

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 Thursday, June 20, 2019 at 7:30 p.m.

Commissioners Present

Ms. Angela Mancini, Chairman  
Me Joe Ortona, Vice-Chairman  
Mr. Julien Feldman, Commissioner  
Mr. Norm Gharibian, Parent Commissioner  
Mr. Joseph Lalla, Commissioner  
Me Patricia Lattanzio, Commissioner (By phone)  
Ms. Sylvia Lo Bianco, Commissioner (By phone and in person)  
Mr. Pietro Mercuri, Parent Commissioner  
Mr. Rosario Ortona, Commissioner  
Mr. Agostino Cannavino Commissioner (By phone)  
Mr. Bernie Praw, Commissioner  
Ms. Mubeenah Mughal, Parent Commissioner

Absent

Mr. M. Antal, Commissioner  
Mr. James Kromida, Commissioner  
Mr. Andrew Ross, Parent Commissioner

Present:

Ms. A. M. Matheson, Director General  
Me B. Duhême, Deputy Director General, Administration Division  
Ms. E. Alfonsi, Deputy Director General, Education Division  
Me N. Lauzière, Secretary General  
Ms. P. Nickoletopoulos, Regional Director, West  
Mr. J. Pevec, Regional Director, East  
Mr. C. Della Rocca, Director of Adult Education and Vocational Services  
Mrs. S. Furfaro, Director of Educational & Technology Services  
Ms. A. Watson, Director of Human Resources  
Mr. M. Cohen, Communications and Marketing Specialist  
Ms. B. Sellato, Communications Consultant

Approximately 25 people from the public in the room.

	<p>It was reported that the notice calling this special meeting had been forwarded by the Secretary General to all Members of Council via email.</p>
2.	<p><u>Approval of Agenda</u></p> <p>IT WAS MOVED BY MR. J. FELDMAN AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED THAT the agenda be approved as presented.</p> <p>VOTE: 8-0-0, Adopted</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><u>Resolution #19-06-20-2</u></p>
2.1.	<p>It was proposed and unanimously approved to move In Camera at 7:33 p.m.</p> <p>VOTE: 8-0-0, Adopted</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><u>Resolution #19-06-20-2.1</u></p>
	<p>Commissioner N. Gharibian joined the meeting at 7:33 p.m.;</p> <p>Commissioner A. Cannavino joined the meeting at 7:40 p.m.;</p> <p>Commissioner M. Mughal joined the meeting at 7:42 p.m.;</p> <p>Commissioner P. Lattanzio joined the meeting at 7:45 p.m.;</p> <p>Commissioner J. Lalla joined the meeting at 7:48 p.m.;</p> <p>Commissioner P. Mercuri joined the meeting at 7:52 p.m.;</p> <p>Commissioner J. Ortona joined the meeting at 7:52 p.m.</p>
	<p>At 8:57 p.m., Council returned to the Meeting, back from In Camera.</p> <p>At 9:00 p.m., Commissioner Lo Bianco joined the meeting in person.</p>
3.	<p><u>The English Montreal School Board (EMSB) makes a new proposal in response to Quebec Education Minister Jean-Francois Roberge’s call to help the Commission scolaire de la Pointe-de-l’Ile (CSPI) with its need for classroom space for the fall of 2019</u></p> <p>WHEREAS Minister Roberge mandated the EMSB in late December 2018 to help find a solution to the problem of student over-crowding at the CSPI;</p> <p>WHEREAS the EMSB agreed to work diligently and in good faith with the Education Minister’s senior Cabinet and CSPI to come up with a solution to the CSPI’s need for classroom space by the summer of 2019;</p> <p>WHEREAS in early February 2019, EMSB Director General was mandated by the EMSB Council of Commissioners to offer the following to the CSPI and to the Minister’s senior Cabinet attachés by the summer of 2019: Transfer of land in Pointe-aux-Trembles (to build a school), transfer of a vacant school building on 16<sup>th</sup> Avenue in Rivière-des-Prairies and the parcel of land on which it sits (for mobile classrooms), cohabitation in the EMSB Galileo Adult Education Centre on Gariepy in Montreal North, and use of a vacant school building on Crémazie and Henri-Julien;</p> <p>WHEREAS this proposal was the product of the EMSB’s evaluation of its priorities, the needs and circumstances of its students, its exclusive power of management and control over its educational facilities,</p>

the impact that transferring youth sector schools could have on the vitality of the English-speaking community in Montreal North and St Leonard and the need to respect the consultation requirements mandated by the *Education Act*;

WHEREAS at a meeting on March 18, 2019 the CSPI and EMSB agreed to move forward on the proposal made by the EMSB, with the CSPI recognizing that the proposal could meet its needs for the 2019-2020 school year;

WHEREAS on April 10, 2019, by virtue of Resolution #19-04-10-3.1, the EMSB confirmed its offer to help alleviate the CSPI's classroom space problems;

WHEREAS a consultation process was launched with EMSB stakeholders according to legal requirements at a Special Board meeting on April 10, 2019 (res: # 19-04-10-3.1) and the consulted school communities were invited to present the highlights of their briefs to the Council on May 16, 2019;

