

Westmount Park Elementary School | Governing Board Minutes

Date: December 18, 2025

Start time: 4:11 pm

Present:

In person: Marco, Tina, Marie, Deborah, Shalani, Rony, Rachel

Online: Cristina, Marie, Joanne, Mujdat, Marjan, Terry, Lee, Caitlin (4:24pm)

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. Marie 2. Shalani, approved.

1.3 Approval of June 2025 minutes: 1. Tina 2. Shalani, approved.

1.4 Public Question Period: no questions

2. Business Arising From The Minutes:

2.1 GB members' webpage update on the school website: We received some pictures of members. If the quality is okay, they will be uploaded. Marco will check with the webmaster to ensure quality is okay.

2.2 Bulletin board to display community updates and awareness info: The bulletin board has been placed next to the office. GB will go through the administration before posting notices.

3. Business requiring approval:

3.1 Daycare field trips: This was tabled from October. Deborah asked for approval for daycare to plan trips during pedagogical days 1. Shalani 2. Tina, approved.

3.2 School Success Plan: shared with the governing board as a point of information. Marco reported that new strategies were added to the section "feeling safe at school". Staff met, looked at progress and strategies. Decided what to improve on. Current plan in effect until 2028. Staff will meet annually to review.

3.3 ABAV (Anti-Bullying & Anti-Violence) plan:

Governing board was sent two copies of the plan – a full version and a long version. This document was prepared by a committee including administration, behaviour techs, an integration aide etc.

- PVCIA is the new term for Spiritual Animator at the EMSB
- Discussion on power imbalance might make it difficult for victims to recognize incidents of bullying. The definitions are provided by the ministry, and it might be worthwhile to write the ministry and ask for them to reassess the definition.
- In person, actions have to happen more than once to be considered bullying; however, online, one act can be bullying, as the violence is felt repeatedly by the victim

-communication protocol surrounding discipline:

- teachers and behavior technicians communicate issues with families on the same day
- after three warnings issued to parents, a student is sent home with a final warning that the next incident will result in suspension.
- suspensions begin at 1 day and go to a maximum of 5 days.
- whenever a student meets with the admin as a disciplinary action, parents are notified.

- student surveys:

- only Gr 5 and 6 students are surveyed as this is a multiple choice survey on a computer; this format is difficult to deliver to younger groups
- this year, students reported feeling both safer at school and more bullying.
- this contradiction could be a result of who the students define as school (bus, daycare, online?)

-SPVM has been brought in to discuss Online Bullying

-approval: 1. Deborah 2. Shalani, approved.

3.4 Daycare Handbook: The handbook includes the new fees. On ped days the price went up by \$1. 1. Tina 2. Marie, approved.

4. Items requiring discussion:

4.1 Student Head Injuries: In alignment with the school's Health Procedure, 99% of students are evaluated immediately by a staff member who has received head injury training (exceptions: bussing, unreported injuries). A report is sent to the Ministry, parents are notified and told what behaviours to watch for. A handout from the CLSC is sent home. GB parents request that this form be made available online for families as part of the school resources. Admin not sure what the policy is for head injuries sustained on the bus and will reach out to the transformation department to get the answer.

4.2 Communications policy on social media by school stakeholders and anti-bullying policy: The suspension of an EMSB student over social media posts not aimed towards students or the school was discussed at PC, and clarity was sought as to how it applies to students at WPS. Admin must deal with social media issues occurring outside of

school when students bring it into the school. There is no surveillance of students' social media accounts by the school. In instances where issues are brought into the school, the school's mandate is to educate, and as such will educate on proper use of social media and encourage parent involvement in student accounts.

4.3 School Bus Safety:

- In Vehicle: Concerns raised over student safety and conduct on school buses. Admin will speak with Transco to see if there are policies or documents that can be shared with families that discuss Good/Safe Bus Practices.
- In Bus Lane: public continue to use Academy Road as a throughway with their vehicles. This is a safety risk to students during school hours and after dismissal when families play on the playground and daycare uses the field. The chain will be put back up after buses leave.

5. Reports

5.1 Teacher's Report:

-Whole School

- Grade 3,4,5 students in the Glee Lunch Club performed their first winter performance as part of the Holiday Concert. Thank you to Ms. Kendra, Ms. Hannah, and Ms. Marie for their efforts.
- Junior and Senior Holiday concerts took place on Dec. 18. Congratulations to all classes!
- The Yoga Club for Grade 2 students has begun and will continue into the new year. There are currently 25 eager yogis participating in Ms. Marie's lunch club.
- Social skills workshops have begun in Kindergarten, Cycle 1, 2, and 3 under the direction of Ms. Sybil, Ms. Lori, and Ms. Opal, where students are learning cooperation, self-regulation, and socioemotional skills that will support their learning in and out of the classroom.
- I love to read week was held and was a success. The book fair raised money for the classroom libraries.

