

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE GOVERNING BOARD

January 14, 2025

Present: Anthony Nitti, Robert Lennox, Lori Press, Andrea Gruia, Melissa Robertson, Chelsea Gaul (parents), Scott Thompson, Gianna Mardakis, Patti Surette (teachers), Kate Marien (support staff), Ekaterina Valkova-Damova (MWCL Librarian-Community Representative), Sam Servello (Principal)

Regrets: Mélodie Charette (Daycare Technician), Paola Samuel (Commissioner)

1. Welcome and Land Acknowledgement

We would like to acknowledge that Elizabeth Ballantyne School is located on unceded Indigenous lands. The Kanien'kehà: ka Nation is recognized as the custodians of the lands and waters on which we gather today. Tiohtià:ke/Montreal is historically known as a gathering place for many First Nations. Today, it is home to a diverse population of Indigenous and other peoples. We respect the continued connections with the past, present, and future in our ongoing relationships with Indigenous and other peoples within the Montreal community.

2. Adoption of the Agenda of January 14, 2025

On motion duly made (L Press) and seconded (A Nitti), it was resolved to adopt the agenda of the January 14, 2025 meeting as presented.

3. Approval of the minutes of the meeting of May 2024 and October 2024:

On motion duly made (L Press) and seconded (G Mardakis), it was unanimously resolved to approve the minutes of the meeting of May 2024 and October 2024, as presented.

4. Business Arising:

4.1 Reminder of Appointments

- Chair: Robert Lennox
- Parents Representatives : Robert Lennox, Andrea Gruia, Melissa Robertson, Anthony Nitti, Lori Press, Chelsea Gaul
- Secretary: Kate Marien
- Treasurer: Andrea Gruia
- EMSBPC Representative: Anthony Nitti
- Community Representative: Ekaterina Valkova-Damova

5. New Business

5.1 New Commissioner

Our new EMSB Commissioner is Paola Samuel, replacing Joseph Lalla.

5.2 Approval of EBS Anti-Bullying/Action Plan 2024-2025

S Servello gave a detailed description of the document, which had been circulated prior to the meeting, and listed the various programs that are being run in the school as part of our anti-bullying action plan.

On motion duly made (G Mardakis) and seconded (P Surette), it was unanimously resolved to approve the EBS Anti-Bullying/Action Plan 2024-2025 as presented.

5.3 Adoption of EBS Educational Project

S Servello introduced this document and summarized the document, which was circulated prior to the meeting.

On motion duly made (M Robertson), and seconded (L Press), it was unanimously resolved to adopt the EBS Educational Project as presented.

5.4 Additional Ped Day

An additional Ped Day has been added to the 2024-2025 Calendar – March 17, 2025.

5.5 Locking School Yard gates

S Servello spoke to the EMSB Regional Director, who then consulted with his superior and with Legal Services – the unofficial response at this point has been that the school board does not recommend locking the gates. There was discussion regarding the safety of the students when they are in the yard, S Servello explained that there are always the appropriate number of supervisors on duty. R Lennox suggested that any further concerns/comments regarding this issue be sent to him and to the principal.

5.6 Succession Plan

R Lennox will not take part in the Governing Board next school year, as his son will be graduating. His hope is that another parent member will volunteer to alongside him, in order to learn the ropes with the view to taking on the role next year, thus ensuring a smooth transition. If there is anyone who is willing to take on this role, please let him know.

6. Reports

6.1 Principal's Report

- Math initiative - EMSB consultants have been working with our teachers in providing professional development that started last school year. This is a 2-year project, associated with research at Concordia University. We are looking forward to seeing the results.
- Early literacy initiative – EMSB Language Arts consultants have been visiting the school in order to assess the literacy levels of all of our students. Teachers will be exploring these results next week in order to inform their teaching. Students are

prioritized based on the data from these assessments, and tutors have been hired to work in Cycle 1 to improve reading skills.

- While this is a part of our educational project, I wanted to highlight these initiatives as we are participating in an EMSB Educational Services pilot project looking at how professional development is delivered.
- Clubs - We currently have several lunch clubs run by our behaviour technicians (e.g. dance, Lego, Cricut, beads, crafts etc.) These clubs also offer opportunities for students to develop SEL (social/emotional learning) skills.

6.2 Commissioner's Report

Absent

6.3 Teacher's Report

- Kindergarten students have been doing pet therapy for the past few months and will soon begin the Kind Kids program, which is a series of workshops on kindness and empathy.
- Grade 1 students participate in robotics activities once a week.
- Grade 2 had a guest author come into class.
- Grades 4 and 5 participated in two workshops with the Montreal Steppers, which they really enjoyed.
- Cycle 3 successfully completed their gingerbread house sale in December and are now working on a filmmaking project.
- Grade 6 students have been participating in "Grand Pals" one Thursday every month. They visit a senior citizens' home and complete activities and workshops relating to family, home, travel, and school.
- Students donated nearly 500 pairs of socks during the sock drive for Bread & Beyond.

6.4 Support Staff Report

We will be welcoming a new school secretary next week; Miss Elister will remain in her place as second secretary.

6.5 Daycare Report

No report.

6.6 EMSBPC Report

- A Nitti reported that the EMSB is working on some projects to address the literacy worries throughout the board. Some of these include the UFLI program, developed by the University of Florida Literacy Institute, which is being implemented at EBS. There are other programs that offer literacy and STEAM support to all students.

- The SPVM has created an 'Anti-Troll Kit', which can be used as a resource, it includes some workshops and videos to help children from ages 8-11 navigate the internet (<https://anti-trollkit.com/>). It can be useful for parents, students, counsellors, educators etc. R Lennox and S Servello will discuss how to best disseminate this information.

6.7 Library Report

- E Valkova-Damova reported that visits to the library are going well, according to schedule. K, Grades 1, 2 and 3 have two library visits per week (30 minutes each) – one in English, one in French. Grades 4, 5, and 6 visit the Library once a week for a bilingual visit.
- In December 2024, the three grade 6 classes completed a Literary Trivia on the book that we have been reading since September, and as there was a tie (no winning class), the three classes had a treat of donuts and hot chocolate as a reward.
- The second session of after-class activities starts on January 20th. We offer Chess Club, Lego Club, Ozobot programming and Scratch programming.
- The Bill Foster writing contest will run from February 1st to April 17th – students are welcome to submit texts on the theme of 'Travel'.

6.8 Home & School/Graduation committee report

- M Robertson explained what is being discussed in terms of supporting the graduating classes and supporting the grade 6 trips that are being planned (day trips instead of overnight). The main goal of fundraising will be for day trips. Possibilities include pizza lunches, TCBY sales, movie night, ring pop sale, used book sale etc. An effort is being made to enlist the help of volunteer parents in this initiative.
- A Staff appreciation week is being planned for early February – R Lennox is setting up a meal train – if there are any ideas or suggestions, please communicate with him or with M Robertson.

7. Question Period

There were no questions.

8. Adjournment and Date of Next Meeting

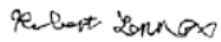
There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m. The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 11th at 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Kate Marien, Secretary



Signature : _____ Date: January 14, 2025 _____

Principal



Signature : _____ Date: January 14, 2025 _____

Governing Board Chair