MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS OF THE ENGLISH MONTREAL SCHOOL BOARD

A Regular Board Meeting of the English Montreal School Board has taken place on Wednesday, January 26, 2022, at 7:00 P.M. via TEAMS.

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 Ms. Ellie Israel, Commissioner Mr. James Kromida, Commissioner Mr. Joseph Lalla, Commissioner Mr. Pietro Mercuri, Commissioner Mr. Mario Pietrangelo, Commissioner Mr. Tony Speranza, Parent Commissioner Mr. Daniel Tatone, Parent Commissioner

<u>Commissioners Not Present</u> Ms. Mubeenah Mughal, Parent Commissioner

Administrators Present:

Mr. Nicholas Katalifos, Director General Ms. Pelagia Nickoletopoulos, Assistant Director General, Education Me Jack Chadirdjian, Assistant Director General, Administration Me Nathalie Lauzière, Secretary General

Mr. Demetrios Giannacopoulos, Sector Director, Elementary
Ms. Angela Spagnolo, Sector Director, AEVS
Mr. Mario Cardin, Director, Material Resources
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. Bob Thomas, Director, Information Technology Services
Ms. Anna Villalta, Assistant Director, Educational Services
Ms. Anna Villalta, Assistant Director, Educational Services
Ms. Anna Villalta, Assistant Director, Educational Services
Ms. Ann Watson, Director, Human Resources
Mr. Mike Cohen, Manager, Marketing & Communications
Ms. Brigida Sellato, Governance and Special Events Consultant, Secretariat General

There were five (5) students present for the Robert A. Peck Prize

1.	Approval of Agenda
	IT WAS MOVED BY MR. JAMIE FABIAN AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED THAT the agenda be approved, as presented.
	Vote: 14-0-0, Adopted
	<u>Resolution # 22-01-26-1</u>
2.	Robert A. Peck Prize for Excellence in French
	The item was presented by the School Board's French Consultants, Marlène Boudreault and Hélène Goetz.
	The prize is given annually to a graduating student or students of the EMSB who has/have achieved the highest mark in French Secondary Language.
	There are 6 recipients for the prize for 2020-2021 who attained the mark of 100%:
	Melina Aravantinos, Royal West Academy Amélie Chambon, Royal West Academy Sophie Paradis, Royal Vale Rita Petrecca, Laurier Macdonald Helena Senécal, Royal West Academy Stefania Teresa Zambardi, Vincent Massey Collegiate
	They will be receiving a medal and a cheque of \$100.
	Congratulations to all!
3.	Presentation of the 2020-2021 Annual Report
	The item was presented by the School Board's Commitment-to-Success & Educational Projects Consultant, Tracey Mangal.
	Mr. Kromida asked a question with regards to the MEES Objective #7 entitled Living Environment, if such statistics were available from the other Boards and also the French system.
4.	Question Period
	Questions were addressed by the Chair, Mr. Joe Ortona:
	Questions by Mr. Chris Eustace:
	When will the EMSB Chair conduct the public Question Period in a normal manner, where the public is seen and heard?
	What was the dispute between the EMSB and Énergère Inc.? Does the EMSB owe Énergère Inc. or the salesman (MT), who negotiated the contract any money? What happened on December 15, 2021?
	How much money has been paid out by the EMSB to Power Law to challenge Bill 40? On what page in the Annual Report, is the number?
	Questions by Ms. Cettina Borsellino:
	Why is the EMSB refusing to follow the lead of LBPSB regarding COVID case reporting and transparency? What does the EMSB plan to do to rectify this?
	Will all schools in the EMSB be equipped with CO ₂ monitors? Is there a deadline for this?

