

MINUTES

Honoré Mercier Elementary School Governing Board

Wednesday, May 24, 2023 @ 6:32PM | Meeting called to order by Verena Garofalo

In Attendance

Verena Garofalo (Chair)	X	Robert Panetta	X
Daniela Buttino	R	Merika Ramundo	X
Nancy Cantini	R	Maria Scicchitano	X
Tony Campione	X	Peter Tsatoumas	X
Lisa Ida	X	Jennifer Uniat	R
Veronica Graniero	X	Lino Faratro (Alternate)	R
Angelo Irrera	X	Sonia Ranellucci (Alternate)	X
Andrew Martinez	X	Sally Behjouch, Tony DelliColli, Aileen Montesclaros, Lucy Cancilla, Scott Pinsky, Sabrina Dykes, Christine Lagarde, Tonie Morena, Giuseppe Fazzari,	XP
Administration:		Commissioner, Ward 8:	
Sonia Marotta, Principal	X	Mario Pietrangelo	X

X = present

R = Regrets

XP = Present Public

Assign minute-taking duties: Tony Campione

Assign time-keeper duties: Robert Panetta

Honoré Mercier Elementary School cannot enforce a mandatory uniform as we are a public school, however the gym uniforms are mandatory.

- **Price and Buckland (presented by Richard and Ina)**

- located in the Chabanel
 - Fitting rooms available on site.
 - Fitting can also be performed at the school.
- 3-year contract needed:
 - Develop a website only for Honoré Mercier Elementary School.
 - They keep all items in stock as they manufacture all items inhouse.
 - Resizing possible, but not refundable if the garment is in the original condition.
 - Product ordering to product ready for pickup → 1 week
 - Delivery options
 - Free in-store pickup
 - delivery to home at additional cost (2023-2024 shipping fee 9.99)
- Product features:
 - durable high-quality fabrics for repeated washing.
 - pants and skirts are made with a 4 way stretch fabric.
 - Embroidered logos only.
 - Husky or petite options available (4-week delivery).
- Gym Uniform
 - Gym top change from cotton t-shirt to a sportier look and fabric.
 - Gym bottom change from cotton shorts to basketball like shorts.
- Pricing (2023-2024) includes 1 embroidered logo:
 - Short Sleeve Polo → 25\$
 - Pull over Hoodie → 39\$
 - Sweatpants → 36\$
 - Gym T-shirt → 16\$
 - Gym shorts → 18\$
 - Pleated Skirt → 42\$
 - Pants (not hemmed) → 39\$

- **Moxo (received via email presented by Ms. Garofalo)**

- Garments
 - Only able to supply TOPS.
 - Cotton crew-neck short sleeve Yellow Navy White.
 - Logo will be screen printed
 - Hoodie as done in the past.
- Pricing
 - T-shirt Youth sizes → 13\$
 - T-Shirt Adult sizes → 16\$
 - Pullover Hoodie Youth sizes → 32\$
 - Pullover Hoodie adult sizes → 35\$
 - Zipper Hoodie Youth sizes → 36\$
 - Zipper Hoodie Adult sizes → 39\$
- Note: Due to supply issues and delays they cannot offer bottoms for the 2023-2024 years

CPC discussion with EMSB executive Nathalie LaCroix - no school can impose a supplier for a school that has a dress code only. However, the School gym clothes are a mandatory uniform.

Mr. Campione suggests this is tabled for 1st or 2nd meeting of the year 2023-2024 and follow up with multiple vendors for the 2023-2024 calendar year. Possibly look for suppliers early in the year.

Ms. Garofalo to follow Questions with Price and Buckland, if they can only supply Gym uniform/Hoodie and follow up with Moxo on their current offer.

Additions to the Agenda

Following Items to be added to the Varia:

- Extra-curricular activities to be listed for the June Meeting as mentioned in September meeting.
 - Review what was liked and new material to be added for the 2023-2024 year.
 - Red-Cross Baby-sitting courses.
 - Coding
 - Dance
- Enrollment

Additional time of 15 minutes added to the Varia.

