

Gerald McShane Elementary School

Minutes of the Governing Board Meeting
Held on Wednesday, February 25, 2026, at 6:30 PM
Online

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

Unanimous vote to prolong meeting 15 minutes

1. Meeting was called to order at 6:35 PM.

2. Adoption of Agenda:

2.1 (February 25, 2026).

Mover: Elvira
Second: Clementina
Agenda approved unanimously.

3. Adoption of previous minutes:

From meeting of January 20, 2026

Mover: Shane; Second: Stephanie
Approved by group that was present on January 20th, 2026.

4. Business arising from last minutes:

- Daycare handbook
 - Handbook is now available (see daycare section of minutes).

5. New Business:

5.1 Parent-Teacher Interviews (POI)

- Will be held after March break (March 19th PM) – by invitation.
- Virtual meetings
- Parents that wish to attend will be instructed on process.
- Priority will be towards parents who are asked to attend by staff.

5.2 Forecast of School Budget 2025-26 (Approval)

- Funds distribution presented by Principal

Mover: Antonio; Second: Claudio
Approved by group that was present.

5.3 Building Process 2026-27 (Approval) – (FILL OUT FORM and send by April 10, 2026 to "Nassivera, Livia" <lnassivera@emsb.qc.ca>)

- 1) Intercoms and bell system; 2) Door-Scanners and Cameras; 3) Gym sound proofing; 4) Outdoor school yard setup 5) Cafetorium
Mover: Shane; Second: Claudio
Approved by group that was present.

6. Reports

6.1: Principal (V. Timpano)

- Registration (P.O.I.)
 - Registration is going well
 - K-4; grade 3 & 4 regular – priority enrollment
 - Thanks to Staff, PPO
- Cabane à Sucre @ GMS (P.O.I.)
 - April 8th – follow-up after March break.
- Term 2 end Feb. 27 & Report Cards March 12 (P.O.I.)
- Parent-Teacher Interviews March 19 (P.O.I.)
- Bike Path Update (P.O.I.)
 - Large turnout of school administrators and municipal delegates.
 - Delegates and the principals of the neighboring schools in the area share the same concerns concerning the number of users and traffic density in the area.
 - Safety concerns are an issue.
 - Traffic circulation and parking restrictions in front of the school was also discussed (Hurteau and Maurice Duplessis) – right lane is reserved for fluidity of traffic due to left lane turning from MD onto Hurteau.
- Social Emotional Learning (SEL)
 - Stephanie T.:
 - MOOZOOM was a platform (topic) discussed in previous GB meetings to accompany children – will not be used immediately.
 - A google form was created to survey the needs of parents for anti-bullying mechanisms.

6.2: Commissioner (S. Perera)

- Board meeting Dec.9th – Bill 94 was passed at the end of 2024 concerning tax distribution
 - Appointed DGs were put into place to distribute school taxes within school organizations through the Island of Montréal
 - Has a direct impact on the allocations set forth to EMSB
 - EMSB is not represented directly in this committee. Lawyers on the file.
- Environmental committee was officially adopted – Susan appointed as vice chair.
 - Mandates: extreme weather conditions – to find solutions to deal with extreme heat waves.
- Tamil heritage month – January - recognizes the significant contributions of Tamil-Canadians to the country's social, cultural, and economic life.
- Black history month – recognizing and honouring Black Canadians' history, achievements, and contributions, celebrating their resilience against systemic racism and recognizing their vital role in building the nation.
- Board adopted resolution to recognize Holocaust – formally recognizes International Holocaust Remembrance Day and mandate Holocaust education to combat rising antisemitism. As Quebec's largest English school board, the EMSB is integrating Holocaust studies into its curriculum.
- Staff appreciation week - a time to honor educators for their dedication to student success.

