

Meeting Minutes  
École Pierre Elliott Trudeau School  
Monthly Governing Board  
December 8, 2025 – 6:00PM  
In-person at school



**PRESENT**

**Voting Members**

**Parent Representatives:**

Leslie Ning - Chair; Zenith Chance - Vice-Chair; Gesua Catalano - Parent Delegate and Treasurer; Danielle Fidler; Natalie Gilmore; Christi Milsom

**Staff Representatives:**

Mary Carone, Mary De Palma-Nitti, Nadia Di Mattia, Mara Filippone, Rola Soueidan

**Non-Voting Members**

Principal: Tanya Alvares

**ABSENT**

Maria Corsi (Commissioner); Jennifer Lacroix (Staff); Clea Minaker (Parent); Dina Simec (Staff)

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**1. Call to Order**

- The meeting was called to order at 6:25 pm by L. Ning.

**2. Opening and Welcome**

- L. Ning welcomed all members in attendance and gave reminders regarding the GB Teams Channel, how to bring up a new subject to discuss during a GB meeting, the role of the GB and the recurring annual items to discuss, as well as the differences between the adoption, approval and consultation of proposals.
- In the absence of the Secretary, L. Ning named G. Catalano to record the minutes of the meeting.

**3. Adoption of Agenda**

- N. Gilmore motioned to adopt the agenda as presented, seconded by M. Carone; motion carried unanimously.

**4. Approval of Minutes from November 3, 2025**

- Corrections to items 6.3 and 7.5 were noted.
- N. Di Mattia moved for approval of the November 3, 2025 Governing Board meeting minutes, as amended; seconded by C. Milsom; motion carried unanimously.

**5. Business Arising from the Minutes**

**5.1 Inclusivity and Equity for In-School Edible Fundraisers**

- Concerns were raised regarding students potentially feeling left out when unable to participate in fundraisers.

- T. Alvares shared data of students not participating in the fundraisers, specifying that covering costs for students not signed up would total approximately \$5,000:
  - Pizza Fundraiser: 52 students
  - TCBY Fundraiser: 41 students
  - Both Pizza and TCBY: 15 students

Discussion points included:

- Allowing parents to pay later or over the course of the school year;
- Some parents do not want their children to participate in such fundraisers;
- Snacks purchased by the school are distributed to all students throughout the year;
- Teachers are generally aware of students who do not participate due to financial hardship and some staff occasionally pay out of pocket;
- Other schools offer the option to parents of sponsoring students in need or to have parents participate in fundraisers by filling out a form with options of either participating by i) paying the full amount; ii) paying the full amount, with a donation; iii) requesting not to pay.

Action Item

- D. Fidler will raise this topic with the PPO at their next meeting.

## 6. Question Period

- No questions were raised.

## 7. New Business

- No new business to report.

## 8. Reports

### 8.1 EMSB Parents' Committee Report

- G. Catalano reported the following topics were discussed during the last meeting: focus cover for Parents' Committee; Literacy Program / Prime Minister, Fraser Institute 2025 Report Card on Quebec's Secondary Schools, Federal National School Food Program report.
- Parents' Committee will appear before the National Assembly committee reviewing Bill 1 (*Québec Constitution Act*) in February 2026.
- G. Catalano and L. Ning attended a Town Hall on December 3, 2025 at the invitation of Joe Ortona, EMSB Chair, to discuss legal cases against the Quebec government in which the EMSB is involved.
  - See notes taken by G. Catalano and attached to the minutes.
  - D. Fidler, L. Ning and G. Catalano will discuss ways in which PET can support EMSB on these issues.

### 8.2 Commissioner's Report

- M. Corsi was absent, as such, no report was presented.

### 8.3 Treasurer's Report

- The cost of the meal for the December meeting was \$79.73.
- The Governing Board budget balance is \$228.2.

### 8.4 Principal's Report

- Awaiting replacement for Ms. Rosemary (part-time secretary) since her departure.
- A lockdown drill was held on December 4, 2025 and went very smoothly. Questions regarding automatic toilet flushing were addressed and students reassured.

