

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS OF THE
ENGLISH MONTREAL SCHOOL BOARD

A Special Board Meeting of the English Montreal School Board has taken place on Thursday, June 29, 2023, at 7:00 P.M. in the Laurence Patterson Room, 6000 Fielding Avenue.

Commissioners Present

Me Joe Ortona, Chair
Mr. Agostino Cannavino, Vice-Chair – via TEAMS
Mr. Mario Bentrovato, Commissioner – via TEAMS
Ms. Maria Corsi, Parent Commissioner
Mr. Jamie Fabian, Commissioner
Mr. Julien Feldman, Commissioner – via TEAMS
Ms. Ellie Israel, Commissioner
Mr. James Kromida, Commissioner – via TEAMS
Mr. Joseph Lalla, Commissioner
Mr. Pietro Mercuri, Commissioner
Mr. Mario Pietrangelo, Commissioner
Mr. Tony Speranza, Parent Commissioner
Mr. Daniel Tatone, Parent Commissioner

Commissioners Not Present

Ms. Sophie De Vito, Commissioner
Ms. Rosemarie Federico, Parent Commissioner (Regrets)

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. Mario Cardin, Director, Material Resources
Mr. Jimmy Giannacopoulos, Sector Director – West
Ms. Angela Spagnolo, Sector Director – AEVS
Ms. Livia Nassivera, Director, Financial Services
Me Magdalena Sokol, Director, Legal Services
Mr. Bob Thomas, Director, Information Technology Services
Ms. Gail Callendar, Assistant Director, Student Services
Ms. Sabrina Petrocco, Assistant Director, Student Services
Mr. Mike Cohen, Manager, Marketing & Communications
Ms. Brigida Sellato, Consultant, Secretariat General

1.	<p><u>Land Acknowledgement</u></p> <p>The Chair acknowledged that the English Montreal School Board is located on the traditional ancestral and unceded territory of the Kanien'kehá:ka. We are grateful to live, learn, and work in Tiohtià:ke which has long been a site of meeting and exchange for many First Nations and is currently home to diverse groups of indigenous and other peoples. As a School Board, it is important that we acknowledge the historic and ongoing role of educational institutions in perpetuating injustices against indigenous communities. We are committed to educating staff and students about the true history and current realities of the indigenous peoples of what we now call Canada. Celebrating the cultures contributions and knowledge of the many First Nations Inuit and Métis communities, listening to and amplifying indigenous voices and partnering with local indigenous community members. We offer this acknowledgement as a first step and public commitment to our ongoing process towards reconciliation and justice for indigenous peoples and communities.</p>
2.	<p><u>Confirmation of Notice of the Meeting</u></p> <p>The Secretary General, Me Nathalie Lauzière, confirmed that proper notice of this meeting was given.</p>
3.	<p><u>Approval of Agenda</u></p> <p>IT WAS MOVED BY MR. PIETRO MERCURI AND RESOLVED THAT the agenda be approved as presented.</p> <p>Vote: 11-1-0, Adopted (Mr. J. Lalla against, Mr. J. Feldman not present for vote)</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><u>Resolution # 23-06-29-3</u></p>
4.	<p><u>In Camera</u></p> <p><u>4.1 Motion to Move In Camera</u></p> <p>On a motion by Mr. Tony Speranza the meeting went In Camera at 7:08 p.m.</p> <p>The meeting returned from the In Camera session at 7:31 p.m.</p> <p><u>4.4 Decision of the Student Ombudsman – File SO 240523</u></p> <p>This item was presented for information.</p>
	<p>Mr. Julien Feldman joined the meeting at 7:26 p.m.</p>
5.	<p><u>Adoption of Resolution(s) from In Camera</u></p> <p><u>4.2 Decision of the Student Ombudsman – File SO 200423</u></p> <p>WHEREAS the Plaintiff filed a complaint on March 15, 2023, in disagreement with a decision rendered on February 29th, 2023, by the administration and said complaint was not subject to reconsideration by the Council of Commissioners, as per section 9 to 12 of the Education Act;</p> <p>WHEREAS, as established in sec. 220.2 of the Education Act, the Student Ombudsman has jurisdiction over a complaint, filed by a parent or student, which concerns the services the School Board provides under this Act and involves dissatisfaction with the handling of the complaint or with the outcome;</p>