	Will the EMSB provide additional air purifiers in classrooms and lunchrooms where CO_2 rates surpass 1500ppm? (For example, classes with mechanical ventilation, or where open windows are not enough).
	Will the EMSB advocate for full transparency and reporting of CO ₂ levels to parents?
5.	Adoption of Minutes
	5.1 Adoption of the Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting held on December 15, 2021
	IT WAS MOVED BY MR. PIETRO MERCURI AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED THAT the Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting held on December 15, 2021, be approved as presented.
	Vote: 14-0-0, Adopted <u>Resolution # 22-01-26-5.1</u>
6.	Business Arising Out of Minutes
	None.
7.	In Memoriam
	7.1 Tribute for January 2022
	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:
	Georgie Crawford, Retired Fine Arts Consultant and founder of the PSBGM Children's Chorus Yvan Germain, Math Consultant, EMSB
	and that the expression of sympathy be sent to the bereaved families.
	Vote: 14-0-0, Adopted
	<u>Resolution # 22-01-26-7.1</u>
8.	Chair's Report
	Presented by the Chair, Mr. Joe Ortona:
	 At the end of December, before the break, the Grade 7 students at Marymount Academy International celebrated Hanukah. All the students from all faiths and nationalities came together to learn about the Jewish Festival of Lights; The few days before the break, our Board and School Staff worked very hard to ensure that we would be ready to teach all students virtually on their first day back, January 5, 2022; On January 18th the students returned to school and during that week they learned about two very special individuals that we celebrate every year in our schools, Raoul Wallenberg and Martin Luther King Jr.;

	 On the eve of Kindergarten Registration Week, we the EMSB, are proud to celebrate the diverse culture and community at our schools. Due to the pandemic, the Director General, Directors of Student Services and Educational Services and the Chair kicked off a virtual celebration where we were able to showcase six whole schools of which are offering the public a glimpse into school life; On January 24th, 9 of our schools including Merton School, Gardenview, East Hill, Edinburgh, Willingdon, Honoré Mercier, Roslyn, Pierre de Coubertin and Royal Vale participated in a pilot project, where parents were able to reserve a spot for Kindergarten class online.
9.	Director General's Report
	Presented by the Director General, Mr. Nicholas Katalifos:
	 Students and Staff were welcomed back to school on January 18th, rest assured that we are following all of the necessary COVID protocols to ensure the safest conditions possible and we would like to acknowledge all the work that is being done by our employees; We are pleased to announce that this year 9 of our schools took part in a pilot project where parents had the opportunity to book a registration appointment online. A special thanks to our Web Marketing team and our IT Department for overseeing this process. Some schools had up to 100 reservations, and so we are happy to see not only the success of this program but the interest in our schools; Elementary School Registration Week for the 2022-2023 academic year will take place from January 31st to February 4th; A new initiative was announced called <i>Celebrating Diversity and Inclusivity</i>, which started on January 21st. The special 6 day event kicked off Elementary and Kindergarten Registration Week and is a virtual celebration showcasing some of our schools on EMSB social media platforms, each offering the public a glimpse into school life and an example of the programming that promotes diversity and inclusion all year round in our schools. Please view our website at <u>www.emsb.qc.ca/diversity</u> and our social media platforms; A Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee has been created with a specific mandate to set forth clear guidelines for all stakeholders. It pursues a goal of fostering and promoting a welcoming and inclusive environment which identifies, celebrates, respects and values the contributions and needs of our diverse communities; We are completing the process of installing approximately 2,000 CO₂ sensors in all schools and centres. To ensure that air quality is monitored in all schools in Quebec, the Ministry of Education is that gravity is monitored in all schools in Quebec.
	 Education has asked that educational organizations install CO₂ sensors in every classroom used for Pre-School, Elementary, High Schools and for Vocational Training and Adult Education. A system is being implemented to track absences due to COVID in our schools that parents will be able to refer to. More information will be forthcoming.
10.	Committee Reports
	10.1 ACSES (Advisory Committee on Special Education Services)
	There was no report.
	10.2 Transportation and Safety Advisory Committee
	Item presented by the Chair, Mr. Pietro Mercuri:
	• Last year the Council of Commissioners was mandated to review our transportation boundaries. A presentation has been prepared which we will show to the Long Range Planning Committee, they will then make their recommendations to the Council;

