



*Cedarcrest Elementary School*  
1505 Muir, St-Laurent, QC H4L 4T1  
Tel: (514) 744-2614



Commission scolaire English-Montréal  
English Montreal School Board

**CEDARCREST SCHOOL**  
**Governing Board Meeting Minutes**  
**Tuesday September 21, 2021**

**Attendees Members:**

Maria Argyriou, Raymond Ayas, Lorraine Belanger, Otis Delaney, Karen Der, Lydia Kansou, Gianna Melillo, Tia Nicholls, Georgia Stamatopoulos, Stephanie Vezina-Tulli, Helene Zereik

**Attendees Non-members:**

None

**Absentees:**

None

**1. WELCOME AND OPENING REMARKS**

Welcomes and opening remarks for the first meeting of the 2021-2022 academic year. The meeting was held via Microsoft Teams.

**2. ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA**

Members asked to add the school departure of the walkers on Deguire Street (6c) and recycling (6d) to the Agenda.

**3. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**

*Motion to adopt today's Agenda as amended was put forth by Stephanie Vezina-Tulli and seconded by Helene Zereik. The motion to adopt today's Agenda as amended was carried.*

#### 4. REVIEW OF THE MINUTES FROM JUNE 9, 2021

- Regarding business arising from the Minutes, member Karen Der enquired whether or not the Board Education Services had approved the Anti-Racism tool kits. Principal Delaney confirmed the Board has approved the tool kits. Teachers will be advised at the next Staff Council.
- Member Raymond Ayas enquired about the status of the hockey program. Member Helene Zereik responded that she will communicate with Mr. Ricardi again to see if there is more current information regarding the bussing and supervision of the students from Cedarcrest to the hockey arena. In June, Mr. Ricardi did not have definitive details about the logistics of transporting the children from Cedarcrest to the hockey arena which GB required to vote on the Hockey Program.
- Principal Delaney suggested another hockey program that he worked with when he was at JFK high school. It is Hockey for Youth which is a program run out of Toronto. Hockey for Youth is supported by grants and corporate sponsors. For example, Canadian Tire would provide the equipment or the city of St. Michel would provide free ice time at the municipal arena. Students also get to meet NHL players. At JFK, about 25 SEC 1 students participated in the program. Principal Delaney will reach out to his contact at Hockey for Youth to see if they would work with an elementary school like Cedarcrest. Typically, Hockey for Youth works with high schools that have large new immigrant populations that would not normally have the opportunity to participate in hockey programs.

#### 5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

***Motion to approve the June 9, 2021 Meeting Minutes was put forth by Helene Zereik and seconded by Georgia Stamatopoulos. The motion to approve the June 9, 2021 Meeting Minutes was carried. Stephanie Vezina-Tulli and Gianna Melillo abstained from the vote since they were not members last year.***

## 6. BUSINESS ISSUES

### a. Assignment of Roles

*The motion to accept the nominations of Tia Nicholls as Chair, Helene Zereik as Alternate Chair, Lydia Kansou as Treasurer, Karen Der as Secretary, Helene Zereik as Parent Committee Delegate, and Karen Der as Parent Committee Alternate Delegate for 2021-2022 was passed by members in attendance.*

### b. School Calendar Change

- An updated 2021-2022 School Calendar was emailed to the Cedarcrest community. Cedarcrest was a voting station for the federal elections. As such, September 20<sup>th</sup> became a PED Day. The original PED Day scheduled for Friday September 24<sup>th</sup> is now moved to January 21, 2022.

### c. School Departure of the Walkers on Deguire Street

- Parent members remain concerned about dismissing the students from the Deguire Street exit. Parents often park and double-park on the street which is a cul-de-sac. They are always reversing and making U-turns on that street while children and parents are standing nearby. Despite reminders from the teachers stationed at the walker exit, a handful of cars continue to park and double-park there. Parent members fear that an accident will happen especially in the winter time with the snow banks.
- Some members remarked that there is less walkers this year compared to last year. However, member Lorraine Belanger noted that dismissal on the Muir exit was better. Parents could not park by the Muir exit because the school buses were parked on the street.
- Principal Delaney will send a memo to parents to remind them to avoid parking there. Possible solutions include putting a roadblock sign to deter parents from driving into the cul-de-sac. The school will contact the city to see if they can send more community patrols and police presence at dismissal time.

#### d. Recycling

- Member Helene Zereik enquired about having a school Green Team comprised of 1 or 2 students from each class tasked with recycling items like used pens or markers. These items can be collected in a large jar. Parent volunteers will then bring these items to Bureau en Gros. Student Council could also be mobilized in greater recycling efforts.
- The Principal liked the idea of a Green Team; his previous school had one. Staff member Lorraine Belanger does not foresee the teachers having a problem with a recycling jar in the classrooms.

### 7. REPORTS

#### a. Principal's Report: Otis Delaney

- On **September 27<sup>th</sup>**, the Spiritual Animator will be at Cedarcrest to talk about September 30<sup>th</sup> – National Day for Truth and Reconciliation. The material will be presented in a non-traumatic way. Students will also be asked to wear an orange shirt. It was still to be determined if the assembly will be in person in or virtual. Per staff feedback, the students will be more engaged with an in-person assembly. Especially for the younger students, staff did not find that the virtual presentations worked.
- To eliminate the poison ivy bordering the CN fence on the junior side of the school yard, it will be necessary to dig up the roots and then tarp and gravel that section. If not, the poison ivy will just grow again. The school will check if the city can assist.
- In previous years, Cycle 3 used Reflex Math. The school is piloting a new math program, Net Math, from Grades 1-6. It is more user-friendly and game-based.
- The Principal discussed some of the Covid protocols.
  - Isolation is different now. If a child tests positive Covid, it does not necessarily mean that a class is automatically closed. Santé Publique will play a bigger role in deciding whether or not a class closes. Parents are urged to keep their children at home if they are sick in general or display any Covid symptoms.
  - Staff member Lorraine Belanger noted that there were students in her class that were vomiting and yet the children were back in the classroom the very next day. The Principal responded that parents will be reminded that children who are sick even if it is not Covid, should regardless stay at home until all symptoms of illness are absent for 48 hours.
  - There will be a pilot program of rapid testing at the school by October.