Approval of Meeting Agenda

Motion to Approve: Robert Panetta and Angelo Irrera

Motion Passed - Unanimously

Approval of Adoption of the Minutes April 2023

- Minutes for the April 2023 meeting were not available
- Motion to approve will be done later and voted by the GB via an email vote.

Michael Buonincontri was unable to attend the meeting and provided the information to Ms. Garofalo. The offers:

1. Extra-Curricular Hockey Development Program 2023-2024 is designed for players who have all equipment and play/played for a league:
 - 16 skill practices - on Ice.
 - 8 power skating – on ice.
 - 5 Synthetic Ice skills lesson at his facility.
 - 6 fitness workouts at his facility.
 - 2 Evaluations will be offered:
 - 1st after 12 practices
 - 2nd at the end of the year

The cost will be 550\$plus tax. Expected to start in October 2023. Ice practices will be offered once per week, and synthetic/fitness approximately once per month.

Extra costs will be:

- Jersey for 50\$ (for NEW students only, returning students already have a jersey)
 - 5 games offered at 20\$/game. Not mandatory
2. Learn to Skate 2023-2024
 - Cost depends on how many students sign up.
 - Assumed students must own their own skates.

There is no limit to the number of students signing up.

Question:

NLH Scholarship Offer to under privileged students?

- Unfortunately, the offer and for safety reasons can only be offered to students who own equipment.
- Another suggest form Mr. Martinez is for NLH to provide a learning session to the entire school. Mr. Tsatoumas confirmed this can be done in groups as they have enough sticks so long, they are done in groups or during gym class.
- Ms. Garofalo to follow up with NLH for some giving back to the entire school.

Motion to Approve Extra-Curricular Hockey Development Program and Learn to Skate for the 2023-2024: by Merika Ramundo and Robert Panetta

Motion Passed - Unanimously

Business Arising

- Tent Donation by Sonia Rannelucci
 - Color and design scheme to be provided by Honoré Mercier Elementary School to Ms. Rannelucci.
 - Standard size is 10x10, other sizes available.
- Bureau en Gros / School Supplies
 - Ms. Marotta (Principal) advise it will be possible for the store to provide supplies individually
 - Currently issues with the web-development and Ms. Marotta to reach-out to the EMSB Technical Support.

Governing Board Chair's Review

- Governing Board is **not** responsible with the day-to-day operations of the school or its staff.
 - Any Questions regarding roles and responsibilities of the Governing board are posted on the EMSB Website at: <https://www.emsb.qc.ca/emsb/community/parents/governing-boards>
 - Governing board Manuals
 - Workshop manuals, presentations, and Videos
- Code of Conduct
 - Governing Board Members are to partake in conversations as per the agenda.
 - Governing Board Members are to raise their hands, be respectful at their turn.
 - Governing Board Members are to ask the question clearly and to the point of the topic.
 - All Questions are to be addressed to the Chairperson.
 - It is the responsibility of the Chairperson to ask the School Administration/Staff if they can answer.
 - If No answers are made, then it will be tabled for research and answered at the following meeting.
 - Questions not on the agenda by a Governing Board Member or by the community can be asked at the Varia.
 - Side conversations which seem to be disruptive, not pertaining to the agenda and/or rude will be asked to leave the room.
 - Governing Board Meetings are open to everyone.
 - Governing Board teacher members provide information that is provided to them by their peers, if a specific class activity is not mentioned, we ask parents to:
 - Reach out to their teacher directly.
 - If no answer to reach out to the principal.
 - If no answer to reach out to the Regional Director.

EMSB has a Complain Procedures and can be found at:

<https://www.emsb.qc.ca/emsb/services/central-services/Complaint>

Recurring Issues at Governing board meetings.