- The Board has been working alongside the Principals and Vice-Principals to go over the boundaries and accommodation bussing in order for the Grandfather clause to be applied properly to students who live in the old boundaries where bussing is still provided. At registration, school secretaries have been explaining to parents of students that use accommodation bussing that these bus stops may be abolished in the next few years;
- The mTransport app has been implemented at 9 of our schools so far. It will be implemented in more schools once we have the necessary IT personnel to handle the roll out;
- COVID-19 continues to impact our transportation services especially with our mini-van service as passengers are no longer allowed to sit up front next to the driver for social distancing reasons. Furthermore, many drivers are unable to work due to instances of COVID;
- The transportation budget for 2020-2021 ended with a \$31,000 deficit. There is a \$120,000 deficit projected for the 2021-2022 academic year. Please note that Mesure 30760 in the amount of \$135,000 that was initially confirmed has been removed from the budget and replaced with Mesure 30190 in the amount of \$114,000;
- Every 5 years, the School Board negotiates the contracts with the bussing companies. A subcommittee will be created to determine what can be afforded in terms of increases to these contracts. An update will be given in April.

10.3 EMSBPC (English Montreal School Board Parents' Committee)

Items presented by Parent Commissioner, Mr. Tony Speranza:

- A presentation was given on the renewal status for our five 240 Schools. The Committee's delegates had a chance to comment on the presentation. There was a resolution that was past confirming that the EMSB received the documentation;
- The EMSBPC also worked on the internal rules, where members debated and made certain additions. There was a final vote which took place via email.

Items presented by Parent Commissioner, Ms. Maria Corsi:

- There were discussions with regards to the latest measures that were implemented by the Government for the return to school on January 17th;
- The following concerns were discussed:
 - The Governments reliance on parents to replace teachers and how that would affect the student's education;
 - The lack of reporting COVID related absences, however they will be pleased to learn that the EMSB will be implementing a solution to notify parents of cases in their children's school;
 - The back and forth transition from online to in-person and how this may affect the children in terms of their behavior;
 - The Government should be providing teachers with N-95 masks;
 - Although teachers are doing their very best to cope with the pandemic, the students may be less motivated to do their work;
 - Airing out the classrooms by opening the window even during the cold winter.

Item presented by Parent Commissioner, Mr. Daniel Tatone:

• With regards to the Parent Conference, they were able to recruit multiple volunteers. The Parent Conference will take place sometime in May, however the Committee is not yet sure if it will be only virtual or hybrid.

10.4 Governance and Ethics Committee

Item presented by the Chair, Mr. Julien Feldman:

- The Committee will make a recommendation to the Council to extend the Student Ombudsman's mandate for 1 year;
- The Committee will conduct an extensive review of the by-laws and policies. We are looking at extending formal recognition to some of the Ad Hoc Committees.

10.5 Audit Committee

Item presented by the Chair, Mr. James Kromida:

- The Committee looked over the bids from qualified companies, to assure fairness and equitability, and how to evaluate the bids;
- The Committee assessed the responsibilities of the Committee in relation to the Board and Management.

10.6 Human Resources Committee

Item presented by the Chair, Mr. Mario Bentrovato:

There has been no meeting since the last report.

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

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

There has been no meeting since the last report.

10.8 EMSAC (English Montreal Student Advisory Committee)

Item presented by the Observer, Mr. Joseph Lalla:

There has been no meeting since the last report.

10.9 QESBA (Quebec English School Boards Association)

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

- QESBA presented their brief on Bill 9, where they stand strongly for an Ombudsman in the English sector;
- An update was given on Bill 96 and Bill 21;
- No decision yet on Bill 40, however we should be receiving news soon;
- The Annual General Meeting will take place on January 29th, all Commissioners are welcome.

