

MINUTES

Honoré Mercier Governing Board

Thursday, March 16, 2023 | Meeting called to order by Verena Garofalo

In Attendance

Verena Garofalo (GB Chair)	X	Veronica Graniero (Staff – Teaching)	X
Tony Campione (GB)	X	Andrew Martinez (Staff – Teaching)	X
Lisa Ida (GB)	R	Peter Tsatoumas (Staff – Teaching)	X
Angelo Irrera (GB Treasurer)	R	Nancy Cantini (HS – Public)	X
Robert Panetta (GB)	X	Maria Scicchitano (HS – Public)	X
Merika Ramundo (GB)	X		X
Jennifer Uniat (GB)	X	Aileen Montesclaros	X
Lino Faratro (Alternate GB)	R	Bruno Scicchitano (Public)	X
Sonia Ranellucci (Alternate GB)	R	Tonie Morean (Public)	X
Daniela Buttino (Staff -Daycare)	R	Luciana Cancilla (Public)	X
Administration:		Commissioner, Ward 8:	
Sonia Marotta, Principal	X	Mario Pietrangelo	R

X = present

R = Regrets

Additions to the Agenda

Johnny Piazza from Le Doral will be joining the GB meeting today to discuss next year's plan. This item was added to the agenda.

Approval of Meeting Agenda

Motion to approve the agenda called by Robert Panetta, seconded by Jennifer Uniat. Passed unanimously. Motion carried.

Approval of Adoption of the Minutes February 6, 2023

Motion to approve the February 6 meeting minutes called by Merika Ramundo, seconded by Tony Campione. Abstention: Veronica Graniero. Motion carried.

- **Follow up on Next Level Hockey Program**

The second meeting with Michael (and his father) from Next Level Hockey was held in early February. Verena Garofalo, Principal Marotta, Tony Campione, HM faculty member) addressed outstanding questions Next Level Hockey representatives who were in attendance to ensure that expectations will be met for the program while keeping in mind the values are in line with Honoré Mercier community. The discussion was fruitful and Next Level Hockey was very receptive to the fact that this is not an elite program but a learning/skill development opportunity. Clarification about this initiative – this is NOT a Honoré Mercier hockey team. This is an extracurricular activity just like third-party suppliers who provide Karate and Tennis activities. The banner on the school will be removed and “Honoré Mercier” will be removed from the schedule listings. Next Level Hockey relayed that in the future games will be reduced/spaced out and the focus will be on skill development. Michael has asked that participating parents reach out to him for a tax receipt. Michael has also taken care of all the clerical issues. Insurance is covered. The offering of a scholarship for underserved students is an outstanding issue.

Michael from Next Level Hockey will be presenting at the May GB meeting to present the program's offerings for next year and to answer questions.

Principals' Report

Beautification Fund

- Principal Marotta investigated the call for proposals to the EMSB beautification fund and the deadline to submit proposals is in December.
- Principal Marotta will reach out to Merika Ramundo, Daniela Buttino, and other members of the GB & H&S in October to see if there are projects that can be submitted.

3D Printer

- Thank you to John Pevec and Réal Heppelle, Principal and Vice Principal at Rosemount Technology Centre respectively for their donation of a 3D Printer to Honoré Mercier.

Mr. Dimitri's New Choir Project

- Mr. Dimitri Elias has worked on musical choir projects at Honoré Mercier in the past. He is now partnering with the EMSB to create another piece called the Adventures of Eva de Luce. It is the story of a family of lice who live on the head of a child. Auditions will be open to all children in the EMSB. \$30 fee/child for the activity. Will be programmed for children in grades 3-6 and secondary 1-5. This full-year project will be held at lunch or after school (TBC). Auditions may be held this year for the school year.

Renewal of / changes to the Le Doral contract

- Johnny Piazza of Le Doral presented the changes to the Le Doral contract for the 2023-2024 and 2024-2025 school years. Please note that these changes are not guaranteed due to extenuating/emergency

circumstances.

- The following changes include:
 1. Price increase of 0.25 cents (from \$6.50 to \$6.75 per lunch).
 2. Vegetarian option to be added. A-B-C-D options.
 3. New mandate by the federal government to refrain from using plastic cutlery. Plastic cutlery will be removed from all orders.
- Idea proposed to run a fundraiser to raise funds for reusable, branded cutlery. Johnny Piazza offered to pay for a pasta night fundraiser to help pay for reusable cutlery.
- Sizing question: Can Le Doral provide a junior and senior portion size (i.e. regular and large portion options)?
Answer: Because Le Doral preps food the morning of it is logistically challenging to provide different sized options.

Field Trip requests

- Grades 3 & 4 will be going to the Montreal Science Centre on April 5, 2023.

Grade 3&4 conflict resolution program

- Representatives from EPIC solutions will be working with grades 3 & 4 to program conflict resolution and “A Moment to Breathe” wellness programs.

Storytelling Event

- Congratulations to Luca Martere, Justin Chicchio, and Emma Heppelle on coming in first, second, and third respectively in the HM storytelling event.

Motion to approve Mr. Dimitri's new choir project called by Robert Panetta, seconded by Veronica Graniero. Passed unanimously. Motion carried.

Motion to approve the renewal of and changes to Le Doral contract called by Jennifer Uniat, seconded by Robert Panetta. Passed unanimously. Motion carried.

Motion to approve the Montreal Science Centre field trip called by Robert Panetta, seconded by Veronica Graniero. Passed unanimously. Motion carried.

Teachers' Report

Music Report (Veronica Graniero)

- Grades 3 & 4 will be seeing **Pinocchio at the OSM** next Thursday, March 23.

Physical Education Report (Andrew Martinez and Peter Tsatoumas)

- **Semaine de la Francophonie:** The week of March 20, HM will be programming many activities in celebration of la francophonie.
- **GMAA Sportsmobile** will be coming back on May 29 and 31.

