



## ST. EDMUND GOVERNING BOARD MEETING MINUTES

March 27th, 2025, 6:30pm

**Attendees:** Alessandra d'Amico, Maureen Baron, Sophie Belzile, Patricia Carroll, Louise Cavaliere, Neil Dixon, Nathalie Duhamel, Mylene Gosselin, Georgiana Laudi, Ronnie Lawand, Tessa MacLean, Stephanie Myers, Bessy Prillo, Marie-Josée Ricard, Valerie Sembinelli Belland, Tina Simetic, Amy St-Amour, Guylaine St. Georges, Cindy Wallach

**Regrets:** Courtney Paul, Christian Knudsen, Karina Tarapore

1. Call to Order, Welcome & Land Acknowledgement (6:34pm)
2. Approval of the Agenda for March 27, 2025

*Approved: Stephanie Myers*

*Seconded: Guylaine St. Georges*

3. Approval of the Minutes of [January 30, 2025](#)

*Approved: Neil Dixon*

*Seconded: Mylene Gosselin*

4. Questions from the Public
  - SNAC follow up - Mrs. Wallach will find information about the issues with committee membership.

5. New Business

- For Approval:

- i. Field Trips & Fundraisers

1. Cabane à sucre, March, 8th: cost for this event is covered by the food grant given by the government.
2. Home and school:
  - a. 50/50 draw at both the spring fling and the bingo night (does not include Edstock) - might require a permit from the Régis, therefore, governing board



approval is contingent upon the acquisition of a permit from Lotto Quebec, if deemed required.

*Approved: Tina Simetic*  
*Seconded: Amy St-Amour*

ii. Lunch & Afterschool Activities

1. Friday May 9th: Samajam - drums, tambourines, 4 stations with different instruments. \$46 per child (\$30 for event, 16 for the daycare fee).
2. April 28th: **new PED day.** (Further discussion under Daycare Report, below)
3. June 6th: This PED day will take place off school premises in the morning, as Kindergarten orientation day. Laurentian lanes - bowling. The last bowling day was very well organized and received by students. Students will return to the school by lunch for outside play time. \$35 (\$24 for bowling, plus bus and daycare fee).
4. Upon approval, Lousie will ask the school board about a possible subsidy for the bus transportation to Laurentian Lanes.

*Approval: Marie-Josée Ricard*  
*Seconded: Alessandra d'Amico*

iii. Subject Time Allocation

1. NOTE: In Cycle 1, what is labelled “ERC” and “unallotted” on the allocation form is actually utilized for ELA; the new CCQ curriculum is in French.
2. “Be it resolved that the subject time allocation for the 2025-2026 school year at St Edmund Elementary School has been discussed at the governing board meeting of March 27th, 2025 and that the subject time allocation will not change for the 2024-2025 school year.

*Approved: Amy St-Amour*  
*Seconded: Tina Simetic*

● Budget 2025-2026 Consultation

- i. Consultation with the governing board did not yield any recommendations at this time.



Approved: Neil Dixon  
Second: Patricia Carroll

## 6. Reports:

- Administrator's Report - Mrs. Wallach & Mrs. Carroll
  - Fundraisers:
    - Kids CAN help - big success
    - Principal for the day - Cale did such an amazing job. Mrs. Wallach hired him to do the announcements for the remainder of the year!
  - SAW: Thank you on behalf of the staff, it was amazing. Staff felt very special and rewarded.
  - Winter Carnival: Great week! The only glitch was that we didn't rent ice at an arena in case of poor weather and so the kids weren't able to skate. Next year, the plan is to make this rental contingency.
  - Black history month - speaker. Well done
  - BHS - production, seniors attended and they really liked it
  - Cycle 1 show - Very impressive, "first class" performance!
  - Grad photos upcoming
  - Bingo night: April 4th
  - Spring fling: May 15th
  - Edstock - beginning preparations
  - Staffing is underway - no split classes, numbers are up for the year. 3 kindergarten classes.
  - May 30th - duathlon
- Commissioner (*Feb 25 2025, Mar 25 2025*)
  - Editing of evaluation policy (i.e. Report card comments) - feedback is that it is government mandated and there is no opening with the government to be able to discuss it.
  - Government cutbacks required by the end of March. \$2.8 million that needs to be cut by the LBPSB.
    - Where will the \$ come from?: The board had a lot of savings from the recent election because there were only 3 districts with elections. Furthermore, there were many items allocated, but not yet scheduled to begin, so that's money allocated but not used. Hiring freeze. In other words, the students shouldn't feel the effects.
  - Librarian time allocation: The council is looking into the time allocations of librarians. Currently only 1/2 a day a week for each school allocated by



the school board. This probably won't change for next year. Mrs. Baron noted how little time librarians have with each student, and indicated that the EMSB has a better distribution for librarian hours.

