



**John F. Kennedy High School
Governing Board
Minutes for meeting held on
March 26th, 2024 at 7 P.M.
*Virtual Meeting***

PRESENCE:

Parents:	Mr. Sergio Sollazzo, Ms. Marlihan Lopez, Mr. Mike Lang, Ms. Silvy Gomes-Pires,
Administration:	Ms. Liboria Amato, Mr. Vito Campbell-Guerriero
Teachers/Staff:	Ms. Ruesga, Mr. Dector, Mr. Gerry Tullio, Ms. Alessandra Zanello
Community Rep:	None
Student Reps:	Eva-Gabriella Gueda & Amanda Caccese
Commissioner:	None
PPO:	None
Public:	None
Regrets:	None

1. Approval of the Agenda

A correction was made to the agenda whereas Student Services Report should be added after Teacher Report as 8.1. The agenda was unanimously approved as presented on motion by Sergio Sollazzo, seconded by Silvy Gomes-Pires.

2. Approval of the minutes of February 20th

The minutes of the meeting held on February 20th were approved unanimously as written on a motion by Sergio Sollazzo, seconded by Silvy Gomes-Pires.

3. Business arising from the Minutes

School Fees discussion will be continued in our meeting in April after meeting with the teachers.

4. New Business

No business arising.

5. Chairperson Report

- Open House 2023 – It was pointed out by Mr. Sollazzo that this year's open house seemed to have less parents than previous years. A discussion should be had to search for solutions to improve the attendance. Suggestions such as selecting new dates to have our school be the first to begin the open house event. Last year we were the last school to have it which would have allowed the students to already have picked another school. Also suggested to have more interaction between new students with our students and teachers. Advertising the event for a longer period and more often on social media. The suggestions will be brought to the teachers at their next meeting.
- Strike days – There will not be any days to make up for the days missing during the strike. There will be extra help for the Secondary 4 & 5 students to prepare for the upcoming exams.
- Registration 2024 – Registrations are slowly coming in but there is enough to do the enrollment report, status quo will remain for regular teachers.
- Communication plan – Parents appreciate the effort and great job in communicating information to parents through social media and email. Stefanie is now in charge of school social media.
- Bullying Act – Mr. Zampino from Student Services has uploaded the Anti-Bullying and Anti-Violence Act on the EMSB Website.
- Aim High Progression – A lot of the parents that came to visit John F. Kennedy during the Open House were interested in the Aim High program. It would be nice to have more data to share with parents if they have concerns about the programs offered at our school. For instance, how long would it take to have an Aim High student be integrated into the regular program? What is the success rate of the students that join the Aim High program and well as other programs offered at the school? The administration will prepare a team to work on the data to present next year. Marlihan mentioned that Ms. Hilary, teacher in Aim High, is very clear with the parents when asked questions, but it would definitely be advantageous to have the precise data available.
- Governing Board Awards – The Graduation Committee is meeting in April to discuss the awards and the graduation ceremony and how the Governing Board can contribute towards the awards. The Governing Board Award is given to a student in Secondary 5. Secondary 1 to 4 have their own Academic awards during the evening where parents are invited and the Sports awards during the day.

- Drop-off on Villeray – It was agreed by the school to allow the bus to pick up the students in the parking lot in the back of the school. This was already discussed and settled with both the school board and the transportation company. Parents will need to abide by rules and stay away from the bike paths when picking up their children. They can still park across the street on 9th avenue. Police should be tolerant if parent picks up in front of the school for a maximum of 5 minutes. City inspectors confirm that the bike paths are not to be removed anytime soon. A letter will be sent by the parents to the city of Montreal to show their disappointment with the new bike paths that clearly don't provide safety to our students which should be the cities priority.
- Pool – The pool at the school is shared between our students and the community after school. It is presently not being used because of severe damage to the structure where it shows cracks and leaks. The school board is working on having a heater installed to prevent freezing. Mr. Katalafos, director of the EMSB, was shocked to know that the pool was not being used. The pool at Laurenhill High School was also in need of repairs and the school board was able to get it done. The Governing Board should write a letter on behalf of the parents to Mr. Katalafos requesting that they look into the repairs of our pool. Considering his previous reaction, I am sure that they would try to make something happen.

6. Principal's & Vice-Principal's Reports (Varia)

1. Info SST for Eclipse Day

There will be a ped day on April 8th due to the Solar Eclipse. The school is to provide the students with Eclipse glasses to bring home. They will distribute the glasses after the Easter break.

2. Culture sharing with the students

Being that our school has a very diverse population with many cultures who celebrate events differently, our school has been sharing these cultures without stressing on religion. For example, for Muslims during Ramadan trying to explain to students how traditions are followed. Some students who follow this might be fasting until sundown and how we need to show tolerance if they are showing fatigue during the day. This allows our students to accept others and their beliefs while sharing their own.

3. Approval for WOTP/D15

We would need to get approval to launch the WOTP Program for 24-25. Mr. Tonin runs this program and gets grants which support the program. The students in the program are offering the Elementary schools gardening services. The grants go towards the tools and supplies needed for this project. This also helps the elementary schools save money with their budgets since this is free to them and it provides our students with the experience needed in the workforce.