- Low Enrollment
 - Not directly impacted to only Honoré Mercier Elementary School.
 - Current demographic of Saint Leonard has changed with the majority are not allowed to attend English schools.
 - Governing Board cannot ask the EMSB to buy specific advertisements.
 - Governing Board cannot tell administration how to use social media

- Parent Letter read on the April Meeting.
 - Thank the concerned parents for reading the letter.
 - Concerned Parents, Chair, Principal, and some members had a meeting.
 - Much of those concerns fall outside the Governing Boards responsibilities.
 - What is the plan to maintain enrollment numbers?
 - What is the plan to ensure enrollment does not decline?
 - What is being done for the students to provide a positive student life environment?
 - How is Honoré Mercier Elementary School addressing the lack of STEAM related projects as per the mission on the website?
 - Are there any plans by Honoré Mercier Elementary School to start the process to differentiate itself from the other schools?
 - Mr. Campione advised that he sat with the EMSB as the outgoing Chair at the end of the 2021/2022 year. Mr Campione questioned the EMSB Pela Nickoletopoulos and she advised change a school program from STEAM to IB is a 4-year process. The School Governing Board can make this decision along with the community, however the EMSB will also need authorization from the Quebec Education Minister office.

 - Ms. Ramundo suggests the following **Motion**:

“Move that the Honoré Mercier Elementary School Governing Chair reach out to EMSB senior administration (Pela Nickoletopoulos and Nicholas Katalifos to request that someone from their team attend the June GB meeting to present on the status of enrollment and projections at Honoré Mercier Elementary School as well as related central outreach efforts.”

Motion to Approve: Robert Panetta and Tony Campione

Motion Passed - Unanimously

- Ms. Garofalo Chair gave some time to Aileen Montesclaros (Public), as one of the writers of the letter, and she would like clarification on past Actions, Discussions against the minutes for regular Status updates.
- Mr. Pietrangelo in regard to “Low Enrollment” advised much of the challenges are related to parents now opt to send their children to French Private Schools. Also suggest that new ideas adjusted to today's needs would be welcomed.

- Lucy Cancilla (Public) question how ideas are passed, the idea seems to be: Parents/Community to GB (once passed) to Principal to Staff Council to Parent Committee to Council of commissioners.
 - Ms. Ramundo recommended to have EMSB senior staff to answer such questions on time needed to change the school program and passed motions.
- Staff Console Chair meeting in November follow up.
 - Invite from Governing Board Chair to Principal to Staff Council Chair.
 - She was not able to attend today's meeting and provided a letter to be read.
 - Governing Board Chair and Mr. Tsatoumas had a meeting to outline why and what to discuss.
 - Letter was read.

Ms. Garofalo would like to pass a **motion**:

"Governing Board members will write and sign a letter to raise concerns about having split classes and send it to members of the EMSB executive"

Motion to Approve: Robert Panetta and Tony Campione

Motion Passed - Unanimously

Ms. Garofalo would like to pass a **motion**:

"Extend the time of the meeting by 30 more meetings and reevaluate if more is needed"

Motion to Approve: Robert Panetta and Andrew Martinez

Motion Passed - Unanimously

Principals' Report

- **Steam and Science Fair**
 - May 25, 2023 from 6:30 to 8pm in the school
 - open to the public, all minors need to be accompanied a parent or guardian.
 - Teacher will have their own Kiosk in each classroom to showcase the projects they have been working with the students throughout the school year.
- **Welcome to Pre-Kindergarten**
 - May 30, 2023
 - Thanks to Ms. Daniella for offering snacks to visitors and current students
 - Ms. Urmi to offer visitors a loot-bag (seedlings, bubbles)
 - Ms. Franca and Ms. Veronica for organizing the activities in the gymnasium
 - Dr. Guerrero, Ms. Goldsmith and Ms. Blezzner as the school professionals.

Teachers' Report

- Mr. Martinez:
 - Sports Mobile
 - May 29-May 31.
 - Rugby, baseball, Yoga and Tennis.
 - Halo Run
 - Full success and all participated.
 - Energy Cubes
 - Initial Goal was 15000 cubes and reached by the 1st week.
 - Reraised to 50000 cubes.
 - Waiting for the full count.
 - Fun in the Sun!
 - Friday June 16, 2023
 - Parent volunteers will be needed.

