

# St-Jude Elementary Governing Board

Minutes

October 1, 2025 at 18:45 (zoom)

## **Members Present:**

**Principal:** Sarah-Ann Blanchette (SB)

**Chairperson:**

**Alternate Chairperson/Parent Delegate:**

## **Staff Representatives:**

Elizabeth Pavelko (EP)

Stephanie Racine (SR)

Sharon Larrisey (SL)

Cheryl Fordham (CF)

Liliana Barbiero (LB)

## **Parent alternates:**

Katheleen Spoormakers (KS)

Stéphanie Perron (SP)

Kim Seguin (KiS)

## **Parent Representatives:**

John Critchley (JC)

Sarah Graine (SG)

Kayla Robinson (KR)

Renee Sabourin (RS)

Kate Gross (KG)

Alexandra Kikilidis (AK)

**Guest:** Sarah Niven

## **1. Opening of Meeting**

The meeting was called to order at 6:45 PM.

## **2. Adoption of the Agenda**

(Resolution #20251001-01)

Motion to adopt the agenda as presented.

Motioned by: CF

Seconded by: KR

Against: KG

Abstentions: 0

Motion carried

## **3. Approval of Minutes**

### **3.1 Minutes of June 10, 2025**

(Resolution #20251001-02)

Motion to approve the minutes of June 10, 2025 with the correction of "ABVA" to "ABAV" and "Elizabeth of Belco" spelling.

Motioned by: SL

Seconded by: KR

Against: 0

Abstentions: 0

Motion carried

### **3.2 Minutes of Annual General Assembly (AGA)**

(Resolution #20251001-03)

Motion to approve the AGA minutes.

Motioned by: CF

Seconded by: SG

Against: 0

Abstentions: 0

Motion carried

#### **4. New Business Arising from the Minutes**

##### **4.1 Election of Chairperson**

(Resolution #20251001-04)

John C. was nominated for the position of Chairperson.

Nominated by: KR

John accepted the nomination.

No other nominations were presented.

John was elected by acclamation.

##### **4.2 Election of Vice-Chair**

(Resolution #20251001-05)

Kayla R was nominated for the position of Vice-Chair.

Nominated by: SL

Kayla accepted the nomination.

No other nominations were presented.

Kayla was elected by acclamation.

##### **4.3 Election of Secretary**

(Resolution #20251001-06)

Kayla volunteered for the position of Secretary.

No other nominations were presented.

Kayla was elected by acclamation.

##### **4.4 Election of Treasurer**

(Resolution #20251001-07)

Alexandra K. volunteered for the position of Treasurer.

No other nominations were presented.

Alexandra K. was elected by acclamation.

##### **4.5 Conflict of Interest Forms**

(Information)

The Principal informed members that conflict-of-interest forms will be sent by email and should be completed and returned as soon as possible.

##### **4.6 Internal Rules and Procedures**

(Resolution #20251001-08)

Several modifications were made to the internal rules:

- Motion to modify the wording regarding substitute chair to state: "Should the chair be absent or unable to act, the vice chair will chair the meeting."
- Motion to modify the wording regarding meeting times to state: "Regular meetings will be held no earlier than 6pm and no later than 7pm. There must be at least five meetings per year."
- Motion to modify the wording to add "or virtually" to the statement about presence at meetings.
- Motion to keep the existing wording that "members must keep their cameras on at all times" during virtual meetings.

Motion to approve the internal rules and procedures as amended.

Motioned by: RS

Seconded by: SL

Against: 0

Abstentions: 1 (Kate)

Motion carried

#### **4.7 Dates and Times of Future Meetings**

(Resolution #20251001-09)

The Principal presented a proposed calendar of meeting dates for the 2025-2026 school year.

Motion to approve the proposed meeting dates.

Motioned by: CF

Seconded by: SG

Against: 0

Abstentions: 0

Motion carried

Motion to set meeting time at 6:45 PM for all meetings.

Motioned by: CF

Seconded by: SL

Against: 0

Abstentions: 0

Motion carried

Note: The February 12th date was corrected to February 11th as February 12th is a Thursday.

#### **4.8 Ratification – Terry Fox Foundation Fundraiser**

(Resolution #20251001-10)

#### **4.9 Ratification - Soccer Festival Mixte Proposal**

(Resolution #20251001-11)

#### **4.10 Ratification – October Walk**

(Resolution #20251001-12)

#### **4.11 Reception of the budget of measures**

(Resolution #20251001-13)

### **5.0 Correspondence**

### **6.0 Question Period for the Public**

(pre-submitted questions)

### **7.0 Reports**

(Information)

#### **7.1 Principal**

##### **Outdoor Classroom**

The Principal reported that the outdoor classroom is now officially in use and has been very positively received by students. It serves as a shaded and relaxing area during breaks. It was also noted that no incidents of vandalism have occurred since its installation, which is viewed as a positive outcome.

##### **Truth and Reconciliation Activities**

The school held a Truth and Reconciliation assembly earlier this fall, with the participation of community members. Students wore orange shirts the day prior to the official date. Activities were differentiated by grade level: Kindergarten and Pre-K students engaged in age-appropriate drawing and book-based activities, while Grade 6 and native students participated in a commemorative walk in Oka

on September 30th. The event was described as a meaningful and respectful moment of community connection.

### **Community Outreach Initiatives**

The Principal shared that *La Fondation Émile-Zehr La Violette* has offered to take two Grade 6 students on a one-day trip to Disney. Selection criteria were established to ensure that students chosen come from families who would not otherwise have the opportunity to participate in such an experience. The students will be accompanied by foundation volunteers.

