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**Gerald McShane Elementary School**

Minutes of the Governing Board Meeting  
Held on Wednesday, April 8, 2026, at 6:30 PM  
Online

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

*Unanimous vote to prolong meeting 15 minutes*

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

2. **Adoption of Agenda:**

2.1 (April 8, 2026).

Mover: Antonio

Second: Shane

Agenda approved unanimously.

3. **Adoption of previous minutes:**

From meeting of February 25, 2026

Mover: Elvira; Second: Shane

Approved by group that was present on February 25.

4. **Business arising from last minutes:**

- N/A

5. **New Business:**

5.1 Lunchtime catering service:

- The goal is to select which company will supply lunches.
- Mino Bistro (can furnish 2 different type of meals) and meals are prepared at LBP
  - Start date will be confirmed.
- Le Doral
- Miranda

Mover: Amalia; Second: Shane

Approved by group

6. **Reports**

6.1: Principal

- N/A

6.2: Commissioner (S. Perera)

- Attended story telling event at GMS and was very moved by the various stories.
- Thanks GMS staff and parents that contributed in preparing for the event.
- March board meeting was cancelled.

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- Next meeting will be April 21<sup>st</sup>.
- 6.3: GB Chairperson (Maria Di Fulvio)
- N/A
- 6.4: Teachers:
1. Karine: Footh-All playday was a success at LBP
    - 1.1 May 13<sup>th</sup> – Halo Run (grades 4-5-6)
    - 1.2 Date for junior halo run TBD
    - 1.3 Track and field – May 22<sup>nd</sup> for select grade 5 and 6 students.
  2. Stephanie – Giant steps
    - 2.1 Letters will be sent out this week for the 11 participants
    - 2.2 Video of GMS classroom will be prepared
    - 2.3 Talk and Snack will be organised with Giant Steps students
      - Goal is to expose various type of schools to the students of Giant Steps.
    - 2.4 Autism awareness day:
      - Behaviour tech and presenter (Mr. Joseph) were able to present the subject to the students of cycle 2 and 3
      - Created an arts and craft piece to represent themselves (puzzle piece) – words of empowerment.
  3. Christina:
    - 3.1 2 students represented GMS at east end festival –
    - 3.2 27 April – May 11 – French exam – Grade 6
    - 3.3 May 19 – June 2 – English exam - Grade 6
    - 3.4 June 9 – 11 - Math exam – crucial that students write exams on scheduled days. - Grade 6
    - 3.5 Milan André – graduation song with 3 groups (May 4-5-6-7)
  4. Muzzo:
    - 4.1 Musical: April 22 April (dress rehearsal), April 23 (day), April 24 (morning and evening)
    - 4.2 Château Ramezay: compliments on the student’s behavior and interest.
  5. Elisa:
    - 5.1 (All grades) Used book sale – success will depend on the number of books that will be donated for selling.
    - 5.2 Dress up as a character
  6. Pammy:
    - 6.1 Kindergarten (K4-K5)– May 8<sup>th</sup> – welcoming new students and parents for upcoming school year.
      - Different stations will be set-up to introduce the school.
    - 6.2 First play at Cultural Center next door (COSMO)– was very successful.
  7. Vince:
    - 7.1 Thank you for teacher appreciation event.
    - 7.2 Cabane à Sucre – thanks all parents that donated time to help set up and staff contribution as well.
    - 7.3 Black History Month – presented to students.
- 6.5: Daycare (C. Fraga)
- May 8 is a ped day – 3D pen art from Animation Kids.
  - May 11 – May 15 (daycare week) – special snacks will be distributed.
  - Tomato plants will be planted in 2 weeks.
  - May 20<sup>th</sup> – St Brendan’s – students will help prepare baskets.
- 6.6: Sports Concentration (S. D’Addario)
- Hockey students will finish next week – and they will follow a regular schedule.
  - Soccer ends at the end of May.
  - Individual sports will end in June.
  - Soccer tournament (with other schools) will also be scheduled on June 5 – to be confirmed.
  - Pizza fund raiser will be used to have a mental performance coach for sports students speak with students.
  - Bread and beyond – students will be asked to donate bread and cold cuts to be able to make 750 sandwiches for the homeless.
  - Students in SC still being accepted in grade 3 and 4 – grades 5 and 6 are full.
- 6.7: PPO (M. Di Fulvio)
- Pop-up market was a success – very popular amongst parents and participants. Positive comments on the school facilities.
  - Please let PPO know if there are any suggestions for Teacher appreciation week for next year.
  - Chocolate fundraiser also went very well.
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6.8: EMSBPC (Shane) – see e-mail

- Here are the meeting notes: (Please see attached 4 documents)

Next meeting is tomorrow night – April 9<sup>th</sup>.

- 1) Meeting summary for March 12, 2026.

