

# St. Thomas High School Governing Board

## Meeting Minutes DRAFT

Wednesday, October 4<sup>th</sup>, 2023 at 19:00 St. Thomas Library

St Thomas HS GB Member list (2023-2024)

Name	Member Type	Attendee
Marie-Josée Coiteux	Principal	x
Ian Alexander	Vice Principal	x
Prateep Menon	Vice Principal	Regrets
Sylvie Pelletier	Vice Principal	x
Celena Scheede-Bergdahl	Parent	x
Robert Craft	Parent	Regrets
Mark Hancock	Parent	x
Loretta Kao	Parent (PC Alternate)	x
Kenny Mandel	Parent	x
Eric Schultz	Parent	x
Tifanie Valade	Parent (PC Rep)	x
Anthony Benzo	Parent	x
Robert Gilmartin	Support Staff	x
Amber Carlon	Teacher	Regrets
Denver Thomas	Teacher	x
Sharon Lamb	Teacher	x
Melanie Nadeau	Teacher	x
Isabelle Alarie	Teacher	x
Andrew Miller	Teacher	x
	Teacher	
Elena Richardson	Student	x
Emily Elrick	Student	x
	Student Substitute	
Allison Saunders	Commissioner	x
Galia Desautels	Parent Substitute	Regrets
Nathalie Dubois	Parent Substitute	Regrets
Sylvia Papazian	Parent Substitute	Regrets
Pamela Lee	Parent Substitute	x
Amanda Coones	Parent Substitute	Regrets
Tony Scalia	Parent Substitute	Regrets
Maria Antoinetta Davoli	Parent Substitute	Regrets
Mark Diraddo	Parent Substitute	Regrets
	Support Staff Substitute	
Janis Kelly	Teacher Substitute	Regrets
Josee Godbout	Teacher Substitute	Regrets
Sharad Bhargava	Community	Regrets
	Community	

1. Call to Order

Celena Scheede-Bergdahl called the meeting to order at 19:04. She welcomed all to the meeting with the land acknowledgement.

*In order to show our deep respect for the land on which our event takes place today, we would like to acknowledge that Lester B Pearson School Board and St Thomas High School are located on the unceded territory of the Kanien'keha:ka People. Lester B. Pearson School Board honours, recognizes and respects the Kanien'keha:ka People as the traditional stewards of the lands and waters on which we meet today and recognizes that this land has long served as a site of meeting and exchange amongst nations. We also acknowledge the harms and mistakes of the past and commit to informing ourselves about this truth in order to move forward in partnership with Indigenous communities in a spirit of collaboration and reconciliation.*

2. Introduction of new Governing Board members and Announcements of the Alternates for the meeting

Pamela Lee replaced Robert Craft.

Robert Gilmartin replaced Stephanie Bedard.

3. Introduction of public – None

4. Approval of the Agenda

Celena Scheede-Bergdahl asked if there were any additions to the agenda. None added.

**Motion to accept the Agenda was made by Eric Schultz. Seconded by Isabelle Alarie. All in favour. Agenda accepted.**

5. Approval of previous meeting minutes

a. April 25, 2023 – No comments. **Motion to approve was made by Robert Gilmartin, and seconded by Andrew Miller. No abstentions and all in favour. Minutes approved.**

6. Public Question Period

a. School Apparel topic was brought up by Pamela Lee.

There are parents inquired on FB and a link to a non-official school apparel company was posted. GB members deliberated on store opening prior to school start, other companies which may provide more convenient production timeline etc.

The board agreed to post reply and clarification on both FB and What's Happening @ St. Thomas.

Alison asks if the GB would consider school apparel similar to BHS and JRHS. Two reasons for not implementing were lengthy process to set up/reinforce, and difficult to identify students in case of incidents. Also, recent student surveys also indicated that there was no current interest in required school apparel.

## 7. New Business

### a. Appointment of treasurer, secretary and chair

1. Treasurer- Position is still vacant, to be filled. There was \$805 allocated to GB, \$576 was spent, we have a carry-over of \$229.
2. Secretary – Position is still vacant. Celena mentioned the GB can hire a secretary for board meetings, and she will find out the remuneration.
3. Chair – **Motion to elect Celena Bergdahl be the Chair was made by Eric Schultz, Seconded by Anrdrew Miller. Motion carried, Celena Bergdahl is elected as the Chair of Governing Board for school year 2023-2024.**

### b. Activities/field trips 2023-2024 for approval

#### 1. *Camp Jouvence – Feb 5-7, 2024*

Capped at 100 students for Grade 7, as of meeting time only 60 students signed up. This is on a first-come-first-serve basis with 10 adults, cost is \$305 per student, includes food and accommodation. School hoped to have more sign-ups in coming weeks.

#### 2. *Grad Trip – Boston- New York* – Students are leaving after school on March 28<sup>th</sup> and only missing 1 day of school on April 3<sup>rd</sup>. School council approval.

