

# MINUTES

## Honoré Mercier Elementary School Governing Board

*Monday, May 12, 2025 @ 743:10PM\** | *Meeting called to order by* Merika Ramundo (delegate to chair)

### In Attendance

Verena Garofalo (Chair)	R	Robert Panetta	X
Marco De Crecentis	X	Merika Ramundo	X
Diego Di Stefano	R	Peter Tsatoumas	X
Lino Faratro	X	Saffiran Ali	R
Veronica Graniero	X	Sally Behjoudi (Alternate)	X
Laurie Giancaspero	X	Sonia Ranellucci (Alternate)	R
Andrew Martinez	R	Giuseppe Fazzari	R
Cynthia Canale - Principal	X	Mario Pietrangelo	R
Emily Gervasi	XP		

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

**Assign minute-taking duties:** Merika Ramundo

**Assign time-keeper duties:** Robert Panetta

\*Governing Board members met at 7:00 p.m. with representatives from Le Mini Bistro regarding lunch services.

### 1. Additions to Agenda

3.2 Adoption of Minutes for April 14, 2025

13.1 Fundraising request: grade 6 coffee sale at STEAM fair on May 15.

14.1 Lunch services food supplier – next steps

### 2. Approval of the Agenda

- Motion to Approve: Veronica Graniero, seconded by Lino Faratro  
**Motion Passed – Unanimously**

### 3. Adoption of Minutes

**3.1 Governing Board members to approve of minutes from March 10, 2025 via email.**

3.2 Governing Board members motioned to approve minutes from April 14, 2025. Motion to approve Sally Behjoudi, seconded by Lino Faratro. **Motion Passed – Unanimously**

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#### 4. Business Arising

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##### 4.1 Code of Conduct amendments

- Merika Ramundo motioned to give speaking rights for this item to Emily Gervasi. Seconded by Robert Panetta. **Motion Passed – Unanimously**
- Thank you to all the parents who met on Sunday, May 4, for giving feedback on the Code of Conduct.
- Some feedback for consideration:
  1. Clause 1.9: Communication with Teachers: clarification on the amount of time staff members have to answer correspondence – suggestion: 24-48 hours.
  2. Clause 2.2: Incorporation of the definition of bullying from the Anti-Bullying, Anti-Violence Plan
  3. Clause 2.2: Add “No Tolerance Policy” - violation of code of conduct will result in a specific action (as outlined in / tied to ABAV)
  4. Clause 2.2.: glossary/clarification of terms “verbal aggression”, “physical aggression”, emotional aggression”
  5. Implementation of big brother/big sister or anti-bullying peer group.
  6. Anti-bullying, Anti-Violence Plan be distributed / communicated about alongside the Code of Conduct. These documents go hand in hand.
  7. Very difficult to navigate hearsay. Work together to find strategies to support all students and resolve incidents.
- Mrs. Canale reported that the code of conduct will be revised and brought forward for approval by e-vote soon. More information to come.

##### 4.2 Survey results for 1) Tell It From Me Safety and 2) Educational Projects initiatives

- Motion to table to June meeting: Veronica, seconded by Lino Faratro.

**Motion Passed – Unanimously**

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#### 5. Principals’ Report

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- **School Inspection Follow-Up**
  - Inspection Date: April 24, 2024
  - Participants: Three members of the EMSB Material Resources Department, the Principal, and Caretaker Tony.
  - Findings and Actions:
    - The outdoor grass area will be redone.
    - The outdoor ramp has already been rebuilt. (After the election date) (A more permanent structure will be built at a later date.
    - Certain classroom ceilings will be repaired and repainted due to chipping.
    - Floor areas in poor condition will be redone and fixed.
    - Missing baseboards under the locker areas will be replaced.

- Air purifiers will be cleaned and verified for proper functioning over the summer.
  - More Ventilation work will continue this summer.
- **Outdoor Classroom Follow Up \*\*\***
  - An email was sent to Philip Verdi on May 5th, 2025.
  - Mention of Toja grid
  - Mention of idea to have Rosemount Technology Centre help to build structures if possible
  - Attachment of pictures of similar structures at other schools
- **School Calendar 2025-2026**
  - The Honoré Mercier School Calendar for the 2025-2026 academic year has been created, approved by Staff Council, and voted on by the full staff.
  - All EMSB guidelines and calendar directives were followed carefully in the creation process.
  - Of note, the first day of class across the EMSB system is September 2, 2025.
- **Subject Time Allocation 2025-2026**
  - The Subject Time Allocation for the 2025-2026 academic year has been reviewed and finalized, in compliance with EMSB guidelines and ministry requirements.
- **Thank you to all members of our Governing Board**
  - “As we approach the end of the school year, I would like to take a moment to extend my heartfelt thanks to each of you for your ongoing collaboration, commitment, and support throughout the year. Your dedication to the well-being and success of our students, staff, and school community is truly appreciated. The time, care, and thoughtful input you contribute make a meaningful difference in the life of our school, and I am sincerely grateful for the partnership we have built together. Thank you once again for your continued involvement and for being such an important part of the Honoré Mercier community.”

