



EMS Governing Board Minutes for
January 20th, 2025
Meeting # 3

Virtual – TEAMS

EMS Parent Members	Present	Absent	EMS Staff Members/Administration/EMSB	Present	Absent
Annie Baldessari, parent	x		Christina Chilelli, principal	x	
Christina D’Alesio, parent	x		Elisa Giampa, staff assistant	x	
Ana Paula De Sousa, parent	x		Giovanna Giuliana, daycare technician	x	
Amanda Mini, parent	x		Alana Goodings, teacher	x	
Fei Sha Zhou,, parent	x		Ida Lento, teacher	x	
			Melissa Bentrovato, behavior technician	x	
			Maria Corsi, Commissioner	x	

1. Welcome at 6:33
2. Adoption of agenda – 1st Elisa and 2nd Annie
3. Adoption of minutes from December 2, 2024 - 1st Annie and 2nd Christina D’Alesio
4. Business Arising:
 - a. Consultation for the Selection of the Principal – Examples provided by principal.
 - i. At the next meeting – GB would discuss and agree on final draft together (Chilelli to excuse herself during the next meeting for this portion)
5. New Business
 - a) Budget – Approved 1st Anna and 2nd Feisha
 - Reporting on current budget and how it is spent. Chilelli goes over the details and the breakdown with the GB.
 - Note that the money from Fund 3 must be approved by the GB.
 - D’Alesio asks about how restrictive the rules of the spending on these government funds are. Answer is that the funds need to be used in relation and connected to the educational project goals.
 - b) Educational Project Action Plan - Approved 1st Anna and 2nd Elisa
 - 2024-2028 Action plan is presented by the principal

Maria Corsi had to leave early – leaves at 7:23

- c) Grade 6 Grad Fundraiser – Approved by Elisa and 2nd Ida
 - Approval
 - i. Donation of 25\$/student
 - ii. Dress down day in February and March
 - iii. Movie night (open to entire school but run by grade 6 grad committee)
 - iv. Bowling fundraiser

6. Reports

- a) **Maria Corsi** – EMSB is cutting the 2.6million dollars at the board level. Department directors will meet in February and how to implement the cuts. Likely, projects to be delayed (Center of excellence within Nesbitt building – may be delayed for example) Positions that are currently unstaffed, they may remain so for the next year. The Board is going to do their best to limit the impacts on the students. New budget in March for adoption at board level.
 - a. Question: where can we see the results of these decisions? Answer: The board meeting is public (web viewing or in person) you can submit questions ahead of time.
- b) Principal
 - a. Heating issues have been resolved (There was an issue on first day back from winter break).
 - b. Open house Jan 16th. Over 20 families visited the school. Very nice event.
 - c. Planning for the new school year to register for next year. Registration is now open for current students. Siblings' registration is next week and then general registration
- c) Chairperson
 - a. For the holidays we received a happy Holidays from senior management
- d) Delegate
 - a. Updates from PC– see below for **Highlights* from EMSB Parents Committee Meeting on January 9**
- e) Teachers
 - Goodings: Student teachers starting in February. Yearbook coming along for 2024-2025 yearbook. Photo and Video- Independently put together the stop-motion for open house. Really good job
 - Giampa: Black history month speaker coming, Cabana sucre outings in the spring (April potentially). School wide trip
- f) Daycare: Giovanna: Waiting for the 2nd round of VMC students to contact for the community service. First half went very well. The students appreciated them.
- g) PPO Annie
 - a. PPO Info session on Jan 13th went well, tech issues aside. 22 signed up resulting in 4 additional PPO members. They are: Annie Baldessari, Amanda Mini, Christina D'Alesio, Claudia Palmieri, Feisha Zhou + of course Christina Chilelli, Elisa Giampa
 - b. Next PPO meeting set for Jan 27th to iron out details for the Teacher Appreciation week.
 - c. Questions:
 - i. Soliciting external donors – Yes allowed (though timing needs to be considered)
 - ii. PPO poster in the school – yes allowed
 - iii. PPO newsletter – may be merged with current if appropriate.

7. Varia / Public Question Period

- Annie mentions McGill Faculty of Education Newsletter – access to an audience of current students and recent grads. Maybe an avenue when advertising for tutoring etc. Information on opportunity can be sent to : career.education@mcgill.ca at any time. Newsletters are on Thursdays.

