

MINUTES

Honoré Mercier Governing Board

Wednesday, October 26, 2022 | Meeting called to order by Verena Garofalo

In Attendance

Verena Garofalo	X	Robert Panetta	X
Daniela Buttino	X	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)	R
Andrew Martinez	X	Michelangelo Smith and Diego Di Stefano	X
Administration:		Commissioner, Ward 8:	
Sonia Marotta, Principal	X	Mario Pietrangelo	R

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 September 2022

- Motion to approve the September 2022 adoption of the meeting minutes called by Andrew Martinez, seconded by Peter Tsatoumas. Passed unanimously. Motion carried.

Business arising from the minutes

- Assign minute-taking duties amongst parent GB members:** Robert Panetta volunteered to take the minutes at the next meeting on Wednesday, November 23, 2022 at 7pm.
- Communication channels from GB to parents:**
 - HM's website: Governing Board to be removed from under Home and School tab in order to have its own tab.

- Add the missing minutes on the website of the following dates from January 2022 until June 2022, as well as update the GB member names.
 - Governing Board would like to communicate directly to the HM community – introduce the GB’s roles and responsibilities. The HM parents can have a better understanding of the Governing Board and that the GB and Home and School different organizations with their own objectives and goals.
 - Ms. Marotta would require approval from the schoolboard to send out the meeting minutes in a condensed format from the Governing Board to the HM community. We are able to send the full format of the minutes since it is approved by the administrator and GB chair.
 - Ms. Marotta will contact her supervisors and request if GB can send out a monthly newsletter outlining important points from the meeting.
 - To create a montage of the members of the GB committee with a picture with their name and position. Any parent who has questions or any concerns to reach out to any of these members.
- **Update from the committee on enrollment:**
 - Ms. Marotta sent an email with a review of the current steps taken, including the workshops.
 - Mario Pietrangelo informed us that the leadership program will begin again. The elementary schools involved are Honore Mercier, Pierre de Courbetin, Dante in collaboration with Laurier MacDonald high school. The goal of this program is to create a sense of community among the students and to encourage the teenagers to take on more leadership roles. Finally, a workshop about online bullying to the parents and students, grade 4, 5, and 6 about online safety and security, and to be better informed about cybering bullying. We will further discuss ways to have the younger grades participate in this workshop.
 - Ms. Marotta informed us that HM students complete an unanimous online survey, yearly, on how safe they feel in school. Our results reached above the Canadian norms. The children feel safe in school and can reach out to the adults for help if they have issues.
 - On Ped Days, teachers are receiving training in STEAM, robotics and science. What arose is that teachers are concerned that they do not have enough time to plan. Ms. Marotta allotted one hour every month for them to plan and receive help and support.
 - A copy of the staff meeting dates were sent to the consultants at the board, when they are available, they can join the meeting and give support to the teachers.
 - Regarding the concern about not having enough Professional Development in the field, every school receives a fund called Director Days where teachers attend workshops. This fund was allotted to workshops on STEAM, robotics, and science.
 - Money was set aside for the younger grades to purchase transparent pocket mats for the VBOTs
 - A green initiative by the Grade 5, an extra hydroponic tower was requested and given to them
 - Ms. Marotta is giving free Educational Technology workshops for the daycare children in grades 5 and 6
 - Members of the GB will participate at the Open House on Thursday, November 10, 2022.
 - Potentially ask Vito Montesano, professional videographer, to create several small videos to create a campaign for our school
 - Ms. Veronica has been posting pictures and videos on HM’s Facebook and Instagram. She can reach out to the GB members for any help to post on the social platforms.

Principals’ Report

- The Enrollment Committee, the teachers are taking workshops on STEAM and robotics. In Cycle 3 will start the STEAM program with the help from a STEAM consultant from the schoolboard.
- On November 1, 2022 HM will host a “Teaching Movement in the Classroom” workshop for the teachers, other schools in the area were welcome to attend.
- Ms. Marotta would like to thank Daniela Buttino - the daycare students will participate in the Educational Technology workshop until the end of November. Potentially extend the activity to a later date.

