

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE GOVERNING BOARD
March 19, 2026

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

Regrets: Jesse Altenhoff (parent), Ekaterina Valkova-Damova (Librarian – community representative)

1.0 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.

2.0 Adoption of the Agenda March 19, 2026

On motion duly made (C Matchett) and seconded (A Gruia), it was unanimously resolved to adopt the agenda of March 19, 2026, as presented.

3.0 Approval of the minutes of the meeting of February 25, 2026:

On motion duly made (C Matchett) and seconded (C Gaul), it was unanimously resolved to approve the minutes of the meeting of February 25, 2026, as presented.

4.0 Business Arising from the Minutes

4.1 Selection Criteria for Principal

There was discussion regarding our priorities for the selection of the principal (E Carystios left the meeting for the duration of the discussion). A Nitti will send the resulting document to the school board – due date is tomorrow.

On motion duly made (A Gruia) and seconded (S Thompson) it was unanimously resolved to approve the Selection Criteria for Principal letter, which will be sent to the school board as requested.

5.0 New Business

5.1 Budget Building Process

A Nitti will share the relevant documents by email. Members are requested to send their comments/suggestions to him before April 6, 2026. The document is due to be submitted by April 10, 2026.

6.0 Reports

6.1 Principal's Report (presented and submitted by E Carystios)

Schoolyard Safety

We are following the EMSB guidelines on cold weather, and we are also mindful of schoolyard conditions throughout the day. We determine what is in the best interest of students and staff, with safety being the ultimate priority.

EMSB Anti-Bullying Anti-Violence Week

The Ministry has dedicated a week to the prevention of violence and bullying in schools. It is an opportunity to reflect on everyone's responsibilities in preventing violence, bullying, and cyberbullying. The EMSB has prepared a week of events. The information will be shared with the school staff in our weekly email. They may also consult the Violence and Bullying Prevention in Schools Week website for information from the Ministry.

Eco Schools Planning

Eco Schools Canada offers a certification program for schools, for the purpose of nurturing environmental learning and climate action. It is a free program that provides guidance to help educators build sustainable practices. It supports us in tracking and celebrating environmental actions that reduce energy use and waste, raise awareness, and integrate environmental learning into the curriculum. As part of our Earth Day activities, we are planning Earth Hour, Switch Off Hour, and Earth Day cleanup.

Skating at the Montreal West Sports and Recreation Centre

The Montreal West Sports and Recreation Centre has reopened, following renovations. Our Physical Education teacher is working on coordinating skate times for us at the arena, as done in previous years. We are following the Comité de gestion de la taxe scolaire de l'île de Montréal Safety Guide concerning safety. Parents will be advised through communications by the teachers, and a permission form will be provided.

Field Trips/Outings

The school team is coordinating field trips for the months ahead. We are also complementing student learning through a variety of in-school activities, presentations, events, etc., as outlined in our School Newsletter.

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

K/Cycle 1: The hallways were filled with students and staff members dressed in green for St. Patrick's Day. Kindergarten students created leprechaun traps and participated in themed activities throughout the day.

Cycle 3: The students have been practicing storytelling in anticipation of the Storytelling Fair that will be held in the gym on March 27. They will be going on a field trip to Rosemount Technology Center on March 25.

6.3 Daycare Report (N Raval)

We focused on nutrition in February

Currently we are doing Welcome Spring activities with the students and also introducing some science activities.

6.4 EMSBPC Report (A Nitti)

A Nitti shared the highlight sheet from the report prior to the meeting.

6.5 Library Report (submitted by E Valkova-Damova/reported by K Marien)

Class visits are going well.

The new session of after-class activities started this week. The activities are as follows; Manga Drawing, Dungeons & Dragons, Lego Club, and Scratch Club.

Please be reminded that the deadline for submissions for the Bill Foster Writing Contest is Thursday, April 2 – detailed information has been sent to the teachers.

7.0 Question Period

There were no questions.

8.0 Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:40 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, April 16, 2026, at 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted
Kate Marien, Secretary

Anthony Nitti, Chair

Eugenia Carystios,
Interim Principal

Date