8. Date of next meeting: **February 24, 2025**

9. Adjournment at 7:50- approved 1st Amanda and 2nd Melissa

Highlights* from EMSB Parents Committee Meeting on January 9

- **Budget Building Process**

- What is it?
 - All governing board and the EMSB PC must complete the budget building process annually.
 - Locally, each governing board must prioritize what they think the school board should be spending funds on at their school – assess local needs.
 - At the EMSB PC level this process is done on a board-wide level.
 - The forms from the government have not been received yet however governing board can prepare and discuss this topic. Some questions to consider:
 - What priorities were submitted last year?
 - What do you want to change this year?
 - Are there things that should not be cut?
- Why is this process important? Recent announcement regarding budget cuts in the Ministry of Education. 2.6 million dollars cut at the EMSB. Background: December 22 article: <https://www.montrealgazette.com/news/provincial-news/article634893.html>
- EMSB PC discussed budget cuts. A question to be brought forward:
 - What specific scorecard or metrics are being used to evaluate the areas targeted for budget cuts?

As a Parent Committee, we need this information to assess how these decisions will impact our children's education and well-being.

- **Letters to EMSB senior administration from EMSB PC**

Two letters addressed to the EMSB's senior administration were drafted and presented by the EMSB PC executive for approval. The two letters addressed the following topics:

- **Educational Projects Survey:** Follow up letter outlining significant issues with the last year's educational projects survey process. Asking senior administration to address concerns brought forward in the initial letter dated January 14, 2024. Response requested by February 14, 2025.
 - **Service email account for school governing boards:** Letter of concern regarding the use of personal or school principal's email address to conduct governing board business. EMSB PC strongly recommends assigning official, dedicated email addresses to each governing board. Response requested by February 14, 2025.
- **Draft Calendars (Teachers) for the Youth, Adult and Vocational Sectors for 2025-2026 – approved and sent to for EMSB PC for consultation – draft shows that first day of school is Tuesday after Labour Day. This is rare but does happen. The calendar follows the normal allotment of days and union agreements and the first day happens to fall in September.**
 - **Parent Commissioner's Report:**
 1. The Student of the Month for December, Andrii Nechyporenko from Royal Vale was honoured.
 2. Election of members of the audit committee, HR committee, Transportation and Safety Advisory Committee, Observer to the Advisory Committee on Special Education Services (ACSES).
 3. In their report to the Council of Commissioners, the Parent Commissioners did mention their concerns regarding:

- **School Websites:** Parents emphasized the importance of up-to-date and accurate school websites as key tools for communication and promotion. Concerns were noted about update delays, occasional inaccuracies, and the balance between standardization and personalization of sites across the system.
- **Service Account Emails for governing boards, and Educational Project Surveys (see letter item above)**

Motions passed at Council of Commissioners meeting:


- Health and Safety in the Workplace – CNESST Retrospective Plan - Choice of Limit per Claim and CNESST Dues for 2025.
- Proposal to Rescind Policy DG-26.1 – To Facilitate the Disclosure of Wrongdoings (policy is obsolete with the adoption of Bill 53 on November 30, 2024) - approved and sent for consultation to the Central Management Advisory Committee – Resource Allocation Committee (CMAC-RAC) and be sent for information to the local unions and associations.
- 2023-2024 audited financial statements
- Draft Calendars (Teachers) for the Youth, Adult and Vocational Sectors for 2025-2026 – approved and sent to for consultation to: English Montreal School Board Parents Committee (EMSBPC); Central Management Advisory Committee - Resource Allocation Committee (CMAC-RAC); Association of Montreal School Administrators (AMSA); Montréal Teachers Association (MTA)
- Approval of list of partners for the recruitment and personalized accompaniment of international students for the Adult Education and Vocational Training programs: Academie Internationale Inc., Ahmon Institut de Montreal, Can-Share Connection

Reminder: Council of Commissioners meetings are livestreamed and recorded and can be viewed any time on the EMSB website. <https://www.webtv.coop/channel/CSEM-2D-EMSB/10>

- English Parents' Committee Association (EPCA) Report
 - Workshop on parent governance coming up on January 21 from 7:00-8:30pm (<https://www.facebook.com/share/p/1BAfZDJmNQ/>)
 - Second iteration of survey being conducted by EPCA and Santé Québec. Last year's survey on mental health was filled out by 14,000. This year's survey will focus on mental health, screen time, special needs. Information from these surveys gets transmitted to government ministries – data makes an impact. Look out for this survey and please consider taking part.

Disclaimer Statement

*The following notes were taken by an individual committee member and reflect their perspective. They may contain inherent biases and should not be considered a comprehensive or impartial representation of the committee's discussions or decisions. These notes may also omit topics or details discussed during the meeting. For an official record, please refer to the approved meeting minutes.


Feb. 24, 2025


2025-02-2025