

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS OF THE  
ENGLISH MONTREAL SCHOOL BOARD

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A special meeting of the English Montreal School Board was held in the Laurence Patterson Room, 6000 Fielding Avenue, on Wednesday, January 16, 2019 at 7:07 p.m.

Commissioners Present

Me Joe Ortona, Vice-Chairman  
Mr. Julien Feldman  
Mr. Norm Gharibian, Parent Commissioner  
Mr. Joseph Lalla  
Me Patricia Lattanzio (Present by telephone)  
Mr. Pietro Mercuri, Parent Commissioner  
Ms. Mubeenah Mughal, Parent Commissioner  
Mr. Rosario Ortona (Present by telephone)  
Mr. Bernie Praw  
Mr. Andrew Ross, Parent Commissioner

Absent

Ms. Angela Mancini, Chairman  
Mr. Mordechai Antal  
Mr. Agostino Cannavino  
Mr. James Kromida  
Ms. Sylvia Lo Bianco

Present:

Ms. A. M. Matheson, Director General  
Me B. Duhême, Deputy Director General, Administration Division  
Ms. E. Alfonsi, Deputy Director General, Education Division  
Me L. Roy, Director of Legal Services, Acting Secretary General  
Ms. P. Nickoletopoulos, Regional Director, West  
Mr. J. Pevec, Regional Director, East  
Mr. M. Cardin, Director of Material Resources  
Mr. C. Della Rocca, Director of Adult Education and Vocational Services  
Ms. S. Furfaro, Director of Educational and Technology Services  
Ms. S. Léveillé, Director of School Organization  
Mr. L. Lewis, Director of Student Services  
Ms. L. Nassivera, Director of Financial Services  
Ms. A. Watson, Director of Human Resources  
Mr. M. J. Cohen, Communications and Marketing Specialist

1.	<p><u>Notice Of Meeting</u></p> <p>It was reported that the notice calling this special meeting had been forwarded to all Members of Council via email.</p>
2.	<p><u>Approval of Agenda</u></p> <p>It was moved by Mr. J. Lalla and unanimously resolved that the Agenda be approved as presented.</p> <p>VOTE: 10-0-0</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><u>Resolution #19-01-16-2</u></p>
3.	<p><u>Consultation re School Changes</u></p> <p>3.1 <u>Long Range Planning Committee's Recommendations Following Consultation RE: Westmount Park Relocation (Res #: 18-10-24-10.1)</u></p> <p>WHEREAS the Council of Commissioners approved for consultation purposes the proposed recommendation (Resolution # 18-10-24-10.1) for the temporary relocation of Westmount Park for a period of two years to Marymount Academy International and former St. John Bosco building;</p> <p>WHEREAS on January 9, 2019 the Council of Commissioners held hearings giving all consultative partners the opportunity to present the essential highlights of their briefs that they had submitted;</p> <p>WHEREAS on January 10, 2019 the Long Range Planning Committee held a meeting to review all the briefs and review all the highlights that were presented at the hearings;</p> <p>WHEREAS the Long Range Planning Committee is of the opinion that in comparison to the original proposal, the various scenarios presented during the Consultation process would impact a greater number of students, thus affecting numerous school communities;</p> <p>WHEREAS the EMSB has the obligation to consider the impact of this necessary move on its global population;</p> <p>WHEREAS the Long Range Planning Committee recommends that Westmount Park students and staff should be divided between two locations, former St. John Bosco facility and Marymount Academy International;</p> <p>WHEREAS the Three Year Plan would be modified to reflect the temporary relocation of Westmount Park;</p> <p>IT WAS MOVED BY MR. A. ROSS AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED THAT the proposal originally made by the Long Range Planning Committee for the temporary relocation of Westmount Park for a period of two years starting 2019-2020 to Marymount Academy International and former St. John Bosco building be approved;</p> <p>IT WAS FURTHER UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED THAT the Administration team of the EMSB takes all necessary steps to ensure that the concerns of the schools' population involved be answered and that the move be done in the best way possible to minimalize the impact on students and staff of both communities.</p> <p>VOTE: 10-0-0</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><u>Resolution #19-01-16-3.1</u></p>

3.2 Long Range Planning Committee's Recommendations Following Consultation RE: the Opening of a New Français Plus Program /Relocation of FOCUS and Outreach (Res #: 18-10-24-10.2) – For Consultation.

