École secondaire LESTER B. PEARSON High School
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Governing Board Minutes – September 29, 2026
6:45 p.m. (Virtual)

Administration: Joseph Vitantonio (Principal), Sabrina Magliocco (Vice-Principal), Alessio Giancola (Vice-Principal), Angela Antonacci (Vice-Principal)

Parents: Annelisa Rende (Chairperson), Vanessa Wani (Vice-Chairperson), Maria Pensato (Secretary), Steve Valiante (Treasurer), Jocelyne Cacciatore, Annelisa Rende, Cynthia Masi, Antonella D'Angelo, Nathalie Carrier, Francesca Pitruzzello (Alternate)

Parent Alternate:

Teachers: Catherine Clarabut, Paul Karpontinis, Nicholas Adornato, Gennifer Girardello, Clorinda Antonacci, Antoniette Licursi

Non-Teaching Staff: Charles Préfontaine

Students: JJ Gesualdi, Lily Rose Coneiatori

Commissioner: Susan Perera

Absent: Jack Algieri (PC Delegate), Casey Gagné, Luigi Albanese

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1. Welcome & Land Acknowledgment

Joseph Vitantonio welcomed everyone and started the meeting at 6:48 pm. Being of every meeting the Land Acknowledgement is read by student council.

JJ Gesualdi read the Land Acknowledgement.

Land Acknowledgement:

We would like to begin by acknowledging that we are located on the ancestral and unceded territory of the Kanien'Keha:ka, a place which has long served as a site of meeting and exchange amongst nations. We recognize and respect the Kanien'Keha:ka as the traditional custodians of this land and its surrounding waters on which we meet today.

Today, the Montreal community is home to a diverse population of Indigenous and other peoples. We respect the ongoing connections, along with the past, present and future of our continued relationships regarding the Indigenous and other peoples.

We offer this acknowledgement as a public commitment to an ongoing process toward reconciliation and justice for Indigenous peoples and communities.

2. Adoption of the Agenda

Motion to adopt the agenda moved by Annelisa Rende and seconded by Maria Pensato. All in favour.

3. Adoption of the Minutes of June 9, 2026

Motion to approve the minutes only members present at the meeting can approve, it was moved by Maria Pensato and seconded by Catherine Clarabut.

4. New Business

Nominations for Chairperson, Treasurer & Secretary

The nominations can be self-nominated or nominated by another parent:

i. Chairperson: is responsible for leading the meeting.
   Self-nominated: Annelisa Rende
   No other nominations, No objections

ii. Vice- Chairperson: relaces the Chairperson when absent
   Self-nominated: Vanessa Wani
   No other nominations, No objections

iii. Treasurer: responsible for any money that was disbursed for Governing Board. There is a budget of $250 which is used for student bursary give at graduation.
   Self-nominated: Steve Valiante
   No other nominations, No objections

iv. Secretary: responsible for taking the meeting minutes.
   Self-nominated: Maria Pensato
   No other nominations, No objections

b. Email vote

If there is an item of importance that comes up between meetings and is rushed, we are allowing the email vote. It will be added to the next meeting minutes.

Motion to approve email voting was moved by Nathalie Carrier and seconded by Antonella D'Angelo. All in favour.

c. Hybrid meeting model

Meetings will be held virtually via Teams and 2 in person in December and June.

Motion to approve Hybrid meeting model was moved by Clorinda Antonacci and seconded by Cynthia Masi. All in favour.

d. Suggested meeting dates:

The school boarded asked to avoid having meetings on Monday and Thursdays, so the new day is Tuesday, where in the past it was on a Monday.

Tuesday October 27, 2026.
Tuesday November 24, 2026.
Tuesday December 15, 2026.
Tuesday January 19, 2027 (if needed)
Tuesday February 23, 2027.
Tuesday March 23, 2027.
Tuesday April 20, 2027. (if needed)
Tuesday May 18, 2027.
Tuesday June 15, 2027.

No issues with the dates. Joseph Vitantonio will send the calendar invite and Teams meeting link, note that the December and June meeting are in-person.

Joseph Vitantonio will share the governing board document as a reference and general rules. These meeting are not the place where we discuss staff members or students. The is not the forum to discuss personal matters for your children. Those are issues that should be brought to the school administration. The governing board is a decision-making body for specific items, procedures and protocols that take place in the school. All of it is detailed in the manual.

5. <u>Reports:</u>

i. Principal

Sex Education Plan:

- To give some context, we approved mandatory content tables back in March, which covered the sex. Ed components, social development competencies and career planning competencies. Since the board is not ready yes to present the full table, we would like to start with the sex ed plan, so instruction can resume as intended.
- Mr. 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 send out with the minutes.

