



École secondaire LESTER B. PEARSON High School
11575 rue P.M. Favier, Montréal (Québec) H1G 6E5
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Governing Board Minutes – February 16, 2026
6:45 p.m. (Virtual via Teams)

Administration: Joseph Vitantonio, Maria Pizzichemi,

Parents: Sandra Greco (Chair Person), Sabrina Ficca (Vice-Chair Person), Angela Antonacci, Maria Pensato (Secretary), Daniela Marino (Treasurer), Annelisa Rende, Francesca Petruzzello, Cynthia Masi

Parent Alternate:

Teachers: Catherine Clarabut, Paul Karpontinis, Nicholas Adornato, Sabrina Pisaturo,

Non-Teaching Staff: Charles Préfontaine,

Students: Alessio-David Martineau, Ludovic Barker

Commissioner: Susan Perera

Absent: Jack Algieri (PC Delegate), Jocelyne Cacciatore, Casey Gagné, Patrizia Tummillo, Grace Fanelli, Natalie Carrier, Gennifer Girardello, Tania Licursi

1. Welcome & Land Acknowledgment

Sandra Greco welcomed everyone and started the meeting at 6:48 pm.

Ludovic Barker read the Land Acknowledgement.

2. Adoption of the Agenda

Motion to adopt the agenda with the correction to the date was moved by Sabrina Ficca and seconded by Annelisa Rende. 4.2 should be Budget Building Process. All in favour.

3. Adoption of the Minutes of January 19, 2026

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

4. New Business

4.1 LBP School Budget

- Our annual budget is being presented.
- In June we approved the Fund 5 and Fund 3 budgets.
- We will approve the budget as a whole including the fund 6 budgets, and caretaking.
- It is important to remember that we suffered a 20% cut to our overall budgets.
- We lost our Joining Forces Budget all together which totals about \$33 000.
- In the past, our budget was well over a million dollars in total. This year we are in the 800 thousand.
- The rollovers have not yet been deposited, so we will have some rollover money in some budgets like the caretaking and building maintenance budget.
- Resolution to be read and approved.

Resolution

Annelisa Rende MOVED and was seconded by Francesca Petruzzello THAT, the governing board of Lester B. Pearson High School, adopt the school budget for the 2025-2026 school year, as presented by the school Principal, Joseph Vitantonio which forecasts revenues of \$ 852,030 and expenditures of \$852,030; AND THAT the budget be submitted to the English Montreal School Board for final approval.

4.2 Budget building process

- 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.
- It is feedback we provide on a wish-list basis for consideration.
- We need to be conscious of the budget cuts and be mindful when making our recommendations, to be cost efficient to the board and not over-request staff based on the current circumstances.
- Suggested change: Increase to be changed to Maintained to keep what we have.
- The Weighted average is below 1200 (80 students less), changed the weighted average to 1100 students.

Motion to pass the resolution for the budget building process with the suggested changes was moved by Sabrina Ficca and seconded by Annelisa Rende. All in favour.

5. Reports:

i. **Principal**

The last day of classes this year are as follows:

- Sec. 3-4-5 June 9
- Sec. 1 & 2 June 12
- Specialized programs June 23
- Final exams run from June 9 -18, 2025
- Some sec. 5 exams are scheduled prior to the last day of classes.
- ELA takes place May 26-27, 2026.
- French preparatory tasks begin as early as mid-May for sec. 5
- Sec. 3-4-5 Exams take place beginning June 10
- Sec. 1-2 Exams the week of June 15
- Exam schedule will be sent to you as soon as it is finalized.

Motion to adopt the exam schedule was moved by Francesca Petruzzello and seconded by Daniela Marino. All in favour.

2027 Europe Trip Germany, Italy and Switzerland.

Offered to a minimum of 20 students with 2 chaperones to a maximum of 36 students with 4 chaperones in addition to 1 supplementary adult covered by the school.

Targeting Students in Secondary 3-5

March 25th, to April 3rd, 2027 (Easter holiday will reduce expenses and class time missed)

Approx 4695\$ Plus Insurance

Key Destinations:

- Germany (Rothenburg, Augsburg, Munich, Heidelberg) – Explore medieval Rothenburg, tour Augsburg, visit Munich (including Dachau Memorial Site), and see Heidelberg Castle and historic university town.
- Austria (Innsbruck) – Lunch Stop in Innsbruck, the Alpine city known for its Golden Roof and Winter Olympics history.
- Italy (Venice & Verona) – Guided tour of Venice, Doge's place, Burano visit, and gondola ride; stop in Verona to see Juliet's balcony and Roman Arena.
- Switzerland (Lucerne) – Walking tour of Lucerne, visit Chapel Bridge and Lion Monument, plus a Swiss Alps mountain excursion (Mount Pilatus or Mount Rigi) Proposing Germany Northern Italy and Austria

There will be an information night on April 28, 2026. Parents will be given the option to pay in 11 months (Debit) installments.