Additionally, a community organization has committed to providing Helly Hansen snowsuits and Kamik boots for fifteen (15) students identified as being in financial need. The school is in the process of identifying eligible students and will be contacting families shortly to confirm sizes.

### **Changes to Lunch Procedures**

The Principal provided clarification regarding the recent policy change eliminating microwave use for students. The decision was based on several considerations, including:

- Supervision requirements for staff during the lunch period;
- Limited time available for students to eat (25 minutes);
- Food safety and allergen management concerns;
- Frequent maintenance issues and lack of personnel assigned for cleaning;
- Electrical load concerns related to older equipment.

The Principal acknowledged that this policy was communicated at the beginning of the school year. In response to a suggestion from a board member to allow older students to use microwaves independently, it was explained that the concerns extend beyond supervision and therefore the decision will remain in effect.

### **Budget Cuts**

The Principal reported on ministry-mandated budget cuts totaling \$29,772, which impact several areas of the school's budget, including:

- Books (\$6,000 reduction);
- Technology and digital programs;
- Leadership for technology education;
- Anti-bullying support;
- Parent activities;
- Cultural outings (\$8,000 reduction).

The Principal explained that reductions were made in areas that were either underutilized or subject to restrictive spending parameters. Efforts were made to protect essential services, notably funding for the *Inspiring Schools* and *Social Solidarity* programs. The school will continue to monitor the potential impact of these cuts on operations, resources, and program delivery.

## **7.2 Daycare**

## **7.3 Home & School**

## **7.4 Parent Delegate Committee Report**

There was no report as the first meeting as yet to happen.

## **7.5 Teacher Council**

## **8.0 New Business**

### **8.1 GB training (1 min)**

(Information)

## **9.0 Field trips, Fundraisers, Activities**

**9.1 Frozen Yogurt Fundraiser for Grade 6**

(Resolution #20251001-14)

Motion to approve the frozen yogurt fundraiser for Grade 6 to be held every Thursday with cups sold at \$4 each, with proceeds going toward Grade 6 graduation and field trips. The fundraiser may also be held during parent-teacher interviews and other school events.

Motioned by: RS

Seconded by: AK

Against: 0

Abstentions: 0

Motion carried

**9.2 Grade 6 Bake Sales**

(Resolution #20251001-15)

Motion to approve Grade 6 bake sales for Halloween, Christmas, Valentine's Day, Easter, and Spring, with items sold at \$1 each during morning recess in the cafeteria. All proceeds will go toward Grade 6 field trip and graduation expenses.

Motioned by: AK

Seconded by: SG

Against: 0

Abstentions: 0

Motion carried

**9.3 Pizza Lunches**

(Resolution #20251001-16)

Motion to approve pizza lunches twice a month with prices set at \$6.50 for one slice and \$11 for two slices, with proceeds going toward a computer cart. These would alternate with hot dog days to provide approximately two special lunch options per month.

Motioned by: KG

Seconded by: SL

Against: 1 (KR)

Abstentions: 0

Motion carried

**9.4 Pumpkin Carving for Grade 6**

(Resolution #20251001-17)

Motion to approve pumpkin carving for Grade 6 students on Thursday, October 30th, with students bringing their own pumpkins and the school providing carving tools. The activity will be conducted during class time and graded as an art project.

Motioned by: SG

Seconded by: KG

Against: 0

Abstentions: 0

Motion carried

**9.5 After-School Soccer Program**

(Resolution #20251001-18)

Motion to approve the after-school soccer program run by Alex Boy, with a \$25 rental fee added to cover caretaker costs. The program would be held on Thursdays after school and would be fully funded by participating parents.

Motioned by: KR

Seconded by: SG

Against: 0  
Abstentions: 0  
Motion carried

#### **9.6 St. Jude Apparel**

(Resolution #20251001-19)

Motion to approve the sale of St. Jude apparel (sweaters, hoodies, jogging pants, and t-shirts) with the school logo as a fundraiser. The initiative would operate on a pre-order basis with no cost to the school and approximately 30% profit on each item sold. Fall and spring campaigns are planned.

Motioned by: KG  
Seconded by: KR  
Against: 0  
Abstentions: 0  
Motion carried

#### **9.7 Scholastic Book Fair**

(Resolution #20251001-20)

Motion to approve the Scholastic Book Fair to be held during the week of November 17th, with cash payments accepted during the day and debit payments available in the evening. The event will serve as a fundraiser for the school and provide Scholastic credits for teachers.

Motioned by: KR  
Seconded by: RS  
Against: 0  
Abstentions: 0  
Motion carried

#### **9.8 Halloween Activities**

(Resolution #20251001-21)

Motion to approve Halloween activities on Friday, October 31st, including changes to the student schedule to accommodate special activities throughout the school. Students will be allowed to visit different classrooms and the gym for various activities.

Motioned by: CF  
Seconded by: RS  
Against: 0  
Abstentions: 0  
Motion carried

#### **10.0 Rentals**

##### **10.1 Basketball**

(Resolution #20251001-22)

#### **11.0 Varia (5 mins)**

(Information)

#### **12.0 Question Period for the Public (10 min)**

(agenda items only)

#### **13.0 Next Meeting date : November 4, 2025**

#### **14.0 Adjournment**

Time: 8:40 pm

(Resolution #20251001-23)

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:40 PM.

Motioned by: CF

Seconded by: KR

Motion carried