



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 – September 29, 2025

6:45 p.m. (Virtual)

PRESENT:

Administration: Joseph Vitantonio, Maria Pizzichemi, Giovanna Orobello, Patrizia Tummillio

Parents: Sandra Greco (Chairperson), Sabrina Ficca (Vice-Chairperson), Jack Algieri (PC Delegate), Angela Antonacci, Annelisa Rende, Maria Pensato (Secretary), Francesca Pitruzzello, Daniela Marino (Treasurer), Jocelyne Cacciatore.

Parent Alternates: Cynthia Masi, Natalie Carrier, Francesca Petruzzello

Teachers: Catherine Clarabut, Paul Karpontinis, Sara Di Maulo, Sabrina Pisaturo, Nicholas Adornato, Antoinette Licursi

Non-Teaching Staff: Charles Préfontaine, Casey Gagné

Students: Alessio Martineau and Ludovic Barker

Commissioner: Susan Perera

Absent:

1. Welcome & Land Acknowledgment

- Mr. Vitantonio welcomed everyone at the start of the meeting at 6:35 pm.
- Alessio Martineau and Ludovic Barker read the Land Acknowledgment.

2. Adoption of the Agenda

- **Motion** to adopt the agenda was moved by Sandra Greco and seconded by Daniela Marino. All in favour.

3. Adoption of the Minutes of June 16, 2025

- a. **Motion** to approve the minutes was moved Jocelyn Cacciatore and seconded by Annalisa Rende. All in favour.

4. New Business

- a. Nominations for the following positions:
 - Chairperson Daniela Marino Nominated Sandra Greco. Nomination accepted. All in favour.
 - Vice- Chairperson Sandra Greco nominated Sabrina Ficca. Nomination Accepted. All in Favour.
 - Treasurer Sandra Greco nominated Daniel Marino. Nomination accepted. All in favour.
 - Secretary – Maria Pensato self-nominated – All in favour.

Replacement of GB parent, Dario Falso who had 1 year left and has stepped down. An email vote was sent to select among the alternates and Sabrina Ficca won the vote.

- b. Email vote
Email votes are used to expedite a vote that cannot wait for the next governing board meeting. Sandra will share the results of the e-votes and will be documented in the meeting minutes.

Motion to approve the e-votes was moved Casey Gagné and seconded by Angela Antonacci. All in favour.

- c. Hybrid meeting model
As was done in the past few years, most meetings will be held virtually except for the December and June meetings where there will be a social gathering. Some months do not require a GB meeting and if needed we can go with e-votes. By law, we are required to have seven (7) meetings.

Motion to approve the hybrid meeting model was moved by Antoinette Licursi and seconded by Angela Antonacci. All in favour.

- d. Suggested meeting dates
As was included in the agenda, meetings will be held on the third Monday of the month (except for Dec) at 6:45 pm to try to avoid conflicts with other board meetings. Mr. Vitantonio will send out the meeting invitations this week. Not motion needed (information item)

- Monday October 20, 2025
- Monday November 17, 2025
- Monday December 8, 2025 (In Person)
- Monday January 19, 2026 (if needed)
- Monday February 16, 2026
- Monday March 23, 2026
- Monday April 20, 2026 (if needed)
- Monday May 11, 2026
- Monday June 8, 2026 (In Person)

e. Sex Ed. Plan for 2025-2026

- Paul Karpontinis will explain- the sex ed program will be 10 to 15 hours for the school year.
- Topics for the secondary 2,3, and 4 that are not in the new CCQ program will be covered.
- There is no CCQ for secondary 3 students. Therefore, program will be covered during pop-up sessions, science classes, and through a theater that will present a play to students.
- Please see attached document that was sent out with the agenda.

Motion to approve the sex education plan was moved by Annelisa Rende and seconded by Catherine Clarabut. All in favour.

5. **Reports:**

i. **Principal**

- Representation Fees from Fund 3:
 - Request to allow 2\$ per students for representation fees for hosting guests in the school.
 - Current population 906 students
 - \$1812.00 total

Motion to approve representation Fees from Fund 3 was moved by Daniela Marino and seconded by Angela Antonacci. All in favour.

