# MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS OF THE ENGLISH MONTREAL SCHOOL BOARD

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

#### **Commissioners Present**

Mr. Joe Ortona, Chair

Mr. Agostino Cannavino, Vice-Chair

Ms. Maria Corsi, Parent Commissioner

Ms. Sophie De Vito, Commissioner – via TEAMS

Mr. Jamie Fabian, Commissioner

Ms. Rosemarie Federico, Parent Commissioner – via TEAMS

Mr. Julien Feldman, Commissioner

Ms. Ellie Israel, Commissioner

Mr. James Kromida, Commissioner

Mr. Joseph Lalla, Commissioner

Mr. Pietro Mercuri, Commissioner

Mr. Tony Speranza, Parent Commissioner

Mr. Daniel Tatone, Parent Commissioner

# Commissioners Not Present

Mr. Mario Bentrovato, Commissioner

Mr. Mario Pietrangelo, 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. Jimmy Giannacopoulos, Sector Director, West

Ms. Angela Spagnolo, Sector Director, AEVS

Mr. Michel Fima, Assistant Director, Financial Services

Ms. Darlene Kehyayan, Assistant Director, Human Resources

Ms. Livia Nassivera, Director, Financial Services

Ms. Julie René de Cotret, Director, Student Services

Ms. Anna Sanalitro, Director, Educational Services

Me Magdalena Sokol, Director, Legal Services

Mr. Bob Thomas, Director, Information Technology Services

Ms. Ann Watson, Director, Human Resources

Ms. Anna Villalta, Assistant Director, Education Services

Mr. Mauro Zampini, Interim Assistant Director, Student Services

Mr. Mike Cohen, Manager, Marketing & Communications

Ms. Brigida Sellato, Consultant, Secretariat General

# 1. Land Acknowledgement

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.

## 2. Question Period

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

➤ The involvement of APPELE Quebec and Global Philanthropic in QESBA's fundraising campaign to continue challenging Bill 40.

# 3. Nomination of Gerard (JJ) Blaize Buakasa as Student of the Month

The SOTM for November is Gerard (JJ) Blaize Buakasa from John Grant High School.

In the past, JJ has struggled with regulating his emotions and making good decisions under pressure, however, he has truly begun to demonstrate changes which has positively affected his personal educational journey and those around him. Recently, on more than one occasion, he has demonstrated that he is capable of stepping back from potential conflict and redirecting his frustration towards finding an appropriate solution. Furthermore, he has stepped up as a leader in the John Grant community by drumming up interest amongst his classmates for a basketball program. We're all proud of JJ and his transformation. Congratulations JJ!

# 4. Approval of Agenda

IT WAS MOVED BY MR. PIETRO MERCURI AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED THAT the agenda be approved, as presented.

Vote: 13-0-0, Adopted

Resolution # 23-11-07-3

# 5. Chair's Report

Presented by the Chair, Mr. Joe Ortona:

The Director General will be giving his report on behalf the Chair.

# 6. <u>Director General's Report</u>

Presented by the Director General, Mr. Nicholas Katalifos:

Ms. Lorena D'Alessandro, a veteran teacher of 44 years from the EMSB's Alternative Outreach Secondary system, is seeking donations of school supplies for students in the South Pacific island of Aitutaki. The biggest need is a variety of supplies such as paint supplies, scissors, staplers, as well as any type of resource material that might be helpful for both staff and their special needs students. Ms. D'Alessandro will return there in mid-November. Last year, she travelled to the area for the first time and was asked to visit a school and observe a few special needs students. Ms. D'Alessandro can be reached at Perspectives II School and the public is invited to look at the school's website to get more information;

