

Governance Committee Meeting Minutes

Date: 24 February 2021

Time: 6:45 pm

Present:

Chair: Tara Peterson

Secretary: Liz Alderson

Members:

Connie Shepherd

Diana Barbato

Derek Rayside

Jeff Kearns (7pm)

Johnny Tkach (7pm)

Joseph Hagopian

Lynda Jeffs

Lindsay Stephens

Natasha Benham

Tempie Coelho-Freeman

Scott Woolford

Tracy Jewitt

Walid Al-Hajj

Laura Maria

Regrets:

Melek De-Wint (Regrets)

Also Present:

Karen Rothfels

Minutes

1. Agenda

Accepted for the meeting.

2. Minutes of Previous Meeting

Correction: **Also Present:** Karen Rothfels.

3. Confirmation of Island Foundation Structure

Island Foundation is an arms length organization outside of the School Council, so has no link with the bylaws, and thus doesn't need to be included. Team are in agreement.

4. Governance Committee Structure

- a) Moving forward, agreed that Governance minutes should be approved at the Governance meeting level.

Action: Liz: Make sure that minutes are sent out in advance of next meeting to allow time to review.

- b) Want to move to a meeting every two weeks if possible.
- c) Aim for a caring collaborative consensus. Meeting should be a safe place to be heard and listened to.
- d) Output of the governance committee is "not a competition", but a collaborative process with compromise as needed. Given the sensitive nature of the bylaws, pieces where no consensus is reached should be offered up to the larger school council for vote. More than one version may be put up for vote.
- e) Committee is currently 16 people, the largest of all the IPS school council committees. Discussion about whether the committee should be capped at 16: decision was to allow people to join but to ensure that they understand the commitment, need to be a regular contributor and understand the negotiations that are ongoing, rather than debate only on

one specific hot topic. For the committee to be effective, it was agreed that team needs to get to know one another and understand the working dynamics of the team.

5. Regulation 612

It was emphasised that the job of the committee is not to interpret Reg 612, guidance can be sought on the interpretation.

Tara took an action at the previous meeting to feedback on Item #2 and #17 of the code of Ethics.

It was noted that the current code of ethics should be referred to as the "Template Code of Ethics" (or Draft) until the final version is agreed upon and issued. It was noted that the PIAC template in the school guide is approved by the Ministry of Education for use "as is".

Feedback on #2: *A member shall remember they are representing...*

Michelle Munroe indicated that if you want to do something that is not approved by school council then it may be better not to be on school council for that particular year. I.e., fully on school council, or not.

Feedback on #17: From Michelle Munroe - Interpretation is around school council social media's specifically. There is no purview regarding other (personal) social media. If the principal has not designated specific media then can't use other media to support school council. It also means that individuals cannot use school council social media to foster own agenda.

Derek will reword around social media vs. media. Debated whether this should include the "media" for example newspapers. At a high level, what happens if you go to the media as a representative of school council.

Per #17b - if parent council decided /agreed to advocate for their children for parent council, e.g., Nelson Mandela school council went to media, what approval is needed?

Reg 612 - as school council cannot be incorporated because it is already under incorporation of the TDSB, so although self regulated, still under TDSB purview so still have to be limited by and in compliance with TDSB. Everything in council bylaws has to adhere with TDSB policies and procedures and the Ministry school council guide.

Clarification required. **Action:** Tara: to seek clarification on interpretation of relationship with school council. Also to seek confirmation that the clause states approval of school council *OR* principal (or *AND*), thus if school council approves the media output, then it can go ahead. Principal agreement not required?

Action: Tara: To confirm with Michelle Munroe confirm the difference between advocacy and advisory roles and which applies to school council, and the relationship of student council as it relates to the principal and the board.

Moving forward the group decided that the compare and contrast excel spreadsheet showing the versions of the Conflict Resolution work and the Conflict of Interest work is useful, but prefer to work in a google document where people add their comments.

Prefer to have one document, but the spreadsheets are useful tool.

Action: Tara: To set up future meeting dates on a regular basis.