

# MINUTES

## Honoré Mercier Elementary School Governing Board

*Monday, June 19, 2023 @ 7:00PM | Meeting called to order by Verena Garofalo*

### In Attendance

Verena Garofalo (Chair)	X	Robert Panetta	X
Daniela Buttino	R	Merika Ramundo	X
Nancy Cantini	X	Maria Scicchitano	X
Tony Campione	X	Peter Tsatoumas	X
Lisa Ida	X	Jennifer Uniat	X
Veronica Graniero	X	Lino Faratro (Alternate)	R
Angelo Irrera	X	Sonia Ranellucci (Alternate)	X
Andrew Martinez	X		
<b>Administration:</b>		<b>Commissioner, Ward 8:</b>	
Vince Timpano, Interim Principal	X	Mario Pietrangelo	R

X = present

R = Regrets

XP = Present Public

**Assign minute-taking duties:** Robert Panetta

**Assign time-keeper duties:** Tony Campione

### Summary – motions passed in this meeting

- Use FootZone as supplier for 2023-24 school year
- Inviting l'Academie de Danse for the 2023-24 school year for a 12-14 week program for \$266 plus tax

- Have a single communication near the start of the school year to parents that lists extracurricular activity dates and prices for the first semester (September to January)
- Approve 2023-24 school budget
- Dress down day on the last day of school
- Approve one funded Pre-K class
- Returning and new Governing Board members to watch the EMSB governing board training video and to establish rules of engagement established at the first meeting

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#### Approval of Meeting Agenda

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**Motion to Approve:** Merika Ramundo and Angelo Irrera

**Motion Passed - Unanimously**

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#### Approval of Adoption of the Minutes April 2023

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- Minutes for the April 2023 were approved by email

**Motion** to adopt the minutes of April 2023, Robert Panetta, Jennifer Uniat

**Motion passed - Unanimously**

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#### Approval of Adoption of the Minutes May 2023

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**Motion** to e-approve minutes of May 2023 meeting at a later date, Tony Campione, Jennifer Uniat

**Motion passed - Unanimously**

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#### School Supplies Ordering System

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- Ms. Marotta was able to follow up with the school board. As a public school we cannot be seen to enforce a specific supplier for school supplies. Therefore, we cannot put into effect the *Bureau en Gros* ordering system of years past.
- Mr. Timpano will ask the teachers for their supplies list email said list to the parent community as soon as possible.

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#### School Dress Code Suppliers

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- Ms. Verena Garafalo spoke with FootZone as the school dress code supplier for 2023-2024. FootZone can set up an HM page on his site where parents can order the clothes they require. But orders may be 2 or 3 weeks delayed because we are late.

We cannot mandate parents to buy branded in-class tops or bottoms. But we can mandate the green and gold gym uniforms. He does offer polyester basketball shorts.

**Motion:** Use FootZone as supplier for 2023-24 school year, Veronica Graniero, Robert Panetta  
**Passed Unanimously**

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#### Extra-Curricular Activities

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- Red Cross and Enfants et compagnie
  - No update (Ms. Sonia stepped down before communicating).
- l'Academie de danse
  - Communicated with Ms. Maria Schiccitano
  - Happy to return for the 2023-24 school year for grades 3-6 subject to teacher availability.
  - Rate is \$19 per hour, therefore 14 weeks are \$266 plus tax. Suggesting to start September 11.
  
- CodeU
  - No update

**Motion:** Inviting l'Academie de Danse for the 2023-24 school year for a 12-14 week program for \$266 plus tax preferably later than Sept. 11, Lisa Ida, Merika Ramundo  
**Passed Unanimously**

**Motion:** Have a single communication near the start of the school year to parents that lists extracurricular activity dates and prices for the first semester (September to January), Tony Campione, Andrew Martinez  
**Passed Unanimously**

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#### Principals' Report

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- Welcome from Mr. Timpano
- Budget review
  - Budget prepared by Ms. Sonia Marotta
  - All aligned with expectations including a deficit of \$82,201 impacting all elementary schools due to parents not being charged for Daycare services during COVID. This will slowly return to zero.
  - General note: when there are recurrent deficits, the principal works with the school commission finance department to alleviate losses.

