\$ each (one per cycle). There is also a possibility of purchasing aluminum bottles to sell as a fundraiser. Some parents expressed their concern over composting, an environmental committee member assured us that it is safe and does not smell. The environmental committee will provide the Governing Board with a report on how the money will be spent.

4.6.2 Success Plan

Miss Ida went over the success plan, which is based on the EMSB's five year plan.

The general assumption by the teachers is that we are already doing what the EMSB is requiring. The major change that they propose is to have math taught every day. Meaning teachers would change class for one hour a day. One member questioned how this would be accomplished, how a concept could be taught in one hour, and what happened if you needed more time. The response was that it is better to see something everyday and it does not take two hours for children to understand a concept. The teachers also need to define the details on the amount of time and how it would be implemented.

There was some concern by members that the success plan does not have enough, we need more in order to enhance our school and make it more appealing to parents, such as enriched math or sciences. The teachers responded by saying that you could not do that, every child was different and learned at a different pace. This had been done in the past and it did not work, students ended up being segregated.

The Chairperson did ask the School Board about enriched classes and what they entail, but did not really get an answer.

In addition, a concern to some members was the fact that students do not seem to be prepared for their entrance exams. The teachers once again assured us that they are following the QEP and our students are taught according to the requirements.

The Chairperson thanked the principal for presenting the plan and asked if the Governing Board needed to adopt the success plan, the response was no, we did not. Therefore, the GB did not vote on it. However, some parents did not agree with the lack of aggressiveness of the plan as it was presented.

4.6.3 School Website

Mr. Frank Lee from Lee Graphics Design is ready to redesign and maintain the website as well as being an aid to the teachers for a fee. The packages are either 2000\$ for the website redesign or 5,000\$ which includes a content management system and our own hosting service. He could dedicate 1 – 2 hours a week at a cost of 55\$ per hour. The Chairperson asked that more information be provided.

Nobuko Nadeau's husband also volunteered to create a database of email addresses so that parents could be notified electronically of any news.

4.7 New Business

4.7.1 Program Review/Improvements

Upon request of the Chairperson, Ms. Ida provided the Governing Board with a list of an overview of what is taught in school by level. The chairperson asked the question, "What can we do to enhance the experience for our children." The teachers responded by saying that they are always looking for ways to improve

our children's experience. Enriched programs are not a solution and that the demographics are different here.

4.7.2 Pedagogy

Continued professional development is provided for the teachers during pedagogical days. Teachers are given the opportunity to attend workshops either set up by the School Board or the schools administration.

4.7.3 GB Budget Increase

The Chairperson mentioned that every level received an increase and that we should ask for more, he will ask for 500\$.

4.7.4 Publicity Expenditure Approval

Since we had 2 Open Houses; therefore we had ads placed in the local papers twice. The invoice for the first Open House ads was paid from the fund 5. Miss Ida is asking for approval to pay for the second Open House (January 22) advertising fees (The Suburban, Le Flambeau and Le Progres St. Leonard from Fund 3 (282.19\$ +910.91\$=1,193.10\$).

The Chairperson asked that there be a review of the budget at the next Governing Board meeting.

MOTION: Be it moved by Sabine Choltus and seconded by Nobuko Nadeau that the funds be taken from Fund 3. Motion carried unanimously.

4.8 Correspondence

None.

4.9 Information (Principal, Chairperson, Delegate)

4.9.1 Principal (Please visit our website's Calendar of Events for highlights)

Parent/Teacher Interview

Parent's night went well.

The book fair made 5,570.86\$

The bake sale made: 1,680.94\$

The jewelry sale was 200\$ (2 cheques were donated of \$100.00 each)

Pepsi sent us a cheque for 60.33\$

The Slim Within program sent us a cheque for 100\$

On the dress down day of December, we accumulated 863.01\$ for Literacy

Can Spell

Jordana Sardelli, with Miss Trigatti's help, is writing an exam next Friday to see if she advances to the February Can Spell competition.

Fieldtrips

On December 16, half the grade 6 students went to Radio Canada, the other half will go in May

Cycle 3 will go to the Holocaust Museum

3.9.2 Delegate's Report

None

3.9.3 P.P.O.'s Report

Meeting cancelled.

3.9.4 Chairman's report

None.

4.10 Varia/Announcement

4.10.1 Ms. Romina Corbi is on a medical leave and Ms. Fabianna Ciaciarelli will take her place. Mme Ginette Champagne's mom passed away and asked for a leave till the end of the year. Ms. Gina Cardillo is on sick leave. Mrs. Buchanan is doing better but has had some complications.

A letter was sent to the city requesting that a Drop Zone be created.

Meeting adjourned at 10:30 PM

Interim Principal, Ida Pisano

Chairperson, John Le Piane

Prepared by Genevieve Papineau, Secretary