

**DANTE SCHOOL  
Governing Board Minutes**

**MINUTES: March 11, 2010**

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**PRESENT:**

Interim Principal:	Pisano, Ida
Chairperson/Delegate:	Le Piane, John
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 Seid, Judy Trigatti, Maria
Daycare Representative:	Berardi, Mimma

**ABSENT:**

Support Staff:	Prioriello, Lina
Non Teacher Professional:	Tony Di Francesco
Interim-Vice-Principal:	Evangelista, Frank
Secretary:	Papineau, Genevieve
Teacher Representative	Monaco, Maria

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Meeting called to order at: 7:15 PM

**5.1 Welcome and Call to Order**

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The Chairperson welcomed everyone.

**5.2 Question Period**

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Ms. Pompa asked about Dante's lock-down policy. Ms. Ida said she is presently working on finalizing a policy. The school has not yet had lock-down drill. Teachers will have a practice in May. The Board has given the elementary school till November 30th to put a policy in practice.

Ms. Choltus asked about the 'no idling' poster for buses and if in fact the buses don't idle. Some do and some don't – mostly in cold weather. The environment committee is trying to get real 'stop idling' signs put up around the school for both buses and cars.

**ITEMS FOR DECISION:**

**5.3 Additions to the Agenda**

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School Calendar to be added.  
School success plan to be looked at again.

**5.4 Acceptance of the Agenda**

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**MOTION:** Be it moved by Fil Iammatteo and seconded by James Fuoco that the Agenda be accepted with additions. Motion carried unanimously.

**5.5 Adoption of the Minutes (Minutes of November 5, 2009)**

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Item 4.6.2: Change wording from 'obvious' and 'all' parents to 'some' parents disagree.  
Item 4.9.1: Change spelling of 'check' to 'pepsi sent a 'cheque'.

**MOTION:** Be it moved by Rosie Pompa and seconded by Rita Randazzo that the Minutes be accepted with changes. Motion carried unanimously.

**5.6 Business Arising from the Minutes**

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**5.6.1 Success Plan**

James Fuoco moved to adopt the success plan as is with the understanding it will be reviewed on a yearly basis; with possibilities of further improvements in sciences, math and other subjects.

Was seconded by Rita Randazzo. All in favor. Abstention: Ms. Annibale.

### **5.6.2 School Website**

3 quotes were presented by Ms. Ida:

1. Mr. Frank Lee from Lee Graphics Design (recommended by James Fuoco) is ready to redesign and maintain the website as well as being an aid to the teachers for a fee. This includes a content management system and our own hosting service for the fee of approximately \$3000 - 35000. Ms. Ida felt confident with Mr. Lee and found that he was flexible. Mr. Fuoco also feels confident with his work. Hourly wage is \$55/hour. His work can be viewed at [www.leegraphics.com](http://www.leegraphics.com).
2. David Fortune: \$65/hour and approx. \$3500 for the same work as above.
3. Datacom – Fee was over \$6000.

There was some discussion as to the free service Jennifer Papineau offered during the previous meeting. Ms. Ida mentioned that during the December meeting, Ms. Papineau did in fact offer her service for free but also mentioned that she was busy at the moment and could not work on our website. The teachers also felt more comfortable going with a non-parent.

Rita Randazzo motioned to go with Mr. Frank Lee. Sabine Choltus seconded the motion. All in favor.

\* Once he has a beta version, he will present it to the Governing Board before going live with it.

### **5.6.3 Budget Update**

M. Lepiane informed GB members that at the Central Parents Committee (CPC) and the Regional Parents Committee has advised GB members to allocate monies in Fund 3 and to put it in the minutes so as not to lose the money for the following school year.

Ms. Ida will present the Fund 3 expense report for the next meeting. Clarifying what money is placed in the different codes.

Mr. Fuoco had a question about the maintenance and repairs allocation of funds.

### **5.6.4 GB Budget Increase**

The Regional Parents Committee will be sending a letter on behalf of all Governing Boards to increase from \$250 to \$500.

## **5.7 New Business**

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### **5.7.1 Yard Sale – Equipe Green (April 24)**

The Equipe Green would like to hold a Yard Sale on April 24<sup>th</sup> in the school yard. Tables will be sold between \$25 ~ 35 each.

Ms. Ida will verify if they need a permit.

The Equipe Green would also like to purchase stainless steel water bottles.

It was discussed they would purchase between 500 ~ 1000 directly from China.

Ms. Nadeau will be taking care of the logistics.

Money from Equipe Green's grant and profits from the yard sale will pay for the initial costs of the bottles. If the bottles are ready in time, they will be sold at the

Triangulum Uniform sale (May 6). They will also be given out to the new

kindergarten students with their information packet at the beginning of the year.

Bottles will be sold for approx. \$5 ~ 10/bottle. Monies for the bottles is to be taken from the green fund and put back in.

Ms. Choltus motioned. Mme. Elaine, seconded. All in favor.

### **5.7.2 Hot Lunch Supplier**

Mme. Elaine Frenette mentioned she would like Ms. Ida to set up a meeting with Sylvana from Le Doral to discuss 'Boite a lunch sans dechets'.

James motioned that we continue with Le Doral as our hot lunch supplier. Ms. Annibale seconded the motion. All in favor.

### **5.7.3 Budget Building Process**

Ms. Pompa suggested we use monies to repair the yard asphalt and walkway.

Mr. Fuoco suggested we add trees in the school yard.