-Closed Classes

- Junior ASD classes visited Caden's Lighthouse
- Junior ASD joined mainstream K in decorating gingerbread houses in the staff room.

-K4

- K4 will participate in the annual Breakfast with Santa

-K5

- Letter celebrations every Friday
- Bi-weekly guest readers from the BLG law firm
- Remembrance Day ceremony
- Indigenous storytelling workshop

- Buddy program (doing activities with Gr 6 students)
- Annual gingerbread house decorating on Friday, Dec 12th
- Breakfast with Santa- Dec 17th

-Grade 1

- 108 partnered with students from Giant Steps for a Pen Pal project. Both groups were happy to receive their first postcard letters from new friends. This project will continue into the school year.
- 108 celebrated the holiday season by inviting families to create their own ornaments for our classroom tree, where families could include their favorite winter activities, their country's flag, or anything else that celebrated their unique contribution to our classroom community.

-Grade 2

- All grade 2 classes had a visit from a war veteran for Remembrance Day
- Rooms 110 & 115 did a fun activity with the Kubo Coding Robots
- Rooms 114 & 119 decorated gingerbread men cookies and held a hot chocolate "book cafe."

-Grade 3

- Rooms 213 & 108 explored Peace in November with a friendly 'Rock, Paper, Scissors' challenge, where both groups learned how to play the game in a peaceful, fun, and engaging way with the aim of learning and promoting conflict-resolution skills.

-No report was sent from Grades 4, 5 and 6.

5.2 Daycare Report:

- Nov. 7 ped day educators had an annual conference.
- Nov. 20 Pop and paint activity.
- Nov. 21 Super heroday.
- Dec, 5 – made ornaments, wreaths and decorated a tree.
- Soccer program has now ended.
- Stage students from Lasalle college have completed their practicum. We wish them luck and hope to have them work at WPS in the future.

5.3 Principal's Report:

School success plan:

We have reviewed the strategies from your Educational Project, some are ongoing, and we have added a new one. We will continue to monitor their implementation until the current Educational Project expires.

- Remembrance Activities (Veterans and Bag Piper on November 4th, 2025)
- CRLT Dawson Stage Students (November 12, 2025)
- SPVM Visits for Grade 6 (November 11 and 13)
- Photo Retakes (November 13)
- Parent-Teacher Interviews (November 20)

- November 27th - Musee des Beaux Arts (grade 6)
- Steel Pan started in November
- "I love to Read Week" - (December 1-4)
- Holocaust Museum visit by grade 6 (December 2)
- Scholastic Book Fair (December 3 and 4)
- SPVM Visits for Grade 5 (December 9 and 10)
- Nutcracker Theatre - grade 4 (December 10)
- Ugly Sweater Day - December 12 (raised over \$1000)
- TCBY Fundraiser - grade 6 (December 15)
- Breakfast with Santa (December 17)
- Hoodies were given as gifts to all students (k4 to grade 2)
- Art Therapy - 2 days/week starting in December
- Gingerbread cookies and chocolate milk offered to all students (December 17)
- Tutoring - 4 days/ week starting n December
- Holiday concerts (December 18)
- Pajama Day (December 19)
- Winter Formal - grade 6 (December 19)

5.4 PPO Report:

- Parent-Teacher Interviews - Nov 20th PPO Booth
 - Thank you to the volunteers
 - \$445 t-shirt sales, \$63 in beverages and cookies
 - We had more requests for a card reader because people don't carry cash
 - Miss Jennifer is asking about potentially using Square for payment by card (we would have to ask admin about it)
 - Helped Grade 5 sell their Halloween Candy Bags for fundraising
 - Supervised Leadership Club's Craft Fair
- November Pizza Day
 - \$1141 was raised
- Scholastic Book Fair (Dec 3 & 4)
 - PPO volunteered
- January Pizza Day
 - Cancelled
- March Pizza Day
 - Cancelled
- March Family Movie Night
 - Originally planned for March 13th but moved to March 27th (Pizza Day cancelled)
 - March 27th @ 6pm (doors at 5:30pm)
 - Movie not chosen yet, to be discussed in January meeting
- Other business, questions, suggestions
 - Mr. David and Mr. Pantano's suggestion for PPO to create a Welcome Parents Guidebook for new families to WPS

- Ideas of where to go for extracurriculars, libraries, camps, tutors, etc.
- Should be online for easy access and updates
- Parents have been asking
- Angela Henderson has volunteered to aggregate the information via Google Doc if other people do the research
- Admin will need to sign off on any group listed to make sure they are qualified/a school partner. Tyndale, Greene Centre and City of Westmount are all approved school partners. Their events can be made accessible to the school families via the community bulletin board.

5.5 Regional Parent Committee Report: PC notes for Nov. and Dec. 2025 meetings

-Budget:

There was a significant cut to the PC budget and as a result the PC scholarships were removed for this year. There was disagreement about whether/how to respond to this cut. Some members including the Chair and wanted to appeal to the Council; others including WPS delegate thought that this cut was understandable and suggested having all meetings remotely to reduce the need for allocations/refreshments.

