



Dunrae Gardens (DG) Governing Board (GB)
Minutes for October 28, 2025

Attendance:

1. Noémie Battista
2. Alison Beck (Chair)
3. Ashleigh Bond
4. Melanie Carreiea
5. Kelly Chatzis
6. Vanessa Contenta
7. Melissa Coussa-Charley
8. Victoria DeCicco – substitute
9. Daniel Gervais
10. Amel Hadjoudj
11. Paula Kilian (Commissioner)
12. Mary Kyres
13. Despina Kouremenos
14. Holly Kusiewicz (Principal)
15. Tina Lanni
16. Éric Pauzé

1. Welcome

The meeting was called to order at 6:33 pm.

1.1. Commissioner's Report

Paula Kilian presented the Commissioner's Report. She outlined some of the recent budget cuts to the school board and advised that the QESBA has decided to withdraw its request for an injunction of the 2025-2026 budget rules.

She excused herself from the GB meeting after her report.

2. Adoption of the Agenda

The following modifications were proposed to the Agenda:

- Addition of Section 1.1 "Commissioner's Report"
- Addition of Section 2.1 "Adoption of the Minutes of June 3, 2025 Meeting"

Motion to adopt the agenda (Tina Lanni, Kelly Chatzis)

Motion passes unanimously



2.1. Adoption of Minutes for June 3, 2025 Meeting

Motion to adopt the minutes (Noémie Battista, Melanie Carreiea)

Motion passes unanimously

3. Governing Board Operations

3.1. Election of the GB Executive

3.1.1. Chair

Alison Beck was nominated as Chair.

3.1.2. Secretary

Melissa Coussa-Charley was nominated as Secretary

3.1.3. Treasurer

Noémie Battista was nominated as Treasurer

Motion to appoint the abovementioned individuals in the respectively mentioned positions (Mary Kyles, Kelly Chatzis)

Motion passes unanimously

3.2. Appointment of community representative

Discussion of who an appropriate community representative would be. someone who is neither parent nor teacher but involved in the community or in the school in some way. N Battista suggested one of the security guards. To be tabled for the next meeting.

3.3. Appointment of representative to EMSB Parents' Committee

D Gervais and A Beck are nominated to share meeting attendance

Motion to appoint the abovementioned individuals in the respectively mentioned positions (Mary Kyles, Ashleigh Bond)

Motion passes unanimously

3.4. Appointment of the Committee Chairs (Marketing, Schoolyard Beautification, PPO)



Discussion of the roles and responsibilities of each committee. Kudos to prior year committee chairs for a successful year. The following individuals were nominated to Chair the committees listed below

Marketing: N Battista
Schoolyard beautification: D Gervais
PPO: V Contenta

Motion to constitute the above committees and to appoint the above individuals in the respectively mentioned positions (Tina Lanni, Kelly Chatzis)

Motion passes unanimously

3.5. GB Annual Report

The Annual Report was presented to the GB.

Motion to adopt the GB annual report (Éric Pauzé, Melanie Carreira)

Motion passes unanimously

3.6. GB Internal Rules of Management

Presentation of the Internal Rules of Management by A Beck. No significant changes from the prior year document except for suggested dates for the next GB meetings. By show of hands everyone has confirmed being comfortable with the proposed dates of the meetings. A Beck asked if there should be any changes made to the internal rules that were not already considered, no one raised any.

Motion to approve the GB Internal Rules of Management (Vanessa Contenta, Noémie Battista)

Motion passes unanimously

3.7. Day and Frequency

Addressed above in point 3.6

4. Principal's Report (presented by Principal Canale)

H Kusiewicz outlines what has been happening at the school since the start of the year.

- Enrollment is up from last year by 15 students to **229** students
- Curriculum night held at the school was a great success
- Truth and Reconciliation Day activities brought the whole school together. A performance and talk by Makhena Indigenous Professional Hooper was enjoyed by all. There was a ribbon tying activity undertaken by all students to show kindness and respect.



- Almost \$8,000 was raised for the Terry Fox Foundation. Celebrated with pie in the faces of some of the staff members which brought high energy to the school and received a significant amount of views on social media platforms.
- Media Literacy Week is starting; how to be good online digital citizens and discussing social media awareness
- Fire drills have gone well so far
- Lockdown drill scheduled for the second week of November
- Report cards will be available on November 26. progress reports were available October 15. Parent teacher interviews will be all day on November 27
- Nike ambassador program for grade 5 and 6 students whereby teenagers employed by Nike come in and do extra curricular activities with the students during lunchtime to promote active and healthy living. No cost to the school
- Living Radar operation with TMR
- Art therapy will be available to some students
- Chess club to begin November 11 for grades 3-5

5. Business Arising

5.1. Field Trips (Series) Blanket Resolution request

A Beck outlines that the GB will approve all field trips with a blanket motion at the end of their summary rather than one by one.