6.3: GB Chairperson (Maria Di Fulvio)

- N/A

6.4: Teachers:

- Ski Trips (P.O.I.)
 - Busing problem for regular grade 6 ski-day
 - Rescheduling is impossible.
- Olympic Activities (P.O.I.)
- Olympic Torch Presentation (P.O.I.)
 - Thank you Shane.
- Soccer Play Day (P.O.I.)

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- Will be held on a ped-day.
 - Black History Month (P.O.I.)
 - Literacy week April 27-May 1 (P.O.I.)
 - Reading and writing young children coupled with older children.
 - Used Book Sale Fundraiser (Approval)
 - Parents can bring their old books and donate them for a book sale for fundraiser.

Mover: Karine; Second: Clementina
Approved by group that was present.
 - Fun day Friday, June 19 School Time (P.O.I.)
 - Musical (POI)
 - Students are working very hard afterschool and during lunch
 - Cycle 2 choirs and cycle 3 involved.
 - Dates April 23rd and 24th.
 - Giant Steps – Up and coming Pen Pal project for grade 3 and 4.
- 6.5: Daycare (C. Fraga)
- Daycare Handbook (Approval)
 - Mover: Antonio; Second: Shane
 - Approved by group that was present.
 - Le Phare (POI)
 - Raised \$500 this year.
 - Was a success and children participating appreciated their experience.
 - Latin Groove
 - March 16 – BFLY activity - waiting for confirmation of discovery of butterflies – activity.
 - Planting in the nutri-towers
 - March 20th low-key day of activities.
- 6.6: Sports Concentration (S. D’Addario)
- Soccer Concentration vs ESGA (POI)
 - Ville Saint Laurent
 - Hockey and soccer teams vs parents
 - Dance activities – children vs parents.
 - Collège Laval last weekend – dance competition.
 - New registration (POI)
 - Grades 5 and 6 are at capacity
 - Grade 3 and 4 still available.
- 6.7: PPO (M. Di Fulvio)
- Chocolate Fundraiser (P.O.I.)
 - Ending on Monday March 2nd.
 - Pop-Up Market (P.O.I.)
 - Chocolate Fundraiser Prizes (Approval)

Mover: Shane; Second: Claudio
Approved by group that was present.
 - Spring Fling Friday, June 19 Evening (Approval)

Mover: Antonio; Second: Elvira
Approved by group that was present.

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- 6.8: EMSBPC (Claudio) – see e-mail
- Here are the meeting notes:

February 5, 2026
English Montreal School Board Parents Committee
Highlights to bring back to your GB

Event for parents: EMSB Parents Committee delegates mandated the PC Executive to pursue the organization of PC related events for parent constituents in the English Montreal School Board. Three events (two in person, one virtual) are being planned. PC waiting to hear from administration regarding confirmed venues. RSVPs required. Refreshments served. More information to come.

Topic: Parent Governance 101: Making Your Voice Count at School

Proposed dates:

- 1) Wednesday, March 18 from 7 to 8:30pm (west end if possible)
- 2) Wednesday, March 25 from 7 to 8:30pm (east end if possible)
- 3) Monday, April 15 from 7 to 8:30pm (virtual)

Workshop Description: Join members of the English Montreal School Board Parents' Committee and learn how your voice can make a difference. Parents and guardians help shape their school communities in powerful ways and governance is where that voice truly matters. This practical workshop will help families understand how they can take part in important school decisions that affect students every day.

Status of Guidelines for Physical Education Equipment: Report from senior administration outlined that while no formal guidelines exist, educational services and material resources conduct yearly equipment checks at schools through principal surveys and on-site inspections. Delegates expressed concern that this practice should be documented with formal procedures, as the PC had previously voted against rescinding an old policy without a clear replacement. Delegates moved to follow up with senior administration to request documentation on how equipment maintenance requests are tracked and managed.

EMSB GB email accounts: Motion was made and passed in the fall of 2025 to send a letter to the Ministry of Education to inquire about governing boards and email accounts. The letter was sent in January 2026. EMSB PC chair received the go ahead from the group to share the letter with civil servants at the ministry for faster action.

