

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE GOVERNING BOARD February 11, 2025

Present: Anthony Nitti, Robert Lennox, Lori Press, Andrea Gruia, 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), Melissa Robertson (parent)

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 February 11, 2025

On motion duly made (L Press) and seconded (S Thompson), it was unanimously resolved to adopt the agenda of the February 11, 2025, meeting as presented.

3. Approval of the minutes of the meeting of January 14, 2025:

On motion duly made (L Press) and seconded (C Gaul), it was unanimously resolved to approve the minutes of the meeting of January 14, 2025, as presented.

4. Business Arising:

There was no business arising from the previous meeting.

5. New Business

5.1 Budget Building Process 2025-2026:

5.2 Budget Building Consultation

Each year the Governing Board members of each school are consulted regarding prioritization of budget items. R Lennox distributed the document before the meeting. There was discussion regarding possible focus areas (e.g. educational materials, maker space science lab, student services etc.) We are providing the council of commissioners with suggestions as to how

we want our share of the funds to be allocated to our school. R Lennox will revise the document and send it to the school board as requested.

6. Reports

6.1 Principal's Report

- We had a successful lockdown drill on January 30th
- Lunchtime soccer has begun for boys (grades 3-4) and girls (grades 3-6)
- We are planning to offer Karate instruction to some of our students in conjunction with our ESL program.
- Yoga is being offered at lunchtime once a week for grade 2 and 4 students
- Marymount Academy students gave a Steel Pan performance on February 7th

6.2 Commissioner's Report

Absent

6.3 Teacher's Report (P Surette)

- Cycle 1 students celebrated Chinese New Year, fortune cookies were donated by Fay Won, the Kindergarten students created a beautiful dragon that is displayed at the entrance to the school.
- Kindness Kids come in once a week to help kids learn about kindness
- The UNFLI (University of Florida) Foundations program is being implemented in Cycles 1 and 2.
- Teachers have been attending math workshops, and the EMSB Math consultants have been here several times to reinforce the learning.
- Noon hour clubs are continuing with Cycle 1 students, Behaviour Technicians continue to coach the students in certain SEL skills.
- A Steel Pan band performed in honour of Black History Month
- Grade 6 students and staff members have organized a Ring Pop sale as a grad fundraiser
- Cycle 3 will be going to the Royal West Science Fair on February 13th
- Thank you to Miss Stefanie, who has ordered sleds and shovels for the kids to take outside, they have responded really well and seem to be getting outside much more quickly.
- Pizza and TCBY fundraisers will be starting of February 28th

6.4 Support Staff Report

We are happy to welcome Kimberley Hanley, our new school secretary, who join Elister Abraham in the office.

6.5 Daycare Report

Status quo

6.6 EMSBPC Report

A Nitti reported that Agence Ometz gave a presentation at the most recent EMSBPC meeting. They offer workshops on various topics e.g. internet safety, healthy relationships, puberty awareness and other workshops for parents. They have a counselling option as well - a link will be sent out by email.

The EMSBPC sponsors two literacy awards for students – the EMSB PARENT COMMITTEE AWARD OF MERIT and the EMSB PARENT COMMITTEE LITERACY AWARD. The principal will assist the EMSBPC in choosing the recipients.

6.7 Library Report

- Since last week, Daycare resumed visits to the library (like last year's arrangement), and the students come to read for about 30 minutes every Thursday afternoon.
- The submission period for the Bill Foster Writing Contest is now open. Teachers have been informed, and we are expecting students' submissions by April 17 th .
- As part of the Canadian Children's Book Week, author Joanne Levy will make a presentation in front of grade 5 classes, in May.
- We have completed reading 'The Wild Robot' with grade 5, and next week the classes will compete in a Literary trivia; the winning class will have a special treat.

6.8 Home & School/Graduation Committee Report

- R Lennox reported they are considering a movie night sometime after April 18th, the date has not yet been chosen.
- Ring Pops sale is under way this week – profits will be known tomorrow.
- TCBY and Pizza dates have been set, forms will go out later this week or early next week.
- Other fundraising ideas are being discussed.
- S Servello met with Miss Megan yesterday to discuss funding.
- S Servello expressed thanks to R Lennox and all the other parents who helped to provide such welcome treats/meals during Staff Appreciation week.

7. Question Period

L Press asked about the policy regarding students going outside for recess on cold days.

Elizabeth Ballantyne School
314 Northview Ave.,
Montreal West, Quebec

S Servello explained that the final decision is left to the principal, and that it depends on the situation.

8. Adjournment and Date of Next Meeting

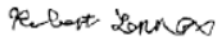
There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7: 20 p.m. The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 25, at 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Kate Marien, Secretary



Signature : _____ Date: _February 12, 2025_

Principal



Signature : _____ Date: _February 12, 2025_