- Ms. Mary and Mme. Sandy (pre-K)
 - Attended field trips
 - Biodome
 - Cosmo-dome
 - STEAM fair tomorrow the K4 Class will be presenting Blue Bots tour the Honoré Mercier Elementary School neighborhood. Students worked very hard building their own homes school trees and surrounding area.
 - Kinder fest
 - June 9, 2023.
 - Many games for the children and parents to enjoy and play together.
 - Fall Friendship Festival
 - Experienced in October
 - Children and parents invited to celebrate friendship
 - Created garlands, friendship tree, and bracelets

- Kindergarten Students
 - Kinder fest
 - June 9, 2023.
 - Many games for the children and parents to enjoy and play together.
 - STEAM Fair
 - These little engineers created their very own marble run
 - learned about trial and error.
 - Gravity
 - Momentum

- Grade 1

- Learning about Bees
 - their importance to the world.
 - Field trip to a bee farm.
- STEAM Fair
 - What can be done with a Box!
 - Re-imagined what can be done with a Box.
- Growing plants
 - In conjunction with Grade 5 students.
 - Help support and feed the bees and plant them around the school property.
- Grade 2
 - Fieldtrips attended
 - Biodome.
 - STEAM fair
 - Students built ecosystems about animals and their habitats in Clay.
- Grade 3
 - Theatre D'ombre
 - Students created stories, scripts, and costumes.
- Grade 4
 - STEAM Fair
 - Maquettes de la Nouvelle France.
 - Children created and painted what la Nouvelle France would have looked like at the time and will be presented at the STEAM faire.
 - Group 222
 - Introduction aux robotiques Les élèves ont appris à utiliser le WeDo 2.0. Ils ont eu plusieurs cours a construire et a programmer les robots.
 - Elevés travaille avec Fusion Jeunesse depuis novembre sur un projet médiatique. Les premiers mois, les enfants ont appris divers types de media (documentaire, balado, blog, revue, etc) et ont appris à utiliser différents équipements. Ils ont ensuite choisi de créer une revue et faire un Vox-Pop. Ils ont collaboré pendant des mois pour réaliser ce projet. Le thème de l'année était l'énergie, donc ils ont fait un peu de sciences ainsi que la technologie et les arts.
 - Fieldtrip
 - Exposition du Voix POP
 - Also won a price for their interview at Laura Pastry.
- Grade 5
 - Honey STEAM MARKET.
 - Labels for the honey jars decorated by the students during plastic arts
 - Jar lid toppers designed using a 3D printer.
 - Hydroponic greenhouse in the class
 - Plants were then placed in front of the school entrance garden.

- P.S.A. (public service announcements) videos created by the students in preparation for the STEAM Fair using the schools iPads and Green-screens
 - Recycle Battery Competition
 - 3rd place
 - 150\$ and used for additional plants for garden
- Grade 6
 - Entrepreneurship/ STEAM Fair
 - Creating Advertising with Canva
 - Some were Advertised on Instagram
 - Sale of products:
 - Seed bombs
 - Flower pencil
 - Key Chains
 - Bookmarks
 - Understand how to calculate and budget projects
 - Science Fair
 - Luca Paladino from won 1st place in the regionals!
 - Micheal Murgante, Justin Chiocchio, and Ethan Wong won Certificate of Excellence!
 - Grade 6 students projects were displayed in the Gym
 - Theatre D'ombre
 - Grade 6 helped the Grade 3 students.
- Art Classes
 - Themes worked by students in visual art:
 - different cultures and artists from different countries.
 - Spanish speaking, Canadian and Native, Asian, African and finally European
- Music
 - Orchestra by Ms. Veronica
 - Concert Jun 15th (Gr1-6)
 - Attendance sheets sent out to parents to be filled and returned.
 - 8:30am-10am 1st show
 - 1:00pm to 2:30 2nd show
 - Voluntary donations will be at the door for the purchase of a stage.
- Club du Course
 - by Mme. Christine
 - Grade 5 and 6 as they had already practiced for the Halo.
- Club de Theatre D'ombre
 - By Mme. Annie and Mme. Andrea Started
 - Grade 4, 5, 6 at Lunch time.
- Mr. Dimitri Production
 - Musical translated from Greece to English.

