MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS OF THE ENGLISH MONTREAL SCHOOL BOARD

A Regular Board Meeting of the English Montreal School Board has taken place on Wednesday, November 10, 2021, at 7:00 P.M. in the Laurence Patterson Room, in Montreal.

Commissioners Present

Me Joe Ortona, Chair

Mr. Agostino Cannavino, Vice-Chair

Mr. Mario Bentrovato, Commissioner

Ms. Maria Corsi, Parent Commissioner

Ms. Sophie De Vito, Commissioner

Mr. Jamie Fabian, Commissioner

Mr. Julien Feldman, Commissioner, via Teams

Ms. Ellie Israel, Commissioner

Mr. Joseph Lalla, Commissioner

Mr. Pietro Mercuri, Commissioner

Ms. Mubeenah Mughal, Parent Commissioner

Mr. Mario Pietrangelo, Commissioner

Mr. Tony Speranza, Parent Commissioner

Mr. Daniel Tatone, Parent Commissioner

Commissioners Not Present

Mr. James Kromida, Commissioner

Administrators Present:

Mr. Nicholas Katalifos, Director General

Ms. Pelagia Nickoletopoulos, Assistant Director General, Education

Me Jack H. Chadirdjian, Assistant Director General, Administration

Me Nathalie Lauzière, Secretary General

Ms. Brigida Sellato, Consultant, Secretariat General

Administrators Present via Teams:

Mr. Mario Argiropoulos, Assistant Director, AEVS

Ms. Sandra Léveillé, Director, School Organization

Ms. Livia Nassivera, Director, Financial Services

Ms. Marilyn Ramlakhan, Assistant Director, Human Resources

Ms. Julie René de Cotret, Director, Student Services

Ms. Anna Sanalitro, Director, Educational Services

Me Magdalena Sokol, Director of Legal Services

Mr. Nasreddine Slimi, Assistant Director, Material Resources

Ms. Angela Spagnolo, Sector Director, AEVS

Mr. Bob Thomas, Director, Information Technology

Ms. Anna Villalta, Assistant Director, Educational Services

Ms. Ann Watson, Director, Human Resources

Mr. Mike Cohen, Manager, Marketing & Communications

1. Approval of Agenda

IT WAS MOVED BY MR. PIETRO MERCURI AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED THAT the agenda be approved with the proposed modifications:

- Removal of item 15 entitled Annual Reports from the Chairs of the EMSB Governance Committees
- Addition of 19b Election of Chair to the Governance and Ethics Committee
- Addition of 19c Election of Vice-Chair to the Governance and Ethics Committee

Vote: 14-0-0, Adopted

Resolution # 21-11-10-1

2. Tribute to Jannai Dopwell-Bailey

The Chair, Mr. Joe Ortona, read a tribute to Jannai Dopwell-Bailey.

On October 18, 2021, tragedy struck the EMSB.

One of our students at Program Mile End Alternative High School in Côte des Neiges, Jannai Dopwell-Bailey, lost his life in an assault.

Our hearts and prayers go out to the family and friends of Jannai.

I attended a vigil held in his memory, along with our Director General Mr. Katalifos, Assistant Director General Ms. Nickoletopoulos and School Commissioner Ellie Israel. Jannai loved music. He was remembered fondly going back to his days as a student at Hampstead Elementary School.

I wish to thank members of our Trauma Team who were on the scene immediately to provide the necessary support to staff and students.

Can you please all join me for a moment of silence in Jannai's memory.

3. Nomination of Adriana Colalillo and Giulia Maietta as Student of the Month

On Monday, along with Commissioners Pietrangelo and Corsi, we had the pleasure of naming Adriana Colalillo and Giulia Maietta from Pierre de Coubertin Elementary School as the EMSB students of the month for October.

This summer, Adriana and Giulia started a home-based business called Bead It MTL. These young entrepreneurs make and sell custom-made bead bracelets, necklaces, phone straps, anklets and rings. Adriana and Giulia have, and continue to, donate a portion of their earnings to the *Montreal Children's Hospital* with the goal of ensuring that all children get the medical help and support they deserve.