- **Lunchtime soccer** will begin the week of March 27 for grades 3-5. Soccer for grade 6 will begin at a later date.
- **Halo Run** prep will begin soon for grades 3-6. Training sessions will be held on May 11-12.

Daycare Report (Daniel Buttino)

- Nothing to report.

Home and School Report (Maria Schicchitano and Nancy Cantini)

- **Big Box of Cards fundraisers:** An email was sent out to all parents to participate in the grade 6 big box of cards fundraiser.

Treasurer's Report (Angelo Irrera)

- Nothing to report

Commissioner's Report (Mario Pietrangelo)

- Miss Marotta reported that Mr. Pietrangelo sends his regrets.
- Updates to be brought forth next meeting.

Central Parents Committee Report (Merika Ramundo)

EMSB Parents Committee (PC) summary

- The PC published a **letter outlining concerns about Bill 96**. The letter was sent to Bernard Drainville, Minister of Education. <https://www.emsb.qc.ca/emsb/articles/an-open-letter-to-bernard-drainville>
- The PC will be drafting and submitting a letter to the EMSB senior administration asking for clarity around the running of fundraising raffles, bingos, 50/50 draws and contests. GBs across the EMSB are receiving conflicting information and the EMSB PC will be **lobbying the EMSB to reverse a possible ban** of these fundraising activities.
- Save the date! EMSB ParentCon 2023 events are happening in person on Sunday, May 18 from 9-1pm and then pre-recorded lunch and learns around the theme of "Family & Communication" will be programmed the week of May 29-June 4. This special one-week event is a great opportunity for parents to learn more about issues that affect their children every day. Parents will acquire skills, tools, and practical hands-on tips/tricks to help them navigate things like screen addiction, digital literacy, lying, etc.

Next Governing Board Meeting Date

- Tuesday, April 18 at 7:00pm (virtual)

- **A parent requested more information around the Wilson Reading Program, an instructional program used to help struggling readers.** The resource team chooses students to be part of this program. It is a group decision made by in-house experts. The parent mentioned that Wilson was implemented daily at other schools in the area and they didn't know if/how HM implements it. Principal Marotta stressed that HM tries to implement as much as possible within the resources allotted. In terms of promotion, Principal Marotta mentioned that the resource teacher does mention this program at the Open House.

NEXT STEPS follow up on Wilson Program information and promotion request

- 1) Principal Marotta to ask speech and language pathologist for an outline of Wilson Program to share with the HMGB.
- 2) Wilson Program be added to HM offering on website.

- **Science Fair Fees:** A parent inquired about a \$65 administrative fees connected to the larger science fair competition. Principal Marotta would investigate this. The parent will follow up with an email.
- **Uniform providers:** A parent suggested that uniform suppliers including MOXO as well as the collection of quotes be discussed at the next meeting.

Adjournment

- Motion to adjourn was made at 9:05 PM by Robert Panetta, seconded by Tony Campione. Passed unanimously.

MINUTES

Honoré Mercier Governing Board

Wednesday, April 18, 2023 | Meeting called to order by Verena Garofalo

In Attendance

Verena Garofalo (GB Chair)	X	Nancy Cantini (H&S Public)	X
Jennifer Uniat (GB)	X	Maria Scicchitano (H&S Public)	X
Angelo Irrera (GB Treasurer)	X	Mike Smith (Public)	X
Merika Ramundo (GB)	X	Sally Beljoudi (Public)	X
Robert Panetta (GB)	X	Diego Di Stefano (Public)	X
Tony Campione (GB)	X	Bruno Scicchitano (Public)	X
Lisa Ida (GB)	X	Scott Pinsky (Public)	X
Lino Faratro (Alternate)	X	Aileen Montesclavos (Public)	X
Sonia Ranellucci (Alternate)	X	Tony Delli Colli (Public)	X
Daniela Buttino (Daniela Staff Daycare)	X	Sabrina Dykes (Public)	X
Veronica Graniero (Staff – Teaching)	R	Lucy Cancilla (Public)	X
Andrew Martinez (Staff – Teaching)	X		
Peter Tsatoumas (Staff – Teaching)	X		
Administration:		Commissioner, Ward 8:	
Sonia Marotta, Principal	X	Mario Pietrangelo	X

X = Present

R = Regrets

Additions to the Agenda

None at this time.

Approval of Meeting Agenda

- **Motion** to approve the agenda called by Robert Panetta, seconded by Jennifer Uniat. Passed unanimously. Motion carried.

Approval of Adoption of the Minutes March 16, 2023

- **Motion** to approve the April 18, 2023 meeting minutes called by Robert Panetta, seconded by Angelo Irrera. Passed unanimously. Motion carried.

Chair's Review

- Michael from the Next Level Hockey will attend the Governing Board meeting on May 24, 2023 in order to present the 2023-2024 Next Level program.

Principal Report

- Ms. Marotta thanked Robert Panetta for volunteering his time to host an A.I.-focused extracurricular class for Grade 5 students.

Teacher's Report

1. Halo Run will be on Thursday, May 11 at Mont Royal.
 - Grades 3 and 4 will run 1 km
 - Grades 5 and 6 will run 2 km
2. Pound Fit
 - All classes will participate in Pound Fit during Physical Education class in May
3. Sports Mobile – GMAA
 - Activity will take place May 29 – 31 and will expose the students (Pre-K – Grade 3) to different types of activities, such as baseball, tennis, yoga and lacrosse
4. Fun in the Sun
 - Will be held on Friday, June 16, weather permitting
 - Types of activities: inflatables, big wheel, activities in the park
5. Quebec City
 - Grade 6 students will visit Quebec City for 2 days in May
6. Energy Cube
 - Pre-K – Grade 6 will participate
 - Valid May 1 – 22
 - The goal is to encourage the students, and parents, to do more physical activities
7. I Love to Read Week
 - All students really enjoyed the activities!
 - Students participated in a book swap, a “live” play by –Shakespeare and the Reading to Peers program
8. The Kindergarten students visited the Cosmodome last month.
9. Grades 3 and 4 attended the OSM's Pinocchio
10. Ms. Veronica is organizing an end-of-year concert – date TBA. More details to follow.

