

Westmount Park Elementary School | Governing Board Minutes

Date: May 26, 2026

Start time: 4:05 pm

Present:

In person: Marco, Jessica (admin), Rony, Caitlin (parent rep), Tina (staff), Deborah (daycare)

Online: Shalani (parent rep), Marie (staff), Rachel (community rep), Marjan, Mudjdat (alternates), Joanne, Makiko (PPO), Julien (commissioner)

Guests: Sophie (staff)

Absent: Cristina (parent rep)

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: none

1.2 Approval of Agenda: 1. Tina 2. Caitlin, approved.

1.3 Approval of April 2026 minutes: 1. Tina 2. Caitlin, approved;

1.4 Public Question Period: none

2. Business Arising From The Minutes:

2.1 Second VP Letter Update: a package is being delivered to the EMSB tomorrow containing GB letter, staff letter and Parent letter of support. We will be given any updates.

2.2 Update on school fence project: the fence design has been updated to match the property line, located 2m from the city sewer. This will reduce time in the permit process. The final drawing has been sent to Westmount for permits. The commissioner will contact both Westmount and advocate at the EMSB to help ensure this project is complete over the summer for students to use next school year.

3. Business requiring approval:

3.1 Grade 6 Service Awards: money will be drawn from the GB budget surplus (\$544) and \$200 will be spent on gift cards to form a student service award for Graduation; e-vote was held; 1. Tina 2. Marie, approved

3.2 School Calendar: 1. Caitlin 2. Deborah, approved

3.3 School Fees: *tabled for the June agenda*

3.4 Lunch Supervision Fees: remain the same as past year to keep affordable for families; \$250/child or \$225/child for families with three(3) or more children at the school.

1. Tina 2. Deborah, approved

3.5 ABAV end of year report: changes include: committee meetings will be scheduled every 2 months, code of conduct will be added to discussions at Parent Teacher night. Preventative measures have been taken with success and no formal reports have been required. 1. Marie 2. Shalani, approved

3.6 Standards and procedures: discussion was held over report card comments, parents have noticed less detailed feedback on report cards. This will be discussed further in future meetings. It is noted that the Standards and Procedures were presented and discussed with Governing Board members.

3.7 Agenda inserts/code of conduct: *tabled for the June agenda*

3.8 Recess times: *tabled for the June agenda*

4. Items requiring discussion:

4.1 Enrolment and advertising:

4.1.1 Enrollment: enrollment for 2026-2027 school year - 450 students.

Registrations are still coming in; we expect 75-125 enrollments in August. Next year, we are currently looking at 33 homerooms (25 regular and 8 specialized). This is down from our current 38 homerooms, but is expected to change as consistent with past years.

4.1.2 Collective Agreement: the government has made changes to the Union's collective agreement, changing the right of return from Sept 30 to Aug 8. This will have an impact on our school. No exceptions have been made for schools with similar changing demographics.

4.1.3 Advertising: can be done word of mouth by parents at the school.

Discussion around Family Day tabling events, too late to put this into action for this school year.

4.2 Sustainability and School Preparedness:

4.2.1 Dishwasher: a permanent dishwasher can be installed, however it needs to be a power chord, not a wired in model. Models can be researched and options presented next school year.

4.2.2 Response to Climate Change and AC installation in all classrooms: the commissioner noted that the EMSB can act to address collective needs as we saw with the purchase of air purifiers for classrooms in the wake of Covid-19 for air conditioners. A discussion around planning was held with parents encouraging to look for climate solutions during renovations; for example not removing sinks from classrooms, including screens for windows in project scope, roofing options that lower building heat levels.

4.2.3 PC Level: at Parent Council, preparedness has been a frequent topic of concern. An appeal letter has been sent to EMSB, council is asking for a policy to be put forward by the board

4.2.4 AC and Heat Measure: Library is being prioritized for AC installation granting a few students a place, but with weather pattern changing students will be coming back to school in the peak of summers and full-scale AC installation is indispensable to providing the right learning conditions for students . Fans were purchased for every classroom. Screens have been installed for much of the building. On the back side, rooms have 5/5 windows screened, on the front side, $\frac{3}{5}$ screens have been purchased. The warmest rooms were given priority.

4.3 Status of School Resources and Service including School area: The city works closely with the school to always ensure student safety in the school area.