Motion to approve the sex education plan was moved by Antonella D'Angelo and seconded by Nathalie Carrier. All in favour.

Representation Fees from Fund 3

- Request to allow 2$ per students for representation fees for hosting guests in the school.
- Current population 933 students (31 more than last year)
- $1866.00 total

Motion to approve the representation Fees from Fund 3 was moved by Clorinda Antonacci and seconded by Nathalie Carrier. All in favour.

Educational Day Trips**:**

- 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 permission to allow the principal to approve educational day trips.

Motion to approve the Educational Day Trips was moved by Cynthia Massi and seconded by Clorinda Antonacci. All in favour.

Mini days:

The purpose of the mini days is to give us time as a school to set up for the events. The students have a reduced time schedule and finish the day at 12:30 pm. The STM services are normally available at 12:30pm to bus the children home.

- Upcoming days we'd like to have the mini-day schedule:
  October 22- Open House
  November 19 – PT Night #1
  February 25– PT Night # 2
- Although they were approved as part of the calendar last year, best to have a separate motion for these specific days.

Motion to approve the mini days was moved by Jocelyne Cacciatore and seconded by Vanessa Wani. All in favour.

Open House:

- Our Open house is taking place October 22, 2026, at 6:00 p.m.
- We have been visiting our 5 feeder schools and 8 other schools in the neighboring areas to promote our school.
- Placement exams taking place on November 7, 2026.
- Request to help pay for the Open House Event from Fund 3. Last year we asked for $6000 but spent $5100.
- This year, because we have cut much of the printing, I am estimating only requiring $4000.
- Costs include printing, décor, supplies, the small gifts we give potential students that evening.
- Asking for financial support – reduced our printing costs Fund3 – an accumulation of funds surplus balance over 20-25 years.

Motion to approve the use of the funds to support our open house event was moved by Nathalie Carrier and seconded by Catherine Clarabut. All in favour.

Take Our Kids to Work Day:

- Takes place November 4, 2026.
- 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 the day for the secondary 3 students was moved by Gennifer Girardello and seconded by Antonella D'Angelo. All in favour.

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 to ensure the uniforms will be returned, as we lost many last year and had to repurchase many.

Motion to approve the deposits for sports uniforms was moved by Nathalie Carrier and seconded by Annelisa Rende. All in favour.

School Trip Planning:

- 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.
- This year, NYC for sec. 5 and Toronto/Niagara Falls for sec. 3 & 4.
- Exploring a junior trip, but no final decision has been made on type of trip.
- In order 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.

Motion to move forward with the New York trip planning as presented was moved by Nathalie Carrier and seconded by Annelisa Rende. All in favour.

- Mr. Karpontinis brought forward the idea to continue to add an extra supervisor on each trip to be paid from fund 3, usually and administrator. It always helps to have the additional supervisor for cases where a student or staff member gets sick on the trip, allowing the ratio to be maintained for safety of students on the trips.

Motion to allow the additional supervisor to be added and paid from fund 3 on all school trips was moved by Steve Valiante and seconded by Nathalie Carrier. All in favour.

Budgets:

- Budget cuts have seriously affected the way we spend in the schools.
- To date we have received partial budgets for operating the school.
- The remaining will be coming soon.
- Expected to receive 12% less in all budgets.
- Less tutors hired this year. We have 3 tutors for now- French 3 days a week and Math 5 days a week and Science one day a week.
- Once all the budget parameters are given to the board by the MEQ, 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.

Career fair

- The EMSB will have the annual career fair on October 21, 2026, at St. Pius X Career Centre from 3:30 to 8:30 pm
- It is a valuable opportunity for Secondary 5 students to explore CEGEPS, Universities, Adults Education and Vocational training.

Enrollment Subcommittee

- Other governing boards have started an Enrollment Subcommittee to help find way to spread awareness about the school and why parents/students should choose LBPHS.
- At the open house, have governing board table where parents can speak to member and ask questions. This will allow prospective student's parents to ask current parents why they chose our school.
- Currently, we are doing social media and school tours to prepare for the open house, but there are things that can be done throughout the year as a reminder to parents. This is important during the registration period.
- If someone is interested in leading and if you are interested in joining, please send email to Joseph Vitantonio.