- For the fundraiser, CMT (Charcot-Marie-Tooth) walk, HM raised \$1001. Ms. Marotta wanted to thank Andrew Martinez, Peter Tsatoumas and Maria S (Home & School) for their help.
- Ms. Marotta initiated a Golden Apple Award – in recognition of the teacher’s hard-work. This award will be given out on a monthly basis during the staff meetings.
 - Mr. Peter, Mr. Andrew, Ms. Veronica and Ms. Franca for giving their time and helping out
 - Ms. Dina Martino for decorating the school walls
 - Ms. Morena for “Learning Beyond the Four Walls of a Classroom”
 - The caretakers Tony and Mike who worked diligently over summer to clean and maintain the school and still maintain the cleaning Covid schedule during the year
 - Ms. Urmi for her continuous support and collaboration with Ms. Marotta
 - Congratulations to you all!
- Ms. Morena had a virtual meeting with Mr. Dan Gill about his upbringing in a segregated neighborhood in New Jersey and how his experiences lead write a book and teach others about equality. On November 29, 2022, Mr. Gill will speak virtually to the HM students about his story on inclusion, diversity and equality.
- EduAction after school activities – unfortunately, due to low enrollment, all activities were cancelled.
- **Field Trips:**
 - **Segal Center (October 28, 2022):** Grade 2
 - **Muse des enfants (November 8, 2022):** Pre-K
 - **Cirque du Verdun (January 31, 2023):** Grade 1
 - **Maison Symphonique (February 1, 2023):** Grade 5 & 6
 - **Maison Symphonique (March 23, 2023):** Grade 3 & 4
 - **Camp Bout en Train (February 27, 28, &1):** Grade 6
 - **Cosmodome (April 11, 2023):** K
 - **Biodome (April 28, 2023):** Grade 2
 - **Biodome (May 8, 2023):** Pre-K
 - **CEPSUM (May 24, 2023):** K
 - **Intermiel (June 9, 2023):** Grade 1

Motion to approve field trips called by Robert Panetta, seconded by Merika Ramundo. Passed unanimously. Motion carried.

- Mr. Vince, the spiritual animator, would like to have a “Socks in the Box” fundraiser and to donate to less the fortunate within the community. On November 24, 2022, a memo will be sent home and the collection will last for 2-3 weeks.

Motion to approve “Socks in the Box” fundraiser called by Tony Campione, seconded by Robert Panetta. Passed unanimously. Motion carried.

- Tony Campione requested to have these fundraisers advertised – such as a social media post with the total amount raised. Inquire if local printing companies, such as MOXO Inc, can provide printing solutions.

Teachers’ Report

- Music Report:
 - Veronica Graniero reported that the music band has 22 students enrolled
 - CBC Music Classroom Competition – recording on November 9, 2022.
- Physical Education: classes will focus on manipulation and receiving
 - Volleyball starting with Grades 3, 4, 5 & 6
 - Playground ball, hockey sticks, and hops with the younger grades

- Tuesday and Thursday will begin volleyball at lunch time
- Cross-country with grade 3, 4, 5 & 6. The grade 6 girls won 2nd place and boys won 3rd place
- Virtue of the month done by Ms. Maria the spiritual animator
 - Monthly assembly to issue an award and will be rewarded on a specific theme
 - A student in each class will be chosen for being a role model to his/her classmates
- Pre-K hosted a "Friendship Festival" – their parents spent a half-day in class with them

Daycare Report

- Daniel Buttino reported that the government changed the rate of daycare fees to \$8.95.
- All EMSB daycare handbooks have the same information, rules, and regulations
 - The information is available on the Honore Mercier website to be viewed by parents.
- Tony inquired if the staff is up to date: CPR certification, bullying and other situations concerning the well-being of the daycare children.
- Activities available for daycare activities: gardening club, rolling plants, cooking classes for 4, 5, and 6, and Ms. Marotta's Educational Workshop
- Toy Fundraiser for the Montreal Children's Hospital:
 - Bake sales: homemade cupcakes, cookies, and oatmeal cookies. Three dates for the bake sale to raise money to purchase toys. The sale price will be \$2 each.
 - Selling tickets to win 1 of 3 three baskets.
 - Last year's fundraiser raised \$2,600.
 - Honore Mercier students want to donate hand-made items such as bracelets, crafts to sell. To relook at this fundraiser later.