- Participants chosen by Mr. Dimitri.
- Ms. Melissa and Ms. Veronica will be working together for the rehearsals with the students.

Daycare Report

- Daycare offered treats every day for a week.

Home and School Report

- Chocolate Fundraiser 2023-2024.
 - If ordered before Jun 16, profits would increase.

Ms. Garofalo would like to pass a **motion**:

“Have Home and School order/commit to the boxes to benefit the profits”

Motion to Approve: Andrew Martinez and Veronica Graniero

Motion Passed - Unanimously

Treasurer's Report

- Angelo Irrera reported that there is no change in the budget.

Commissioners Report – Mario Pietrangelo

- Congratulate all the Science Fair winners.
- Thank the Gym teachers for the Halo Run.
- Council of Commissioners approved fundraising.
 - However, students are not allowed to sell anything that would have a prize.

Central Parents Committee Report

Merika Ramundo reported

- Motion to approve raffle/bingo/50-50 draws and other sorts of fundraising
 - written by Ms. Ramundo and approved by the CPC
 - submitted to the CPC Parent commissioner delegate to have the Console of Commissioners approve.
 - As per Commissioners Report it was approved.

- Energy Drinks
 - Some schools sent memo's strongly discouraging bringing them in.
 - Drinks cannot be banned, however issues seem to be under control.
- Uniforms:
 - Regional Director Natalie Lacroix confirmed it is against the education Act to impose a Uniform.
 - Regional Director Natalie Lacroix also confirmed that an electronic / digital version of the crest/branding can be sent to parents who want to print dress coded items themselves.
- Enrollment numbers
 - Draft was provided to the CPC
 - Decline in many east end schools.
 - Numbers to be published however the CPC strongly against publishing the projects as this is what led to the school transfers of General Vanier and John Paul in 2019.
 - More to discuss once it is approved.
- Parent Conference
 - HALF DAY KEYNOTE EVENT
 - May 28, 2023 @ Rosemont Highschool 3737 Beaubien E.
 - Lunch and Learns will be made
 - Subjects/Programs on: Anti-Racism, Pre-School Literacy and Numeracy, Galileo Adult center created
 - ONE WEEK OF VIRTUAL LUNCH & LEARNS
 - A series of workshops for parents on a variety of issues pertaining to both your children and teens.
 - Date: Monday, May 29th to Friday, June 2nd
Location: online - Lunch and Learns can be viewed any time after they have premiered!
 - Go to www.emsbparents.ca to find out more about all the workshops and to register.

Question Period/Varia

- Literacy Camp – Enfantastic
 - Offered by elementary teachers.
 - 3-week camp offered in July.
 - Mornings are about reading/writing.
 - Afternoons are physical activities.
- Extra-Curricular Activities for Year 2023-2024
 - Have a list of what the school will provide so parents can make an informed decision.
 - Examples babysitting courses.
 - Offered by Enfant-et-compagnie and RedCross.
 - Ms. Marotta will reach out to the RedCross for more information.
 - Coding/Erin
 - Currently offered to Grade 5-6 and possibly extend to grade 4.
 - H&S will reach out to Coding program personnel
 - Dance

- H&S will reach out to dance program personnel
 - DiBella Karate
 - Edu-Cation
 - Variety of programs
- Question by Public
 - Sabrina Dykes (Public)
 - EMSB Newsletter:
 - Who sends information to the EMSB to have their school/students/projects showcased?
 - Mr. Pietrangelo and Ms. Marotta confirm it is a collaboration between Staff/Principal and then submitted to Michael Cohen.
 - Collaborative Project with School/Students and employer.
 - Ms. Marotta informed presented to the principal for review.

Next Governing Board Meeting Date(s)or

- Monday June 19, 2023 @ 6:30 pm in person at Honoré Mercier Elementary School.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn the meeting 9:30 pm

Motion to Approve: Veronica Graniero and Robert Panetta

Motion Passed - Unanimously