
Gerald McShane Elementary School

Minutes of the Governing Board Meeting
Held on Monday February 25, 2025, at 7:00 PM
Microsoft Teams

Present:		Absent/Regrets
Antonio Petosa, secretary	Vince Timpano, principal	Linda Matteo Angie Iadinardi
Shane Fombuena	Karine Gomes Silva	
Claudio Prioletta	Elisa Baronello	
David Reda, Vice-chair	Christina Gioia	
Mary Di Fulvio, Chair	Pammy Lacroce	
Sandra Renzi (alternate)	Sonia D'Addario	
Elvira Corso	Silva Muzzo	
Clemintina Fraga	Suzan Perera	
Lara Villani	Amalia Lavoratore, treasurer	

1. Meeting was called to order at 7:09 PM.

2. **Adoption of Agenda:**

2.1 (February).

Mover: Clemintina

Agenda Approved: Elvira

Agenda approved unanimously.

3. **Adoption of previous minutes:**

From meeting of January 28, 2025

Mover: Christina; Second Claudio

Approved by group that was present.

4. **Business arising from last minutes:**

- Daycare handbook
 - Work in progress and will be presented shortly – will be tabled for next meeting.

5. **New Business:**

5.1 GMS Building Process

- Discussion and approval for extra resources and manpower – reflective of the school's numbers.
- Ms. Muzzo: the addition of: FOB keys & cameras (2), intercom system (1), building an extension of the school in the senior yard (a cafetorium which would alleviate children eating in the classrooms and which could also be used for extracurricular activities – (5)),
- Ms. Karine: - outdoor classroom idea – shady area required (canopy – learning garden) (3); sound proofing of the gymnasium for auditory purposes (4)

-
- Canopy website: <https://nutrientsforlife.ca/en/learning-gardens/grant-application>

Mover: Elvira; Second Clementina

Approved by group.

5.2 Anti-Bullying

- Document for Action Plan presented.
- Ms Samara presented subjects to the students
- A play will be taking place March 13th – *C'est non à l'intimidation*
- Silly socks campaign for Autism awareness day
- SPVM also actively involved

Mover: Antonio; Second: Karine

Approved by group.

5.3 Possible Purchase of Fans

- Tower Fans – subject discussed in previous meetings
- Possible cooling units – portable Acs
- Possible car wash for fundraising

6. Reports

6.1: Commissioner Susan Pereira.

- Ms Susan will forward a report that will be included in the minutes.
- 1) Budget cuts by government – BOD will meet to distribute budget cuts throughout the system. – BOD will give us information on how new allocation will be done.
- 2) Annual report (mostly for high schools) – 95.9% graduation rate - achievement for our school board – one of the highest scores ever achieved. – Target 92%
- 3) Building Process document submitted
- 4) January 24th – Supreme Court of Canada – EMSB challenging Bill 21
- 5) Bill 40 – heard by Supreme court of Canada – announcement to be made (school boards continuing to manage their institutions) – Bill 40 would make school boards into a service center – EMSB fighting to keep this right.

Here is the document rendered by Ms. Susan Perreira:

Gerald McShane

6.1 Commissioner's Report (Key Notes)

Susan Perera - 25/2/2025

1. Budget Cuts Announcement

CAQ government announced \$200M in education sector budget cuts.

EMSB's share: \$2.6M, to be implemented by the end of March.

Board department directors will determine how to implement cuts based on Ministry criteria.

Revised budget to be presented for adoption in March.

No impact on pedagogical budgets – previously adopted or presented GB budgets remain unaffected.

2. EMSB Annual Report & Success Rate

Council approved the **2023-2024 EMSB Annual Report** on February 4th.

EMSB achieved a **95.9% success rate** – highest in its history and compared to other boards, service centers, and private schools.

Difficult to maintain or surpass this rate; target set at **92% graduation rate**.

3. Budget Consultation & School Priorities

Council approved the **budget building process document** for consultation.