Motion to approve the fundraiser for the Montreal Children's Hospital called by Veronica Graniero, seconded by Andrew Martinez. Passed unanimously. Motion carried.

Motion to approve daycare handbook called by Merika Ramundo, seconded by Jennifer Uniat. Passed unanimously. Motion carried.

Home and School Report

- Maria Scicchitano and Nancy Cantini reported on fundraisers
 - Laura Secord chocolate fundraiser was a huge success. The remaining chocolate might be sold during the open house and parent-teacher conference.
- Home and School has 70 members
- Contact the media to advertise our Haunted House at HM

Treasurer's Report

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

Central Parents Committee Report

- Merika Ramundo reports 32 new parents at the meeting
- Committees were elected

- Success Plan has been initiated – more information to follow
- Standing committees who report back on the following antiracism, focus group on enrollment which we can be a part of lead by Maria Corsi.
- Subcommittees of sexual misconduct, antibullying, digital citizenship

Question Period/Varia

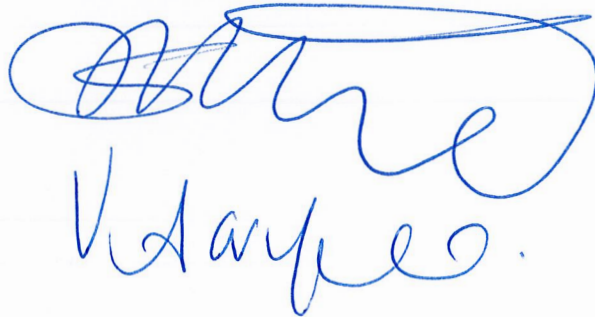
- Anti-bullying and anti-violence plans
 - Safe school action plan which will be presented to GB in January 2023 an the current plan is available on the HM website for parents to view
 - Each school has a specific plan created by a committee of HM professionals
 - Informs the parents on how the school deals with any issues that may arise
- Suggestion to have the musical band perform for the elderly
- HM school confirmed that they compost

Next Governing Board Meeting Date(s)or

- The following meeting dates were proposed:
 - Wednesday, November 23 at 7:00 p.m. (Virtual meeting)
 - Monday, December 12 at 6:00 p.m. at Honore Mercier School

Adjournment

- Motion to adjourn was made at 9:50 PM by Robert Panetta, seconded by Tony Campione. Passed unanimously.



A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Tony Campione". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial "T".

MINUTES

Honoré Mercier Governing Board

*Monday, February 6, 2023 | Meeting called to order by Verena Garofalo
Virtual Meeting, 6 PM*

In Attendance

Verena Garofalo (GB Chair)	X	Veronica Graniero (Staff – Teaching)	X
Tony Campione (GB)	X	Andrew Martinez (Staff – Teaching)	X
Lisa Ida (GB)	X	Peter Tsatoumas (Staff – Teaching)	X
Angelo Irrera (GB Treasurer)	X	Nancy Cantini (HS – Public)	X
Robert Panetta (GB)	R	Maria Scicchitano (HS – Public)	X
Merika Ramundo (GB)	X	Diego Di Stefano (Public)	X
Jennifer Uniat (GB)	X	Sally Behjoudi (Public)	X
Lino Faratro (Alternate GB)	X	Anna (Public)	X
Sonia Ranellucci (Alternate GB)	X	Peter (Public)	X
Daniela Buttino (Staff -Daycare)	X	Ariana Holowka (Public)	X
Administration:		Commissioner, Ward 8:	
Sonia Marotta, Principal	X	Mario Pietrangelo	R

X = present

R = Regrets

Additions to the Agenda

No additions to the agenda.

