



**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE EMSB PARENTS COMMITTEE  
HELD IN THE LAURENCE PATTERSON ROOM OF THE EMSB, 6000 FIELDING AVE., MONTREAL  
ON THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 2018 AT 7:00 P.M.**

**EMSB PARENTS COMMITTEE DELEGATES / ALTERNATES**

ACSES	Mubeenah Mughal	Marymount	Andrew Ross
Bancroft	Dean Stamler	Merton	Michael Gonshor
Carlyle	Sabrina Pagano	Michelangelo	Pietro Mercuri
Cedarcrest	Raymond Ayas	Nesbitt	Glen Jensen
East Hill	Adrienne Taylor	Parkdale	Caleigh Saucier
Edinburgh	Caroline Phaneuf	Pierre de Coubertin	Johnny Petrecca
Elizabeth Ballantyne	Maria Orjuela	Pierre E. Trudeau	Alt Dino Santeli
Gardenview	Walter Ninzatti	Rosemount	Costa Carrara
General Vanier	Jason Trudeau	Roslyn	Catherine Forbes
Hampstead	Katherine Korakakis	Royal Vale	Alt Andrea Batsis
Honore Mercier	Joseph Di Liello	Royal West	Norm Gharibian
John F. Kennedy	Johnny Leoci	Royal West	Alt Anne Monereau
John Grant	Sabrina Lawrence	Sinclair Laird	Alt Apostolia Petropoulos
John Paul I	Mickey Lemme	St. Gabriel	David Benoit
Laurenhill	Barry Rolbin	St. Monica	Peter Papastratis
Laurier Macdonald	Alt Torina Cunsolo	Vincent Massey	Mario Pietrangelo
Leonardo da Vinci	Tony Speranza	Westmount Park	Sophie Antippa
Lester B. Pearson	Alt Franco Mazzariello	Willingdon	Lucas Reindler
Mackay	Caroline Elias		

**REGRETS/ABSENT**

Coronation	Ravi Singh Chevvan	Lester B. Pearson	Benny Berneti
Dalkeith	No delegate	MIND	Stefanie Novick
Dante	Joseph Varga	Our Lady of Pompei	Arthur Fabio Gallucci
Dunrae Gardens	Joseph Bondi	Philip E. Layton	Roynette MacIntyre
Edward Murphy	Stacey Birmingham	Pierre E. Trudeau	Marie-Hélène Bédard
FACE	Alyssa Kuzmarov	Royal Vale	Mark Ellenbogen
Gerald McShane	Joe Rossi	Sinclair Laird	Amanda Liste
John Caboto	Richard O'Doherty	St. Dorothy	Milan Cardone
LINKS	Samantha Dudok	Westmount	Antonio Crespo
Laurier Macdonald	Sophie Di Vito		

**ALSO PRESENT: EMSB**

Pela Nickoletopoulos, Regional Director, West  
Brigida Sellato, Communications Consultant

**GUESTS**

Christine Denommée, Director, Human Resources

**ALSO PRESENT: OTHER PARENT MEMBERS**

George Varelas, Parent, Gardenview

1. **OPENING REMARKS**

The vice-chair, Caroline Phaneuf welcomed everyone on behalf of the chair and called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm.

2. **APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

It was moved by Pietro Mercuri, seconded by David Benoit that the agenda be accepted with the following additions;

Round table introductions

6.7 Consultation: Relocation of Westmount Park

6.8 Consultation: New French School in NDG

14.2 Chabad Lifeline Presentation

**Vote: 35-0-0 (T. Cunsolo not present)**

**Motion Carried**

3. **FIRST QUESTION PERIOD**

There were no questions.

7:30 pm T. Cunsolo arrived

4. **MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON;**

**4.1 JUNE 7, 2018**

It was moved by Pietro Mercuri, seconded by Barry Rolbin that the minutes of June 7, 2018 be accepted with minor corrections to spelling.

**Vote: 25-0-11**

**Motion Carried**

**4.2 OCTOBER 11, 2018**

It was moved by Jason Trudeau, seconded by Sophie Antippa that the minutes of October 11, 2018 be accepted as presented.

**Vote: 36-0-0**

**Motion Carried**

5. **BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

**5.1 NOTICE OF MOTION: PARENT CONFERENCE BUDGET- \$3,000.00**

It was moved by Andrew Ross, seconded by Raymond Ayas and resolved that the parent conference committee move forward and that a budget be reserved for \$3000 for the event.

**Vote: 34-0-2**

**Motion Carried**

6. **NEW BUSINESS**

**6.1 POLICY: ON FAIR PRACTICES IN HIRING AND PROMOTIONS**

Christine Denommée presented to the members a new policy on fair practices for hiring and promotions. Members asked questions on the policy.

