

QUEBEC HIGH SCHOOL
GOVERNING BOARD
945 Belvedere, Quebec City,
Quebec G1S 3G2



Governing Board Meeting
Wednesday, May 22nd, 2019
6:30 p.m. in the School Conference Room

Minutes

Present:

Principal:

Warren Thomson

Support Staff:

Josée Simard

Community:

Edward Sweeney

Teachers

Gina Gauvin

Douglas Grant

Laura Peterson

Students

Olivia Ouellet

Parents :

Andrea Heitshu-Craig

Jean-Luc Trahan

Rhea Utley

Absent

Sandra Cole

Kelly Eden

Jill Gagnon

Ann Gauthier

Rebecca Palmer

Quorum was reached, meeting started at 6:38 p.m.

1. Opening of the Assembly and verification of the Quorum
2. Approval of the Agenda – moved by J. Simard, seconded by A. Heitshu-Craig, unanimously approved
3. Question period - no questions from the public, nor any from the members
4. Approval of the Minutes of the March 19th 2018 meeting – Moved by R. Utley, seconded by G. Gauvin
5. Student Council Report

- Special week of events: Tie Dye day, Wear Your School Colors day, Blazers gear (i.e. socks and sandals, blue and gold colors, QHS apparel), Ice Cream Truck Thursday, and a Spring Fest on Friday with inflatable bouncy houses, slip & slide, water games, as well as face painting. Hot dogs, chips and drinks/juices will be served on Friday.
 - Grad trip is scheduled to leave on Thursday afternoon, right after the Ministry ELA exam
 - Prom will take place on June 25th at Château Bonne Entente. Tickets for meal and/or cocktail are on sale for Sec. 5 and their guests. A yearbook is also for sale.
 - W. Thomson reiterated some details on Prom and Graduation activities, what they both entail and represent. Graduation is an important **school** ceremony with traditions attached to it, whereas Prom is a celebration for and **by the students** to mark the end of their High School years. Parents will be receiving an email from W. Thomson in the upcoming days with some information from the Ministry regarding Proms, after-Proms, and suggestions on how parents can ensure that these remain a positive and safe experience.
6. Governing Board business
- a) Code of Conduct – the school’s revised Code of Conduct was approved unanimously following a motion from R. Utley and seconded by A. Heitschu-Craig. The following are highlights of the changes:
- J-L Trahan suggested changing GB *President* to GB *Chairperson*.
 - School’s mission, values, etc. will be updated according to the Educational Project document, separately approved
 - Changes to the electronic devices policy – classrooms are now **100% device-free** areas (starting next year), for both staff and students. This policy update is based on existing research that devices significantly impact learning activities and student wellbeing. The staff debated this extensively and reached a consensus that this would be in the best interest of student learning and the school environment. The implementation of this new policy will include communication to parents, general assembly with staff and students early in the year, as well the Student Council taking leadership in educating the student body. These communications will expose the reasoning behind the policy change.
 - A remediation tracking form was added to the document (printed in the student agenda), so students can easily record when they go for remediation, as well as for which subject(s).
- b) Educational Project – The school’s Educational Project was approved unanimously (with minor changes outlined below) as presented by M. Thomson. The motion was proposed by R. Utley and seconded by J-L Trahan.
- The phrase “... do not have a way to track this information” [about student participation in extra-curricular activities] was removed, as we now have data from a school-wide survey.

- For better clarity, SET (the accepted acronym for “Special Education Technician”) was cleared defined
- A phrase on p.7, Objective 2 needs to be reworded for clarity and precision (with regards to student anxiety levels vs. “good” stress)
- With regards to Objective 4, W. Thomson will be meeting with St-Pat’s administration to try and coordinate some activities with an eye to bringing both High Schools into a “common” vision.

c) CQSB Budget Management Process – the GB is being consulted on the CQSB’s BMP. A short discussion took place:

- As W. Thomson sits on the RAC (Resource Allocation Committee), he was able to provide some insight on how budgets are allocated.)
- Budget for Supervision fees in Secondary schools is being phased out over a period of 3 years. This frees budget for school consumables (i.e. lab animals for biology dissection labs, mouthpieces and reeds for music instruments, clay for ceramics, etc.) Basically, the schools receive the same monies, but can use it more effectively.
- With regards to supervision, lunch hour is the biggest need/priority to ensure all common areas/spaces are monitored appropriately. This is typically done by SETs. Lunch-hour supervision fees can be charges to parents.

