



**ST. GABRIEL SCHOOL**  
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## Governing Board Meeting Minutes

**Date:** January 14, 2026

**Time:** 6:30pm

**Location:** Virtual, Teams

### 1. Attendance

**Present:** Assunta Caruso, Carol Clifton, Jean-Daniel Labbe, Andréanne Héту, Tim Lagacé, Andrew Salzberg, Christine Chenier, Ahlia Mathura, Andrea Truffa, Natalie Szttych, Zena Wright, Louis Kolovos (EMSB), Mr. Paolo (EMSB)

**Absent:** Naomi Aldrich, Nancy Souffrant

#### 1. Special topics:

##### **Mandatory Content Plan**

Invited guest speaker: Mr. Paolo (Personal Development and Community Involvement Consultant).

- Document covers competencies and components that are mandatory to cover, according to grade levels. Document shows which teachers and when content will be covered.
- Presented mid-year. Material has already been covered because the Ministry already sends out curriculum at beginning of year.
- First time plan is being presented with new more specific format, usually broader scope.
- Ministry mandated competencies. GB vote is more of a curtesy.
- For feedback on effectiveness: included in principal's end of the year report.
- Sexual education is covered in CCQ program so not included in this chart. Preschool content is in the chart but not mandatory.
- **Vote for approval: no opposition voiced. Approved.**

## **2. Anti Bullying Plan:**

Invited guest speaker: Louis Kolovos, school climate consultant, from EMSB's student services.

- Document in new standardized format. Left side of chart filled in by government, EMSB filled out some information on the right side. Schools individualize content as needed.
- ABAV school team have met already and targeted 2 aspects they want to improve for next year. Putting measures in place now and will look for improvement by next year.
- At end of year, each school provides a report and school board will analyze. School board will post summary document online that is more accessible for each school.
- School's immediate intervention: positive parenting workshop organized.
- Quantitative data: our school survey with grades 5 and 6, with clarifying questions. Absent kids generate 0% which skews results. Need more effective way of getting more accurate results.
- Possibility of qualitative surveys, like focus groups to try to understand the results? Principal also considers number and pattern of reports as indicators.
- The school has discretion in the ABAV plan to inform parents of witnesses of violence of bullying. According to EMSB consultant, they should do so when the witness plays a role in the situation. Situation specific.
- Parents need to be able to guide the child if they see something that makes them feel less safe.
- If a student needed to be called to the office to provide information as witness to incident, parents are called, most often with parents present. Don't always communicate with all parents of a class, at discretion of each situation. Mass communications must go through higher approvals.
- Importance of safety, discretion, and comfort for students impacted, including witnesses. Every situation is unique and complex.
- How can we ensure that the way the ABAV plan is interpreted is consistent? Without being specific, can it offer better guidance?
- Can EMSB or government improve the document next time it is revamped? After incidents, EMSB works collaboratively with schools to make sure steps have been followed.
- Is there a way to track if there was a reduction or increase in complaints? All complaints go back to the school, even if sent to the Board. Some complaints go higher to government. Then measures enacted based on concerns received.

- To some members of the GB, the document seemed complete. To others, it needed more clarification on the communication aspect.
- More time was requested before voting. Requested changes need to be put in writing. The document needs to be approved by end of January. GB will formulate questions by Monday, Andrew will send them to Ms Caruso, who will look at the proposal with ABAV team and Louis and see if they are changes that can be made.
- **Vote to approve document postponed, will occur by email.**

### **3. Approval of minutes of December meeting**

- Amend date in notes to December 10. Otherwise approved.

### **4. Approval of the Agenda**

- Approved

### **5. Public Questions**

- NA

### **6. Community Report**

- Accès-Loisirs happened Jan 14th, opportunity for low-income families to register for free activities (over 60 registrations!)
- Art Hive has new dates for 2026; next is Jan 21st, 4:30pm to 7:30pm
- Big thanks to all who participated in the Holiday Card Campaign
- IMF visits on Wednesday afternoons will continue. Action-Gardien newsletter and any other community news will be left in the teacher's lounge.
- Community Rep will be present for Open House and has been promoting to local daycares and youth groups.
- First Transition Committee/Comité Première Transition will be held soon (virtual via Zoom), date TBA
- Book Parade planned for June 3rd (will be inviting pre-k, k, possibly grade 1 or SEEDS to participate)

### **7. Principal's report**

- Uniform suppliers: met with 2 alternative providers, but current provider has cheapest cost by far. Will not change providers, but will have parents pay for what they order at time of purchase and Home and School Association will help package the orders. Will not sell the zip up hoodie.
- Will meet with Home and School and PPO committees to talk about teachers appreciation week
- Will be having lock down drill, planned for January 28<sup>th</sup>. Teachers will prepare class, parents will know in advance and can discuss with students. Mandated by EMSB for all schools.
- Parent teacher evening in february: only by invitation. All parents will receive memo, they must request to teachers if they want to meet and teachers will

- send invitations.
- Upcoming activities: speaker for black history month, looking for a presenter for Chinese new year.
- 2 parent workshops upcoming: Positive Parenting on February 11 and Allo-prof on January 27. Both in conjunction with Westmount Park school. Looking to organize cyber security workshop next.
- May 21: music concert.

#### **8. Teacher's Report**

- Ms Mina starting outdoors activities in February. Planned basketball jamboree with grade 6 at McGill.
- Mr. John: Percussion invited speaker.
- Muralist coming for junior floor.
- Jane Goodall grant received for butterfly garden.
- Santa Clause breakfast was school's first eco-event.
- Playground in front is operational for pre-k to grade 1.
- Interactive Eco Rangers presentation was held, for grades 1-6.

#### **9. Parent Delegate Report**

- Should have received the principal evaluation criteria. Teachers need to be involved too; will be done at next meeting Feb. 18<sup>th</sup>.
- EMSB budget discussions: action from parents committee to ask for more information and better communication on how choices are being made.

#### **10. Daycare Report**

- Winter and Valentines Day themed activities in February. Feb 16 ped day theme will be chocolate marshmallow fun (in house, 4\$). Next one is Beaver Tails food truck (10\$).

#### **11. Home and School report**

- PPO coffee and office hours great success, got 10 new volunteers.
- Thinking about having some more formal ways of sharing ideas for camps.

#### **12. Varia**

- Chair agreed to circulate GB documents a week in advance or at latest by the Friday before meetings.
- Let Ms. Caruso know by email if parents will volunteer for the open house.