

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE GOVERNING BOARD
January 29, 2026

Present: Anthony Nitti (Chair), Christina Matchett, Jesse Altenhoff, Stewart Viita, Chelsea Gaul (parents), Scott Thompson, Lucy DePetrillo, (teachers), Namrata Naval (Daycare), Kate Marien (community representative), Eugenia Carystios (Interim Principal)

Regrets: Andrea Gruia (parent) Patti Surette (teacher), Ekaterina Valkova-Damova (Librarian – community representative)

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 29, 2026

On motion duly made (C Matchett) and seconded (C Gaul), it was unanimously resolved to adopt the agenda of January 29, 2026, as presented.

3. Approval of the minutes of the meeting of December 11, 2025:

On motion duly made (C Gaul) and seconded (C Matchett), it was unanimously resolved to approve the minutes of the meeting of December 11, 2025, as presented.

4. Business Arising from the Minutes

4.1 Parent Participation/Home & School Association

Formation of a PPO or Home & School must be voted at the AGM; therefore, we cannot form either of these groups for this school year. If any parents wish to volunteer, they should contact the school secretary, and she will explain the required process.

5. New Business

5.1 Educational Project Report

E Carystios presented the report, which was generated in collaboration with Education Services, as part of the annual reporting process.

5.2 Mandatory Content Planning Table – ACGC, Content on Personal & Social Competencies, Content in Sexuality Education

E Carystios shared and explained the document.

On motion duly made (J Altenhoff) and seconded (C Matchett), it was unanimously resolved to approve the Mandatory Content Planning Table as presented.

5.3 ABAV Plan

E Carystios shared and explained the document, which will be posted on the website and emailed to parents.

On motion duly made (C Matchett) and seconded (C Gaul), it was unanimously resolved to approve the Mandatory Content Planning Table as presented.

5.4 BASE Daycare Handbook

This document was presented and explained by N Naval and E Carystios. There is a section which needs to be updated. N Naval will do so and then share the document with GB members for an electronic vote.

6.0 Reports

6.1 Principal's Report

- Thank you to L DePetrillo and the student guides for a successful Open House.
- The recent lock down drill went smoothly – thank you to Mr. T. and his team.
- MDT meetings were held this month – professionals, administration and teachers meeting to brainstorm and the best way to help and support students.
- This month we are following a school bus safety program.
- A monthly newsletter for parents has been launched, including an updated calendar.
- Staff appreciation week is coming up, thank you to the parents who have signed up to contribute.
- There will be a workshop and other activities for Black History Month.
- Registration for Kindergarten students for next school year has started.

6.2 Teacher's Report (S Thompson/P Surette/L DePetrillo)

- Our students were treated to 'Comedy for Kids' workshops, presented by Jeff Schouela.
- Grade 6 students visited Rosemount Technology Center.
- The Grand Pals program has started again for Cycle 3
- The school Bus Safety Program will begin next month.

6.4 Daycare Report (N Raval)

- Students sometimes come to school without the appropriate winter clothing; Miss Kate and I are aware and have some supplies to help with this.
- We will be inviting Simeon Pompey to talk to the students after school, in honour of Black History Month. The older students will have a special project each week during February.
- The daycare students participate in activities with Mr. Ryan (Green Club) every second week.
- Valentine's Day crafts are planned for February 14th.
- We plan to go to Cabane A Sucre in March – this will require permission from the principal.

6.5 EMSBPC Report

A Nitti distributed a detailed report of the recent EMSBPC meeting to the GB members. Of note is that the parents' committee sent a letter to the chair of the EMSB, expressing their concern that questions by email have been disallowed.

6.6 Home & School Report

No report

6.7 Library Report

Absent

7.0 Question Period

- A Nitti noted that the schoolyard can be dangerous at this time of year due to icy conditions. E Carystios explained that putting salt in the yard is not part of the caretaker's duties, but we do have 'indoor recess' if the yard seems too slippery, or we will limit access to certain structures if they seem to be dangerous.
- In answer to a question regarding Winter Carnival, E Carystios explained that it is scheduled for February 24th, but not yet confirmed.
- E Carystios also responded to a question regarding skating at the arena, which will not be happening this year. She will also follow up on the Library Skate-A-Thon fundraiser.
- S Viita expressed the hope that the Grade 6 Graduation Trip be reinstated.

8.0 Adjournment

Elizabeth Ballantyne School
314 Northview
Montreal West, Quebec

On motion duly made (S Thompson) and seconded (C Gaul), it was unanimously resolved to adjourn the meeting at 7:52 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for February 19, 2026 at 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted
Kate Marien, Secretary

Anthony Nitti, Chair

Eugenia Carystios,
Interim Principal

Date