WHEREAS in April 2019, Minister Roberge expressed his opposition to the relocation of the Social Integration Services students attending the Galileo Centre;

WHEREAS on May 9, 2019, Minister Roberge informed the EMSB that he was considering invoking his power as specified in section 477.1.1 of the *Education Act* in order to recommend that the Government transfer the property of three EMSB schools, namely General Vanier, Gerald McShane and John Paul I to the CSPI and requested EMSB's written observations with respect to the proposed transfer by June 10, 2019;

WHEREAS the EMSB considers it vital that a fulsome analysis and consultation, as mandated by s. 212 of the *Education Act*, be conducted prior to the closure of any youth sector school in order properly assess the impacts on the vitality of the English-speaking community;

WHEREAS on May 21, 2019, by virtue of Resolutions # 19-05-21-3.1, # 19-05-21-3.2, # 19-05-21-3.3 and # 19-05-21-3.4, the Council of commissioners of the EMSB voted to (1) relocate all programs in the Gariepy building except for the Rosemount Technology Centre, allowing the CSPI to occupy 57 classrooms in the Gariepy building, (2) to sell the vacant school building at 12755 16<sup>th</sup> Avenue in Rivière des Prairies to the CSPI (11 classrooms (revised)), (3) to rent the school building located at 8735 Avenue Henri-Julien in Montreal to the CSPI (21 classrooms (revised)), and (4) to sell the land behind the former Maclearon school in Pointe-aux-Trembles to the CSPI, thereby providing a total of 89 classrooms (revised) to the CSPI by the summer of 2019 as well as land for mobile classrooms;

WHEREAS on May 22<sup>nd</sup> 2019, by virtue of Resolution #19-05-22-6.3, the Council of Commissioners of the EMSB mandated its chairperson to negotiate a solution that would prevent the transfer of any youth-sector schools, including temporary cohabitation with the CSPI in any school where suitable space exists;

WHEREAS in subsequent discussions with the CSPI and the Minister's senior Cabinet attachés, the EMSB offered to cohabitate with the CSPI in John Paul I Junior High School (8 classes), General Vanier Elementary School (8 classes), and Gerald McShane Elementary School (8 classes), thereby bringing the EMSB's total offer to 113 classrooms (revised);

WHEREAS on June 9<sup>th</sup>, 2019, the EMSB responded to a letter from Minister Roberge within the given 30-day delay, and confirmed its offer to the Minister, which with the various scenarios of cohabitation would grant to the CSPI a total of 113 classrooms in time for the start of the school year 2019-2020, which answers the immediate needs of the CSPI, as the CSPI itself recognized;

WHEREAS by comparison, the transfer of the three EMSB schools would only grant to the CSPI a total of 65 classrooms in time for the start of the school year 2019-2020;

WHEREAS on June 11<sup>th</sup>, 2019, Minister Roberge made an announcement on a French radio show that he was starting the process of the transfers of the three EMSB schools, namely General Vanier, Gerald McShane and John Paul I, to the CSPI;

WHEREAS following these formal negotiations, administrative discussions were pursued between MEES Deputy Assistant Minister Eric Bergeron and the Directors General of the EMSB and CSPI, during which Deputy Assistant Minister Bergeron made clear that this was a final attempt to come up with a mutually acceptable agreement between the two boards;

WHEREAS the EMSB takes seriously the opposition expressed by Minister Roberge to the relocation of the Social Integration Services students attending the Galileo Centre and agrees to offer a new proposal in this regard;

WHEREAS the EMSB takes seriously the importance of launching a major school change consultation prior to July 1, 2019 and agrees to offer a new proposal in this regard;

WHEREAS following administrative discussions with Deputy Assistant Minister Bergeron and the Director General of CSPI, the EMSB held a Special Board meeting on June 20, 2019 in order to make an adjusted proposal to Minister Roberge, in the hope that he will not transfer the three EMSB schools, namely Gerald McShane, General Vanier and John Paul I;

IT WAS MOVED BY MR. J. LALLA THAT in addition to the land in Pointe-aux-Trembles, the school and land in Riviere-des-Prairies, and the use of the Henri-Julien building, the EMSB makes the following adjusted proposal to the Minister of Education to avoid the transfer of any of the three targeted schools, namely Gerald McShane, General Vanier and John Paul I, to the CSPI for September 2019:

**1) RE: Galileo**

- cohabitation between the EMSB and CSPI in the Galileo building on Gariepy (including the main office area and approximately 40 classes);
- that the special needs program for adults (SIS / SVIS) remain in the Gariepy building for one additional school year (2019-20) to allow for proper facility preparations at their new location at St-Pius X on Papineau and a proper transition period for the students;
- that the EMSB agrees to transfer ownership of the Gariepy building to the CSPI provided proper compensation is provided to the EMSB by the MEES;
- during the process of transfer, the CSPI will be given a long-term lease;
- the EMSB agrees to relocate the Rosemount Technology Centre (RTC) satellite campus from the Gariepy building to another EMSB facility (target date: August 2022)
- upon transfer of the building to the CSPI, the RTC campus will be permitted to remain in the Gariepy building until it can be relocated (target date: August 2022);

