

Gerald McShane Elementary School

Minutes of the Governing Board Meeting
Held on Tuesday, January 20, 2026, at 6:30 PM
Online

Present:	Absent/Regrets	
Antonio Petosa, secretary	Vince Timpano, principal	Amalia Lavoratore, treasurer
Shane Fombuena	Elisa Baronello	Sandra Renzi (alternate)
David Reda, Vice-chair	Christina Gioia	Elvira Corso
Mary Di Fulvio, (Chair)	Pammy Lacroce	Karine Silva (alternate)
Clementina Fraga	Sonia D'Addario	Claudia Musto
Lara Villani	Silva Muzzo	
Stephanie Talarico	Daniela Alongi (alternate)	
Keshia Pierre	Paolo Camirand (CDA)	
Claudio Prioletta	Andy Lee (parent visitor)	
Suzan Perera		

Unanimous vote to prolong meeting 15 minutes

1. Meeting was called to order at 6:33 PM.

2. Adoption of Agenda:

2.1 (January 20, 2026).

Mover: Clementina

Second: David

Agenda approved unanimously.

3. Adoption of previous minutes:

From meeting of November 19, 2025

Mover: Antonio; Second: Shane

Approved by group that was present.

4. Business arising from last minutes:

- Daycare handbook
 - Handling lice will be added to the handbook – EMSB procedure.
- After School Italian Classes Update (P.O.I.)
 - Ms. Rosa Apocella – possible candidate for teaching
 - Pedagogical restraints prohibit Italian classes.
 - Suggested that subject be brought up in the next PC meeting for further explanation.

5. New Business:

5.1: Anti-Bullying Anti-Violence Doc. (Approval)

- Documentation has been updated for this year.
- Stephanie: (presenter)
 - Procedure for handling concerns and possible bullying situations is also clarified in the document.
 - Online MOOZOOM (<https://schoolbeat.io/tr/>) online platform that is available for teaching purposes and defined by age group – scenarios allow for the modelling of appropriate behavior.
 - Fees will be determined for this tool. – possible EMSB funding but no allotted budget available at the government level. (approximately \$8.50 / child + general fees)

Mover: Stephanie; Second: Clementina

Approved by group that was present.

5.2: ACGC, Personal and Social Competencies, and Sexuality Education Doc. (Approval)

- Academic and career guidance, personal and social development and sexuality education tools
- PDCIA teacher – implicated in developing the various aspects of this document as well as the presentations given to K-4 through to grade 6 students.
 - Opens an avenue for discussion during class and during guest speaker presentations.
 - Pertinence is adjusted accordingly to the level of the students.

Mover: Antonio; Second: Ms. Muzzo

Approved by group that was present.

5.3: Education Project (P.O.I.)

- Gerald McShane Elementary School's Educational Plan remains on track, with most planned strategies actively supporting student success. Recent budgetary cutbacks required reorganization of services, including tutors to ensure maximum impact for our students. However, we are happy that a new Cycle 1, reading program is in place: Son-au-Graphie. Academic targets are expected to be maintained or exceeded, pending analysis of June examination results final.

5.4: Cabane à Sucre April 8 (Approval)

- Service will come to the school
- Theatre company will present the sugar shack process before the actual meal.

Mover: Sonia; Second: Keisha

Approved by group that was present.

5.5: School Registration (New + Returning) (P.O.I)

- Students that live in school territory have priority
- Attendance of 280 students projected not including the registration process that is still not completed.
- A big thanks goes out to teachers, parents and activity organisers for bringing forth positive attention to the school as well as advertising the school's sports and creativity programs, such as the music and arts programs.
- High demand for sports program registration dependant on space (facilities), the ratio between athletes and coaches and the ratio between SC teachers and students.
- A particular focus will be destined to attracting families whereby the children would be attending lower levels (Pre-K and Ks).

6. Reports

6.1: Terry Fox Amount Raised \$ 4525 (P.O.I)

X-mas Holiday Activities
(Food Drive, Friendly Games, St. Nick Appearances, Rosemount Orchestra,
Breakfast with Santa, etc.)