- Educational Day Trips (Approval Required):
 - Request permission from the GB to allow day trips to be approved by the principal for the school year, presented by teachers with an educational purpose to them.
 - These take place during the regular school day.
 - They would be brought to GB as information items only.

Motion to approve Educational Day Trips moved by Jack Algieri and seconded by Casey Gagné.

- Little Italy Walking Tour:
 - Between October 13-24, students in the secondary 5 Italian course will have a chance to spend the day in Little Italy. Date will be confirmed shortly.
 - Ms. Anania will guide the students around the iconic neighborhood, where she will talk about the landmarks and history of the area. A behaviour tech and Ms. Ferrill (Miss Anania's student teacher) will accompany the group.
 - After the tour, students will have free time for lunch and some shopping if they wish (students must bring money for lunch or bring their own lunch.)
 - Travelling by city bus -students will be dismissed from Little Italy, but there will also be the option to return to school with Ms. Anania.

Motion to approve Little Italy Walking Tour motioned by Antoinette Licursi and seconded by Annelisa Rende.

- Mini-days
 - Upcoming days we'd like to have the mini-day schedule:
 - October 9- Open House
 - November 20 – PT Night #1
 - February 26– PT Night # 2

Motion to approve Mini-Days motioned by Annelisa Rende and seconded by Casey Gagné.

- Open House:
 - Our Open house is taking place October 9, 2025, at 6:00 p.m.
 - We had visited our 5 feeder schools and 8 other schools in the neighboring areas to promote our school.
 - Placement exams taking place on October 18, 2025.
 - Request to help pay for the Open House from Fund 3. Last year we asked for \$6000 but spent \$5100.
 - This year, because we have cut much of the printing, estimating only requiring \$4000.
 - Costs include printing, décor, supplies, the small gifts we give potential students that evening.

Motion to approve Open House funds motioned by Annelisa Rende and seconded by Angela Antonacci.

- Take Our Kids to Work Day:
 - Takes place November 5, 2025.
 - Secondary 3 students invited to go to work with their parents for the day to learn about their career.
 - Permission slips will be sent home to all sec. 3 students.

Motion to approve permission to allow participation in Take Our Kids to Work Day motioned by Antoinette Licursi and seconded by Annelisa Rende.

- School Sports Uniform Deposits:
 - Students who play on school teams are required to wear a school sports uniform.
 - These are lent to students to be returned at the end of the season.
 - Requesting a deposit of \$40 for team players in order to ensure the uniforms will be returned, as we lost many last year and had to repurchase many.

Motion to approve School Sports Uniform Deposits motioned by Antoinette Licursi and seconded by Daniela Marino.

- Budgets (Information Item):
 - Budget cuts have seriously affected the way we spend in the schools.
 - To date we have received 25% of 80% of the budgets we received last year.
 - Less tutors hired this year. We have 2 tutors for now- French 3 days a week and Math/Science 5 days a week.
 - Once all the budget parameters are given to the board, we will get more information on total budgets for the year.
 - In the meantime, we will spend conservatively and plan differently to maintain the school environment as best we can.
 - I will keep you informed as we receive more information.
- School Trip Planning (Approval & Information Item):
 - The school board has left the decision to schools and their GBs about destinations for the school trips.
 - There is no ban to the US by the EMSB, so we need to decide whether we will allow trips to the US.
 - Last year's trip to NYC went extremely well. No issues.
 - I have teachers who have approached me about starting to plan trips, and some are proposing US destinations.
 - Do we allow trips by bus to take place to the US?
 - This year trips will be limited to one bus, to minimize the costs for teacher substitution costs. We attempted 2 busses for NYC last year, but we weren't able to fill the second bus even though students all said they would go, and it costs parents more money. We will go back to the lottery as we did for year prior.

