

Marymount Academy International

5100 Côte St. Luc Road
Montreal, Quebec, H3W 2G9
Tel.: (514) 488-8144 - Fax: (514) 488-8183



Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Governing Board

Meeting #5: February 25, 2025 (virtual on TEAMS)

In attendance:

Administration: James Fequet, Amanda Foster
Parents and Community: Sophie Antippa, Katherine Korakakis, Naomi Balardelle, Simeon Pompey
Staff: Peter Arnold, Jayson Stiell, David Lee
Students: Matheo Moran, Jihyo Lee
Invited Guest: Chelsea Craig (Commissioner Ward 2)

Regrets:

Parents: Stephanie Kyle, Mark Venema
Staff: Ahmed Altalibi, Stacey Blumer

1. Welcome

- **Call to order:** 6:36 PM
- David Lee volunteered to act as secretary for the meeting.

2. Approval of Agenda

- J. Fequet made the following additions to varia:
 - 7.5.1: Early dismissal for students on February 27
 - 7.5.2: Message of thanks to the PPO
- J. Fequet suggested that items 7.3 (Principal selection criteria) and 7.4 (Budget Building process) be tabled to the next regular meeting as the deadlines for those items are later.
- C. Craig made correction to "Date of next meeting" to March 25, 2025.

S. Antippa moved to approve the agenda with amendments; seconded by K. Korakakis. Passed UNANIMOUSLY.

3. Approval of Minutes of the GB Meeting of January 28, 2025

There being no changes or corrections, K. Korakakis moved to approve the minutes; seconded by P. Arnold. Passed UNANIMOUSLY.

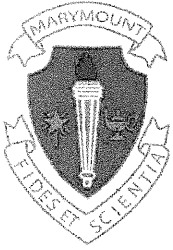
4. Business Arising from Minutes

None.

5. Question Period

No members of the public were present, and no questions from the public were submitted in writing.

K. Korakakis: How do we publicize to parents about governing board meetings?



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J. Fequet: The meetings dates are on the school's website. The link to virtual meetings can be sent to interested parents by emailing Mr. Fequet.

S. Antippa: Are all social media posts public?

J. Fequet: Yes, all posts are public. Parents don't need a Facebook account to view posts.

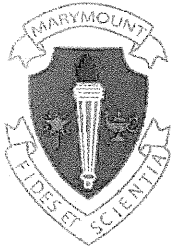
6. Reports

6.1: Students' Report (M. Moran; J. Lee)

- M. Moran: recent activities include an Art competition (theme of "What makes you happy?", deadline for submissions is March 10. Winner to receive a \$20 gift card to the art supply store DeSerres. Top winning submissions will also be displayed in a school art gallery.
- J. Fequet offered to sponsor additional prizes or increase the value of the DeSerres gift card for the winner.
- Games were held for Valentine's Day such as musical chairs and a cards-couples game.
- In planning: Winter Olympics theme games for the week of March 10.
- J. Lee: added that planning for a 3-on-3 basketball tournament is underway with Mr. Bunn.

6.2: Principal's Report (J. Fequet)

- Level trips were held for Sec. 2 (Tubing) and Sec. 5 (Tubing and skiing), held on February 4 and 11 respectively, at Mont-Avila. Everyone had a great time despite some cold and blustery conditions.
- Mr. Lee gave teachers a PD session on the implementation of ManageBac, an online tool to manage the IB program elements such as unit planning and community service.
- March 14 is a PED Day and teachers will be engaged in professional development. Francois Massé from Solution Tree will be working with teachers on Response to Intervention (RTI) strategies.
- Letters were sent to parents regarding the MEQ's rules on subject promotion. Working with guidance counselor Ms. Eggimann, presentations on the new promotion policies were made to all Sec. 3 and 4 classes.
- Resources to help students succeed include: a restructured delivery model for the Academic Clinics as of mid-March (Academic clinics will be given to pre-identified students on 3 Wednesday afternoon per month and will be mandatory for those selected students); expanded tutoring via MEQ Tutoring (online tutoring given by our teachers in French, Science and Math. Looking for someone to do History); LEARN Quebec offers free online tutoring; many resources and interactive help available on Allo Prof; discussion underway with QBBE to offer tutoring as well, especially to Secondary 3; EMSB looking at expanding Sec. 3-5 summer school while an external organization would provide summer school to Sec. 1 and 2.
K. Korakakis mentioned that EPCA will have an information session on using Allo Prof. She will forward the information to Mr. Fequet.
J. Stiell mentioned that the Teen Zone at the YMCA of NDG and Westmount offers free tutoring at their locations.
- Black History Month: the school's Steel Pan band is touring elementary schools; Sec. 5 went to the Segal Centre on February 21 to watch a production from the Black Theatre Workshop called *Vierge*. 119 students attended and enjoyed the production; Overture of the Arts workshops for Sec. 3 were postponed due to the snow day on February 17. The new date will be May 13; Simeon Pompey will be visiting Sec. 1-2 with his Black History Month Mobile Museum on February 27.
- Enrolment Update and Planning for 2025-2026: potential plan to open 2nd Resource class (Sec. 1-2). Case conferences to take place for students referred to Resource classes. Bill 96 has had a big effect on enrolment as Marymount has a high proportion of temporary stay students.



