



École secondaire LESTER B. PEARSON High School
11575 rue P.M. Favier, Montréal (Québec) H1G 6E5
TEL: (514) 328-4442 FAX: (514) 328-4443

Governing Board Minutes – March 17, 2025

6:45 p.m. (Virtual)

PRESENT:

Administration: Joseph Vitantonio, Assunta Caruso, Sabrina Magliocco

Parents: Sabrina Ficca (Vice-Chairperson), Daniela Marino (Secretary), Jack Algieri, Angela Antonacci

Parent Alternates: Isabel Deganutto (replacing Sandra Greco), Francesca Pitruzzello (replacing Jocelyne Cacciatore)

Teachers: Paul Karpontinis, Gabriel Latino, Catherine Clarabut, Antoinette Licursi, Sara Di Maulo, Sabrina Pisaturo

Non-Teaching Staff: Charles Préfontaine, Casey Gagné

Students: Luca Di Fiore, Brianna Morello

Commissioner: Susan Perera

Absent: Grace Fanelli, Sandra Greco, Jocelyne Cacciatore, Annelisa Rende, Dario Falso

1. Welcome & Land Acknowledgment

- Mr. Vitantonio and Ms. Ficca welcomed everyone at the start of the meeting at 6:50 pm.
- Luca Di Fiore and Bianca Morello read the Land Acknowledgement.

2. Adoption of the Agenda

- **Motion** to adopt the agenda was moved by Francesca Pitruzzello and seconded by Isabel Deganutto. All in favour.

3. Adoption of the Minutes of January 20, 2025

- **Motion** to approve the minutes was moved by Francesca Pitruzzello and seconded by Daniela Marino. All in favour.

4. New Business:

Budget Building Process:

- a. This is a process we undergo every year, to help share our budget priorities for consideration by the Finance department when they plan their annual budget.
 - b. It is feedback we provide on a wish-list basis for consideration.
- Motion to approve the recommendations with some changes was moved by Casey Gagné and seconded by Gabriel Latino. All in favour.

5. Reports

5.1 Principal

1. June Final Exam Period:

- c. Final exams run from June 9 -18, 2025
 - d. Some sec. 5 exams are scheduled prior to the last day of classes.
 - e. ELA takes place May 27-28, 2025.
 - f. French preparatory tasks begin as early as May 12 for sec. 5 and sec. 2.
 - g. June 2- secondary 3-4-5 students will be writing their C1 Situational Problem in the morning- exam day for them so they are dismissed after their exam.
 - h. Sec. 1-2 will be invited for tutorials with their teachers in the afternoon.
 - i. Exam schedule will be sent to parents as soon as it is finalized.
- Motion to proceed with the exams as presented was moved by Isabel Deganutto and seconded by Francesca Pitruzzello. All in favour.

2. Europe 2026:

- a. With the cancellation of the Japan, trip we started planning another trip to European destinations.
- b. The Europe 2026 trip will be a trip to Spain & Portugal.
- c. Ms. Morabito and Ms. Girardello are the trip organizers.
- d. Participants: Secondary 3, 4, and 5
- e. Dates: April 2nd, 2026-April 12th, 2026

- a. Price: \$5150 for 25-29 participants (EF Tours)
 - b. Sites include Lisbon/Sintra/Cascais/Algarve, Seville/Granada, Valencia and Barcelona.
- Motion to approve the trip as presented was moved by Paul Karpontinis and seconded by Jack Algieri. All in favour.

