



Governing Board – Regular Meeting (First Meeting)

Wednesday, October 1, 2025 - 6:30 PM (in-person)

Junior Campus - Staff Room 2nd floor

Present: Silvana Crigna (Principal), Eugenia Carystios (Vice-Principal), Kathleen Usher (Teacher), Nick Batzios (Teacher), Felicia Maccio (Teacher), Tina Barbaccia (Teacher), Luminita Paun (Teacher), Nadine Thomas (Daycare Technician), Caterina Maria Brizzi (Daycare Educator Principal), Karyn Moffatt (Parent), Amy Hétu (Parent), Richard Bartle-Tubbs (Parent), Alex Ruau (Parent), Roxanne Ross (Parent), Megan Donovan (Parent), Sharon Nelson (Commissioner)

Regrets: None

Minutes taken by: Silvana Crigna and Karyn Moffatt

1. Opening Remarks
Silvana Crigna welcomed new members to GB.
2. Land Acknowledgement
Read by Kathleen Usher (written by Willingdon Students)
3. Adoption of Agenda
Moved by Kathleen Usher and seconded by Nick Batzios.
4. Composition of Governing Board
 - 4.1 Governing Board Chairperson Selection (meeting taken over by Chairperson at this point)
Roxanne Ross was elected.
Moved by Megan Donovan and seconded by Kathleen Usher.
 - 4.2 Governing Board Secretary Selection
Karyn Moffatt was elected.
Moved by Amy Hétu and seconded by Tina Barbaccia.
 - 4.3 Governing Board Treasurer Selection
Richard Bartle-Tubbs was elected.
Moved by Amy Hétu and seconded by Nick Batzios.
 - 4.4 Governing Board Community Representation Selection & Approval
Silvana Crigna presented Nadine Collins' candidature.
Nadine Collins was elected.
Moved by Kathleen Usher and seconded by Nadine Thomas.
 - 4.5 Governing Board Member Contact Information
Silvana Crigna circulated a list of each member's contact information.
Members individually checked, and made any necessary corrections.
 - 4.6 Governing Board Meeting Dates
The committee agreed to the following dates and venues:

- Monday November 17 (virtual)
- Monday December 15 (virtual)
- Monday January 19 (virtual)
- Monday February 16 (virtual)
- Wednesday March 25 (virtual)
- Monday April 20 (virtual)
- Monday May 25 (virtual)
- Monday Jun 8 (in-person, Willingdon)

5. Approval of Minutes of Last Meeting

5.1 June 9, 2025 Minutes

Moved by Alex Ruah and seconded by Karyn Moffatt.

5.2 Presentation of 2024-2025 Annual GB Report by Mr Daniel Quinn

Silvana Crigna presented on behalf of Daniel Quinn, reading out the 2024-25 report on GB's annual activities. She further shared that the GB receives an annual budget of \$250. Typically some of this is used to provide refreshments for in-person meetings. In the past GB has donated surplus funds to student activities and awards. There is a carry over from last year of \$51.92, resulting in a total budget of \$301.92.

6. Public question period

There were no questions received from the public.

7. Business Arising from the Minutes

There was no business arising from the minutes.

8. Reports

8.1 Principal's Report

8.1.1 School Start-Up Update

Silvana Crigna provided an overview of start of year activities in the school and introduced the year's theme, Different Together, to the GB. In particular she noted the school's response to the provincial budget cuts, including strategies put in place to ensure students receive required services. Discussion centered on the impact of these cuts. It was noted that while all essential roles are covered, the reduced staffing has eroded the buffer needed to respond to episodic but expected challenges like staff absences or periods of increased need. Parents were encouraged to actively voice their opinion to ensure the impacts of these cuts are understood by the government. Also discussed were efforts to improve how Google classroom is used to make it easier for parents to manage.

8.1.2 Staffing Update

Silvana Crigna reported that all teaching and support staff positions are filled.

8.1.3 School Marketing

Silvana Crigna described upcoming activities to promote the school, including plans to visit daycares and develop promotional materials for printing and the

website. She noted that Willingdon has lost enrollment due to increased restrictions on English Eligibility, as well as families moving out of the neighbourhood due to increasing costs of living. Total registrations are currently around 450, which is about 20 less than last year. Other local EMSB schools have seen similar reductions.

She encouraged everyone to help promote the school to others, and noted that visits can be arranged at any time and new registrations are generally possible throughout the year.

