

GOVERNING BOARD MEETING #4
Wednesday, January 21, 2026
School – Teacher’s Lounge

EMS Parent Members	Present	Absent	EMS Staff Members / Administration / EMSB	Present	Absent
Patricia Carvalho	X		Christina Chilelli, Principal		
Anny Baldessare	X		Maria Corsi (Commissioner)		X
Amanda Gendron			Melodie Charette, Daycare		X
Amanda Mini			Melissa Bentrovato, Support Staff		
Fanny Laberge (alternate)			Elisa Giampa, Teacher		
Cynthia-Lee Gravel	X		Sarah Amyot, Teacher		
Alissa			Sandrine Gamache, Teacher		X

1. Meeting was called to order at 6:37 p.m. by Ms. Chilelli (Chair).

2. Adoption of agenda: The agenda was reviewed. It was noted there would be no Daycare report and no Commissioner report for this meeting, and that the date was to be modified.

Motion to adopt the agenda: Approved by Sarah (no seconder required).

3. Adoption/approval of minutes:

Minutes of the December 15, 2025 meeting were presented.

Moved by Alyssa / Seconded by Annie (per recording) – Carried.

Note: Chair to confirm where Patricia’s signature is required on the document.

4. Business arising:

None.

5. New business – Grade 5 French class:

Update provided on the Grade 5 French teacher vacancy (preventative/maternity leave; teacher left one week prior).

School board process:

- A call is sent to French-qualified teachers on the recall list; teachers have a limited time to accept/decline.
- School is currently waiting for response from the school board.

Interim coverage:

- Mme Sandrine has been preparing daily lesson plans and emailing them to Ms. Dolores and the principal.
- Qualified substitutes secured/identified

Contingency planning:

- If a qualified teacher accepts the post, they will coordinate with Mme Sandrine for planning support.
- If no recall-list teacher accepts, school will conduct its own search; last-resort option would be a non-French-qualified teacher following Mme Sandrine's plans (not preferred).

Tutoring supports:

- Principal exploring hiring tutors to help bridge curriculum gaps for the two Grade 5 groups (A and C).
- After-school tutoring preferred; lunchtime noted as a possible option though lunch clubs may limit availability.

Parent questions/concerns:

- Ongoing concern that this student group has experienced inconsistent French instruction for three years; curriculum is dense; parents reported high stress.

- Clarification that difficulty hiring French teachers is general, not unique to EMSB.
- Grading: professional judgment will consider students' starting level and extenuating factors; Grade 6 differs due to an external exam in late April.

Question raised re: teacher allocation:

- Discussion on whether more experienced French teachers should be prioritized for higher grades with heavier curriculum, noting seniority and mid-year transfer constraints.

6. New business – Wings donation:

Donation received for Wings (autism specialized) classes: approximately \$400 from FD Auto.

Proposed use of funds:

- Purchase of tactile tools, visual tools, and calming lighting to support emotional regulation and reduce anxiety.

Discussion:

- Members emphasized durability, avoiding disruptive/noisy items, and ensuring teachers choose the materials.
- Suggestion raised: lava lamp (quiet calming option).

Motion to approve use of donation for the proposed materials:

Moved by Alyssa / Seconded by Patricia – Carried.

7. New business – Fashion show fundraiser:

Reminder: Fashion show fundraiser previously approved; spearheaded by Ms. Loretta and Ms. Sarah.

Fundraising goal: raise money for technology (laptops), with possibility to also support music program if funds permit.

Event date: Thursday, May 14, 2026. Start time no earlier than 6:30 p.m.; estimated duration ~90 minutes.

Admission pricing:

- \$5 individual ticket
- \$12 family ticket

Motion to approve admission pricing:

Moved by Cynthia / Seconded by Melissa – Carried.

Program sponsorship pricing (ads in event program):

- Business card: \$25
- Half-page: \$50
- Full-page: \$100

Motion to approve sponsorship pricing:

Moved by Amanda / Seconded by Patricia – Carried.

Refreshments:

- School to reach out to Frito Lay Canada for snack donations to sell during event.
- Donation of water bottles mentioned; contact to be made via Melissa's sister.
- Popcorn stand idea discussed; plan to prioritize donated items first.

8. New business – School-wide field trip:

Annual school-wide activity discussed; decision in principle to go out to Cabane a Sicre (venue being investigated: "Château des Erables), as confirmed during meeting.

Date not yet chosen; Fridays preferred but may involve additional costs.

Parent contribution:

- Discussion on whether to request a contribution only if necessary (options discussed: fixed amount vs voluntary).
- Principal indicated she would advise the governing board by email if a shortfall required a last-minute request.

Motion to approve a potential parent contribution for the school-wide field trip (amount/implementation to be determined closer to the event based on actual need):

Moved by Patricia / Seconded by (not captured in recording) – Carried.

9. Budget update:

Principal provided overview of current budget situation:

- Budgets have been cut significantly; supplementary allocations (“mesures”) received but reduced (approx. 20–25%).
- Envelopes are restricted to specific purchases; transfers between budgets are not permitted.
- Unspent funds are not rolled over to the following year, so budgets must be used appropriately within guidelines.

Emergency funding:

- School board maintains an emergency fund for essential unexpected situations (e.g., water main break, boiler failure).

10. Reports:

Principal:

- General update: return to school “business as usual”; upcoming activities noted.

Teachers:

- Grade 5 Healthy Friendships program: 3 sessions delivered during PE/health curriculum; optional online parent workshop available.
- Concussion workshop: sessions booked for Grades 4–6.
- Physical education grant application submitted; hope to add fixed basketball nets in gym if approved (grant max reduced from \$10,000 to \$5,000).
- Anti-bullying guest speaker planned for Grades 3–4.
- Park Omega science workshops coming to school.
- World Cup of Diving tickets offered (free tickets; bus costs). Event scheduled Feb 26 (morning). Groups: Grades 4 and 6.
- Literacy night noted.

Daycare:

- No report.

PPO:

- Fundraisers: Felix Cookies and Mabel's Labels targeted for February (pending materials).
- Storage/logistics discussed for Felix Cookies (frozen; same-day pickup; use freezers + winter conditions).
- Popsicle sale fundraiser discussed (typically last 4 months; ~\$2/item; allergy-free Chapman's options available; requires freezer space + volunteers).
- Staff Appreciation Week confirmed for Feb 24–28, 2026 (budget approx. \$700; includes catered lunch). Principal can accommodate evening volunteers up to 10:00 p.m.; one day notice sufficient.

Commissioner:

- Absent; no report.

11. Varia / Public Question Period:

No public questions were raised.

12. Date of next meeting:

Next Governing Board meeting: February 18, 2026. Meeting to be held via Zoom, with option to continue online meetings until weather improves.

13. Adjournment:

Motion to adjourn: Moved by Melissa / Seconded by Sarah – Meeting adjourned at 7:31 p.m.