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## 6. Teachers’ Report

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Peter Tsatoumas

- Halo Run on May 7 was a great success. Thank you to all students who participated. Nine medals were awarded to HM students. Thank you to Miss Veronica and Mr. David for their help and to parents who came to Mount Royal.
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- Planning Fun in the sun activities.

Laurie Giancaspero:

- Trip to Intermiel cycle 1 on April 30 was very well received.

Veronica Graniero:

- STEAM Fair this Thursday, May 15!
- GB evote to come. Motion: Charge \$5/ticket for music concert on June 5. All funds go towards music program equipment/activities.

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## 7. Daycare Report

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- Spring season theme are being incorporated into activities:
  - Mother's Day
  - Father's Day (flight of the butterflies)

Gardening, arts and crafts, science, baking and sensory activities are being programmed around these themes.

- Last pay it forward initiative – hygiene products collection to be donated.
- PED Day: Bus full of students at Bullzeye at the end of April
- This week is Daycare Week "Stars in their eyes" coming soon in appreciation of the daycare team.

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## 8. Central Parents Committee Report

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- **Bill 94:** Information to the members that a small group of volunteers from the last pc meeting composed a brief to submit regarding bill 94. Bill 94 seeks to reinforce state secularism within quebec's education system by amending both the education act and the act respecting private education. The proposed legislation outlines new obligations for school administrations, staff, students, and anyone volunteering or providing services in schools to ensure adherence to principles of state secularism and democratic values.
- **Governing board email accounts:** EMSB senior administration were present at the May 1 meeting. When asked to formally reply to the recent letter issued they replied "no comment". A motion was approved to send an inquiry to the Ministry of Education as an interpretation of the law in Education Act is required for clarity.
- **Road safety:** The members discussed the ongoing concerns for road safety around school zones. Ideas were shared on how to involve the community and on how to get the municipalities to change the road safety issues. It was suggested that next year the pc create a sub-committee to offer guidelines and best practices for road safety to help schools on what they can do. Bancroft has a petition and they are mobilizing to bring this concern to the borough council.
- **Severe weather incidents – emergency procedures:** The members discussed with administration what measures are in place should there be prolonged school closures due to inclement weather or any other factor. Senior administration said that they would get back to PC with list of measures and improvements.
- **Banning of cell phones:** An update to the members on the recent announcement by the minister on the banning of cell phones at school. Students will be allowed to have their phones outside of the school and on the bus but not while they are in school.

- **FACE Closure:** The members were informed on the situation that is taking place with regard to the minister's decision to terminate the renovations at FAC and how the students will be moved to two separate buildings, separating the elementary and high school.
- **Date of next meeting regular meeting** Thursday June 5, 2025, at 6:30 pm at St. Pius X Culinary.

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## 9. Treasurer's Report

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Nothing to report.

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## 10. Commissioner's Report

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Mr. Pietrangelo sent his regrets.

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## 11. Home and School Report

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Sally Behjadi reported that:

1. Looking to program a family event after the Fun in the Sun activities on Friday, June 13. Event may include food trucks, face painting, and the bouncy castles that are set up during the day will remain. Only open to HM children, parents and siblings. There may be a charge attached for siblings. More information to come.

Merika Ramundo reported that:

2. Acro-Yoga on April 30 was a big success! \$250 raised go to grade 6 activities and was given to Mrs. Canale. Thank you to the parents and children who made it out.

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## 12. Email approvals

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12.1 Grade 6 field trip (approved April 23)

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## 13. New Business Overview

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### 13.1 Grade 6 coffee sale at STEAM FAIR

Grade 6 committee fundraising request submitted to GB: Tazza Di Mattina would like to set up a Coffee Stand/Table during the STEAM Fair on May 15, 2025 from 6:00pm to 8:00pm. All funds raised during this event will be going to grade 6 activities. Coffee will be sold to parents and guests visiting the STEAM Fair. Items and Prices: Espresso 3\$/Cappuccino 4\$/Iced Coffee 4\$. Parents and guests will pay and receive a coupon indicating which coffee they paid for. They will hand in the coupon at coffee stand and receive their order. Grade 6 parents volunteers will handle the payment and coupons. Ttazza di Mattina will only be making coffee and not handling any money.

GB members brought up that the STEAM Fair gets quite crowded at times so the covers on the cups will ensure that liquids stay in place and there are no accidents.

Motion to approve by Robert Panetta provided that lids be placed on all the cups served. Seconded by Veronica Graniero.

**Motion Passed – Unanimously**

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## 14. Varia

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### 14.1 Lunch supplier: next steps

- Merika to create comparison chart for all potential suppliers and email the members.
- Mrs. Canale suggested that a Google form be used to collect feedback and vote. This has been done before at other schools and it's a great record that can be referred to.
- Mrs. Canale to speak with Verena Garofalo about the form and evote.

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## 15. Next Governing Board Meeting Dates

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- Monday, June 16, 2025
- All meetings at 7pm unless otherwise noted.

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## 16. Questions

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- No questions were brought forward.

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## 17. Adjournment

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Motion to adjourn the meeting 9:35 p.m.

Motion to Approve: Veronica Graniero and Lino Fraratro

**Motion Passed - Unanimously**

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