

EMSB Parents Committee Highlights – Thursday, March 12, 2026

Parent governance events and signups: Three planned parent governance primer sessions scheduled at James Lyng, Laurier Macdonald High School, and online. In-person signups are low (~11 per site); the committee will ask those registrants to attend the online session if each in-person event does not reach 30–40 attendees.

UPDATE: As of Friday March 13, end of day, there were not enough RSVPs for in-person workshops so we are asking everyone to attend online

Workshop - Parent Governance 101: Making Your Voice Count at School - Monday, April 15 from 7 to 8:30pm (virtual) - [Parent Governance 101 \(Wednesday, April 15 - ONLINE ONLY\) – Fill out form](#)

Budget building exercise reminder and governing-board resources: The EMSB PC chair reminded PC members to review school budgets, ask questions including year-over-year comparisons, and noted members may symbolically not approve a budget.

TOOL: Parent Guide: Reviewing Your School’s Budget for parent members of a governing board (<https://epcaquebec.org/parent-guide-reviewing-your-schools-budget-for-parent-members-of-a-governing-board/>)

EMSB budget cuts – follow up regarding letter sent to chair of the Council of Commissioners:

The chair of EMSB Council of Commissioners responded to inquiry sent by the EMSB PC regarding budget cuts. The letter outlined provincial fiscal measures, specific monetary reductions and constraints on surplus access, and reiterated the board’s opposition. Letter will be sent to all PC members.

Council of Commissioners public question-period response: Statement “EMSB PARENTS’ COMMITTEE CONDEMNS MOVE TO RESTRICT PUBLIC PARTICIPATION” released in January (<https://www.facebook.com/photo?fbid=1519877310146476&set=a.239115361556017>). The EMSB PC chair sent a follow up letter to the chair of Council of Commissioners expressing concern regarding the exclusion of email question submissions to Council of Commissioners question periods. A response was received from the chair of the Council of Commissioners. The letter emphasized in-person question-period attendance while offering alternatives for input such as written comments and webcasts. The chair of the Council of Commissioners outlined that the public question-period change was an administrative procedural decision, not a bylaw change and they will monitor the impact of the in-person requirement and consider adjustments if exclusion patterns emerge. The letter will be sent to all PC members. EMSB PC executive will meet to discuss next steps.

Update on letters sent by EMSB PC: Multiple letters (budget cuts, emergency home learning, surplus use) were sent and acknowledgements were received from most recipients, but substantive replies are outstanding:

- **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. **No response received yet.**

- **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. **No response received yet.**
- **Climate Readiness Subcommittee – letter to EMSB admin:** In February, PC approved a letter addressed to the administration regarding recent climate-related school closures and the need for an emergency home learning action plan. **No response received yet.**
- **LEARN letter:** Delegates voted via e-mail to send a letter to EMSB administration regarding changes to LEARN tutoring funding, which now flows through school boards and service centres rather than directly to LEARN. Concerns were raised about potential service reductions and access limitations. Letter was sent. **No response received yet.**

Budget-building process – Part 1: The EMSB PC conducted part one of the 2026 budget-building exercise segment focusing on guiding principles and objectives. Members proposed making changes to language for each item or opposing the items as written to emphasize prioritizing the integrity of educational services over compliance with new budget parameters by the Ministry of Education.

High school extension details and rationale: High schools will extend in-person learning days to make up for lost class time due to June exam periods, clarifying that the board calendar itself is not being formally changed but that Secondary 3–5 will be extended to June 9, Secondary 1–2 to June 12, and AIM High/work program to June 23.

Parent Commissioner Report: February 10 Council of Commissioners meeting included a presentation of the 2024-2025 annual report. An Environmental Sustainability subcommittee was truck and International Holocaust Remembrance Day will be formally recognized. The March council of commissioners meeting is cancelled.

English Parent Committee Association Report: Two parent workshops coming up: cybersecurity for children on March 26 at 7PM

<https://us02web.zoom.us/join/96871400000?pwd=ZUJlYkRlMmVkdDZkdjNlcEo0dDZldz09>

and survey results on the wellbeing of Quebec families on March 30 at 7PM

<https://us02web.zoom.us/join/4KegdlYQRpi0DsbtMC3y1A>

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.