To date, they've raised \$1,112 dollars for the Hospital.

On behalf of the entire Council of Commissioners, congratulations to Adriana and Giulia!

4. In Camera

4.1 Motion to Move In Camera

There was no In Camera session.

4.2 Bill 15 information report (Act Respecting workforce management and control within government departments, public sector bodies and networks and state-owned enterprises)

Item was presented for information, there was no further discussion.

<u>4.3 Health and Safety in the Workplace – CNESST Retrospective Plan – Choice of Limit per Claim and CNESST dues for 2022</u>

WHEREAS the English Montreal School Board (EMSB) has advised the Commission des normes, de l'équité, de la santé et de la sécurité du travail (CNESST) of the Board's choice of limit per claim regarding the maximum insurable annual salary of an employee for the period of January 1, 2021 to December 31, 2021 (#20-12-02-4.3);

WHEREAS Optimum Consultants and Actuaries Inc., after study of the CNESST documentation received in year 2021, the final assessment year of 2018, recommend in their report an optimal choice of 900% for the yearly maximum insurable wage, for an insurance limit amount set to \$796,500 for year 2022:

IT WAS MOVED BY MR. JOSEPH LALLA AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED THAT:

- A) Commission des normes, de l'équité, de la santé et de la sécurité du travail (CNESST) be advised that the Board's choice of limit per claim in phase III of the CNESST Retrospective Plan for 2022, regarding occupational injuries and diseases, be set at 900% the yearly maximum insurable wage, for an insurance limit amount set to \$796,500 per claim for year 2022;
- B) the Director General be authorized to sign on behalf of the Board the pertinent documents related to the CNESST Retrospective Plan.

Vote: 13-0-1 (Mr. Mario Bentrovato abstained), Adopted

Resolution # 21-11-10-4.3

The Chair, Mr. Joe Ortona, called a 10 minute recess at 7:12 p.m. in order to fix a technical issue with the sound.

The meeting resumed at 7:22 p.m.

<u>4.4 AEVS – Mesure 50512 – Application Request for Investments in Vocational Training «Ajout d'espace pour la formation professionnelle menant à un diplôme délivré par le ministre»</u>

WHEREAS the English Montreal School Board (EMSB) currently provides vocational training programs for Professional Cooking (5811) and Contemporary Professional Pastry Making (5842) to its domestic and international clientele at the St-Pius X Career Center;

WHEREAS the EMSB requires additional space to offer these two training programs;

WHEREAS the EMSB is currently using space with functional facilities within Centre Calixa-Lavallée, of the Centre de services scolaire de la Pointe-de-l'Île, as per an agreement (entente) ending on June 30, 2022, in order to meet the demands of these two (2) programs;

WHEREAS available space of approximately 500 m² and a storage space of approximately 80 m² are currently available at the St. Pius X Career Center and can be reconfigured into two (2) new kitchens, one (1) adjacent storage area and one (1) classroom to meet the same demands;

WHEREAS the EMSB is applying for Ministère de l'Éducation (MEQ) financing through MESURE 50512, «Ajout d'espace pour la formation professionnelle menant à un diplôme délivré par le ministre», as part of the Plan québécois des infrastructures 2022-2032;

IT WAS MOVED BY MR. PIETRO MERCURI AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED THAT the EMSB proceed with requesting for financial funding by means of MESURE 50512 for the reconfiguration project at St. Pius X Career Center (408);

IT WAS FURTHER UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED THAT the Director General or an Assistant Director General be authorized to sign the MESURE 50512 form on behalf of the English Montreal School Board.

Vote: 14-0-0, Adopted

Resolution # 21-11-10-4.4

6. Question Period

Questions were addressed by the Chair, Mr. Joe Ortona:

Questions by Mr. Chris Eustace:

- 1- Will the EMSB return the Question Period to the way it was? Namely, where both the public and chair can see and hear each other.
- 2- Has the EMSB been asked to pilot the new Culture and Citizenship course at the school(s)?

