

Meeting Minutes
École Pierre Elliott Trudeau School
Monthly Governing Board
March 16, 2026 – 6:30PM
Virtual on Teams



PRESENT

Voting Members

Parents: Leslie Ning (Chair); Zenith Chance (Vice-Chair); Clea Minaker (Secretary); Christi Milsom (Alternate Parent Delegate); Danielle Fidler

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

Other Staff: Mary De Palma-Nitti, Mara Filippone

Non-Voting Members

Principal: Tanya Alvares

Commissioner: Maria Corsi

ABSENT: Gesua Catalano (Parent Delegate, Treasurer); Natalie Gilmore (Parent)

1. Call to Order

- The meeting was called to order at 6:31 pm by L. Ning

2. Opening and Welcome by Chair

- L. Ning thanked Z. Chance for chairing the meeting last month; indicated that some meetings may take more than an hour and half, like the last meeting, and if so, will try to give GB members advance notice. Thanked members for their collaboration.
- C. Minaker confirmed she will take the meeting minutes.

3. Adoption of Agenda

- *M. Carone moved to adopt the agenda as presented, seconded by N. Di Mattia; motion was carried.*

4. Approval of Minutes from February 9, 2026 Meeting

- *R. Soueidan moved for approval of the February 9, 2026 meeting minutes; seconded by Z. Chance; motion carried with abstentions from D. Fidler, and D. Simec.*

5. Business Arising from the Minutes

5.1. Inclusivity and Equity for In-school Edible Fundraisers

- D. Fidler was absent at the last PPO meetings and the matter was not brought up. Following discussion, members agreed that no further action is required for the moment. The item is considered closed, however, should something come out of the PPO discussions, the item can be brought back to the GB.

6. Question Period

- D. Fidler brought to the attention of the GB members the February 10 decision of the EMSB's Council of Commissioners to invalidate the decision from the EMSB Ethics Commissioner regarding Ward 10 Council Member and breach of the Code of Conduct.
 - M. Corsi gave explanations regarding the Council of Commissioner's decision, to the extent of what she could publicly disclose, and answered other questions from members.
 - Given this was a subject unfamiliar to many members, D. Fidler will send documentation to members regarding this matter and a decision on the course of action to take, or not, will be discussed at the next meeting, if necessary.

7. New Business

7.1. PET Principal Criteria

- T. Alvares left the meeting for the duration of this item.
- A document was sent for comments on March 4, 2026. GB Members were satisfied with the criteria adopted last year and proposed that they remain as such for the following year.
 - *C. Milsom moved to approve the Selection Criteria for the Appointment of a Principal; seconded by M. De Palma-Nitti; motion carried unanimously.*

7.2. Budget Building Process

- T. Alvares explained how the budget building process works. The GB discussed, reviewed and updated the guiding principles and budget priorities, working from the document submitted last year.
- T. Alvares showed the document of the budget building process from last year and explains:
 - Budget cuts have affected many items on the list;
 - Mental Health is still a concern and funds should be focused on this;
 - -Item #5 (getting funding to promote our school and promote enrollment) is left to schools to use their own funds;
 - Finally, difficulty with staff budget, in particular, support staff (Pupil Attendants and Behaviour Technicians). P.E.T is missing two attendant positions. A. Szabo (School Behaviour Technician) is no longer able to focus exclusively on her role in overseeing the entire school with social skills, student clubs, etc, because PET is missing two pupil attendants on our team (as compared to last year). She must now focus on individual students and forgo activities.
 - T. Alvares would like to see one of these items be moved to prioritize support staff.
- M.Corsi explains that the EMSB Parents' Committee is consulted in addition to GB - they rank the top priority of all the schools. Delegates can argue for their schools' top priorities to be the Parents' Committee's top priorities.
- Teachers, R. Soueidan and D. Simec concur that these staff positions are much needed and it is making it more difficult for teachers to do their jobs.
 - *N. Di Mattia moved to approve the budget building process; seconded by Z. Chance; motion carried unanimously.*

7.3. Grade 4 - Classe Verte Trip

- The physical education teachers, Ms. Patty and Mr. Max, are organizing the annual Classe Verte trip (camping trip), May 14-15. As per EMSB procedure for overnight trips, three quotes were sought, and they received approval from the Staff Council and School Board. The lowest bidder was Le petit bonheur, at an approximate cost of \$145/student for accommodation, nautical and outdoor activities, meals and snacks. The PPO will pay for transportation for this trip (approximately \$1,380).
 - *C. Milsom moved to approve the Grade 4 Classe Verte Trip for an approximate cost of \$145/student, as well to approve a contribution of \$1,380 from PPO; seconded by J. Lacroix; motion carried unanimously.*

8. Reports

8.1. EMSB Parents' Committee Report

- G. Catalano is absent.
- L. Ning informs members that the EMSB Parent's Committee is inviting the parent community to governance workshops on March 18 and 25 (in person) and on April 5 (online). T. Alvares confirmed she will relay the information.

