
Gerald McShane Elementary School

Minutes of the Governing Board Meeting
Held on Monday January 28, 2025, at 7:00 PM
School Staff Room

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

1. Meeting was called to order at 7:08 PM.

2. **Adoption of Agenda:**

2.1 (January).

Mover: Clemintina

Agenda Approved: Pammy

Agenda approved unanimously.

3. **Adoption of previous minutes:**

From meeting of December, 2024

6.4 – requires correction.

Mover: Sonia; Second Shane

4. **Business arising from minutes:**

- Mr. Timpano investigated starting a foundation – requires legal intervention as well as approval from CRA.
 - To start a foundation, funds are required as well as donations.
 - More viable to receive a donation from private than to start a foundation.
 - Application does not guarantee feasibility.
- Boys Club:
 - Possibility of announcing on the school web to have someone postulate for position
- Robotics
 - Plenty of equipment available
 - Person to animate / lead the program is required – seeking for animator
- Girl's club
 - Possibility of reintegrating program for all girls and not selective.
- Daycare handbook
 - Work in progress and will be presented shortly.

5. New Business:

5.1 GMS Budget

- Budget fluctuates with the number of students. (school size)
- Mover: Angie; Second: Sandra; All in favor.

5.2 Selwyn house hockey tournament - \$950 (transportation for the parents) – Feb. 6 and 7. (8:00-5:00) – grade 4-5-6

- Mover: Antonio; Second: Tina – all in favor.

6. Reports

6.1: Commissioner Susan Pereira was not present for the meeting.

6.2: GB Chairperson – Inter Marché add in RDP.

6.3: Principal Vince:

- SPVM visit for cycle 3 – speaking about safety.
- Staff appreciation week – Feb 10-14
- Black History Month
 - Spiritual animator present for pivotal moment – Feb 20th.
 - Artist – Milan Boronell – Grade 6 graduation song – month of April.
 - Parking lot – there are still a difficulty with managing certain parents – pass the message for respecting security measures
 - Fundraisers – discussions coming up for future fundraisers and planning
 - Dress-code: needs to be revisited and reinforced.

6.4: Teachers:

- Ski-day – Feb 6th (cycle 3) – Mover: Tina and second: Sonia – all in favor – late arrival.
- Youth Fusion: Christina – entrepreneurial project – families are invited for presentation – 9-11:20 am Feb. 28
- End-of-term: Teacher / parent meetings upon request - March 13th – 3pm-9pm
- Ms. Elisa Grade 4 French Ministry exam

6.5: Daycare (Ms. Clementina)

- Le Phare – lighthouse – dress down day (fundraiser)– Feb 7th
 - Feb 14th: Selected children will be chosen to visit children that are ill (fundraiser) – daycare children cycle

3.

- Mover: Antonio; Second: Claudio – all in favor
- Bullseye – bowling and laser-tag.
- Planting salad activity – grade 3-4-5-6

6.6: Sports concentration:

- Hockey games coming up:
 - Feb 24: GMS vs Royal Vale
 - Feb 26: GMS vs Saint Vincent
- In-house emails sent out for transfer towards or out of sports concentration
- Pamphlets will be given out for various programs offered by the school.

6.7: PPO:

- Staff appreciation – up and coming – letter will be sent out to children.
- \$500 – requested for Valentine’s activities for the children.
 - Mover: Antonio; Second: Clementina
- Chocolate fundraiser – start Feb 3rd.

Highlights* from EMSB Parents Committee Meeting on January 9

- **Budget Building Process**
 - What is it?
 - All governing board and the EMSB PC must complete the budget building process annually.
 - Locally, each governing board must prioritize what they think the school board should be spending funds on at their school – assess local needs.
 - At the EMSB PC level this process is done on a board-wide level.
 - The forms from the government have not been received yet however governing board can prepare and discuss this topic. Some questions to consider:
 - What priorities were submitted last year?
 - What do you want to change this year?
 - Are there things that should not be cut?
 - Why is this process important? Recent announcement regarding budget cuts in the Ministry of Education. 2.6 million dollars cut at the EMSB. Background: December 22 article: <https://www.montrealgazette.com/news/provincial-news/article634893.html>
 - EMSB PC discussed budget cuts. A question to be brought forward:
 - What specific scorecard or metrics are being used to evaluate the areas targeted for budget cuts?