Daycare Report

- Daycare Week
 - Daycare students will participate in Daycare Week, May 15 – 19, where they will enjoy special treats and surprises!
- There are 120 full time and 30 part time students registered for daycare in this school year

Home and School Report

- Cabane Sucre
 - This activity was held on April 25 between 9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. in the school's yard for all students.
 - Students tasted maple taffy and were able to feed to farm animals.

Treasurer's Report

- Angelo Irrera confirmed that there was no change to the budget.

Commissioner's Report

1. Unfortunately, the Readership Program at the elementary level was not initiated this year
2. Honoré Mercier, Dante and Leonard da Vinci will participate in a Drug Awareness program next school year (2023-2024)
3. Preliminary enrollment numbers for St. Leonard schools (2023-2024 school year):
 - Honoré Mercier: approximately 260 students
 - Pierre de Courbertin: has maintained
 - Dante: will likely decrease
 - Laurier MacDonald: will likely decrease
4. Merika Ramundo will ask for a full overview of east-end school enrollments for the 2023-2024 school year at the next CPC meeting.
5. There was a suggestion to host a townhall with other east-end schools in order to discuss the decline in enrollment at EMSB schools and how to better maintain the numbers.
 - Ms. Marotta offered to host the meeting at Honoré Mercier.
 - GB Chair, Verena Garofalo, proposed that we first focus on how to maintain student enrollment at Honoré Mercier.

Central Parents Committee Report

1. The EMSB Parents Committee sent a formal letter to senior administration requesting clarity on the programming of raffles, bingos, 50/50 draws and contests. The PC is against the banning of these activities for several reasons.
2. The EMSB Parent Committee is hosting its annual conference for parents
 - Sunday, May 28: Half-day of keynote speakers at Rosemont High School, 8:45 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.
 - One week of virtual Lunch & Learn sessions, May 29 – June 3
 - Additional information can be found on the website: <http://www.emsbparents.ca/>

Next Governing Board Meeting Date(s)

- The following meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 24 at 6:30 p.m. at Honoré Mercier School.

Question Period/Varia

1. Drug Program

- Can the drug prevention program be relooked at for the 2023-2024 school year in order to make the younger grades more aware?
- Mario Pietrangelo stated exposing the grade 6 to this program is too early
 - The 15-16 year old students (High School level) will have an introduction to this program, topics will include the effects of using drugs and vaping

2. Parent's Concerns & Letter

- The parents would generally appreciate more open communication and collaboration with the teachers, in order to ensure that all needs and concerns are met and that issues are promptly resolved.
- The parents are concerned about the future of HM due to the low enrollment and would like better visibility of what is being done in an academic context, as well as in a project context, to ensure that students are learning to their full potential.
- Parents' letter:
 - MOTION:
 - The two parents will read a letter that they drafted on behalf of concerned parents.
 - The letter will be discussed at a subsequent meeting. This meeting will be attended by Ms. Marotta and the GB Chair, Verena Garofalo – the GB members (parents and teachers) were invited to this meeting; however, it is not obligatory that they attend. This would be a closed-door meeting.
 - The GB Chair will provide a follow up at the next GB meeting.
 - **Motion** called by Tony Campione, seconded by Jennifer Uniat. Motion passed. There were three (3) abstentions.

3. Honoré Mercier Enrollment

- Mario Pietrangelo provided his recommendation on how we can work together to influence change regarding low enrollment in the east-end
 - Draft a plan on how to maintain the enrollment of the EMSB elementary schools
 - Invite a representative from the electoral district of St-Leonard to listen to parent's concerns
 - Escalate the concern to the Federal government

4. As per the November 2022 minutes, the Staff Council Chair, Mme Marianna, proposed that she would attend a GB meeting in the spring in order to discuss what could be implemented the following year (2023-2024)

- the parents would like a follow-up
- they requested to reinvoke Mme Marianna to the next GB meeting in order to discuss points made in November and look to future planning

5. Requesting the GB to improve the communications between the school to the HM community

- Teacher's report – to provide information to the HM community about the types of school's activities such as Halo Run, lunch programs, big projects, students reading to other students
- Mr. Andrew indicated that communication can be improved
- Verena Garofalo suggested the school can email a list of the activities to the HM community

6. Wilson Program

- In the past, McGill students were brought in to work with the speech pathologist to provide a reading program to the HM students in the younger grades
- The pilot program went well to provide to the students a literacy program
- The program has been only used in the English kindergarten class; unfortunately, not in the French class
- Will this program continue to be used?

7. Two parents asked to read a letter that they drafted on behalf of concerned parents.

- The GB and admin were not aware of the letter and what the contents were
 - Ms. Marotta requested that the letter not be read at GB (public forum) and discussed privately instead.
 - The GB voted on whether the letter should be read during the meeting (public forum) vs in a private meeting.
- **Motion** called was for the parents to read their letter to the GB, the GB would meet with them privately, along with Ms. Marotta and the GB would provide an update at the next GB meeting. The motion was called by Tony Campione, seconded by Jennifer Uniat. Passed unanimously. Motion passed. Abstention by Mr. Peter, Mr. Andrew and Ms. Daniela.
- The letter read contained the following concerns:
 - Parents are afraid to voice their concerns regarding their children's academic growth. They fear their children will have repercussion from the teachers.
 - Academics that are not falling below the standard
 - What will be done for the future growth

8. Other concerns by the parents:

- Parents were asking about increasing communication between the school and the HM community
- Implementing Class Dojo to facilitate the communication between the teacher and parent
- The school should promote the different types of projects to improve awareness
- Since the total number of enrollments is 260 students, next year the numbers will drop because the current Grade 6, which is the last large cohort, is leaving and the numbers coming in Pre-K and K are low.
 - The demographics of this area has changed – there are less anglophone speaking families
 - Innovative ideas are needed to keep the students at HM and maintain HM's numbers

9. **Motion** to add 15 minutes called by Tony Campione. Passed unanimously. Motion carried. ass.