Approval of Meeting Agenda

Motion to approve the agenda called by Merika Ramundo, seconded by Lisa Ida. Passed unanimously. Motion carried.

Approval of Adoption of the Minutes December 12, 2022

Motion to approve the December 2022 adoption of the meeting minutes called by Angelo Irrera, seconded by Sonia Ranellucci. Passed unanimously. Motion carried.

Chair's Review

- **Selection criteria for appointment of a principal** – deadline to submit is March 14, 2023. Miss Marotta will leave the meeting once all points on the agenda are addressed (post question/varia period) to allow for this discussion.

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

Initial follow up discussions prompted by **concerns/complaints** raised by parents and **letter** presented to governing board regarding many important issues. Productive initial meeting (2 weeks ago) with Miss Marotta, Verena Garofalo, Tony Campione and Mr. Peter to further discuss issues related to insurance, safety of players, values (communication), service/program offered (focus on skill development vs skill development and games, certifications, ...Miss Marotta was able to answer many questions at this initial meeting. Outcome of this meeting was to follow up with a meeting with Michael.

2nd follow up meeting with Michael to be held on Thursday (Verena, Miss Marotta, Tony, faculty member) to address outstanding questions and to ensure that expectations will be met for the program while keeping in mind the values are in line with Honoré Mercier Community. Example of some concerns raised: initial program offered in 1st year focused on skill development (30 hours/set price) vs 2nd year was split between skill development and games (15/15). Issues related to safety, incorporation, training/certification. These will be discussed further with Michael for a better understanding and make sure we can continue with his program in a positive direction. To be continued and reported back to GB.

In addition, a **suggestion** will be made for Michael to **meet and represent to GB** to ensure that we move ahead in the right direction making sure all questions are addressed by HM parents and community.

Confirmation that legal team of the EMSB (lawyer) met with Michel regarding the program before it was addressed by GB.

To be continued.

Principals' Report

Sexuality Education Plan

- Gender identity issue brought up – was a topic at another school (EMSB high school). Appropriateness of topic questioned and on how this will be addressed at HM should it arise in the plan/raised by students in classroom
- School support staff (nurse/psychologist) guide responses/content for sensitive issues
- Currently questions brought up by students in classroom well managed by teachers and social support staff
- Taboo or sensitive questions may require further guidance from EMSB for appropriate responses
- Education Minister sends guidelines and topics to be covered. School teachers and support staff plan out details
- Any parents who have issues or concerns with topics can contact Miss Marotta via email. She can suggest right contact at EMSB for further follow up.

Safe School Plan

- Workshops offered to parents – working with school commissioner Mario Pietrangelo – format and details still to be determined (e.g. workshop on internet safety for parents). Upcoming.

- Mentoring program – continuation of program from last year with Miss Dimitra. Techniques and guidance – kids showing maturity level given opportunity to mentor younger classmates (recess, lunch) – led by Nadia Marcogliese (school behavioral technician)
- Program tailored to maturity level/readiness for leadership and needs of students
- Mentoring program also assisted by Miss Daniela
- In Daycare, some students are involved in helping younger classmates. Successful initiative. Long term program

ACGC (New at EMSB)

- Focus to sensitize students to different careers in the classroom (Cycle 3) (e.g. exposure to career fairs, guest speakers, class discussions)
- English and French teachers will work together to cover all the topics and develop content (similar functioning to Sexuality Education Plan)
- Positive response to the addition of the program at the school (Ministry of Education Mandate)

**Motion to approve school safety plan called by Merika Ramundo, seconded by Peter Tsatoumas .
Passed unanimously. Motion carried.**

**Motion to approve sexuality education plan called by Merika Ramundo, seconded by Lisa Ida.
Passed unanimously. Motion carried.**

**Motion to approve the ACGC documents called by Angelo Irrera, seconded by Tony Campione.
Passed unanimously. Motion carried.**

Special thank you from Miss Marotta to Home and School, parent volunteers and Miss Daniela for the successful pancake breakfast.