7. Adoption of Minutes

7.1 Adoption of the Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting held on October 6, 2021

IT WAS MOVED BY MR. JAMIE FABIAN AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED THAT the Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting held on October 6, 2021, be approved as presented.

Vote: 14-0-0, Adopted

Resolution # 21-11-10-7.1

8. <u>Business Arising Out of Minutes</u>

None.

9. <u>Tribute to Mr. Mel Pololos, Manager of IT Infrastructure Operations (Retired)</u>

WHEREAS in 1981 Mr. Mel Pololos began his career as Computer Operator class 1, with the Protestant School Board of Greater Montreal:

WHEREAS during his career he served as an Electronics Technician, a Data Processing Technician Principal Class, and was promoted to the role of IT Infrastructure Operations Manager in 1998;

WHEREAS Mr. Mel Pololos was committed to providing excellent service to all of our schools, centres and to the EMSB as a whole;

WHEREAS Mel Pololos was a loyal and dedicated employee who served both the PSBGM and the EMSB with exceptional integrity and performance until his retirement on August 31, 2021;

WHEREAS words are inadequate to express the EMSB's gratitude for the exemplary contributions made by Mr. Mel Pololos over his 40-year career;

IT WAS MOVED BY MR. JOE ORTONA AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED THAT there be recorded in the Minutes of the Proceedings of this Board, the Commissioners' sincere thanks and appreciation to Mr. Mel Pololos.

Vote: 14-0-0, Adopted

Resolution # 21-11-10-9

10. In Memoriam

10.1 Tribute for November 2021

WHEREAS the Board values the contribution made by its employees;

WHEREAS the Board wishes to take official cognizance of the passing of any member of its large family of employees;

IT WAS MOVED BY MR. JOE ORTONA AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that the Board note with regret the passing of:

Joseph A. Hackett, Retired Teacher, LaurenHill Academy and Rosemount High School Maurizio Ruggieri, Pool Staff Caretaker, John F. Kennedy High School

and that the expression of sympathy be sent to the bereaved families.

Vote: 14-0-0, Adopted

Resolution # 21-11-10-10.1

11. Chair's Report

Presented by the Chair, Mr. Joe Ortona:

- Event at Pierre de Coubertin Elementary School honoring the students of the month;
- Next week there will be the inauguration of Westmount Park School;
- Court decision on Bill 21.

12. <u>Director General's Report</u>

Presented by the Director General, Mr. Nicholas Katalifos:

- There is a press release that was posted on our website stating that the EMSB has the highest success rate at 90.3%;
- A warm welcome to the new Asisstant Director General, Jack H. Chadirdjian;
- There is a campaign in process at Mackay for the new accessible playground;
- Schools will observe a minute of silence on Remembrance Day and will provide the students with activities;
- Professional week November 15th -19th;
- AEVS is launching a new service to Business Groups regarding Professional Development.

13. Committee Reports

13.1 ACSES (Advisory Committee on Special Education Services)

Item presented by Commissioner, Ms. Mubeenah Mughal:

They have not yet met and the next meeting is scheduled for November 22, 2021.

13.2 Transportation and Safety Advisory Committee

Item presented by the Chair, Mr. Pietro Mercuri:

There has been no meeting to date.

13.3 EMSBPC (English Montreal School Board Parents' Committee)

Item presented by Parent Commissioner, Mr. Tony Speranza:

The annual general assembly was held on October 14th, 2021.

- The following members will form the Executive:
 - Caleigh Saucier, Chair
 - Katherine Korakakis, Vice-Chair
 - Franco Mazzariello, Treasurer
 - Maria Corsi, Parent Commissioner, Elementary Schools
 - Tony Speranza, Parent Commissioner, Secondary Schools
 - Daniel Tatone, Parent Commissioner, At large
 - Gloria Lombardi, ACSES Delegate or Mubeenah Mughal, ACSES Parent Commissioner
 - Shalini Bel
 - Johanna Miller
 - Tina Oppong

Item presented by Parent Commissioner, Mr. Daniel Tatone:

- A Parent Conference was approved for 2022;
- Two non-voting members were appointed to the Equity Committee, Gloria Lombardi and Simon Becker.