- As part of the effort to boost back up the school population, Ms. Gianna and Ms. Alexia will be working on the school's social media to promote the school. The web site also needs to be updated.
- On **September 28<sup>th</sup>**, there will be a Welcome Back Celebration.
  - The Phys. Ed. Team is organizing activities for students for the Welcome Back Celebrations. There will be several outdoor stations comprising of interactive carnival type games. There will be one station indoors in the gym – Glow in the Dark bowling.
  - Home and School is paying for a Corn Maze inflatable and offering ice cream to all students. There will be a lactose free option.
- In response to a member query, the Principal confirmed that for now all field trips are allowed again. For example, the seniors' field trips to Ottawa or Quebec City are presently scheduled to go ahead.

**b. Teacher's Report: Stephanie Vezina-Tulli**

- As mentioned above, the Phys. Ed. Team is working with Home and School and the Principal to organize a Welcome Back Celebration on September 28<sup>th</sup>.
- The Kindergarten classes are going on an apple-picking trip on October 8<sup>th</sup>.

***Motion to approve the Kindergarten Apple Picking Field trip was put forth by Raymond Ayas, seconded by Lorraine Belanger and passed by members in attendance.***

**c. Commissioner's Report**

- There was no Commissioner Report.

**d. Parent Committee Report: Helene Zereik**

- There was no report to present since there has not been a PC meeting since the last one in June.

**e. Daycare Report: Georgia Stamatopoulos**

- Daycare is going well; the students are much happier without the classroom bubbles.
- Students registered in Daycare is 90; the number is down from 140 before Covid.
- For the upcoming PED Day on October 15<sup>th</sup>, Daycare would like to organize an apple picking field trip.

**f. Home and School Report: Tia Nicholls**

- As mentioned in the Principal and Teacher Reports, Home and School is working with the Principal and Gym Teachers to host a Welcome Back Celebration on September 28<sup>th</sup>.
- Home and School asks the teachers to think about the Wish List and any possible needs for the classroom.

**8. QUESTION PERIOD**

There were no questions raised.

**9. NEXT MEETING DATE**

The next meeting of Governing Board is scheduled for **October 26, 2021 at 6:30 PM.**

**10. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 8:10 PM.

**Minutes By: Karen Der**





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**CEDARCREST SCHOOL**  
**Governing Board Meeting Minutes**  
**Tuesday October 26, 2021**

**Attendees - Members:**

Maria Argyriou, Raymond Ayas, Lorraine Belanger, Otis Delaney, Karen Der, Lydia Kansou, Gianna Melillo, Tia Nicholls, Georgia Stamatopoulos, Stephanie Vezina-Tulli, Helene Zereik

**Absentees – Members:**

None

**In Attendance:**

April Luong

**1. WELCOME AND OPENING REMARKS**

Welcomes and opening remarks for the second meeting of the 2021-2022 academic year. The meeting was held via Microsoft Teams.

**2. ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA**

Members asked to add the Abolition of ERC (6h), PELO follow-up (6i), Recess (6j) and EMBS Current Issues (6k) to the Agenda.

**3. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**

*Motion to adopt today's Agenda as amended was carried.*

**4. REVIEW OF THE MINUTES FROM SEPTEMBER 21, 2021**

There was no business arising from the Minutes and there were no revisions to the Minutes.

**5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

*Motion to approve the September 21, 2021 Meeting Minutes was put forth by Stephanie Vezina-Tulli and seconded by Lydia Kansou. The motion to approve the September 21, 2021 Meeting Minutes was carried.*

## **6. BUSINESS ISSUES**

### **a. Annual Report and Year End Financial Report**

- The Annual Reports have to be submitted to the EMSB.
- The Chair will send the reports to members tomorrow for review and this business item will be tabled for an e-vote.

### **b. Hockey Program**

- Hockey Program through Ville Saint Laurent
  - The representatives of Ville Saint Laurent are very keen for Cedarcrest to have a hockey program that would run out of Raymond Bourque Arena.
  - The arena is currently under renovation and slated to finish around mid-January. Any new hockey program with Cedarcrest could only begin after the renovations are complete.
  - Storage of hockey equipment was an issue for Cedarcrest. However, there would be storage space available at the arena for Cedarcrest.
- Hockey For Youth
  - This organization is very interested in working with Cedarcrest.
  - They would require parent volunteers to assist with the program since they normally only deal with high school students and not elementary students.

### **c. Soverdi – Planting of Trees**

- Soverdi is working with Daycare planting tulips, trees and shrubs to beautify the school grounds.
- Another phase of this project with Soverdi will be to set up an outdoor classroom where students can learn regardless of the season.
- Principal Delaney hopes that the parents will get involved in this wonderful initiative.

### **d. Progress Reports**

- The progress reports will be going out shortly. The report is a rubric of all the subjects with the *Learning Progress and Behavior* checked off in categories of 'Satisfactory' / 'Needs Improvement' / 'Unsatisfactory' or 'Not Applicable'.

**e. High School Transition Program**

- The high school transition program will work with the Grade 6 students in a series of workshops spanning 8 weeks.

**f. Rapid Testing**

- Ms. Catherine from Daycare and Ms. Stephanie from Staff have been trained to administer the rapid tests. As of today's meeting date, the school has not received any of the tests.
- The large majority of parents have consented to the rapid testing.

**g. Sexuality Education**

- The Sexuality Education classes are slated to begin in January
- The school has partnered with the Shine Program and Comedy for Kids to deliver the material in a series of age-appropriate classes, presentations or workshops. The students' teachers are present during the presentations from the outside consultants.
- Most of the classes are done by the outside consultants since most of the teachers are not comfortable presenting this material.
- Some aspects of the Sexuality Education like biology or physiology can be taught by the Phys Ed and Science teachers. But touchier subjects like relationships are usually taught by the outside consultants.

**h. Abolition of ERC**

- The teachers and their unions were surprised by the government's announcement to abolish the current ERC and replace it with a 'modern citizenship education' course. They were not aware of this proposed curriculum change and found out the same time as the general public
- There will be a test pilot in a few schools teaching the new content. By the end of the school year, there will be more information.

- There is an upcoming Principals' Meeting and this will surely be a topic for discussion.
- Major criticisms of the new course include removal of much of the religion content, absence of learning about other cultures and the emphasis on Quebec culture and secularism.