- FOLLOW-UP DISCUSSION: Request from our library volunteers for hiring Kelly Meehan (our current librarian) for 2 days, instead of 1. She has been a valuable addition to our school, has done an excellent job of stocking shelves with new, high quality books, running reading and research activities for the children, and more. She is great with the kids and is really focused on finding a way for each child to engage with reading in their own way.
  - There were concerns at the beginning of the year about the role of parent volunteers in the library. However, this has been subsequently resolved and the volunteers have had an excellent working relationship with Kelly this year.
- Mrs. Wallach noted that the funding for the librarian comes from the same budget line as classroom aides, so teachers expressed strong concerns that an increase in librarian hours would reduce resource staffing in their classes that is vital for the success of students with special needs.
- The home and school committee would like to know if somehow they could help funding for the librarian so it does not come out of resource. For instance, if H&S covered the purchasing of books, could Kelly's 2nd day be paid for by what was the book budget? Mrs. Wallach will look into possible options.
- Our school will likely be used for the election on April 28th.
- Parents' Committee
  - School calendar was approved for 2025-2026: 3 existing PED days changed to teacher driven days.
  - March 17th: violence prevention week
  - Environmental committee. Make sure schools know about these grants! Not all schools are applying for them. Mrs. Wallach asked the name of these grants - Tessa will inquire with the PC about the details.
  - The English Parents Committee is hosting many workshops throughout the year: Alloprof, transition to high school, bullying prevention, body image. Encourage parents to sign up for the newsletter.
  - Meeting with the regional director: discussed report card policy, bus pick up protocols (other schools), and the opening of a new elementary school in St. Polycarp
- Daycare



- April 28th - Election day. The school is required to remain open. Louise has attempted to work with the school board so that students don't have to be at daycare that day, as many adults come in and out of the school, and there have been concerns in the past that they do not stay within the election area. Louise is planning to try and keep students upstairs (with lots of outdoor playtime) for safety and comfort-level.
    - May 16th is going back to a regular school day.
  - New daycare policy so that teachers don't have to immediately vacate their classrooms at the end of the day. Daycare teachers now take attendance and go straight outside for 15 - 20 min of play time. Come back in at 3:00pm, that's when they have their snack and do homework (20 min). Then they do an organized activity until 4pm, when kids begin to depart. (Mme Guylaine, on behalf of the teachers, gives huge thanks for this change!)
  - Aide dans la class (70 hours): provides work for SEED staff 7 hours a day (8-10 people now). This is going very well, and Louise commended the daycare providers on the support they are providing in regular classrooms. Looks like this program will continue next year.
  - Daycare, with Ms. Carroll, has organized lunchtime activities - grade 1 chess, grade 2 soccer, cartooning in grades 3 and 4. Grade 6 students helping to run it—great leadership opportunity.
  - Basketball for Kindergarten students will start soon and run for 6 weeks.
- Teachers
    - Cycle 3 - BHS visit- St Edmund represented themselves very well, they were well behaved and asked interesting questions.
      - Reminder that the final semester is worth 60% of the final mark. This is a big deal, especially for grade 5s.
      - Thanks to Ms Carroll and Mrs. Wallach on their support in the role of principal. Teachers noted how students have shown significant respect for Mrs. Wallach, and that they appreciate her visible presence in the school and yard.
      - Grad field trip: April 11th, Ottawa, all day
    - Cycle 2
      - Grade 4 - Musée Pointe à Callière. Putting learning into concrete understanding—it was a great trip. Students asked amazing questions. They want to do it again in 2 years.
      - Mme. Sophie has a project using Minecraft to learn about the Seigneuries.
      - Skating at the hockey rink and winter carnival were really great.
      - Artist coming in to work on painting skills



- Working on writing projects in grade 3.
- Cycle 1
  - Show - fantastic, like always! For some students, this was their first show in front of a big audience. Mix of excitement and anxiety. Shout out to Mme. Alessandra and Mme Kayla - wonderful job with teaching students the dances, as well as to Miss Jenn and everyone involved.
  - Grade 1 are holding an exhibition next week on “Jurassic Park” - inviting parents Friday afternoon to present what they learned about dinosaurs. Students will be responsible for running the stations.
  - May 2nd Dance competition (Mme. Alessandra)- grade 6 students learn a number of dances and draw from a hat, competing with other schools.
  - ‘Qui Lira Vaincra’ - May 13th. Grade 6. Participating students have been staying inside a recess to read!
- Phys ed:
  - March Madness - grade 6 -the students create a bracket - corresponds with the basketball unit.
  - Student teacher Zachary is amazing.
  - Halo Race is coming up May 7th for grades 3-6
  - May 6th cross country : K4 - grade 2 at Dorset
- Home & School
  - n/a
- 7. Questions from the Public
  - a. n/a
- 8. Adjournment

Next GB Meeting - Thursday April 24, 2025 @ 6:30pm



**Signatures:**

Cindy Wallach, *Interim* Principal

Ronnie Lawand, Governing Board Chair