École Merton School

5554 Robinson Avenue, Côte-Saint-Luc, QC H4V 2P8

Governing Board Meeting (held virtually) Tuesday, January 13, 2026
7:00 p.m.

Present: David Lee, Steven Merling, Marissa Lydynia, Eddie Winkler, Josh Gonshor, Nathalie Guitta, Georgia Gotsis, Angeliki Eftaxias, Romain Goubel, Kimberley Davey, Carol Meindl, Gesell Dufeal, Paola Samuel

Absent: Evi Altman.

AGENDA

1. **WELCOME & CALL TO ORDER**

Meeting began at 7:05 pm

2. **ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

Agenda adopted by Nathalie, seconded by Kimberley

3. **MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON DECEMBER 16, 2025**

Approved by Josh, seconded by Nathalie, unanimously approved

4. **BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES**

   None.

5. **NEW BUSINESS**

a. ABAV Curriculum Plan

Mr. Lee explained the new 38-page document for this year, prepared by the Ministry of Education.

We reviewed the summary that will be posted on the Merton website in great detail.

It includes nine key elements to address bullying and violence in schools as well as sexual violence and, new this year, violence based on motives related, in particular to, skin colour, and ethnic or national background.

Important definitions of conflict, violence, bullying, sexual violence, racism and discrimination are also included, to educate students and parents.

Mr. Lee went through the analysis particular to Merton, and priorities and protection measures relating to bullying and violence, sexual violence and violence based on skin colour and ethnic or national background.

Steven mentioned to add raising awareness about the risks of AI and bullying (to be added to appropriate section).

There was discussion relating to consistency of discipline relating to these situations. Mr. Lee explained that he and the behaviour technician are always involved, often after discussing what happened with the teacher or other adults who saw what transpired.

Motion to approve the plan (subject to small change regarding the addition of AI awareness) moved by Marissa, seconded by Josh, unanimously approved.

b. ACGC & Personal / Social Development Curriculum Plan 2025-2026

Reviewed the mandatory content taught in every grade, including academic and career guidance content for grade 5 and 6.

Motion to approve the plan moved by Steve, seconded by Georgia, unanimously approved.

c. Offer of Workshop: Young Champions of Light Over Darkness (Grades 5 and 6) for International Holocaust Remembrance Day

This workshop is being offered by Free Hebrew For Juniors and may be a combination of teaching materials by FHFJ educators and a visit by a Holocaust survivor. The program is free.

Steven was curious about other options.

Ms. Gotsis said that least last year there was a program done with Yad Vashem that Maerton was approached for, but it was a one-time opportunity. She mentioned the teachers are also in the class monitoring what is being taught. Steve suggested to explore other partnerships and collaborations, like the Montreal Holocaust Museum.

Paola mentioned that the EMSB has a partnership with the Montreal Holocaust Museum, and said perhaps something could be planned for May, the month that the EMSB has earmarked as Jewish Heritage month.

Motion to approve the workshop moved by Marissa, seconded by Josh, all approve, except for Steve who abstained.

d. Selection of New Uniform Supplier as of 2026-2027 school year

A table comparing the prices of Top Marks, Gold-Tex and Ro-El was reviewed. While some of Ro-El's pricing was lower than Gold-Tex's, they are unable to guarantee the availability of the red sweatpants (a non-negotiable for Merton), and the skort was going to be quite expensive. Heidi explained there was also the concern about the lack of a fitting room at their office, and having to bring the supplier to school which is not always convenient.

Mr. Lee pointed out that although Ro-El's pricing was less expensive than Gold-Tex, they were both less expensive than Etty.

There was discussion regarding going back to Gold-Tex to ask for a reduction on the proposed pricing, and Mr. Lee explained EMSB policy that the quote submitted needs to be taken 'as is' by each supplier. That being said, once chosen, Merton can choose to further discuss pricing with them. Some ideas suggested were potential discounts on t-shirt bundles, or a price reduction on certain products like the zip hoodie and fleece sweatpants should the contract be signed for a period longer than 2 years. There was mention that perhaps they would be amenable to this given they are a family-run company.

Motion to select Gold-Tex as new Uniform supplier subject to the rates provided to Merton moved by Eddie, seconded by Josh, unanimously approved (notwithstanding the discretion of Mr. Lee and / or Heidi or anyone else to further negotiate any discounts to reduce pricing lower than the posted rates).

