



**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE EMSB PARENTS COMMITTEE  
HELD IN THE LAURENCE PATTERSON ROOM OF THE EMSB, 6000 FIELDING AVE., MONTREAL  
ON THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 2020 AT 7:00 P.M.**

**EMS B PARENTS COMMITTEE DELEGATES / ALTERNATES**

ACSES	Serena Caplette	Marymount	Andrew Ross
Bancroft	Kalli Kiriazidis	Merton	Michael Gonshor
Carlyle	Sabrina Pagano	MIND	Alt Caitlin Troughton
Cedarcrest	Raymond Ayas	Michelangelo	Stephanie Passucci
Coronation	Ravi Singh Chevvan	Nesbitt	Glen Jensen
Dante	Antonio Zaruso	Our Lady of Pompei	Alt Cynthia Di Bacco
Dunrae Gardens	Joseph Bondi	Parkdale	Natalie Richmire
Edinburgh	Caroline Phaneuf	Pierre de Coubertin	Maria Corsi
Gardenview	George Varelas	Pierre E. Trudeau	Frederick Lalonde
Gerald McShane	Francesca Pitruzzello	Royal Vale	Andrea Batsis
Hampstead	Katherine Korakakis	Royal West	Norm Gharibian
Honore Mercier	Tony Campione	Sinclair Laird	Alt Joanna Peters
Honore Mercier	Alt Felice Petraglia	St. Gabriel	David Benoit
John Caboto	Mariasabrina Mangione	Westmount Park	Sophie Antippa
John F. Kennedy	Johnny Leoci	Parent Commissioner (E)	Pietro Mercuri

**REGRETS/ABSENT**

Dalkeith	Grace Staffa	Mackay	Marie Josee Beaulieu
East Hill	Joseph Paglia	MIND	Jo Anne Wilding
Edward Murphy	Wendy Polverari	Our Lady of Pompei	Carlo Rossi
Elizabeth Ballantyne	Lisa Bucciarelli	Philip E. Layton	Roynette MacIntyre
FACE	Fabien Welp-Barr	Rosemount	Carlo Peruch
General Vanier	Jason Trudeau	Roslyn	Daniele Otou
John Grant	Ahmad Hassan	Sinclair Laird	Amanda Liste
John Paul I	Giovanni Petrecca	St. Dorothy	Stephen Lepage
LINKS	Samantha Dudok	St. Monica	Siarna Genest
Laurenhill	Martin Gaudet	Vincent Massey	Tony Speranza
Laurier Macdonald	Sophie De Vito	Westmount	Maggie Vasseur
Leonardo da Vinci	Marco Mollica	Willingdon	Mark Ellinger
Lester B. Pearson	Benny Berneti		

**ALSO PRESENT:**

Nathalie Lacroix-Maillette, Regional Director, East  
Livia Nassivera, Director, Financial Services  
Anne Marie Di Silva, Consultant, ETS  
Brigida Sellato, Communications Consultant

**OBSERVERS:**

**1. OPENING REMARKS**

While the members wait for quorum, due to the weather some members are on their way, the chair asked that Ms. Nassivera give her budget presentation. Following the presentation the members discussed their budget priorities.

The chair, Caroline Phaneuf officially called the meeting to order at 7:31 pm.

Discussion continued on the budget priorities.

**7:33 pm D. Benoit arrived**

**7:42 pm R. Chevvan arrived**

The chair asked that the discussion on the budget priorities break so that the agenda can be adopted as quorum was attained.

**2. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

It was moved by Pietro Mercuri, seconded by Katherine Korakakis and unanimously resolved that the agenda be accepted with the following addition;

*5.5 Closure of Bill 40 -Discussion*

**Vote: 29-0-0**

**Motion Carried**

**3. FIRST QUESTION PERIOD**

There were no questions.

