

MINUTES

Honoré Mercier Elementary School Governing Board

Monday, December 16, 2024 @ 7:05PM | Meeting called to order by Verena Garofalo

In Attendance

Verena Garofalo (Chair)	X	Robert Panetta	R
Marco De Crecentis	X	Merika Ramundo	X
Diego Di Stefano	X	Peter Tsatoumas	X
Lino Faratro	R	Saffiran Ali	X
Veronica Graniero	X	Sally Behjoudi (Alternate)	X
Tonie Morena	X	Sonia Ranellucci (Alternate)	X
Andrew Martinez	X	Giuseppe Fazzari	X
Cynthia Canale - Principal	X	Mario Pietrangelo	R
Romina Mancini	R	Teresa Valentino	XP
Felicia Spadafino	XP	Mary Baccarri	XP
		Michelangelo Smith	XP

X = Present / R = Regrets / XP = Present Public

Assign minute-taking duties: Saffiran Ali

Assign time-keeper duties: Merika Ramundo

1. Additions to Agenda

— No additions to agenda.

2. Approval of the Agenda

— NOTE: Agenda was not approved.

3. Adoption of Minutes

— Motion to Approve: Diego Di Stefano, seconded by Merika Ramundo. **Motion Passed – Unanimously**

4. Business Arising

4.1: Update: New drop-off/ pick-up zone:

- There are now enough spaces for drop-off and pick-up (15 spots available)
- GB members asked the Ms. Canale to request that the police patrol between 2:15 p.m. and 3:00 p.m. (pick-up) as the traffic and disregard for traffic laws is dangerous.
- Reminder: this is a drop-off/ pick-up zone only. No parking and waiting in the cars until children finish school.

4.2: Update: ManMade donation

- Ms. Canale will mention in her principal report.

4.3: Dress down day - amounts raised last year:

- Update: Ms. Canale confirmed that there was no fund named "beautification fund"
- A total of \$1047.35 were for the 3 dress down days last year and are now deposited in fund 3.
- 410.00\$ will be added to the beautification fund from Yoga.
- Joey Cortese will drop off a check to Verena's attention for the soccer kick back and this will also go into beautification fund.

4.4: ECAs (email sent to GB on Dec 13,2024)

- Basketball (will be available at lunch time for Grades 5 and 6)
- Computer Umbrella will relook at it.
- Motion to Approve inviting Cortese / Enfant et compagnie back for this session: Merika Ramundo, seconded by Giuseppe Fazzari
Motion Passed – Unanimously

4.5: Results of student survey:

- Grades 4-5-6 took survey "Tell it from me survey". Ms. Canale will sit with staff and will look over results in January 2025. Ms. Canale will look at results of last year/ this year and the Canadian norm.
- Overview: Feeling safe coming to school went up 20%

5. Principals' Report

1. Drop-Off Zones

The new drop-off spots appear to be functioning relatively well, with more space available on the school side of Nantes. Police representation has been present to assist with monitoring the situation. However,

an ongoing issue has been noted regarding parents making U-turns and parking on the residential side of the street. Parents are reminded to use the main street crossing to prioritize the safety of all children.

2. Man-Made Donation

I met with staff to better understand the concept of the outdoor learning center. The staff is enthusiastic about implementing this in the designated area of the schoolyard. This initiative would create a safe and multi-functional space for children to enjoy throughout the day and during BASE activities. We are still awaiting confirmation from the school board regarding whether they will match the donation.

Regarding the funds raised from the dress-down day, financial services have confirmed that all monies has been deposited into the Fund 3 account. It was also clarified that there is no specific beautification fund currently created, but these funds are available for use throughout the year as needed. Additionally, I confirm that the \$5,000 donation is in the Fund 4 donations account.

3. ECA (Extracurricular Activities)

I will be sending out information about extracurricular activities to parents tomorrow, once all the details have been finalized.

4. Results of the TELL IT FROM ME Survey

The survey has been completed, and the results will be reviewed in January. The committee and I will analyze the data in depth to compare it with last year's results, identify key areas for improvement, and develop proactive solutions.

