

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

Present:

Anthony Nitti (Chair), Christina Matchett, Andrea Gruia, Jesse Altenhoff, Stewart Viita (parents), Scott Thompson, Lucy DePetrillo, Patti Surette (teachers), Namarath Naval (Daycare), Kate Marien (community representative), Ekaterina Valkova-Damova (Librarian – community representative), Eugenia Carystios (Interim Principal)

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 December 11, 2025

On motion duly made (L De Petrillo) and seconded (A Gruia), it was unanimously resolved to adopt the agenda of the December 11, 2025, meeting as presented.

3. Approval of the minutes of the meeting of November 13, 2025:

On motion duly made (S Thompson) and seconded (A Gruia), it was unanimously resolved to approve the minutes of the meeting of November 13, 2025, as presented.

4. Business Arising from the Minutes

4.1 Blanket Motion – Fundraising (in house) and Field Trips

On motion duly made (J Altenhof) and seconded (L de Petrillo), it was unanimously resolved to give E Carystios the power to approve in-house fundraising activities, and to approve local field trips.

5. New Business

5.1 Dates of meeting for school year

The following dates were chosen for 2006: January 15, February 19, March 19, April 16, May 21, and June 11.

6.0 Reports

6.1 Principal's Report

E Carystios expressed appreciation for the warm welcome she has received at EBS. She is looking forward to familiarizing herself with the students, their families, and the staff members.

The recent parent/teacher interviews went very well.

6.2 Teacher's Report (P Surette, L DePetrillo)

- We held our first House Assembly, where we introduced our core value of KINDNESS; we are spreading kindness throughout the school through classroom lessons and school wide initiatives.
- Our next assembly will be held on December 17; House Captains are taking part in the planning.
- We are collecting new socks to donate to Bread & Beyond.
- Our 'Artist Inspire' grant application was approved. Jeff Schouela from Comedy for Kids will be offering workshops on laughter, literary devices, improv and team building,
- As a continuation of our SEL program, classes from different grades and levels have been buddying up to work on fun and creative activities. The older students mentor the younger ones and develop positive relationships.
- Grade 6 students are designing their own holiday sweaters.

6.3 Support Staff Report

No report

6.4 Daycare Report

- N Naval reported that the daycare handbook needs to be approved – she will distribute a copy.
- The daycare children will be taking a trip to the Biodome, along with student from St. Monica.
- There was discussion regarding the issue of parent volunteers accompanying daycare on field trips. N Naval will investigate.

On motion duly made (L DePetrillo) and seconded (P Surette), it was unanimously resolved to give E Carystios the power to approve proposed daycare field trips.

6.5 EMSBPC Report

Please see document "EMSBPC Highlights" distributed with the minutes.

6.6 Home & School Report

A Nitti reported that there are nine parents who are interested in forming a Home & School Association. A meeting will be arranged with the new principal in January.

6.7 Library Report

- Class visits to the library started on September 15; they are running according to schedule. K (story time in English and French). Grades 4, 5 and 6 visit once a week for bilingual story time. Students are allowed a maximum of four books at a time.
- We offer the following after-school activities: Manga drawing, Scratch coding, Lego Club and Dungeons & Dragons story building. These activities are open to all library members, but have been attended exclusively by EB students for the past two sessions.
- On October 4, we welcomed author Amanda Cupido, who presented her book "Podcasting for Kids" to Grade 6 students.

7.0 Question Period

S Viita brought up the issue of the various platforms that are used for communication between parents and school, discussion ensued. E Carystios requested that he send her an email, and she will give him more information on the subject.

L DePetrillo brought up the issue of the school photographers – many parents were not satisfied with the service. She will look into the possibility of finding a new company.

8.0 Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:17 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, January 15, 2026.

Respectfully submitted
Kate Marien, Secretary

Anthony Nitti, Chair

Eugenia Carystios,
Interim Principal

Date

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