**4. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON JANUARY 16, 2020**

It was moved by Joseph Bondi, seconded by Caroline Phaneuf and resolved that the minutes of January 6, 2020 be accepted with the following modification;

*Item 6.6 . . . request to the Trustee to re-instate the web casts of ~~the~~ all public meetings for maximum transparency. . .*

**Vote: 19-0-10**

**Motion Carried**

**5. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

**5.1 BUDGET BUILDING PROCESS 2020-2021**

**5.1.1 CONSULTATION RESPONSE**

**Guiding Principles:**

- I. Agree; include trustee Ms. Jennings as in the rest of the document
- II. Agree
- III. Agree
- IV. Agree
- V. Agree
- VI. Agree
- VII. Agree
- VIII. Agree
- IX. Agree
- X. Agree
- XI. Agree

It was moved by Sophie Antippa seconded by Maria Corsi and unanimously resolved that the recommended Guiding Principles be accepted.

**Vote: 29-0-0**

**Motion Carried**

**Budget Priorities**

- 1- Significantly increase the current staffing ratios, for professionals (Psychologists, Speech & Language Pathologists, Guidance Counselors) resource teachers, A&T and behavioral technicians taking into consideration services to all students from advanced learners to special need students and tailoring services according to individual school needs.
- 2- Invest and improve in the development of programs;
  - to promote daily physical activity

- to improve mental health in children with a focus on prevention initiatives from early childhood and to adolescence
- 3- Increase the funding for literacy and numeracy in all cycles prioritizing on early intervention.
  - 4- Increase the funding and accelerate the pace for building adaptations in order to ensure accessibility to all levels and facilities for students, staff, parents and the public with mobility impairments.
  - 5- Increase the budget for programs in school such as but not limited to; STEAM, IB, Sport Etude, Advanced Placement, Success for All, PELO
  - 6- Create a specific budget for the ongoing marketing of all EMSB elementary and high schools especially those with low enrolment. Significant marketing budgets be allocated at the local school level in order to better market themselves (including accessibility to in house applications and resources such as RTC at cost prices).
  - 7- Improve the physical learning environment for students by;
    - Increase funding for security, health and safety, including snow and ice removal in common areas
    - Increase funding for building maintenance, capability improvements and upgrading projects
    - Increase funding for necessary space to accommodate for overcrowding
  - 8- Ensure food programs are maintained throughout the year without compromise to nutritional guidelines regardless of the socio economic decile ranking adjustments and create those programs where they do not exist.
  - 9- Invest and improve in new technologies in all schools. To be maintained and supported by an increase in technicians. Curb waiting time in accessing assistive technology tools
  - 10- Request additional funds to reimburse public transportation fares for high school students and increase the number of school bus transit routes to required schools.
  - 11- Increase the per capita allocation on an equitable basis and find more suitable distribution methods.

It was moved by Katherine Korakakis seconded by Pietro Mercuri and unanimously resolved that the recommended Budget Priorities be accepted.

**Vote: 29-0-0**

**Motion Carried**

## **5.2 ETHICS & RELIGIOUS CULTURE PROGRAM- PRESENTATION**

Anne Maria Di Silva presented to the members a brief synopsis of the current ERC program taught in schools. The program consists of a citizen course teaching students how to live in a peaceful society and being acceptant of all. There are three basic teachings, pursuit of common good, recognition of the other and dialogue.

### **5.2.1 DISCUSSION OF EMSBPC'S ECR STATEMENT**

The members discussed a response to submit for the consultation launched by the MEES on their website. See attached draft response.

Following a brief discussion and reading and editing of the draft response, it was moved by Pietro Mercuri, seconded by Antonio Zaruso and resolved that the EMSBPC send the edited response to the MEES via their website in response to the consultation.

**Vote: 25-1-1 (S. Antippa and A. Ross not present)**

**Motion Carried**

## **5.3 PARENT CONFERENCE – UPDATE ON PLANNING**

Plans have begun in preparation for the conference. It has been scheduled for Saturday, May 2, 2020 at John F. Kennedy High School.

## **5.4 INCREASING ENROLMENT: QUOTES FROM MARKET RESEARCH FIRMS**

The members briefly discussed the quotes that were received for a survey. Seeing that that the weather is getting bad out and the time has surpassed 10:00 pm the remaining discussion on this item and the other items were tabled.