The Governing Board unanimously approved as presented on motion by Marlihan Lopez, seconded by Sergio Sollazzo.

7. Treasurer's Report

The balance remains at \$505.00. To discuss at next meeting on how to distribute funds for Graduation awards.

8. Teacher's & Staff Report

- Webpage: The webpage has been updated to reflect 2023-2024 school year. School calendar was also added. Parents can also access the events under Students and Parents then clicking on Events. The goal will be to add the calendar of activities on the main page along with the Action Plan on Anti-Bullying. The Governing Board Minutes will also be posted on the website in both English and French. The school board usually manages the websites but because our school decided to go private, there are some barriers. In the future, all schools will be following the same platform.
- Science judging at Dante: On March 27th a group of 10-12 students will be joining Ms. Saint-Croix to judge the science fair at Dante school.
- Leadership Camp: Students who sign up will spend 3 days on April 24, 25 & 26 at Camp Papillion with Ms. Dow.
- Shakespeare Play: On April 19th the Secondary 3, 4 & 5 students will be able to see the MacBeth play at the school.
- History Museum Day: On April 17th the Secondary 4 and Pathway students will be going to the Museum at the Old Port.
- New York Trip: The students who signed up will be going to New York City on April 11, 12 & 13
- Entrepreneur Projects: The students in Secondary 5 will be participating in the 1st Entrepreneur project with Mr. Kokonis during lunch period.

8.1. Student Services Report

Guidance

Many students informed us that they have been accepted. In most cases they were accepted by multiple CEGEPS, and we helped them accept or change their acceptance.

Gerry

- Last week on March 19, 20 and 21, students from our leadership group participated in the Headstrong Summit. This summit is from the Mental Health Commission of Canada. The Headstrong committee will lead a Mental health anti-stigma campaign. The committee will receive \$650.00 funding for their committee.
- Next week, April 3 and 4, JFK will be hosting the East-end Mental Health Fair for students. We have other east-end high schools to participate. This event is organized by JFK, EMSB, Sante Publique and REISA.
- Booked Svens Telemaque to lead a one-day event of workshops, supporting Black History Month. This event is funded through a grant from ArtistInspire.
- The event is described as follows:
 - *“Join us for an unforgettable event with award winning spoken word artist, Svens Telemaque, as he takes the stage to perform a selection of thought-provoking and dynamic works. Following his performance, Svens will share prompts, writing exercises, and group discussion, attendees will delve into the power of words and storytelling. The workshop will also cover performance techniques, vocal delivery, and stage presence. By the end of the session, participants will have written and performed their own spoken word pieces. This workshop is suitable for beginners and experienced poets alike and is a great opportunity to immerse oneself in the thriving world of spoken word poetry.”*
- On Feb. 27th, we participate in an interactive workshop with the Black Community Resource Centre, supporting Black History Month. Great feedback.
 - These workshops are described as follows and will be available on a sign-up basis for teachers:
 - *“Facilitated by our Where They Stood: The Animated Series team, along with support from our project sponsor, Cinesite, this educational workshop will provide students with an immersive experience into the world of animation. We will accomplish this by screening the four completed animations from our program and enlightening students about the substantial footprint of the animation industry within the city of Montreal.”*

- Our partnership with the Centre Jeunesse Emploi du Nord (CJE), continues. Mr. Tonin has submitted the request for the \$2,000 grant for our WOTP program.
- Montreal School of Performance Arts (MSOPA), is continuing giving acting, improve workshops weekly. MSOPA has been coming in and working with the film club students. Great feedback from MSOPA, Mr. Muoio and the students.
- We are working with 9 students to complete applications for the Fairy Godmothers program. There are 6 girls and 3 boys. Mrs. De Genova has agreed to help them write their essays and we will try and register them all within the next week. The Fairy Godmothers furnish the students with a full prom outfit.
- We have Naloxone kits for the school. Our nurse gave a brief presentation on how to administer it at our last staff meeting. We are presently looking at give our sec 5 students a brief presentation on Naloxone.

9. Student's Report

- On Saint Patrick's day, students gave out lucky charms and milk
- At the MSACK meeting the students were asked to join together to fundraise money to support the Lymphoma & Leukemia Society of Canada. The goal is to raise \$ 50,000 from all schools. Students suggested a bake sale or dress down day. Mr. Gerry suggested that we dress down using the color red since the proceeds will be going towards research for blood cancers which can also be seen as a teachable moment. Other schools are also participating, to discuss with Mr. Guerriero.

10. Delegate's Report

Silvy Gomes-Pires is representing the school at the PC Meeting. At the meeting the main discussion was the Budget Building Priorities, which were very similar to our school. The next meeting will be held at John F. Kennedy on May 2nd if anyone is interested in attending.

11. Correspondence/Emails- nil

12. Question Period – none

13. Varia - none

Adjournment – meeting was adjourned at 8:15 on motion by Gerry Tullio, seconded by Silvy Gomes-Pires.

Mr. Sergio Sollazzo

Chair

Ms. Liboria Amato

Principal