

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS OF THE
ENGLISH MONTREAL SCHOOL BOARD

A Special Board Meeting of the English Montreal School Board has taken place on Wednesday, August 12, 2020, at 3:00 p.m. in the Laurence Patterson Conference Room, 6000 Fielding Avenue.

Chairman

Ms. M. Jennings, Trustee

Administrators Present:

Ms. E. Alfonsi, Assistant Director General, Education Division
Me B. Duhême, Assistant Director General, Administration Division
Me N. Lauzière, Secretary General
Ms. L. Nassivera, Director, Financial Services
Me L. Roy, Director, Legal Services
Ms. B. Sellato, Consultant, Communications
Ms. A. Watson, Director, Human Resources

20 members of staff present

1.	<p><u>Proper Notice of the Special Meeting</u></p> <p>Me Nathalie Lauzière confirmed that proper notice of this meeting was given.</p>
2.	<p><u>Approval of the Agenda</u></p> <p>IT WAS MOVED BY THE TRUSTEE, MS. M. JENNINGS, AND RESOLVED THAT the agenda be approved:</p> <p>Adopted</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><u>Resolution #20-08-12-2</u></p>
3.	<p><u>Question Period</u></p> <p>Ms. Marlene Jennings responded to a question posed by Ms. Maria Corsi regarding the Director General Position.</p> <p>Mr. Chris Eustace expressed best wishes and thanks to Ms. Matheson.</p>

4.

Urgent Governance Matters

4.1 Resignation of Ms. AnnMarie Matheson, Director General

WHEREAS Ms. AnnMarie Matheson is the Director General of the English Montreal School Board (EMSB);

WHEREAS following several constructive discussions with the EMSB Trustee, Ms. Marlene Jennings, Ms. AnnMarie Matheson has decided to step down from her position as Director General of the EMSB;

WHEREAS both parties have agreed to a mutually accepted agreement, effective as of August 13, 2020;

IT WAS MOVED BY THE TRUSTEE, MS. M. JENNINGS, AND RESOLVED THAT the EMSB accept the resignation of Ms. AnnMarie Matheson as Director General of the EMSB, effective as of August 13, 2020.

IT WAS FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the EMSB agree to the terms and conditions as stipulated in the agreement mutually accepted between Ms. AnnMarie Matheson and the EMSB.

Adopted

Resolution #20-08-12-4.1

4.2 Appointment of Interim Director General

WHEREAS pursuant to resolution #20-08-12-4.1, Ms. AnnMarie Matheson stepped down from her position as Director General of the English Montreal School Board (EMSB), effective August 13, 2020;

WHEREAS the EMSB must appoint an Interim Director General until a replacement is named;

IT WAS MOVED BY THE TRUSTEE, MS. M. JENNINGS, AND RESOLVED THAT the EMSB appoint Ms. Evelyne Alfonsi, Assistant Director General - Education as Interim Director General for the period beginning August 14, 2020 until the appointment of a new Director General, and to have and exercise all powers of the Director General for said period.

IT WAS FURTHER RESOLVED THAT Ms. Evelyne Alfonsi will continue to fill her position as Assistant Director General – Education until the appointment of a new Director General.

Adopted

Resolution #20-08-12-4.2

4.3 Recruitment and Hiring of Director General

WHEREAS pursuant to resolution #20-08-12-4.1, Ms. AnnMarie Matheson stepped down from her position as Director General of the English Montreal School Board (EMSB), effective August 13, 2020;

WHEREAS the EMSB wishes to commence immediately the recruitment and hiring of a new Director General;

IT WAS MOVED BY THE TRUSTEE, MS. M. JENNINGS, AND RESOLVED THAT the EMSB authorize the Director of Human Resources to post internally and externally simultaneously the position of Director General.

IT WAS FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Director of Human Resources be mandated to retain the services of a professional recruiter (Executive Headhunter) to recruit and screen applicants and recommend a short list of qualified candidates for interviews.

IT WAS FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the recruitment and hiring process must be completed no later than October 9, 2020.

Adopted

Resolution #20-08-12-4.3

4.4 Tribute to Ms. AnnMarie Matheson, Director General, English Montreal School Board

WHEREAS Ms. AnnMarie Matheson has submitted her resignation effective August 13, 2020;

WHEREAS Ms. Matheson has provided distinguished leadership during her career and met the demands of the Director General's office with energy, devotion, and competence;

WHEREAS Ms. Matheson began her career in education as a Social Work Technician (truancy counselor) in 1991 with the English and French Sectors of the Commission des Écoles Catholiques de Montréal (CECM) and worked diligently to reduce student absenteeism and drop-out prevention in high schools;