11.	Commissioners' Report
	Mr. Pietro Mercuri reported the following:
	 Before the Winter break, every student at Leonardo da Vinci Academy received a book as a gift to enjoy reading over the holidays; Although LDVA had to cancel their holiday caroling concert, due to the early school closures, each class' performance was filmed and posted in Google classroom for parents to watch and enjoy; Grade 6 students performed holiday songs via Zoom to a residence for the elderly to serenade them during their luncheon; The students also wrote cards in Italian to the elderly in a CHSLD to bring them some holiday spirit; Students sent letters of thanks to members of the armed forces to show their appreciation for helping keep them and their loved ones safe during this pandemic; The week of January 31st is Mad Science Week, where every grade starting with Pre-K to Grade 6 will have a hands-on Science Workshop with the team from Mad Science to continue instilling a love for discovery, learning and Science!
	Mr. Joseph Lalla reported the following:
	 The planning for the inclusive playground at Mackay and Philip E. Layton is completed and the construction is scheduled to begin in the summer. Children with motor, vision, hearing and language impairments will be able to enjoy a playground that is accessible and will have a positive impact on their lives; Kathleen Weil, MNA, also mentioned the project at the National Assembly on December 9th.
	Mr. Mario Pietrangelo reported the following:
	• With the new measures given from the Government to reopen some sports activities in our schools, we are proud to announce that the Peer Leadership Mentoring Project – LMAC RAMS Volleyball for Pierre De Coubertin, Dante and Honoré Mercier, will be starting soon in St-Leonard. This project will be promoting our High School in a leadership role to our feeder Schools.
12.	Recommendation from the Governance and Ethics Committee
	12.1 Student Ombudsman Mandate
	WHEREAS the Council of Commissioners of the EMSB appointed Me Isabelle Turgeon as Student Ombudsman for a term of three (3) years, from January 1, 2019 to December 31, 2021, as per resolution # 18-12-19-14.3;
	WHEREAS the contract between EMSB and Me Turgeon provides the possibility to extend the contract for a period not exceeding one year, under the same conditions;
	WHEREAS the Governance and Ethics Committee recommends to extend the Student Ombudsman's contract until December 31, 2022;

	IT WAS MOVED BY MR. PIETRO MERCURI AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED, AS RECOMMENDED BY THE GOVERNANCE AND ETHICS COMMITTEE, THAT the Council of Commissioners of the EMSB extend Me Isabelle Turgeon's contract as Student Ombudsman from January 1, 2022 to December 31, 2022 under the same conditions provided in the agreement between the English Montreal School Board and Me Isabelle Turgeon;
	IT WAS FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Director General and/or the Assistant Directors General be authorized to sign all pertinent documents concerning the extension of contract of the Student Ombudsman.
	Vote: 14-0-0, Adopted <u>Resolution # 22-01-26-12.1</u>
13.	Budget Building Process for 2022-2023 – For Consultation
	WHEREAS as per Section 193.3 of the Education Act the Resource Allocation Committee must set up a consultation process with a view to establishing objectives and principles governing the annual allocation of revenues in accordance with section 275;
	WHEREAS as per Section 193.5 of the Education Act the School Board may entrust the functions assigned to the Resource Allocation Committee under this Act to the advisory committee on management, herein after referred to as the Central Management Advisory Committee/Resource Allocation Committee (CMAC/RAC);
	WHEREAS Section 275 of the Education Act states that taking into account the recommendations of the CMAC/RAC, the school board shall establish objectives and principles governing the allocation of its revenues;
	WHEREAS in conformity with Sections 275 and 193.3 of the Education Act, a document entitled Budget Building Process for 2022-2023 has been created;
	WHEREAS Appendix A of the document describes the Objectives, Guiding Principles, Criteria and related Orientations proposed for 2022-2023;
	WHEREAS the CMAC/RAC and the Management Table have reviewed and endorsed this document;
	IT WAS MOVED BY MR. TONY SPERANZA AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED THAT:
	 the document entitled Budget Building Process for 2022-2023 be approved and forwarded to the school and centre governing boards and the EMSB Parents' Committee for purposes of consultation as per Section 275 of the Education Act, as outlined in the documentation submitted at this meeting;
	 the document entitled Budget Building Process for 2022-2023 be also forwarded to ACSES and EMSAC for feedback, as outlined in the documentation submitted at this meeting;
	3) the results of the consultation be returned to the Director of Financial Services, Ms. Livia Nassivera, no later than March 25, 2022.
	Vote: 14-0-0, Adopted Resolution # 22-01-26-13