- To help limit the substitution costs, domestic trips by bus will be limited to a maximum of 3 days, unless teachers choose to use weekends to help limit the substitution required.
- If this is not possible, we cannot hold school trips.

Motion to allow the trip to New York with the option to have a Canadian destination as a backup. All other levels will have a Canadian Trips only.

In Favor 10, Not in Favor: 4, Abstain: 6

Motion is passed, seconded by Paul Karpontinis.

Motion to request, only if required, to request financial support to help cover some of the substitution costs if our budgets are too limited to cover all costs motioned by Annelisa Rende and seconded by Ludovic Barker. Teachers will start planning the trips this week – details to be provided in Oct or November

Motion to shorten the trip to 3 days during the week and end on the Saturday was motioned by Angela Antonacci and seconded by Casey Gagné

- **Camp Lift (Information Item):**

- A Camp LIFT mentor is a steady, supportive adult presence in the school whose role is to build trust with students, encourage healthy choices, and create safe spaces for expression.
- They are not disciplinarians or case managers, but allies who connect with youth, model positive habits, and collaborate with student services to strengthen the school's overall climate.
- Offer workshops to students:
- Sec. 1: My Independence Matters to Me- presents basic concepts related to the risks of consumption and the importance of making autonomous decisions. The workshop is specifically adapted to students' stage of development.
- Sec. 2: Vaping
- Sec. 3: Inner Warrior Groups- small groups of at-risk kids work on an 8-week program to help support them in various areas on school life and motivation.
- Sec. 4 & 5: Workshops on Parties- Workshop focusing on harm reduction, potential risks, and navigating substance use in social settings.

- **Stress Management Workshops (Information Item):**

- Ms. Maria Morais, our junior guidance counsellor will be going into the sec. 1 classes in October for short workshops on stress management.

- Educational & Career Fair (Information Item):
 - The annual Career Fair taking place on October 22nd for our Sec. 5 students at Pius X.
 - Due to budget cuts this year, it will be an evening event only and families will be invited to attend on their own.
 - It runs from 4:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

ii. Commissioner

Extended a warm welcome to the members of the Governing Board.

Here is an overview of a few key things:

- EMBS court challenges
 - Bill 40 was to eliminate school boards and replace with service centers which would mean no GB or commissioners, removing the democratic rights for the English community. The Québec government appealed and is still in court.
- Bill 21 is the secularism law where any public officials are not allowed to wear religious symbols while working. It affects who can teach and whom we can hire. Restricting diversity in the EMSB, were the only school board standing up against the bill and is now at the supreme court and became a national legal debate.
- Bill 96 is the language law reform that has new requirements and restrictions. We must protect the rights of English community.
- Budget cuts, all School Boards were cut 200 million \$ and then revised to cut 500 million \$ which translates to fewer resources for students. The most vulnerable students are affected. A petition was launched during the summer and 150k people signed it. Final decision was to take the government to court and fight back.
- Attended the 2024-2025 graduation ceremony.
- Invited to the MSAC meeting that was hosted at LBPHS.

iii. Chairperson

- a. Sandra Greco attended the 2024-25 graduation ceremony.
- b. Nothing new to report

iv. Regional Delegate

- Nothing to report

v. Treasurer

- Nothing to report

vi. Student Council

1. Secondary 1 Orientation

- i. September 2nd 8:45-1pm.
- ii. We will organize a welcome Lunch and orientation for the secondary 1 students that runs concurrently with our normal registration procedures. We would like to build upon our success and continue to offer a secondary one orientation followed by a lunch.
- iii. The day involves touring of our facilities, student led ice breaking activities, live music and a pizza lunch.

2. Breakfast Club

- i. Daily Breakfast offered every morning for a flat rate of 50 cents per student. 7:35-8:10.
- ii. Free “Pancake Pop-Up Wednesdays” & Free (Breakfast) Fridays
- iii. Pearson Pantry in the Student Council room, offering daily snacks for free.

ii. Morning Announcements

1. A rotation of Student Council members will read the daily bulletin every morning during the designated “Homeroom period” at 8:15-8:20am. (Student Council members have been doing this 2019-Present, there is a designated student and an alternate student each cycle day).

iii. Enhancing School Spirit

- i. Weeklong celebration with each day dedicated to 1 particular level, in the first half of the year.
- ii. Spirit Week that encourages competition amongst levels in the second half of the year.

iv. Secondary 5 Celebration Events to create a culture of positivity amongst graduations.

