

Meeting Minutes
École Pierre Elliott Trudeau School
Monthly Governing Board
April 13, 2026 – 6:30pm
Virtual on Teams



PRESENT

Voting Members

Parents: Leslie Ning (Chair); Zenith Chance (Vice-Chair); Clea Minaker (Secretary); Natalie Gilmore; Christi Milsom, Danielle Fidler, Gesua Catalano (Parent Delegate/Treasurer)

Teachers: Nadia Di Mattia, Dina Simec

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

Non-Voting Members

Principal: Tanya Alvares

EMSB Commissioner: Maria Corsi (left around 7pm)

ABSENT: Mary Carone, Jennifer Lacroix, Rola Soueidan (Teachers)

1. Call to order

Meeting called to order at 6:38 pm by L. Ning.

2. Opening and Welcome by Chair

L. Ning mentions that she will be working on GB Internal Rules and Code of Conduct so that they are ready to be presented next October, when the GB is supposed to look at its internal governance.

3. Adoption of Agenda

M. Corsi asks to present item 8.2 after the approval of the minutes so that she can leave early for another meeting she needs to attend.

- *N. Gilmore moved to adopt the agenda as presented, seconded by C. Milsom; no abstentions, motion was carried.*

4. Approval of Minutes from March 16, 2026 Meeting

T. Alvares asks that the date be corrected on the last meeting minutes to March 16, 2026 and not March 10, 2026.

- *D. Fidler moved for approval of the March 16, 2026 meeting minutes; seconded by Z. Chance; motion carried, with abstentions from N. Gilmore and G. Catalano.*

5. Business Arising from the Minutes

Nothing to note.

6. Question Period

No questions were asked.

7. New Business

7.1. Le Doral Meal Supplier for PET 2026-2027

Le Doral has been a supplier for over 7 years. Previous GB members have considered other suppliers, but chose Le Doral to remain as the school's meal provider. Le Doral has listened to some requests and, eg is now providing more vegetarian options. They also are using an oven at school to keep the meals warm.

The price will stay at \$7 this year. T. Alvares asks the GB to decide whether Le Doral will continue to be the supplier for the 26/27 school year.

T. Alvares asks the GB to consider, in the event of a snow day and there is a last minute cancellation of the meal service, whether to give a credit to parents (for meals not served) or to give the food to a homeless shelter, as per article 3.8 of the contract.

- *C. Milsom moved for approval of Le Doral as the PET meal supplier for 2026-2027 as well as to make a donation of food (without reimbursement to parents) to the organization 'Dans la rue' in the case of force majeure (article 3.8 of contract); seconded by N. Di Mattia; all in favour, no abstentions, motion carried.*

7.2. PET Calendar for 2026-2027

T. Alvares presents the calendar for the following year including ped days/snow days, etc...She explains that it is difficult to align various factors when choosing these days, such as securing daycare staff. Parents ask questions about long weekends and ped days, is there some flexibility? Teachers explain that a lot of thought has gone into choosing these days, which reflect the need for staff and teachers to meet and discuss very important issues. Teachers confirm that parents' concerns will be brought to teachers for consideration next year.

- *N. Di Mattia moved to adopt the PET Calendar for 2026-2027; seconded by D. Simec; all in favour, no abstentions, motion carried.*

7.3. PET Timetable schedule 2026-2027

T. Alvares explains changes to the timetable for the 2026/2027 school year.

Last year the time table was changed because daycare staff had a change in their schedule from a 30 minute lunch to a 1 hour of lunch. This left a gap in supervision so there had to be a change. This change was difficult for pre-cycle kids 45 minutes instructional cycle- they have to undress after lunch, then 20 minutes- then get dressed again, it was very difficult. The government has given funds to hire extra people for supervision but it is only 20 minutes of work.

The new timetable reflects the need to solve this issue. Everyone (teachers and staff) has agreed on option #2 - as presented in the student handbook. All daycare staff are on supervision. T. Alvares asks if there are any questions? A discussion ensues about the early start time of the school, its relationship to buses, and whether this can change. T. Alvares explains that it can not.

- *N. Gilmore moved to adopt the PET Timetable Schedule 2026-2027; seconded by D. Fidler; all in favour, no abstentions, motion carried.*

7.4. PET Student Handbook 2026-2027

T. Alvares presents the Student Handbook for 2026-2027. She explains that teacher J. Lacroix made many corrections. She presents the Behaviour Management Tracker and its 5 interventions. An addition was made to article 3 of the Code of Behaviour regarding the use of AI tools and cheating. D. Fidler asks if there is a definition of what constitutes AI amongst teachers. T. Alvares shares that phones are not a big problem at PET but if this comes up, school will respond.

- *N. Di Mattia moved to approve the Student Handbook for 2026-2027; seconded by Z. Chance seconds; all in favour, no abstentions, motion carried.*

8. Reports

8.1. EMSB Parents' Committee Report

G.Catalano reports on March EMSB Parents' Committee (as absent from March 13 GB meeting)

Parent Governance Workshop

- In-person sessions were cancelled due to low registration, virtual workshop still happening on April 15, important to promote it. Focus is to help parents understand and participate in school governance

Budget Priorities & Concerns

- The Parents were encouraged to review school budgets and ask questions at governing board meetings. EMSB continues to oppose provincial budget cuts and limits on surplus funds. There have been several letters sent to the Ministry and public officials and responses are still pending.

Public Participation Concerns

- Changes to Council of Commissioners question period now require in-person attendance. Concerns were raised about accessibility; the situation will be monitored for exclusion.