**5.5 CLOSURE OF BILL 40 DISCUSSION**

**6. NEW BUSINESS**

**6.1 OUTCOME OF MAJOR SCHOOL CHANGES DECISIONS)**

**7. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS**

**7.1 ELEMENTARY SCHOOL NETWORK SUBCOMMITTEE**

Next meeting is scheduled for February 17, 2020.

**8. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**8.1 PARENT COMMISSIONERS' REPORT**

There is no report as meetings are suspended.

**8.2 TREASURER'S REPORT**

There is a balance of \$13,650.58.

**8.3 EPCA REPORT**

There was no report.

**9. BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS**

*There are no meetings scheduled due to trusteeship for six (6) months) except for ACSES.*

**9.1 EDUCATION COMMITTEE**

**9.2 FINANCE COMMITTEE**

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

**9.5 TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**9.4 ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON SPECIAL EDUCATION SERVICES**

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

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

There were no reports.

**11. CORRESPONDENCE**

There was no correspondence.

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

There were no questions.

**13. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

**13.1 REGULAR MEETING**

Thursday March 12, 2020 at 7:00 pm at JFK High School (2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday due to spring break).

**13.2 EXECUTIVE MEETING**

Monday, February 24, 2020 at 7:00 pm at Administration Building.

**14. VARIA**

There was no varia.

**15. ADJOURNMENT (1 MIN)**

It was moved by Raymond Ayas, seconded by Stephanie Passucci and resolved that the meeting be adjourned at 10:15 pm.

**Vote: 29-0-0**

**Motion Carried**

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Caroline Phaneuf  
Chair

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Brigida Sellato  
Consultant/Secretary

## Draft Response for ERC

The EMSBPC is of the belief that the ERC course should be maintained in its current format and continue to be taught in all public schools in Quebec. This belief is based on the realities of Quebec society in 2020, with specific respect to the societal realities of Montreal and surrounding areas. Our wish to maintain the ERC course is also based on parents' expectations towards the education that our children receive. These points will be made apparent in this document.

Quebec is home to a very diverse society, with people that hail from many countries around the world, and have come with their own cultural and religious beliefs. Montreal and surrounding areas could be considered the epicenter of this diversity with a very high concentration of immigrants. We are neighbors and coworkers and bring with us a piece of our heritage. In order for Quebec society to progress, it is important that as much as a newcomer needs to learn about "who came before" them, it is equally important to recognize and respect a newcomer's personal background. The ERC course teaches our students, whether they are first generation immigrants or whether their families have been here for generations, to recognize and respect each other regardless of their ethnic and religious backgrounds.

In recent years, Quebec has seen several tragedies take place that range from a shooting in a mosque which took the lives of six innocent people, to acts of vandalism and racism which have no place in a modern society such as ours. By denying students the chance to learn about who they meet in school, our government is saying, potentially, that it's acceptable to not accept someone else's beliefs. Furthermore, abolishing the ERC course could create an irreparable divide between students who believe their beliefs are "better" than someone else's. The ERC course is not meant to indoctrinate, but it rather help to raise awareness and teach students to find common ground and resolve differences that may be based in an inaccurate understanding of the diverse cultures and religious beliefs that make up the fabric of Quebec society.

These lessons in tolerance, respect and recognition of different beliefs and customs are increasingly important for parents who are faced with the growing reality of their children becoming more reliant on their "influential presence on social media". Children have found new ways to hurt and denigrate each other because of the false safety that is offered by stating equally false convictions about different cultures from behind a computer screen. The ERC course teaches students to welcome someone who may appear different due to their beliefs and engage in meaningful discourse instead of possibly hurting a fellow student by repeating many false notions that are propagated on the internet.

The EMSBPC believes that embracing diversity through meaningful lessons taught at school by qualified teachers will help Quebec society live more harmoniously and avoid many of the tragic events that have happened over recent years. The EMSBPC feels that abolishing the ERC course would hinder a student's development by not exposing them to the realities of the society in which they live. Eventually our children will graduate, take on professions and become contributing members to our society. We want our future generations to be able to live and work in an environment that is conducive to good relations based on trust and understanding of people who come from different religious and cultural backgrounds.