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- School is planning Student for a Day activities for grade 6 students who are still undecided, to take place in March/April. There may also be another Open House.
- A discussion arose about the uncertain future of Villa Maria High School. K. Korakakis suggested writing a letter to the EMSB to push for greater marketing and promotion support.

6.3: Teachers' Report (P. Arnold)

- P. Arnold: The provider for the Grad Trip to Toronto has been selected following the tendering process. Trip to take place April 29 to May 2 (4 days, 3 nights). The itinerary and costs were presented in the document sent to GB.
- There are 50 spots and waiting list will be made for the excess. If there are many more students interested on going, there is the possibility to get a 2nd bus.
- J. Fequet mentioned that the school will subsidize a portion (bus) to lower students' cost.
- J. Stiell: Camp Lift busy at work, finishing up with Sec. 4 workshops. Will move on to work with Sec 1-2-3.
- There has been a high rate of participation in ECAs: 4 badminton teams, futsal, basketball, flag football coming up, Black Out Fitness (boxing and Pilates).
- A secondary 4 level trip will be planned for mid-April to Bullseye for bowling, arcade, laser tag and escape rooms.
- The fencing program with Mr. Bunn is finishing up and was a huge success.
- The sports awards banquet is currently in planning.
- J. Fequet mentioned that the girls' volleyball teams will be going to Ottawa to watch professional women's volleyball matches.

6.4: Professional's Report (D. Lee)

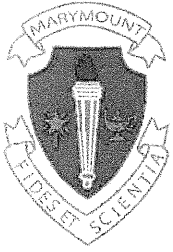
IB Program

- Secondary 5 IB students are busy finishing up their Personal Projects The deadline is coming up soon after the March Break on March 21.
- Some Sec. 4 and 5 IB students volunteered their time at the Welcome Hall Mission on February 20, which was supervised by Mr. Lee and Ms. Macintyre.
- Bread and Beyond will be coming March 18 to work with students to make sandwiches which will be distributed to different homeless shelters in Montreal.

From the Librarian, Annette Macintyre

It was a bustling month in the library. We loaned 155 books so far, and we welcome about 50-60 students in the library at lunchtime every day. Teachers are regularly booking the computers for class projects.

- Feb 5th author visit with all Sec 5s was fantastic – author and students reported a great experience.
- On Feb 24 and 25, I visited 2 x Sec 3 classes to present book recommendations. 9 books were borrowed, which exceeded my expectations.
- Supported 2 classes with research skills guidance.
- Ibrahim has organized 2 events for Black History Month in the library – unfortunately 1 needed to be cancelled due to a snowstorm, but we are looking forward to welcoming Simeon Pompey on Thursday, Feb 27.
- Mr. Lee's Vlog Club partnered with the library to tape a segment to promote student reading recommendations.



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6.5: Regional Delegate's Report (K. Korakakis)

- Ometz presented its services to the EMSBPC.
- EMSBPC will be giving, once again, the Awards of Merit (\$100 to a secondary student; \$50 to an elementary student) as well as the Literacy Award (book prize) at the elementary level.
- EMSBPV went through the Budget building process.
- The MEQ will designate March 17-21 as Violence and Anti-Bullying Week.
- Concerns and questions were raised about how summer school would work at the EMSB given the MEQ's promotion policies – who will pay? (MEQ not paying).
- There will be a release of results of a Well-being survey: global results as well as a separate report for the Anglophone sector.
- After 18 months of negotiations, there is a plan for a universal food program in schools in Quebec, which provides free breakfast, snacks, and lunches.

