



Minutes of Governing Board Meeting Edinburgh Elementary School

Tuesday, April 4, 2023 at 7:00 p.m.
Online via Microsoft Teams

We would like to acknowledge that Edinburgh School is located on unceded Indigenous lands. The Kanien'kehá:ka/Mohawk Nation is recognized as the traditional custodians of Tiohtià:ke/Montréal, which has long been a site of meeting and exchange for many First Nations, and is currently home to diverse groups of Indigenous and other peoples. We are grateful to live, work and learn here, and recognize the important role of education in reconciliation and in maintaining connections between the past, present and future.

Present: Jean-Michel Brunet, Marco De Crescentis, Abdelghafour El-Hama, Robert Fiori, Geneviève Hébert, Jody Mason, Meg McKenna, Johanna Miller, Steve Muoio, Gaetano Sifoni, Alexandra Struck, Steven Szabo, Pina Trengia, Anne-Marie Yaworski

Absent: Geneviève Guay, Joseph Lalla, Alivia Wainberg

Guest: none

1. Welcome

Rob called the meeting to order.

2. Adoption of Agenda

- **Motion to approve:** Rob. Second: Steven. Unanimous.

3. Approval of the Minutes of January 31, 2023

- **Motion to approve:** Anne-Marie. Second: Jean-Michel. Abstentions: 1.

4. Business Arising from Previous Minutes (January 31, 2023)

- GB to send a letter of support for the EMSB's legal challenges to Bills 21, 40 and 96.
ACTION: The letter will be shared via email, and discussed at GB's May meeting.

5. New Business

5.1 Amendment of Subject-Time Allocation (2023–2024)

- These amendments are to ensure adherence to the Basic School Regulations (BSR) for Quebec, as well as appropriate workload and schedules for staff.
- Alternative changes would endanger staff full-time status.
- **Motion to approve:** Anne-Marie. Second: Steve. Unanimous.
- The amended Subject-Time Allocation for 2023–2024 is attached as Appendix A.

5.2 Approval of Hot Lunch Provider

- The hot-lunch provider must be approved annually.
- The school is offered a choice of two providers, with Merenda serving the west end.
- There will be an increase of \$0.25 for next year. Single-use plastics are not provided.
- **Motion to approve:** Alex. Second: Steve. Unanimous.

5.3 Upcoming Field Trips

- The transportation and destination companies invoice the school; the school pays in full up front; parents “reimburse” the school.
- The school covers a part of the cost of almost every trip.
- Busing costs are incredibly high this year.
- GB approves or rejects a trip based on its pedagogical and entertainment value, as well as the cost to the school.
- Parents always receive a permission slip, so have the option to refuse.
- April 18: Ferme Guyon
 - Grade 4; to this “pedagogical farm” and butterfly exhibit; cost \$32/student
- May 8: Youth Fusion Jeunesse
 - Grade 6 (and 5–6 split class); celebration for all the schools participating with YFJ
 - Students have been working on an environmental design project every Thursday, designing and building an outdoor classroom
 - Pay for busing
- May 11: HALO Road Race
 - Grades 3–6; GMAA event on Mount Royal; school pays transport and admission fees
- May 26: Eureka Festival at Parc Jean Drapeau
 - Grade 5; free admission; pay for transportation
- June 2: Sacred Sites visit to a basilica or synagogue
 - Grade 5; no charge to parents as this is part of the curriculum
- June 6: Biodome
 - Grade 3 trip
- June 16: Sacred Sites visit to a Hindu or Sikh temple
 - Grade 6; no charge to parents as this is part of the curriculum
- **Motion to approve:** Steve. Second: Abdelghafour. Unanimous.
- For the next school year, Gaetano and the staff will present a document listing the majority of field trips (with whatever details are available). This will provide a general overview of which classes are going where, and the overall cost.
- This document will also make it easier to track “block off dates” for religious holidays.
- Note: There will be an inauguration event for the outdoor classroom on June 15.