10. Prime Energy Drinks

- Ms. Marotta will contact the school board regarding if a school can ban this drink at HM

11. Uniform Provider

- Angelo I. has contacted other uniform suppliers due to issues with the gym clothes and hoodies

12. Bureau en Gros

- To reimplement the school supply list to facilitate parents to purchase school items for the new year
- Ms. Marotta is looking into next steps.

13. Spaghetti Dinner

- A free community dinner will be offered by the school's cater, Le Doral
- A fundraiser can be held to raise funds to purchase items for the school
- Further discussion is needed

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn was made at 8:50 PM by Andrew Martinez. Passed unanimously. Motion passed.

MINUTES

Honoré Mercier Elementary School Governing Board

Wednesday, May 24, 2023 @ 6:32PM | Meeting called to order by Verena Garofalo

In Attendance

Verena Garofalo (Chair)	X	Robert Panetta	X
Daniela Buttino	R	Merika Ramundo	X
Nancy Cantini	R	Maria Scicchitano	X
Tony Campione	X	Peter Tsatoumas	X
Lisa Ida	X	Jennifer Uniat	R
Veronica Graniero	X	Lino Faratro (Alternate)	R
Angelo Irrera	X	Sonia Ranellucci (Alternate)	X
Andrew Martinez	X	Sally Behjouch, Tony DelliColli, Aileen Montesclaros, Lucy Cancilla, Scott Pinsky, Sabrina Dykes, Christine Lagarde, Tonie Morena, Giuseppe Fazzari,	XP
Administration:		Commissioner, Ward 8:	
Sonia Marotta, Principal	X	Mario Pietrangelo	X

X = present

R = Regrets

XP = Present Public

Assign minute-taking duties: Tony Campione

Assign time-keeper duties: Robert Panetta

Honoré Mercier Elementary School cannot enforce a mandatory uniform as we are a public school, however the gym uniforms are mandatory.

- **Price and Buckland (presented by Richard and Ina)**

- located in the Chabanel
 - Fitting rooms available on site.
 - Fitting can also be performed at the school.
- 3-year contract needed:
 - Develop a website only for Honoré Mercier Elementary School.
 - They keep all items in stock as they manufacture all items inhouse.
 - Resizing possible, but not refundable if the garment is in the original condition.
 - Product ordering to product ready for pickup → 1 week
 - Delivery options
 - Free in-store pickup
 - delivery to home at additional cost (2023-2024 shipping fee 9.99)
- Product features:
 - durable high-quality fabrics for repeated washing.
 - pants and skirts are made with a 4 way stretch fabric.
 - Embroidered logos only.
 - Husky or petite options available (4-week delivery).
- Gym Uniform
 - Gym top change from cotton t-shirt to a sportier look and fabric.
 - Gym bottom change from cotton shorts to basketball like shorts.
- Pricing (2023-2024) includes 1 embroidered logo:
 - Short Sleeve Polo → 25\$
 - Pull over Hoodie → 39\$
 - Sweatpants → 36\$
 - Gym T-shirt → 16\$
 - Gym shorts → 18\$
 - Pleated Skirt → 42\$
 - Pants (not hemmed) → 39\$

Moxo (received via email presented by Ms. Garofalo)

- Garments
 - Only able to supply TOPS.
 - Cotton crew-neck short sleeve Yellow Navy White.
 - Logo will be screen printed
 - Hoodie as done in the past.
- Pricing
 - T-shirt Youth sizes → 13\$
 - T-Shirt Adult sizes → 16\$
 - Pullover Hoodie Youth sizes → 32\$
 - Pullover Hoodie adult sizes → 35\$
 - Zipper Hoodie Youth sizes → 36\$
 - Zipper Hoodie Adult sizes → 39\$
- Note: Due to supply issues and delays they cannot offer bottoms for the 2023-2024 years

CPC discussion with EMSB executive Nathalie LaCroix - no school can impose a supplier for a school that has a dress code only. However, the School gym clothes are a mandatory uniform.

Mr. Campione suggests this is tabled for 1st or 2nd meeting of the year 2023-2024 and follow up with multiple vendors for the 2023-2024 calendar year. Possibly look for suppliers early in the year.

Ms. Garofalo to follow Questions with Price and Buckland, if they can only supply Gym uniform/Hoodie and follow up with Moxo on their current offer.

Additions to the Agenda

Following Items to be added to the Varia:

- Extra-curricular activities to be listed for the June Meeting as mentioned in September meeting.
 - Review what was liked and new material to be added for the 2023-2024 year.
 - Red-Cross Baby-sitting courses.
 - Coding
 - Dance
- Enrollment

Additional time of 15 minutes added to the Varia.

Approval of Meeting Agenda

Motion to Approve: Robert Panetta and Angelo Irrera

Motion Passed - Unanimously

Approval of Adoption of the Minutes April 2023

- Minutes for the April 2023 meeting were not available
- Motion to approve will be done later and voted by the GB via an email vote.

Michael Buonincontri was unable to attend the meeting and provided the information to Ms. Garofalo. The offers:

1. Extra-Curricular Hockey Development Program 2023-2024 is designed for players who have all equipment and play/played for a league:
 - 16 skill practices - on ice.
 - 8 power skating – on ice.
 - 5 Synthetic Ice skills lesson at his facility.
 - 6 fitness workouts at his facility.
 - 2 Evaluations will be offered:
 - 1st after 12 practices
 - 2nd at the end of the year

The cost will be 550\$plus tax. Expected to start in October 2023. Ice practices will be offered once per week, and synthetic/fitness approximately once per month.