ii. Commissioner

- The commissioner serves as an elected representative bridging schools, families, and the school board to advocate for local district needs.
- Brings district concerns regarding programs, funding, and administrative changes to the board level to push for student- and family-focused solutions.
- Engages directly with the community by attending school events and Governing Board meetings.
- The board has undergone two major rounds of budget cuts over the past two years and is operating with a deficit budget.
- The Quebec government continues to prohibit the board from accessing its accumulated surplus funds—originally generated through international and vocational programs—to offset the deficit.
- Administrators and school staff face extreme pressure and resource constraints as provincial funding adjustments impact education and healthcare.
- Highlighted the importance of the upcoming Quebec election for the local community and reaffirmed availability to answer questions and represent community concerns.
- Expressed gratitude to staff and organizers for the invitation to the recent Lester B. Pearson High School graduation ceremony.

iii. Chairperson

Nothing to report

iv. PC Delegate

Nothing to report

v. Student Council

Car Wash:

- We held a car wash in July at the Canadian Tire in Montreal North, near the school, proceeds benefited our leadership program. Approx $767.00 after expenses 10% got donated to the jumpstart foundation.

Student Council Leadership Camp:

- This summer, many student council members were happy to attend a leadership camp and got to meet the team before the year started, building new connections and better community.
- We played multiple games together that focused on leadership to build our communication skills, trust and teamwork.
- Members enjoyed many activities such as boating/kayaking, hiking, roasted marshmallows by a campfire, seeing various animals and bunking together!

Orientation Day:

- New secondary 1 students received a tour of the school and teambuilding games delegated by council members as well as an organized lunch and snacks.
- We also hosted a welcome presentation for the students and organized games such as inflatables and other icebreakers that we experimented with from our leadership camp to allow the students to get to know each other better.

Beginning of the year:

- General meetings for student council held in order to discuss our year of action, thoughts and ideas, sign-ups for committees
- An EMSAC position is open from a graduating student and soon an applicant will be chosen

Morning Announcements:

- A council member or two helps Ms. Paci with the morning announcements and some members put up the new bulletin each morning to keep our students informed about what is going on at LBP.

Breakfast Club:

- Student council's breakfast club is open everyday before class selling nutritious breakfasts to students at a low price, as well as other goods like merchandise, books and coffee/tea for staff.
- On Tuesday we sell hashbrowns and on Wednesday it's Pop-Up Pancake Day where we sell free pancakes in the plaza. Student Council members make the batter Tuesday afternoon. On Friday we put out free food in the plaza for students to take.
- We were recipients of a bursary from Breakfast Club Canada. We get about 85000$ worth of food every year.
- We also received a 15,0000 grant from the president's choice children's charity that allows us to off our pantry program and Wednesday pancakes.
- We received inventory and put everything away yesterday.

COOP:

- COOP is selling items to students at lunch. Our schedule 5 days a week with Sorbets sold on Fridays for $0.50. Students can buy school supplies, merch, books and snacks.
- COOP raised about $4000 this month
- We held fun activities like karaoke, giant games, catch the light, wii games and board games during lunch separated through Monday, Wednesday, and Friday.

Recycling Committee:
- The committee meets every second Thursday.

Fighting Period Poverty:
- Student council maintains free dispensers in the girls washroom and our universal bathroom for menstrual pads and tampons so students can take them whenever need be.

Safe spaces:
- The games room has changed location to the room near the cafe, behind the auditorium, and is going swell! Lots of students have fun and bond with other students. The cafe has also been popular during lunchtime.
- The student council room is always open (apart from when there are meetings), mornings, recess, lunch and afterschool for everyone that needs a safe place to hangout.

Book Fair:
- We had two book fair days apart from Curriculum Night and they were held during lunch. Money proceeds were part of our coop deposits.

Storage Room Organizing Committee:
- The storage room has been organized a couple times. We have a committee of students that works to keep it organized.

September Suicide Prevention Month:
- September is internationally known as suicide prevention month. In honour, Student Council sold suicide prevention pins, bracelets, pens, stickers. We'll be donating to charities that our Social Justice Committee will decide on soon for suicide prevention.
- We have a board in the plaza filled with heartfelt messages made by students. Students have a chance to come by and write on the board every lunch until October 2nd.

Senior Sunset:
- Our Senior sunset was a huge success, most of our grade showed up, we offered pizza, inflatables, balls, good music, cotton candy, slush, a photobooth and blankets for them to watch the sunset. We also had a nostalgic moment on the color wheel tarp

Curriculum Night:
- We had a successful night. Student Council members helped guide parents around the school and we sold books in the plaza!

Non-Uniform Day:

- We made approx $1535.00
- The money made from our non-uniform day was donated to our school for our future auditorium renovations.

Elementary School Visits:
- Representatives of Student Council went in pairs/trios to visit several EMSB elementary schools promoting Lester B. Pearson and showing them what we have to offer. We showed the updated tour video to them.