7. Principal’s Report

a) Academics: the June exam schedule is being prepared and is expected to be released this week to students and parents

b) Arts: various events took place and were very successful – Music Extravaganza and the Music Theatre production (*The Wizard of Oz*). M. Domonkos and the students in Music Concentration are in the process of finalizing and recording their annual album. The VCN room is evolving into an Arts & Technology hub: we have received monies from the Citadel Foundation to setup media computers, large screens, etc. to bring art and technology within reach of our students.

c) Athletics: Ultimate Frisbee has taken off! This year we have 4 teams participating in the RSEQ leagues, which allowed us to invest in new uniforms, and the school intends to support this program as much as possible. Ultimate Frisbee engages students that otherwise would not have participated in a team sport, is co-ed and fun w/o being overly competitive. This will likely be the last year for Girl’s Rugby, as it has dropped in popularity, and had several issues.

8. Other reports

a) Transportation Committee :

- QHS does not have a representative

- b) Parents' Committee – J-L Trahan reported that at the last meeting, M. Burke, Chairman of the Council of Commissioners, made a short presentation on the current government's intention of abolishing school boards as we know them today. However, as of this meeting, there is no bill nor any other formal document describing what will change. It was mentioned that if we move away from elected commissioners, our English community's control over its community interests will further erode. We were also told that the June GB meetings must be held as late as possible to give the Ministry and the CQSB time to clarify what fees can be charge to parents. There was also some discussion at the Parent's Committee as to what exactly our membership with EPCA (English Parents' Committee Association) brings us. The last meeting of the Parents' Committee is in June.
- c) CLC Report – Presented by Ed Sweeney
- YMCA exchange with students from the First Nation community in Fort Hope went relatively well. When Fort Hope students came to Québec, there was an activity planned with a Chief from Wendake.
 - There is some thought being done on scheduling exchange trips earlier in the school year to avoid missing school in spring due to exams, etc. YMCA has already approved an earlier Sept./Oct. exchange for next year. This will be our 4th time to Barnwell, AB, as it's been a very successful exchange in the past.
 - Last week there was a big event held at Everest Elementary School (in cooperation with QHS and the EQLC) called the *Cultural Caravan*. This was a way to bring some cultural diversity to the students in the CQSB which has a fairly homogenous student population. Students had the opportunity to "visit" different countries at different kiosks and get "passports" stamped; at the end the people representing the Congo did a massive demonstration with dance and music. CBC covered the event which ultimately was hugely successful and well-received by all.
 - The "Read with Me" project (where people record children's books) is still ongoing, and the Morrin Centre has added an additional reading project.
 - The Morrin Centre has further created a program for a group of students to write, produce, and perform a play (*Mystery, History, and Whole Lot of Tea*) which will be presented on June 1st. The Dance Concentration and Improv club will also be featured.
 - This weekend there is an alumni reunion supper being held at QHS, and their annual golf tournament is upcoming.
 - As a point of pride, one of our students, Mia Tenasco, has been asked by CEGEP Jonquière to be a keynote speaker at one of their events.

- d) Special Needs committee – presented by R. Utleby
- Had their last meeting of the year, and a subcommittee met to come up with communications strategies. There is great participation on this committee, as parents find it very important.
 - They are developing a pamphlet with the goal of being clear, not intimidating, and having usable information and accessible language.
 - With the new Director of Complementary Services at the School Board, the committee will work to offer better support for administrators in the face of ever-changing staff and increasing needs. It is becoming clear that not all administrators have the same level and breadth of expertise with IEPs, and each school has a different organizational structure, so more consistency may be valuable.
9. Business Arising
- No business.
10. Correspondence
- No correspondence
11. Varia – Changes to concentration programs
- Changes to concentration programs will need to be voted on when we have our final meeting in June. The format and scheduling of concentrations will need to change next year, and the addition of a Performing Arts concentration will meet the interests and needs of students who are involved in music theatre, drama, and improv clubs. The document itself need some revision, but a form will be sent to parents before the end of the school year in order to enroll and organize our concentration programs.
 - Next year, QHS will be one of the schools involved in a pilot project for funding extracurricular projects. The goal for this is to expand the span of the day by one hour by providing programming for the entire student body. This may eliminate the need to pay for concentration programs and will bring new clubs and activities to the students. This is very recent information (as well as a *pilot* project) so details about the coordination, specific programs offered, and logistics of the budget will follow later.
12. Dates of next meetings:
- The last meeting of the year will be held on June 20th at the Calao Restaurant, at 6PM. A private room is reserved so that we can hold a meeting.
13. Adjournment
- GB unanimously adjourned the meeting at 8:56, as moved by J. Simard, and seconded by G. Gauvin.