Extra costs will be:

- Jersey for 50\$ (for NEW students only, returning students already have a jersey)
 - 5 games offered at 20\$/game. Not mandatory
2. Learn to Skate 2023-2024
 - Cost depends on how many students sign up.
 - Assumed students must own their own skates.

There is no limit to the number of students signing up.

Question:

NLH Scholarship Offer to under privileged students?

- Unfortunately, the offer and for safety reasons can only be offered to students who own equipment.
- Another suggest from Mr. Martinez is for NLH to provide a learning session to the entire school. Mr. Tsatoumas confirmed this can be done in groups as they have enough sticks so long, they are done in groups or during gym class.
- Ms. Garofalo to follow up with NLH for some giving back to the entire school.

Motion to Approve Extra-Curricular Hockey Development Program and Learn to Skate for the 2023-2024: by Merika Ramundo and Robert Panetta

Motion Passed - Unanimously

Business Arising

- Tent Donation by Sonia Rannelucci
 - Color and design scheme to be provided by Honoré Mercier Elementary School to Ms. Rannelucci.
 - Standard size is 10x10, other sizes available.
- Bureau en Gros / School Supplies
 - Ms. Marotta (Principal) advise it will be possible for the store to provide supplies individually
 - Currently issues with the web-development and Ms. Marotta to reach-out to the EMSB Technical Support.

Governing Board Chair's Review

- Governing Board is **not** responsible with the day-to-day operations of the school or its staff.
 - Any Questions regarding roles and responsibilities of the Governing board are posted on the EMSB Website at: <https://www.emsb.qc.ca/emsb/community/parents/governing-boards>
 - Governing board Manuals
 - Workshop manuals, presentations, and Videos
- Code of Conduct
 - Governing Board Members are to partake in conversations as per the agenda.
 - Governing Board Members are to raise their hands, be respectful at their turn.
 - Governing Board Members are to ask the question clearly and to the point of the topic.
 - All Questions are to be addressed to the Chairperson.
 - It is the responsibility of the Chairperson to ask the School Administration/Staff if they can answer.
 - If No answers are made, then it will be tabled for research and answered at the following meeting.
 - Questions not on the agenda by a Governing Board Member or by the community can be asked at the Varia.
 - Side conversations which seem to be disruptive, not pertaining to the agenda and/or rude will be asked to leave the room.
 - Governing Board Meetings are open to everyone.
 - Governing Board teacher members provide information that is provided to them by their peers, if a specific class activity is not mentioned, we ask parents to:
 - Reach out to their teacher directly.
 - If no answer to reach out to the principal.
 - If no answer to reach out to the Regional Director.

EMSB has a Complain Procedures and can be found at:

<https://www.emsb.qc.ca/emsb/services/central-services/Complaint>

Recurring Issues at Governing board meetings.

- Low Enrollment
 - Not directly impacted to only Honoré Mercier Elementary School.
 - Current demographic of Saint Leonard has changed with the majority are not allowed to attend English schools.
 - Governing Board cannot ask the EMSB to buy specific advertisements.
 - Governing Board cannot tell administration how to use social media
- Parent Letter read on the April Meeting.
 - Thank the concerned parents for reading the letter.
 - Concerned Parents, Chair, Principal, and some members had a meeting.
 - Much of those concerns fall outside the Governing Boards responsibilities.
 - What is the plan to maintain enrollment numbers?
 - What is the plan to ensure enrollment does not decline?
 - What is being done for the students to provide a positive student life environment?
 - How is Honoré Mercier Elementary School addressing the lack of STEAM related projects as per the mission on the website?
 - Are there any plans by Honoré Mercier Elementary School to start the process to differentiate itself from the other schools?
 - Mr. Campione advised that he sat with the EMSB as the outgoing Chair at the end of the 2021/2022 year. Mr Campione questioned the EMSB Pela Nickoletopoulos and she advised change a school program from STEAM to IB is a 4-year process. The School Governing Board can make this decision along with the community, however the EMSB will also need authorization from the Quebec Education Minister office.
 - Ms. Ramundo suggests the following **Motion**:

“Move that the Honoré Mercier Elementary School Governing Chair reach out to EMSB senior administration (Pela Nickoletopoulos and Nicholas Katalifos to request that someone from their team attend the June GB meeting to present on the status of enrollment and projections at Honoré Mercier Elementary School as well as related central outreach efforts.”

Motion to Approve: Robert Panetta and Tony Campione

Motion Passed - Unanimously

- Ms. Garofalo Chair gave some time to Aileen Montesclaros (Public), as one of the writers of the letter, and she would like clarification on past Actions, Discussions against the minutes for regular Status updates.
- Mr. Pietrangelo in regard to “Low Enrollment” advised much of the challenges are related to parents now opt to send their children to French Private Schools. Also suggest that new ideas adjusted to today's needs would be welcomed.

- Lucy Cancilla (Public) question how ideas are passed, the idea seems to be: Parents/Community to GB (once passed) to Principal to Staff Council to Parent Committee to Council of commissioners.
 - Ms. Ramundo recommended to have EMSB senior staff to answer such questions on time needed to change the school program and passed motions.
- Staff Console Chair meeting in November follow up.
 - Invite from Governing Board Chair to Principal to Staff Council Chair.
 - She was not able to attend today's meeting and provided a letter to be read.
 - Governing Board Chair and Mr. Tsatoumas had a meeting to outline why and what to discuss.
 - Letter was read.

