Minutes of Governing Board Meeting
Edinburgh Elementary School

May 27, 2025 - 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, Ms. Robyn Dalton; Ms. Alessandra Cesari; Ms. Anne-Marie Yaworski, Mr. Navid Azadi, Ms. Michal Muallem
- Ms. Allison Lortie (Home and School)

AGENDA

1. Welcome

   Meeting opened by Ms. Miller at 7:05 PM, moved by Ms. Robyn Dalton; seconded by Mr. Abdelghafour El Hama.
   Ms. Miller added one item to the agenda: revisiting the brigadier

2. Adoption of agenda

   Ms. Muallem moved and seconded by Mr. Azadi

3. Approval of Minutes of April 10, 2025

Ms. Muallem moved and seconded by Mr. Azadi

4. Business Arising from Previous Minutes - none

5. New Business:

5.1 June 19: Early dismissal for daycare

Ms. Alleyne is requesting an early dismissal of 4:30pm to allow the BASE staff to attend the graduation ceremony.

Ms. Cesari moved to approve and seconded by Mr. El Hama

5.2 June 17: Field Day

Ms. Kachmar shared that there will be 19 stations and 19 teams using cooperative games, it gathers the whole school together and is a great way for the grade 6s to do their send off as leaders of the activities

5.3 Edinburgh School supplies

Lists have been submitted and consist of all the supplies that the teachers have identified that the students need for a successful school year. The only additional item added to school supplies is that duo tangs are now on the supplies list.

Ms. Muallem moved to approve and seconded by Mr. Azadi

5.4 Edinburgh Code of conduct

Ms. Kachmar shared some updates regarding *The Edinburgh Way;*

- For one, once you receive one or two yellow slips, you may be prone to receiving a red slip
- At the end of the month, students will continue to get a reward for minimal slips
- Some students were still bringing objects into school, the code of conduct adds greater specification to the types of toys and objects that could be brought into school and when.
- Snacks were previously strongly discouraged. The wording changed to “Parents are not permitted to send treats on special occasions” due to safety reasons.
- Also, regarding smart watches, greater clarity was given to ensure the definition is clear. Anything that can be linked to a smart phone is considered a smart watch.

5.5 ACGC - Academic and Career Guidance for Elementary Education

Ms. Kachmar spoke of a document introduced by the school board and the ministry regarding Cycle 3 strategies to prepare them for leadership, career-building, etc. in high school.

Mr. Jean Michel and Madame Geneviève explained that they created a list of examples of the activities they do to reinforce important competencies and attributes including: self knowledge, knowledge of the world of school, knowledge of the world of work, self-esteem, their sense of self and their visions for the future

Ms. Cesari moved to approve of the ACGC list, seconded by Ms. Muallem

5.6 Lunch fees 2025-2026 school year

There was a discussion regarding the need to increase lunch fees due to increasing costs. The initial proposal was to increase by $0.50 per day, but after further exchanges, the proposal was to increase by $0.25 this year with a plan to add additional fees next year.

Ms. Alleyne put forward a motion to increase the lunch fees from $1.50 to $1.75 for 2025-26 school year, seconded by Ms. Muallem.

5.7 Field Trips

-June 5: Grade 3 Biodôme

-June 10: Grade 4 Centrale Hydroélectrique

-June 16: Grade 5 Collège Bois-de-Boulogne

Ms. Alleyne put forward a motion to approve the field trips, seconded by Ms. Muallem

6. Reports

8.1 Principal

Ms. Kachmar shared that enrollment is increasing. Next year, a new K4/K5 split will be added, bringing us to 2 K5s and 1 K4. It was noted that while most EMSB schools are seeing declining numbers, Edinburgh's increase in enrollment is something to highlight and be proud of!

Ms. Kachmar shared details about recent and upcoming events:

April 25th - Jump Rope for Heart

April 29th – K4 students play based learning activity with parents, which was great

May 8th – Halo Race, very successful

May 21st – Spring Concert Held in the morning, organized by Mr Radu, loved by all
May 22nd – K4 and K5 orientation day
May 23rd- GMAA Activities – students had a wonderful day
May 27th – Spring Fair – Had to be changed due to the impending potential rain

AAESQ – Conference of Principals and Management – there is a possibility of this group going on strike, starting with pressure tactics

8.2 Commissioner - ABSENT

8.3 Treasurer

Ms. Cesari shared that 6 gift cards of $20 to $25 each will be given to the Science Fair winners at the graduation ceremony.

8.4 Parent Delegate (EMSBPC)

Ms. Muallem shared updates:

- The EMSB is concerned about keeping enrollment numbers high
- Bill 94 – some parents are concerned about religious symbols in the classroom worn by teachers and administrators
- A committee will be struck to review security measures for all schools
- Snow days and emergency days were also discussed, as too many snow days were used this year. The idea of using online learning as an option was discussed.

8.5 Teachers Report

Mr. Jean Michel shared that each class is organizing special activities for the end of the school year.
He was thankful that the Home and School provided tents for Halo Race.
He also shared that an organization called Civix led an activity around the election and that students voted similarly to the riding results.

8.6 Home and School Liaison

Ms. Lortie shared that a number of activities and initiatives have been led by the Home and School. For example, in April there was a special lunch with Mazzeh which was well received. In May there is an upcoming Souvlaki George lunch. The Spring Fair was a huge success, especially considering the date was changed at the last minute to accommodate expected rain. Ms. Lortie

expressed how great it was that all the volunteers worked together to adapt and make the event happen seamlessly. She also shared that there would be an upcoming staff appreciation Smoothie Day.

8.7 BASE

Ms. Alleyne shared that there have been multiple successful events and activities at BASE. For example, the seedling sale was a huge success, and the activity that allowed the students to witness 20 caterpillars transition to butterflies. Ms. Alleyne was commended for her hard work taking on the leadership of BASE this year.

7. Varia

Ms. Miller noted that the brigadier on Westminster and Parkside does not always cross with the children, there is a great concern that he is not alert enough about the safety of those crossing. This has been observed by children and adults alike. Ms. Kachmar noted this concern and will address it to the chief police.

8. Correspondence

9. Question period

10. Adjournment