

Meeting Minutes
École Pierre Elliott Trudeau School
Monthly Governing Board
November 3, 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
Natalie Gilmore
Christi Milsom

Teachers: Mary Carone, Jennifer Lacroix, 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

1. Call to Order

- The meeting was called to order at 6:33 pm by L. Ning.

2. Adoption of Agenda

- M. De Palma-Nitti motioned to adopt the agenda as presented, seconded by D. Simec; motion passed unanimously.

3. Approval of Minutes from October 6, 2025

- A correction to item 9 "Meeting Dates" was noted: the December meeting is on December 8 and not December 4, 2025.
- M. De Palma-Nitti moved for approval of the October 6, 2025 Governing Board meeting minutes, as corrected; seconded by G. Catalano; motion carried, with abstentions by N. Gilmore, J. Lacroix and C. Milsom, as they were not in attendance.

4. Business Arising from the Minutes

4.1 Approval of Minutes from June 12, 2025

- C. Milsom moved for approval of the June 12, 2025 Governing Board meeting minutes; seconded by J. Lacroix; motion carried, with abstentions by the rest of the members who were not in attendance, except for M. De Palma-Nitti.

4.2 Funding of Greater Montreal Athletics Association (GMAA) activities

- T. Alvares gave the update that no funding has been received yet. The soccer play date approved in September was paid for by a different fund.

4.3 Funding for Robotics

- J. Lacroix gave a summary of the required funding for all students from grade 6 to attend the annual competition, including the registration fee, purchase of material, and transportation to Rigaud, which amounts to an approximate total of \$3K.
- The possibility of corporate sponsorship was discussed.
- T. Alvares mentioned that the next PPO meeting will be on November 11, 2025 and that she will discuss whether PPO should do a specific fundraiser for the robotics program. She will report back at the next GB meeting.

4.4 Replacement of GB parent member

- G. Catalano and T. Alvares were successful in recruiting new parent Natalie Gilmore; we thank her for her involvement.
- D. Fiddler motioned to designate Natalie Gilmore to fill the vacant parent position for the remainder of previous parent member Hajar Bahir-Lapierre' term, ending in September 2026; seconded by G. Catalano; motion unanimously approved by all parent representatives on the GB.

5. Question Period

- No questions were presented.

6. New Business

6.1 Extra-curricular activities (ECA) update

- T. Alvares reported that new rules were put into place last year for any activities being done at the school, especially when there are no staff members involved (anti-bullying & anti-violence video, contracts signed between organization and school, and proof of civil liability insurance). Parents should understand that the school is not responsible for the students during ECA and that these new rules are to ensure everyone's safety.
- Some of the organizations are ready to offer activities in the Fall and some will start in January. Unfortunately, the *Programme d'enseignement des langues d'origine* (PELO) will not be offered due to budget cuts.

6.2 Daycare Handbook 2025-2026 approval

- T. Alvares submitted the Daycare Handbook 2025-2026 for approval, specifying that it was previously approved by the school organization and that the content is consistent with other EMSB schools. L. Ning suggested minor grammatical corrections.
- N. Gilmore moved for the approval of the Daycare Handbook 2025-2026 as presented, with minor grammatical and formatting corrections to be made by the Chair; seconded by C. Milsom; motion passed unanimously.

6.3 Blanket approval of activities that do not require PPO/GB funds

- T. Alvares asked that blanket approval be provided so that staff can get organized without waiting for GB meetings for approval. She specifies that there is an approval process through the Staff Council.
- G. Catalano moved to approve that all outings that do not require use of the Parent Participation Organization (PPO) and/or parent contribution funds that take place within walking distance of the school and have been approved by the School Council are hereby approved in advance. All such outings will be brought to the Governing Board for information in advance of them taking place, at which time questions by the parents may be raised; seconded by D. Simec; motion passed unanimously.

6.4 Grade 2 Outing – Planetarium

- T. Alvares gave a point of information: the grade 2 teachers are organizing a trip for their 40 students to the Planetarium on February 25, 2026, with funding coming from the Cultural Outings budget.

7. Reports

7.1 EMSB Parents' Committee Report – G. Catalano

- First meeting was held, with new chair and committee formed.
- Budget has been cut considerably from \$19,000 to \$3,500, meaning that the committee won't be able to provide scholarships or the book gift given each year.
- Upcoming meeting on November 6, 2025 to make budget decisions.

7.2 Commissioner's Report – M. Corsi

- Special board meeting on October 29, 2025 to adopt the budget.
- Provided an update on EMSB's involvement in the court challenge contesting the government preventing the use of the surplus (representing about \$7,8 million). Minister of Education made several important concessions that led to the Quebec English School Boards Association (QESBA) to withdraw their application for a stay. The court challenge will be heard on its merits in 2026 or 2027. Every effort made by EMSB to not put pressure on student services
- M. Corsi attended several events: Nesbitt School open house, Crossing Guard Appreciation Week at FACE School, inauguration of new teaching kitchen at the St. Pius

X Career Centre, and also attended a ceremony where 15 students were presented with the Robert Alfred Peck Prize for Excellence in French from the EMSB.

