

## **Westmount Park Elementary School | Governing Board Minutes**

Date: May 1, 2025

Start time: 4:01 pm

Present:

In person: Marco, Chrissy, Rony, Joanne, Caitlin, Crystal; Mujdat (4:05pm)

Online: Deborah, Chirstine, Tina; Cristina (4:05pm)

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### **Land Acknowledgement:**

Westmount Park School (Tiohtiá:ke/Montréal) is situated on the traditional territory of the Kanien'kehà:ka, a place which has long served as a site of meeting and exchange amongst many First Nations including the Kanien'kená:ka of the Haudenosaunee Confederacy, Huron/Wendat, Abénaki, and Anishinaabeg. We recognize and respect the Kanien'kehà:ka as the traditional custodians of the lands and waters on which we meet today. We are grateful to live, learn, and work on this land - home to a diverse population of Indigenous communities and people from around the world. As parents and guardians, we strive to foster communities that embrace diversity, equity, and inclusivity for all.

### **1. Welcome:**

#### **1.1 Additions to the agenda:**

-School Website 1.6

-Community Update added to agenda in the future 5.6

#### **1.2 Approval of Agenda - April (held in May) 2025:** 1. Christine 2. Tina, approved

#### **1.3 Approval of March 2025 minutes:** 1. Deborah 2. Tina, approved

#### **1.4 Student Consultation:** Tabled for next meeting.

#### **1.5 Public Question Period:** none

#### **1.6 School Website:** school website is currently missing GB minutes and needs documents updated. Mobile site can be updated. Admin will follow up with board.

### **2. Business Arising From The Minutes:**

2.1 More Library Services GB Letter, updates: no communication has been received by admin or GB regarding the letter sent February 2025 regarding library services. Status: processing.

2.2 Melville Av and South Maisonneuve fencing update: submission to the mayor in processing. GB received a reply that the submission has been received. Letter request from the school has been sent, no response. Community parents plan to follow up at future city hall meetings.

2.3 GB members picture and info section inclusion on school website (as approved March 2025): Image has been shared in Parent groups. A full GB template will be created and added to school socials and website at the beginning of the school year next year after the Annual General Meeting.

### **3. Business requiring approval:**

#### **3.1 School and Lunch Supervision fees:**

Current supervision fees: \$225/child, \$200/3+children in the school to a max of \$600.  
Proposed fees: \$250/child, \$225/3+children in the school to a max of \$675.  
Explanation: current school fees are below the fees of other neighbouring schools.  
Changes to supervision salary; currently staff are paid/day worked (180 days) however next year, they will be paid for PED days (200 days).  
Motion: 1) Caitlin 2) Mujdat, approved

#### 4. Items requiring discussion:

4.1 Status of school resources: following the trend of the past 2 years numbers and enrolment patterns, discussion of the need for a second VP might need to be resumed in September. 50% admin assistant this year has been very helpful. However, with our numbers and school student needs (eg. high population fluctuations, significant number of closed classrooms) we maintain that a second VP is warranted. Further discussion tabled until next year.

4.2 Lunch Supervision: some parents have brought up concerns that shows are being shown during lunch supervision. The largest concern is not the content, but the distraction while eating, and students not eating adequate meals as a result. Admin: the smartboards should not be used in this manner during lunch, it's a short period. Reminder will be sent to supervisors; possibly due to a recent turnover in supervisors.

4.3 Daycare Registration Process: Registration ongoing. Strong registration numbers, many new parents registering this week. We can still accept more students. Email to be sent out to existing families notifying them that they can enroll through an appointment until the end of next week.

