



Minutes of Governing Board Meeting Edinburgh Elementary School

Thursday April 10 - 7:00 PM
Online meeting on 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.

Attendees:

- Staff Members: Ms. Laetitia Kachmar, Mr. Jean-Michel Brunet, Ms. Geneviève Hébert, Ms. Pina Trengia, Ms. Giselle Alleyne, Ms. Geneviève Guay, Mr. Abdelghafour El Hama.
- Parent members: Ms. Johanna Miller, Mr. Steven Muoio, Ms. Tammy Dagenais, Robyn Dalton; Alessandra Cesari; Anne-Marie Yaworski

AGENDA

1. Welcome; Meeting opened by Ms. Miller at 7:05 PM, moved by Ms. Robyn Dalton; seconded by Mr. Abdelghafour El Hama.
2. Adoption of agenda. Ms. Dalton moved, and seconded by Ms. Giselle Alleyne.
3. Approval of Minutes of January 28, 2025. Mr. Steven Muoio moved. Seconded by Ms. Alessandra Cesari.
4. Business Arising from Previous Minutes - none
5. New Business:
 - 7.1 Ped days/snow days
 - 7.1.1 School council has decided that May 16 will no longer be Ped day.
 - 7.2 Budget Building Process
 - 7.2.1 Priority items are:
 - 7.2.1.1 Bathrooms: Currently only the kindergarten class bathrooms have been renovated. The proposal is for the junior bathrooms to also be renovated, ensuring they are accessible for reduced mobility and environmentally responsible
 - 7.2.1.2 Pipes: Water pipes are outdated and need to be redone.

7.2.1.3 Additional junior door: An additional door on the junior side of the school is slated to be installed in the summer of 2025.

7.2.1.4 Overall building infrastructure: Extensive plans to renovate the school in 2026

7.2.1.5 Ms. Laetitia Kachmar is requesting that any rollover should remain as part of the school budget.

7.2.1.6 Motioned to approve by Ms. Alleyne; Seconded by Mr. El Hama

7.3 Spring Concert

7.3.1 This year's spring concert will take place on May 21st. It will be separated into a Junior and Senior portion, with an intermission between the two parts and an option to attend only part of the show as preferred. Tickets will also be issued to family members to ensure everyone has a chance to view the show.

7.4 2025-2026 School Calendar

7.4.1 Board-wide Ped days have been added to the 2025-2026 calendar; October 24 and March 16

7.4.2 Some discussion was had over the first Monday after the holiday break and whether there was a possibility to not make it a Ped day. Teachers explained that it is an important moment in their calendar to kick off the second half of the school year.

7.5 Update on Crossing Guard

7.5.1 Ms. Kachmar reported that after submitting our request, including all required documents and meeting with both the community police officer and the commander for Montreal West, it was determined by the local police station that Edinburgh does not qualify for a crossing guard. They will, however, increase surveillance in the mornings. Ms. Cesari suggested looking into adding speedbumps in the neighborhood to increase the general safety.

7.6 Update on ECAs

7.6.1 Edinburgh will be taking on a new service, Animation for Kids, which will take on the role of coordinating all our ECAs, starting April 29th. While there will be an adjustment period at the beginning, including a new registration platform, Animation for Kids will ensure a smooth transition by adding a second ECA coordinator to support. This service will also be

able to issue tax receipts for parents, as well as offer more and new activities, at no added cost for the activities.