Consultation package to be sent to GBs and the Parents Committee.

Action required: GBs must discuss funding priorities and provide input.

Delegates should bring school priorities to the Parents Committee to inform overall budget priorities.

4. Supreme Court Challenge – Bill 21

January 23, 2025: Supreme Court of Canada announced it will hear a challenge to **Bill 21**.

EMSB remains at the forefront of this legal challenge.

Basis of challenge: **Right to manage/control institutions & against discrimination**.

5. Court Challenge – Bill 40

Court of Appeal has heard the challenge on Bill 40.

Awaiting decision – no timeline provided.

6.2: GB Chairperson – nothing to add

6.3: Principal Vince:

- tomorrow is pink shirt day.
- Website is actively being updated and fine-tuned for school
- report card for parents March 12th
- teacher requests / parent booking upcoming – March 10 and 11 – remainder March 12th
- Graduation photos – March 28th
- Soccer tournament at LMAC – on March 28th.
- Enrollment – 280 children – in search of Kindergarten (K4-K5)
- would like to thank PPO for teacher appreciation week
- future bike paths – Maurice Duplessis and Rolland (recent meeting with Ms Christine Black – mayor of MTL North)
- the security of people in the area is at stake, as well as users and parents accessing the school. – everyone present at the meeting in agreement with writing a letter to Mr. Ortona and Ms. Susan by GB chair.

6.4: Teachers:

- Ms. Muzzo: weekly practices for school musical (May), getting ready for report cards and (March 10th – 25th) – Cycle 2 English.
- Christina: Friday presentation of entrepreneur fair – parent must bring cash to purchase items created by students – fair 9am – 11:20am.
- Pammy: celebration of 100days at school for pre-K – k5 students were dressed up; first carnival with parents and students.

6.5: Daycare (Ms. Clementina)

- Le Phare – raised \$400
- March 14th – EverGlast – strike a light and mega-ball

- March 21st – TBD
- Feb 26th – plants (salad) will be put up in plant tree

6.6: Sports concentration:

- Hockey students were invited to a tournament at Selwyn House – GMS won second place
- Academy de Dance – incredible show
- CSRDP – organize soccer games with other schools
- Hockey playday – March 21st at Rolland arena
- Preparation for next year’s sports concentration program

6.7: PPO:

- Skating went very well
- Chocolate drive as of yesterday given out 139 boxes – have until March 20th to give money
- Valentine’s day surprise well
- Beau Sapin – raised 110.78\$
- Saint Patrick days cookies – require up to \$400 approval
Mover: Clemintina, Second: Shane – all in favor
- Emergency clothing for students - \$300 approval (underwear, pants, socks, sweaters)
Mover: Ms Muzzo, Second: Claudio – all in favor
- PELO room was decorated with Italian artifacts

6.8 – EMSBPC: (Here are the minutes rendered by Shane for the February 6th meeting)

Disclaimer Statement

**The following notes were taken by an individual committee member and reflect their perspective. They may contain inherent biases and should not be considered a comprehensive or impartial representation of the committee’s discussions or decisions. These notes may also omit topics or details discussed during the meeting. For an official record, please refer to the approved meeting minutes.*

PC Meeting February 6, 2025

Item 2.1 Presentation OMETZ- SERVICES FOR STUDENTS AND PARENTS

Regina Reichstein and

Cheryl Krukim-Rapport

Presentation attached.

- School support services, immigration services, center for young adults, employment, etc.
- WORKSHOPS: tool to external organizations to build social, empathetic and safe environments
- Offers many topics and adapt to situation, what the goal is

Item 5.1 EMSB PARENT COMMITTEE AWARD OF MERIT

- \$50 for elementary; \$100 for HS: one each school, rely on principal input (\$3,300 from our operating budget)
- It should be clear that this is from PC with the help of the principal

- Letter to principals being sent week of February 10. Have until May to provide a name. GB should follow up.