Budget-Building Exercise

- Focus on protecting quality of educational services despite financial constraints

School Calendar Adjustment (High School)

- Secondary students will extend in-person learning in June to recover exam-time loss
 - o Sec 3-5: until June 9
 - o Sec 1-2: until June 12
 - o Work programs: until June 23

Additional Updates

- Environmental Sustainability subcommittee created
- Holocaust Remembrance formally recognized
- Upcoming parent workshops (cybersecurity & family wellbeing)

C.Milsom reports on April 9 EMSB Parents' Committee:

- EPCA Spring 2026 workshops to promote (Transitioning to Cegép Successfully – April 21, 2026; Transitioning to High School Successfully – May 14, 2026; Talking About Substance Use with Your Teens - May 27, 2026)
- Budget Building Process was very collaborative.
- Climate Readiness Committee: working on drafting a proposal, should get more news soon.

8.2. Commissioner's Report

M. Corsi reports that:

- The March meeting was cancelled and the next meeting will be April 21.
- Supreme Court of Canada hearings on Bill 21 were from March 23-26.
- April 7 Gerald McShane School had a storytelling event for students from east end EMSB schools.

8.3. Treasurer's Report

G. Catalano reports no changes.

A request for reimbursement for childcare and transportation was asked from C. Milsom to attend the EMSB Parents' Committee in-person April 9 meeting (provided Uber receipts for a total of \$27,40). L. Ning explains that usually the request should be made ahead of time, but timing of this particular case is exceptional.

- *G. Catalano moved to approve reimbursement to C. Milsom of \$27,40 for transportation expenses incurred to enable attendance at the EMSB Parents' Committee in-person meeting on Thursday April 9, 2026; seconded by N. Gilmore; all in favour, no abstentions, motion carried.*

Total GB budget is now \$450.60 (T. Alvares will proceed to reimbursement).

8.4. Principal's Report

T. Alvares reports:

- April is busy- we close up the year and plan for next year.
- 31 pre-cycle parents came to do a universe of play workshop March 30th
- In our educational project we wish to increase number of pre-cycle projects
- Beginning transition to high school workshops/sessions with students as well as a parent session (virtually)
- With staff working on enrolment report, our numbers have decreased 261 students (down from 279) which will mean 2 teachers may need to leave
- Budgetary constraints from government means split classes, and larger class sizes
- Teachers have received their tentative assignments but things can change until Oct. 15
- Very unfortunate to lose teachers as the staff are very long-standing here, working with same partner, and with the same grade level, etc.
- Many kids still registered for daycare- hopefully these numbers will stay the same
- Decrease from 19 homerooms to 17 (maximum number of kids in a class 26)
- Z. Chance asks should we be concerned about the decrease in students in coming years? T. Alvares says not a reflection on the quality of the education- the current laws do not help. She met with the communications department at EMSB how can we

increase the numbers? The school has no budget for marketing. The school board needs to focus on this. PPO also looking at this issue. N. Gilmore mentions that images of the school on Google Images could be updated, as a form of free marketing.

8.5. Teachers' Report

N. Di Mattia gives the teachers report:

- I love to read this week- students are participating in many activities. D.E.A.R drop-everything-and-read. Buddy reading (different age groups). Book exchanges. Mystery reader on the intercom.
- Assembly today- one student/class given a certification for kindness and one for generosity
- Information on field trips:
 - Robotics competition April 22, 12 Grade 6 going, with support from PPO
 - Grade 3 outing to Site archéologique Droulet on June 1, using cultural funds
 - Grade 4 outing to Château Ramezay, paid for by the school's "cultural fund"
 - Grade 6 outing to Montreal Science Centre IMAX on June 22, using cultural fund
 - *N. Di Mattia moved for approval to use Grad committee funding to pay for student and staff lunch for June 22 Grade 6 outing to Imax; seconded by Z. Chance; all in favour, no abstentions, motion carried.*

8.6. PPO Report

D. Fidler reports:

- The last PPO meeting was March 23rd
- St. Patricks day dance was great- total profits \$1,556.19
- Staff appreciation week went well
- First half of spring fling Easter guessing game, second half of the spring fling working on it for May
- Bike event on June 5 and June 12 back-up day
- Upcoming Games Night Friday April 17- le Doral doing pizza
- Scholastic Book Fair is April 20-22

- *D. Fidler moved for approval of a budget for the bike event of \$300 and for \$200 to purchase additional snacks for the Game Night event; seconded by N.Gilmore; all in favour, no abstentions, motion carried.*

8.7. Grad Committee Report

T. Alvares gives report:

- There are two events planned for the Grade six classes: June 12 Putting Edge in Ville St-Laurent and June 19, teachers will take a walk with students to get ice cream from Iconoglace. Approvals needed to spend grad funds that were raised from the scones and pizza fundraisers.
 - *D. Fidler moved to approve spending of grad funds on June 12 Putting Edge event (rental of bus and coverage of meal) and June 19 Iconoglace outing; seconded by C. Milsom; all in favour, no abstentions, motion carried.*

8.8. Daycare/Lunch Report

M. Filippone reports:

- 184 registrations for September, numbers are going up. Great that 1 day a week is considered a full-time student.
- April 24 ped day to Zigzagzoo, filled up very quickly.

9. Varia

Nothing to note.

10. Next Meeting

Monday, May 11, 2026 at 6:30 pm (virtually)

11. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:26 pm.

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

Governing Board Chair

Principal