We filled out a form informing the Board what we felt were the main issues for our school. We indicated to have extra resource in English and French, school beautification, more special needs service and professional development.

### **5.7.4 Allocated Funds Approved Projects**

As stated in 5.6.3 by Mr. Lepiane, GB members must revise the budget and if there is a major surplus in fund 3, as a team, we should decide which projects we can undertake for next year and reserve the money now. The choices decided upon must be indicated in the minutes.

It was decided to come back to this item next meeting.

### **5.7.5 French Second Language Program**

The EMSB is looking at different option for our students – offering more French  
As a source of information, GB was informed of the 3 scenarios that schools can decide upon:

- A. Total immersion
- B. Partial immersion – but more French
- C. Status quo with boundary distinction.

A meeting was held on February 22<sup>nd</sup> at Laurier Macdonald HS. All governing Board parents were invited to attend this meeting. Mr. Lepiane and Ms. Randazzo were present.

#### **5.7.6 Photographer 2010 – 2011**

It was motioned by Rita Randazzo to keep the same photographer as this year for the 2010-2011 school year.

Seconded by Fil Iammatteo. All in favor.

#### **5.7.7 Uniform Supplier 2010 – 2011**

James Fuoco motioned to keep Triangulum as the uniform supplier for the 2010-2011 school year.

Seconded by Rita Randazzo. All in favor.

#### **5.7.8 School Calendar 2010 – 2011**

Mr. Lepiane reported that August 31<sup>st</sup> would be the start date of the school year. December 20<sup>th</sup> ~ 31<sup>st</sup> – Christmas holidays.

Parents and teachers do not agree and feel the vacation begins too early.

### **5.8 Correspondence**

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None.

### **5.9 Information (Principal, Chairperson, Delegate, PPO Representative)**

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#### **5.9.1 Principal** (Please visit our website's Calendar of Events for highlights)

##### **Kindergarten Registration**

50 new children have been registered.

##### **Children's Hospital**

On Feb. 12<sup>th</sup>, two Student Council members along with M. Frank and M. Vince brought gifts to the children at the Montreal Children hospital. Thanks to all parents who sent little gifts and plush animals toys for the children.

##### **Play – Grades 3 ~ 5**

M. Jean Berneche is a French author and illustrator. He teaches 'bande dessinée'. This was an activity made possible by the Culture à l'École Program. Mels pays 75% and the school pays 25% of the cost.

##### **Ski Trip**

All went well, even though the weather did not always cooperate. Children arrived back to school earlier because it was raining.

##### **Foster Children**

A young boy from Vietnam and a young girl from Guinea. Have been fostered by Dante school. The children can correspond with them. Their information is also on our website for those interested. This was all thanks to the parents who donated money in November. We will be able to foster these children for one year.

**Story Telling**

This year we had 18 participants. The students presented in both French and English and did an excellent job. Two students will go on to the School board Festival.

**Ryan's Well**

A movie night was held on March 18<sup>th</sup>. This is the final fundraiser for this cause.

**Computer Lab**

This year we have spent \$10,000 to revamp the computer lab. The lab is now completed and updated.

**Italian Story Telling**

This is the first year Dante enters the competition. All went well.

**School start and end times**

Ms. Ida will look into it. The times might be changed by 5 minutes. Further notice to follow.

**Lambert Closse School**

They are adding an extra floor to their school because they need extra classes. They have placed mobile classrooms in their school yard till the end of the year. These are being used as temporary classrooms.

**Tutorials**

The third session has begun and will end on May 21. It continues to service more than 75 students.

**Canspell**

Ms. Giordana Sardelli in grade 5 finished in the 7<sup>th</sup> round at the Canspell Competition on February 21. Congratulations to Ms. Trigatti (her teacher) and Ms. Gloria Battista (Giordana's mother) who prepared her well.

**Hard Copy Memos**

The school is looking into removing hard copy memos being sent to parents. This is in our effort to help our environment. All memos would be placed on our website. This is being discussed in order to cut down on paper consumption and cost. This is also in conjunction to our environmental initiatives. Hard copies would still be available to parents upon request. This has not been finalized and still working on the logistic.

**Drop-Off Zone**

A letter was sent to the city asking to create a drop off zone. This zone was denied by the city.

## **5.9.2 Delegate's Report**

### **5.9.3 P.P.O.'s Report**

Members have sent a letter to parents asking for a donation for teacher's appreciation since it is getting more and more difficult to solicit gifts from merchants.

PPO would also like to suggest removing the chocolate bar fundraiser and instead, have GB add a one-time fundraising fee to parents at the beginning of the year. This will be discussed at future GB meetings.

### **5.9.4 Chairman's report**

French cluster meeting on course and consultation will be given to us to work on.

## **5.10 Varia/Announcement**

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### **5.10.1 Teacher Appreciation**

A motioned was called by Ms. Randazzo to add \$185 to the Fund 3 which was proposed by Ms. Nadeau on behalf of the PPO.

Ms. Iammatteo seconded the motion.

Ms. Annibale abstained

All other parent members voted YES.

Motion was carried and announced via email by M. Lepiane on March 16<sup>th</sup>.

Meeting adjourned at 10 PM.

Motioned by Ms. Iammatteo and seconded by M. Fuoco

Next meeting: April 8<sup>th</sup>.

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Interim Principal, Ida Pisano

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Chairperson, John Le Piane

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Prepared by Nobuko Nadeau