- The last week before Christmas was a big success and the students enjoyed the activities.

6.2: Commissioner (S. Perera)

- December 2nd – Ms. Susan's article was published in the Montreal Gazette (see link below)
 - Budget cuts is a primary concern for our commissioner as well as the impacts that it is having on the student's much needed support.
 - A thanks goes out to the teachers' and parents' dedication towards rectifying this issue.
 - <https://montrealgazette.com/opinion/oped/opinion-education-is-never-the-place-to-cut-corners>

6.3: GB Chairperson (Maria Di Fulvio)
Selection Criteria for the Appointment of the Principal

6.4: Teachers:

Updates:

- Mini Volleyball Play Day (gr. 6 only) Nov. 19
 - Successful playday at LBP

Camp Jouvence (gr. 6) Jan. 14-16 (P.O.I.)

- Successful outing for grade 6
- Children were able to participate in outdoor activities
- Learned how to orient themselves with a compass
- Enjoy the outdoors

Open House Oct. 23 (P.O.I.)

- Successful – 50 families visited the school

Book Fair Nov. 25 for students (P.O.I.)

- During parent – teacher interviews
- Funds went to support GMS library
- Wishlist for teachers – parents purchased books for various classes

Assembly for presenting Olympic Torches (January 20th)– thank you Shane

- Students were able to hold Olympic torches as well as have a history lesson of the Olympics.

Puppets workshop – K4 and K5; parents of K4 will be able to join (January 29th)

Upcoming:

- MSO outing next week (January) (grade 4-5-6)
 - Theme: Olympics and music

- Theatre Show Fred Solo at Oliver Jones Theatre Jan 21 (P.O.I) – cycle 1

- Pinocchio theater show (January 27, 10 AM, grade 6 students, free, bussing free, (Approval)

Mover: Antonio; Second: Stephanie

Approved by group that was present.

- Opéra-Bonbon Jeunesse Musicale Gr. K4-Gr.6 Feb. 9 (Grant 1500\$ - Cost = 500\$) (Approval)

Mover: Shane; Second: Clementina

Approved by group that was present.

- March 25 Theater show Piece de théâtre GRATUITE offerte à votre école : À la découverte de l'Érable (45 minutes, show free) (Approval)

Mover: Shane; Second: Amalia

Approved by group that was present.

- March 30 & 31 Château Ramezay Cycle 2 (Approval)

Mover: Shane; Second: Claudio

Approved by group that was present.

- May 26 Insectarium (9:00-1:00, Cycle 2) (Approval)

Mover: Clementina; Second: Antonio

Approved by group that was present.

6.5: Daycare (C. Fraga)

January 5, 2026 pedagogical day

- PJ day on January 5th
- Food ordered

February 12th pedagogical day

- Waiting for approval for dress down day (funds)– Le Phare – 3-4 grade 6 students for pediatric palliative care – goal is to visit the children and do activities with them. – Possibly February 13th
- Nutri-tower – grades 3-4-5 (salade, tomatoes)

6.6: Sports Concentration (S. D'Addario)

Skating for K4-K5 (P.O.I.)

Selwyn House Tournament Feb. 5-6

LCC Hockey Tournament (Dates TBD) (Approval)

Mover: Antonio; Second: Clementina

Approved by group that was present.

GMS Futsal Touney March 20 (Approval) – GMS pedagogical day

Mover: Shane; Second: Claudio

Approved by group that was present.

Enrollment 2026-2027 – number of students enrolled TBD

January 30th – Soccer SC vs parents

School tours for new families currently taking place

6.7: PPO (M. Di Fulvio)

X-mas Activities: Gifts/Breakfast/Décor (P.O.I)

Pop-up Vendor March 28 (P.O.I) – Saturday (noon – 16:00)

Chocolate Drive Fundraiser (P.O.I)

Spring Fling June 12 (P.O.I) - TBD

Staff Appreciation Week Spend up to \$800 March 17-19 (Approval)

Mover: Antonio; Second: Shane

Approved by group that was present.