**i. PELO Follow-up**

- There are 22 students registered for Greek, 17 students registered for Arabic, 17 students registered for Italian and 15 students registered for Spanish.
- The Arabic and Italian classes still need a teacher.
- The classes are geared to accommodate students with little knowledge of the language as well as students for whom the language is their mother tongue.

**j. Recess**

- When Home & School was trying to arrange the Halloween festivities schedule for October 29, members realized that the afternoon recess for the juniors begins just 30 minutes after their lunch break ends. Once the changing in and out of outdoor gear is factored in, the Chair is wondering how these students can learn in an instruction block of 20-25 minutes.
- Ms. Stephanie responded that the morning and afternoon recesses were arranged last year to be split into 2 time frames to respect the bubbles imposed by Covid regulations.
- When the 2021-2022 school hours timetable was organized last spring, Staff Council had to assume that the bubbles and the consequent restrictions would still be in place for the fall of 2021.
- From the Staff perspective, they do not like this schedule either. For the junior cycle teachers, it is hard to teach for 20 – 25 minutes after lunch before the kids go out again for afternoon recess. Mme. Lorraine purposely schedules the Agenda time or reading a book after lunch because of this brief instruction time window.
- It is also a logistical nightmare for scheduling the specialists around the 2 recesses in the morning and the 2 recesses in the afternoon.

- When asked if the school timetable could be changed, Ms. Stephanie responded that as of October 15<sup>th</sup>, the school schedules are set and any changes would go against the teachers' contract and infringe on the collective agreement.
- Even if they could change the timetable, the schedules with the specialists were built around the 2 recesses.
- The current timetable is not ideal. However, the juniors had this timetable last year and have gotten used to it. A better solution will be possible for next September.

**k. EMSB Current Issues**

- The EMSB community was shocked by the violent and tragic death of one its students from Programme Mile End.
- PC Delegate Helene Zereik had emailed the Board and the PC Committee to enquire if they would be acknowledging this tragedy in some way. At their next meetings, there will be a minute of silence. The PC Committee also collected funds from delegates to forward to the victim's family.
- The Principal taught Jannai at JFK and knew his family and friends. He was a kind and gently boy and not gang affiliated. Everyone is traumatized and grief-stricken. The PC Anti-Racism Sub-Committee of which the Principal is a member, has raised \$1,500 for the family.
- Member Lydia Kansou commented that the student used to attend Lauren Hill. Many students at LHA were upset that the school did not discuss the tragedy of a former student in any official way.
- There is concern from the PC Anti-Racism Sub-Committee about the lack of conversation.
- At the elementary level, this tragedy would not be an appropriate discussion but at the high school level, teachers and students should be talking about this. Otherwise, it encourages speculation and assumptions.

## **7. REPORTS**

### **a. Principal's Report: Otis Delaney**

- There was no report to present. The Principal reported on all the items he wished to discuss in the Business Issues. However, he thanked Samantha and Demetrius for donating 4 tickets to Cedarcrest students to see the Women's Soccer Team.

### **b. Teacher's Report: Stephanie Vezina-Tulli**

- On October 29<sup>th</sup>, there will be a Halloween celebration at school. Home and School is paying for a live reptile show. There will also be a pumpkin decorating contest.
- Parent/Teacher interviews will likely be virtual because of Covid. Staff members noticed that more parents show up to the virtual conference versus the in-person meetings.
- In December, the Kindergarten classes are planning a field trip to the Planetarium and Biodome on the same day. Admission is \$12.50 per student and the school bus will cost approximately \$525. Approval of the Kindergarten Planetarium/Biodome field trip can be submitted as an e-vote later when the pricing is confirmed.
- Members suggested that other teachers should be encouraged to do field trips and not only the K classes.
- In discussing homework for Grade 5, Ms. Gianna said that students are expected to finish what was not completed at school plus 30 minutes reading in English and 30 minutes reading in French.
- The recycling jars for the pens, markers etc. can now be brought to the school as discussed in the previous meetings.

### **c. Commissioner's Report**

- There was no Commissioner Report.

### **d. Parent Committee Report: Helene Zereik**

- There is no report to present. The first meeting of PC consisted mainly of role assignment for the various positions.



**e. Daycare Report: Georgia Stamatopoulos**

- Daycare is going well and is status quo.
- The 2021-2022 Daycare Handbook has one revision. The pricing of \$8.50 should read as \$8.55.

***Motion to approve the revision of the pricing from \$8.50 to \$8.55 referenced in the 2021-2022 Daycare Handbook was put forth by Lorraine Belanger, seconded by Karen Der and carried by members in attendance.***

**f. Home and School Report: Tia Nicholls**

- Pat' Pets will present a live interactive animal workshop showcasing spiders, snakes, frogs etc. for the Halloween Event on October 29<sup>th</sup>. Home and School will pay for a pizza lunch for the prize winners of the Pumpkin Contest sponsored by Principal Delaney. As per Mme. Lorraine's suggestion, there will a junior class winner and a senior class winner to make the contest fair. There will be a few school wide Intercom Bingo games. The Bingo winning classes will get an ice cream treat.
- The Dieleman (DFS) holiday catalogue fundraiser was launched earlier this month. The next fundraiser is a "Big Card Stationary Box" which has 33 cards for all occasions. This fundraiser will likely be launched in December or January after the DFS catalogue fundraiser closes in November.
- Home and School again asks teachers to submit their Wish List items which do not necessarily have to be books.

**8. QUESTION PERIOD**

- Question period was opened to the public. April Luong commented that she did not know that GB meetings were open to the public. The meeting times should be mass broadcast to parents.
- The Chair noted that meeting dates are revised frequently. Therefore it's not feasible to upload a series of meeting dates in advance on the school web site. However, once a meeting date is confirmed by members, a notice of meeting could be sent to the Cedarcrest community. The email could instruct those interested in attending to contact the school for a Teams Invite.

- Staff member Lorraine Belanger remarked that if many public participants attend, they would have to be instructed to defer comments or queries to the designated question periods to ensure the meeting runs at a timely and organized pace. Member Helene Zereik noted that at the PC meetings, the host by default mutes the public participants and they are unmuted when they “raise their hand” at the allotted questions periods.
- Member Raymond Ayas noted that it takes a long time after approval of the minutes for the school to upload the minutes to the web site. Principal Delaney will upload the minutes from January to September.