- “Senior Sunset” September 16, evening event to encourage secondary 5s early on in the year, dessert truck and students invited to hangout and take a sunset picture on the track.
- Oct 11 or 19 th, graduating students will be invited to reserve “free/partially subsidized” places for a day at laronde, Student Council will arrange transportation to the venue only. Departure from LBP at noon to ensure proper time to enjoy the festivities.
- Breakfast with Santa? Dec 7
- Feb 17 2026 Pasta night, possible combine ideas of movie night, karaoke
- Sec 5 Spirit week March 9-13 2026
- Sugar Shack - March 24 2026 - Subject to vender availability and budget.
- Sec 5 Lock in May 29 2026
- Senior “Assassin”
- “2026” Grad Photo to be taken, Brunch, Music, Memory activity. (Dates selected with help from Administration)

1. School Beautification

- i. Murals, Positive Decals, planter boxes, little library etc..

2. LBPHS Social Justice

- i. We raise awareness and funds to combat social issues such as the exploitation of children or access to education in underprivileged countries, our indigenous community, the LGBTQ+ community and local organizations.

- ii. Via Social Justice, Student Council has begun a “period poverty” campaign, we will be continuing a free menstrual health product distribution in the main girl’s washroom, universal bathroom and Student Council Room.
- iii. Chocolate Bar Sales for Social Justice, bars will be sold by Student Council members to their friends and families during their personal time and off school premises.
- iv. Movember
 - 1. Sales of moustache buttons, face painting and fake moustaches to raise awareness for prostate cancer and money for charity.
- v. Poppy Sales for the Royal Canadian Legion
 - 1. First week of November
- vi. Change Drive
 - 1. Collection of coins to fundraise for international relief, Student Council will select a global charity.
- vii. We Scare Hunger food drive
 - 1. Food drive beginning at the end of September and ending November 1st.
 - 2. Walkathon October 1st.
- viii. Vow of Silence November 20th (Social Justice and Fundraiser)
 - 1. Our annual awareness-raising campaign on national children’s day that engages tens of thousands of participants to stand up for children whose rights are not being upheld. Members would be asked to refrain from talking and texting for one full day. Students who choose to participate would have a choice to take the half-day vow or the full day vow.
 - 2. As a special incentive to maintain their vows, students would like to ask their friends and family to “buy their silence” by sponsoring them on a pledge form.
- ix. Christmas food drive
 - 1. Food-drive beginning mid-November and ending December 5th.
- 3. **Guest Speaking Series**
 - i. **September** - Welcome back Motivational message, empowerment. Possibly bringing Live Different Back, or engage another professional speaker. ** Might Cancel due to budget limitations **
 - ii. **January** – Optional assembly lead by recent alumni, topic on career paths.
 - iii. **March** – Overcoming adversity lead by recent alumni.
- 4. **Hoodies and Tees (Graduation Hoodies and School Spirit Wear)**
 - i. As we have done in the past, Student Council would like to commence Grad hoodie sales in the fall for delivery prior to Christmas Vacation.
 - ii. Ongoing sale of spirit wear via the Pearson Coop.
 - iii. Students and staff are encouraged to wear any school branded clothing every Friday.
 - iv. Grads permitted to wear Graduation Apparel, November orders for December Delivery.
- 5. **Annual ECA fair**
 - i. September 30th.
 - ii. The purpose of this fair is to encourage new and returning students to participate in ECAs and to promote the wonderful ECAs our school has to offer.
 - iii. The Fair Posters will be saved and displayed again for Open House.
- 6. **Leadership Development and Training**
 - i. Annual Student Council Retreat
 - 1. *August 21st and 22nd 2025 (38 Students and 1-2 teachers)*