4.4 School Zone Crossing Guards (Brigardier Scolaire): concerns are shared about the traffic build up in Acad my Road and Park Place Road during drop off and pick-ups, with buses, cars and people movements in the area . A proper ratio of staff is allocated at each entrance to serve the different transportation methods. Concerns raised by parents as more supervision is needed for student safety and support during drop-off and pick-up times particularly at Acad my Road and Park Place Road.

4.5 School's Equipment Risk Assessment: this will be completed at the end of the year and is done at the end of every year.

5. Reports

5.1 Teacher's Report:

Whole School

- Halo Race May 13
- Earth Day activities
- We wanted to extend a big thank you to PPO for the funds allotted to us to buy art supplies and materials for our classrooms.

ECA

- The lunchtime yoga club for grade two students has come to an end.
- The lunch Glee/Choir Club is excited to put on their performance of Matilda on June 3rd & 4th for all students.

Closed Classes

- On May 14th, Wings classes went to *We Rock the Spectrum*, an indoor autism sensory gym space designed for neurodiverse students.

K4

- The K4 Team has invited all K4 parents to join their children for a Donuts with Grown-Ups year-end celebration from 10:40 a.m. – 11:25 a.m. on Thursday, June 4! Donuts and other yummy treats will be available, and parents will be invited into the classrooms to eat, play, and spend time with their children and other K4 parents. It will be a perfect opportunity to connect with other families before the summer!
- The K4 classes have been taking weekly spring walks to observe the changing season.

K5

- We have started our home reading program for the last month.
- Bi-weekly visits from BLG law firm, reading to students.
- Students had their vision screened by optometrists.
- Pow wow dance session, led by our community animator, Flavie
- Earth day activities: Making bird feeders, making paper, upcycled art projects.

Grade 1

- 108 & 109 visited the Morgan Arboretum on May 26th, enjoying the last part of their series of Outdoor learning fieldtrips.
- 108 is exploring the life cycle of plants, butterflies & frogs, and has begun to learn about the water cycle as part of their end-of-year Spring unit.

Grade 2

- Students visited the Museum of Fine Arts on May 14th. They toured part of the museum and made clay sculptures.
- Participated in a workshop on PowWow dances and learned more about Indigenous people.
- McEntyre Art projects will be on display at Victoria Hall from May 22 - June 11, 2026 (Opening night 4:00 - 6:00).
- Room 110 held a Mother's Day Poet - Tea party to celebrate moms and to share their poetry from April Poetry month
- Dental sealants have been completed for those who were eligible.
- June 2 - will have an end-of-year trip to UPLA.

Grade 3

- On May 25th, Grade three classes will be participating in a special workshop on Conflict Resolution with Jeff Schoula, the founder of Comedy for Kids.

Grade 5

- We had a puberty workshop with the school nurse to talk about all the changes that happen during puberty. It was very well done and age-appropriate.
- Grade 5 and Grade 6 participated in an emoji literacy workshop to learn about the meaning of emojis and how they affect what we send by text

Grade 6

- Finished our Transition to High School workshops.
- Science Fair was a huge success!
- Finished the French exam
- Basketball Tournament at WPS on May 12th (organized by Mr. Liam and Mr. K)
- ELA exam starts May 19th
- Staff vs. Student basketball game will be on May 25th
- Ottawa Trip for grade 6s on May 29th

5.2 Daycare Report:

- Our two stagiaires have completed their final stage on Friday, May 22nd. The Base daycare team held a goodbye party and wish them both continuous success.
- Daycare Appreciation Week May 11-15, 2026. Base daycare students had a great time celebrating with multiple activities. Monday-picked names and made friendship card bracelets, Tuesday-Sports Day-Staff against Students, Wednesday- Making ice cream sundaes Thursday- Carnival Day. We also had a daycare staff luncheon to show how much we appreciate the hard work and dedication of all of our educators.
- Friday Ped Day - Painting Bird feeders. Students participated in getting into groups of 3, discussing how they will paint the birdfeeders. The students really used their imaginations as some painted themes such as the Montreal Canadiens, Spring Flowers. They then added bird seed and walked around Westmount Park and hung the bird feeders on trees.
- International week. The Base Daycare team is excited to bring back this project with our students. The team and students are learning about our student and staff cultural backgrounds, as well as their traditional music, food, clothing etc.. We will then be celebrating by asking parents to participate in preparing a traditional food item with their children and sharing it with all our daycare students on Tuesday June 2 in the gymnasium from 3:00-4:30 pm.