**6.1.1 CONSULTATION RESPONSE**

Following a brief discussion the members made the following recommendations to the policy.

- Page 2 under the relatives: add grandchildren and parents
- Page 3, 2<sup>nd</sup> section, include elected officials in number 1
- Page 3, 2<sup>nd</sup> section, rephrase number 1 (in regard to the use of the word influence)
- Create a separate category for "Friends"

A recommendation was made to include something with regard to a conflict of interest should the potential employee have a business.

It was moved by Pietro Mercuri, seconded by Torina Cunsolo and resolved that the Policy on Fair Practices in Hiring and Promotions be accepted with the above mentioned recommendations.

**Vote: 36-0-0**

**Motion Carried**

**6.2 POLICY: POSSESSION AND CONSUMPTION OF CANNABIS**

Christine Denommée presented to the members a new policy on the possession and consumption of cannabis. Members asked questions on the policy.

### 6.2.2 CONSULTATION RESPONSE

Following a brief discussion the members made the following recommendations to the policy.

- Include the words “and/or” between possession and consumption
- Include a rationale for volunteers and parents to be in possession of cannabis
- Include this policy within the contracts awarded to service providers of the EMSB
- Adjust the policy to include ALL STUDENTS with no age limit
- Remove the term visitors
- Add to legal framework- Bill C46 Art. 235
- Add the words “under the influence” with possession and consumption
- Include a time limit for consumption

The members also recommended that;

- The volunteers/parents be made aware of the policy
- Does the EMSB view the policies of their service providers.
- Recommend that the policy be more of a blanket statement being not acceptable anywhere on the premises
- The policy should mimic alcohol policy

It was moved by Pietro Mercuri, seconded by Jason Trudeau and resolved that the Policy on the consumption of Cannabis be accepted with the above mentioned recommendations.

**Vote: 27-3-6**

**Motion Carried**

### 6.3 SCHOOL CROSSING GUARDS

Andrew Ross brought forth a motion with regard to asking the municipalities and police to increase their funding and security in front of schools.

WHEREAS the safety of students crossing busy city streets to travel to and from school is of paramount importance across the EMSB territory.

WHEREAS the City of Montreal adopted a resolution calling of public consultations on improving practices for securing travel between the home and school, including the issue of increasing the number of school crossing guards, on August 20, 2018.

WHEREAS the Commission scolaire de Montréal (CSDM) adopted a resolution on September 26, 2018 to, among other things, mandate their director general to draft, a memorandum on the importance of school crossing guards and the relevance of increasing the number of shifts by January 2019, in consultation with the CSDM Parents' Committee.

WHEREAS the entire CSDM territory is contained within the territory of the EMSB, many of our schools are in close proximity to schools of the CSDM and many of our students use the same crosswalks.

WHEREAS school crossing guard decisions, budget and placements on the island of Montreal are the jurisdiction of the Service de police de la Ville de Montreal (SPVM), and not of individual school boards.

WHEREAS previous requests for additional crossing guards in proximity to St Monica School and Royal Vale School, among others, have been previously denied by the SPVM due to budget limitations.

WHEREAS in a situation where there are no crossing guards needed at a school, that other traffic/security measures should be implemented.

IT IS MOVED by Andrew Ross and second by David Benoit that the EMSB Parents Committee supports efforts to increase budgets and availability of school crossing guards within the EMSB territory, and will collaborate with appropriate organisations to that end.

FURTHER, that it requests that all EMSBPC delegates consult with their Governing Boards to confirm specific needs for additional crossing guards within proximity to their schools to ensure the safety of students crossing busy streets.

**Vote: 36-0-0**

**Motion Carried**

**9:15 pm L. Reindler left**

**6.4 WEARING OF RELIGIOUS SYMBOLS**

Andrew Ross brought forth a resolution to support teachers and personnel against the measures being imposed by the government for the wearing of religious symbols.

WHEREAS the EMSB encourages and promotes the values of diversity and acceptance among its students, teachers, administration and all related personnel and partners.

WHEREAS the selection and evaluation of teachers and support staff, and the work that they do in the classroom, should be solely based on merit.

WHEREAS the provincial government in Quebec City has announced its intention to forbid officials of authority, including teachers, the right to wear certain religious symbols on their person when performing their jobs.

WHEREAS freedom of expression and freedom of religion are rights enshrined in the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms and the Quebec Charte des droits et libertés de la personne (Charter of Human Rights and Freedoms).

IT IS MOVED by Andrew Ross and seconded by Dean Stamler that the EMSB Parents' Committee stands in solidarity with our school communities and our teachers union in opposing any legislation that puts limits on the religious freedom of our personnel, and calls on the Quebec government to withdraw any such proposal as it would only serve to enflame cultural divisions within our society.