**2) RE: Launch of Major School Change Consultation (June 26, 2019 to July 1, 2020)**

- The EMSB agrees to launch a Major School Change Consultation on June 26, 2019 to evaluate how best to organize and consolidate its school populations and buildings on the CSPI territory. The EMSB Council would finalize its decisions pertaining to the Major School Change by the end of January 2020. The Major School Change Consultation will consider, amongst other options:
  - the potential closure and/or transfer of John Paul I, Gerald McShane and General Vanier;
  - the potential transfer of the Lester B. Pearson High School to a new and appropriately

sized school building.

**3) RE: Other Cohabitations for One School Year (2019-2020)**

- at Gerald McShane in Montreal North (8 classes at the elementary level)
- at General Vanier in St-Leonard (8 classes at the elementary level)
- at Laurier Macdonald High School in St-Leonard, in a separate wing of the building (9 classes)
- at Lester B. Pearson High School in Montreal North (up to 15 classes)
- all including access to necessary amenities such as the gymnasium, cafeteria, school yard, etc. – schedules to be determined between the two administrations (EMSB and CSPI)

**4) RE: 30-Day Consultation for Cohabitation Proposals**

- that the Council launch a 30-day consultation on Wednesday, June 26, 2019 for Laurier Macdonald High School, Lester B. Pearson High School, General Vanier and Gerald McShane.

Ms. Lo Bianco proposed an amendment that the John Paul I school be included as a cohabitation school (8 classes). Discussions followed.

Mr. Cannavino called the vote on Ms. Lo Bianco's amendment.

Vote: 1-10-1, Motion Defeated (Ms. S. Lo Bianco voted for, Ms. A. Mancini abstained.)

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Ms. Lo Bianco proposed that the resolution be split.

Ms. A. Mancini called the vote on the split of the resolution.

Vote: 5-7-0, Motion Defeated. (Mr. J. Feldman, Ms. S. Lo Bianco, Mr. P. Mercuri, Ms. M. Mughal and Ms. A. Mancini voted for, Mr. A. Cannavino, Mr. N. Gharibian, Mr. J. Lalla, Ms. P. Lattanzio, Mr. R. Ortona, Mr. B. Praw, Mr. J. Ortona voted against)

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Mr. J. Ortona called the vote on the main motion.

Vote: 10-2-0, Motion Carried. (Mr. A. Cannavino, Mr. J. Feldman, Mr. N. Gharibian, Mr. J. Lalla, Ms. P. Lattanzio, Mr. P. Mercuri, Ms. M. Mughal, Mr. R. Ortona, Mr. B. Praw and Mr. J. Ortona voted for, Ms. Lo Bianco and Ms. A. Mancini voted against)

Vote on Main Motion

IT WAS MOVED BY MR. J. LALLA AND RESOLVED THAT in addition to the land in Pointe-aux-Trembles, the school and land in Riviere-des-Prairies, and the use of the Henri-Julien building, the EMSB makes the following adjusted proposal to the Minister of Education to avoid the transfer of any of the three targeted schools, namely Gerald McShane, General Vanier and John Paul I, to the CSPI for September 2019:

**5) RE: Galileo**

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- that the EMSB agrees to transfer ownership of the Gariepy building to the CSPI provided proper compensation is provided to the EMSB by the MEES;
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- all including access to necessary amenities such as the gymnasium, cafeteria, school yard, etc. – schedules to be determined between the two administrations (EMSB and CSPI)

**8) RE: 30-Day Consultation for Cohabitation Proposals**

- that the Council launch a 30-day consultation on Wednesday, June 26, 2019 for Laurier Macdonald High School, Lester B. Pearson High School, General Vanier and Gerald McShane.

**IT WAS FURTHER RESOLVED** to forward a copy of the resolution to the Minister of Education.

VOTE: 10-2-0, Adopted

In favor	Mr. A. Cannavino, Mr. J. Feldman, Mr. N. Gharibian, Mr. J. Lalla, Ms. P. Lattanzio, Mr. P. Mercuri, Ms. M. Mughal, Mr. R. Ortona, Mr. J. Ortona, Mr. B. Praw
Against	Ms. S. Lo Bianco, Ms. A. Mancini

Resolution #19-06-20-3

Council moved to recess at 9:55 p.m., all members were in favor.

The members of Council were back at 10:05 p.m.

4. Question Period

	A parent from General Vanier asked where is her daughter going to school in September?
5.	<p><u>Adjournment</u></p> <p>At 10:15 p.m., on a motion by Mr. B. Praw, the meeting was adjourned.</p> <p>VOTE: 8-0-0, Adopted</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><u>Resolution #19-06-20-5</u></p>
	<p>Signed in Montreal, _____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>Ms. Angela Mancini, Chairman</p> <p style="text-align: right;">_____</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Me Nathalie Lauzière, Secretary General</p>