5. Parent Workshop on Sexuality Education

I contacted Jaime Quin on December 2nd to discuss organizing a parent workshop on sexuality education. She expressed interest in the idea and is currently exploring options. It is possible that other schools may also have similar inquiries, and the school board may consider addressing the topic through an in-person workshop or online platform. I expect to have an update by January.

6. Video Surveillance Cameras

I am still waiting for a response from the school board's lawyer regarding the request raised at our last GB meeting about installing video surveillance cameras in the schoolyard. I initially contacted her on November 28th, 2024, and will follow up as necessary.

7. Winter Student Assembly

On Monday, December 9th, 2024, we held a winter student assembly. The purpose of the assembly was to address the importance of proper winter attire to ensure students stay safe and warm. I also spoke about playing safely during the winter, particularly avoiding icy areas, and reminded students of the importance of walking carefully up and down the stairs with slippery boots. Lastly, I emphasized the need to bring indoor shoes to avoid walking barefoot in socks.

8. Rosemount Concert

I would like to commend the students on their excellent performance at the Rosemount concert. They represented the school wonderfully and enjoyed the experience.

9. Honoré Mercier Music Concert

Scheduled for Wednesday, December 18th, 2024, I would like to take a moment to commend Mrs. Veronica for her ongoing hard work in organizing this music concert. It has been a privilege to occasionally observe her classroom as students from different grade levels practice for this upcoming concert. As the school principal, it is truly an honor to witness the dedication of our staff in ensuring the students' ability to progress not only academically but also artistically as a whole.

10. Lockdown Drill (Compulsory)

A lockdown drill is scheduled for January. Parents will receive an email informing them of the week the drill will take place. It is essential for staff and parents to prepare students for this drill in advance, ensuring they understand the purpose and feel safe during the process.

11. Ventilation System Update:

I communicated with the schoolboard project manager as the teachers were complaining of a loud sound in the classrooms. The project manager did come with the engineers and will be investigating this sound and will follow up with me once the issue is rectified.

6. Teachers' Report

1. Veronica Graniero:

- Holiday Concert Dec 18, 2024 (AM/PM). Tickets given to students in memo folder.

2. Andrew Martinez:

- Winter camp 88% turn out. At the end of January 2025. Can't Wait!

3. Tonie Morena:

- Last GB meeting together with us. Will be missed by students and staff. HM will always be your home. Happy Retirement. Flowers were given on GB behalf.

7. B.A.S.E. Report

Holiday projects and activities for December. Focus on celebration of light theme. "Take the opportunity what is good in our lives". How important it is to demonstrate acts of kindness. Every single day there is an activity.

- Holiday scavenger hunt
- Make a bracelet to share it with someone (act of kindness)
- Holiday bingo.

- Raffles and food drive will end the day of the concert. Everyone can have the opportunity to help even non base parents.
- Mount Avila in February (tubbing)

8. Central Parents Committee Report

Highlights from EMSB Parents Committee Meeting on December 5

1. Land acknowledgement: EMSB PC drafted a new land acknowledgement to be used at PC meetings. PC members were asked to provide feedback on it.
 - Educational Services presentations: Three EMSB teams from the Educational Services Department presented on 1) Indigenous initiatives; 2) Elementary Literacy Projects; 3) STEAM (#2 and #3 not on the agenda)
2. EMSB school website management: Several questions were submitted to EMSB senior administration regarding the status of website across the school board and website migration.
 - Who manages the individual school websites at the EMSB?
 - Websites are managed by the EMSB. Most updates are made by a team of webmasters. The webmaster team has recently increased from 2 people to 3. It's an incredible amount of work to maintain these sites. There are certain tasks that can be done locally by a trained volunteer. There are some schools who do not have a trained volunteer.
 - Standardization of sites vs. personalization: The school board manages school sites. If you know of external web designers who are working on an EMSB site, please let senior administration know.
 - Website migration information: The EMSB will be migrating to a new platform – WordPress. This is underway and may take several years. The last site to be worked on will be the EMSB's main site.
3. Service email account for school governing boards: A question regarding the use of a service account for school governing boards was submitted to EMSB senior administration. Some GB delegates reported that service account emails were created and being used to streamline, centralize, archive, retrieve information. In the past EMSB administration had advised some members that the creation of these email accounts was not allowed. Clarification requested from the EMSB PC. EMSB senior administration response given on December 5: The service email accounts for EMSB governing boards are not permitted. All correspondence, including questions from the parent body, must go through the school principal. Questions and concerns were raised by the EMSB PC delegates. A follow-up action will be taken by EMSB PC.
4. Anti-Troll Kit: Kit that helps kids and teens to "Solve your problems with the person who is cyberbullying you using the multiple resources and solutions of the Anti-Troll Kit." Sections for parents and counsellors. There's even a "send a warning link" automated feature where someone can "send a clear message that you do not accept the behavior of the cyberbully and that you might decide to take further actions that could result in more severe consequences for them." <https://anti-trollkit.com/>