- A congratulations to all members of the EMSB family for showing such wonderful Halloween spirit on Halloween Day, on which teachers and student were very creative. Global Television spent the morning at John Caboto Academy, some of the reports can be viewed online in the Focus Newsletter;
- Nord Morld Teachers Day, the EMSB and Marymount Academy International honored Ayesha Khan, a Grade 10 and 11 Science, Physics and Chemistry teacher. In addition to taking on the role of mentor to new teachers starting out at Marymount Academy, Ms. Khan is an outstanding role model and mentor to her students. Ayesha embodies the spirit of Marymount Academy in many ways. Her positivity, her commitment, and her willingness to help others make her and inspiration to us all. Congratulations to Ms. Khan on this very special occasion;
- More than 2,000 Secondary 5 students attended the 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual EMSB Career Fair on October 25<sup>th</sup> at the St. Pius X Career Centre and the open house was a gigantic success attracting another 1,000 people. A huge word of thanks to the EMSB Adult Education and Vocational Services and Student Services Departments for their hard work;
- ➤ October 23<sup>rd</sup> to the 27<sup>th</sup> was Media Literacy Week across Canada, and to mark the occasion, East Hill Elementary School's Nadia Barrafato and her students used their media skills to put together an Instagram reel to highlight the skills they've learned in her class. To watch these responsible digital citizens in action, use the following link <a href="https://youtube.com/shorts">https://youtube.com/shorts</a> or it can also be viewed on the EMSB website;
- A total of 123 people attended the Annual Retirees Dinner, which was held on October 24<sup>th</sup> at Le Crystal Reception Hall in Saint-Laurent. The evening honored 93 retiring employees of the EMSB who worked as educators, administrators, professionals and support staff and whose combined years of service to the Board added up to 2,242 years. Congratulations to all of them once again for their service to our School Board, to education and most importantly to our students;
- Perspectives I and II Alternative High Schools will host a special inspiring event called My Montreal Conference on Monday, November 27<sup>th</sup>. This motivational summit organized by Spiritual Community Animator, Mr. Vince Lacroce, Perspectives staff members Stefano Castricato and Diana Borges, along with Creations Marketing owner, Christina Capobianco and Joseph Ruvo of Les Délices Lafrenaie, is a collaborative effort involving local community leaders, professionals and influencers who are passionate about uplifting youth in the community;
- The Director General shared a point of concern with the public, where there were multiple reports of an individual or individuals purporting to be a representative of the EMSB. In these cases, these individuals are offering self-defense classes directed at youth specifically to young females. Please be aware that these calls are not legitimate and these individuals are not EMSB employees. Should anyone receive a call, please email the phone number and all details to communications@emsb.qc.ca and the information will be transferred to the proper authorities;
- We ask all of our stakeholders to consider nominating an educator for the 2024 Prime Minister's Award. Let's celebrate those who go above and beyond to create safe spaces for their student, who continue to work hard to make learning fun and inspiring the next generation to be bold innovators and creators. If you are looking for inspiration, please view the EMSB Focus Newsletter to check out some previous teaching and early childhood education award recipients;
- The EMSB Service to Business Group (SBG) has announced a new partnership with Dress for Success Montreal, which empowers women to achieve economic independence by providing a network of support, professional attire, and development tools at no cost in order to help women thrive in work and in life. SBG provides customized training to businesses aiming to provide creative advance in modern training practices designed to assist companies build better performance productivity within their corporate structure. These tailor made instructional packages are specifically customized to meet each businesses training needs. Instruction can be done in person or online. In October, clients of Dress for Success Montreal began participating in a series of five workshops at an EMSB Adult Education Centre on how to use Microsoft Word, Excel and PowerPoint. Congratulations to all participants, we are very proud of this collaboration;
- The Skilled Trades and Technology Week was held at the John F. Kennedy Adult Education Centre in conjunction with John F. Kennedy High School. This was hosted not only by the two schools but by Skills Compétences Canada and Compétences Quebec. The event focuses upon vocational training programs and how one can embark upon a challenging and fulfilling career in trades. Approximately 230 of EMSB students participated in this event and had the opportunity to learn about the vocational sector. A big thank you to the organizers and all the participants in this event. We strongly encourage our students to consider the vocational programs that are offered at our School Board as there is a great demand in the workplace for this type of skilled labor.

#### 7. In Camera

#### 7.1 Motion to Move In Camera

On a motion by Mr. Tony Speranza the meeting went In Camera at 7:25 p.m.

The meeting returned from the In Camera session at 7:30 p.m.

## 8. Adoption of Resolution(s) from In Camera

7.2 Health and Safety in the Workplace – CNESST Retrospective Plan – Choice of Limit per Claim and CNESST dues for 2024

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, 2022 to December 31, 2023 (#22-12-13-5.2);

WHEREAS OPTIMUM CONSULTANTS AND ACTUARIES INC., after a study of the CNESST documentation received in year 2023, the final assessment year of 2020, recommend in their report an optimal choice of 900% for the yearly maximum insurable wage, for an insurance limit amount set to \$841,500 for year 2024;

## 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 2024, regarding occupational injuries and diseases, be set at 900% of the yearly maximum insurable wage, for an insurance limit amount set to \$841,500 per claim for year 2024;
- B) the Director General be authorized to sign on behalf of the Board the pertinent documents related to the CNESST Retrospective Plan.

Vote: 13-0-0, Adopted

Resolution # 23-11-07-7.2

# 9. <u>In Memoriam</u>

# 9.1 Tribute for November 2023

WHEREAS the Board values the contributions 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:

Joyce Smith-O'Donnell, Retired Office Assistant, PSBGM

and that an expression of sympathy be sent to the bereaved family.