## 9. ADJOURNMENT

- The next meeting of Governing Board is tentatively scheduled for **November 23, 2021 at 6:30 PM.**
- There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 7:56 PM.

**Minutes By: Karen Der**

*Chris L. Delany*

*J. Allen*



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**CEDARCREST SCHOOL**  
**Governing Board Meeting Minutes**  
**Tuesday November 23, 2021**

**Attendees - Members:**

Maria Argyriou, Raymond Ayas, Lorraine Belanger, Otis Delaney, Karen Der, Lydia Kansou, Gianna Melillo, Tia Nicholls, Georgia Stamatopoulos, Stephanie Vezina-Tulli, Helene Zereik

**Absentees – Members:**

None

**Public in Attendance:**

April Luong

**1. WELCOME AND OPENING REMARKS**

Welcomes and opening remarks for the third meeting of the 2021-2022 academic year. The meeting was held via Microsoft Teams.

**2. ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA**

Members asked to add the Kindergarten Field Trip (6c), PELO follow-up (6d), and Home and School Activities (6e) to the Agenda.

**3. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**

*Motion to adopt today's Agenda as amended was put forth by Lorraine Belanger, seconded by Maria Argyriou and carried by members in attendance.*

**4. REVIEW OF THE MINUTES FROM OCTOBER 26, 2021**

Regarding business arising from the minutes, Lorraine Belanger informed members that the school bus cost for the Kindergarten field trip in December will be \$10 per student.

**5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

*Motion to approve the October 26, 2021 Meeting Minutes was put forth by Lydia Kansou, seconded by Georgia Stamatopoulos and carried by members in attendance.*

## 6. BUSINESS ISSUES

### a. mTransport Update

- A recent email went out to parents regarding the mTransport app.
- The app tracks in real time the movement of the bus. The bus driver scans the student's bus pass when they get on and off the bus.
- Parents who do not have the QR codes are applying for them via the school office.
- At present, not all of the Cedarcrest buses are using the application.

### b. Gym Uniforms

- Last year, to respect the class bubbles, students were not able to change into their gym uniform in the gym locker area.
- This year again, the school is not requiring that students change for gym since it is difficult to enforce the mask wearing as they change in and out of their gym uniforms.
- Many students wear their gym uniforms to school on the days they have gym.
- Kindergarten have continued to change into gym uniforms since they have always changed in their classrooms.
- Some students, especially the older ones, change in the bathrooms before gym class begins and the teachers give them the few minutes needed to change.

### c. Kindergarten December 17<sup>th</sup> Field Trip

- The Kindergarten classes will go to the Planetarium in the morning, have lunch and then go to the Biodome. As mentioned above in the Business Arising from the Minutes, the school bus will cost \$10 per student. *École Montréalaise* is helping to subsidize the costs. The total field trip fee will be \$20 per student. This covers the school bus and admission to the Planetarium and Biodome.

***Motion to approve the Kindergarten Planetarium/Biodome field trip fees was put forth by Lydia Kansou, seconded by Helene Zereik and carried unanimously by members in attendance.***

- Principal Delaney commented that teachers are not obligated to do field trips. They are encouraged to do the field trips but it is their choice in the end.
- Parent members understand that some teachers may be wary of field trips like Quebec City or Ottawa during the pandemic. However, there are great field trips that can be done in Montreal and the surrounding areas for the Grade 5 and Grade 6 classes.
- Member Lorraine Belanger mentioned that her colleagues at Parkdale ran a very popular and successful Montreal sightseeing field trip for their senior classes.

**d. PELO Follow-up**

- As mentioned in the last meeting, the Arabic and Italian classes still need a teacher. The school has had difficulty in staffing these two classes.
- Principal Delaney thanked member Helene Zereik for forwarding possible candidates to fill these posts.
- The PELO program will start once all the teachers have been hired.

**e. Home and School Activities**

- With the new report card schedule of January and June, teachers will still be evaluating students until December 17th. As such, Staff Council has asked that all holiday festivities be postponed until the week of December 20-22 to avoid distracting the students.
- Therefore the proposed Scavenger Hunt on December 17 needs to be rescheduled to December 20 or December 21.
- The December 7<sup>th</sup> Allo Mon Coco Breakfast is acceptable since it is a donated breakfast and teachers feel that a 30 minute breakfast should not be too disruptive. However, they do not want any other holiday activities on that day.
- The Chair expressed reservations about getting enough volunteers on the week of December 20-22 since it is so close to the Christmas holidays. Furthermore, some students may be absent in the last few days of school. Staff noted that if parents take out their children early from school, they should expect that their children will miss out on the school festivities which typically occur in the last few days before the holiday break.

## 7. REPORTS

### a. Principal's Report: Otis Delaney

- Parent-Teacher Conference will be on Thursday November 25<sup>th</sup> from 8:30 am to 8:30 pm. This year the appointment.com system was used. Most teachers are booked.
- As part of the food drive campaign that will be discussed in the Teacher's Report, the Principal would like to make food baskets for Cedarcrest families in need. A note will go out on School Messenger asking families in need to communicate with the Principal.
- Robotics as an ECA is being proposed for Saturdays from 9AM-12PM. The proposed time slot is based on the availability of the Robotics teacher. Principal Delaney has volunteered to be the staff that is present. The Chair commented that another time slot from Monday to Friday should be allocated to Robotics to avoid the Principal having to come in on Saturdays.
- Robocup is a different activity from the proposed Robotics ECA. If Cedarcrest decides to participate in Robocup, *Stage Robotics* would be recommended since coding is minimal.
- Parent members enquired about Robotics as a unit in the Science class and why it has not been taught yet. Ms. Stephanie Vezina-Tulli responded that Robotics is only a theme in the Science class. In past years, Cedarcrest has had a high level of Robotics content that began with Ms. Batsios and continued with Ms. Taylor and Mr. Jonathan. As such parents are used to a higher Robotics content that is not required by Ministry guidelines.