Teachers' Report

Music Report (Veronica Graniero)

- **CBC Music competition** – very successful - Honoré Mercier ranked between 4th and 10th position out of 189 schools
- **Holiday concert**
 - available online for parents who were not able to attend
 - special thank you to all parents for the donation of canned good
 - congratulations given to Miss Veronica for an excellent holiday concert
- **Passed field trip to OSM (Gr 5 and 6) – « Les mathématiques de la musique »**
 - overall experience appreciated by students
- **Upcoming field trip to OSM (Gr 3 and 4) in March**
 - parents to receive details shortly

Physical Education Report (Andrew Martinez and Peter Tsatoumas)

- **Grade 6 Winer Camp** field trip (upcoming – end of February)
-56 out of 71 students will participate
- **Basketball Program** (Cycle 3) – extension of Phys. Ed. Program
- **Fitness Room** (set up in a bigger room & additional equipment)
-Gr 4-5-6 use the fitness room during health class
-Students exposed to different workouts than in gymnasium (e.g. bikes, resistance training,)
-Fitness room also used for extracurricular activities during lunch (e.g. fitness class given by Mr. Peter and Mr. Andrew)
- **Winter Carnival Camp** (in next few weeks/weather dependent)
-Sign-up sheet soon available for teachers to select time slot for activities (pre k to Gr 6)
-Activities: sliding at park, games, sled races
-Specific activity for Gr 3-6: snowshoeing at Delorme Park
-Parents will be well informed beforehand to ensure students appropriately dressed

Daycare Report (Daniel Buttino)

- **Tax Receipts**
-Currently collecting fees for daycare and lunch for month of December (deadline for payment to receive tax receipt for 2022)
-Preparing tax receipts - ready week of February 20th on the Mozaic Parent Portal
-Any outstanding dues will be carried over to next year's tax receipts
- **Registrations** for daycare for next year – almost completed
- **Montreal Children's Fundraiser** (December 2022 – selling cookies/cupcakes over 3-week period) – sent donation (approx. \$1600)

Home and School Report

Nancy Cantini reported on

- **Scholastic Book Fair** (November 2022) – Reported profit of 1718.13\$
- **Staff Appreciation Week (Upcoming)**
-Lunch catered from Ciociaro's
-Bagels and cream cheese donated from HM parent/St Viateur Bagel
-Many other treats in the works

Maria Scicchitano reported on

- **Chocolate Drive** (passed activity)
-Raised \$12 665 (Grade 6 portion \$3173.44 – will go towards their graduation, remainder goes to the other grades)

- **Teacher Appreciation** (Upcoming)
 - Request for parents to donate store bought baked goods (planned for Thursday)
- **Pancake breakfast** (passed event)
 - Very successful
 - Special thank you to Miss Daniela for all her help in setting up and serving

Treasurer's Report (Angelo Ribera)

- Started year with 889\$
- Year to date expenses \$542 (remaining 346\$ with one outstanding invoicing to be submitted)
- Forecast of 200\$ for remainder of the year

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

January meeting

- Bill 96 information session (Merika can send document to any parents who wish to see it). Representatives from the Quebec Community Groups Network presented on Bill 96 implications on social services including Education. They explored the various articles that affect English education and how it can affect the Anglophone community generally. The PC will be moving forward on drafting a letter to be sent to the government. GBs will be asked to participate. Other links of interest:
 - Open letter to David Lametti regarding C13;
 - The QCGN Language Rights Page; and,
 - The link to sign up for the Daily Briefing.
- Parents received conflicting information regarding school trips outside of Canada. The administration and the Legal Department have put together guidelines for the schools to follow with regard to trips abroad. The guidelines have been distributed recently to principals.