Item presented by Parent Commissioner, Ms. Maria Corsi:

• A resolution was adopted regarding the formation of the Governing Board.

13.4 Governance and Ethics Committee

Item presented by the Chair of the Board, Mr. Joe Ortona:

In the coming weeks, a meeting will be held in order to make recommendations for the members of the various committees.

13.5 Audit Committee

Item presented by Commissioner, Mr. Tony Speranza, Vice-Chair:

A meeting was held on November 2nd, 2021, where the Audited Financial Statements were presented. A big thank you to the auditors and to the Financial Services department for their hard work.

13.6 Human Resources Committee

Item presented by the Chair, Mr. Joseph Lalla:

There has been no meeting to date.

13.7 CGTSIM (Comité de gestion de la taxe scolaire de l'île de Montréal)

Item presented by the Vice-Chair, Mr. Agostino Cannavino:

A meeting was held on October 21, 2021, where the following items were presented:

- Approval of the maximum short borrowings which were in line with the parameters established by the government;
- Review of the tax projections and budget;
- The Audited Financial Statements were approved and filed with the Ministry;
- The line of credit borrowing is available for major construction project expenses made by the Société québécoise des infrastructures for the benefit of the five member School Boards and Service Centres. The current authorization of this plan is in the amount of 588.2M. The long term borrowing plan is established to finance capital expenditures and technology purchases, this plan has been established with the Fonds de financement and is set in the amount of 683.3M;
- A discussion took place regarding the sale of properties for unpaid school taxes. The list of buildings to be sold if no payment is received before the date of the sale was adopted. The director of CGTSIM is mandated to proceed with the sale of public auction which is scheduled for December 10, 2021;
- Approval for new categories of supplies such as printing paper, printed envelopes, work

- uniforms and safety equipment and the following categories were renewed, computer supplies, office supplies and plastic art for the period of December 2021 through November 2022;
- Finally, the salaries of the English School Board members have been suspended. An Ad Hoc Committee was created to make recommendations to the possibility of re-establishing the compensation to those members;
- The next meeting is scheduled for December 9, 2021.

13.8 EMSAC (English Montreal Student Advisory Committee)

Item presented by the Observer, Mr. Joseph Lalla:

The first meeting was held on October 12, 2021. The following was discussed:

- Procedural issues such as Robert's Rules of Order, how to conduct meetings, etc;
- Students compared their lived experiences during the pandemic. Students in Secondary 3 have never really experienced a normal school year. Students preferred attending school daily then alternation and being mixed with the rest of the classes in their schools rather than be in bubbles. Students are also concerned about opportunities for extra curricular activities.

The second meeting was held on November 4, 2021. The following was discussed:

- Tik Tok challenges have been an inconvenience however have not had a strong effect on overall school life;
- The Ethics and Religious Culture Program (ERC) will be replaced with the Quebec Citizenship and Culture course. The ERC Program is an important part of a students educational learning process. EMSAC is concerned about what the implementation of the new course will look like;
- A brief discussion on Bill 2 and it's implications on our society. What Bill 2 would mean for gender queer students and society. EMSAC found this measure to be disconcerting.

13.9 QESBA (Quebec English School Boards Association)

Item presented by the Chair, Mr. Joe Ortona, Member on the QESBA:

- The Annual General Meeting will be held on Saturday, November 13th, 2021 at 11:00 a.m. and all Commissioners are encouraged to attend;
- No news on a decision for Bill 40.

14. <u>Commissioner's Report</u>

An update was given by Maria Corsi regarding the East-End Marketing Committee who looked at the preliminary results from a survey of parents going to High School.

Julien Feldman congratulated everyone who was involved in the Westmount Park renovation project.

Daniel Tatone reported that the Parents Committee established an Anti-Racism Sub-Committee.

15. Annual Reports from the Chairs of the EMSB Governance Committees

Item was removed from the Agenda.