### b. Teacher's Report: Stephanie Vezina-Tulli

- There will be a Twelve Days of Giving Campaign organized by Ms. Gianna and Mr. Ibrahim. For example, Day 1 would be hygiene products and Day 2 would be canned goods etc.
- Student Council is also having a toy and book drive. They will resell the books and toys to the students during lunch recess and all monies raised will go to Montreal Children's Hospital.
- On December 17<sup>th</sup>, the Kindergarten classes are going to the Planetarium and Biodome.
- There is a possibility of a Christmas card writing campaign that can be delivered to the elderly living in nursing homes or to patients in hospitals.
- Staff are also planning holiday activities for the week of December 20-22. Ideas include another breakfast, Just Dance in the Gym, and Movie in the Gym with Dress Down Day pyjamas.

**c. Commissioner's Report**

- There was no Commissioner Report.

**d. Parent Committee Report: Helene Zereik**

- At the last EMSBPC meeting, there was a minute of silence for Jannai.
- The PC Committee also discussed their concerns about the abolition of the ECR program.
- There was a discussion about the Parent Conference for this academic year. The conference hosts workshops, seminars and discussions on a variety of topics such as mental health, online learning and tutoring, assistive technologies for children and racism, equity and diversity.

**e. Daycare Report: Georgia Stamatopoulos**

- Daycare is going well and is status quo. There is no report to present.

**f. Home and School Report: Tia Nicholls**

- On December 7<sup>th</sup>, Allo Mon Coco in collaboration with Home and School is donating a free waffle breakfast to students and staff.
- For the Spirit of Giving Campaign, Allo Mon Coco will be donating 4 food baskets. Home and School will be giving four \$50 gift cards.
- The wish list items submitted to date have been approved by Home and School members. The President of Home & School encourages teachers to send in their wish list.
- A possible fundraiser next year is a Comedy Show in the Gym or a virtual version depending on Covid regulations. A Cedarcrest parent is a well-known comedian and has organized many successful fundraisers for schools. Tickets would be sold to parents and staff. Catered food and drinks could also be sold at the event or a takeout option set up with local restaurants in the case of a virtual comedy event. In the past, the Comedy Nest Fundraiser was very popular among staff and parents.

## 8. QUESTION PERIOD

- Question period was opened to the public. In response to April Luong's query why Governing Board was voting on the Kindergarten field trip since the Principal had already approved field trips, the Chair responded that any fees related to field trips still have to be approved by Governing Board.
- In response to what other schools were doing regarding the gym uniforms, the Phys Ed. Teacher responded that some schools never stopped requiring students to change and some like Cedarcrest did not require students to change into school uniforms to facilitate respecting the class bubbles.

## 9. ADJOURNMENT

- The next meeting of Governing Board will be announced at a later date since it is to be determined if the meeting will be virtual or in person.
- There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at **8:17 PM**.

Minutes By: Karen Der



Signature: Chair, Tia Nicholls







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**CEDARCREST SCHOOL**  
**Governing Board Meeting Minutes**  
**Wednesday February 16, 2022**

**Attendees - Members:**

Maria Argyriou, Raymond Ayas, Lorraine Belanger, Otis Delaney, Karen Der, Lydia Kansou, Gianna Melillo, Tia Nicholls, Georgia Stamatopoulos, Stephanie Vezina-Tulli, Helene Zereik

**Absentees – Members:**

None

**Public in Attendance:**

None

**1. WELCOME AND OPENING REMARKS**

Welcomes and opening remarks for the fourth meeting of the 2021-2022 academic year. The meeting was held via Microsoft Teams.

**2. ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA**

There were no additions to the Agenda.

**3. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**

*Motion to adopt today's Agenda was put forth by Lydia Kansou, seconded by Karen Der and carried by members in attendance.*

**4. REVIEW OF THE MINUTES FROM NOVEMBER 23, 2021**

There were no revisions to the Minutes.

**5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

*Motion to approve the November 23, 2021 Meeting Minutes was put forth by Georgia Stamatopoulos, seconded by Stephanie Vezina-Tulli and carried by members in attendance.*

## 6. BUSINESS ISSUES

### a. Vaccination

- Today, the CLSC came to the school to administer the second Covid dose for the 23 students who had been registered for the vaccination by their parents. The vaccinations went smoothly.
- The Grade 4 HPV and Hepatitis vaccinations originally scheduled for February 11 has now been moved to April 5<sup>th</sup> due to staffing issues at the CLSC.

### b. PELO

- The PELO program is still pending since the school has to yet to receive any employee kits for the PELO teachers from the Board. Cedarcrest must have these employee kits before any PELO class can begin.

### c. Winter Carnival

- Ms. Stephanie and Ms. Lisa are organizing Winter Carnival activities for the students next week.
- There will be an outdoor excursion to nearby Saint Laurent Park for sliding. Another day will be Movie in the Gym. There will be different movies for each cycle. A *cabane à sucre* activity is planned for next Thursday.

### d. Black History Month

- Ms. Vittoria, Mr. Ibrahim and Ms. Subreena organized workshops with excellent presenters. It was a wonderful experience for the students.

### e. Staff Appreciation

- Staff Appreciation Week has been well-received. Teachers especially appreciated the recess coverage for the week.

**f. Phys. ED (Bicycles/Olympics)**

- The Principal and parent members applauded the wonderful programs implemented by the Gym teachers.
- Ms. Stephanie was able to procure 11 brand new bikes with helmets from a grant application.
- Once the issue of bike storage is resolved, they will apply for more bikes. The goal is to have enough bikes for a gym class.
- Last week, the theme for Gym was the Winter Olympics. Teachers introduced students to Olympic winter sports like curling.

**g. Robotics**

- Parents have been concerned about how much students are learning in Science class since it seems to be a different substitute teacher each week the last few months.
- The Principal noted that this year was exceptional. The Science teacher is on leave and with the pandemic and staffing shortages, it has been difficult to get consistent subbing.
- Members were informed that the Board had changed the Science class job posting to an 'English Generalist' category. Therefore, teachers applying for the position do not have to have a specialty in Science to teach the class.
- The school will ensure that the posting description for the Science class in 2022-2023 will indicate that Robotics must be taught as a unit in Science.