Skate Sharpening Spend up to \$300 (Approval)

Mover: Sonia; Second: Clementina

Approved by group that was present.

Spaghetti Night Fundraiser May 1 (Approval)

Mover: Shane; Second: Antonio

Approved by group that was present.

6.8: EMSBPC (S. Fombuena)

Email from December 11

- 2026-2027 calendar
- Bill 94 – letter to minister
- Reasoning and decision making behind budget cuts
- Pelo will be discussed at next February meeting

-
- EMSBPC meeting summary:

New Trade Program at LBPS

- A new carpentry program was brought forward by the board
- The space required would take on some of the spaces for the Sport Études program, debate was had around the if this will impede the potential for the Sports Études program to keep growing
- It seems the Sports Études has been cut from 3 to 2 cohorts
- There is strong interest in the carpentry program but at the cost of what other options to youth students?
- Motion was ultimately moved forward as the board needed a decision for the next day for the MEO.

Council of Commissioners Meeting

- It was noted by the Board that the EMSBPC never expressed concerns around budget issues last year.
- The EMSBPC feels as though this is very much a gut punch considering the number of times we asked for clarity regarding the budget situation.
- The perception that was shared was that the EMSBPC was not doing enough to support the board.
- Often the PC is told that at the current moment there are no updates from the Board.
- Granted the group understands that EMSB is fighting the government from many fronts, but to say we are not engaged is not a true representation of the conversations being had.
- EPCA has written and partnered with the FCPQ to get the government to roll back many decisions.
- ACCES is still trying to get an answer from the Board about how the board cuts are affecting all students.

Budgets

- We have requested, once again, that the board provide us with a presentation on the updated macro budgets.

Policy on Equipment Safety

- The Board has stated that it will not replace or refresh the old standing policy on safe use of equipment.
- CSSNET would be the point of reference in case of an incident.
- EMSBPC is asking for a follow-up to this with a timeline.

Trips for HS Students

- Question raised about a student fundraising for themselves to attend a school trip.
- Yes, it can be done if this is not done as a school initiative.

PPO Membership

- You cannot force every member of the parent community to be part of the PPO.
- Those who submit their names are members of the PPO if the PPO is approved to exist at the AGA.

- Some school principals send an email to the whole community after the vote to confirm the interest of any potential PPO members.

Response from MEO regarding GB Emails

- Letter will be written to the MEO to get a clear answer regarding GB's having their own email accounts to connect directly with the parent community.
- We are requesting formal clarification as part of the GB's rights as per the Education Act.
- ESNB did not have any representatives to address this.

Miscellaneous

- Lack of clarity as to why the provincial government has rejected federal funds for lunch programs.
- The President of EPCA is speaking at the national assembly in protest of Quebec's proposed Bill 1.
- EMSB has provided ACCES with a presentation with stats regarding students with special needs. Request is being made for this presentation to be made at the EMSB PC level as well.

6.9: CDA (P. Camirand)

Basketball Game

- Jules Verne went well
 - Friday January 23rd – game set with Saint Collette School
- #### **Robotics Activity & Chess Tournament Possibilities**

- Funding TBD
- Video Gaming Workshops
- Vanier College teacher / mentor will present the process of creating videogames

Black History Month presentation will be given to the school in February

After-school activities: Monday: flag football, Wednesday: sport-ball, Thursday: basketball,

Friday: chess

7. Varia

8. Question Period

9. Adjournment

Moved: Clementina – second: Shane.

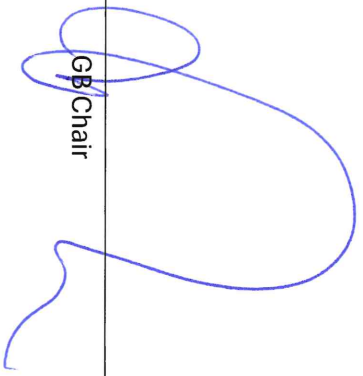
All moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:22 PM.

Next meeting: Wednesday, February 25, 2026 (online)

Principal



GB Chair



Secretary