3. Zumbathon :

- a. On April 3rd we will be raising funds to raise awareness for students with neurodiversity.
 - b. We chose to donate our funds to **Centre of Dreams and Hopes** located on 12550 Bd Lacordaire, Montréal-Nord, as it caters to students and families within our community.
 - c. Students from Lester B. Pearson have family members (students from LINKS and Galileo school) that attend this organization. **Centre of Dreams and Hopes** offers a variety of services and programs, including respite care, an alternative adult education program, mental health services, speech and occupational therapy, and recreational and leisure activities.
 - d. When: April 3rd
 - e. Time: 7:00-8:30pm
 - f. Where: LBP gymnasium
 - g. Price: \$10:00 (15.00\$ at door)
 - h. The zumbathon will be instructed by our teacher Terry Morabito and many students from Ms. Di Cesare 's dance class).
 - i. We are looking forward to bringing our community together for such a great cause.
- Motion to allow funds to be collected was moved by Daniela Marino and seconded by Francesca Pitruzzello. All in favour.

4. Lunch of Excellence:

- a. On March 21, 2025, we will be honoring our students from the honor roll as well as students who were recognized by their teachers for diligence.
- b. Some SE students will be served lunch at 11:30 as they need to leave for a tournament.
- c. All other students will be called down for lunch at 12:00 p.m. which will lead into the regular lunch period.

5. March Madness Activities:

- a. Last week we had activities planned for the students which included Maple Taffy for everyone on Wednesday March 12 and a Sugar Shack Lunch for students on Friday served from the cafeteria.

- b. We also hosted some staff versus students' sports games during the week during lunch. We have some additional games scheduled this week as well.

6. Semaine de la prévention de la violence et de l'intimidation dans les écoles:

- a. The Ministère de l'Éducation du Québec (MEQ) has launched a new week dedicated to the prevention of bullying and violence in schools, aiming to foster safer and more respectful learning environments.
- b. La semaine de la prévention de la violence et de l'intimidation dans les écoles encourages schools across the province to engage students, staff, and families in awareness activities that promote empathy, inclusion, and positive behavior.
- c. By highlighting the importance of kindness, respect, and support, the MEQ seeks to empower youth to take a stand against bullying and violence.
- d. The minister of education recorded a video to launch the week that all students will see today and tomorrow, depending on their schedule.
- e. The EMSB also prepared a plan for the week, for teachers to use to incorporate optional activities into their classroom planning.

7. Transportation Cheques & School Fee Payments:

- a. In the month of April, we receive the transportation allocation cheques for students who live a certain distance from the school who require public transportation to get to school.
- b. Like year, we cannot hold the cheques back for the students who have not paid their school fees, but we will recommend to parents owing fees that they may use this reimbursement to cover the fees or part of the fees.

8. Planning for Student Success-Targeted Tutorials:

- a. With the changes to the promotion practices, Ms. Fanelli worked with the other VPs to identify students at risk of failing classes after term 2.
- b. She was able to work with our hired tutors to create targeted groups for support throughout the week to try to bring these students up to a passing grade in Math, French, English, Science and History.
- c. The 3 paths for support are:
 - i. MEQ online tutoring in the evening
 - ii. Targeted tutorials with the tutors
 - iii. Targeted tutorial groups with the students' teachers.

9. Mental Health Awareness Fair:

- a. We are pleased to inform you that Lester B. Pearson High School will be hosting a Mental Health Fair on Thursday, March 19 & 20, 2025.
- b. March 19 is for our LBP students and March 20 is for visiting schools.
- c. The aim is to help increase awareness about mental health, to eliminate stigma and for students, and to be informed of the various resources and activities available to them in the community.
- d. Over a dozen organizations will be present to share information on their programs and services. The Fair is open to students in secondary 3, 4, & 5.
- e. One period per class: 3 stations for 20 minutes on rotation: guest speaker in the auditorium, stations in the plaza of community organizations supporting mental health initiatives, mindfulness activity led by Camp LIFT.

10. Staff Appreciation Week:

- a. We served the staff dinner from Usine Greque, as well as a coffee station from Alphabet Café with the money GB allowed us to spend.
- b. The staff also received an LBP tuque from the admin and was treated to hair, nail treatments from the students at LMAC, as well as some 15 minutes massages.
- c. Student council prepared surprises for the staff, but I will let them address that in their report.