Sports:
- Sport teams have been starting to have their try-outs, such as boys and girls volleyball team, soccer and track & field. We had a couple games and a tournament for volleyball yesterday, September 28, after school.

Open House:
- We are currently planning for our open house on October 22nd.
- We have been making promotion videos to help advertise our school online.

Orange Shirt Day:
- On orange shirt day (tomorrow), students are encouraged to wear orange shirts in order to spread awareness and to commemorate the Indigenous people that lost their lives or their family members' lives in residential schools. We plan that all students take part in a moment of silence during morning announcements.
- Information posters were put up throughout the building.

Halloween Decorating:
- Today after school Student Council members helped decorate the school Halloween themed!

October Food Drive:
- We will be collecting food and non-perishable items throughout October and donate it at the end of the month

We Scare Hunger Walk:
- We will be having a walk on October 1st to raise awareness of food insecurity as a school.

ECA Fair:
- Student council members are organizing an ECA fair at lunch on September 30th to promote the clubs our school has to offer, as well as to encourage students to participate in these extra curricular activities.

Haunted House:
- Council has had a meeting and decided a theme for this year's haunted house. The theme will be a crazy science lab.
- The haunted house will be held in the old robotics room this year.
- Student council has begun their work on the project

Fright Fest:

- Student Council is organizing a Sec 5 only activity to Laronde on Saturday, October 17.

Placement Exams:

- Student Council will be helping with placement exams on November 7th.

Homecoming Dance:

- We will be having a school dance on October 9th from 7pm-11pm. The theme has been decided to be Mamma Mia.
- Marketing videos for the dance have been very successful so far.
- Ticket selling will start on October 1st.

Sec 5 Pearson Pride

- Our graduating class has already started the year strong with our senior spirit. Such as videos, posters, and other various activities.
- So far, we have a student-run account for our LBP seniors, which includes posts such as First Last Day, Senior Sunset, Senior Advice (soon), and just recently, Sec 5 Wanted.

i. Teacher's Report

- We have the most active student council with 69 members, which is the 2nd largest group we have had in 20 years.
- Student council has started an additional fundraising initiative for renovations for the auditorium.
- This is a request to allow student council to fundraise for $20-30k outside of the fundraising activities. Student council will then report back to governing board with the activity and the amount raised.

Motion to approve fundraising for the auditorium renovations was moved by Antonella D'Angelo and seconded by Cynthia Masi. All in favour.

ii. Sport-études

Nothing to report

6. <u>Varia</u>

An Email vote was requested by the previous governing board Chair, Sandra Greco on September 1, 2026 for the following items:

Breakfast Club:

- Daily Breakfast offered every morning for "donate if you want model". 7:35-8:10.
- Free "Pancake POP-Up Wednesdays" & Buffet Fridays
- Pearson Pantry in the Student Council room, offering daily snacks for free.

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

- Sept 15 "Senior Sunset," evening event to encourage secondary 5s early on in the year, food trucks, maybe inflatable, other attractions and students invited to hangout and take a sunset picture on the track.

Student Co-op

- Funds to benefit student life activities or periodically, to raise money for specific charitable causes.
- Daily sales from the plaza booth to benefit student life projects and to perpetuate our entrepreneurial project. School Supplies / Personal Supplies / Apparel / Lollipops / Frozen dessert (Some items are special occasion only)
- Vending Machine, Air Hockey, Foosball, Rod Hockey Machines
- Frozen Fridays, using food processors to create sorbets.
- 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)
- Sales of SPC cards in September 2026

Frozen Fundraisers

- 2 per year, sales of frozen yogurt (TCBY) or ice cream products (Mr. freeze popsicles or ice cream) to benefit student life activities (plus overstock sales from events).
- Car Wash or Bagging
- We fundraise for one or two days at a local grocery store or Canadian Tire, funds benefit leadership program.
- Roses / Crushes / Candy Grams for Valentine's Day with profits donated to a global charity designated by our social justice committee.

Modified Uniform Days

- September 17th - Non-Uniform Day to support project to renovate Auditorium.
- Orange Shirt Day Free – with any appropriate bottoms or full uniform September 30th.
- October 2nd – 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)
- Hoodies and Tees (Graduation Hoodies and School Spirit Wear)
- Students and staff are encouraged to wear any school branded clothing every Friday.

The **motion** was carried on September 2, 2026. All were in favour.

7. Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held virtually via Team on October 27, 2026.

8. Adjournment

A **motion** to adjourn the meeting was moved by Paul Karpontinis and seconded by Nataly Carrier. All in favor.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:16 pm.

Principal

Chairperson