FURTHER, that the parents committee, through its representatives, will encourage partners (including the EMSB council of commissioners and the English parents committee association) to advocate on this issue and its behalf.

**Vote: 28-4-3**

**Motion Carried**

**9:28 pm C. Forbes Left**

**6.5 PARENT COMMISSIONER REPRESENTATION ON STANDING COMMITTEES**

Andrew Ross brought forth a motion to call upon council to ensure parent representation through the parent commissioners on each Board committee.

Following a brief discussion a motion was table the item for further discussion was proposed.

Moved by Norm Gharibian, seconded by Barry Rolbin.

**Vote: 8-9-9**

**Motion Defeated**

WHEREAS it is the mandate of the EMSB Parents Committee (EMSBC) to, among other things, inform the school board of the needs of parents as identified by the school representatives and by the representative of ACSES.

WHEREAS according to the Education Act, commissioners elected by the EMSBC (otherwise called Parent Commissioners) have the same rights and responsibilities as commissioners elected by universal suffrage.

WHEREAS each parent commissioner represents a distinct population of EMSB parents, whether it be elementary schools, high schools or schools for students with special needs.

WHEREAS the membership of EMSB internal committees is determined by the Council of Commissioners by majority vote.

WHEREAS no parent commissioner has ever been named to the following internal committees:

- Audit Committee;
- Human Resources Committee;
- Governance and Ethics Committee.

IT IS MOVED by Andrew Ross and seconded by Tony Speranza that the EMSB Parents' Committee calls on the Council of Commissioners to increase the number of parent committee members on each internal committee of the school board.

FURTHER, that the EMSBPC calls on the Council of Commissioners to amend their internal policy to ensure that each parent commissioner be named to a minimum of one internal committee.

**VOTE: 12-4-15 (3 MEMBERS DID NOT VOTE)**

**MOTION CARRIED**

**9:45 pm M. Orjuela and S. Lawrence Left**

**6.6 LOCKDOWN DRILLS**

In order to read the documentation that was sent it the item was tabled to December. Moved by Caroline Phaneuf, seconded by Katherine Korakakis.

**Vote: 32-0-0**

**Motion Carried**

Pela Nickoletopoulos asked if the members would like a presentation on the lockdown, security drills that the EMSB implements.

**6.7 CONSULTATION: RELOCATION OF WESTMOUNT PARK**

This is an information item that will be discussed in December. The documentation will be sent out for all members to read.

**6.8 CONSULTATION: FRANÇAIS PLUS SCHOOL**

This is an information item that will be discussed in December. The documentation will be sent out for all members to read.

**7. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS**

**7.1 MARKETING AND COMMUNICATION PLAN**

**7.2 PARENT CONFERENCE**

Norm Gharibian asked for volunteers for the day before setup and the day of the event. Information will go out to all and any volunteers can reply to Brigida Sellato.

**7.3 PARENT COMMISSIONER SUBCOMMITTEE**

**8. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**8.1 PARENT COMMISSIONERS' REPORT**

**8.2 TREASURER'S REPORT**

**8.3 EPCA REPORT**

**9. BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**9.1 EDUCATION COMMITTEE**

**9.2 EDUCATIONAL POLICIES COMMITTEE**

**9.3 FINANCE COMMITTEE**

**9.4 ADULT EDUCATION & VOCATIONAL SERVICES ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**9.5 ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON SPECIAL EDUCATION SERVICES**

**9.6 TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**10. SCHOOL REPORTS (PLEASE SUBMIT YOUR WRITTEN REPORTS)**

**(ANY MEMBER MAY SHARE CONCERNS OR ASK QUESTIONS)**

**11. CORRESPONDENCE**

**12. SECOND QUESTION PERIOD (8 MIN)**

**13. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

**13.1 REGULAR MEETING**

Thursday December 6<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm at Administration Building.

**13.2 EXECUTIVE MEETING**

To be Determined.

**14. VARIA**

**14.1 THURSDAY NOVEMBER 29, 2018**

Pela Nickoletopoulos advised the members that on November 29<sup>th</sup> there will be a guest speaker for parents at the head office for one night only. She asked that they bring only two members from their governing board in order to have space for everyone.

**14.2 CHABAD LIFELINE**

**15. ADJOURNMENT (1 MIN)**

Due to time all other items were tabled for the next meeting, moved by Andrew Ross, seconded by Caroline Phaneuf that the meeting be adjourned at 9:58: pm.

**Vote: 32-0-0**

**Motion Carried**

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Caroline Phaneuf  
Vice-Chair

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Brigida Sellato  
Consultant/Secretary