11. Population Update for 2023-2024:

- a. 901 students + 11 pending registrations
- b. A slight drop from last year (about 15 students)
- c. More registrations coming in slowly.
- d. Our current teaching staff should remain status quo.

12. Things to do in the coming months:

- a. Approval of school calendar
- b. Approval of school fees & Supply Lists
- c. Approval of Agenda pages- Code of Conduct and Policies

5.2 Commissioner

- Budget Cuts: The CAQ government announced \$200M in education sector budget cuts. The EMSB's share is \$2.6M and is to be implemented by the end of March. The cuts will not affect pedagogical budgets.
- EMSB Annual Report and Success Rate: council approved the 2023-2024 Annual Report. The success rate of the EMSB was 95.9%, the highest in its history and higher

than all other boards, service centers and private schools. It will be difficult to attain again. The target is set at 92%.

- Budget Consultation: the package will be sent to governing boards for discussion.

5.3 Chairperson

- Nothing to report.

5.4 Reginal Delegate

- Absent.

5.5 Treasurer

- Nothing to report

5.6 Student Council

Parents Night On February 27th we had our term 2 parents night, which was a HUGEEEEEE success. Many parents attended and we sold books, board games, Pearson pride merch and beverages. That night we made \$240 :)

Student CO-OP We have started offering a new flavour, pineapple, to our frozen Fridays.

Sec 5 - 4.5 Years Movie and Pasta Night Around 120 students in sec 5 attended the 4.5 years at Pearson Movie Night, where we watched a (around) 45 minute video of our past 5 years.

EMSB Camp EMSB camp organizers have continued to attend weekly meetings and we officially started our meetings with animators, we had our third one today at the EMSB

Staff Appreciation On February 25th, we had staff appreciation and gave our staff a token of our appreciation! (Homemade Keychains and a sweet treat)

Guest Speakers We had Marco Cerroni, a police officer, Matt Mallet, a firefighter, and Adam Aktas, army reservist (Former Student Council member) visit Pearson and spoke to our Pearson students on February 27th to encourage students to think about careers in public service.

Student Council president from 2011, Cinzia Abatte gave a keynote address today at lunch to a mixture of 6- period 2 classes today during period 2. She spoke about her challenges with a low self-esteem and body image and how she overcame her obstacles through her music. She capped off the presentation by playing live acoustic renditions of some of her hits.

Sports Both of our futsal teams, girls and boys had a GREAT season!

Social Justice We have officially started our planning for Empathy day which will be for all sec 4s for 2 periods (period 2 & 3) on April 3, which we have received approval for.

Sugar Shack We are officially confirmed for March 25th for our sec-5-only event, with 113 students confirmed!

Lunch games Student council is trying out some new games for lunch which includes café trivia and musical chairs!

Saint Patrick's We decorated for Saint Patrick's day on February 27th and have been taken down today after school. We had Saint Patrick's themed lunch hour activities, and raffled away a box of lucky charms everyday last week

Summit on Democracy On April 29, 2025, 600 student leadership members from each of Montreal's secondary schools (more than 75 schools represented by 8 students each) will gather to debate and vote on pre-selected topics. This event will provide students with a concrete and meaningful experience of school democracy. Students will participate in workshops, hear from panelists, and visit an exposition of community partners.

Seedling sales Our student council gardeners have begun our annual indoor greenhouse. Our plants will be on sale to the community and students in May!

5.7 Teachers' Report

- Nothing to report.

5.8 Sports-études

- Flag Football is a new sport in the Sport-Études partnership for the 2025-2026 academic year. It will be available to students in Sec. 1-4.
- Staff is in the midst of planning the Sports Awards Ceremony.

6. Varia

- None.

7. Adjournment

- The next meeting will take place virtually on Monday, April 28, 2025.
- The secretary for next meeting will be Francesca Pitruzzello.

- A motion to adjourn the meeting was moved by Angela Antonacci and seconded by Casey Gagné. All in favour.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:33 pm.

Principal

Chairperson