WHEREAS in 1997, Ms. Matheson while in the role of Coordinator of the current English Montreal School Board's (EMSB) IB program at Marymount Academy, assisted in the development and implementation of the International Baccalaureate (IB) Middle Years Program, excelling in this role whereby the school ultimately earned IBO accreditation and full status in 2001;

WHEREAS Ms. Matheson acquired vast experience working directly with le Ministère de L'Éducation et de l'Enseignement supérieur (MEES), beginning in August 2004 while on loan of service from EMSB as Professional Resource Person, working in the dossier Supporting Montreal Schools (SMSP) which represented five school boards on the island of Montreal, and from September 2007 until June 2009, where she diligently represented the needs of English schools while overseeing the implementation of the SMSP in twenty-one, schools, nineteen of them in the EMSB;

WHEREAS in her distinguished career, Ms. Matheson demonstrated her leadership skills while appointed as Director and Vice-Principal at Miss Edgar's and Miss Cramp's School between 2005 and 2007, where she led the teachers in the implementation of the Reform, and also while appointed as Vice-Principal and Principal at the Lester B. Pearson School Board (LBPSB) between 2009 and 2015;

WHEREAS since her appointment to the position of Director General of the English Montreal School Board, the EMSB community has greatly appreciated Ms. Matheson's extensive experience as a respected and committed educational leader;

WHEREAS under her formidable leadership as Director General of the EMSB, the school board was impressively ranked with the highest student success rate in the province of Québec;

WHEREAS Ms. Matheson's substantial contributions to the EMSB resulted in significant achievements under her leadership, including the establishment of a successful Homeschooling Program that had over twelve hundred students registered in the 2019-2020 school year;

WHEREAS Ms. Matheson's leadership was instrumental to the successful completion of the construction of both the magnificent new Mackay / Phillip E. Layton School for students with severe handicaps, as well as the creation of the new Des Grandes Prairies Vocational Centre, a campus of the Laurier MacDonald Vocational Centre;

WHEREAS Ms. Matheson has demonstrated sincere compassion and empathy for all of the EMSB community during some of the most difficult times in the Montreal area, including the COVID-19 Pandemic whereby she was responsible for initiating the creation of a food delivery service that delivered two meals per week to one hundred and sixty needy families;

WHEREAS during her twenty-nine years of service in education, Ms. Matheson's commitment to education was unwavering, and she is recognized by the larger English education community of Quebec as a leader in the Education sector who has worked diligently with her colleagues at the EMSB, at the MEES and with other boards and community groups, to ensure quality educational services for all students;

WHEREAS words are inadequate to express the EMSB's gratitude and appreciation for the loyal and exemplary contributions made by Ms. Matheson over the twenty-nine years of her career in education and she will be sincerely missed by her colleagues at the EMSB;

IT WAS MOVED BY THE TRUSTEE, MS. M. JENNINGS, AND RESOLVED THAT there be inscribed in the records of this Board, the Council's recognition of her long and loyal service, as well as their sincere thanks and appreciation for the invaluable contribution she has rendered to the education of the students and that there be extended to her the Board's best wishes in her future endeavours.

Adopted

Resolution #20-08-12-4.4

Mr. Joe Ortona conveyed a brief statement of thanks and well wishes to Ms. AnnMarie Matheson.

4.5 Resignation of the Chair of the English Montreal School Board

WHEREAS on July 15, 2020, Ms. Angela Mancini, Chair of the English Montreal School Board (EMSB), has submitted her resignation effective on this day;

WHEREAS Ms. Mancini has contributed to public education for 22 years with the English Montreal School Board;

WHEREAS Ms. Mancini has been Chair of the EMSB since 2008;

WHEREAS the EMSB officially accepts the Chair's resignation effective July 15, 2020;

IT WAS MOVED BY THE TRUSTEE, MS. M. JENNINGS, AND RESOLVED THAT the English Montreal School Board thanks Ms. Mancini for her service, accepts her resignation effective July 15, 2020, and that there be extended to her the Board's best wishes in her future endeavours.

Adopted

Resolution #20-08-12-4.5

4.6 Face School

WHEREAS the English Montreal School Board (EMSB) and the Centre de services scolaire de Montréal (CSSDM) jointly and collaboratively operate FACE (Fine Arts Core Education) School;

WHEREAS FACE School offers artistic diversified instruction to French and English-speaking students from the EMSB and the CSSDM;

WHEREAS since 1998 an Agreement identifies the obligations and responsibilities of the EMSB and the CSSDM in order to ensure the continuation of the educational project of FACE School;

WHEREAS in virtue of the Agreement, FACE School is governed by a single Governing Board under the authority of the CSSDM;

WHEREAS in virtue of the Agreement, FACE School is managed by a principal from CSSDM and assisted by vice-principals, including one from the EMSB;