Motion to approve the 2027 Europe was moved by Angela Antonacci and seconded by Daniela Marino. All in favour.

Breakfast of Excellence:

- The week of March 16 we will be honoring our students from the honor roll as well as students who were recognized by their teachers for diligence.
- Breakfast will be served to students during the last 20 minutes of period 1 during that week. Invitations will be forthcoming.

Motion to allow student to miss part of first period to attend the breakfast of excellence was moved by Angela Antonacci and seconded by Daniela Marino. All in favour.

Work Oriented Training Pathway (Pre-work Program):

- 3-year program
- Students from DLP would transition into this program
- Allows students to get certifications in WOTP in cases where they do not have the ability to graduation from the regular program.

Motion to approve the introduction of the new WOTP program was moved by Angela Antonacci and seconded by Francesca Petruzzello. All in favour.

Transportation Cheques & School Fee Payments (**Information Item**):

- 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.
- 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.
- We are currently working on the school fees based on costs of workbooks and course packs.
- The MEQ is encouraging all school to increase the number of Projects Pédagogiques Particuliers in their establishment. We currently have Sport-études as a PPP.
- For the last 3 years, the MEQ has been subsidizing the costs of these PPs, so in our case, the SE parents have not actually been charged the \$100 fee, but since that is the uncharged fee we approve, the MEQ returns the \$100 subsidy per student.
- The subsidy can cover to a maximum of \$300 per student, so with the ongoing budget cut challenges we face, we will maximize our return for the program.
- Next year, we will be increasing our Sport-études fees to \$300, in order to receive the full subsidy back from the MEQ. The fee will not be charged to parent's but appear as a credit as it has been for the last few years.

- When this subsidy is no longer available, we will revisit this fee charged to parents.
- We will be expanding our PPPs to include ILP, Allongé and Student Council next year.
- This will allow us to receive the subsidy from the MEQ and help run these programs within our schools, maximizing the amount of funds coming into the school.
- We will revisit the actual fee breakdown at a later meeting.

Staff Appreciation Week (Information Item):

- We will be serving the staff dinner from Usine Greque, as well as a coffee station from Felice Café with the money GB allowed us to spend. Some of this money will also help pay for some of the treats we will be serving during the week.
- Student council prepared surprises for the staff which will be distributed on Thursday of next week.

Top Marks Update (Information Item):

- 1.6% increase in pricing this year. For \$300-\$500 order of 11-17 items would be 5\$-9\$ increase.
- We will be holding the fitting session in May 5-6, 2026, this year at the school for families who wish to book an appointment.
- More information to follow.

Population Update for 2026-2027 (Information Item):

- 195 sec. 1 registrations
- 908 students + 19 pending registrations
- Stable population as to last year.
- More registrations coming in slowly.
- Our current teaching staff should remain status quo.

Things to do in the coming months (Information Item):

- Approval of school calendar
- Approval of school fees & Supply Lists
- Approval of Agenda pages- Code of Conduct and Policies

ii. Commissioner

A law passed by the government of Quebec at the end of last year, that changed how representation on Comité de gestion de la taxe scolaire de l'île de Montréal (CGTSIM) is structured. Elected representatives from the EMSB and Lester B. Pearson school board, are replaced by elected officials from the comité. It manages and collects school taxes on behalf of both school boards as well as service centers and distributed the funding. Council approved that the EMSB lawyers to challenge the government's structure changes. This change can directly impact the funding that is given to the EMSB and its student services. EMSB commissioners have been representative since the 1998 (the creation of the

EMSB). The English language as a minority has rights under the Canadian Charter of Rights to be able to manage and made decision on how funding is used. This law infringes on the English Language community to be represented in the CGTSIM.

At last week's meeting the environmental committee was adopted and Susan Perera appointed vice chair. The committee's mandate is reflected in the EMSB's commitment to the environment and sustainability in our schools especially when it concerns extreme weather conditions.

In February, the EMSB proudly recognized Black history month. This is an important time to recognize and celebrate the achievements within the Black Community in Quebec and across Canada.

The board approved a resolution to formally recognized Internation Holocaust Remembrance Day on January 27 of each. This day commemorated the liberation from Auschwitz and honors all those who died under Nazi persecution.

Staff appreciation week, this is an important opportunity recognize the dedication of all administrators, teachers, secretaries and staff who allow schools to function every day. On behalf of the board, deep gratitude was expressed.

iii. Chairperson

Nothing to report

iv. Regional Delegate

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.

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.

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.

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:
 - o Who can register
 - o How many tutoring sessions are availableThese 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.

v. Treasurer

Nothing to report

vi. Secretary

Nothing to report

vii. Student Council

The Student Council Coop has raised \$1,146.00 with January's deposit and some money raised this month.

School Spirit Week:

- To celebrate Perseverance Week, Student Council has planned a full lineup of level-only activities to help you strengthen friendships, have fun, and build new connections throughout the school.
- Monday, secondary 1's were invited to take a Friendship Quiz today, we had a small but steady group participating.