EMSB PC Statement regarding Q&A Period at Council of Commissioners meeting: Statement "EMSB PARENTS' COMMITTEE CONDEMNNS MOVE TO RESTRICT PUBLIC PARTICIPATION" released (<https://www.facebook.com/photo?fbid=1519877310146476&set=a.239115361556017>). The EMSB PC chair sent a follow up email to the chair of councillor of commissioners. No response was received even though a deadline to response was provided.

Petition for Crossing Guards: A petition at the National Assembly to make high schools eligible for crossing guards, encouraging members to share the [QR code/link](#) and gather signatures before the February deadline. Still time to sign your name. Petition closes February 12.

Budget Building

- Budget Building exercise at governing board level and EMSB PC level: What is it? All governing boards and the EMSB PC must complete the budget building process annually. Locally, each governing board must prioritize what they think the school board should be spending funds on at their school – assess local needs. At the EMSB PC level this process is done on a board-wide level. The forms from the government have not been received yet however governing board can prepare and discuss this topic. Some questions to consider:

- What priorities were submitted last year?
- What do you want to change this year?
- Are there things that should not be cut?

Why is this process important? Especially this year with the budget cuts in place (and unknowns regarding other cuts in the future), it is very important to ask questions about the levels of service and if what is being budgeted serves the need.

- **EPCA tool:** <https://epcquebec.org/parent-guide-reviewing-your-schools-budget-for-parent-members-of-a-governing-board/> . This is a step-by-step guide for parents to review and engage with school budgets, emphasizing you right as a governing board, to ask for changes or delays.

Letter to Ministry of Education regarding the use of the EMSB's surplus: Motion to send letter from EMSB PC to the Minister of Education regarding budget cuts and the denial of surplus fund access. Motion was approved and letter will be sent for translation and submitted to both the Minister and the official opposition.

Survey of Library Services: In between January and February PC meetings, numerous complaints were received from parents about inconsistent access to library services. A survey was conducted amongst delegates to see what the status of library services are across the system. The snapshot showed that some schools are fully operational, some have reduced services, some schools have no service. Some schools have volunteers, other do not. It was noted that while the governing board and EMSB PC can advocate for an increase in services and raise awareness, they have no authority over staffing decisions. Parents are advised to leverage their governing boards and Parent Participation Organizations (PPOs) to mobilize communities and advocate for better library services through governing board motions and budget discussions (during the budget building exercise and beyond).

The EMSB PC delegates inquired that EMSB administration provide information about whether library services allocation is based on school size, budget, or other factors.

Bus Safety: Delegates discussed about bus safety, specifically emergency procedures and incident reporting. Transportation & Safety Advisory Committee representative will Stephanie Pasucci to investigate the bus companies' training policies and incident tracking systems and will report back.

Learn Quebec: LEARN Tutoring (<https://students.learnquebec.ca/#learn-tutoring>) provides online tutoring and homework help at no charge. Learn's online tutors are fully qualified Quebec teachers. They work directly with students from grade 2 through grade 11."

From LEARN site (<https://students.learnquebec.ca/learn-tutoring/>) :

This school year, the Ministère de l'éducation changed how tutoring is funded.

- *LEARN no longer receives funding directly.*
- *Funding is now given to each school board.*
- *AJDS and QAIS independent school students are no longer eligible to receive support from LEARN Tutoring.*
- *Each school board has limits on:*
 - *Who can register*
 - *How many tutoring sessions are available*

These changes were confirmed in January and started with this Winter session.

As a result, delegates agreed that the executive should draft letter to the EMSB administration regarding mitigation strategies for this service reductions. The letter will be voted on via email within the next month.

Parent Commissioner's Report: There is no report for January as there was no Council of Commissioners meeting. The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, February 10.

English Parents Committee Association (EPCA): On February 4, EPCA presented a brief at the National Assembly regarding Bill One, which could impact minority rights and school funding. Bill One / Quebec Constitution proposes changes that would prioritize majority rights over minority rights and restrict the use of certain funds for legal challenges, raising concerns about civil rights and school governance.