### **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 \(Wednesday, April 15 - ONLINE ONLY\) – Fillout 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://lepcaquebec.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/j/zoom/register/aHQ0j0FwSUj375u1Caul7cQ>

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

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/zoom/register/4KegdYQRPoi0DsbIMC3y1A>

**DISCLAIMER STATEMENT** These notes were taken 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.

2) Response to the question period of the Council of Commissioners.



**Commission scolaire English-Montreal**  
**English Montreal School Board**

Bureau du Président  
Office of the Chairman

Montreal, March 12, 2026

Ms. Katherine Korakakis  
Chair  
English Montreal School Board Parents' Committee

Dear Ms. Korakakis,

Thank you for your letter regarding the public question period at meetings of the Council of Commissioners. The Board appreciates EMSBPC's role in representing parent perspectives and welcomes input on matters affecting community participation.

It is important to note that no change was made to our by-laws or internal rules regarding question period. The rule has always been to limit public questions to those present in person during the designated period and was implemented to ensure orderly, efficient, and focused proceedings at Council meetings. This aligns with the Board's authority under the *Education Act* to establish rules of procedure for its meetings, including the conduct of public consultations.

To address your specific questions:

1. The adjustment was handled as an administrative procedural matter within the Chair's oversight of meeting conduct, in accordance with the Board's rules of procedure and relevant provisions of the *Education Act*. It did not require a formal policy amendment or full Council vote, as it pertains to the operational management of the question period. No prior public notice or consultation was mandated for this as we are conforming to the by-laws and rules of procedure that are in place.
2. The Board is mindful of accessibility considerations for all members of our community. The primary intent of the change is to promote direct, real-time interaction and accountability during live meetings, which are open to the public and webcast for viewing. To support broader participation, accommodations continue to include the ability for individuals to submit written comments or concerns outside of the question period (e.g., via email to the Board or individual commissioners), which are reviewed and addressed appropriately. The Council will monitor the impacts of this change and remains open to evaluating additional measures if patterns of exclusion emerge. I do note, however, that in the last 4 years, parents seldom sent in questions in writing, and when they did, rarely was it related to education or school matters.

3. Questions during the public question period are accepted on a first-come, first-served basis, subject to relevance to EMSB matters, time limits, and decorum requirements as outlined in our by-laws. Criteria include avoiding repetition of previously addressed items, ensuring questions are directed appropriately (not personal attacks or matters under litigation), and maintaining order. These guidelines are applied consistently by the Chair and are clearly outlined in our by-laws and rules of procedure.
4. At this time, the Board does not plan to reinstate mail-in or remote question submission for the public question period, as the in-person format supports more immediate dialogue and clarification. However, parents and community members may continue to raise issues through other established channels, including direct correspondence with commissioners, Governing Board participation at the school level, EMSBPC advocacy. The Board will review the effectiveness of the current approach after several meetings and consider adjustments if warranted.
5. While the EMSB territory is geographically expansive, Council meetings are livestreamed to enable remote viewing by families in our territory and beyond. The in-person requirement for speaking during the question period is balanced by these access tools and alternative avenues for input noted above. The Board encourages participation through these multiple pathways to ensure geographic barriers do not unduly limit engagement.

The EMSB remains committed to inclusive governance and values the contributions of parents in shaping our educational system. I am confident that the accessibility of commissioners will remain unchanged and remind parents that the appropriate communication channels for the handling of complaints, through the school principal and the regional office, is unaffected. We are open to ongoing dialogue on this matter.

Should you wish to discuss this in more detail or arrange a meeting, please contact my office.

Thank you for bringing these concerns forward.

Sincerely,



Joe Ortona  
Chairman  
EMSB

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### 3) Rollover Chart for BBP Guidelines (VII)

#### APPENDIX E: Guidelines for rollovers

The following applies:

FUND	DESCRIPTION	ROLLOVER %	COMMENTS
Fund 3	Complementary Fund	100%	
Fund 4	Donations	100%	
Fund 5	Operating Funds	No rollover	Schools must cover all deficit budgets in the year the deficit occurred
Fund 5	Caretaking	2021-2022: 50% of June 30, 2021 Balance 2022-2023: 100% of June 30 <sup>th</sup> balance, if the financial situation permits 2023-2024 on: 100% of the June 30 <sup>th</sup> balance	Schools must cover all deficit budgets in the year the deficit occurred
Fund 6	Supplementary Allocations	No rollover with some exceptions	Exceptions: 1-Allocations after December 31 <sup>st</sup> of the current year must be spent by June 30 <sup>th</sup> of the following year 2-Schools must cover all deficit budgets in the year the deficit occurred 3-Special Project allocations must be spent by June 30 <sup>th</sup> of the following year, unless MEQ guidelines indicate otherwise 4-Mesures related to 'Conditions de travail' as established in the Collective Agreements
Fund 7	Capital Investment Budget MAO TIC Digital Sets	100% 100% 100%	Schools must cover all deficit budgets in the year the deficit occurred
Fund 8	Special Purpose Funds	100%	
Fund 9	Appropriated Surplus	No rollover	Schools must cover all deficit budgets in the year the deficit occurred

4) Response to Budget Cuts.