6.6: Community Rep's Report (S. Pompey)

- CEGEP applications deadline coming up. Opportunities at CEGEPs for Student for a Day, allowing students to sample departments of interest.
- Black History Month mobile museum coming to Marymount on February 27.

6.7: Commissioner's Report (C. Craig)

- Attended several community events for Black History Month.
- Attended the King Charles Awards ceremony.
- Was a guest speaker about young people running in elections.
- Attended a Cabane à sucre activity in Ward 2.
- The EMSB budget is being passed at the March council meeting. We will see the extent of the proposed budget cuts at that time.
- The QESBA elected their Vice-President at the last meeting.
- The QESBA spring conference is being held in May.
- There was a lot of interest among other commissioners on holding a Town Hall, therefore, there will be one Town Hall to be organized and held at EMSB Head Office.

7. **New Business**

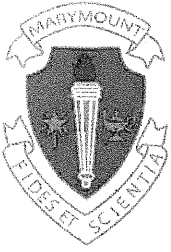
7.2: Grad Trip 2025 (details provided in Teachers' Report and documentation)

K. Korakakis moved to approve the Grad Trip; seconded by P. Arnold. Passed UNANIMOUSLY.

7.5.1 (Varia): Early dismissal on February 27: to allow teachers to prepare for interviews that start at 4:00 pm, J. Fequet proposed an early dismissal for students at 3:15 pm.

S. Antippa moved to approve the ED; seconded by P. Arnold. Passed UNANIMOUSLY.

7.5.2 (Varia): Message of Thanks: J. Fequet thanks the PPO and all those parents involved, as well as Ms. A. Foster, in organizing the Meal Train in recognition of staff appreciation. Food is being provided to staff during parent-teacher interviews on February 27.



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7.5.3 (Varia): Letter to EMSB regarding marketing and promotion of MMA: K. Korakakis entered the following motion:

WHEREAS Marymount Academy International is a high-quality English public high school and offers an enriched academic program, including the International Baccalaureate (IB) Middle Years Programme (MYP);

WHEREAS families may be seeking an alternative English-language educational institution for their children that provides strong academic programming, extracurricular opportunities, and a nurturing environment;

WHEREAS The English Montreal School Board (EMSB) has a responsibility to promote and sustain its schools by actively engaging potential new students and their families;

WHEREAS A well-executed marketing and outreach campaign can help inform parents of the benefits of enrolling their children at Marymount Academy International and strengthen enrollment numbers at our school;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Governing Board of Marymount Academy International formally requests that the EMSB deploy resources, including marketing materials, and targeted outreach, to attract families to enroll at Marymount Academy for the 2025-2026 school year;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the EMSB work collaboratively with the Marymount Academy administration, governing board, and parent community to develop and implement a plan to promote the school as a top choice for families;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT this motion be communicated to our commissioner Chelsea Craig for further action.

K. Korakakis moved the motion; seconded by J. Stiell. Passed UNANIMOUSLY.

7.1: Educational Project Action Plan 2024-2025 (Documentation provided to GB by email)

J. Fequet presented the school's Educational Project Action Plan, which included an update on the following:

- Graduation rates
- Math CST and Math SN success rates
- Secondary 4 History success rates
- Secondary 5 ELA success rates and average grades
- Secondary 5 FSL success rates and average grades for reading in the Enrichi program.
- School climate
- Digital competencies among staff

K. Korakakis moved to approve the Education Project Action Plan 2024-2025. Full resolution provided by the EMSB; Seconded by S. Antippa. Passed UNANIMOUSLY.

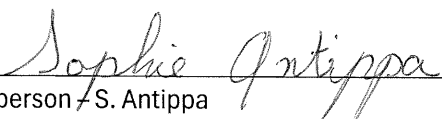
8. Adjournment

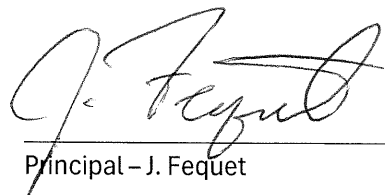
Date of next meeting: March 25, 2025 on TEAMS.

J. Fequet proposed to change time from 6:30 PM to 7:00 PM.

S. Antippa moved to accept time change; seconded by N. Balardelle. Passed UNANIMOUSLY.

N. Balardelle moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:56 PM.


Chairperson - S. Antippa


Principal - J. Fequet