- Parent-teacher interviews November 27-28, 2025 went very well; second parent-teacher interviews scheduled for February 26, 2026, by invitation only.
- Social media workshop on November 27, 2025: 23 parents registered, 11 attended, additional workshops planned.
- Extracurricular Activities (ECA): only the organizations offering chess and theatre were able to provide civil liability documentation for the December activities. Winter session starting in February to include additional sports and will be communicated to parents.
- Assistant Dog: Luna, a 10-month-old Bernadoodle has been actively involved with students and is very appreciated by the students.
- Upcoming events:
  - December 12, 2025: Christmas Music Concert.
  - December 15, 2025: assembly honoring Ms Arianne Asly-Verdon for receiving the Prime Minister's award (all students are practicing a song they will dedicate to her at the event).
  - January 22, 2026: PET Open House in the morning and evening.

### **8.5 Teachers' Report**

Presented by R. Soueidan and N. DiMattoa

- Remembrance Day activities: wreaths, poppies, moment of silence to honour soldiers.
- Parent-teacher interviews were successful with strong parent attendance.
- Assistant Dog: program explained, including role of trainer Ms. Cindy.
- Code of Ethics: all teachers watched a training video and signed a document (requirement by the Ministry of Education).
- Holiday Spirit Week: will be held from December 15–19, 2025, with a themed outfit for each day of the week. Many activities planned to celebrate the holidays, including a Movie Day on December 19, English language movies shown (with French language movies shown next year), popcorn and snacks offered by the school.
- Grade 4 classes went on a field trip to an organization in support of seafarers in the Old Port and helped make gift bags and ornaments, with funds raised by dress-down day.
- SPVM Community Relations Officer gave a presentation to grade 4 students on bullying.
- Music Concert Fundraiser: Ms Anna and Ms Samantha are working on a fundraiser with students from grades 4-6 for the Community Room, whereby students will be selling handmade Christmas cards (\$5 each) during the Christmas Music Concert.
  - M. Carone moved to approve the handmade Christmas cards fundraiser for the Community Room during the Christmas Music Concert; seconded by N. Di Mattia; motion passed unanimously.
- Grade 2 Class Trip: students will be going to the Biodome on April 8, 2026. The entrance fee will be covered by the school's cultural outings budget, but approval is needed for the expense to cover for transport.
  - M. Carone moved to approve the approximate cost of \$480 to cover the transport for the grade 2 class trip to the Biodome on April 8, 2026; motion seconded by R. Soueidan; motion passed unanimously.

### **8.6 PPO Report**

Presented by D. Fidler

- Overview of fundraisers and amounts raised: Mabel's Labels: \$60.12; Cheese Fundraiser: \$1,967; Bo Sapin: 31 orders, \$328.48. PPO is preparing a report to demonstrate where the fundraised amounts are spent.
- Book Fair: French Book Fair sales: \$6,348.64; Scholastic dollars earned: \$7,000; English Book Fair scheduled for April 20–23, 2026.
- Upcoming initiatives:

- Open House on January 22, 2026: PPO will be selling coffee and organizing a bake sale to raise funds for the grade 6 graduation;
- Valentine's Day bake sale (February 13, 2026);
- Seeds fundraiser in February and March;
- Staff appreciation in February;
- Bingo/Pasta night in April;
- Easter egg hunt in April;
- Bike tune up day (project in planning).
- Robotics: PPO approved to donate a \$3,000 contribution for the Robotics Program.
  - D. Fidler moved to approve the \$3,000 funds from PPO for the Robotics Program; seconded by M. Carone; motion passed unanimously.
- Samajam Show: show for the students, including a musical presentation and playing with instruments. Two shows to be given to the entire school for \$3,472 (students divided in half, but PPO will try to see if possible to only have one show).
  - Z. Chance moved to approve the approximate expense of \$3,472 for the Samajam shows in June 2026; seconded by N. Di Mattia; motion passed unanimously.