WHEREAS by virtue of Resolution #99-06-23-7, the Council of commissioners of the EMSB determined the number of parent representatives and staff representatives on the Governing Board of FACE School;

WHEREAS in November 2020, the Act to amend mainly the Education Act with regards to school organization and governance (Bill 40) may come into force with regards to English school boards in Quebec;

WHEREAS under Bill 40, a parent who wishes to run for election as a director on the new Board of Directors of a school services centre must sit on the Governing Board of the school attended by one of his/her children;

WHEREAS the existence of a single CSSDM Governing Board at FACE denies the right for the parents of FACE School to run as directors on the Board of Directors of the EMSB;

WHEREAS, if Bill 40 comes into effect, parents who wish to run as candidates for the EMSB Board of Directors must be on a Governing Board;

WHEREAS, notwithstanding the current court challenge on Bill 40, the EMSB must create a Governing Board at FACE School;

WHEREAS, in virtue of the Education Act, the school board must appoint a principal to the school, who shall assist the Governing Board in the exercise of its functions and powers;

WHEREAS it is imperative that an EMSB employee be appointed by the EMSB to act as the principal of FACE School;

WHEREAS, the creation of a Governing Board and the position of a principal are necessary to comply with the Education Act and ensure that the rights guaranteed by section 23 of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms regarding the English-speaking community's power of management and control of its schools be respected;

IT WAS MOVED BY MS. M. JENNINGS, TRUSTEE, AND RESOLVED THAT the Administration of the English Montreal School Board undertakes all necessary actions to constitute an EMSB Governing Board at FACE School.

IT WAS FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Administration of the English Montreal School Board undertakes all necessary actions to appoint an EMSB employee as principal of FACE School before the start of the 2020-2021 school year.

IT WAS FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Administration of the English Montreal School Board undertakes all necessary actions to establish a new Agreement with the Centre de services scolaire de Montréal (CSSDM) to ensure the continuation of the educational project of FACE School.

IT WAS FURTHER RESOLVED THAT a copy of this resolution be translated and sent to the Ministère de l'Éducation et de l'Enseignement supérieur (MEES) and to the Centre de services scolaire de Montréal (CSSDM).

Adopted

Resolution #20-08-12-4.6

5. Use of St. Dorothy School

WHEREAS on January 20th, 2020, following a Major School Change Consultation process and by virtue of Resolution # 20-01-20-3.3, the English Montreal School Board (EMSB) took the decision to revoke the Deed of Establishment of St. Dorothy Elementary School and to close the school as of June 30, 2020;

WHEREAS on July 8, 2020 the Centre de services scolaire de Montréal (CSSDM) sent to the EMSB a letter of intent to use, on a temporary basis, the St. Dorothy School facility to relocate students from its Sophie-Barat School which must undergo major renovations and to continue using the facility for its students from Marie-Rivier School;

WHEREAS on July 14, 2020, the Long Range Planning Committee held a meeting to review the letter of intent of the CSSDM and agreed that the EMSB should explore the possibility of renting, under certain terms and conditions and on a temporary basis, the St. Dorothy School facility;

WHEREAS the EMSB is working on a plan to establish a specialized school or a service point for the 2022-23 school year, to consolidate the specialized and professional services provided to its students with special needs;

WHEREAS the St. Dorothy School facility could house this specialized school or service point for students with special needs;

WHEREAS on August 5th, 2020, the CSSDM sent to the EMSB a rental proposal for a period of two (2) years at a net rental rate of \$13\sf, to relocate its students from the Sophie-Barat School and to continue to use the facility for its students from the Marie-Rivier School;

WHEREAS the CSSDM proposal is in line with the terms and conditions discussed by the Long Range Planning Committee;

WHEREAS the substantial rental revenues from the CSSDM proposal would benefit the EMSB for its educational and administrative needs;

IT WAS MOVED BY THE TRUSTEE, MS. M. JENNINGS, AND RESOLVED THAT the EMSB authorize the Director General and the Assistant Director General - Administration to accept the terms and conditions proposed by the CSSDM, and to finalize the rental agreement regarding the use by the CSSDM of the St. Dorothy School facility located at 8961, 6e Avenue in Montreal, the whole as outlined in the documentation submitted at the meeting.

IT WAS FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Director General and the Assistant Director General - Administration be authorized to sign any necessary documents related to this rental agreement on behalf of the English Montreal School Board.

Adopted

Resolution #20-08-12-5

6. Adjournment

On a motion by the Trustee, Ms. M. Jennings, the meeting was adjourned at 3:57 p.m.

Adopted

Resolution #20-08-12-6

Signed in Montreal, _____

Ms. Marlene Jennings, Chairman

Me Nathalie Lauzière, Secretary General