**h. Air Purifiers/Filters**

- At the EMSBPC meeting, delegates were enquiring about filter maintenance. The filters at Cedarcrest are replaced regularly by the air purifier company.
- Regarding the CO2 machines, staff are aware of the protocols. If levels are above 2,000 the windows are opened and the classroom is cleared.

## 7. REPORTS

### a. Principal's Report: Otis Delaney

- There are already 10 children registered for the Pre-K class.
- Cedarcrest student Melodie d'Agostino was interviewed by Global News for her Mental Health Awareness fundraising campaign. The Principal enquired about a Home and School fundraiser that could help Melodie achieve her target of raising \$5,000 for the Montreal Children's Hospital Foundation.
- The Home & School Comedy Gala Night Fundraiser hopes to secure the Agora at Lauren Hill Junior Academy as the venue.
- February 25<sup>th</sup> is still a PED Day unless the Board notifies the school otherwise.

### b. Teacher's Report: Stephanie Vezina-Tulli

- There was no report to present since all items were discussed in the Business Issues.

### c. Commissioner's Report

- There was no Commissioner Report.

### d. Parent Committee Report: Helene Zereik

- At the last meeting, there was discussion about Bill 9.
- The PC Committee passed a motion for the renewal of the Special Project Status - Section 240 for the five schools that currently hold this status.
- The Parent Conference Sub-Committee is asking for volunteers to be virtual moderators. The conference hosts workshops, seminars and discussions on a variety of topics such as mental health, online learning and tutoring and social media.
- There was discussion about forming a sub-committee for preventing sexual misconduct in light of the case at *École Secondaire Saint Laurent*.

**e. Daycare Report: Georgia Stamatopoulos**

- Ms. Sylvana will be retiring on February 24<sup>th</sup>. She has been one of Daycare's strongest educators and will be missed. Daycare will not be replacing her and will wait for the registration numbers for the upcoming academic year before deciding if her position will be filled.

**f. Home and School Report: Tia Nicholls**

- Home and School has begun planning for the Comedy Night Gala Fundraiser. Tickets will be \$30 per person. Tickets will be sold first to the Cedarcrest community and then to the public. Drinks, snacks and raffle tickets will also be sold at the event to maximize profits.
- The Big Box of Cards Fundraiser will be launched after the March Break.
- Staff Appreciation Week is underway and going very well.

**8. QUESTION PERIOD**

- It was raised if Music would be part of the 2022-2023 Subject Allocation.

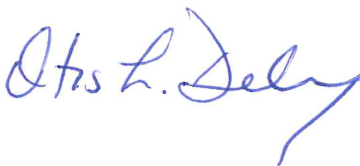
**9. ADJOURNMENT**

- The next meeting of Governing Board will be announced at a later date.
- There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 8:00 PM.

**Minutes By: Karen Der**



**Signature: Chair, Tia Nicholls**





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1505 Muir, St-Laurent, QC H4L 4T1  
Tel: (514) 744-2614



Commission scolaire English-Montréal  
English Montreal School Board

**CEDARCREST SCHOOL**  
**Governing Board Meeting Minutes**  
**Monday April 11, 2022**

**Attendees - Members:**

Maria Argyriou, Raymond Ayas, Lorraine Belanger, Otis Delaney, Karen Der, Lydia Kansou, Gianna Melillo, Tia Nicholls, Georgia Stamatopoulos, Stephanie Vezina-Tulli, Helene Zereik

**Absentees – Members:**

None

**Public in Attendance:**

None

**1. WELCOME AND OPENING REMARKS**

Welcomes and opening remarks for the fifth meeting of the 2021-2022 academic year. The meeting was held via Microsoft Teams.

**2. ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA**

There were no additions to the Agenda.

**3. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**

*Motion to adopt today's Agenda was put forth by Helene Zereik, seconded by Lydia Kansou and carried by members in attendance.*

**4. REVIEW OF THE MINUTES FROM FEBRUARY 16, 2022**

There were no revisions to the Minutes.

**5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

*Motion to approve the February 16, 2022 Meeting Minutes was put forth by Tia Nicholls, seconded by Helene Zereik and carried by members in attendance.*

## 6. BUSINESS ISSUES

### a. Le Doral

- The representative from Le Doral was present for this portion of the meeting to discuss changes for 2022-2023.
- Prices for food and packaging has increased. Like many other companies, they are facing the challenges of supply chain shortages.
- Le Doral will not be raising its prices which is \$6.50 for a hot lunch.
- However, they will be removing the water bottle from the lunch. Le Doral is trying to be more eco-friendly and the removal of the water bottles will help this effort and allow the company to not increase their prices.
- Le Doral had also looked into bamboo cutlery as part of its green effort. However, the cost is too expensive at 70 cents per package.
- Le Doral orders have increased since the live shots of its 3 daily meals.
- In response to a query, parents can make a last minute order the night before as long as this is not a regular occurrence. Le Doral does not advertise this; otherwise every morning Le Doral will have dozens of new orders which are very challenging to meet with today's supply shortages.

***Motion to reinstate Le Doral as the hot lunch provider was put forth by Tia Nicholls, seconded by Georgia Stamatopoulos and carried by members in attendance.***

### b. Criteria of Principal

- The Principal was not present during this segment of the meeting.
- The Chair presented to members the Criteria of Principal document.

***Motion to approve the Criteria of Principal document was approved and carried by members in attendance.***

**c. Budget Building Process**

- The budget priorities identified include lighting in the hallway, re-evaluating the windows and an extra bathroom for the Pre-K class.
- Parent member Raymond Ayas suggested LED lighting as the energy and cost efficient measure to implement for the lighting.

***Motion to approve the Budget Building Process was put forth by Lydia Kansou, seconded by Raymond Ayas and carried by members in attendance.***

**d. Arts Program 2022-2023**

- Although members would like to have Music as part of the Arts program in 2022-2023, it will be difficult to hire a Music specialist to teach part-time in French at Cedarcrest.
- Members agreed to table this Business Issue to the next meeting.
- Members suggested polling the community about their preferences for the Ministry Arts Program which is composed of four disciplines. They are Dance, Music, Dramatic Art (*art dramatique*) and Plastic Arts (*arts plastiques*).
- The polling feedback from the Cedarcrest community could guide GB for the 2023-2024 Arts Program.