Ms. Garofalo would like to pass a **motion**:

"Governing Board members will write and sign a letter to raise concerns about having split classes and send it to members of the EMSB executive"

Motion to Approve: Robert Panetta and Tony Campione

Motion Passed - Unanimously

Ms. Garofalo would like to pass a **motion**:

"Extend the time of the meeting by 30 more meetings and reevaluate if more is needed"

Motion to Approve: Robert Panetta and Andrew Martinez

Motion Passed - Unanimously

Principals' Report

- **Steam and Science Fair**
 - May 25, 2023 from 6:30 to 8pm in the school
 - open to the public, all minors need to be accompanied a parent or guardian.
 - Teacher will have their own Kiosk in each classroom to showcase the projects they have been working with the students throughout the school year.
- **Welcome to Pre-Kindergarden**
 - May 30, 2023
 - Thanks to Ms. Daniella for offering snacks to visitors and current students
 - Ms. Urmi to offer visitors a loot-bag (seedlings, bubbles)
 - Ms. Franca and Ms. Veronica for organizing the activities in the gymnasium
 - Dr. Guerrero, Ms. Goldsmith and Ms. Blezzner as the school professionals.

Teachers' Report

- Mr. Martinez:
 - Sports Mobile
 - May 29-May 31.
 - Rugby, baseball, Yoga and Tennis.
 - Halo Run
 - Full success and all participated.
 - Energy Cubes
 - Initial Goal was 15000 cubes and reached by the 1st week.
 - Reraised to 50000 cubes.
 - Waiting for the full count.
 - Fun in the Sun!
 - Friday June 16, 2023
 - Parent volunteers will be needed.

- Ms. Mary and Mme. Sandy (pre-K)
 - Attended field trips
 - Biodome
 - Cosmo-dome
 - STEAM fair tomorrow the K4 Class will be presenting Blue Bots tour the Honoré Mercier Elementary School neighborhood. Students worked very hard building their own homes school trees and surrounding area.
 - Kinder fest
 - June 9, 2023.
 - Many games for the children and parents to enjoy and play together.
 - Fall Friendship Festival
 - Experienced in October
 - Children and parents invited to celebrate friendship
 - Created garlands, friendship tree, and bracelets

- Kindergarten Students
 - Kinder fest
 - June 9, 2023.
 - Many games for the children and parents to enjoy and play together.
 - STEAM Fair
 - These little engineers created their very own marble run
 - learned about trial and error.
 - Gravity
 - Momentum

- Grade 1

- Learning about Bees
 - their importance to the world.
 - Field trip to a bee farm.
- STEAM Fair
 - What can be done with a Box!
 - Re-imagined what can be done with a Box.
- Growing plants
 - In conjunction with Grade 5 students.
 - Help support and feed the bees and plant them around the school property.
- Grade 2
 - Fieldtrips attended
 - Biodome.
 - STEAM fair
 - Students built ecosystems about animals and their habitats in Clay.
- Grade 3
 - Theatre D'ombre
 - Students created stories, scripts, and costumes.
- Grade 4
 - STEAM Fair
 - Maquettes de la Nouvelle France.
 - Children created and painted what la Nouvelle France would have looked like at the time and will be presented at the STEAM faire.
 - Group 222
 - Introduction aux robotiques Les élèves ont appris à utiliser le WeDo 2.0. Ils ont eu plusieurs cours a construire et a programmer les robots.
 - Elevés travaille avec Fusion Jeunesse depuis novembre sur un projet médiatique. Les premiers mois, les enfants ont appris divers types de media (documentaire, balado, blog, revue, etc) et ont appris à utiliser différents équipements. Ils ont ensuite choisi de créer une revue et faire un Vox-Pop. Ils ont collaboré pendant des mois pour réaliser ce projet. Le thème de l'année était l'énergie, donc ils ont fait un peu de sciences ainsi que la technologie et les arts.
 - Fieldtrip
 - Exposition du Voix POP
 - Also won a price for their interview at Laura Pastry.
- Grade 5
 - Honey STEAM MARKET.
 - Labels for the honey jars decorated by the students during plastic arts
 - Jar lid toppers designed using a 3D printer.
 - Hydroponic greenhouse in the class
 - Plants were then placed in front of the school entrance garden.

- P.S.A. (public service announcements) videos created by the students in preparation for the STEAM Fair using the schools iPads and Green-screens
 - Recycle Battery Competition
 - 3rd place
 - 150\$ and used for additional plants for garden
- Grade 6
 - Entrepreneurship/ STEAM Fair
 - Creating Advertising with Canva
 - Some were Advertised on Instagram
 - Sale of products:
 - Seed bombs
 - Flower penceil
 - Key Chains
 - Bookmarks
 - Understand how to calculate and budget projects
 - Science Fair
 - Luca Paladino from won 1st place in the regionals!
 - Micheal Murgante, Justin Chiochio, and Ethan Wong won Certificate of Excellence!
 - Grade 6 students projects were displayed in the Gym
 - Theatre D'ombre
 - Grade 6 helped the Grade 3 students.
- Art Classes
 - Themes worked by students in visual art:
 - different cultures and artists from different countries.
 - Spanish speaking, Canadian and Native, Asian, African and finally European
- Music
 - Orchestra by Ms. Veronica
 - Concert Jun 15th (Gr1-6)
 - Attendance sheets sent out to parents to be filled and returned.
 - 8:30am-10am 1st show
 - 1:00pm to 2:30 2nd show
 - Voluntary donations will be at the door for the purchase of a stage.
- Club du Course
 - by Mme. Christine
 - Grade 5 and 6 as they had already practiced for the Halo.
- Club de Theatre D'ombre
 - By Mme. Annie and Mme. Andrea Started
 - Grade 4, 5, 6 at Lunch time.
- Mr. Dimitri Production
 - Musical translated from Greece to English.

- Participants chosen by Mr. Dimitri.
- Ms. Melissa and Ms. Veronica will be working together for the rehearsals with the students.

Daycare Report

- Daycare offered treats every day for a week.

Home and School Report

- Chocolate Fundraiser 2023-2024.
 - If ordered before Jun 16, profits would increase.