6. Reports

6.1 Principal

- February: Black History Month
 - Feb 8: Gumboots (South African percussive dance group); financed by H&S
 - Door decorating to highlight notable figures in Black History
 - March 2: online workshop for cycle 3 by Overture with the Arts; *Tracking Black Canada*, part of the “Beyond February” series (Black history not just for February)
- February: kindness month
 - REDiculous Day on Feb. 14
 - Played a game of school-wide bingo (big hit with the kids!)
 - Feb. 22: Pink Shirt Day (anti-bullying)
 - Youth Stars Foundation ran an assembly for grades 3–6, hosted by DJ Malik
 - Focus: role of the bystander (part of Edinburgh’s Safe School Action Plan)
- Carnival Week (before March break)
 - Activities included dress-down day and dress-up day, and more.
 - Outdoor Activity Day, organized by Mr. Cho and supported by H&S, was a hit.
- Parent-teacher interviews held after March break
 - These were virtual, by appointment (as decided by the school board).
- Grade 4 vaccinations (HPV, Hep B and C) have been done – no one fainted!
- April 4: EMSB West Storytelling Festival
 - Edinburgh hosted
 - Students Eloise Thibault and Luke Philips represented Edinburgh

- Concerns have been expressed over enrollment.
 - Maximum class size for kindergarten is 19 students; grade one is 21 students; grade two is 22; grades 3–6 is 26.
 - This year’s grade 6 group is the largest cohort in the school, with ~60 students.
 - The new kindergarten group is ~40 students (two classes).
 - If we continue enrolling two kindergarten classes every year, Edinburgh’s overall population will lose ~20 students per year.
 - For a full cohort in grades 3–6, the school needs to enroll three kindergarten classes.
 - Next year, Edinburgh has registered students for two kindergarten classes and one pre-K class, with a small waiting list.
 - There have been soft assurances that, with sufficient enrollment, Edinburgh could open a third kindergarten class in future years.
 - To keep our wonderful educators, and maintain overall school population (and accompanying funding), kindergarten registration must be a priority for next year.
 - In the time leading up to the registration period, the school needs to solicit as many applications as possible.
 - There was a lot of work put into promotion and marketing of the school this year, and the results have been very promising.
 - Edinburgh has had about a dozen students join this school year.
 - It would be helpful to have GB (especially the marketing sub-committee) assist the administration in building on the work done over the past year.

6.2 Commissioner

Joseph was not in attendance this evening.

6.3 Treasurer

Nothing to report at this time.

6.4 Parent Delegate (EMSB-PC)

- The EMSB-PC has asked the EMSB to clarify its ban on fundraising.
- The question is whether this ban applies to all fundraising activities, or only to lottery-type fundraisers (which, by law, fall under the jurisdiction of the *Régie des alcools, des courses et des jeux*).
- The EMSB directive has historically been that certain fundraisers are to be avoided, such as a lottery, casino night, 50-50 draw, etc. Raffles are a grey area.
- EMSB instructions have been that fundraisers must have a specific cause, and all must be approved by the schools' governing boards.
- **ACTION:** Steven to send the EMSB-PC letter to GB.

6.5 Teacher

Jean-Michel reported.

- The science fair took place March 23.
 - Thanks to Abdelghafour for organizing this event.
 - The students worked hard and had a blast.
 - Nice to have parents back in the school.
- Thank you to Ms. Alivia Wainberg (grade 5 English).
 - Ms. Alivia was replacing Ms. Caroline (while she was on leave).
 - Ms. Caroline returned the week of April 3.
- Parent-teacher interviews for this term were held online.
 - There were some questions and concerns from parents, as to why.
 - It was not a school decision, to hold these virtually, but rather a school board directive.

6.6 Home and School liaison

Anne-Marie reported.