As a Parent Committee, we need this information to assess how these decisions will impact our children's education and well-being.
- **Letters to EMSB senior administration from EMSB PC**

Two letters addressed to the EMSB's senior administration were drafted and presented by the EMSB PC executive for approval. The two letters addressed the following topics:

 - **Educational Projects Survey:** Follow up letter outlining significant issues with the last year's educational projects survey process. Asking senior administration to address concerns brought forward in the initial letter dated January 14, 2024. Response requested by February 14, 2025.
 - **Service email account for school governing boards:** Letter of concern regarding the use of personal or school principal's email address to conduct governing board business. EMSB PC strongly recommends assigning official, dedicated email addresses to each governing board. Response requested by February 14, 2025.
- **Draft Calendars (Teachers) for the Youth, Adult and Vocational Sectors for 2025-2026 – approved and sent to for EMSB PC for consultation – draft shows that first day of school is Tuesday after Labour Day. This is rare but does happen. The calendar follows the normal allotment of days and union agreements and the first day happens to fall in September.**
- **Parent Commissioner's Report:**
 1. The Student of the Month for December, Andrii Nechyporenko from Royal Vale was honoured.

-
2. Election of members of the audit committee, HR committee, Transportation and Safety Advisory Committee, Observer to the Advisory Committee on Special Education Services (ACES).
 3. In their report to the Council of Commissioners, the Parent Commissioners did mention their concerns regarding:
 - **School Websites:** Parents emphasized the importance of up-to-date and accurate school websites as key tools for communication and promotion. Concerns were noted about update delays, occasional inaccuracies, and the balance between standardization and personalization of sites across the system.
 - **Service Account Emails for governing boards, and Educational Project Surveys** (see letter item above)

Motions passed at Council of Commissioners meeting:

- **Health and Safety in the Workplace – CNESST Retrospective Plan - Choice of Limit per Claim and CNESST Dues for 2025.**
- **Proposal to Rescind Policy DG-26.1 – To Facilitate the Disclosure of Wrongdoings (policy is obsolete with the adoption of Bill 53 on November 30, 2024) - approved and sent for consultation to the Central Management Advisory Committee – Resource Allocation Committee (CMAC-RAC) and be sent for information to the local unions and associations.**
- **2023-2024 audited financial statements**
- **Draft Calendars (Teachers) for the Youth, Adult and Vocational Sectors for 2025-2026 – approved and sent to for consultation to: English Montreal School Board Parents Committee (EMSBPC); Central Management Advisory Committee - Resource Allocation Committee (CMAC-RAC); Association of Montreal School Administrators (AMSA); Montréal Teachers Association (MTA)**
- **Approval of list of partners for the recruitment and personalized accompaniment of international students for the Adult Education and Vocational Training programs: Academie Internationale Inc., Ahmon Institut de Montreal, Can-Share Connection**

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>

- **English Parents' Committee Association (EPCA) Report**
 - **Workshop on parent governance coming up on January 21 from 7:00-8:30pm** (<https://www.facebook.com/share/p/1BAfZDjmNQ/>)
 - **Second iteration of survey being conducted by EPCA and Santé Québec. Last year's survey on mental health was filled out by 14,000. This year's survey will focus on mental health, screen time, special needs. Information from these surveys gets transmitted to government ministries – data makes an impact. Look out for this survey and please consider taking part.**

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.

6.9: CLC (Ms. Linda):

- Nothing to mention.

7. **Varia**

- Communication of meeting schedules will be broadcast through news-blast (e-mail)
- Chess tournament coming up with Lester B. Pearson (lunchtime activity)

8. **Question Period**

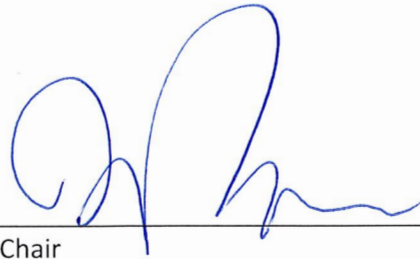
9. **Adjournment**

Clementina F. – second Sandra. moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:10 PM.

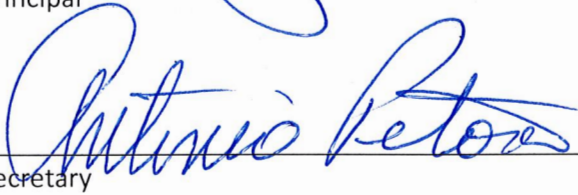
Next meeting: February 25th – In person.



Principal



GB Chair



Secretary

**Gerald McShane Elementary
Governing Board Attendance
January 28, 2025**

Name	Role
1. Vince Timpano	Principal
2. Maria Di Felice	Chair
3. Andy Lee	Guest
4. David Reda	Parent / Vice Chair
5. Claudio Perolotta	Parent
6. Shane Fombuene	Parent
7. Angie Iadinaridi	Parent
8. Sandra Renzi	Parent
9. Analia Kavoratore	Parent
10. Elisa Baronello	Teacher
11. Clementina Fraga	Daycare
12. Silva Muzzo	Teacher
13. Christina Gracia	Teacher
14. Pammy Lacroce	Teacher
15. SONIA D'ADDARIO	SUPPORT STAFF
16. ANTONIO PETOJA	PARENT.
17.	
18.	