7.3 Treasurer's Report – G. Catalano

- No money has been spent on GB account and no money has come in yet.
- Discussion by GB members about the upcoming in-person meeting for December 8 and necessity to spend money on dinner when budgets are tight. Members agree to reduce expenses and have a potluck-style dinner.

7.4 Principal's Report – T. Alvares

- Mme Arianne Asly-Verdon, received a Regional Certificate of Achievement for the prestigious 2025 Prime Minister's Award for Teaching Excellence. This national honour recognizes her exceptional dedication, creativity, and impact in the classroom. To celebrate this incredible achievement, the school will be organizing a special school-wide assembly in the next few weeks
- Progress Report Cards went out on October 15, 2025.
- Open house on October 22, 2025 was a great success with over 15 families attending. Next open house will be on January 22, 2026.
- School pictures were taken and retakes will take place on November 4, 2025.
- Preparing for Term 1 Report Cards (to be sent out on November 21, 2025) and Parent Teacher Interviews (November 27-28, 2025), which will be done in person. Parents will need to schedule their appointments through an online platform.
- Roles of the PDCIA (Personal Development and Community Involvement Animator formerly the SCA) are changed for this year: schools are being divided into 5 clusters; and two animators will be assigned to each cluster of schools (7 elementary schools and 3 high schools), working together to ensure that the service delivery aligns with Ministry priorities and directives. Areas of focus: sexuality and healthy relationships, diversity and community connections, well-being, anti-bullying and anti-violence.
- Parent workshop for digital citizenship will happen on November 27, 2025.
- Some staff members are on leave, especially daycare staffing. Thank you to Ms Mara and daycare educators for filling in, as well as the board for finding some replacements.

7.5 Teachers' Report

- D. Simec reported on events organized for Halloween. PPO did an amazing job with decorations, activities and treats that students and teachers alike greatly appreciated.
- N. Di Mattia congratulated Mme Arianne for the talent show that was presented on October 31, 2025. She reported on the Arbraska outing on October 16-17, 2025 and noted it was wonderful to see students facing their fears and pushing themselves; it was a great success. Teachers are currently working on report cards.

7.6 P.P.O. Report

- T. Alvares reported that the book fair will take place from November 24-28, 2025, with all funds raised going to PPO.

- T. Alvares gave the dates for “dress down days”, with 5 being paid days (\$2 suggested donation) and 5 being “free” days: September, Orange Shirt Day; October, Halloween; November, raising funds for families; December, breakfast with Santa; January, raising funds for PPO; February, Valentines Day; March, Saint Patrick’s Day; April, raising funds for an organization; May, raising funds for National Denim Day; June, raising funds for PPO and/or other organization.
- M. Carone moved to approve the proposed dress down days; seconded by N. Di Mattia; motion passed unanimously.

7.7 Grad Committee

- J. Lacroix reported that planning has not yet started but that students decided on the colour for their graduation hoodies: “cardinal red”. Students from the Class of 2026 have been sized and should be receiving their hoodies shortly.
- GB members discuss potential fundraising through school “swag”, like sweaters or hats.
- L. Ning suggests that this matter be raised during a PPO meeting, all in agreement.

7.8 Daycare/Lunch Supervision Report – Mara Filippone

- M. Filippone reported that there will be a special activity on Parent Teacher Interview Day (November 28, 2025) to the Canadian Railway Museum. Daycare will absorb the costs of the two buses for \$1,008 and the cost of the day will be \$32 per student (\$16 entrance fee and \$16 daycare fee). Activities include riding a mini train and decorating cookies.
- M. Filippone motioned to approve the pedagogical day activity for November 28, 2025; seconded by D. Fiddler; motion passed unanimously.

8. Varia

- N. Gilmore initiated discussion about the concern raised by some parents regarding some kids being potentially left out of pizza and TCBY fundraiser days because of the costs. T. Alvares mentioned that sometimes it is the parents' choice, and not a monetary issue. The school could help or pay for it, but would need to know.
- GB members asked if possible to know who the families are and why they do not participate. T. Alvares mentioned the office could find out, but would be a lot of work for the office staff. Reminders are sent out with every newsletter, parents don’t have to order every single time; the school is always open to help parents in difficulty, but understands that opening up about this issue is not simple. Also noted that about 50 students do not participate, which at \$33/student, would amount to a substantial amount of money; the school however gives other free snacks throughout the year. J. Lacroix stated that teachers generally know which families might be experiencing food insecurity and can make discrete arrangements with the principal. Discussion tabled for now, but may be brought up at a later meeting.

9. Next Meeting

- Monday, December 8, 2025 from 6-8 p.m. (dinner and in-person at school)

10. Adjournment

- As there was no objection, the meeting was adjourned at 8:01pm on a motion by unanimous approval.

Minutes taken by C. Minaker and revised by L. Ning.

Governing Board Chair

Principal