- ii. Group Outings
 - 1. Teambuilding outings, Fall Apple picking, School Teambulder and Summer Laser Tag and skating.
 - 2. EMSB Leadership Camp
 - a. April 22-24 2026 with the organizers leaving on 1 day earlier (Approximately 20 Students 1-2 Teachers)
7. **Student Co-op**
- i. Sales from vending machine and daily sales from the plaza booth to benefit student life projects and to perpetuate our entrepreneurial project.
 - ii. Vending Machine, Air Hockey, Foosball, Rod Hockey Machines
 - iii. Frozen Fridays, using food processors to create sorbets.
8. **School Fundraising** (We will use the following initiatives to raise much-needed funds for our charitable initiatives as well as to fund our own activities and special projects)
- i. Sales of SPC cards in September 2024
 - ii. Frozen Fundraisers
 - 1. 2 per year, sales of frozen yogurt or ice cream products to benefit student life activities.
 - iii. Lollipop / Mr. Freeze / Popsicle Sales (Starting September, via coop)
 - 1. Funds to benefit student life activities or periodically, to raise money for specific charitable causes.
 - 2. No more than once a week.
 - iv. Bagging / Car Washes
 - 1. We fundraise for one or two days at a local grocery store or Canadian Tire, funds split by Social Justice Committee and Student Life at LBPHS.
 - v. Roses / Crushes / Candy Grams for Valentine's Day with profits donated to a global charity designated by our social justice committee.
 - vi. Modified Uniform Days (Leaving January and April open for Terry Fox Committee)
 - 1. Orange Shirt Day **Free** – with any appropriate bottoms or full uniform September 30th
 - 2. October 3rd – **Traditional Non-Uniform Day** (Recommended to wear jerseys but this is a traditional non-uniform day) – Suggested contribution 2\$ (50% *Social Justice Campaign* %50 *student life*)
 - 3. October 31st – **Halloween Costume Day** – Student Council would sponsor a costume day at no expense to the student body. (Voluntary donation of 1 food item)
 - 4. November 6th – **Traditional Non-Uniform Day** – Suggested contribution 2\$ (50% *Social Justice Campaign* %50 *student life*).
 - 5. December 5th – **PJ Day to Benefit Christmas Charities** Suggested contribution 2\$
 - 6. December 15-19th **Free – Modified Uniform week for Christmas** at no expense to the student body. Eg Ugly Socks, Accessory, Ugly Sweater, Wacky Hat. Non-Uniform Day for food drive winning grade
 - 7. February 13th **Free** - Add a red Accessory to Uniform, at no expense to the student body.
 - 8. February 24th **Free - Pink Shirt Day** with any appropriate bottoms or full uniform.
 - 9. March 13th **Free** - Add a green Accessory to Uniform, at no expense to the student body.