*PC has requested a presentation from EMSB administration to better understand the impact of the current budget on services to students. It was requested for the Dec. meeting but has not happened yet.

-Bill 94:

In Nov, motion was presented and passed to write a letter to EPCA on behalf of PC to advocate for the laws to be revoked or altered. In Dec. the draft letter was approved to send to EPCA.

For more information about the bill see

<https://www.assnat.qc.ca/en/travauxparlementaires/projets-loi/projet-loi-94-43-1.html>

To access EPCA's submission in response to the bill (April 2025), see

<https://epcaquebec.org/bill-94/>

- EMSB GB email accounts:

In Nov, motion was made and passed to send a letter to the Ministry of education to inquire about governing boards and email accounts. In Dec, the letter was approved requesting clarification on the authority of governing boards to maintain official communication channels, such as dedicated email accounts, to improve accessibility, accountability, and continuity. Longtime members expressed frustration about lack of response to previous letters.

-Replacement for Physical Education policy:

A policy for equipment safety was revoked in 2025 but not replaced. In Nov, request was made to admin (again) to replace. In Dec, the administration confirmed that material resources and educational services are collaborating to ensure equipment safety, and that principals are responsible for maintenance,

but a timeline for new guidelines is still pending. Motion to inquire when the guidelines would be published moved forward by the group.

-School trips:

In Nov., there was considerable frustration around cost, location (not adhering to Canadian Government travel advisories) or accessibility issues; fundraising rules limit ability to fundraise.

In Dec., it was clarified that fundraising for large scale initiatives like school trips at the high school level must be conducted for groups rather than individuals. Students may fundraise independently outside of school, but school-organized fundraising must benefit the entire group or team.

-Expansion of Vocational Carpentry Program (Dec.):

Adult Education and Vocational Services Regional Director Angela Spagnolo presented a plan for the expansion of the Rosemount Technology Centre's vocational carpentry program at Lester B. Pearson High School, covering the rationale, logistics, space allocation, and the impact on existing programs. The Quebec government launched initiative attempts address labour shortages in the construction industry, leading to the Ministry of Education allowing school boards to offer construction training programs without the usual authorizations. AEVS received provisional authorization to run the carpentry program, with the goal of increasing workforce participation and revenue, and is seeking permanent authorization contingent on successful program delivery.

Participants raised concerns about the reduction in Sport-études program classes at Lester B. Pearson, questioning the rationale for decreasing next year's secondary one class from three to two classes and the potential impact on student access, with plans to seek clarification from administration via a letter to administration. Members wanted to delay the vote until we received answers to these questions, but the consultation period ended Dec. 5th (day after the meeting).

The EMSB PC committee resolved to accept the proposal and recommended that:

- 1) any expansion or changes to vocational programs should not impede the programming of educational project at Lester B. Pearson High School. The safeguarding and provisioning for potential future expansion of Pearson's Sport-Etude Program must be considered.
- 2) youth be allowed access to the facilities where possible in conjunction with educational programming, without overlapping with adult cohorts.

-Petition for Crossing Guards (Dec):

A petition at the National Assembly to make high schools eligible for crossing guards, encouraging members to share the [QR code/link](#) and gather signatures before the February deadline.

-Food Insecurity and Federal Funding (Dec):

Concerns were raised about the Quebec government's refusal to accept federal funding for a national food program, despite ongoing food insecurity among students. The committee discussed possible advocacy actions, including writing letters and engaging the media.

-Advisory Committee on Special Education Services(Dec.): The advisory committee reported on efforts to obtain and consolidate data regarding special education services, waitlists, and student placements, aiming to identify gaps and improve information sharing. The committee received a detailed presentation on the number of students with special needs, program offerings, and school-level data, with the goal of identifying information gaps and improving service delivery. A question was raised about the number of students zoned for EMSB who are placed in resources outside the board, with plans to obtain and share this information for further analysis.

-English Parent Committee Association Report (Dec.):

EPCA will be presenting a brief at the National Assembly regarding **Bill One**, which could impact minority rights and school funding, and invited parent participation in advocacy efforts. Bill One / Quebec Constitution proposes changes that would prioritize majority rights over minority rights and restrict the use of certain funds for legal challenges, raising concerns about civil rights and school governance. Sign-up to receive information and tools for parents

<https://epcaquebec.org/contact-us/>

-Addition: Bill 94 will greatly impact many families at the school. Parents have already been voicing their concern with GB. Any WSP family who is concerned is encouraged to attend the next PC Meeting on January 8, 2026.

5.6 Community Updates:

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

6. **Varia:**

7. **Date of next meeting:** January 29, 2026

8. **Adjournment:** 5:36 pm 1. Tina 2. Deborah.