



Marymount Academy International

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Marymount Academy International Governing Board Meeting 3 - January 27, 2026

In attendance Sophie Antippa, Peter Arnold, Stacey Blumer, Chelsea Craig, Shaya Fadel, James Fequet, Amanda Foster, Stephanie Kyle, Sabrina Lawrence, Annette MacIntyre, Frances Patterson, Yasmin Qadri, Simeon Pompey, Mark Philip Venema (alternate).

In absentia: Naomi Balardelle, Katie Leggitt

* **Note** - Mark Venema is acting as an alternate parent member, and has voting privileges for this meeting. The meeting was chaired by J. Fequet, Principal.

1. Welcome

Meeting started at 7:10pm.

2. Approval of Agenda

Motioned by Sophie Antippa, seconded by Yasmin Qadri, unanimously approved.

3. Approval of Minutes.

Regular meeting – December 16th, 2025.

Motioned by Yasmin Qadri, seconded by Stacey Blumer, unanimously approved.

4. Business Arising from Minutes

No business arising.

5. Question Period

No questions.

6. Reports

6.1. Principal's Report

Staffing:

- New teacher, Abbie Chen, hired for Math / Science, which will facilitate the split of Sec 1 classes.
- Psychotherapist Gwynneth Gorman's position was abolished at Board, but she will be filling in as interim IB coordinator. The IB coordinator post is technically still open until Jan 30th. After that date an announcement will be made to whole community. Gwynneth will work on community service opportunities, the personal projects, and introducing herself to the students. Administration is very, very glad to have her back.
- Ms. Robin McLean, secretary of 2.5 days has accepted a full-time, temporary position at St. Gabriel. Her replacement is Suhaila Mawladad, and administration is happy to have her on board.

International Baccalaureate:

Work with IB will gear up in February, with the IB Fair, personal projects, and sending teachers for professional development in Montreal during the weekend of April 25-27.

Evaluations:

There is no formal mid-year exam period this year. Most schools across EMSB are eliminating them as the Board is not mandating it and the Ministry is moving away from this model. However, there are still mid-year assessments which will be spread over period of several weeks. This approach has added to a more relaxed atmosphere at the school.

Black History Month:

The following activities are scheduled:

- Overture with the Arts hosting 2 sessions of 2 workshops, entitled, “Unpacking the N Word” and “Tracking Black Canada.”
- Svens Telemaque will offer 2 workshops.
- Simeon Pompey may also offer a workshop.

6.2. Teachers’ Report

Fran Patterson stated that graduation photos are scheduled for February 6, and that teachers are very busy with marking as Term 2 wraps up.

Peter Arnold explained that there has been great interest in the upcoming ski trip for Sec 5, with 48 students having signed up quickly; and everyone is looking forward to it. Also, the Bistro kitchen is finished, and the integrative project class will be using it to develop their cooking skills.

Stacey Blumer shared success in bringing the organization Hot Docs to the school today. She stated that she believes learning “extends beyond our walls and our curriculum”. Students were captivated, with several giving up their lunch hour to continue talking to presenters.

James Fequet announced that class trips to Mont Avila Tubing are confirmed: Sec 2 trip on February 11 and Sec 3 trip on February 18. Class trips are also being planned for Sec 4 and Sec 5, details to come.

6.3. Professionals/Support Staff Report

James Fequet and Annette MacIntyre, on behalf of Katie Leggit, shared the many extracurricular activities happening and upcoming at the school including: boys’ group, coding, film club, writing club, Philoboxe, media arts with L.O.V.E., and Camp LIFT workshops.

Annette MacIntyre reported activities from the library this year, including weekly visits with the DLP group, student-run workshops on D&D and origami, an author visit, upcoming comedy workshops in partnership with the ELA department and funded through Inspire / Culture in the Schools, and a film screening with special guests facilitated by Hot Docs. The library is very busy at lunch, reaching a daily capacity of 60-70 students midway through each lunch hour. There has also been a widespread renewed interest in reading since the cell phone ban was implemented. Due to budget limitations the library is unable to fulfill all requests for purchase, so students are voting on their top choices. To that end, with the support from staff and students, the librarian has applied for a grant.

6.4. Student Report

Shaya Fadel reported that Spirit Week was a success, even though the last day was a bit chaotic. Overall, there was a lot of student participation, all snacks were sold out, and the student council felt that the study body really connected. A Valentine's dance for Sec 1-3 is scheduled for Feb 13. Student council will sell cake pops and popcorn. Seniors were polled, but were not interested in attending a dance.

James Fequet announced that Shaya Fadel and her team of debaters were very successful at the International Public Policy Forum. Shaya explained that her team is one of 32 schools in the world, the only team from Canada to succeed at that level.