Vote: 13-0-0, Adopted

Resolution # 23-11-07-9.1

## 10. Abolishment of By-Law No. 8 – Complaint Examination Procedure – Following Consultation

WHEREAS pursuant to section 220.2 of the Education Act and in conformity with the Regulation Respecting the Complaint Examination Procedure Established by a School Board (c. I-13.3, r.7.1), the Council of Commissioners adopted By-Law No. 8 – Complaint Examination Procedure, by virtue of Resolution # 20-10-28-6.2;

WHEREAS By-Law No. 8 must be abolished, in conformity with the National Student Ombudsman Act;

WHEREAS the Board approved resolution #23-10-03-8, on October 3, 2023, to send out for consultation purposes the abolishment of By-Law No. 8 – Complaint Examination Procedure to the Central Management Advisory Committee – Resource Allocation Committee (CMAC-RAC) and the English Montreal School Board Parents Committee (EMSBPC);

WHEREAS the consultation period ended on November 3, 2023;

WHEREAS the feedback received from the Central Management Advisory Committee – Resource Allocation Committee (CMAC-RAC) and the English Montreal School Board Parents Committee (EMSBPC) was taken into consideration;

**WHEREAS** in accordance with Section 392 of the Education Act, public notice of 30 days has been given;

IT WAS MOVED BY MS. MARIA CORSI AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED THAT the abolishment of By-Law No. 8 – Complaint Examination Procedure be approved and come into force on the day of a publication of the public notice.

Vote: 13-0-0, Adopted

Resolution # 23-11-07-10

# 11. <u>Draft Calendars (Teachers) for the Youth, Adult and Vocational Sectors for 2024-2025 – For Consultation</u>

**WHEREAS** the Human Resources Department has drafted the calendars (teachers) for the youth, adult and vocational sectors for 2024-2025:

**WHEREAS** the calendars (teachers) for the youth, adult and vocational sectors for 2024-2025 must be sent out for the purposes of official consultation to the following groups:

English Montreal School Board Parents Committee (EMSBPC)

Central Management Advisory Committee - Resource Allocation Committee (CMAC-RAC)

Association of Montreal School Administrators (AMSA)

Montréal Teachers Association (MTA)

WHEREAS the end date for consultation purposes with the aforementioned committees, unions/associations will be THIRTY (30) days following the date of this Board meeting;

IT WAS MOVED BY MS. MARIA CORSI AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED THAT the proposed calendars (teachers) for the youth, adult, and vocational sectors for 2024-2025 be approved and sent out, for purposes of consultation, to:

English Montreal School Board Parents Committee (EMSBPC);

Central Management Advisory Committee - Resource Allocation Committee (CMAC-RAC);

Association of Montreal School Administrators (AMSA);

Montréal Teachers Association (MTA);

and the results of the consultation be returned to Ann Watson, Director of Human Resources no later than December 9th, 2023, in accordance with the documentation submitted at the meeting.

Vote: 13-0-0, Adopted

Resolution # 23-11-07-11

# 12. Contestation of Bill 96 (Stay)

WHEREAS Bill 96, An Act respecting French, the official and common language of Québec, was assented to on June 1, 2022;

WHEREAS the same day the English Montreal School Board brought an application to challenge the constitutionality of numerous provisions of Bill 96 and the Charter of the French Language;

WHEREAS the English Montreal School Board's constitutional challenge to Bill 96 has been joined with the constitutional challenges of other parties and is progressing through the court system though, like all constitutional challenges, it is expected to be a lengthy process;

WHEREAS amendments to the Charter of the French Language that came into force on June 1, 2023 would require that English language school boards communicate with key institutions of the English-speaking community, such as the Quebec English School Boards Association, in French exclusively;

WHEREAS on September 29, 2023, the Office québécois de la langue française provided the English Montreal School Board with an interpretation of provisions of Bill 96 and the Charter of the French Language, which would effectively require that most internal written communications at the English Montreal School Board be conducted in French;

WHEREAS such an interpretation would also require that most written communications between commissioners at the English Montreal School Board be conducted in French;

**WHEREAS** such an interpretation would also require that most written communications between English-language school boards be conducted in French;

WHEREAS the English Montreal School Board makes substantial efforts to promote the French language and offers rich programming in French in its schools, while being an English school board and a key institution of the English-speaking community;

WHEREAS the Québec Court of Appeal in its decision on the stay of Bill 40 recently reaffirmed that section 23 of the Canadian Charter prevents the province from interfering "with the linguistic and cultural concerns of the minority";

WHEREAS implementing provisions of Bill 96 and the Charter of the French Language, as interpreted by the Office québécois de la langue française, would fundamentally alter the linguistic culture at the English Montreal School Board;

WHEREAS implementing provisions of Bill 96 and the Charter of the French Language, as interpreted by the Office québécois de la langue française, would detract from the needs and priorities of the English Montreal School Board, their students, parents and the broader community it serves;