Ms. Garofalo would like to pass a **motion**:

“Have Home and School order/commit to the boxes to benefit the profits”

Motion to Approve: Andrew Martinez and Veronica Graniero

Motion Passed - Unanimously

Treasurer's Report

- Angelo Irrera reported that there is no change in the budget.

Commissioners Report – Mario Pietrangelo

- Congratulate all the Science Fair winners.
- Thank the Gym teachers for the Halo Run.
- Council of Commissioners approved fundraising.
 - However, students are not allowed to sell anything that would have a prize.

Central Parents Committee Report

Merika Ramundo reported

- Motion to approve raffle/bingo/50-50 draws and other sorts of fundraising
 - written by Ms. Ramundo and approved by the CPC
 - submitted to the CPC Parent commissioner delegate to have the Console of Commissioners approve.
 - As per Commissioners Report it was approved.

- Energy Drinks
 - Some schools sent memo's strongly discouraging bringing them in.
 - Drinks cannot be banned, however issues seem to be under control.
- Uniforms:
 - Regional Director Natalie Lacroix confirmed it is against the education Act to impose a Uniform.
 - Regional Director Natalie Lacroix also confirmed that an electronic / digital version of the crest/branding can be sent to parents who want to print dress coded items themselves.
- Enrollment numbers
 - Draft was provided to the CPC
 - Decline in many east end schools.
 - Numbers to be published however the CPC strongly against publishing the projects as this is what led to the school transfers of General Vanier and John Paul in 2019.
 - More to discuss once it is approved.
- Parent Conference
 - HALF DAY KEYNOTE EVENT
 - May 28, 2023 @ Rosemont Highschool 3737 Beaubien E.
 - Lunch and Learns will be made
 - Subjects/Programs on: Anti-Racism, Pre-School Literacy and Numeracy, Galileo Adult center created
 - ONE WEEK OF VIRTUAL LUNCH & LEARNS
 - A series of workshops for parents on a variety of issues pertaining to both your children and teens.
 - Date: Monday, May 29th to Friday, June 2nd
Location: online - Lunch and Learns can be viewed any time after they have premiered!
 - Go to www.emsbparents.ca to find out more about all the workshops and to register.

Question Period/Varia

- Literacy Camp – Enfantastic
 - Offered by elementary teachers.
 - 3-week camp offered in July.
 - Mornings are about reading/writing.
 - Afternoons are physical activities.
- Extra-Curricular Activities for Year 2023-2024
 - Have a list of what the school will provide so parents can make an informed decision.
 - Examples babysitting courses.
 - Offered by Enfant-et-compagnie and RedCross.
 - Ms. Marotta will reach out to the RedCross for more information.
 - Coding/Erin
 - Currently offered to Grade 5-6 and possibly extend to grade 4.
 - H&S will reach out to Coding program personnel
 - Dance

- H&S will reach out to dance program personnel
 - DiBella Karate
 - Edu-Cation
 - Variety of programs
- Question by Public
 - Sabrina Dykes (Public)
 - EMSB Newsletter:
 - Who sends information to the EMSB to have their school/students/projects showcased?
 - Mr. Pietrangelo and Ms. Marotta confirm it is a collaboration between Staff/Principal and then submitted to Michael Cohen.
 - Collaborative Project with School/Students and employer.
 - Ms. Marotta informed presented to the principal for review.

Next Governing Board Meeting Date(s)or

- Monday June 19, 2023 @ 6:30 pm in person at Honoré Mercier Elementary School.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn the meeting 9:30 pm

Motion to Approve: Veronica Graniero and Robert Panetta

Motion Passed - Unanimously

MINUTES

Honoré Mercier Elementary School Governing Board

Monday, June 19, 2023 @ 7:00PM | Meeting called to order by Verena Garofalo

In Attendance

Verena Garofalo (Chair)	X	Robert Panetta	X
Daniela Buttino	R	Merika Ramundo	X
Nancy Cantini	X	Maria Scicchitano	X
Tony Campione	X	Peter Tsatoumas	X
Lisa Ida	X	Jennifer Uniat	X
Veronica Graniero	X	Lino Faratro (Alternate)	R
Angelo Irrera	X	Sonia Ranellucci (Alternate)	X
Andrew Martinez	X		
Administration:		Commissioner, Ward 8:	
Vince Timpano, Interim Principal	X	Mario Pietrangelo	R

X = present

R = Regrets

XP = Present Public

Assign minute-taking duties: Robert Panetta

Assign time-keeper duties: Tony Campione

Summary – motions passed in this meeting

- Use FootZone as supplier for 2023-24 school year
- Inviting l'Academie de Danse for the 2023-24 school year for a 12-14 week program for \$266 plus tax

- Have a single communication near the start of the school year to parents that lists extracurricular activity dates and prices for the first semester (September to January)
- Approve 2023-24 school budget
- Dress down day on the last day of school
- Approve one funded Pre-K class
- Returning and new Governing Board members to watch the EMSB governing board training video and to establish rules of engagement established at the first meeting

Approval of Meeting Agenda

Motion to Approve: Merika Ramundo and Angelo Irrera

Motion Passed - Unanimously

Approval of Adoption of the Minutes April 2023

- Minutes for the April 2023 were approved by email

Motion to adopt the minutes of April 2023, Robert Panetta, Jennifer Uniat

Motion passed - Unanimously

Approval of Adoption of the Minutes May 2023

Motion to e-approve minutes of May 2023 meeting at a later date, Tony Campione, Jennifer Uniat

Motion passed - Unanimously

School Supplies Ordering System

- Ms. Marotta was able to follow up with the school board. As a public school we cannot be seen to enforce a specific supplier for school supplies. Therefore, we cannot put into effect the *Bureau en Gros* ordering system of years past.
- Mr. Timpano will ask the teachers for their supplies list email said list to the parent community as soon as possible.