16. 2020-2021 Audited Financial Statements

WHEREAS in conformity with Section 284 of the Education Act, Raymond Chabot Grant Thornton (RCGT) were appointed as external auditors for the English Montreal School Board (EMSB) for the 2020-2021 school year, by virtue of resolution #17-03-29-14.3;

WHEREAS the official 2020-2021 Financial Report (Rapport Financier 2020-2021) has been duly audited by the Board's external auditors prior to submission to the ministère de l'Éducation du Québec on October 12, 2021;

WHEREAS a set of financial summaries representing information extracted from the official 2020-2021 Financial Report, indicating the results for the year ended June 30, 2021, has been reviewed by the Board's external auditors, RCGT;

WHEREAS these summarized financial statements were reviewed by the Audit Committee on November 2, 2021;

WHEREAS public notice was given in conformity with section 286 of the Education Act;

IT WAS MOVED BY MR. TONY SPERANZA AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED THAT the Financial Statements of the English Montreal School Board for the year ended June 30, 2021, as audited by the Board's external auditors, Raymond Chabot Grant Thornton, be deposited.

Vote: 14-0-0, Adopted

Resolution # 21-11-10-16

17. <u>AEVS – Request for Permanent Vocational Training Program Authorization – Contemporary Professional Pastry Making 5842</u>

WHEREAS the English Montreal School Board (EMSB) through its Adult Education and Vocational Services (AEVS) Department is seeking to augment its permanent program authorizations in Vocational Training;

WHEREAS the AEVS department has been offering the Contemporary Professional Pastry Making - 5842 vocational training program with a provisional authorization for the past nine (9) years, since the 2013-2014 school year;

WHEREAS the Table des responsables de l'éducation des adultes de la formation professionnelle de l'île de Montréal (TRÉAFP) on September 10th, 2021 unanimously supports the EMSB request for the permanent program authorization of Contemporary Professional Pastry Making 5842;

WHEREAS the Provincial Organization of Continuing Education Directors, English (PROCEDE) Table on September 16th, 2021 unanimously supports the EMSB request for the permanent program authorization of Contemporary Professional Pastry Making 5842;

WHEREAS the English Language Vocational Education Council (ELVEC) Table on October 7th, 2021 unanimously supports the EMSB request for the permanent program authorization of Contemporary Professional Pastry Making 5842;

IT WAS MOVED BY MR. PIETRO MERCURI AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED THAT the English Montreal School Board request a permanent program authorization Contemporary Professional Pastry Making 5842;

IT WAS FURTHER UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED THAT the Regional Director of AEVS and Director General or the Deputy Directors General be authorized to sign the ministère de l'Éducation du Québec (MEQ) - Application Form For Provisional or Permanent Vocational Training Program Authorization on behalf of the English Montreal School Board.

Vote: 14-0-0, Adopted

Resolution # 21-11-10-17

18. P-1918 – Application for Government Support Program – Lester B. Pearson Exterior Field Project

WHEREAS the English Montreal School Board (EMSB) has received an invitation from the Government of Quebec on September 7, 2021, to apply to the support program for sports and recreational activities in schools and higher education infrastructure;

WHEREAS the Material Resources Department has identified project number P-1918B- Lester B. Pearson Exterior Field Renovation Project as a project meeting the eligibility criteria;

WHEREAS a resolution from the Board is required and the timeline to complete this request is no later than November 26, 2021;

WHEREAS this program is allocated to finance 66 \(^2\)_3 % of the maximum admissible project costs;

WHEREAS the Director of Material Resource Department recommends applying for this program;

IT WAS MOVED BY MR. MARIO PIETRANGELO AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED THAT the EMSB authorize the presentation of the Lester B. Pearson Exterior Field Renovation Project to the ministry of education as part of the support program for sports and recreational activities in schools and higher education infrastructure and confirm to pay its share of the eligible costs of the project;

IT WAS FURTHER UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED THAT the EMSB confirms to pay the ongoing operating costs of the project and assumes any cost overruns generated by the work;

IT WAS STILL FURTHER UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED THAT the EMSB will not award a contract relating to the direct costs of the project before the signing of a financial assistance agreement with the ministry;

IT WAS STILL FURTHER UNANIMOIUSLY RESOLVED THAT the Director General or an Assistant Director General be authorized to sign all pertinent documents on behalf of the English Montreal School Board.