Item 5.2 EMSB PARENT COMMITTEE LITERACY AWARD

- Started in 2016, one book per school (~\$25), elementary school (37)

Volunteers: Jessica Sabatini, Jessica Houde, Kathy Korakakis, Evangelia Michael, Michal Moullem, Stephanie

Item 5.3 BUDGET BUILDING PROCESS CONSULTATION

Will review next month

Sending PC documents in advance for us to review

Can bring individual school priorities to PC, if not there and might benefit many schools

Item 8.1 Parent Commissioner Report

The last Council meeting was last Monday February 4, 2025

- A group of young women from JFK High school were awarded the student of the month award for their Shoe Box Project, 125 boxes filled with personal items delivered to women's shelters in the city. A wonderful initiative.
- The Quebec government has established a complaint system whereby there are regional ombudsmen. Our region's ombudsperson provided a report and gave a presentation on the process and results of her first years' experience.
- The annual report was presented and approved by Council. Also, some of the key results such as graduation rates and success in standardized exams were presented as part of the Commitment to Success plan. The annual report is either on the EMSB website or will be soon.
- It was the 80th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz last week. The DG and Chair talked about the importance of Holocaust education, thanked Federation CJA and the Holocaust Museum for supporting the EMSB's work. I also pointed out that in addition to 6 million Jews, 5 million non-Jews were killed, among the total over ¼ million people killed just because they were handicapped or disabled in some way. The dehumanization and marginalization of any group within society can result in unthinkable acts. We must teach our children well.
- Also reported by the DG and chair:

- o Kindergarten registration has started. There is now an online site to register and EMSB has been running ads.
- o There were many references to the budget cuts and, of course, a commitment to ensuring that students will not bear the brunt. But it is profoundly upsetting and angering.

- The calendars were ratified.
- Budget building instructions and documentation was approved, and materials were sent out yesterday to Governing Boards.

Reminder: Council of Commissioners meetings are livestreamed and recorded and can be viewed any time on the EMSB website. <https://www.webtv.coop/channel/CSEM-2D-EMSB/10>

Item 8.2 Treasurer's Report

See Excel sheet in package

Item 8.3 EPCA Report

Important survey to do! Spread the word to ANY Quebec elementary or high school parent (public, private):

How are families navigating today's social and technological changes? How is this affecting the well-being of parents and children? <https://udes.limesurvey.net/681162>

General comments to follow up on:

Do we need to have official translator for minutes so they can be posted?

REMEMBER switch to TEAMS from ZOOM!

Remind commissioners to be in touch with GB's, be more responsive.

10.1 REGULAR MEETING: MARCH 13, 2025 - VIA TEAMS (WEEK AFTER BREAK)

10.2 EXECUTIVE MEETING: FEBRUARY 18, 2025 - VIA TEAMS

6.9: CLC (Ms. Linda):

- Boy's club – actively searching for someone to help with the program.
- Posted on the website for candidates to run Robotics, coaches and other activities.
- Will be partnering up with nutrition programs.

7. Varia

- No topics announced.

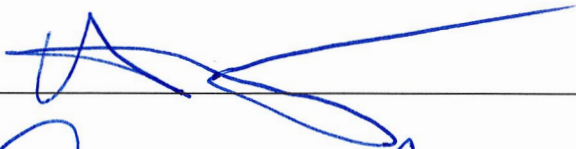
8. Question Period

- No topics announced.

9. **Adjournment**

Moved: Elvira – second Clementina. moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:52 PM.

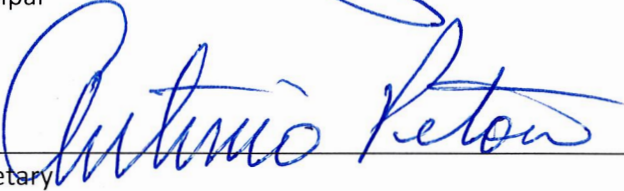
Next meeting: March 25th – TEAMS.



Principal



GB Chair



Secretary