4.4 ACs for library, gym, staff room, classrooms update:

4.4.1 NB: *According to the Farmer's Almanac, Quebec is predicted to experience a "seriously hot summer" in 2025, with temperatures described as "boiling" and the season anticipated to be a "scorcher." Global temperatures are estimated to be between 1.35 and 1.55 degrees C above pre-industrial levels. Montrealer's should prepare for a notably hot summer in 2025, with temperatures potentially surpassing historical averages.*

4.4.2 The installations will need to wait until the budget is replenished in August.

4.4.3 Staff have fans, but classroom temperatures were reported to be around 28 degrees last spring. Staff use freezies, the splash pad, new Westmount park cooling towers, and classroom adjustments (windows open, lights off, fans) to help keep the learning environment as comfortable as possible during hot days.

#### 5. Reports

5.1 Teacher's Report:

**Whole School:** Autism Walk, Earth month activities (I am a River presentations to lower grades, upcycled art contest, Wasteless Wednesdays), Easter and passover

**K5:**

1. Letter of the week celebrations (Story, movement-song, craft, snack)
2. Some classes are participating in a Literacy pilot-project with our ESL consultant

3. Bi-Weekly Lawyers reading to the classes
4. Easter egg hunt in Westmount Park
5. Some classes made bird feeders with their gr 6 buddies

**Grade 1:**

1. Grade 1 would like to extend a gracious thank you to all those that donated to our Sweets for Spring fundraiser in April. This fundraiser will support our classes and our end of year field trip. We are very touched by the generosity of our school community.
2. Grade 1 classrooms explored Earth month with hands-on activities that supported student learning on how to better care for our planet. Creating upcycled art, going on nature walks, as well as learning about composting in Montreal all supported this exploration.

**Grade 2:**

1. Fieldtrip to Intermiel was a great success. Students learned about pollination and the importance of bees in food production. They also visited a mini-farm.
2. Author Brianna Corr Scott visited all grade twos for Canadian Authors' Week. She read her latest book and discussed how to take care of our mental health as well as our physical bodies. Students were led through an activity - the focus was on creating a "happy island" created with things that keep us relaxed and calm.
3. Students participated in the McEntyre Art Project. Their work will be on display at Victoria Hall at the end of May and early June.
4. All Aboard Games continued throughout April. One last session will take place on May 6th.
5. Dental screenings were done. Sealants will be done early June.
6. Concordia Reading Study is ongoing.

**Grade 6:**

1. Grade 6 has completed an 8-session Transition to High School workshop with Sharon Klar. The workshops are dedicated to academic skill building and addressed topics such as organization, time management, note-taking, test-taking, and peer pressure. Parents were also invited to participate in an online workshop with Sharon, to provide them with some strategies that can further support their child's transition to high school.
2. Grade 6 students have begun the End-of-Cycle French exam. It will be done from April 24th to May 8th.
3. Grade 6 have been discussing Canadian Politics and the upcoming Federal Election and held a student vote with materials provided by Elections Canada.
4. Grade 6 also held their third TCBY Fundraiser to help raise funds for graduation and end-of-year activities.
5. Grade 6 students took their graduation photos with Green Apple Studios at the beginning of the month. They will be available for purchase by the parents and used in the yearbook.

6. Leadership Club Students in grade 6 have been helping PPO with pizza lunch and helped the younger students create art with recycled materials during earth month.
7. Grades 3-6 had an aerospace presentation on April 25th.

**Closed classrooms:**

1. Special Olympics were a success
2. Lots of classroom integration, has been a huge success.

**5.2 Daycare Report:**

- PED day April 4th; participated in a Funky Feet dance day.
- PED day April 28th; Everblast (formerly Dynamix) provided team building tasks with animators. Also spent time not in activities at the park.
- Daycare Appreciation Week: theme "Together as a Team" week of May 9th

**5.3 Principal's Report:**

- April - EARTH MONTH and AUTISM ACCEPTANCE MONTH
- April 4th - PED at Royal Vale for Teachers
- April 7th - Grade 4 Vaccinations
- April 9th - Inclusive Olympiad
- April 10th - Concluded our skating program with Selwyn House
- April 11th - Grade 6 grad portraits, Grade 2 dental screening
- April 15,16, 29, May 1 - Healthy relationship workshops for Grade 5 by Crystal Alexander
- April 16th - Monique Polak (author)
- April 19th - Globetrotter Tickets for students
- April 17-25th - "I am River" Workshops (local author)
- April 24th - Walk for Autism Acceptance
- April 25th - Bryan Ewenson (aerospace educator for cycle 2 and 3)
- April 30th - Grade 5 visits to James Lyng High School