School Dress Code Suppliers

- Ms. Verena Garafalo spoke with FootZone as the school dress code supplier for 2023-2024. FootZone can set up an HM page on his site where parents can order the clothes they require. But orders may be 2 or 3 weeks delayed because we are late.

We cannot mandate parents to buy branded in-class tops or bottoms. But we can mandate the green and gold gym uniforms. He does offer polyester basketball shorts.

Motion: Use FootZone as supplier for 2023-24 school year, Veronica Graniero, Robert Panetta
Passed Unanimously

Extra-Curricular Activities

- Red Cross and Enfants et compagnie
 - No update (Ms. Sonia stepped down before communicating).
- l'Academie de danse
 - Communicated with Ms. Maria Schiccitano
 - Happy to return for the 2023-24 school year for grades 3-6 subject to teacher availability.
 - Rate is \$19 per hour, therefore 14 weeks are \$266 plus tax. Suggesting to start September 11.
- CodeU
 - No update

Motion: Inviting l'Academie de Danse for the 2023-24 school year for a 12-14 week program for \$266 plus tax preferably later than Sept. 11, Lisa Ida, Merika Ramundo
Passed Unanimously

Motion: Have a single communication near the start of the school year to parents that lists extracurricular activity dates and prices for the first semester (September to January), Tony Campione, Andrew Martinez
Passed Unanimously

Principals' Report

- Welcome from Mr. Timpano
- Budget review
 - Budget prepared by Ms. Sonia Marotta
 - All aligned with expectations including a deficit of \$82,201 impacting all elementary schools due to parents not being charged for Daycare services during COVID. This will slowly return to zero.
 - General note: when there are recurrent deficits, the principal works with the school commission finance department to alleviate losses.

Motion to approve 2023-24 school budget, Tony Campioni, Veronica Graniero
Passed Unanimously

Motion for dress down day on the last day of school, Robert Panetta, Tony Campione
Passed Unanimously

Teachers' Report

- Kindergarten
 - Parents have been coming in for mini career days to speak with the students
 - Thank you to Home and School for the hot lunch
 - Kinderfest was a success
- Grade 1
 - Went to Inter-mieles for a day of activities
- Grade 5
 - Overnight camp at Debroulliards was a great success
- Grade 6
 - Graduate breakfast will take place this week at Vincent's on Robert
- School-wide
 - Daycare tea organized by Ms. Daniella and Madame Marie-Josée was a great success
 - The end of year concert was great fun. We have not had time to count the money raised, but appears to be a little over \$700
 - Fun in the Sun was great
 - Energy Cubes: We collected 61,000, a new record and surpassed the original target of 10,000

Daycare Report

- No report.

Home and School Report

- Thank you to our 75 members
- Held the lunch for the whole school with a choice of pogos or chicken nuggets
- Fun in the Sun was a great success!

Treasurer's Report

- Started with carry-over from previous years, amounting to \$889. Expenses for catering and light snacks came to ~\$695, so we are left with \$193 that will carry over to next year.
- Angelo Irrera's last report.

Central Parents Committee Report

Merika Ramundo reported:

- Letter drafted and submitted from EMSB Parents Committee to EMSB senior administration calling for immediate action to develop a plan around mental health initiatives to be implemented across the school board.
- Misinformation at schools around uniforms. Where there is a dress code (like in Honoré Mercier's case), the school can provide a digital version of the crest to be used by the parent to place on uniforms. The school also cannot impose a supplier or a brand of clothing on parents. The school may require, for example, a white polo shirt and navy blue pants or skirt, but parents are free to get them where they want.
- PC Parent Commissioners brought forward a letter against the banning of raffles, bingos, 50/50 draws along with a motion. The motion to reinstate the above fundraising activities was passed as long as Home and Schools and PPOs follow the regulations laid out by the QC government and guidelines set out by EMSB and principals. More information to come.
- 2023-2024 will be a key year for EMSB schools and their communities. A board wide review of all educational projects will take place. Governing Board members and constituents will play a key role in this process. More information to come.

Funded Pre-K Classes

- Based on enrollment of 13 students, Honore Mercier is eligible to open one MEQ-funded Pre-K class

Motion to approve one funded Pre-K class by Veronica Graniero, Tony Campione
Passed Unanimously

Updates on Past Motions

- March
 - Motioned for Eva the Louse tryouts, and to charge parents whose children were selected \$30. This occurred March 16
 - Approved Motion for le Doral to increase prices \$0.25, stay frozen for the next two years and add a vegetarian option
 - Motioned for a Grade 4 and 5 field trip to Montreal Science Museum, which occurred
- April
 - Motioned to have a letter from parents read, with a follow-up en camera meeting with the GB, select parents and admin. Much of the issues raised do not fall under the purview of GB.

- Motioned to have Next Level Hockey return with an updated curriculum focused on training instead of competition, which was agreed to by NLH
- May
 - Motioned to have GB Chair reach out to senior EMSB admin to attend the June GB meeting to address a number of questions concerning enrollment. She could not attend and referred back to the school admin.
 - Motioned to allow Home and School to order chocolates now for the 2023-24 chocolate fundraiser allowing us to achieve better margins. This was done.

Question Period/Varia

- What happens if in September we suddenly have 25 kids in Pre-K? Will we be stuck with one class?
 - No, the admin will have until about October 15 to adjust the number of registrations.
- There are other schools that do have school supply ordering programs. Why are they allowed, and we are not?
 - No public school is allowed to do this, the ones that do just haven't been reprimanded yet.
- Is there an update on split classes?
 - Split classes are not a governing board topic.

Motion for returning and new Governing Board members to watch the EMSB governing board training video and to establish rules of engagement established at the first meeting, Tony Campione, Angelo Irrera

Passed Unanimously

Next Governing Board Meeting Date(s)or

- Not applicable

Adjournment

- Motion to adjourn the meeting 8:30 pm

Motion to Approve: Veronica Graniero and Merika Ramundo

Motion Passed - Unanimously