Vote: 14-0-0, Adopted

Resolution # 21-11-10-18

19. Governance and Ethics Committee – Election of Members

WHEREAS pursuant to section 193.1 of the Education Act, the Council of Commissioners must establish a Governance and Ethics Committee;

WHEREAS the Council must elect five (5) members among the Commissioners;

WHEREAS the following Commissioners have submitted their candidacy for the election of Members to the Governance and Ethics Committee:

Ellie Israel
Jamie Fabian
Julien Feldman
Sophie De Vito
Mario Pietrangelo
Mario Bentrovato
Daniel Tatone

WHEREAS Mr. Mario Bentrovato withdrew his candidacy;

WHEREFORE IT WAS MOVED BY MR. DANIEL TATONE AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED THAT effective November 10, 2021, after the members of the Council of Commissioners proceeded to a vote by secret ballot, the following Commissioners be designated as Members to the Governance and Ethics Committee:

Ellie Israel Julien Feldman Sophie De Vito Mario Pietrangelo Daniel Tatone

Vote: 14-0-0, Adopted

Resolution # 21-11-10-19a

Election of Chair to the Governance and Ethics Committee

WHEREAS the Council of Commissioners elects the Chair of the Governance and Ethics Committee, pursuant to sections 10.1.2 and 10.1.3 of By-Law no. 11 on *Internal Governance*;

WHEREAS the Chair of the Governance and Ethics Committee shall have the highest personal standards with regard to honesty, reliability and commitment to the role, pursuant to section 10.1.2 of By-Law no. 11 on *Internal Governance*;

WHEREAS the following Commissioner has submitted his candidacy for the election of Chair of the Governance and Ethics Committee:

Julien Feldman

WHEREFORE IT WAS MOVED BY MR. JOE ORTONA AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED THAT effective November 10, 2021, MR. JULIEN FELDMAN be designated as Chair of the Governance and Ethics Committee.

Vote: 13-0-1 (Mr. Joseph Lalla abstained), Adopted

Resolution # 21-11-10-19b

19	Election of Vice-Chair to the Governance and Ethics Committee
	WHEREAS the Council of Commissioners elects the Vice-Chair of the Governance and Ethics Committee, pursuant to sections 10.1.2 and 10.1.3 of By-Law no. 11 on <i>Internal Governance</i> ;
	WHEREAS the Council of Commissioners shall consider if the Commissioner meets the minimal requirements of the Governance and Ethics Committee, including the qualities of Vice-Chair as per section 10.1.2 of By-Law no. 11 on <i>Internal Governance</i> ;
	WHEREAS the Vice-Chair of the Governance and Ethics Committee shall have the highest personal standards with regard to honesty, reliability and commitment to the role, pursuant to section 10.1.2 of By-Law no. 11 on <i>Internal Governance</i> ;
	WHEREAS the following Commissioners have submitted their candidacy for the election of Vice-Chair of the Governance and Ethics Committee:
	Mario Pietrangelo (Julien Feldman)
	WHEREFORE IT WAS MOVED BY MR. JOE ORTONA AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED THAT effective November 10, 2021, MR. MARIO PIETRANGELO be designated as Vice-Chair of the Governance and Ethics Committee.
	Vote: 14-0-0, Adopted Resolution # 21-11-10-19c
20.	Other Business
	None.
21.	<u>Adjournment</u>
	IT WAS MOVED BY MR. AGOSTINO CANNAVINO AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED THAT the meeting be adjourned at 8:27 p.m.
	Vote: 14-0-0, Adopted <u>Resolution # 21-11-10-21</u>
	Signed in Montreal,
	Me Joe Ortona, Chair Me Nathalie Lauzière, Secretary General