

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS OF THE  
ENGLISH MONTREAL SCHOOL BOARD

A Special Board Meeting of the English Montreal School Board has taken place on Saturday, September 11, 2021, at 11:00 A.M. Via Teams, in Montreal.

Commissioners Present

Me Joe Ortona, Chair  
Mr. Agostino Cannavino, Vice-Chair  
Mr. Mario Bentrovato, Commissioner  
Ms. Maria Corsi, Parent Commissioner  
Mr. Jamie Fabian, Commissioner – Joined the meeting at 11:06 a.m.  
Ms. Ellie Israel, Commissioner  
Mr. James Kromida, Commissioner  
Mr. Joseph Lalla, Commissioner  
Mr. Pietro Mercuri, Commissioner  
Ms. Mubeenah Mughal, Parent Commissioner – Joined the meeting at 11:14 a.m.  
Mr. Mario Pietrangelo, Commissioner  
Mr. Tony Speranza, Parent Commissioner  
Mr. Daniel Tatone, Parent Commissioner

Commissioners Not Present

Mr. Julien Feldman, Commissioner  
Ms. Sophie De Vito, Commissioner

Administrators Present:

Mr. Nicholas Katalifos, Appointed Director General  
Ms. Pelagia Nickoletopoulos, Assistant Director General, Education Division  
Me Nathalie Lauzière, Secretary General

Mr. Nasreddine Slimi, Assistant Director, Material Resources  
Ms. Angela Spagnolo, Sector Director, AEVS  
Mr. Mike Cohen, Manager, Marketing & Communications  
Ms. Brigida Sellato, Consultant, Secretariat General

The Chair, Joe Ortona asked everyone to take a moment of silence in commemoration of the anniversary of September 11<sup>th</sup>.

1. Confirmation of Proper Notice of the Meeting

Me Nathalie Lauzière confirmed that proper notice of this meeting was given.

2.	<p><u>Adoption of the Agenda</u></p> <p>IT WAS MOVED BY MR. PIETRO MERCURI AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED THAT the agenda be approved, as presented.</p> <p>Vote:11-0-0 (Mr. J. Fabian and Ms. M. Mughal not present for the vote), Adopted</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><u>Resolution # 21-09-11-2</u></p>
3.	<p><u>Question Period</u></p> <p>Addressed by the Chair:</p> <p><u>Questions by Mr. Chris Eustace</u></p> <p>The following question revolves around the unanimous vote taken and passed regarding Bill 96.</p> <p>How is it possible to have confidence in the Council if the original resolution is suddenly overturned?</p> <p>Would the chair reassure the public that the elected school board system is the best model of governance for our schools?</p>
	<p>Mr. Jamie Fabian joined the meeting at 11:06 a.m.</p> <p>Ms. Mubeenah Mughal joined the meeting at 11:14 a.m.</p>
4.	<p><u>Motion: The English Montreal School Board corrects its stance on Bill 96</u></p> <p><b>WHEREAS</b> Bill 96, An Act respecting French, the official and common language of Québec, was introduced in the National Assembly on May 13, 2021;</p> <p><b>WHEREAS</b> on September 1, 2021, the English Montreal School Board adopted a resolution calling on the Quebec Government to withdraw Bill 96 in its present form and calling on the federal government to refer Bill 96 to the Supreme Court of Canada for a ruling on the legality of Bill 96;</p> <p><b>WHEREAS</b> in the preamble to its resolution of September 1, 2021, the English Montreal School Board put forward several criticisms of Bill 96;</p> <p><b>WHEREAS</b> the English Montreal School Board recognizes that some of these criticisms of Bill 96 were unfounded or mistaken and wishes to correct its stance on Bill 96;</p> <p><b>WHEREAS</b>, in particular, the English Montreal School Board does not question the fact that Quebec forms a nation;</p> <p><b>WHEREAS</b>, in particular, the English Montreal School Board agrees with the importance of protecting and promoting the French language, notably on the island of Montreal, and solemnly affirms its commitment to work with all Quebecers, including the Quebec Government to pursue this objective;</p> <p><b>WHEREAS</b> the English Montreal School Board remains deeply concerned with how Bill 96 will impact Quebec’s English-language community;</p> <p><b>WHEREAS</b> the English Montreal School Board remains very critical of the attempt to shield judicial scrutiny by introducing the notwithstanding clause in Bill 96;</p>

	<p><b>WHEREAS</b> the earliest the present resolution can be voted on is Saturday, September 11, 2021 pursuant to the English Montreal School Board's by-laws;</p> <p>IT WAS MOVED BY JOE ORTONA AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED THAT the present resolution replaces Resolution #21-09-01-11 in terms of representing the English Montreal School Board's stance on Bill 96;</p> <p>IT WAS FURTHER UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED THAT the English Montreal School Board calls on the Quebec government to withdraw Bill 96 in its present form;</p> <p>IT WAS STILL FURTHER UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED THAT this resolution be forwarded to the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Premier François Legault, Simon Jolin-Barrette, Minister Responsible for the French Language, and MNA Christopher Skeete, parliamentary assistant to Premier François Legault for relations with English-speaking Quebecers;</li> <li>• Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and Melanie Joly, Federal Minister of Official Languages;</li> <li>• Quebec English School Boards Association (QESBA).</li> </ul> <p>IT WAS STILL FURTHER UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED THAT Resolution #21-09-01-11, adopted on September 1, 2021, be rescinded.</p> <p>Vote: 12-0-1 (Mr. J. Lalla abstained), Adopted</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><u>Resolution # 21-09-11-4</u></p>
5.	<p><u>Adjournment</u></p> <p>IT WAS MOVED BY MR. AGOSTINO CANNAVINO AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED THAT the meeting be adjourned at 11:16 A.M.</p> <p>Vote:13-0-0, Adopted</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><u>Resolution # 21-09-11-5</u></p>
	<p>Signed in Montreal, _____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>Me Joe Ortona, Chair</p> <p style="text-align: right;">_____</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Me Nathalie Lauzière, Secretary General</p>