1. Reports

8.1 Principal

- 8.1.1 The week of February 3rd was Staff Appreciation Week.
- 8.1.2 February 20th: Alarm drill was run and the students took it very seriously. It was also Black History Celebration, with special guests Roen Higgins and Tammy Clark sharing great stories and testimonials.
- 8.1.3 The week of February 24th was Carnival Week. On Tuesday the 25th, teachers and students enjoyed sugar shack and a petting zoo. On Wednesday, students enjoyed pink doughnuts for Pink Shirt Day, with big thanks to Home and School.
- 8.1.4 February 27th was Parent Teachers interviews on Zoom.
- 8.1.5 March 12th was our first hockey game against Royal Vale.
- 8.1.6 March 20th was Science Fair – more details to follow below from Mr. El Hama.
- 8.1.7 March 21st was Home and School Pasta Night
- 8.1.8 March 25th was a Digital Citizenship Workshop for parents with successful turnout.
- 8.1.9 March 27th was a Cyberbullying presentation by local police officers for grade 5 and grade 6 students
- 8.1.10 March 28th was futsal tournament for grade 5 and 6
- 8.1.11 April 2nd was end of the month activity day
- 8.1.12 April 10th was the EMSB West Story Telling Festival at Gardenvue, with 2 students representing Edinburgh, Olivia and Liam.

8.2 Commissioner

- 8.2.1 Commissioner was not present for the meeting.

8.3 Treasurer

- 8.3.1 Nothing to report from Ms. Cesari.

8.4 Parent Delegate (EMSBPC)

- 8.4.1 Representative was not present for this meeting.

8.5 Teacher Report

- 8.5.1 This year's Science Fair included a few new elements that were introduced with great success. For one, only Grade 6 students were invited to present at the Fair in the gym. Grade 5 students presented in class this time. All projects were presented in French, which offered an additional positive challenge for students to strengthen their verbal skills in their second language, especially given that they study science in French all year. Finally, the gym space was organized in a more open fashion, which allowed visitors a better view of the projects. 3 groups were selected as winners and will receive their prizes at the Grade 6 graduation ceremony.
- 8.5.2 The Storytelling activity at Edinburgh, as well as the Festival at Gardenvue were both a great success.
- 8.5.3 April Fools was especially animated this year. Students and teachers both participated in the fun, with one student even planning her trick since October!
- 8.5.4 End of the month activities took place on April 2nd, with a relay race. Teachers observe that this new strategy has coincided with fewer negative behavioral incidents in the last few months.

8.6 Home and School Liaison

- 8.6.1 Ms. Tammy Dagenais updated the GB on the many wonderful initiatives they have organized for the school. These included the Teacher Appreciation Week, with breakfast, smoothies, cards, snacks, and coffee in the staff lounge and a finale of hoodies given to the teachers on Friday. They also organized Sugar Shack, provided doughnuts on Pink Shirt Day and hosted a Pasta Night at the school.
- 8.6.2 Thanks to a sponsorship from TD Bank as well as funds from Home and School, C pens have been made available to students at the school.
- 8.6.3 The Spring Fair will take place on May 29th with potential support from Animation for Kids.
- 8.6.4 They will be organizing a fundraiser for Earth Day with True Earth (a Canadian company), selling eco-friendly cleaning products. 20% of sales come back to the school.

8.6.5 Next meeting is June 4th, AGM in person and online

8.7 BASE

8.7.1 Ms. Alleyne reported on BASE activities, recent and upcoming. On April 4th, Base went to the Montreal Circus Academy. On April 28th, they will go to Funtropolis. She also shared a student-led initiative called 'It's Puzzling', whereby the students work collectively to complete big puzzles of up to 1000 pieces. She also shared that Mr. Ryan, who leads the Gardening Club, has started a new initiative with a student Composting Crew, who collects brown paper towels and recycling throughout the school. The Composting Crew takes their work very seriously, developing great leadership skills.

2. Varia

1. Congratulations to our Board chair, Ms. Miller, for her recent recognition with the King Charles III Medal, in recognition of her contributions to youth sports in the community.

3. Correspondence - none

4. Question period

1. *What is the current policy on winter clothes?*

i. School is being lenient while still reasonable considering the weather. They do need a change of shoes or boots, however the request is to minimize dirt coming into the school.

5. Adjournment, Ms. Alleyne moves, seconded by Mr. El-Hama, Motion carries unanimously.

Next GB meeting date is set for May 15th, to be confirmed.

Respectfully submitted:

Ms. Laetitia Kachmar, Principal



Ms. Johanna Miller, Chairperson