

MINUTES

Honoré Mercier Governing Board

Thursday, March 16, 2023 | Meeting called to order by Verena Garofalo

In Attendance

Verena Garofalo (GB Chair)	X	Veronica Graniero (Staff – Teaching)	X
Tony Campione (GB)	X	Andrew Martinez (Staff – Teaching)	X
Lisa Ida (GB)	R	Peter Tsatoumas (Staff – Teaching)	X
Angelo Irrera (GB Treasurer)	R	Nancy Cantini (HS – Public)	X
Robert Panetta (GB)	X	Maria Scicchitano (HS – Public)	X
Merika Ramundo (GB)	X		X
Jennifer Uniat (GB)	X	Aileen Montesclaros	X
Lino Faratro (Alternate GB)	R	Bruno Scicchitano (Public)	X
Sonia Ranellucci (Alternate GB)	R	Tonie Morean (Public)	X
Daniela Buttino (Staff -Daycare)	R	Luciana Cancilla (Public)	X
Administration:		Commissioner, Ward 8:	
Sonia Marotta, Principal	X	Mario Pietrangelo	R

X = present

R = Regrets

Additions to the Agenda

Johnny Piazza from Le Doral will be joining the GB meeting today to discuss next year's plan. This item was added to the agenda.

Approval of Meeting Agenda

Motion to approve the agenda called by Robert Panetta, seconded by Jennifer Uniat. Passed unanimously. Motion carried.

Approval of Adoption of the Minutes February 6, 2023

Motion to approve the February 6 meeting minutes called by Merika Ramundo, seconded by Tony Campione. Abstention: Veronica Graniero. Motion carried.

- **Follow up on Next Level Hockey Program**

The second meeting with Michael (and his father) from Next Level Hockey was held in early February. Verena Garofalo, Principal Marotta, Tony Campione, HM faculty member) addressed outstanding questions Next Level Hockey representatives who were in attendance to ensure that expectations will be met for the program while keeping in mind the values are in line with Honoré Mercier community. The discussion was fruitful and Next Level Hockey was very receptive to the fact that this is not an elite program but a learning/skill development opportunity. Clarification about this initiative – this is NOT a Honoré Mercier hockey team. This is an extracurricular activity just like third-party suppliers who provide Karate and Tennis activities. The banner on the school will be removed and “Honoré Mercier” will be removed from the schedule listings. Next Level Hockey relayed that in the future games will be reduced/spaced out and the focus will be on skill development. Michael has asked that participating parents reach out to him for a tax receipt. Michael has also taken care of all the clerical issues. Insurance is covered. The offering of a scholarship for underserved students is an outstanding issue.

Michael from Next Level Hockey will be presenting at the May GB meeting to present the program's offerings for next year and to answer questions.

Principals' Report

Beautification Fund

- Principal Marotta investigated the call for proposals to the EMSB beautification fund and the deadline to submit proposals is in December.
- Principal Marotta will reach out to Merika Ramundo, Daniela Buttino, and other members of the GB & H&S in October to see if there are projects that can be submitted.

3D Printer

- Thank you to John Pevec and Réal Heppelle, Principal and Vice Principal at Rosemount Technology Centre respectively for their donation of a 3D Printer to Honoré Mercier.

Mr. Dimitri's New Choir Project

- Mr. Dimitri Elias has worked on musical choir projects at Honoré Mercier in the past. He is now partnering with the EMSB to create another piece called the Adventures of Eva de Luce. It is the story of a family of lice who live on the head of a child. Auditions will be open to all children in the EMSB. \$30 fee/child for the activity. Will be programmed for children in grades 3-6 and secondary 1-5. This full-year project will be held at lunch or after school (TBC). Auditions may be held this year for the school year.

Renewal of / changes to the Le Doral contract

- Johnny Piazza of Le Doral presented the changes to the Le Doral contract for the 2023-2024 and 2024-2025 school years. Please note that these changes are not guaranteed due to extenuating/emergency

circumstances.

- The following changes include:
 1. Price increase of 0.25 cents (from \$6.50 to \$6.75 per lunch).
 2. Vegetarian option to be added. A-B-C-D options.
 3. New mandate by the federal government to refrain from using plastic cutlery. Plastic cutlery will be removed from all orders.
- Idea proposed to run a fundraiser to raise funds for reusable, branded cutlery. Johnny Piazza offered to pay for a pasta night fundraiser to help pay for reusable cutlery.
- Sizing question: Can Le Doral provide a junior and senior portion size (i.e. regular and large portion options)?
Answer: Because Le Doral preps food the morning of it is logistically challenging to provide different sized options.