WHEREAS Edinburgh Elementary School is at 127% capacity, Merton Elementary School is at 100% capacity, and Willingdon Elementary School is at over 90% capacity, the Council adopted Resolution #18-06-27-7 asking the Long Range Planning Committee to look into a solution to the general over-crowding of immersion elementary schools in the west-end;

WHEREAS on October 10, 2018, the Long Range Planning Committee held an extended meeting with Council and recommended that the former St. Ignatius building at 4850 Avenue Coronation be used for a new Français Plus School;

WHEREAS Council adopted Resolution #18-10-24-10.2 approving, for the purpose of consultation, the proposal made by the Long Range Planning Committee for the former St. Ignatius building to be used for a new Français Plus School;

WHEREAS those consulted were invited to provide their written feedback to the school board by Tuesday, January 8, 2019 at noon;

WHEREAS those consulted were invited to a session of public hearings on Wednesday, January 9, 2019 to provide their feedback on this proposal to the Council of Commissioners;

WHEREAS the overall feedback received was positive regarding the re-opening the former St. Ignatius building and the opening of a Français Plus program in order to 1) offer a more extensive French program and 2) alleviate crowding in THREE elementary schools: Edinburgh, Merton and Willingdon;

WHEREAS the overall feedback received demonstrated an acceptance of the need to use the St-Ignatius building due to overcrowding in three west-end elementary schools and thus the need to re-locate FOCUS and Outreach, both currently housed in the former St-Ignatius building, to James Lyng High School;

WHEREAS concerns were raised by the Edinburgh Governing Board that the opening of a new school would not alleviate their overcrowding quickly enough and thus, they suggested an annex to Edinburgh be provide as soon as the fall of 2019;

WHEREAS the Edinburgh Governing Board requested that the Mountainview Social Affairs School be allocated to Edinburgh Elementary School as an annex and that the Long Range Planning Committee find an appropriate place to re-locate those students;

WHEREAS the Long Range Planning Committee had already performed an extensive study of that scenario and had rejected it based on two significant factors: 1) the students of Mountainview, being the board's most vulnerable students, need to be in a building on their own, separated from all other students for the safety and security of all, and where they have their own exclusive use of a gymnasium, and 2) because giving an annex to Edinburgh will not solve the larger problem of overcrowding in the west-end;

WHEREAS on January 10, 2019, the Long Range Planning Committee held a meeting and examined, in detail, all of the recommendations submitted in writing by January 8<sup>th</sup> and presented at the hearings on January 9<sup>th</sup>;

WHEREAS the Long Range Planning Committee studied and re-considered whether a new Français Plus school should be opened in the St-Ignatius building or whether one of the three west-end schools experiencing overcrowding (Edinburgh, Merton or Willingdon), should take over the St-Ignatius building as a Junior campus (pre-k to grade 2) in order to immediately alleviate overcrowding in their own school and in the other two west-end schools;

WHEREAS the school that takes over the St-Ignatius building as their Junior campus, could also offer the Français Plus Program to the whole of their school as either their only program or as a second option program;

WHEREAS the Long Range Planning Committee has as its mandate to provide scenarios for consultation and consideration by the Council that meet the needs of the school board at large while taking into consideration the needs of individual schools. As such, the Long Range Planning Committee seeks:

- to alleviate over-crowding in three west-end elementary schools –Edinburgh, Merton and Willingdon;
- to provide parents in the west-end with an option to enroll their child in a Français Plus Program (Immersion from Kindergarten to Grade 4 and 50% - 50% English and French in Grades 5 and 6)
- to ensure that the learning environment for all students – including those who are the most vulnerable, is safeguarded;

WHEREAS the Three Year Plan would be modified to reflect such change and proper consultation must be conducted;

#### MAIN MOTION

IT WAS MOVED BY MR. PIETRO MERCURI THAT the amended proposal made by the Long Range Planning Committee that all three of the elementary schools in the west-end who are experiencing overcrowding be consulted on whether they would be willing to:

- take over the former St-Ignatius building in which they would offer a Junior campus of their school (Pre K to grade 2) as of August 2019; and
- offer a Français Plus program option in their school within the next 18 months;
- accept over-flow students from the other two elementary students given the increased number of classrooms assigned to their school over two sites

IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the re-location of FOCUS and OUTREACH to James Lyng be delayed until the Council determines the new use of the St-Ignatius building after proper consultation.

IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the following groups be consulted:

1. Governing Boards of Edinburgh, Merton and Willingdon,
2. EMSB Parents' Committee (EMSBPC),
3. Central Management Advisory Committee (CMAC),
4. Montreal Teachers Association (MTA),
5. Syndicat des professionnelles et professionnels du milieu de l'éducation de Montréal (SPPMEM),
6. Association Professionnelle Du Personnel Administratif (APPA),
7. Québec Federation of Labour (QFL),
8. Association of Montreal School Administrators (AMSA);

IT WAS FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the groups consulted be invited to submit their views in writing to the Chair of the Long Range Committee, care of Francesco Crocco, Analyst, no later than, Monday, February 18, 2019 at 9:00 AM; for a final decision to be made at the Council of Commissioners' meeting on February 20, 2019.

THAT a copy of this resolution be sent to the identified groups to be consulted.

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Mr. Julien Feldman proposed an amendment to invite for Consultation the Governing Board of Roslyn School;

Mr. Joseph Lalla proposed an amendment to add Royal Vale School and St. Monica School in the Consultation process on the *Français Plus Program option* and on the use of the former St-Ignatius building to be used as an annex;

Mr. Feldman withdrew his amendment and Council proceeded to the vote on Mr. Lalla's amendment to add Royal Vale School and St. Monica School in the Consultation process on the *Français Plus Program option* and on the use of the former St-Ignatius building to be used as an annex.

Vote: 2-7-1. MOTION DEFEATED. (Mr. N. Gharibian, Ms. P. Lattanzio, Mr. P. Mercuri, Ms. M. Mughal, Mr. R. Ortona, Mr. B. Praw and Mr. J. Ortona voted against, Mr. A. Ross abstained)

Ms. Mubeenah Mughal proposed an amendment to include ACSES Committee in the Consultation process.

Vote: 9-0-1. ADOPTED. (Mr. N. Gharibian abstained)

Vote on Main Motion including Ms. Mughal's adopted amendment to include the ACSES Committee in the Consultation process.

Vote: 10-0-0. ADOPTED.

Resolution #19-01-16-3.2

4. Annex for Edinburgh School

Whereas Edinburgh School presently has approximately 400 students in a school with a capacity for 330 students;

Whereas due to serious overcrowding, the Governing Board of Edinburgh School made known its desire for Mountainview School as an annex of Edinburgh in an email to the Board Chair in June 26, 2018;

Whereas the Commissioner representing Edinburgh, Joseph Lalla, presented a motion at the June 27, 2018 asking for an annex for Edinburgh, which was referred to the Long Range Planning Committee;

Whereas the Governing Board of Edinburgh School presented its brief to the commissioners of the English Montreal School Board on January 9, 2019 asking for the nearby Mountainview as an annex for Edinburgh in order to deal with the overcrowding problem;

Whereas prior to preparing its brief, the Governing Board of Edinburgh held an information meeting on December 10, 2018, attended by almost 80 parents of present and perspective students.

Whereas the Governing Board additionally conducted a survey with a response rate representing 294 current students (75% of 393 total students) and 41 prospective students;

Whereas, based on the above information meeting and survey, using the nearby Mountainview School as an annex is the preferred option of the majority of Edinburgh parents;

IT IS MOVED BY MR. JOSEPH LALLA THAT Mountainview School Project Centre become an annex of Edinburgh School effective July 1, 2019.

Discussion ensued and the Director General stated that the motion is not receivable.

Mr. Joseph Lalla WITHDREW this motion.

5. Question Period

The Director General, Chairman, Vice-Chairman replied to questions posed by -

1. Mr. C. Eustace regarding ethics, whistleblowing and APPELE.
2. Ms. S. Antippa, regarding Westmount Park School.
3. Ms. C. Phaneuf, regarding Edinburgh School.
4. Ms. A. Polupe, regarding Edinburgh School.
5. Ms. Christin, regarding Montreal West community.

6. Adjournment

On motion of Mr. N. Gharibian, the meeting was adjourned at 9:02 p.m.

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Me Joe Ortona, Vice-Chairman

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Me Nathalie Lauzière, Secretary General