

MINUTES

Honoré Mercier Governing Board

Wednesday, April 18, 2023 | Meeting called to order by Verena Garofalo

In Attendance

Verena Garofalo (GB Chair)	X	Nancy Cantini (H&S Public)	X
Jennifer Uniat (GB)	X	Maria Scicchitano (H&S Public)	X
Angelo Irrera (GB Treasurer)	X	Mike Smith (Public)	X
Merika Ramundo (GB)	X	Sally Beljoudi (Public)	X
Robert Panetta (GB)	X	Diego Di Stefano (Public)	X
Tony Campione (GB)	X	Bruno Scicchitano (Public)	X
Lisa Ida (GB)	X	Scott Pinsky (Public)	X
Lino Faratro (Alternate)	X	Aileen Montesclavos (Public)	X
Sonia Ranellucci (Alternate)	X	Tony Delli Colli (Public)	X
Daniela Buttino (Daniela Staff Daycare)	X	Sabrina Dykes (Public)	X
Veronica Graniero (Staff – Teaching)	R	Lucy Cancilla (Public)	X
Andrew Martinez (Staff – Teaching)	X		
Peter Tsatoumas (Staff – Teaching)	X		
Administration:		Commissioner, Ward 8:	
Sonia Marotta, Principal	X	Mario Pietrangelo	X

X = Present

R = Regrets

Additions to the Agenda

None at this time.

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 March 16, 2023

- **Motion** to approve the April 18, 2023 meeting minutes called by Robert Panetta, seconded by Angelo Irrera. Passed unanimously. Motion carried.

Chair's Review

- Michael from the Next Level Hockey will attend the Governing Board meeting on May 24, 2023 in order to present the 2023-2024 Next Level program.

Principal Report

- Ms. Marotta thanked Robert Panetta for volunteering his time to host an A.I.-focused extracurricular class for Grade 5 students.

Teacher's Report

1. Halo Run will be on Thursday, May 11 at Mont Royal.
 - Grades 3 and 4 will run 1 km
 - Grades 5 and 6 will run 2 km
2. Pound Fit
 - All classes will participate in Pound Fit during Physical Education class in May
3. Sports Mobile – GMAA
 - Activity will take place May 29 – 31 and will expose the students (Pre-K – Grade 3) to different types of activities, such as baseball, tennis, yoga and lacrosse
4. Fun in the Sun
 - Will be held on Friday, June 16, weather permitting
 - Types of activities: inflatables, big wheel, activities in the park
5. Quebec City
 - Grade 6 students will visit Quebec City for 2 days in May
6. Energy Cube
 - Pre-K – Grade 6 will participate
 - Valid May 1 – 22
 - The goal is to encourage the students, and parents, to do more physical activities
7. I Love to Read Week
 - All students really enjoyed the activities!
 - Students participated in a book swap, a “live” play by –Shakespeare and the Reading to Peers program
8. The Kindergarten students visited the Cosmodome last month.
9. Grades 3 and 4 attended the OSM's Pinocchio
10. Ms. Veronica is organizing an end-of-year concert – date TBA. More details to follow.

Daycare Report

- Daycare Week
 - Daycare students will participate in Daycare Week, May 15 – 19, where they will enjoy special treats and surprises!
- There are 120 full time and 30 part time students registered for daycare in this school year

Home and School Report

- Cabane Sucre
 - This activity was held on April 25 between 9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. in the school's yard for all students.
 - Students tasted maple taffy and were able to feed to farm animals.

Treasurer's Report

- Angelo Irrera confirmed that there was no change to the budget.

Commissioner's Report

1. Unfortunately, the Readership Program at the elementary level was not initiated this year
2. Honoré Mercier, Dante and Leonard da Vinci will participate in a Drug Awareness program next school year (2023-2024)
3. Preliminary enrollment numbers for St. Leonard schools (2023-2024 school year):
 - Honoré Mercier: approximately 260 students
 - Pierre de Courbertin: has maintained
 - Dante: will likely decrease
 - Laurier MacDonald: will likely decrease
4. Merika Ramundo will ask for a full overview of east-end school enrollments for the 2023-2024 school year at the next CPC meeting.
5. There was a suggestion to host a townhall with other east-end schools in order to discuss the decline in enrollment at EMSB schools and how to better maintain the numbers.
 - Ms. Marotta offered to host the meeting at Honoré Mercier.
 - GB Chair, Verena Garofalo, proposed that we first focus on how to maintain student enrollment at Honoré Mercier.

Central Parents Committee Report

1. The EMSB Parents Committee sent a formal letter to senior administration requesting clarity on the programming of raffles, bingos, 50/50 draws and contests. The PC is against the banning of these activities for several reasons.
2. The EMSB Parent Committee is hosting its annual conference for parents
 - Sunday, May 28: Half-day of keynote speakers at Rosemont High School, 8:45 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.
 - One week of virtual Lunch & Learn sessions, May 29 – June 3
 - Additional information can be found on the website: <http://www.emsbparents.ca/>

Next Governing Board Meeting Date(s)

- The following meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 24 at 6:30 p.m. at Honoré Mercier School.