February meeting

- Budget building process for 2023-2024:
 - Financial Services consulting with PC and GBs on the budget building process this winter/spring. Adoption of numerous activities will occur in June.
 - Way of getting feedback as to what the local community thinks is important in terms of where movies are spent. What does the community want? What do they value?
 - Not a rubber stamping activity – GBs and PCs are asked to reflect on needs and use guiding principles to work with the administration to outline resource needs.
- School calendars:

- Pela Nickoletopoulos, Assistant Regional Director mentioned that GBs should be seeing the calendar for next academic year soon. Pela would be sending a note out to principals to ask them to consider parents / GB input before the local school calendar is set in stone.
- Parents Committee put forward a motion for the EMSB to consider a series of recommendations regarding the proposed school calendar for 2023-2024.
 - Schedule a ped day after Halloween on November 1.
 - No half ped days.
 - Winter break and March break to be the same at all 5 service centers and school boards on the island of Montreal. Pela mentioned that the 5 centers and boards have met and that this was being addressed. In principle, all have agreed to set the same dates for these breaks.
 - Note “equalization days” so that the same subjects are not always missed if the school has Mondays and Fridays as ped days.
- **Bullying:**
 - PC passed a resolution to ask the EMSB to make bullying training sessions mandatory for all staff
- **PC events:**
 - Timeframe: week of May 28 - June 4, 2023 (to run in conjunction with the U.N.'s Global Day of Parents on June 1).
 - Keynote - Sunday, May 28 or Sunday, June 4, 2023. Afternoon 2-3 hours. Hybrid - onsite + live streamed + recorded to be posted at a later date. Light refreshments will be served (e.g. coffee, tea, juice, muffins, cookies, etc.) and daycare services are available on-site (needs to be requested when the guest RSVPs).
 - Lunch & Learn Series - Monday, May 29 to Friday, June 2, 2023.
 - 30 to 45 mins, launched at noon, one per day
 - Theme: Communications! Related topics could include special needs, artificial intelligence, Inclusion, accessibility, social media, healthy relationships, misinformation, health & wellness, technology, hands-on learning (trade school!), bullying/cyberbullying, mindfulness, peer relations, empathy, motivation, and engagement, etc. If you know of any speakers or sponsorship opportunities, please let Merika know.

Next Governing Board Meeting Date

- The following meeting date was proposed:
 - Thursday, March 16 at 7:00 p.m. in person
 - Suggestion to alternate times for next meetings (6pm and 7pm)

Question Period/Varia

- **Registration Numbers Update**
 - lower than expected - 1 new pre-k class and 1 kdg class
 - enrollment period ongoing
 - Grade 6 cohort leaving (big cohort of 3 classes)
- **Why are raffles not permitted to raise funds?**
 - Not permitted as it encourages students to gamble (EMSB guideline)
- **Time per week allocated for physical education?**
 - Currently HM has 1 hour per week vs Pearson School Board which has 2 ½ hours per week (over 3 days/week)

- **Group discussion regarding increasing physical activity /benefit for promoting school (enrollment)**
 - Would need to review allocated minutes per subject at the school
 - In order to increase physical activity – we would have to reduce time from another specialty (e.g. art)
 - Option for art can be taken over by other teachers as it has been the subject with most turnover in last year’s however need to follow rules from EMSB for time allocation to each teacher and specialty subject
 - Consequence of low enrollment – may lose classroom teachers and specialty teachers in accordance
 - Increasing physical activity time would enable HM to possibly secure specialty teachers. Low enrollment puts positions of Mr. Andrew, Mr. Peter and Miss Veronica in jeopardy. Plan needs to be put in place (see NEXT STEPS below)**
 - HM has been a pioneer in increasing physical education and health (started health booklet) before Ministry and EMSB suggestion for 150 min/week – need to continue with our strengths:
 - Pre-k & kdg: (165 minutes/week)
 - Grades 3-4-5-6 (150 minutes/week) – 2hrs Phys ed & 30 min health class
 - focus to increase minutes for (Cycle 1 students - Gr 1 and 2) – currently 120 minutes (90 minutes actual Phys ed + 30 min. health class). Suggestions for increasing Phys ed to 3x/week + health class**
 - Positive comments to build upon strengths of the school (physical education and music) to showcase them and potentially help promote the school (low enrollment issue) and secure the specialty teachers. Risk of losing 2 out of 3 specialty teachers. Need to think creatively and plan ahead
 - Many benefits of increased physical activity for the students

Evidence of physical activity minutes at other schools or specialty subjects of interest to parents?