**Motion** to approve 2023-24 school budget, Tony Campioni, Veronica Graniero  
**Passed Unanimously**

**Motion** for dress down day on the last day of school, Robert Panetta, Tony Campione  
**Passed Unanimously**

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### Teachers' Report

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- Kindergarten
  - Parents have been coming in for mini career days to speak with the students
  - Thank you to Home and School for the hot lunch
  - Kinderfest was a success
- Grade 1
  - Went to Inter-mieles for a day of activities
- Grade 5
  - Overnight camp at Debroulliards was a great success
- Grade 6
  - Graduate breakfast will take place this week at Vincent's on Robert
- School-wide
  - Daycare tea organized by Ms. Daniella and Madame Marie-Josée was a great success
  - The end of year concert was great fun. We have not had time to count the money raised, but appears to be a little over \$700
  - Fun in the Sun was great
  - Energy Cubes: We collected 61,000, a new record and surpassed the original target of 10,000

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### Daycare Report

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- No report.

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### Home and School Report

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- Thank you to our 75 members
- Held the lunch for the whole school with a choice of pogos or chicken nuggets
- Fun in the Sun was a great success!

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### Treasurer's Report

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- Started with carry-over from previous years, amounting to \$889. Expenses for catering and light snacks came to ~\$695, so we are left with \$193 that will carry over to next year.
- Angelo Irrera's last report.

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### Central Parents Committee Report

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Merika Ramundo reported:

- Letter drafted and submitted from EMSB Parents Committee to EMSB senior administration calling for immediate action to develop a plan around mental health initiatives to be implemented across the school board.
- Misinformation at schools around uniforms. Where there is a dress code (like in Honoré Mercier's case), the school can provide a digital version of the crest to be used by the parent to place on uniforms. The school also cannot impose a supplier or a brand of clothing on parents. The school may require, for example, a white polo shirt and navy blue pants or skirt, but parents are free to get them where they want.
- PC Parent Commissioners brought forward a letter against the banning of raffles, bingos, 50/50 draws along with a motion. The motion to reinstate the above fundraising activities was passed as long as Home and Schools and PPOs follow the regulations laid out by the QC government and guidelines set out by EMSB and principals. More information to come.
- 2023-2024 will be a key year for EMSB schools and their communities. A board wide review of all educational projects will take place. Governing Board members and constituents will play a key role in this process. More information to come.

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#### Funded Pre-K Classes

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- Based on enrollment of 13 students, Honore Mercier is eligible to open one MEQ-funded Pre-K class

**Motion** to approve one funded Pre-K class by Veronica Graniero, Tony Campione  
**Passed Unanimously**

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#### Updates on Past Motions

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- March
  - Motioned for Eva the Louse tryouts, and to charge parents whose children were selected \$30. This occurred March 16
  - Approved Motion for le Doral to increase prices \$0.25, stay frozen for the next two years and add a vegetarian option
  - Motioned for a Grade 4 and 5 field trip to Montreal Science Museum, which occurred
- April
  - Motioned to have a letter from parents read, with a follow-up en camera meeting with the GB, select parents and admin. Much of the issues raised do not fall under the purview of GB.

- Motioned to have Next Level Hockey return with an updated curriculum focused on training instead of competition, which was agreed to by NLH
- May
  - Motioned to have GB Chair reach out to senior EMSB admin to attend the June GB meeting to address a number of questions concerning enrollment. She could not attend and referred back to the school admin.
  - Motioned to allow Home and School to order chocolates now for the 2023-24 chocolate fundraiser allowing us to achieve better margins. This was done.

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Question Period/Varia

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- What happens if in September we suddenly have 25 kids in Pre-K? Will we be stuck with one class?
  - No, the admin will have until about October 15 to adjust the number of registrations.
- There are other schools that do have school supply ordering programs. Why are they allowed, and we are not?
  - No public school is allowed to do this, the ones that do just haven't been reprimanded yet.
- Is there an update on split classes?
  - Split classes are not a governing board topic.

**Motion** for returning and new Governing Board members to watch the EMSB governing board training video and to establish rules of engagement established at the first meeting, Tony Campione, Angelo Irrera

**Passed Unanimously**

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Next Governing Board Meeting Date(s)or

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- Not applicable

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Adjournment

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- Motion to adjourn the meeting 8:30 pm

**Motion to Approve:** Veronica Graniero and Merika Ramundo

**Motion Passed - Unanimously**