**e. Generic Birthday Cards**

- Member Helene Zereik suggested that the School should acknowledge all students' birthdays with a generic card template which the teachers can give to them on their birthday.
- Member Lorraine also suggested posting the birthday wishes on the TV in the school foyer or on Google classroom.
- If a list can be generated with the students' birthdates, Home and School can prepare the birthday cards in advance and give them to the teachers at the beginning of the school year.



**f. Criteria - Science Teacher**

- Per Board guidelines, the Science Teacher position is no longer a specialist position requiring a degree in the Sciences. It is considered an English position and thus anyone qualified for the General - English position can apply for the Science position.
- To ensure that candidates applying for the Science position at Cedarcrest are interested in Robotics, the posting could include Robotics as a criteria. Also, the posting could be listed as "Subject to interview".

**g. Envelope /Code Word (Menstruation)**

- A lot of the grade 5 and 6 students are starting menstruation earlier and sometimes this happens for the first time at school which is distressing for them.
- Parents are asking for a pre-packaged envelope of pads and wipes and a code word that the girls can say to their teacher should this occur unexpectedly at school to avoid further embarrassment.
- The school assured members that there is always a stock of sanitary napkins available. However, this will be mentioned at the next Staff Council meeting.

**h. Grade 5/6 Outdoor Activities**

- Parents are hoping more can be done to encourage the grades 5 and 6 to engage in more outdoor activities and exercise during their recesses.

## 7. REPORTS

### a. Principal's Report: Otis Delaney

- Progress Reports will be sent home soon.
- Grade 2 is having a field trip to *Maison Atelier* on April 27. Several field trips and outings are being planned by the other grades. Grade 6 is looking tentatively at an Ottawa field trip.
- The School still doesn't know if next year will be divided into 2 or 3 terms. Therefore 2 versions of the School Calendar are currently being drafted.

### b. Teacher's Report: Stephanie Vezina-Tulli

- There was no report to present since all items were discussed in the Business Issues.

### c. Commissioner's Report

- There was no Commissioner Report.

### d. Parent Committee Report: Helene Zereik

- There was a presentation about the Allo Prof resource. A lot of the material is being translated into English.
- There is also online tutoring through instant messaging.
- The Parent Conference Sub-Committee will be hosting its annual parent conference over the Victoria long weekend.
- Next Tuesday, EPCA will be presenting a webinar to discuss Bill 96 and is encouraging parents to attend the rally.

### e. Daycare Report: Georgia Stamatopoulos

- Registration for the upcoming school year has started via Mozaik.
- Pre-K and K daycare registration will still have to be done manually.
- Daycare Week will be low-key next month due to its lower budget.

**f. Home and School Report: Tia Nicholls**

- The Comedy Gala Night Sub-Committee has been working diligently and meeting regularly to organise the event. Tickets are now on sale. We offered a complimentary table to the administration of Lauren Hill. They have been very helpful and accommodating,
- The Big Box of Cards Fundraiser was well-received by the Cedarcrest community and raised just over \$1,000.
- Home and School will be collaborating with the Phys Ed. Team to organise End of Year celebrations.
- The Dress Down Day monies raised to date \$1,260 has been transferred over to the year's Grad Committee for their opening budget.

**8. QUESTION PERIOD**

- Members asked about the status of PELO. To date, no employee lists for PELO instructors have been received.
- Members enquired about the possibility of having a tutoring service like Building Blocks as an afterschool extra-curricular activity that parents can pay for like Enfant & Co. or Soccer. There are a lot of students at Cedarcrest that follow an IEP. Parents are seeking this extra tutoring outside. It was agreed to table this item to next meeting.

**9. ADJOURNMENT**

- The next meeting of Governing Board will be announced at a later date.
- There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 8:00 PM.

**Minutes By: Karen Der**



**Signature: Chair, Tia Nicholls**





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Commission scolaire English-Montréal  
English Montreal School Board

**CEDARCREST SCHOOL**  
**Governing Board Meeting Minutes**  
**Tuesday June 14, 2022**

**Attendees - Members:**

Maria Argyriou, Raymond Ayas, Lorraine Belanger, Otis Delaney, Karen Der, Lydia Kansou, Gianna Melillo, Tia Nicholls, Georgia Stamatopoulos, Stephanie Vezina-Tulli, Helene Zereik

**Absentees – Members:**

None

**Public in Attendance:**

None

**1. WELCOME AND OPENING REMARKS**

Welcomes and opening remarks for the final meeting of the 2021-2022 academic year. The meeting was held in person at Cedarcrest.

**2. ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA**

Members asked to add the Arts Program to the Agenda.

**3. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**

*Motion to adopt today's Agenda as amended was put forth by Stephanie Vezina-Tulli, seconded by Lydia Kansou and carried by members in attendance.*

**4. REVIEW OF THE MINUTES FROM APRIL 11, 2022**

There were no revisions to the Minutes.

**5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

*Motion to approve the April 11, 2022 Meeting Minutes was put forth by Tia Nicholls, seconded by Lorraine Bélanger and carried by members in attendance.*

## 6. BUSINESS ISSUES

### a. Budget Report

- The Principal presented the 2022-2023 Budget Report to members.
- The projected enrolment for 2022-2023 is 285 students.

***Motion to approve the 2022-2023 Budget Report was put forth by Lydia Kansou, seconded by Karen Der and carried by members in attendance.***

### b. Consolidating Homework Communication

- Parent members mentioned that sometimes homework is missed due to the different means of communication used by teachers to post homework.
- Some teachers use the Agenda exclusively and some use a combination of the Agenda and Google Classroom. Before, some used Class Dojo.
- Parents remarked that they must look at different places to ensure that their children have all their homework.
- Parents acknowledge that using the Google classroom is still a necessity to prepare the older students for high school where the Google classroom is the main means of communication
- However, at the elementary school level, parents believe the Agenda should continue to be the standard means of communication and Google classroom as a supplementary communication tool.
- Teacher member Gianna Melillo noted that teachers often use Google classroom to post homework for the students that are absent.
- Daycare member concurred that the Agenda should be the standard means to post homework. At Daycare, there is a time period allotted for homework. Unless the homework is written in the student Agenda, Daycare staff have no way of knowing what homework has been assigned to their students.