- April 20-27: fundraiser with Super Recycleurs
 - Families to donate anything fabric (clothing, shoes, linens), even ripped or stained
 - Money raised is based on total weight of fabric donated
- Virtual campaign: donations for NDG Depot
- June 1: confirmed date for Spring Fair
 - Some fundraising to be included
- School supply fundraiser will be done for the coming school year.
- In order for H&S to coordinate with the distributors, it would be helpful to have the supply lists approved by GB earlier this year.
- **ACTION:** GB to approve supply lists at the May meeting.

6.7 BASE

- Recap: Heart to Heart (February)
 - The children modified the activity, going beyond cards, with each group making necklaces, keychains, etc., which were delivered to the Montreal Children's Hospital.
- Recap: Black History Month (February)
 - Introduced a different Black historian, influencer, inventor, etc. every week., with a focus on George Washington Carver.
 - Homage to Motown, with a dance and a student re-enacting Michael Jackson's performance of "Billie Jean" from Motown 25
 - Cultural day, with a Caribbean dance instructor leading the students
- Recap: Nutrition and fitness (March)
 - Focus on eating well and being physically active
 - Culminated in Nutrition/Fitness Day
 - Gaetano led a BOKS game.
 - Snacks: lots of fruits and vegetables for the kids to enjoy!
- March ped day: field trip to sugar shack

- BOKS Build Our Kids' Success
 - This is a "movement initiative," using creative methods and games to get kids physically active.
 - BASE participates, and Edinburgh was a contestant last year.
 - Points awarded for every activity, with bonus points for getting staff and parents involved, education specialists, principal, governing board members, etc.
 - More points = more chances to win (with the winner drawn at random)
 - Grand prize is a visit from Olympian gold medalist Kim St-Pierre
 - Second prize gets new sports equipment
 - One round in March; second in April
 - Edinburgh has the most points at the end of round one!

- Upcoming in April
 - Lots of Garden Club activities
 - Continuing BOKS competition
 - Love in Action project: care packages
 - Partnered with Carolyn's Toy Drive; many beneficiaries including Acte d'amour
 - Student prefect team is spearheading this project.
 - Children will create designs on paper bags, then pack them with specific items.

- Upcoming in May
 - Nature projects, nature walks, making bird feeders
 - Special treat on the May ped day

7. Varia

- Q: As the school increases its offerings of extra-curricular activities, is there any way to offset the associated fees?
 - A: There are no grants offered to elementary schools for ECAs. (There are grants for high schools, but the Education Ministry does not extend that to the elementary level.)

8. Correspondence

- Québec Solidaire has sent a letter, asking that other community organizations support QS in demanding a full public inquiry into the death of NDG resident Nicous d'Andre Spring while in the care of staff at Bordeaux Prison.
 - **ACTION:** This matter will be discussed at the next GB meeting.

9. Question period

Nothing to report at this time.

10. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:41 p.m., with thanks.

Respectfully submitted:

Gaetano Sifoni, Principal

Robert Fiori, Chairperson

Appendix A



SUBJECT-TIME ALLOCATION – 2023-2024

CYCLE ONE (Grades 1 and 2)

	Subjects	2023-2024	2023-2024 revised*
Compulsory	Français	570	540*
	Mathématiques	420	420
	Éd. phys. et santé	120	120
Elective	ELA	150	150
	Arts plastiques	60	60
	Musique	60	60
	ECR	60	60
	Science	60	90*
	Total	1500	1500

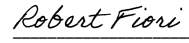
CYCLES TWO AND THREE (Grades 3, 4, 5 and 6)

	Subjects	2023-2024	2023-2024 revised*
Compulsory	Français	315	330*
	Mathematics	300	300
	Phys. Ed & Health	120	120
Elective	ELA	315	315
	Arts plastiques	105	105
	Musique	45	45
	ECR	60	60
	GHEC	120	120
	Science	120	105*
	Total	1500	1500

*BSR: Basic School Regulation

Approved by Edinburgh Governing Board Resolution (April 4, 2023)


 Gaetano Sifoni, Principal


 Robert Fiori, Chairperson