6. **REPORTS**

   a. GB Chair's Report

      Steve wishes everyone a Happy New Year.

   b. Principal's Report

- Students returned to school on January 6, when we held a morning assembly to welcome them back and to hand out certificates for the Star Students for the month of December.
- On Friday Jan 9, we welcomed Samara O'Gorman to speak to grade 3-6 students about leadership, kindness and empathy, and using your passions to make a difference.
- On Jan 22, École de la vue will be conducting vision screenings for kindergarten students.
- The office is in full preparation mode for registration for 2026-2027. We are accepting sibling registrations at this time, mainly during the week of Jan 26-30. New students may register from Feb 2-6, subject to availability of spaces at each grade level.
- Re-registration for current students in under way with the deadline being this Friday Jan 9.
- Consent forms for the cycle 3 overnight winter camp have been sent out. The cost to students is $105. The school will subsidize the other 50% as it is $210 total per student.
- With 2026 as a winter Olympic year, we will be planning a Merton Winter Olympic spirit week from Feb 9-13.

   c. Home & School Report

With the announcement of BASE coming to Merton we are currently in the process of organizing the dissolution of our Daycare/Enrichment program.

- Dissolve business (NEQ)

- Cleaning out the office
- Dissolving of assets (furniture, art supplies etc)
- Cancelling Contracts (Printing services, Insurance policies, Payroll)

I'd like to take this time to re-iterate that H&S is NOT dissolving, only the daycare/enrichment is dissolving. We have been hearing a lot of chatter about this and want to assure you that H&S will remain in the school providing fundraising lunches etc and most importantly supporting the staff, students and the school as a whole with our fundraising efforts.

I want to take this opportunity to thank all the daycare staff for their years of service. A big thank you to our Director Amanda for all she has done.

Enrichment is in full swing and will be beginning at the end of the month. Once that is up and running we will be starting to look at doing a mini session again in May.

H&S 2026-2027

We are slowly starting the process of recruitment for next year's executive team.

Positions which will be open are: President, Treasurer, Vice-Treasurer and Secretary.

VP position is held by Danielle Gaudry for 1 more year.

Upcoming Fundraiser/Events

Staff Appreciation - Week of February 9, 2026

Merton Swag - Socks, Hats, Sweater will be launching early next week (Jan 19)

Students will be allowed to wear their new sweaters on Fridays :)

Pizza Kits - Week of February 19

April/May - Chocolates

May – Flowers/Herbs TBD

d. Teacher's Report

Included in Mr. Lee's report. Ms. Gotsis to discuss classroom needs. To discuss at next teacher's meeting.

e. Community Representative's Report

Carol Meindl mentioned the Royal West Academy petition for crossing guards near high schools

New this year: QFHSA helpdesk- last Friday of every month to call and ask any H & S questions

f. Regional Delegate's Report

Eddie mentioned there was a letter prepared for the Ministry relating to budget cuts which impacts parent participation at the meetings.

Discussion relating to different services to share and submit materials (Google Drive and Teams)

Discussion relating to equal visibility of EMSB schools (parents voiced concern that that certain schools have more visibility than others).

g. School Commissioner's Report

Paola mentioned if anyone wants assistance promoting Merton to reach out to her.

She mentioned that written questions will no longer be able to be submitted in advance to be answered at commissioner meetings. This is a return to pre-COVID policy, as there are a certain number of time-consuming questions being asked numerous times, not really having to do with issues at hand. She mentioned if someone cannot attend a meeting to ask their question, someone else can attend and ask on their behalf.

7. **QUESTION PERIOD**

Nathalie asked about the Merton Magic fund. Steve mentioned there is approximately $40,000 in the fund. He requested to discuss how to use the funds and further potential fundraising opportunities at the next meeting.

Nathalie mentioned how the feedback was positive about pet therapy and asked if it was returning. Mr. Lee mentioned there will be a music therapy starting shortly for grades 1-2, so no further budget for pet therapy.

No questions from the floor.

Josh thanked Mr. Lee and Heidi for all their hard work on the uniforms.

8. **ADJOURNMENT**

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:37 pm: Moved by Eddie. Seconded by Nathalie.

Signatures

CHAIR:

SECRETARY:

PRINCIPAL: