École Merton School

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

Governing Board Meeting (held virtually) Wednesday, May 20, 2026
7:00 p.m.

Present: Christy Tannous, Kimberley Davey, Sihem Youbi, Romain Goubel, Gesell Dufeal, Marissa Lydynia (Chair), Joshua Gonshor, Nathalie Guitta, Eddie Winkler, Frederic Elbaz (Alternate with voting rights due to absence), Evi Altman

Regrets: Angeliki Eftaxias, Georgia Gotsis, Paola Samuel, Carol Meindl, Steven Merling

Agenda

1. Welcome and Call to Order
The meeting was welcomed and called to order at 7:05 PM.

2. Adoption of the Agenda
Moved by Eddie and seconded by Josh. Unanimously approved.

3. Approval of Minutes Held on April 27, 2026
Minor correction noted (removal of highlighted/attachment reference)
Moved by Joshua and seconded by Eddie. Unanimously approved.

4. Election of Secretary for the Evening
Eddie appointed as Secretary, no mover/seconder as no other volunteer

5. Business Arising from Previous Minutes
None identified

6. New Business

6.1 ABAV end-of-year report
Presented by Christy Tannous; reflects annual review and ongoing improvements.
Motion: Approve ABAV report, moved by Eddie, seconded by Sihem
Outcome: Carried (no votes against / abstentions noted)
Action: Submit approved report to EMSB and ombudsman.

6.2 School calendar 2026-2027
Calendar reviewed; aligned with EMSB structure (Sept 1–June 23; election PED day Oct 5).
Motion: Approve 2026–2027 school calendar, moved by Kimberly, seconded by Frederic
Outcome: Carried (no votes against / abstentions noted)
Action**:** Calendar to be finalized and communicated

6.3 Free Hebrew 2026-2027
Summary of Discussion:

Concerns raised regarding: Instruction quality & Curriculum (language vs. religious balance)
Alternative providers and models proposed
Administration confirmed:

EMSB maintains current arrangement with Free Hebrew
No formal complaints received at school level
Program review would require structured process and timeline

Board Position:

Significant diversity in parent expectations
Strong emphasis on inclusion and accessibility
A single solution may not satisfy all stakeholders

Outcome / Decisions**:** No change for 2026–2027 program & no vote conducted

Action**:** Principal to;
Consolidate feedback from meeting
Engage provider to address concerns (e.g., consistency, curriculum clarity, logistics)
Consider future steps:

Parent survey
Potential subcommittee
Earlier review in next school year

7. Reports

7.1 Governing Board Chair's Report
Not provided (Chair absent)

7.2 Principal's Report
Updates:

Grade 6 exams underway
Halo Run completed

CBC student feature
Carnival scheduled June 4

7.3 Home and School Report
Key items:

Carnival at risk if ticket sales do not meet threshold
Strong fundraiser performance
Transition to new Home & School model next year
Elections June 3

7.4 Teachers' Report

Field trips completed (Science Centre, theatre, Biodome)
Halo Run participation
Grade 6 exams ongoing

7.5 Community Rep Report
Not Provided (Carol absent)

7.6 Regional Delegate Report
Learn tutoring program clarified (budget allocation vs. reduction)

Underutilized EMSB learning resources readily available

Action: Eddie to share resource links with GB when made available

7.7 Commissioner's Report
Not Provided (Paula absent)

8 Question Period

Strong feedback focused on Hebrew program:

Request for formal parent survey
Emphasis on importance to school enrollment
Inclusion and accessibility concerns
Suggestion for curriculum innovation (e.g., choir-based model)

8. Adjournment
The meeting was adjourned at 8:33 PM. Moved by Nathalie and seconded by Romain. Unanimously approved.