



Dunrae Gardens Elementary School Governing Board

Governing Board Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date: March 17, 2026

Time: 6:35 p.m. – approx. 7:55 p.m.

Location: Virtual

Attendance

Present:

- Alison Beck (Chair)
- Holly Kusiewicz (Principal)
- Melissa Coussa-Charley (Secretary)
- Mary Kyres
- Daniel Gervais
- Noémie Battista
- Éric Pauzé
- Ashleigh Bond
- Vanessa Contenta
- Melanie Reis Carreira

Regrets:

- Paula Killian
- Kelly Chatzis
- Amel Hadjoudj

Quorum: Confirmed

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:35 p.m. by the Chair.

2. Adoption of Agenda

Motion to adopt the agenda as presented.

Moved by: Melissa Coussa-Charley

Seconded by: Mary Kyres

Carried unanimously.



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3. Principal's Report

Enrollment Update:

Projected enrollment for 2026–2027 is 356 students, an increase of approximately 14 students year over year. K5 classes are near capacity; K4 still has limited availability. Enrollment growth is considered positive and stable.

School Activities & Programming:

The Principal reported on a wide range of curricular and extracurricular activities, including Black History Month programming, author visits, inclusion workshops, educational field trips, STEAM projects, arts initiatives, and whole-school community activities.

EcoSchools Initiative:

The school has joined EcoSchools. Éric Pauzé will coordinate sustainability initiatives. Further updates will be provided at a future meeting.

4. E-Vote Reports

The following motions were previously approved by electronic vote and are recorded for the record:

- Three-year uniform provider contract with Topmarks – Adopted unanimously
- Bake sale during parent-teacher interviews – Adopted unanimously
- Scholastic Book Fair (end of March) – Adopted unanimously

5. New Business

Budget Building Process 2026–2027:

The Governing Board reviewed the school board's proposed budget framework and guiding principles. Priority concerns included staffing ratios, funding for music and art programs, maintenance needs, and sustainability initiatives.

Motion to adopt the Governing Board's feedback document on guiding principles and budget priorities.

Moved by: Noémie Battista



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Seconded by: Daniel Gervais

Carried unanimously.

Adoption of School Budget:

Motion to adopt the school budget in accordance with Sections 95 and 96.24 of the Education Act.

Moved by: Melissa Coussa-Charley

Seconded by: Ashleigh Bond

Carried unanimously.

April Schools Fundraiser:

Motion to approve participation in the April Schools fundraiser in support of the Montreal Children's Hospital.

Moved by: Daniel Gervais

Seconded by: Mary Kyres

Carried unanimously.

Raffle Fundraiser – Grad Committee:

Motion to approve the raffle fundraiser supporting Grade 6 graduation activities.

Moved by: Ashleigh Bond

Seconded by: Daniel Gervais

Carried unanimously.

6. Committee Reports

Central Parents Committee:

Funding pressures discussed; no action items.



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Dunrae Gardens Foundation Association:

Planning underway for Fun Fair and Sugar Shack event. Staff appreciation week acknowledged and very much appreciated by staff.

Marketing Committee:

Positive enrollment trends and external recognition of student projects noted.

School Beautification:

An outdoor classroom project was discussed. Next steps include obtaining a formal quote, consulting DGFA and Staff Council, and returning to the Governing Board for approval.

7. Question Period

Questions addressed regarding Grade 5 class configuration and staffing thresholds.

8. In-Camera Item

The Principal withdrew for discussion of selection criteria for the appointment of a principal.

9. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:55 p.m.