14.	EMSB Council Committees
	Item Removed.
15.	Resolution to Endorse the Quebec Community Groups Network's Resolution on the Definition of Quebec's English-Speaking Community
	WHEREAS the Quebec Community Groups Network wrote the following letter to François Legault, Premier and Minister Responsible for Relations with English-Speaking Quebecers which reads as follows:
	Dear Premier Legault,
	As proud Quebecers, we reject your government's impractical and ill-advised decision to label our community as "historic Anglophones" and your plan to limit government services to citizens who are eligible to attend English schools.
	Our community is an integral part of Quebec with full rights to participate in Quebec society and to receive government services. We are not some folkloric 'historic' group. We are full-fledged Quebecers, who are committed to building an inclusive Quebec where French is the common language. Our institutions serve all Quebecers and are among the fleurons du Québec – world- class educational, research, and health care establishments that attract top notch scientists and researchers working on leading edge technology that benefits all Quebecers as well as our economy.
	We remind you that eligibility to attend school in English in Quebec is not in any way linked to the language of the student or the parent. Rather, it is linked to the language of instruction received by the parent or the previous educational pathway of the student. Thus, the English-speaking minority does not coincide with the 'English-school-eligible' category. Many members of the English-speaking community attended French schools in order to perfect their knowledge of Quebec's common language; under your proposal, they would not qualify to receive written services in English. Meanwhile, ironically, Francophones who attended English schools in their youth would have the right to receive the services in English.
	Most importantly, the use of the 'English-school-eligible' category is grossly under-inclusive. It removes the right to receive services including health care in English from between 300,000 and 500,000 English-speaking Quebecers. It is utterly divorced from our community's self-identification.
	More broadly, the attempt to create categories of citizens who are eligible for certain services is deeply troublesome from a public governance perspective. Minorities define themselves; they are not defined by the state. The English-speaking minority of Quebec does not define itself based on the 'English-school-eligible' category, and the expanded use of this category is offensive.
	Premier Legault, your government should not be attempting to define our community or limiting our access to government services, whether for critical health and social services or the right to pay our taxes in English. As Premier Lucien Bouchard famously stated in 1996 at the Centaur theatre: "When you go to the hospital and you are in pain, you may need a blood test, but you certainly don't need a language test."
	We believe that the right to communication and services in English should never be based on eligibility for English instruction. We are confident that the status quo reflects the values and generosity of spirit of all Quebecers.

WHEREAS the QCGN adopted the following resolution:

"Resolution on the Definition of Quebec's English-speaking Community

WHEREAS during his inaugural address to the National Assembly on October 19, 2021, Premier François Legault stated:

"I want to speak to the historic English-speaking community of Quebec. You are an integral part of Quebec. As a historic community, you have your own institutions: Schools, colleges, universities, hospitals, the media. Canada's francophone minorities dream of mastering so many institutions. No minority in Canada is better served than English-speaking Quebecers and we are proud of that."

WHEREAS the following day Premier Legault defined the historic English-speaking community as those individuals who are eligible for English schooling in Quebec;

WHEREAS eligibility to attend school in English in Quebec is not in any way linked to the language of the student or the parent. Rather, it is linked to the language of instruction received by the parent or the educational pathway of the student or his or her siblings. Meanwhile, ironically, Francophones who attended English schools and their children would be provided the right to receive government services in English;

WHEREAS the use of the 'English-eligible' category in Bill 96 is grossly under-inclusive – eliminating the right to access services in English for between 300,000 and 500,000 English-speaking Quebecers – and is entirely disconnected from the community's self-identification;

WHEREAS under international norms minorities define themselves; they are not defined by the state;

WHEREAS any attempt to discriminate by creating categories of citizens then deemed eligible to receive certain government services is deeply troublesome from a public governance perspective;

WHEREAS English-speaking Quebecers are full and contributing members of Quebec society who are committed to building an inclusive Quebec where French is the common language.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT any attempt by the Government of Quebec to define the English-speaking Quebecers as an 'historic' community or limit their right to receive government communications and services in English is profoundly objectionable. Furthermore, rights and services should never be based on eligibility for English instruction."