WHEREAS on April 20th, 2023, the Student Ombudsman, Me Laurence Sarrazin, received a complaint by the Plaintiff and she concluded in her report dated June 20th, 2023, that the complaint was unfounded, as per section 8.1.8 of EMSB By-Law No.8 (2020) on Complaint Examination Procedure;

WHEREAS according to section 8.1.9 of said By-Law no. 8, the Council of Commissioners, at its next sitting or as soon as possible thereafter, will inform the complainant of the Student Ombudsman’s opinion on the merits of the complaint and of any recommendation in relation to his case provided by the Student Ombudsman, as well as of any action to be taken with respect to these recommendations;

WHEREAS there was a recommendation from the Student Ombudsman that the EMSB Sexuality Education Exemption Committee adds to any written decision rendered to a parent a mention that they may request a revision of the decision, according the EMSB Complaint Examination Procedure;

IT WAS MOVED BY MR. PIETRO MERCURI AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED THAT the Council of Commissioners agree with the decision rendered by the Student Ombudsman and that the recommendation outlined in the Student Ombudsman’s decision regarding the possibility of a revision of a decision from the EMSB Sexuality Education Exemption Committee, be applied.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Secretary General inform the parents in writing, of the decision made by the Council of Commissioners.

Vote: 13-0-0, Adopted

Resolution # 23-06-29-4.2

4.3 Decision of the Student Ombudsman – File SO 100523

IT WAS MOVED BY MR. PIETRO MERCURI AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED THAT this item be tabled to the September Regular Board meeting, as there were concerns about the report and that some members of the Council of Commissioners were not in agreement with certain parts of the report.

Vote: 13-0-0, Adopted

Resolution # 23-06-29-4.3

6. Question Period

Questions from Mr. Chris Eustace were read and addressed by the Chair, Mr. Joe Ortona, regarding the following:

- 2023-2024 Budget

7. Recommendations from the AD HOC Finance Committee

7.1 School Board Credit Cards

WHEREAS at the Board meeting of February 25, 2015, by virtue of resolution #15-02-25-18.1, the Council of Commissioners approved the Procedure for the Use of School Board Credit Cards;

WHEREAS there is a need to issue a School Board credit card to the Assistant Director General– Education, who was not included in the above;

WHEREAS the Administration recommends the issuance of a School Board credit card to the Assistant Director General – Education, with a credit limit of \$10,000;

IT WAS MOVED BY MR. JAMIE FABIAN AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED, AS RECOMMENDED BY THE AD HOC FINANCE COMMITTEE, THAT the English Montreal School Board (EMSB) issue one RBC Visa Avion credit card with a credit limit in the amount of \$10,000 to the Assistant Director General – Education;

IT WAS FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the EMSB request an increase to the total credit limit for RBC Visa Avion credit cards to \$100,000 from the current \$90,000 to accommodate this request;

AND THAT the Procedure for the Use of School Board Credit Cards be modified accordingly.

Vote: 13-0-0, Adopted

Resolution # 23-06-29-7.1

7.2 2023-2024 - Operating, Debt Service and Capital Investment Budget

WHEREAS Section 277 of the Education Act (Chapter I-13.3) stipulates that the English Montreal School Board (EMSB) shall adopt its Operating, Capital Investment, and Debt Service Budget for the 2023-2024 school year and transmit same to the Minister of Education;

WHEREAS the EMSB foresees the need to adopt an Operating Budget for the 2023-2024 school year where expenditures exceed revenues by \$8,956,113 and that this amount is equal to the 15% limit for the appropriation of the June 30, 2022 Accumulated Surplus, excluding the net value of land;

IT WAS MOVED BY MR. TONY SPERANZA, AS RECOMMENDED BY THE AD HOC FINANCE COMMITTEE, THAT the Operating, Capital Investment and Debt Service Budget providing for Revenues of \$410,106,670 and Expenditures of \$419,062,783 be adopted and transmitted to the Minister of Education, as outlined in the documentation submitted to the meeting.

Amendment

IT WAS MOVED BY MR. JOSEPH LALLA THAT for the 2023-24 school year all schools and centres each be allotted an additional \$10,000.00 from the Accumulated Surplus 2023-24 Budget. This money could be spent for furniture, equipment, computers, iPads, art materials, storage bins, textbooks, office supplies, paper, building maintenance and repairs, and graffiti removal. School administrations and Governing Boards are to determine how the money is to be spent.