Question Period/Varia

1. Drug Program

- Can the drug prevention program be relooked at for the 2023-2024 school year in order to make the younger grades more aware?
- Mario Pietrangelo stated exposing the grade 6 to this program is to early
 - The 15-16 year old students (High School level) will have an introduction to this program, topics will include the effects of using drugs and vaping

2. Parent's Concerns & Letter

- The parents would generally appreciate more open communication and collaboration with the teachers, in order to ensure that all needs and concerns are met and that issues are promptly resolved.
- The parents are concerned about the future of HM due to the low enrollment and would like better visibility of what is being done in an academic context, as well as in a project context, to ensure that students are learning to their full potential.
- Parents' letter:
 - MOTION:
 - The two parents will read a letter that they drafted on behalf of concerned parents.
 - The letter will be discussed at a subsequent meeting. This meeting will be attended by Ms. Marotta and the GB Chair, Verena Garofalo – the GB members (parents and teachers) were invited to this meeting; however, it is not obligatory that they attend. This would be a closed-door meeting.
 - The GB Chair will provide a follow up at the next GB meeting.
 - **Motion** called by Tony Campione, seconded by Jennifer Uniat. Motion passed. There were three (3) abstentions.

3. Honoré Mercier Enrollment

- Mario Pietrangelo provided his recommendation on how we can work together to influence change regarding low enrollment in the east-end
 - Draft a plan on how to maintain the enrollment of the EMSB elementary schools
 - Invite a representative from the electoral district of St-Leonard to listen to parent's concerns
 - Escalate the concern to the Federal government

4. As per the November 2022 minutes, the Staff Council Chair, Mme Marianna, proposed that she would attend a GB meeting in the spring in order to discuss what could be implemented the following year (2023-2024

- the parents would like a follow-up
- they requested to reinvite Mme Marianna to the next GB meeting in order to discuss points made in November and look to future planning

5. Requesting the GB to improve the communications between the school to the HM community

- Teacher's report – to provide information to the HM community about the types of school's activities such as Halo Run, lunch programs, big projects, students reading to other students
- Mr. Andrew indicated that communication can be improved
- Verena Garofalo suggested the school can email a list of the activities to the HM community

6. Wilson Program

- In the past, McGill students were brought in to work with the speech pathologist to provide a reading program to the HM students in the younger grades
- The pilot program went well to provide to the students a literacy program
- The program has been only used in the English kindergarten class; unfortunately, not in the French class
- Will this program continue to be used?

7. Two parents asked to read a letter that they drafted on behalf of concerned parents.

- The GB and admin were not aware of the letter and what the contents were
 - Ms. Marotta requested that the letter not be read at GB (public forum) and discussed privately instead.
 - The GB voted on whether the letter should be read during the meeting (public forum) vs in a private meeting.
- **Motion** called was for the parents to read their letter to the GB, the GB would meet with them privately, along with Ms. Marotta and the GB would provide an update at the next GB meeting. The motion was called by Tony Campione, seconded by Jennifer Uniat. Passed unanimously. Motion passed. Abstention by Mr. Peter, Mr. Andrew and Ms. Daniela.
- The letter read contained the following concerns:
 - Parents are afraid to voice their concerns regarding their children's academic growth. They fear their children will have repercussion from the teachers.
 - Academics that are not falling below the standard
 - What will be done for the future growth

8. Other concerns by the parents:

- Parents were asking about increasing communication between the school and the HM community
- Implementing Class Dojo to facilitate the communication between the teacher and parent
- The school should promote the different types of projects to improve awareness
- Since the total number of enrollments is 260 students, next year the numbers will drop because the current Grade 6, which is the last large cohort, is leaving and the numbers coming in Pre-K and K are low.
 - The demographics of this area has changed – there are less anglophone speaking families
 - Innovative ideas are needed to keep the students at HM and maintain HM's numbers

9. **Motion** to add 15 minutes called by Tony Campione. Passed unanimously. Motion carried. ass.

10. Prime Energy Drinks

- Ms. Marotta will contact the school board regarding if a school can ban this drink at HM

11. Uniform Provider

- Angelo I. has contacted other uniform suppliers due to issues with the gym clothes and hoodies

12. Bureau en Gros

- To reimplement the school supply list to facilitate parents to purchase school items for the new year
- Ms. Marotta is looking into next steps.

13. Spaghetti Dinner

- A free community dinner will be offered by the school's cater, Le Doral
- A fundraiser can be held to raise funds to purchase items for the school
- Further discussion is needed

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn was made at 8:50 PM by Andrew Martinez. Passed unanimously. Motion passed.