Field Trip requests

- Grades 3 & 4 will be going to the Montreal Science Centre on April 5, 2023.

Grade 3&4 conflict resolution program

- Representatives from EPIC solutions will be working with grades 3 & 4 to program conflict resolution and “A Moment to Breathe” wellness programs.

Storytelling Event

- Congratulations to Luca Martere, Justin Chicchio, and Emma Heppelle on coming in first, second, and third respectively in the HM storytelling event.

Motion to approve Mr. Dimitri’s new choir project called by Robert Panetta, seconded by Veronica Graniero. Passed unanimously. Motion carried.

Motion to approve the renewal of and changes to Le Doral contract called by Jennifer Uniat, seconded by Robert Panetta. Passed unanimously. Motion carried.

Motion to approve the Montreal Science Centre field trip called by Robert Panetta, seconded by Veronica Graniero. Passed unanimously. Motion carried.

Teachers’ Report

Music Report (Veronica Graniero)

- Grades 3 &4 will be seeing **Pinocchio at the OSM** next Thursday, March 23.

Physical Education Report (Andrew Martinez and Peter Tsatoumas)

- **Semaine de la Francophonie:** The week of March 20, HM will be programming many activities in celebration of la francophonie.
- **GMAA Sportsmobile** will be coming back on May 29 and 31.

- **Lunchtime soccer** will begin the week of March 27 for grades 3-5. Soccer for grade 6 will begin at a later date.
- **Halo Run** prep will begin soon for grades 3-6. Training sessions will be held on May 11-12.

Daycare Report (Daniel Buttino)

- Nothing to report.

Home and School Report (Maria Schicchitano and Nancy Cantini)

- **Big Box of Cards fundraisers:** An email was sent out to all parents to participate in the grade 6 big box of cards fundraiser.

Treasurer's Report (Angelo Irrera)

- Nothing to report

Commissioner's Report (Mario Pietrangelo)

- Miss Marotta reported that Mr. Pietrangelo sends his regrets.
- Updates to be brought forth next meeting.

Central Parents Committee Report (Merika Ramundo)

EMSB Parents Committee (PC) summary

- The PC published a **letter outlining concerns about Bill 96**. The letter was sent to Bernard Drainville, Minister of Education. <https://www.emsb.qc.ca/emsb/articles/an-open-letter-to-bernard-drainville>
- The PC will be drafting and submitting a letter to the EMSB senior administration asking for clarity around the running of fundraising raffles, bingos, 50/50 draws and contests. GBs across the EMSB are receiving conflicting information and the EMSB PC will be **lobbying the EMSB to reverse a possible ban** of these fundraising activities.
- Save the date! EMSB ParentCon 2023 events are happening in person on Sunday, May 18 from 9-1pm and then pre-recorded lunch and learns around the theme of "Family & Communication" will be programmed the week of May 29-June 4. This special one-week event is a great opportunity for parents to learn more about issues that affect their children every day. Parents will acquire skills, tools, and practical hands-on tips/tricks to help them navigate things like screen addiction, digital literacy, lying, etc.

Next Governing Board Meeting Date

- Tuesday, April 18 at 7:00pm (virtual)

- **A parent requested more information around the Wilson Reading Program, an instructional program used to help struggling readers.** The resource team chooses students to be part of this program. It is a group decision made by in-house experts. The parent mentioned that Wilson was implemented daily at other schools in the area and they didn't know if/how HM implements it. Principal Marotta stressed that HM tries to implement as much as possible within the resources allotted. In terms of promotion, Principal Marotta mentioned that the resource teacher does mention this program at the Open House.

NEXT STEPS follow up on Wilson Program information and promotion request

- 1) Principal Marotta to ask speech and language pathologist for an outline of Wilson Program to share with the HMGB.
- 2) Wilson Program be added to HM offering on website.

- **Science Fair Fees:** A parent inquired about a \$65 administrative fees connected to the larger science fair competition. Principal Marotta would investigate this. The parent will follow up with an email.
- **Uniform providers:** A parent suggested that uniform suppliers including MOXO as well as the collection of quotes be discussed at the next meeting.

- Motion to adjourn was made at 9:05 PM by Robert Panetta, seconded by Tony Campione. Passed unanimously.