- all schools need to follow basic school regulations in terms of time allocation. Each school is different on how they divide the time with respect to their focus
- not aware of any research related to specialty subjects of interests by parents (re: enrollment)

Example from Edinburgh Elementary School (experience from Miss Marotta)

- 3 specialties – art teacher (who was retiring), science and physical education
- did not have a music specialist – taught by person hired by home and school – assisted classroom teacher with music program. Teachers did not feel qualified to grade music
- Solution: took advantage of retiring art teacher and decided to hire a music specialist. Classroom teachers felt more comfortable to take on the art class themselves.
- Solution specific to the school

Conclusion of the discussion is that the focus on Phys Ed and music would be a creative strategy to try to ensure that our specialty teachers remain in HM as well as benefit the students’ health and learning. GB in full support.

Lots of evidence for the benefits of physical activity for students and teachers (reference to workshop speaker at the beginning of the year – suggestion to reach out to the speaker for data)

NEXT STEPS (RE: Proposal to increase physical activity minutes, focusing on Cycle 1)

- 1) Miss Marotta – to review basic school regulations in terms of time allocation (Phys Ed, music, art) and prepare a proposal in accordance. Target date before enrollment report needs to be done.
- 2) Proposal to be reviewed with EMSB HR (ensuring proper time allocation for language FR and ENG within the specialty subject) for approval
- 3) Proposal to be presented at Staff Council (discussion already underway with specialty teachers) for approval
- 4) Proposal presented to GB for final acceptance

- **Beautification fund: application deadline update**
 - reminder to re-visit the application timeline for the fund
 - Miss Marotta to report back to us on application deadline

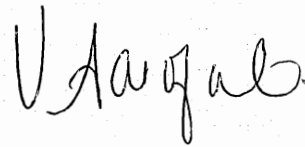
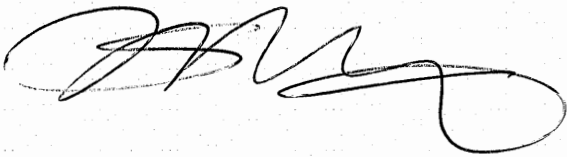
- **Reminder** regarding meeting with Michael (**Next Level Hockey**) – Thursday, February 9th
-Any questions to be addressed can be sent to Miss Marotta, Tony Campione or Verena Garofalo

Discussion for selection criteria for appointment of a principal

- Discussion specifically for GB members, staff and public (parents)
- Miss Marotta ended the recording and left the meeting (8:30 PM)
- Discussion not included in the minutes

Adjournment

- Motion to adjourn was made at 9:00 PM by Tony Campione, seconded by Angelo Irrera. Passed unanimously.



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.

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.

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 Chiochio, 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

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		
Administration:		Commissioner, Ward 8:	
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

Approval of Meeting Agenda

Motion to Approve: Merika Ramundo and Angelo Irrera

Motion Passed - Unanimously

Approval of Adoption of the Minutes April 2023

- Minutes for the April 2023 were approved by email

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

Motion passed - Unanimously

Approval of Adoption of the Minutes May 2023

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

Motion passed - Unanimously

School Supplies Ordering System

- 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.

School Dress Code Suppliers

- 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

Extra-Curricular Activities

- 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

Principals' Report

- 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

Teachers' Report

- 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

Daycare Report

- No report.

Home and School Report

- 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!

Treasurer's Report

- 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.

Central Parents Committee Report

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.

Funded Pre-K Classes

- 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

Updates on Past Motions

- 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.

Question Period/Varia

- 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

Next Governing Board Meeting Date(s)or

- Not applicable

Adjournment

- Motion to adjourn the meeting 8:30 pm

Motion to Approve: Veronica Graniero and Merika Ramundo

Motion Passed - Unanimously