Nick Batzios shared that in the past daycares have come to the school and visited classrooms, and that this had been quite successful.

Social media was also discussed with committee members noting that it can be a powerful way to engage others and showcase the school, but that care needs to be taken due to the dangers associated with posting student photos and content.

8.1.4 October 14, 2025 Grade 4 camp day

CampsRep / Boute-en-train

Extended day trip (7:00 am departure; 5:00–5:30 pm return)

Cost to parents: \$106 (\$16 more than last year)

This price includes coach transportation, as has been the norm in recent years for longer field trips for increased safety and comfort.

Moved by Roxanne Ross and seconded by Amy Hétu.

8.1.5 October 15, 2025 Cycle 1 apple picking

Apple picking

Day trip (9:30 am departure; 2:00 pm return)

Cost to parents: \$45 (same as last year)

Moved by Alex Ruah and seconded by Megan Donovan.

8.1.6 Approval of After School Extracurricular Activities

Eugenia Carystios provided an overview of planned ECA activities, noting that finalizing the scheduling is still underway.

1. Game Time Sports

- Grades 3-4: Soccer
- Grades 4-6: Basketball and Flag football
- Cost: \$150 for 8 weeks

2. Enfant & Compagnie

- Grades 1-6: Kid Chef Italia,
- Grades 3-6: Cosom Hockey,
- Grades 1-2: Soccer
- Cost: varies by activity

3. Musical Theater

- Offered by Dimitris and Maria, plus a choreographer
- Will prepare a production of Hairspray the Musical
- Dress rehearsal: May 2; Show: May 3
(students must attend dress rehearsal to participate in show)

- Grades 3-6, divided in 2 groups by age to ensure all are appropriately challenged
- Runs Tuesdays 4-5pm from October 21 to May
- Cost: \$150

Moved by Megan Donovan and seconded by Amy Hétu.

8.2 Vice-Principal Report

Eugenia Carystios reported on behalf of herself and Jessica Doubt, summarizing the start of year and progress on transitioning, especially for the K4/5 and Grade 5 students who have entered a new environment. She noted the impact the bus disruptions have had on establishing routines. She shared several recent activities, including:

- September assemblies at both campuses to cover the code of conduct
- Fire drills were held at both campuses and went smoothly.
- VPs met with Home and school to discuss planning for this year.
- Truth and Reconciliation walks were held at both campuses

Upcoming events include:

- Oct 5 world teachers day
- Oct 9 progress reports
- Oct 23 School photos

8.3 Commissioner's Report

EMSB Commissioner Sharon Nelson provided an update on efforts by the EMSB, in coordination with other English school boards to fight Bill 96, budget cuts, and restrictions on the use of surplus.

8.4 EMSB Regional Parent Delegate's Report

Nothing to report as no meetings have been held yet.

8.5 Teacher's Report

Several teachers shared brief updates on recent activities:

- Tina reported on activities with cycle 3 students to foster a supportive and constructive learning environment.
- Mr Nick shared activities in the music program and efforts to motivate students in the classroom and in extra curricular activities.
- Felicia reported on efforts to build relationships and routines in cycle 1 and get to know the kids
- Kathleen Usher described outdoor science initiatives to learn about nature and efforts to integrate Indigenous knowledge into the curriculum, as well as leadership and teamwork development activities. She noted that the Grade 6 Honey project is underway, with boxes sent for packaging

8.6 Daycare Report

Nadine Thomas reported on BASE, noting especially the impact of the budget cuts on planned activities. Champions for Life will return this year but will only be offered to K4 and K5 children due to the cuts.

8.6.1 Ceramic Cafe Studio

Planned activity for the Oct 10 Ped Day by Ceramic Cafe Studio

Activity cost: \$21.16

Daycare fee: \$16.00

Total cost: \$37.16

Moved by Kathleen Usher and seconded by Megan Donovan.

8.7 Home & School Report

No report as there was no representative present.

8.8 Community Representative Report (as of 2nd GB meeting, after approval at 1st meeting)

No report as there was no representative present.

9. New Business

No new business

10. Date of next meeting to be established at 1st meeting

Next meeting: 6:30pm Monday Nov 17, 2025 (virtual)

11. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 8:22 pm

Moved by Alex Ruah and seconded by Nick Batzios.


Silvana Crigna
Principal


Roxanne Ross
Chairperson