### **8.7 Grad Committee Report**

Presented by T. Alvares

- Scones Fundraiser: planned for January, with profits from fundraiser going to the Grad Committee.
- Grad Trip: After meeting with parents, approval for a Quebec City grad trip from June 16-17, 2026, with 25 students and three adults. Staff Council approved the trip. Three bids were submitted to companies preapproved by EMSB, lowest bid was \$593/person with Omnitours, which includes a deluxe bus, guide, accommodation, night guard. Will be submitted to EMSB for approval.
  - R. Soueidan moved to approve the grade 6 graduation trip to Quebec City from June 16-17, 2026 with Omnitours (lowest bid at \$593/person); motion seconded by N. Di Mattia; motion passed unanimously.

### **8.8 Daycare/Lunch Report**

Presented by M. Filippone

- November 28, 2025 pedagogical outing to the Canadian Railway Museum was successful, with students enjoying it, as well as the milk and cookies provided.
- Next pedagogical days will be on January 5 and 23, 2026, with indoor and outdoor activities in school, at the regular rate of \$16/day.

### **9. Varia**

- Snow removal concerns, including speed limits around the dropoff area.

### **10. Next Meeting**

- Virtually on Monday, February 9, 2026.
- Principal criteria will be discussed at the meeting, with documents sent prior.

### **11. Adjournment**

- As there was no objection, the meeting was adjourned at 8:02 pm on a motion by unanimous approval.

*Minutes taken by G. Catalano and revised by L. Ning*

**APPENDIX - As referred to in Item 8.1**

**English Montreal School Board (EMSB) vs. Quebec Government (2019-2025)**

Since 2019, the EMSB has become the most active English-language public institution in Quebec in launching constitutional challenges against major language, governance, and identity-related provincial legislation.

The major bills in which EMSB is involved in challenging:

- **Bill 21**- *Act Respecting the Laicity of the State* (2019)
- **Bill 40** - *Act to amend mainly the Education Act with regard to school organization and governance* (abolition of elected school boards) (2020)
- **Bill 96** - *Act respecting French, the official and common language of Québec* (2022)
- **Bill 94** - *An Act to, in particular, reinforce laicity in the education network and to amend various legislative provisions* (secular symbols in public institutions) (2025)
- **Bill 1** - *Québec Constitution Act* (2025)

**EMSB's Legal Position**

Across all bills, EMSB argues that Section 23 of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms guarantees:

- Minority-language education rights
- Management and control by the minority community
- Autonomy of English-language school boards

Therefore, any provincial law undermining English boards' ability to govern themselves is unconstitutional.

**BILL 21 — An Act Respecting the Laicity of the State**

- Adopted June 2019
- Bans certain public-sector employees from wearing religious symbols.
- EMSB refused implementation and directly challenged Bill 21 in court.
- Bill 21 violates Section 23
  - EMSB must choose employees based on English-speaking community needs
  - Section 23 is not subject to the notwithstanding clause
- Timeline:
  - 2019-2021 Superior Court hearings.
  - 2021 Bill upheld in part.
  - 2023-2024 Supreme Court of Canada appeal ongoing.

**BILL 40 — School Board Governance Reform Act**

- Introduced February 2020
- Abolishes elected school boards
- Challengers: EMSB, Quebec English School Boards Association (QESBA), Lester B. Pearson School Board, Other English boards, Adam Gordon, parent applicant
- Timeline:
  - 2020 Injunction filed

- 2020-2021 Bill suspended for English boards
- August 2, 2023 Justice Sylvain Lussier ruled many provisions unconstitutional
- 2024-2025 Appeal ongoing

#### **BILL 96 Strengthening the Charter of the French Language**

- Adopted May 2022
- Expands French language restrictions in all public institutions
- EMSB Objections
- French only internal communication requirements violate Section 23
- Timeline
  - November 2023 EMSB files for stay
  - April 19, 2024 Superior Court grants partial stay
  - June 5, 2024 Court of Appeal upholds stay

#### **BILL 94 Secular Symbols in Public Institutions 2025**

- Introduced March 2025
- EMSB publicly opposes Bill 94 but no court action yet.

#### **BILL 1 Education Governance & Accountability Act**

- Introduced 2024-2025
  - QESBA opposes Bill 1
  - EMSB reviewing impact, as could directly affect EMSB's right to contest bills deemed of "national values"