5. Highlights sheet for EMSBPC members: EMSB PC members expressed interest in receiving a highlights sheet to bring back to their governing boards. More information to come.
6. Collective Pas Un Mort – rally on December 13: On December 13, the collective Pas une mort de plus would like to commemorate the second anniversary of the death of young Maria in Montreal in December 2022, which gave rise to our movement to put an end to these preventable tragedies. The collective are therefore more convinced than ever that a law on the safety and security of road users, and an institution mandated to implement it, is the best way to achieve the changes we need. The made this proposal in our brief to the Commission des transports et de l'environnement as part of the specific consultations on Bill 48. The idea continues to gain ground. Two Le Devoir editorialists have recently taken it up (Louise-Maude Rious Soucy and François William Croteau), in addition to the original article by Colin Côté-Paulette and Daphné Dion-Viens. To mark the two-year anniversary of Maria's death, we're organizing a rally in Montreal at the start of school, and the collective will be publishing a letter. For these two actions, they hope to mobilize as many stakeholders as possible to rally behind this proposal: experts (in law, road safety, urban planning, public health, etc.), parents' committees, political parties, lawyers, activists, etc. The collective asked for EMSB support in this process in three ways:
 1. Would you be willing to co-sign a letter with us in support of this proposal?
 2. Will you be joining us at the rally on December 13 in Montreal?
 3. Could you mobilize your network for this rally?
7. Parent Commissioner's Report:
 - Commissioners sworn in on November 13. FYI - Jessica Houde sitting on executive and ethics committees.
 - Special meeting held on November 28 regarding Adult and Educational and Vocational Services request for permanent vocational training program authorization for Carpentry Program at Rosemount Technology Centre. Motion carried unanimously.
 - Next commissioner's meeting is December 17.

9. Treasurer's Report

N/A

10. Commissioner's Report

Mario sends his regrets.

11. Home and School Report

- Romina Mancini and Felicia Spadafino very excited for pancake breakfast and Santa. Winter Wonderland on December 19, 2024.
- Grade 6 Grad Committee: would like to pass a motion: 1 Dress down day per month (total of 6 days), pre-k to Grade 6 with participate, \$2 to participate. All proceeds to go towards the Grade 6 Grad. **Motion to approve:** Diego Di Stefano seconded by Andrew Martinez.

12. Email approvals

12. 1: December 4, 2024

12.2: December 6, 2024

12.3: December 7, 2024

13. New Business Overview

N/A

14. Varia

N/A

15. Next Governing Board Meeting Date(s)

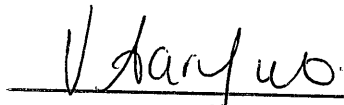
- Monday, February 3, 2025
- Monday, March 10, 2025
- Monday, April 14, 2025
- Monday, May 12, 2025
- Monday, June 16, 2025
- All meetings at 7pm unless otherwise noted.

16. Questions

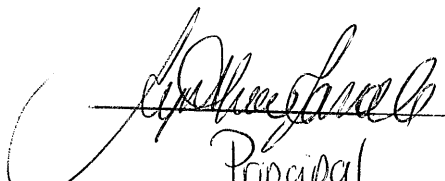
N/A

17. Adjournment

- Motion to adjourn the meeting 9:05 pm
 - Motion to Approve: Andrew Martinez and Veronica Graniero
 - **Motion Passed - Unanimously**


G.B. Chair

Dec 16. 2024


Principal

Dec. 16. 2024