



Marymount Academy International

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Marymount Academy International Governing Board

Meeting 5 – April 14, 2026

In attendance: Sophie Antippa, Peter Arnold, Naomi Balardelle, Stacey Blumer, Chelsea Craig, James Fequet, Amanda Foster, Stephanie Kyle, Sabrina Lawrence, Katie Leggitt, Annette MacIntyre, Frances Patterson, Simeon Pompey, Yasmin Qadri.

In absentia: Shaya Fadel, Mark Philip Venema (alternate).

1. Welcome

Meeting started at 7:08pm.

2. Approval of Agenda

James Fequet changed point *Budget Building Process –2026-2027* from “Approval” to “Point of Information”.

Motioned by Sophie Antippa, seconded by Stacey Blumer, unanimously approved.

3. Approval of Minutes

Regular meeting – February 25, 2026.

Motioned by Stacey Blumer, seconded by Peter Arnold, unanimously approved.

4. Business Arising from Minutes

No business arising.

5. Question Period

No questions.

6. Reports

6.1 Principal's Report

Secondary 3 and 4 students – measures to help success rates:

- Academic clinics - Increased for Term 3 – every Wednesday – April 8th to June 3rd. Push for students, especially in Sec 3 and 4, to avoid being behind a year in specific courses. Lunch is provided for students who show up.

- Term 3 assessment – students who demonstrate they have achieved a passing grade in all competencies during Term 3 will be given a minimum final grade of 60%. Motivation for students who were otherwise failing the year because of poor results in Terms 1 and 2.
- Two (2) new tutors hired – former students who are offering Math and Science help in STEP two (2) days per week.

Special activities:

Feb 26 – Honour Roll Assemblies
 March 13 – Community Caf Day
 March 17 – BHM Presentations (Simeon Pompey)
 March 27 -- Risky Behaviors Presentations – Sec 5
 April 13 – Overture with the Arts Presentations (*Unpacking the N Word* and *Tracking Black Canada*)

IB Updates:

- Tutoring Teams started in March – students are in three (3) elementary schools (EB, St. Gabriel, Willingdon Jr and Sr) – 18 students
- *Bread and Beyond* volunteering (Ms. Thomakos' ELA class)
- *Lunch and Learn* sessions for IB students (NEW!):
 - Welcome Hall Mission (Danny Boyer - guest speaker);
 - Two (2) volunteering outings (Sec 2-3);
 - Carlyne's Community Charity (organization targeting women and children in shelters – guest speaker, Sec 1-5)

6.2 Teachers' Report

Fran Patterson:

– TED Talk public speaking competition took place on Friday, April 10. Winners were selected to present at a showcase at Westmount High on April 29.

-- International Day to be held on May 7th. This is a lunchtime activity organized by Ms. Kahn. Students bring food from their countries, wear traditional clothing, and perform. Student council would like to expand this event to an entire week.

-- “Glow and Grow” dance held by student council on April 4th as a concept to support mental health for the junior students. It was very joyful, and had a community feel. Raised money for a women's charity.

Peter Arnold:

-- Grad Trip to Toronto / Niagara was cancelled due to only 30 students signing up. Typically 50 students are required to fill a bus. An alternate trip to Quebec city is being planned, which will cost half the price. Simeon Pompey asked about fundraising using outside partners, such as alumni. Peter Arnold explained that only about half of the graduating class usually attends the trip and suggested that fundraising might be more impactful for activities wherein everyone participates, such as prom.

6.3 Professionals/Support Staff Report

Katie Leggitt reported on the following extracurricular activities:

- *Overture for the Arts. Unpacking the N Word and Tracking Black Canada.* There were many interesting questions. Omari Newton is a very compelling speaker, and uses images and spoken word. James Fequet shared that Omari Newton was impressed with Marymount students' knowledge of Black History, and he thanked Simeon Pompey for his annual presentations which help to build that knowledge.
- *Boulzeye* outing with Sec 4. students was very fun for all students.
- *MUHC* Presentation on *Risky Behaviours* was a very moving and effective.
- *Gris Montreal* presented a Q & A for students on sexuality and identity.
- Simeon Pompey set up and presented his *Black History Mobile Museum* to Sec 4 and 5 students. It was very eye-opening for students and very well-received.
- Dimitra Thomakos and Katie Leggitt organized an activity with the organization *Bread and Beyond*, wherein students made 650 sandwiches which were served the same day to people experiencing, or at risk of, homelessness.
- Sec 5 students will attend their grade-level trip to play laser tag, eKarting and other games in Ste. Terese on April 15.
- Sec 4 students will attend a grade-level presentation from *Head and Hands* on digital intimacy, setting boundaries and communication, on April 28.

Annette MacIntyre reported that the library will receive additional funding in June.

6.4 Student Report.

No report.

6.5 Commission's Report

Chelsea Craig to attend the Board's annual meeting at St. Pius Career Centre and volunteer recognition night. The cooking students will prepare a feast.

She also attended: the Greek parade on behalf of EMSB, the Carlyle IB Project fair, and the Willingdon storytelling event, in which students from Coronation (one of the elementary schools in Ward 2) also competed.

In March, the EMSB brought its challenge of Bill 21 before the Supreme Court of Canada, arguing this law violates Section 23 of the Canadian Charter.

6.6 Regional Delegate's Report

The Parents' Committee has sent letters to the EMSB about budget cuts, emergency home learning, and surplus use. An event was also organized to educate parents on how to engage with their children's school.

6.7. Community Representative's Report

Jeunesse Loyola, operating out of the Gilbert Layton park chalet, offers extended activities for teens in the community. The organization also makes use of other facilities in the area, such as the gym at Ecole St. Luc, where a volleyball program is offered. More details of relevant activities by community groups will be shared.

Community organizations who participated in Marymount's Community Caf day found it to be a tremendous success, and that the directors of these organizations were very happy with the experience. He thanked Katie Leggitt for her contribution in ensuring that Marymount continues to be a community school.

He thanked the students for being so professional during the presentation of his *Black History Mobile Museum*, considering the maturity of the material presented. He appreciates that this content doesn't need to be covered in February-only.

New Business

6.8 Approval – Budget Building Process –2026-2027

James Fequet presented two (2) documents to be shared with the school board:

Budget priorities:

1. Increased and sufficient staff for newly introduced specialized classes (DLP and Resource)
2. Completion of phase 2 renovations to full satisfaction (95% completed to date)
3. Extra funding for previously submitted Capital Project proposals (back yard renovations)
4. Refitting of lower gym ceiling to address poorly planned acoustics in the last renovation phase

Guiding Principles, Criteria and Related Orientations:

1. Sufficient staffing allocations granted in the spring to account for late registration (June, August, September)
2. Operational and Capital budgets to be rolled over, year-to-year (Funds 5 and 7)
3. Increased allocations to Fund 7 to allow for refurbishment of classrooms (new desks, chairs and furniture)

Motioned Naomi Balardelle, seconded by Stacey Blumer, unanimously approved.

6.9 Point of Information – Calendar Changes – 2025-26

The last day of school for Secondary 3-5 will be June 9.

The last day of school for Secondary 1 and 2 will be June 12.

The Ministry Exam – History - Secondary 4 will take place on June 12.

7. Date of Next Meeting

May 26, 2026 – 7PM (School library)

8. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn by Stacey Blumer, seconded by Peter Arnold.
Meeting adjourned at 8:26pm.