WHEREAS the letter to the Premier has been signed by more than 4,000 Quebecers, including Senators, Mayors, Councillors, School Board Chairs and Commissioners, including, from the English Montreal School Board: Joe Ortona, Chair, and Commissioners Maria Corsi, Joseph Lalla, Julien Feldman, Sophie De Vito and Tony Speranza;

WHEREAS the resolution was adopted by many organizations throughout Quebec, including:

Almage Senior Community Centre Atwater Library and Computer Centre Batshaw Youth and Family Centres Foundation Black Community Resource Centre (BCRC) Canadian Hellenic Congress Catholic Action Montreal Chez Doris Coasters Association Community Economic Development and Employability Corporation – CEDEC Contactivity Centre Côte Saint-Luc Municipal Council

English Language Arts Network (ELAN) English Parents' Committee Association (EPCA) English-Speaking Catholic Council (ESCC) Eva Marsden Center for Social Justice and Aging Filipino Heritage Society of Montreal (FHSM) Gay and Grey Montreal Greene Avenue Community Centre Habilitas Foundation Handicap Life Dignity Heritage Lower Saint Lawrence Jamaica Association of Montreal (JAM) Lakeshore General Hospital Foundation La Collective des femmes de Nicolet et région Linda Leith Publishing McGill University Health Centre Foundation Miriam Foundation Montreal Council of Women Native Women's Shelter of Montreal Phelps Helps Provincial Council of Women of Ouebec Quebec Association of Independent Schools (QAIS) Quebec English School Boards Association (QESBA) Quebec Community Newspaper Association (QCNA) **Quebec Writers' Federation** Quebec Counselling Association (QCA) **RECAA** Respecting Elders: Communities Against Abuse Regional Association of West Quebecers (RAWQ) Saint Columba House Secretariat of the Black Community Forum (BCF) Seniors Action Quebec South Asian Women's Community Centre Council (SAWCC) Quebec Community Groups Network (QCGN) Quebec 4-H Association (4-H Quebec) Townshippers' Association Union United Church **UrbaNature Education** West Island Black Community Association (WIBCA) Westmount Municipal Council YES Employment + Entrepreneurship IT WAS MOVED BY MR. JULIEN FELDMAN AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that the English Montreal School Board (EMSB) endorse the QCGN's position on Bill 96 and endorse its Resolution on the Definition of Quebec's English-Speaking Community. Vote: 14-0-0, Adopted Resolution # 22-01-26-15 16. COVID-19 Cases Directives **WHEREAS** the N-95 masks are not to be distributed to the students and staff members; WHEREAS the EMSB urges that the Ouébec Government reconsider their directives of the distribution of N-95 masks to EMSB staff members:

	IT WAS MOVED BY MR. JAMES KROMIDA AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED THAT the English Montreal School Board (EMSB) calls upon the Québec Government to reconsider their directives in order to allow <i>and provide</i> N-95 masks to EMSB staff members.
	Vote: 14-0-0, Adopted <u>Resolution # 22-01-26-16</u>
17.	Other Business
	None.
18.	Adjournment
	IT WAS MOVED BY MR. AGOSTINO CANNAVINO AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED THAT the meeting be adjourned at 8:22 p.m.
	Vote: 14-0-0, Adopted <u>Resolution # 22-01-26-18</u>
	Signed in Montreal,
	Me Joe Ortona, Chair Me Nathalie Lauzière, Secretary General