

Meeting Minutes
École Pierre Elliott Trudeau School
Monthly Governing Board
October 6, 2025 @ 6:30PM
Virtual



PRESENT

Voting Members

Parents:

Leslie Ning - Chair
Zenith Chance - Vice-Chair
Clea Minaker - Secretary
Gesua Catalano - Parent Delegate, Treasurer
Danielle Fidler (arrived late)

Teachers: Mary Carone, Nadia Di Mattia, Dina Simec, Rola Soueidan

Other Staff: Mara Filippone (daycare), Mary De Palma-Nitti (support)

Non-Voting Members

Principal: Tanya Alvares
Commissioner: Maria Corsi

ABSENT

Hajar Bahir-Lapierre - Parent
Jennifer Lacroix - Teacher
Christi Milsom - Alternate Parent Delegate

1. Call to Order

- The meeting was called to order at 6:32 pm by Leslie Ning.

2. Adoption of Agenda

- Item added: Replacement of parent in Governing Board (6.2)
- *Motion to adopt the agenda as amended by Gesua Catalano*
- *Seconded by Nadia Di Mattia*
- *Motion carried*

3. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

- Meeting minutes from June 10 & 12, 2025, and September 18, 2025 were reviewed
- As no members from the June 12, 2025 meeting were in attendance at the present meeting, the approval of minutes for June 12, 2025 was tabled until the next meeting and the two other meeting minutes were individually approved.
 - The Chair did not ask for a motion to table the June 12 minutes, as such no motion was approved to do so; consensus to table this item was however received by the Chair.
- *Motion to approve the minutes of June 10, 2025 by Nadia Di Mattia*
- *Seconded by Dina Simec*
- *Motion carried*

- *Motion to approve the minutes of September 18, 2025 by Gesua Catalano*
- *Seconded by Nadia Di Mattia*
- *Motion carried*

4. Business Arising from the Minutes

- Gesua Catalano and Tanya Alvares to make changes to the new Excel spreadsheet regarding monies borrowed from the PPO account due to budget cuts
- No more funding from the Greater Montreal Athletics Association (GMAA); funds to be drawn from PPO
- Include \$250 in the Governing Board spreadsheet

5. Question Period

- No questions were presented

6. New Business

6.1 Funding for Robotics – Tanya Alvares

- Program led by Mr. Patrick (Grade 6 teacher)
- French Robotics Competition for top group
- Registration: \$2,000
- Potential funding from reallocation or Entrepreneurship Fund
- Corporate sponsorship possibly viable this year
- Tanya Alvares asks that Governing Board members reflect on what could be done to enhance and encourage this program to continue.
- General consensus from Governing Board members to support exploring funding options, no motion was put forward.

6.2 Replacement of Governing Board Member: Hajar Bahir-Lapierre

- Parent Member Hajar Bahir-Lapierre's child has left the school; she has not confirmed wanting to stay on as an active member of the Governing Board. Her position is therefore vacant and shall be filled, for the unexpired portion of her term, by a parent designated by the other parents' representatives on the Governing Board.
- Gesua Catalano will reach out to interested parents
- Hajar Bahir-Lapierre remains a Governing Board Member until her replacement is confirmed

7. Reports

7.1 EMSB Parents' Committee Report – Gesua Catalano

- Awaiting date of first meeting

7.2 Commissioner's Report – Maria Corsi

- Coverage of 11 schools
- Budget cuts and legal challenge update

- Suggestion: Governing Board to write a resolution expressing support for EMSB in court challenge and concerns regarding budget cuts.

7.3 Treasurer's Report – Gesua Catalano

- Balance: \$308
- Additional \$250 pending

7.4 Principal's Report – Tanya Alvares

- Enrollment as of Attestation Day on October 30, 2025: 278, but has since decreased as of October 6, 2025 to a total of 275 students. Funding will be received for 277 students
- 19 homerooms; all teacher positions filled
- Attendant positions will not be replaced without approval
- Progress Reports next week; Report Card 1 due end of November
- Open House on October 22, 2025 in the morning
- Recruitment strategies discussed

7.5 Teachers' Report – Rola Soueidan & Dina Simec

- Truth & Reconciliation Day and Terry Fox Run events successful
- Photography day successful; new team satisfactory

7.6 P.P.O. Report – Danielle Fidler

- Fall Fun Day scheduled for October 7
- Halloween activities and fundraisers underway

7.7 Grad Committee

- No report

7.8 Daycare/Lunch Supervision Report – Mara Filippone

- 195 students enrolled
- PED Day on October 27: \$16 + \$18 fee for scientific activity
- *Motion to approve PED Day fees and activity by Mara Filippone*
- *Seconded by Nadia Di Mattia*
- *Motion carried unanimously*

8. Varia

8.1 Reasonable expense coverage for participation in GB

- Leslie Ning informed members that if childcare was needed to ensure their participation in meetings, reasonable expense coverage could be provided from the Governing Board budget. Tanya Alvares however specified that the request and amount would need to be approved during a meeting for a next meeting and that a receipt would need to be provided by the member. Should a last minute need arise, members should discuss it with Tanya Alvares and Leslie Ning.
- Governing Board training resources were discussed; EMSB webinar and EMSB Governing Board Manual to be shared with members.

9. Meeting Dates

- Upcoming meeting schedule discussed:
 - #3 Monday, Nov. 3 at 6:30 PM (TEAMS)
 - #4 Monday, Dec. 8 at 6 PM (Dinner & In Person)
 - #5 Monday, Jan. 12 at 6:30 PM (TEAMS) **tentative**
 - #6 Monday, Feb. 9 at 6:30 PM (TEAMS)
 - #7 Monday, Mar. 16 at 6:30 PM (TEAMS)
 - #8 Monday, Apr. 13 at 6:30 PM (TEAMS)
 - #9 Monday, May 11 at 6:30 PM (TEAMS)
 - #10 Monday, June 15 at 6 PM (Dinner & In Person)
- *Motion to approve meeting schedule by Mary Carone*
- *Seconded by Gesua Catalano*
- *Motion carried unanimously*

10. Adjournment

- *Motion to adjourn the meeting by Mary Carone*
- *Seconded by Rola Soueidan*
- *Motion carried*
- Meeting adjourned at 8:02 PM

Minutes taken by Gesua Catalano and revised by Clea Minaker and Leslie Ning.

Governing Board Chair

Principal