

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE GOVERNING BOARD

May 21, 2026

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

Regrets: Chelsea Gaul (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 May 21, 2026

On motion duly made (P Surette) and seconded (C Matchett), it was unanimously resolved to adopt the agenda of May 21, 2026, as presented.

3.0 Approval of the minutes of the meeting of March 19, 2026:

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

4.0 New Business

4.1 School Calendar 2026-2027

E Carystios presented and explained the calendar for next school year, along with an 'important dates' document, which will be finalized and presented at the June meeting.

On motion duly made (C Matchett) and seconded (J Altenhoff) it was unanimously resolved to approve the 2026-2027 School Calendar as presented.

4.2 Hot Lunch Provider Renewal

E Carystios presented the current agreement we have with Merenda to supply our hot lunches, to her knowledge there have been no complaints from parents.

On motion duly made (C Matchett) and seconded (J Altenhoff) it was unanimously resolved to renew our contract with Merenda.

4.3 Subject Time Allocation

E Carystios presented the breakdown of the subject time allocation – there have been no changes since last school year.

On motion duly made (J Altenhoff) and seconded (C Matchett), it was unanimously resolved to approve the Subject Time Allocation as presented.

4.4 Standards & Procedures

E Carystios presented the summary of the Standards & Procedures for the information of the GB member.

4.5 School Fees & Lunch Fees

E Carystios presented the breakdown for the School Fees, including the proposed increase, which she explained. She also presented the proposed increase to the Lunch Fees and explained.

On motion duly made (S Thompson) and seconded (C Matchett) it was unanimously resolved to approve the proposed School Fees and Lunch Fees as presented by the principal.

Further to the motion, there was discussion regarding the method of payment for Pedagogical Days which are offered by Daycare. E Carystios will follow up.

4.6 Governing Board budget

E Carystios explained that we currently have \$350 in the Governing Board budget (\$100 rollover from last year and this year's \$250).

On motion duly made (J Altenhoff) and seconded (C Matchett), it was unanimously resolved to allocate these funds (\$350.00) to awards for graduating students.

4.7 Student Supply Lists

E Carystios presented the school supply lists. There was discussion regarding the difficulty this can present for parents, and the possibility of hiring an outside company to provide kits for the students as an option for parents. E Carystios will look into this for next school year.

On motion duly made (C Matchett) and seconded (J Altenhoff), it was unanimously resolved to approve the student supply lists as presented.

4.8 Ratification of e-vote

On motion duly made (L DePetrillo) and seconded (C Gaul), it was resolved to approve the following activities/fundraisers for the students which will be provided by outside service providers: PACT initiative / Library Fundraiser/Free Hebrew Program.

6.0 Reports

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

6.2 Teacher's Report (P Surette)

- K Game Board Event – Parents were invited to join their children for board games.
- K students are learning about the life cycle of a caterpillar. They received live caterpillars so they could observe the transformation firsthand.
- Grade 1 – Rooms 3 and 17 students learned (hands on) about the life cycle of a chicken, from eggs to hatching.
- Skating (all grades) – Some classes have been and will continue to go skating at the MoWest arena; helmets and skates were available for students who needed them.

- Semaine du Français – Croissants were donated for students to enjoy. Activities included an introduction to French artists and opportunities to encourage students to speak French and embrace French culture.
- Regional Storytelling Event was held at Willingdon - one of our students had the opportunity to attend and participate in the event.
- “I for Inclusion” Workshop – Students participated in workshops promoting inclusion, understanding, and acceptance of others.
- Autism Awareness Month – Students recreated the autism awareness symbol in the gym as part of activities recognizing Autism Awareness Month.
- House Assembly on Acceptance – Steven Atme spoke to students about acceptance and shared his personal experiences growing up with autism.
- Earth Day Clean-Up (April 22) – Students participated in cleaning up the schoolyard and surrounding neighbourhood to help care for the environment.
- S.P.C.A. Humane Education Classroom Presentations – Various grades participated in presentations about caring for animals, showing respect toward pets, and responsible pet ownership. Students also created a dog-themed craft.
- Halo Race – Although it was a rainy day, students thoroughly enjoyed participating in the Halo Race outing.
- Science and Technology Centre Visit (Grade 6) – Grade 6 students visited the Science and Technology Centre, where they explored hands-on activities and interactive learning experiences.

6.3 Daycare Report (N Raval)

- Last week was ‘Daycare Appreciation Week, the students received gifts.
- The next Ped Day will be June 1st – a trip is planned to Funtropolis.
- We are already busy planning activities for next year.

6.4 EMSBPC Report (A Nitti)

The April meeting was focused on budget building, and the May meeting on creating a petition to be sent to the National Assembly, requesting a formal consultation on education. The petition will be asking to address many issues, including budget cuts. A link to the petition and the highlights of the meeting will be sent to the GB members.

7.0 Question Period

There were no questions.

8.0 Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:31 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, June 11, 2026, at 6:30 p.m.

Elizabeth Ballantyne School
314 Northview
Montreal West, Quebec

Respectfully submitted
Kate Marien, Secretary

Anthony Nitti, Chair

Eugenia Carystios,
Interim Principal

Date