Parent workshop on Preparing for school meetings MARCH 11, 2026 AT 6:30 PM

Preparing for school meetings doesn't mean doing it alone. In this webinar, we'll share tools and strategies to help parents show up informed, confident, and ready to collaborate—while centering their child's strengths and needs.

Alexandra Arraiz is the Parent Advocate for Parents for Diversity. She has been working, thinking and writing about diversity and equity in education for over 10 years, completing her PhD in Education in 2018. She has worked with families on school systems navigation since 2014. She is passionate about community spaces as a site of transformation, informed by her own experience as an immigrant in Canada. Currently, she is also an Associate Professor at Carleton University in the Childhood and Youth Studies program where she strives to channel that passion into conversations and learnings about power, privilege and rethinking systems.

Register: <https://us02web.zoom.us/join/zoom/register/3CgkRVqJQW65HjqQVPEvMg>

National Survey on Family Well-Being (3rd edition)

The survey is **anonymous and confidential**, and it helps build a clear, up-to-date picture of what families with elementary and secondary students are experiencing right now—so partners can better understand needs and support families with concrete actions.

Deadline: February 13, 2026

Take the survey here: <https://udes.limesurvey.net/561624>

Thank you for taking a few minutes to make parent voices count.

EMSB Marketing and Communications Subcommittee:

- Revised / redesigned resource guide to be sent to all parents soon.
- EMSB IT Services is working on setting up a Teams channel for EMSB committee communications and document storage

Climate Readiness Subcommittee

- The group approved a letter addressed to the administration regarding recent climate-related school closures and the need for an emergency home learning action plan.
- The subcommittee will be working on the development of guidelines (including best practices) for handling school related issues related to extreme cold and heat, as well as improved communication with municipal authorities regarding snow removal and school access.

Education First Subcommittee

- Worked on drafting the surplus letter to the ministry of education.

Advisory Committee on Special Education Services (ACSES) Subcommittee

- Subcommittee received a presentation regarding budget cuts related to special needs. Special needs not very affected by cuts.
- EMSB PC will receive a presentation from Student Services Department in April 2026. The presentation will include information from outreach schools regarding assignment parameters (i.e. rationale behind who gets assigned to which school).
- Subcommittee looking to identify gaps in services and information.

DISCLAIMER STATEMENT *These notes were taking by an individual committee member and might reflect their perspective. They may contain inherent bias and should not be considered a comprehensive or impartial representation of the meeting.*

6.9: CDA (P. Camirand)

- Basketball Team Update (P.O.I.)
- After school activities Flag Football, SportsBall/Soccer, Karate (P.O.I.)
- Robotics Update (P.O.I.)
 - Details to come.
- LOVE program booklet – promotional booklet that will be a lunch activity. – March 12th to May 28th
- Video Game industry – mentor will explain the functioning of the industry to the students who attend. (8am-10am) during class time on assigned dates – students in grade 5 and grade 6. Dates: March 9,23,30; April 13,20,27

7. Varia

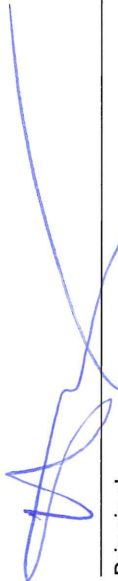
8. Question Period

9. Adjournment

Mover: Clementina; Second: Stephanie T.

All moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:34PM.

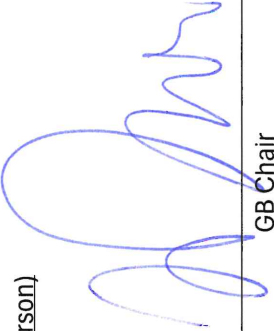
Next meeting: Wednesday, April 8, 2026, at 6:30pm (in person)



Principal



Secretary



GB Chair