**Commission scolaire English-Montréal**  
**English Montreal School Board**

Bureau du Président  
Office of the Chairman

Montreal, March 12, 2026

Ms. Stephanie Passucci  
Treasurer  
English Montreal School Board Parents' Committee

Dear Ms. Passucci,

Thank you for your letter dated January 14, 2026. The EMSB remains fully committed to transparency and to ensuring that all stakeholders, including parents, have the information needed to understand the severe constraints imposed on our operations by the provincial government's budgetary measures.

As outlined in our public statements and Council resolutions, the 2025-2026 fiscal framework has been profoundly disrupted by directives from the *Ministère de l'Éducation*. Key elements include:

- A mandated reduction of approximately \$10.6 million under measure 16032.
- A potential additional \$10.4 million financial penalty under measure 16034 if unrealistic staffing reduction targets are not met (a target the EMSB has consistently stated is unachievable without violating collective agreements and operational necessities).
- Prohibition on accessing accumulated surplus funds (approximately \$7.8 million for the EMSB), which had previously supported essential services such as special needs support, mental health resources, and extracurricular activities.
- Conditional offset funding of \$9.6 million under measure 16036, tied to conditions that the Board could not realistically satisfy, leaving us exposed to the full impact of the above reductions.

These measures, part of the province's broader education funding restrictions (initially in the range of \$510–570 million province-wide, with partial and conditional adjustments), have forced unavoidable operational adjustments across the Board. Reductions have focused on administrative efficiencies, non-salary expenditures, and support areas to limit direct impacts on classrooms as much as possible. However, effects at the school level have included reduced support staffing in some locations, constraints on extracurricular programming, and limitations on resource allocation.

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Detailed budgets for each individual school have been provided to Governing Boards for their deliberations and approvals.

The reduction to the EMSBPC operational budget was necessary due to the overall fiscal pressures from the province. The Board had to carefully examine its options within the available constraints to address the impact on board operations as a whole and minimize disruption to essential student services. As such, difficult decisions needed to be made and the EMSBPC's budget was reduced but remains proportionally consistent with what the PCs of other school boards receive. If there are specific operational needs or areas where Board-level support could assist in maintaining essential activities, please provide details so we can assess feasibility.

The Governing Board budget process remains a priority, and we expect continued engagement from all parties to navigate these imposed limitations responsibly. The EMSB's position has been and continues to be one of firm opposition to these provincial measures, as evidenced by our public statements, requests for surplus access, and participation in the legal action of QESBA and its member boards.

We value the role of parent representatives in this process and look forward to constructive dialogue focused on protecting student interests under these difficult circumstances.

At this stage I cannot provide you with any precise details of what further budget reductions, if any, are in store for the system. Our management team has been in deliberations for several months and the Council of Commissioners are being briefed.

I can assure you that we will fulfil our duty of consulting with the EMSB Parents Committee when we proceed with our Budget Building Process.

Sincerely,



Joe Ortona  
Chairman  
EMSB

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6.9: CDA (P. Camirand)

- Snack program will end on May 14<sup>th</sup>
- Basketball playday will be determined.
- Booklet (Love project) – reporting on school events and pictures of various school spaces and teacher – will be given to future parents. Plausible completion dates (May 8<sup>th</sup>)
- Videogame workshop being started on Monday April 13<sup>th</sup> – for grade 6 S/C. Regular cycle 3 completed.

7. Varia

- Shane: Organising possible outings for next year – example: apple picking and sugar shack
  - Vince: Principle and staff will meet in the following month to discuss possible outings
    - School bus transportation is also a factor that must be considered

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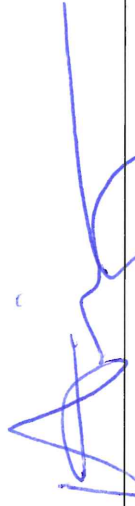
**8. Question Period**

**9. Adjournment**

Mover: Clementina; Second: Antonio

All moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:35 PM.

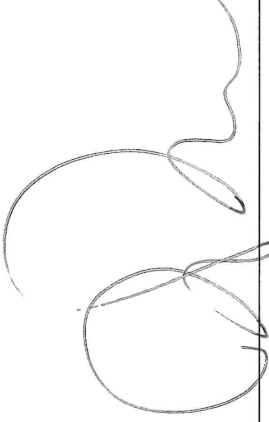
Next meeting: May 5, 2026, at 6:30pm (in person)



Principal



Secretary



GB Chair