



École Primaire

East Hill

Elementary School

10350 Bd Perras, Montréal, QC H1C 2H1

Governing Board Meeting # 2

Date: November 24th @ 7:00 p.m.
Meeting

Minutes

Members Present:

Parent Members	Staff Members	Administration	Guests
Tania Mendonca	Antonella Andricciola	Mr. Rebelo	M. Mercuri (comm. EMSB)
Christina Mallozzi	Nadia Barrafato	Mrs. Excellent	Veronica Gallo
Gennifer Girardello	Connie Cirella		Ashley Ménard
Damien Caruso	Maria Luisa Guarnieri		
Sabrina Di Iorio	Catherine Laberge		
Josianne Gelfusa			
Domenico Cotugno			
Alicia Di Stefano			

Member Regrets & Absences:

Parent Members	School Staff Members	Administration

1. Welcome

- Meeting starts at 7pm via TEAMS

2. Additions to the Agenda

- None

3. Approval of the Agenda (document attached)

MOTION TO: Adopt the Agenda

MOVED BY: Nadia Barrfato

SECONDED: Catherine Laberge

VOTE: Unanimous

4. Approval of Minutes of Last Meeting

Meeting # 1 – September 29, 2025 (document attached)

MOTION TO: Adopt the last minutes with a correction to a misspelled name

MOVED BY: Christina Mallozzi

SECONDED : Catherine Laberge

VOTE: Unanimous

5. Business Arising from Minutes

5.1 Community Representatives 2025-26

- Mr Rebelo reached out to community representatives and there were no positive outcomes or interest to join the board.

6. Public question Period

1. Veronica GALLO, parent of a student makes a statement followed by questions addressed to the administration team:

Good evening,

I'm the parent of a Grade 5 student, and I would like to ask about the current restrictions during recess. Students must stay in fixed zones like the "dodgeball zone" or "chit-chat zone," and they are not allowed to simply walk around and talk unless they remain inside that area.

*They are also told they **cannot run** and **cannot throw snow**, which is surprising in a country where snow play is a normal part of childhood. Depending on the lunch monitor, students are sometimes not even allowed to **switch zones**, which can make recess feel controlled instead of free.*

*Recess is meant to be a true break. The Ministry of Education emphasizes that it should support movement, socialization, and **self-directed play**. Research from experts like **Jonathan Haidt**, a leading American social psychologist, NYU professor, and author of *The Anxious Generation*, shows that **free, unstructured play is essential** for developing resilience, confidence, and social skills. His work also highlights that children today face rising anxiety due to highly supervised, device-based childhoods with too little real-world independence. Restricting recess only increases that problem.*

***Many schools in Quebec use an open-yard model:** supervisors ensure safety, but children choose how and where they play. This approach respects child development while still keeping recess safe. Students are already separated strictly by age group inside their classrooms; allowing them to move freely and play with children from other grades during recess would support healthier socialization and give them more natural opportunities to build friendships, learn from older peers, and mentor younger ones.*

*I also want to raise a second concern: **access to drinking water**. Students often report discoloured or bad-smelling water, and repair workers are frequently present. Because of this, children leave home with a water bottle but **cannot refill it during the day**, which is not ideal.*

So my questions are:

1. Can the school explain the reasons for limiting free play and movement during recess?
2. Can we consider a more flexible, open-yard approach?
3. And what is the plan to ensure that students have safe, reliable access to drinking water?

Thank you!

- Mme Excellent répond : Les zones assignées lors de la récréation extérieure sont mises en place principalement pour assurer la sécurité des enfants. Elles permettent d'identifier clairement les espaces de jeux, notamment ceux où des ballons sont utilisés, et de limiter les déplacements désorganisés. Sans ces zones, les enfants risqueraient de courir dans tous les sens, augmentant les risques de collisions et de blessures. Cette mesure favorise donc un climat sécuritaire, structuré et adapté au bien-être de tous les élèves.

Il faut noter que cette question ne relève pas du conseil de gouvernance. L'équipe administrative se rendra disponible pour Madame Gallo ou tout autre parent ayant des questions sur le sujet.

- Mr Rebelo answers regarding the water issue: he mentions that nothing has been reported or come to their attention, but a verification will be made to inquire further.

7. New Business

7.1 Budget Review (document attached)

Mr Rebelo presents and reviews different funds and entries with the members (examples: human resources and purchases to come). In resume all expenses are provided for.