N Battista presents the following, specifying that these are all proposals and still not all confirmed:

- Theatre Outremont 'Jazz Noisette' Dec 10 - grade 1
- GUEPE on Feb 20 - cycle 1
- Casse Noisette Ballet de l'ouest Dec 5 - grade 2
- Intermiele May 14 (Grade?)
- Les Iles de Boucherville in May - grade 4 (maybe 3)
- Pointe à Callière May 8 - grade 5
- Holocaust Museum Date TBC - grade 6

Motion to provide blanket approval for field trips (Éric Pauzé, Vanessa Contenta)

Motion passes unanimously



5.2. Winter Camp

N Battista presents that this is for cycle 3. Needed to obtain quotes because the fees would be greater than \$5,000 but will go back to the same place as last year hosted by Ever Blast. Fees are \$138 per student and does not yet include transportation. There are still conversations about how much the school and fundraising activities will cover towards this expected total cost of \$14,000. It will be an overnight trip on January 28-29 2026 with 5-6 staff members. The trip requires specific approval from the GB because it is overnight.

Motion to approve the holding of Winter Camp (Tina Lanni, Vanessa Contenta)

Motion passes unanimously

5.3. Cultural artists 2025 -2026

N Battista presents that having artists come to the school will be more accessible and financially feasible than more field trips in light of the recent budget cuts. The school needs to apply for government assistance through available grants and the following applications have been submitted:

- Pre-school; Educazoo and Bébités Mobile
- Cycle 2; Lydia Lukidis - writing workshop
- Cycle 3; Jeff Schouele - comedy Improv
- Grade 3; abstract artist Phil Mastrocola to do a mural with the students
- K5-Grade 6; La musique du monde

Motion to provide blanket approval for cultural artists activities (Amel Hadjoudj, Melanie Carreia)

Motion passes unanimously

5.4. Enrichment and Support Programs

H Kusiewicz presents that due to budget cuts only the following enrichment programs will be offered in the current year;

- Battle of the books
- Kangaroo Math
- Wonderworks

H Kusiewicz outlined how the staff is working with Dr Birlean to find creative ways to have enrichment programs without the budget.

M Kyles presents the DGFA and suggests that the DGFA can raise money for elements and activities that benefit the entire student body, for example tutoring offerings. H Kusiewicz acknowledges that if we want to raise money through the DGFA for tutoring services we can



definitely do so. Mme Amel outlined that a lot of teachers have been spending more time with some students to compensate for the tutoring budget being cut. M Kyres thanked the staff on behalf of all the parents and students for this effort from the staff.

Motion to approve enrichment programs (Despina Kouremenos, Melanie Carreia)

Motion passes unanimously

5.5. Daycare Handbook

T Lanni presents the handbook provided by the EMSB, which cannot be modified.

Motion to approve the Daycare Handbook (Amel Hadjoudj, Melissa Coussa-Charley)

Motion passes unanimously

5.6. DGFA Handbook

Presented by M Kyres for Information purposes not approval. Reminder of the volunteer code of conduct, importance of confidentiality, duties for the safety of the children, respect, appropriate language to use around the school K Chatzis would like to remind parents that the teachers' lounge is not accessible to parents.

5.7. Fundraising Requests

5.7.1. Olive Oil

Similar sales have been held in the past.

5.7.2. Holiday Fair

Entire gym is turning into a holiday market. Tables are \$100 each. Will be held Saturday December 6. Whole community is welcome.

5.7.3. Used Uniform Sale

Was already successfully held.

Motion to approve the above fundraisers (Mary Kyres, Kelly Chatzis)

Motion passes unanimously

6. Reports

6.1. Dunrae Gardens Family Association (DGFA) Report



Dunrae Gardens Elementary School Governing Board

235 DUNRAE AVENUE, MOUNT ROYAL, QUÉBEC, H3P 1T5 TEL: (514) 735-1916 FAX: (514) 735-7051

Activities put on by the DGFA presented by M Kyles.

- Ice cream truck in the first week of school
- ECA has started. Very successful enrolment. There will be two sessions of activities this year.
- Used uniform sale went very well
- Halloween activities will be in the gym
- Dec 16 - pancake breakfast

7. Question Period

N Battista talked about DG Got Talent for grades 3-6. Those selected will perform in front of the school.

Further to a question about PELO classes, it was clarified these fall under the tutoring program and were on hold due to budget cuts.

8. Varia

Discussion of schoolyard beautification Initiatives. D Gervais discussed costs of covering the entire schoolyard with recycled rubber which could be as high as \$312,000 based on a quote from 2024. M Kyles brought up paving under the outdoor classroom tables but it was suggested by Mme Amel that this was not as much of a priority as perhaps putting something in the yard that the younger students can play with. Discussions of outdoor structures, painting games on the concrete, recycled rubber or wood chips in some areas to protect children. No decisions reached or motions to vote on.

9. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned (Daniel Gervais, Mary Kyles) at 8:02 pm by unanimous consent.

Approved by the GB on _____

Melissa Coussa-Charley

Secretary

Alison Beck

Chair

Holly Kusiewicz

Principal