**5.4 PPO Report**

1. PPO resumed Pizza Days April 25, 2025. Great success in respects to both orders and smoothness of operation. The smoothest pizza day to date!
2. PPO supported the school during the Autism Acceptance Walk April 24th. Parents supported them with signs and encouragement.

**5.5 Regional Parent Committee Report:**

1. PROPOSAL TO RESCIND POLICY PS-13 – PHYSICAL EDUCATION SAFETY-The proposal to rescind Policy PS-13 was not approved. The Parent Committee has requested a written procedure or set of guidelines outlining the installation, maintenance, and safety protocols for equipment managed by external companies—such as basketball nets, soccer nets, and similar items—before the policy can be considered for rescission.
- 2.New Bill 94- Bill 94, introduced by the Minister of Education, Bernard Drainville, aims to reinforce laicity within the Quebec education system by amending the Education Act and the Act Respecting Private Education. The Bill sets out new obligations for schools, administration, school/centre staff , students, and all people volunteering or offering services in school to ensure compliance with state secularism and democratic values. We will be drafting a letter that will be sent.

3. Letter Regarding Governing Board Email Address- a letter has been written again-it was approved to be sent to the Administration.

4. Trips to US: No issues of yet.

5. The Ministere de l'Education announced significant budget cuts to education including a 2.6 million dollar cut to the EMSB. The finance folks worked hard to find places to cut that do not impact students directly – looked to make cuts to administrative / operational aspects of the board like grass cutting. For the salary component, the reductions were mainly related to current vacant posts. We will share any other information when possible. For the 2025-2026 budget, the MEQ has indicated the budgetary cut will continue. Finance team and senior administration will examine all budgets to determine reductions to meet the target, as some of the above are not necessarily sustainable. For example, a vacant post not filled does not mean it can remain unfilled in 2025-2026.

6. A Code of Ethics developed by the Ministere outlining the practices and conduct expected of persons working or in contact with minors or students with disabilities was presented to the council for approval. While it was recognized that this code is vitally important, it was felt by the majority that it required some review and amendments by the ethics committee before approval. On April 2, a letter was sent to Minister Drainville from the nine English-language school boards who delivered a unified message on the government's proposed code of ethics. The school boards relayed that they will be adopting the parts of the code that fall within the scope of the law, i.e., the protection of students, the prevention of sexual violence, etc. Some amendments will need to be made and language in the code modified replacing words with more appropriate language.

7. EPCA developed a step-by-step overview of the complaints procedure which was presented to the Parents' Committee. An electronic version is available upon request.

8. At our May meeting, Student Services will deliver a presentation on how parents can access special education services at the EMSB. The session will outline the process, common limitations, expected delays, and the steps parents can take when services are not provided

Next meeting: Thursday May 01, 2025 @7:00pm at JFK high school

Report submitted by Iulia-Cristina Ionescu

#### 5.6 Community Updates:

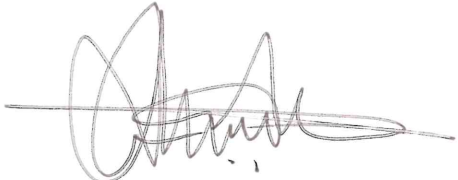
Crystal provided an update on Big Brothers and Big Sisters programming at the school.

6. Varia: Grad gift cards (bursaries) have been purchased. Cards that can be used at a number of shops were selected to give students more purchasing options.

7. Date of next meeting: June 5, 2025

8. Adjournment: 5:27 pm 1. Caitlin 2. Joanne.

  
Marco Gagliardi  
Principal WPS

  
Rony Wahed  
GB Chairperson WPS