- Tuesday, secondary 2's will have a "Pie your friend in the face" activity. Students have to get a trivia question correct, the first wrong answer will result in a shaving cream pie in the face.
- Wednesday, secondary 3's will be having a "Milk and Cookie" eating contest. The first to eat 10 cookies and drink a small milk carton will win a prize.
- Thursday, secondary 4's will be having a guess the beverage activity, students will be given two versions of the same beverages and will have to correctly guess blinded, the winner will get a prize.
- Friday, secondary 5's will get the chance to sign a ceiling tile that'll hang over their grad mosaic. Everyone taking part will be put in a raffle for a prize.

Video

Secondary 5 student council members have finished filming the yearly 4.5 video for the graduates and have officially finished editing. It will be shown tomorrow during the 4.5 year Pasta Night.

Pink Shirt Day

The Student Council will be having a pink shirt day activity, the activity hasn't been decided yet.

Monthly MVPs

The student council has been nominating members for MVPs each month for the past two years, in January this year, Ayden German Cruz won! We would like to thank them for their dedication to LBPHS.

Sugar Shack

The student council has reserved the sugar shack outing on March 24th for the secondary 5 students. We will be asking them to contribute 20\$ each.

May Team Builder

The Student Council will be having a team building activity, we will be playing laser tag and skating planning stages.

CPR

The Student council offered CPR classes, and went very well. Due to it being scheduled on the same day as graduation photos, we were considering making another one for graduating council members because they missed out.

EMSB Camp

Students will be invited to go to the EMSB camp on April 22 to 24 where they will learn about leadership and will be able to meet other students from different schools in the EMSB. The Student Council is currently sending two of their members every Wednesday to help organize this event. 2 organizers, 3 animators, 11 delegates.

Ensemble

The Ensemble organisation will be selling shirts for pink shirt day. There will be a presale February 18th and the actual sale is the 25th of February. Each shirt will be sold for \$5 and students are encouraged to write positive messages on them. They will also have a kiosk about black history month the 25th.

Staff Appreciation

The Student Council has ordered the gifts for staff members and will be preparing them tomorrow. We will provide details next month in order to save the surprise.

Valentine's Grams

Student council sold grams all week prior to Valentine's day and delivered on the 13th.

Chocolate Raffle

Every February morning our breakfast club raffled off free boxes of chocolate.

Lunch Hour Activities

- Students participated in Valentine Crafts Feb 9-10, Cookie Decorating Feb 11-12 and made a card Feb 13.
- Add a Valentine Accessory to your uniform on February 13th!

i. Teacher's Report

- Hosted a sexual education play for the Secondary 3 students, it was well received. It was a humorous take on relationships, STIs and contraceptive.
- Staff concerns:
 - There is an increase student absenteeism. This is not just an LBP problem, has been seen in other school in Quebec and Canada. An article that McGill University published stated that absenteeism is as jumped as high as 108% in high school and mainly due to post pandemic malaise. Need to find ways to reconnect with students. This causes extra stress to catch up and recoup which causes teachers to be pushed to their limits. Parental support would be appreciated.

Here is an article related to absenteeism in Quebec:

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/montreal/rate-of-school-absenteeism-skyrocketed-in-some-quebec-districts-9.7045969>

- How early prank secondary 5 pranks have started. The 2025 class is trying to "out do" the class of 2024 which causes great concerns. This can create an unsafe environment for staff and students. Administration and student council have tried to turn "pranks" by providing a positive option. Parental support is needed, pranks cause harm, disruption and are costly damage to fix. A note was sent to secondary 5 students and then right after there was a prank. We do not want to miss out on another prom and want to end the year off on a good note. We are open

to ideas from this committee with parents and teachers to come up with ideas. A suggestion was made to get help from the board.

ii. **Sport-études**

Joseph Vitantonio spoke on Casey Gagné behalf.

On February 16, 2026, had the please of accompanying 14 of our junior hockey players to East Hill to meet Joe Veleno of the Montreal Canadiens. We got invited because of our Sports-études program. Each student had the opportunity to speak with him one-on-one, got autographs and pictures. It was a great experience.

6. **Varia**

- Great experience with Green Apple for the Graduation photos.
- Eric St-Pierre, MP for Honoré-Mercier will be donation a bursary to a 2025 graduation. The criteria for the student bursary will be provided.

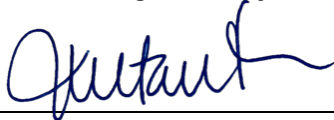
7. **Next Meeting**

Will be a virtual meeting on April 20, at 6:45 pm. The March meeting will be cancelled and if items for approval are required it will be done via an email vote.

8. **Adjournment**

A **motion** to adjourn the meeting was moved by Annelisa Rende and seconded by Sabrina Ficca. All in favor.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:35 pm.



Principal



Chairperson