***Motion that all homework must be handwritten in the student's Agenda with Google classroom being a supplementary option was put forth by Raymond Ayas, seconded by Helene Zereik and carried by members in attendance.***

### **c. Locker Usage**

- Parent members asked that the locker usage be revisited for the upcoming school year.
- During the pandemic, there was an empty locker policy in the event of sudden school closure and switch to online learning.
- This ensured that students had all their textbooks and supplies if a class or the whole school suddenly switched to remote learning. However, students commuted to and from school with heavy and overloaded school bags every day.
- Remote learning is unlikely in the upcoming school year. Parent members asked that students be again allowed to leave behind in their lockers their indoor shoes, spare set of clothes, gym uniform, pencil cases with the art supplies etc.
- Workbooks should still go home in the event of illness.
- The Principal will clarify with Staff the use of the lockers for the upcoming school year.

### **d. Clarification of Morning Bell 7:45/7:55 and School Lates**

- Before the pandemic, the 7:45 am morning bell signalled the opening of the schoolyard gate on the parking lot side. Students were released from the school buses, walkers could go into the school yard and the students in Daycare moved from their daycare classrooms to the school yard.
- From 7:45 am - 7:55 am, the students were in the school yard. The 7:55 am bell signaled for the students to line up and enter the school building by class via their assigned entrances.
- Because of the pandemic and to respect the class bubble guidelines, this entry flow was completely changed. Students no longer assembled in the school yard.
- Students were now allowed to enter the school building starting from 7:45 am to minimize a large influx of students coming in at 7:55 am. Daycare students go to their homerooms at 7:45 and bus and walker students can enter the building from this time as well.
- However, many parents are still dropping off their children at the 7:55 bell and late slips have been issued for students arriving in the classroom a few minutes after 7:55 am.
- Parent members asked that if the early entry at 7:45 am will continue this upcoming school year, the entry times and bells need be clarified to avoid the school late slips. If the students are expected to be at their desks at 7:55 am, this should be communicated to the parents. Many parents are still assuming a building entry time of 7:55 am as indicated in the school Agenda.
- On this subject of entry times, parent members also suggested relooking the entry and dismissal flows for the upcoming school year. The multiple entrances/exits at entry and dismissal aimed to minimize crowding during the

pandemic. But there is also a safety and security issue with having the multiple entrances and exits open during school entry and dismissal.

**e. Arts Program**

- Parent members enquired about the Art Program since it was never voted on at the last meeting
- Teacher Representative noted that Arts Plastiques and Arts Dramatique can be taught by the students' teacher. If Music is taught as one of the Arts disciplines, the available time allocation is 1 day a week. It is difficult to attract a Music Specialist who can teach in French to work only 1 day a week at Cedarcrest.
- Teaching Dance as one of the Arts disciplines is not feasible since there is no available room to teach Dance. The Gym is fully occupied to teach Phys Ed and there are not enough empty time slots in the Gym to accommodate the whole school learning Dance.
- Another possibility to integrate more Music into Cedarcrest is to offer a 10 week session of Merlin class during lunchtime or afterschool similar to the Karate, Enfant & Compagnie or Soccer extracurricular activities.

## 7. REPORTS

### a. Principal's Report: Otis Delaney

- The Principal thanked all staff and the parent community for their support during his first year at Cedarcrest.
- He submitted Home & School's application for the Indigo Adopt a School Program.
- Raymond Bourque Arena will give Cedarcrest free ice time and storage space for equipment if it goes ahead with its afterschool hockey program.
- Graduation Ceremony will take place on June 21<sup>st</sup>.

### b. Teacher's Report: Stephanie Vezina-Tulli

- The shipping container for the bikes will arrive shortly. The grant covers most of the cost and Home and School will pay the remaining balance of approximately \$900. The shipping container will be beautified next school year as part of an art project.
- A volleyball court is being installed in the school yard.
- Several field trips are being planned. Grade 3 is going to Pointe-à-Callière. Grade 4 is going to the Botanical Garden, Grade 5 is going to the Science Center and Grade 6 is going to Ottawa.
- All the students participated in an art mural painted in the open area of the school.
- Student Council will help the Phys Ed team with Field Day on June 20.
- As mentioned in the Principal Report, June 21<sup>st</sup> is the Graduation Ceremony.
- On June 22<sup>nd</sup>, the Grade 6 will have an outdoor party in the school yard with Decarie Hot Dog food truck and music.
- Year End Celebration will be on June 23<sup>rd</sup> during school time. In the event of rain, the carnival games will be set up in the Gym.

### c. Commissioner's Report

- There was no Commissioner Report.

### d. Parent Committee Report: Helene Zereik

- Since the last meeting, there have been more workshops about sexual exploitation and social media.

### e. Daycare Report: Georgia Stamatopoulos

- To date, there are 109 regular students and 27 sporadic students registered for Daycare. Nine out of 19 pre-K student are registered for Daycare.



**f. Home and School Report: Tia Nicholls**

- Home and School thanked teachers and staff for all their support throughout the year.
- The Inaugural Comedy Gala Night raised approximately \$9,500.
- Home and School is collaborating with the Phys Ed. Team to organise End of Year celebrations.
- The Welcome Back Celebrations and Corn Roast is set for September 16<sup>th</sup>.
- Home and School will be distributing three \$100 bursaries to three Grade 6 students.

**8. QUESTION PERIOD**

- The afterschool extracurricular activities for 2022-2023 will be reviewed in September.
- There will be a mass email sent regarding the Lost & Found items.
- Regarding the library, staff noted that for some of the older classes, the librarian will not take the whole class at once. Instead, she asks that only a few students come at a time. The Principal will follow up.
- The Home and School Used Book Fair will not be held in June but in September on the day of Meet the Teacher Night. Students will look at the Book Fair during the day and parents can have a look during Meet the Teacher Night in the evening.
- Members enquired about the possibility of having a tutoring service like Building Blocks as an afterschool extra-curricular activity that parents can pay for like Enfant & Co. or Soccer. There are a lot of students at Cedarcrest that follow an IEP. Parents are seeking this extra tutoring outside. It was agreed to table this item to next meeting.
- The School Board is scheduled to install the LED lights mentioned at the last meeting.

**9. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 8:30 PM.

Minutes By: Karen Der



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Signature: Chair, Tia Nicholls