8.2. Commissioner's Report

Presented by M. Corsi

- February board meeting:
 - 2024/2025 Annual Report was presented.
 - Regional Student Ombudsperson also presented its 2024/2025 Annual Report, available only in French. M. Corsi raised concerns about barriers for unilingual parents, Ombudsperson confirmed that if a complaint is submitted in English, the report and investigation are done in English.
 - Approval of budget building process.
 - Passed resolution recognizing International Holocaust Remembrance Day
 - Passed resolution for ad hoc committee for environmental sustainability, to address climate change and its impact on schools, to attract infrastructure funding to adapt buildings (voluntary participation for schools).
- March board meeting was cancelled, as nothing on the agenda to approve.
- February 10: J. Ortona, EMSB Chair and QESBA President (Quebec's English School Boards Association), spoke on behalf of the association at the general consultation on Bill 1, the Constitution Act, at the National Assembly.

8.3. Treasurer's Report

- G. Catalano is absent.
- T. Alvares confirmed an amount of \$250 for the GB was received, bringing the total amount of the GB budget to \$478.

8.4. Principal's Report

Presented by T. Alvares

- Parent teacher interviews Feb 26 went very well.
- In the process of doing enrolment reports- every day there are new enrolments. Trying to complete student registration by the end of February as it impacts staffing.

- Eye-screening for pre-cycle students on February 13. Free programme. Emails were sent to parents whose child requires referral for further eye screening.

8.5. Teachers' Report

Presented by N. Di Mattia and R. Soueidan

- March is Nutrition Month. K4 and K5 are planning a visit to Metro grocery store on March 27. They are working on their last STEAM project involving butterflies.
- Extended thank you to PPO for Staff Appreciation Week.
- N. Di Mattia reports Ms. Patty says the grade 5 ski trip was a success, all students skied and they had a great time.
- Mr. Wali, our caretaker who is a musician, will be giving a concert of R&B music on April 2. This was proposed for Black History Month but is happening later. All students and staff invited to attend.
- Halo Race is coming up and approval for the trip is required. Almost all grade 3-6 students participate, 200 kids approx.
 - *J. Lacroix moved to approve the Halo Race for students grades 3 to 6; seconded by N. Di Mattia; motion carried unanimously.*

8.6. PPO Report

Presented by D. Fidler

- Staff Appreciation Week was great.
- St. Patrick's Day Dance was a great time.
- PPO is currently organizing Spring Fling activities. Asking for provisional approval of budget for activities for Easter, and a bigger spring activity to get kids out of doors- ie. scavenger hunt, Earth Day, etc.
 - *D. Fidler moved to approve a \$700 budget for PPO to organize for Spring Fling activities; seconded by C. Milsom; motion was carried unanimously.*

Presented by T. Alvares

- T. Alvares explains how PPO is working to keep the accounts clear. She later provided the PPO budget by email on March 18, 2026:
 - From the PPO minutes of Feb. 16, 2026 regarding the budget:
 - Seeds Fundraiser: 4 orders to date, \$142.40 of which \$56.96 will go to the school
 - Valentines Bake sale (\$1483)
 - St Patrick's Dance Costs: Photo booth \$615, DJ free, Balloon lady \$420
 - Bingo will be replaced by Game Night April 17 from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.
 - Cheese Profit: \$1,719 From the PPO minutes of January 20, 2026 regarding the budget:
 - Snack Bar at Music Concert (profit: \$550 Coffee, \$105.55 snacks)
 - From the PPO minutes of November 18, 2025 regarding the budget:
 - Money raised so far: Bake sale: \$1,187.25 Bo Sapin \$566.65 Bowling \$1,574.85 Coffee \$7,153, Dress Down Day \$1,379.50, Mabel Labels \$226.28, Lifetouch \$946.66. Pasta and Game night \$720, Seeds \$369.12 snack bar: \$1,170.45 St- Patty, \$964.90 Dance Tickets \$2,110, TCBY \$4,113.20 ****these were the amounts raised last school year 24-25 that*

will be used to make a PPO report to inform parents of how funds are being used, why we do fundraisers, etc.

- Cost for 7 buses to Abraska \$5,449
- Game Night with Pizza on Friday April 17 from 6:30 to 8:30pm. Tickets are \$10/person. You receive pizza from Le Doral and a little cup of vegetables. 150 people maximum. The flyer would go out next Monday so that ticket sales start on Monday March 23 until Friday April 10 (or until the 150 tickets have been sold).
 - *A written resolution was circulated by email to all members on March 18, 2026. R. Soueidan moved that Bingo be replaced by Game Night on April 17, 2026 from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.; seconded by C. Minaker; all members voted in favour, motion was carried.*

8.7. Grad Committee Report

Presented by T. Alvares

- The Grad Committee discussed organizing an activity in June with the funds raised from scones fundraiser.
- Graduation is on June 16, with the grade 6 students going on their trip the following day.

8.8. Daycare/Lunch Report

Presented by M. Filippone

- Pedagogical day on April 24: would like to take the children to ZigZagZoo (indoor jungle gym) at the cost of \$22.50/child, with daycare paying for buses.
 - *M. Filippone moved to approve the April 24, 2026 pedagogical day with an outing to ZigZagZoo, at the cost of \$22.50 per child; seconded by D. Fidler; motion carried unanimously.*
- Daycare registration opened as of March 10 and will go until March 27. All former students need to be registered directly by the parents on the Mozaik Portal. New parents will register their children through M. Filippone.

9. Varia

- Nothing to report.

10. Next Meeting

- Monday, April 13, 2026 at 6:30 pm (virtually)

11. Adjournment

- The meeting was adjourned at 7:59 pm.

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

Governing Board Chair

Principal