Vote: 1-9-3, Motion Defeated

In favor	J. Lalla
Against	J. Ortona, M. Corsi, J. Fabian, J. Feldman, E. Israel, J. Kromida, P. Mercuri, T. Speranza, D. Tatone
Abstain	A. Cannavino, M. Bentrovato, M. Pietrangelo

IT WAS MOVED BY MR. TONY SPERANZA AND RESOLVED, AS RECOMMENDED BY THE AD HOC FINANCE COMMITTEE, THAT the Operating, Capital Investment and Debt Service Budget providing for Revenues of \$410,106,670 and Expenditures of \$419,062,783 be adopted and transmitted to the Minister of Education, as outlined in the documentation submitted to the meeting.

Vote on Main Motion: 12-1-0, Adopted (Mr. J. Lalla against)

Resolution # 23-06-29-7.2

	<p>The Director General, Mr. Nick Katalifos thanked the Financial Services team but also every Department head and every department for putting the budget together.</p>
8.	<p><u>QESBA – 2023-2025</u></p> <p><u>8.1 Nominee to Executive Committee</u></p> <p>WHEREAS the Quebec English School Boards Association (QESBA), in a memo dated June 16, 2023, invited its member boards to submit nominations for positions on the QESBA Executive Committee;</p> <p>WHEREAS nominations must be submitted to QESBA by September 1, 2023;</p> <p>Nominations:</p> <p>Mr. Joe Ortona self-nominted.</p> <p>On a motion by Mr. Pietro Mercuri the nominations ceased, all were in favor.</p> <p>IT WAS MOVED BY MR. TONY SPERANZA AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED THAT Mr. Joe Ortona be nominated to the QESBA Executive Committee for 2023-2025, for a two-year term.</p> <p>Vote: 13-0-0, Adopted</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><u>Resolution # 23-06-29-8.1</u></p> <p><u>8.2 Nominees to Board of Directors</u></p> <p>WHEREAS the Quebec English School Boards Association (QESBA), in a memo dated June 16, 2023, invited its member boards to submit nominations for positions on the QESBA Board of Directors;</p> <p>WHEREAS nominations must be submitted to QESBA by September 1, 2023;</p> <p>Nominations:</p> <p>Mr. Daniel Tatone nominated Mr. Julien Feldman, who accepted the nomination; Mr. Pietro Mercuri nominated Mr. Jamie Fabian, who accepted the nomination;</p> <p>On a motion by Mr. Tony Speranza the nominations ceased, all were in favor.</p> <p>IT WAS MOVED BY MR. PIETRO MERCURI AND RESOLVED THAT Mr. Jamie Fabian and Mr. Julien Feldman be nominated to the QESBA Board of Directors for 2023-2025, for a two-year term.</p> <p>Vote: 12-1-0, Adopted (Mr. J. Lalla against)</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><u>Resolution # 23-06-29-8.2</u></p>
9.	<p><u>2023-2024 School and Centre Administrative Appointments – Final Rounds</u></p> <p>This item was presented by the Director General, Mr. Nick Katalifos, for information. Mr. Katalifos listed all the names of the administrative appointments in our Schools and Centres.</p>
10.	<p><u>Confirmation of School and Centre Administrators</u></p> <p>This item was presented by the Director General, Mr. Nick Katalifos, for information. Mr. Katalifos confirmed the following School and Centre Administrators in their assignment:</p>

- Ms. Catherine Lumsden, Vice-Principal, Royal West Academy
- Mr. Peter Mckelvie, Vice-Principal, Willingdon School
- Ms. Mireille Tehbelian, Vice-Principal, Roslyn School
- Ms. Andrea Dillon, Vice-Principal, LaurenHill Academy
- Ms. Jennifer Harriet, Vice-Principal, F.A.C.E. School

11. Adjournment

IT WAS MOVED BY MR. DANIEL TATONE AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED THAT the meeting be adjourned at 8:12 p.m.

Vote: 13-0-0, Adopted

Resolution # 23-06-29-11

Signed in Montreal, _____

Me Joe Ortona, Chair

Me Jack Chadirdjian, Acting Secretary General