Cost for the trip: \$1950

Tifanie suggested fundraising for less privileged students, Eric replied to seek help from Home & School.

**Motion to seek funds from Home & School for the less privileged student to join the Grad Trip was made by Isabelle Alarie, seconded by Andrew Miller. Motion carried.**

#### 3. *LBPSB Post-Secondary Education & Training Fair - November 22<sup>nd</sup>*

Time: 9am-1pm for LBPSB students; location: Hilton Double Tree Pointe-Claire  
School bus Transportation will be provided for all Secondary 5 students; info-letter will be posted on Mozaik for registration.

### c. Ringette Game for Quebec Breast cancer Fundraiser – November 17<sup>th</sup>

A Secondary 5 student initiated a fundraising Ringette Game. \$10 donation will be required to participate.

**Motion to approve Ringette Game Fundraise was made by Kenny Mandel, seconded by Elena Richardson. Motion approved.**

### d. School musical – Something Rotten

Performance Date: March 21<sup>st</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup>

Performance for Elementary school students: March 19<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup>

Cost for Cast members: \$50

**Motion to approve the cost for cast member of \$50 was made by Tifanie, seconded by Eric Schultz. Motion approved.**

Due to School Musical happens yearly, it was suggested that a blanket approval be made. **Motion: A blanket approval request will be presented at GB at the beginning of each school year for School Musical performance, where (i) Planning can initiate and not contingent by GB approval; (ii) Future GB may revoke this motion shall unforeseen circumstances arise and deem necessary.**

**Motion made by Mark Hancock, seconded by Eric Schultz. All in favor, motion carried.**

e. LBPSB consultation:

Alison explained, each year the school board included an update of existing documents in the consultations.

GB members deliberated on the consultation procedure and purpose, for instance, relevance of daycare information for high schools, it'd be more efficient if the documents were presented with a summary/highlights of changes.

1. *Commitment to Success Plan (November 17, 2023)*

MJ mentioned 5-year plan was started and paused, awaiting more directions to be passed down from Ministre d'Education.

2. *School daycare, lunch program services and continuing education fees policy (November 17, 2023)*

The board found daycare and lunch program services are irrelevant to secondary schools.

MJ will study the policy. Celena noted that changes under Enrollment Criteria may affect eligibility for certain school and bussing.

3. *Bylaw 9- complaint process (due November 17, 2023)*

Tifanie pointed out the complaint process has changed. Notably, the ombudsman position is regional, no longer per schoolboard, and is claimed to be more objective. Alison shared that change of process has already happened, a new regional ombudsman has been appointed.

Consultation response discussion is tabled to next meeting. Meanwhile, GB members will finish reading the consultation documents and send Celena their input for discussion.

8. Reports

a. Commissioner's Report –

LBPSB website is getting a makeover, including bilingual content and streamlining school to apply for funds

This is the schoolboard's 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary

Alison acknowledged "Building Bridges" presentation at BHS by St Edmund projected the meaning of Orange Shirt day beyond the day of September 29<sup>th</sup>.

b. Student Life –

.The students started planning prior the start of school year, within the first month of new school year, numerous successful events were carried out: Scavenger hunt, spirit day parade, 1<sup>st</sup> Dance sold 600 tickets, Terry fox raised \$16,709.

There are 20+ after school club and activities running already.

Eric thanked Student Life for their dedication and effort.

c. Administration and School – MJ Coiteux

Over 200 Attendees at IB information evening.  
Great start of school year, huge thanks to student council.  
AGM and Curriculum night went well.  
Committee will continue to promote reconciliation.  
Music teacher, Susan Strunc started a sound collection project, having students to record sounds from school surrounding.  
Oct 13<sup>th</sup> – interim report card, teacher convention  
October 26<sup>th</sup> – Open House  
November 3<sup>rd</sup> – End of term

- d. Parent Representative Region 3 (LBPSB PC) –  
PC virtual AGA on September 28<sup>th</sup>, both Tifanie and Loretta attended.  
Tifanie is on the Safe and Caring Committee.  
Loretta is on the Intercultural Committee.

- e. Home and School –  
Kenny is the rep this year and shared that there are a lot of fundraising project ahead.  
Dance profit is going to the family whose house was burnt down.

#### 9. Other Business / Varia

- a. Sick and absence  
A spike of absenteeism during last week of September were noted.  
Students are to wear masks if sick but feeling strong enough to go to school.
- b. Yearbook fee will increase this year
- c. Meeting dates  
Celena will receive faculty meeting dates from MJ and will tentatively set GB meeting dates to share. GB meetings will be on Wednesdays.  
Next meeting: November 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023.

#### 10. Adjournment

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The meeting was adjourned at 8:33 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Loretta Kao

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Celena Scheede-Bergdahl, Chair

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Marie-Josée Coiteux, Principal