Mrs Mallozzi asks a question about tutor classes and funds related: Mr Rebelo replies that funds are available for this when the responsible teacher recommends it for a given student.

7.2 Holiday Campaign

Mme Excellent explains we will start the collection of non-perishable items as of December 1st. A memo will be sent out to parents. These items will be donated to Big brother and big sister foundation. On December 17th a dress down day is scheduled to collect funds as well for the non-profit organization.

MOTION TO: adopt the Holiday campaign

MOVED BY: Tania Mendoca

SECONDED: Christina Mallozzi

VOTE: Unanimous

7.3 Field Trips & Activities

Mme Excellent presents:

1. Ecomuseum December 12th 2nd grade at no cost for students.
2. Ecomuseum February 1st grade at no cost for students.
3. Centre des sciences de Montreal for grades 1 and 2 in April at no cost for students.

MOTION TO: approve the field trips

MOVED BY: Alicia Di Stefano

SECONDED : Tania Mendoca

VOTE: Unanimous

7.4 Daycare Handbook 2025-26 (document attached)

Mme Cirella specifies that no modifications were made as they are set up at the school board and following their standards.

MOTION TO: adopt the Daycare Handbooks

MOVED BY: Catherine Laberge

SECONDED : Christina Mallozzi

VOTE: Unanimous

7.5 School Photos

Mrs Mallozzi asks why no class photos are done instead of simply having all the individual shots put into a mosaic and about the possibility of having sibling photos done.

Mme Excellent répond que les photos de la fratrie ne sont possibles en raison du temps que cela prendrait au niveau de la logistique, la journée de classe serait trop raccourcie. Pour la photo de classe, ceci est en raison des absents qui ne serait pas sur ladite photo.

Every year a survey goes out to parents to inquire about the pros and cons of the current suppliers. Green Apple studio as been maintained given the responses of parents have been positive in the survey. Note that the number of participants at the surveys may not be representative.

Mr. Caruso mentions it is important and encourages parents to answer the survey.

8. Reports

8.1 Commissioner

Mr. Mercuri thanks the members of the board for their presence and for the time they devote to the meetings. A first meeting was held at St-Pie school on October 15, to establish the dates, time, and location of the regular and executive meetings.

Fifteen recipients were selected for the French Award for the 2024–2025 academic year. The Student of the Month is Ivan Santa Maria, an adult education student at Galileo, who faced many challenges during his youth.

Updates from the Audit Committee and the Transportation Committee were also discussed. A special meeting is scheduled for October 29 to approve the budget. A deficit budget of \$7 million was adopted due to changes in government regulations that no longer allow the use of surplus funds.

Finally, it was announced that a carpentry course will be offered at Lester B. Pearson and will be open to students from several schools.

8.2 Chairperson

Nothing to report.

8.3 Principal

Mme Excellent, spoke about the Remembrance Day celebrations. She also announced that a visit from *École de la vue* is scheduled for November 12 for pre-kindergarten and kindergarten students. In addition, our open house will be held on November 27.

8.4 Teachers

Mme Laberge a remercié le comité H&S pour l'organisation des festivités d'Halloween. Elle a également fait un retour sur les rencontres de parents. De plus, une sortie de volleyball destinée aux élèves de 5e et 6e année a eu lieu, et les étudiants en ont été très satisfaits.

8.5 Daycare

Mrs Connie talks about the last outing to Dino Alive exposition which was a huge success for the students and the staff!

8.6 Home & School

Mrs Tania Mendonca presents the festivities for the holiday season. She thanks everyone for the positive feedback on the Halloween events. Also mentions that the Big box fundraiser was a success.

8.7 EPC

A committee was formed at the first meeting. Budget cuts were also discussed. The next meeting is scheduled for December 4 and will focus on addressing new business.

9. Next Meeting: December 15th

10. Adjournment

MOTION TO: Adjourn at 8:03pm

MOVED BY: Catherine Laberge

SECONDED BY: Christina Mallozzi

Minutes taken by Josianne GELFUSA acting as secretary for the meeting.

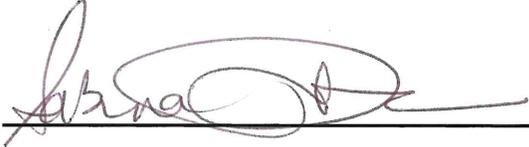
Signatures:

Date:



Principal

2026-02-02



Governing Board Chair

2026-07-31