5.3 Principal's Report:

April 17th Selwyn House volunteers
 April 22nd Autism walk and art project
 April 29th James Lyng student for a day for grade 5's
 French exam Grade 6
 May 4th SPCA Class presentation
 May 6th Dental Screening for ES and Wings classes
 May 12th a Basketball Tournament was organized with other schools
 May 14th Vision Screening Preschool
 May 22nd PPO Picnic

5.4 PPO Report:

- April Pizza Day: raised \$1034.05. Next Pizza day: June 9
- New Tote Bag fundraiser: \$20/regular \$25/jumbo. Debuted at the Family Picnic. Will be available for purchase for staff through the office. Will be sold in a two day pop-up sale at pick up in June.
- Family Picnic was held May 22. Event was a success. Thank you to teachers for their support and help at the event. Especially the facepainting team, and those who worked the sales tables. \$682 was raised after the payment of the Ice Cream truck.
- PPO will donate \$100 each to both Grade 6 and Kindergarten Graduation
- PPO will be helping support the upcoming school carnival

- There will be a final PPO event handing out popsicles at recess at the end of the year

5.5 Regional Parent Committee Report: PC notes from May 7, 2026 meeting

- Anna Sanalidro, Director of Student Services, spoke to committee members about the funding model for tutorial services, specifically those services managed by LEARN. The EMSB was previously using more of the budget than was meant for our board, and there is a different allocation model now (to boards instead of to Learn) that can result in less tutoring spaces for the EMSB.
Mrs. Sanalidro also spoke to the group about pedagogical resources for students related to severe weather incidents. EMSB parents should have received a memo called “resources for parents” with a link to the resources online just in time for end of school exams.
- <https://www.emsb.qc.ca/emsb/services/central-services/home-schooling/modules>
- The PC introduced a new survey to gather information to get a snapshot of current infrastructure conditions in schools, including heating, ventilation, air conditioning facilities, accessibility, and outdoor spaces. Our delegate submitted the survey for WPS, highlighting the repeated request for the fence.
- PC delegates spoke about the need to roll out a road safety campaign in the fall. Senior administration to be contacted regarding this.
- PC delegates discussed the challenges posed by a \$2 million liability insurance requirements for third-party providers of extracurricular activities, including increased costs and the exclusion of smaller local vendors, and shared experiences and possible solutions for ensuring program continuity.
- 35 parents attended the Governance 101 event on April 15. Of the 66 RSVPs 48% of parents have children with IEPs and 1/3 of the parents who RSVPd had never participated/volunteered at their child’s school.
- May 25, 2026 parents should receive a letter from the English Parents Committee Association and the Quebec English School Boards Association entitled “Protest (for) Our Adult Education and Vocational Training Centres”.
 - o To summarize, English adult education and vocational training centres serve a wide range of learners, anglophones, francophones, newcomers, helping adults complete high school, retrain, and enter the workforce. Under the proposed changes, it’s estimated that 40 to 70 percent of current students could lose access to these centres. For many, transferring isn’t a simple option.

They could face longer travel, fewer program choices, waitlists, and language barriers, and some may end up leaving their studies altogether. The broader impact is also a concern. We could see fewer graduates and fewer skilled workers, especially in sectors already facing shortages, along with reduced enrolment and potential program cuts in the English system. The EMSB emphasizes that it supports French language learning, but the concern is that restricting access is not the solution. Instead, the focus should be on strengthening French support while maintaining these important educational pathways. The letter calls for parents to raise these concerns with their MNAs before any legislation is introduced.

5.6 Community Updates: Rachel gave us an update on Big Brothers and Big Sisters. Between now and the end of the year is the best time to start thinking of students who could benefit from the program.

5.7 Commissioner Report:

- Supreme Court Challenge of Bill 21 is complete. The EMSB awaits the decision.
- The Commissioner highlights the importance of this election
- The EMSB is watching Bill 101 and its impacts on the Adult Learning sector. This would impact the 27,000 students.
- For WPS: the commissioner is considering a partnership with Heart in Hands, the program that is currently a pilot program at two schools in Verdun. This program would bring a medical clinic to the school and serve students without a family doctor. He requests the school provide him with the number of students currently without a family doctor in Quebec.
- Fence Follow-up: the commissioner was able get in touch with Matt Aronson of Ward 7 to discuss permits during the meeting. He relays that permits should only take between 1-2 weeks and given our proposed project, should not face delays. The commissioner will follow up with the Director General once permits are finalized at the request of GB to organize quickly and aim to complete the fencing project by end of summer or early September.

6. Varia:

7. Date of next meeting: June 11, 2026

8. Adjournment: 6:02pm, 1. Marie, 2. Deborah