10. March 20th - **Traditional Non-Uniform Day** (Recommended to wear jerseys but this is a traditional non-uniform day) – Suggested contribution 2\$ (*50% Social Justice Campaign %50 student life*)
 11. May 12th – **Denim Day** – Students would be allowed to wear jeans with Any Appropriate Top for a suggested contribution of 2\$ (*All proceeds would benefit the Cure Foundation*)
 12. May 14th **Free** - Purple Shirt with any appropriate bottoms or full uniform.
9. **Participation on Committees**
 - i. EMSAC, Governing Board & Youth Forums
 10. **Halloween Activities**
 - i. Haunted House and Lunch Hour Activities
 11. **Dances**
 - i. October 3rd (Homecoming) and May 22nd
 - ii. Surplus concessions to be sold off during the following week.
 12. **Coffee House**
 - i. November 6th 6-8pm
 - ii. Open mic night of poetry & prose.
 - iii. Sales of concessions
 13. **Representing our school as ambassadors**
 - i. Elementary School visits, Orientation Night, Open House, Report Card Nights & Regional Ped Days.
 - ii. We would like to meet with the various levels a few times in the year. It would be in our best interest to do this during school hours due to participation reasons. The purpose is in order to represent the student body, we need to hear their concerns and or opinions on how to improve student life.
 14. **Christmas Activities**
 - i. Week-long activities to celebrate the holidays. December 18-22nd.
 15. **Valentine's Day Activities**
 - i. Lunch hour Activities, Distribution of flowers & Encourage students to wear a red accessory on the 13th.
 - ii. February 9-13.
 - iii. Schoolwide Matchmaker February 2nd with results being emailed to students on Feb 13.
 16. **Staff Appreciation Gift**
 - i. Student Council would like to choose gifts with administrative approval, to be distributed in February.
 - ii. Budget of 10\$ + tax per staff member.
 17. **Lunch time activities**
 - i. Weekly Activities every Wednesday.
 18. **Year-Long Anti-Bullying campaign**
 - i. We would like to draw attention to important issues such as cyber-bullying, in-school bullying and homophobia through educational campaigns, posters, a pink shirt day and sales of rainbow wristbands.
 - ii. Secondary 1 transition to High School Program
 - iii. Secondary 4 Anti-Bullying initiative
 - iv. We would like to investigate offering mentorship programs for students in secondary 5, inviting recent grads to talk to students about the transition to college.
 - v. Annual Empathy Date April 2026 TBC

19. Green Committee

- i. Student council would like to continue encouraging eco-responsibility in the school and monitor plaza recycling.
- ii. Plaza Recycling (Paper, Plastic, Deposit Can), Collection of batteries, Collection of Ink Toner & School Supplies.
- iii. Seedling Committee will grow plants in the late winter and sell off the mature plants in the late spring.

20. Student Council Scholarships

- i. Student Council will fund 3-4x graduating scholarships from our project.
- ii. Greatest participation in student life activities by a non-student council student as voted on by Student Council, most improved students as voted on by teachers, Student Council MVP as voted on by Student Council.

21. Used Book Sale

- i. World Book Day is a day set aside by UNESCO to celebrate copyright, publishing, and reading. Monday April 20, 2026.
- ii. We will collect used book donations and have a bookfair to benefit our leadership program and Terry Fox.

22. LGBTQ Pride Carnival

- i. Student Council will be celebrating inclusivity with a lunch carnival. Come enjoy a free cotton candy, slush, face painting and learn some interesting facts. All Students will be invited to wear a purple shirt free of charge in support of Pride. May 14.

23. Multicultural Festival

- i. Students can bring in specialties like special toys, books, music, cultural foods and desserts in the plaza to promote diversity.
- ii. Held on the World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development, 21 May 2026

vii. Teachers' Report

- Activities are still being held despite the recent budget cuts.
- Finished the year on a positive note and starting with planning of the graduation ceremony.
- GMA: great start to sports year, teams are doing well and limited with transportation the students are asked to take public transportation with parental permission
- For Halloween there will be a contest for best costume, and the winner will win a prize.
- Propose activities from student council. (Shared the student council year of action).
 - Non-uniform day a month 50% Social Justice / 50% Student Life - December it's 100% to charity
 - Terry Fox committee will come next meeting to discuss fundraising activities.

Motion to approve the collection of money for non-uniform days is motioned by Casey Gagné and seconded by Angela Antonacci.

Motion to approve for Terry Fox fundraiser bake sale in October 2025 is motioned by Annelisa Rende and seconded by Casey Gagné.

v. Sport-études

- As of this meeting, visited 7 out of the 13 elementary schools, the remaining schools will be done over the next weeks. The visits are going well.
- The focus is on the promotion on the upcoming Open House.

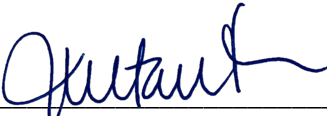
6. Next Meeting

Virtual meeting on Monday, October 20, 2025, at 6:45 pm.

7. Adjournment

A motion to adjourn the meeting was moved by Jocelyne Cacciatore and seconded by Annelisa Rende. All in favor.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 pm.



Principal



Chairperson