6.5. Commissioner's Report

Chelsea Craig reported that she:

- attended kindergarten registration week campaign at Cedarcrest Elementary with The Beat 92.5 FM. The EMSB is focussed on trying to keep enrollment numbers stable.
- met with MNA André Morin, stressing the importance of the recent budget cuts which is putting a strain on the network, and explained that community vitality passes through access to education.
- attended the summit of elected officials organized by Anthony Housefather, which brought together representatives at different levels of politics including the boroughs of Mount Royal, Outremont, Snowdown, and Hamstead.

Chelsea Craig shared the following information:

- The EMSB is pursuing several court challenges. This includes a challenge to Bill 94, which replaces the elected representatives on the school tax committee with the Director General, and a challenge to Bill 21, with its limitations on the use of religious symbols.
- There is an additional 300 million dollars in cuts scheduled for the education sector next year, with 8 million dollars due to be cut from the EMSB.

6.6. Regional Delegate's Report

Yasmin Qadri reported that she was tasked by the Parents' Committee to survey the board to determine the level of library service at Marymount, including whether the library is staffed, how many hours a week it is open, and whether parent volunteers participate in the delivery of service. Mr. Fequet relayed that the library is staffed by a full-time librarian, and that the library does not engage parent volunteers.

6.7. Community Representatives Report

No report.

New Business

6.8. Approval – ACGC, PSD, Sex Ed Plan – 2025-2026

James Fequet presented the plan for *Academic and Career Guidance Content, Content for the Development of Personal and Social Competencies and Content in Sexuality Education*. Twenty-two (22)

stakeholders created this document together on Jan 6 with subsequent follow-up. The plan includes workshops by school staff, board staff, and outside specialists with expertise who are certified to work in schools. At this time, James Fequet also mentioned that there will be a 2-part mental health fair taking place at the school. Mark Philip Venema expressed his concerns that some of the content is too sensitive and would like more detail on the content and the presenters. Stephanie Kyle expressed her comfort with the plan but asked if parents have are able to opt out for their children. James Fequet explained that there was a procedure on the EMSB website, but it was rarely used, even by parents of elementary students.

Motioned by Stacey Blumer. Seconded by Sophie Antippa. No abstentions. Mark Philip Venema objected. All else in favour.

6.9. **Information** – Educational Project – Update

James Fequet presented the *Educational Project Action Plan Report*. Chad LeBlanc from the Board is still finalizing data from last year, so some figures are missing. A main concern is the number of students struggling with Sec 4 CST Math course; however, results are looking stronger this year. The plan sets realistic goals for 2027-28. The Math SN results are stronger but can fluctuate year-to-year as there is only one (1) group taught at this level each year. James Fequet noted that students in Sec 4 were in elementary school during Covid. They are experiencing delays due to their prior lack of both resources and rigour.

6.10. **Approval** – ABAV (Anti-Violence, Anti-Bullying) Plan 2025-2026 - Tabled to next meeting as administration still needs to meet with the team.

6.11. **Consultation** – Selection Criteria for Principal

James Fequet presented the documents *Consultation: Selection Criteria for the Appointment of the Principal* and *Selection criteria for the appointment of the principal*. He informed the board that at the next meeting, he will excuse himself while a sub-committee will meet to review these documents and prepare the criteria for Marymount. This needs to be sent to the Regional Office by March 20th.

6.12. **Approval** - School Uniform – Service agreement

James Fequet asked if the board would like to extend its service agreement with the school uniform supplier, ProAction. He explained that it has become a difficult market and many businesses are no longer in this field due to lack of revenue. ProAction has been reliable and customer oriented. Sophie Antippa shared that it is an easy-to-use, reliable provider. James Fequet explained that this supplier has been generous in helping families in need.

Motioned by Sophie Antippla. Seconded by Mark Philip Venema. Unanimously approved.

6.13. **Approval** - School Calendar Revision

James Fequet informed the board that due to a Ministry directive to ensure there are as many in-class school days as possible (versus exam days), classes will end on June 12, instead of on June 5. The exam week will run June 15-19 with June 22 and 23 reserved for retakes and other last-minute assessments. The following cycle schedule will apply: June 5-day 6, June 8-day 7, June 9-day 8, June 10-day 9, and June 11-day 1. June 12 is now a Ped Day.

There was a group discussion about whether this gives adequate time for exams to be written and corrected. James Fequet replied that Ministry exams will be integrated into the regular schedule,

however students writing Ministry exams would not have regular classes on those days. Some subjects will require in-class assessments. Junior exams will be written first to facilitate promotional meetings on June 18 and 19. Fran Patterson informed the board that the ELA marking centre will be held on Sec 5 and substitution will be provided.

Motioned by Fran Patterson. Seconded by Sophie Antippa. No abstentions. Stacey Blumer objected. All else in favour.

6.14. Varia

No varia.

7. Date of Next Meeting

February 24, 2026 – 7PM (Teams)

8. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 8:30pm.

N. Balardelle

N. Balardelle – Chairperson

J. Fequet

J. Fequet - Principal