WHEREAS implementing provisions of Bill 96 and the Charter of the French Language, as interpreted by the Office québécois de la langue française, would lead to long-term alterations to EMSB's staffing composition, in a manner inconsistent with the linguistic community's actual needs and priorities;

WHEREAS all of these effects would lead to irreparable harm for the English-language community and the specific community served by the English Montreal School Board;

WHEREAS the Quebec English School Boards Association and all nine English school boards obtained a stay of Bill 40 in 2020, which was confirmed by the Québec Court of Appeal, based on the irreparable harm that implementing Bill 40 would cause to the English-speaking community, while waiting for a decision on the merits of the challenge;

IT WAS MOVED BY MR. GIUSEPPE ORTONA AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED THAT the English Montreal School Board seek a stay of certain provisions of Bill 96 and the Charter of the French Language that would cause irreparable harm if implemented during the period of time that the English Montreal School Board waits for a decision on its constitutional challenge;

IT WAS FURTHER UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED THAT the EMSB Council of Commissioners mandate the legal firm, Power Law, to institute on its behalf the appropriate legal proceeding.

Vote: 12-0-1, Adopted (Mr. A. Cannavino abstained)

Resolution # 23-11-07-12

## 13. Audit Committee

## Resolution to Vote by Secret Ballot

IT WAS MOVED BY MR. JULIEN FELDMAN AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED to vote by secret ballot when nominations are proposed for all the elections of Governance Committees in this meeting;

IT WAS FURTHER RESOLVED that Nathalie Lauzière, Secretary General and Brigida Sellato, Consultant, act as scrutineers for the compilation of the votes.

Vote: 13-0-0, Adopted

Resolution # 23-11-07-13a

#### 13.1 Election of Members

**WHEREAS** pursuant to section 193.1 of the Education Act, the Council of Commissioners must establish an Audit Committee;

**WHEREAS** it is recommended by the Governance and Ethics Committee that the Audit Committee be composed of three (3) members of the Council of Commissioners;

**WHEREAS** pursuant to section 10.1.3 of By-Law no. 11 on Internal Governance, the Governance and Ethics Committee recommends nominations of Members for the Audit Committee;

**WHEREAS** the Commissioners sitting on this Committee have experience in finance or accounting or in financial or physical resources management, as per section 10.4.3 of By-Law no. 11 on Internal Governance;

WHEREAS all submission forms sent by Commissioners who wanted to present themselves as Members of the Audit Committee were received and acknowledged by the Secretary General, and forwarded to the Chair and Members of the Governance and Ethics Committee on October 5, 2023, for their final recommendation to the Council of Commissioners, as per section 10.1.3 of By-Law no. 11 on Internal Governance;

WHEREAS the following Commissioners have submitted their candidacy for the election of Members to the Audit Committee:

Jamie Fabian James Kromida Tony Speranza

**WHEREAS** the Members of the Governance and Ethics Committee met to review the candidacies at their meeting held on October 11, 2023;

WHEREFORE IT WAS MOVED BY MR. JAMIE FABIAN AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED, AS RECOMMENDED BY THE GOVERNANCE AND ETHICS COMMITTEE, THAT effective November 7, 2023, the following Commissioners be designated as Members to the Audit Committee:

Jamie Fabian James Kromida Tony Speranza

Vote: 13-0-0, Adopted

Resolution # 23-11-07-13.1

# 13.2 Election of Chair

WHEREAS the Council of Commissioners elects the Chair of the Audit Committee, as per the recommendations 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 Council of Commissioners shall consider if the Commissioner meets the minimal requirements of the Audit Committee, including the qualities of Chair as per section 10.1.2 of By-Law no. 11 on Internal Governance;

**WHEREAS** the Chair of the Audit 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 all submission forms sent by Commissioners who wanted to present themselves as Chair of the Audit Committee were received and acknowledged by the Secretary General, and forwarded to the Chair and Members of the Governance and Ethics Committee on October 5, 2023, for their final recommendation to the Council of Commissioners, as per section 10.1.3 of By-Law no. 11 on Internal Governance;

WHEREAS the following Commissioner has submitted his candidacy for the election of Chair of the Audit Committee:

James Kromida

**WHEREAS** the Members of the Governance and Ethics Committee met to review the candidacies at their meeting held on October 11, 2023;

WHEREFORE IT WAS MOVED BY MS. MARIA CORSI AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED, AS RECOMMENDED BY THE GOVERNANCE AND ETHICS COMMITTEE, THAT effective November 7, 2023, Mr. James Kromida be designated as Chair of the Audit Committee.

Vote: 13-0-0, Adopted

Resolution # 23-11-07-13.2

## 13.3 Election of Vice-Chair

**WHEREAS** the Council of Commissioners elects the Vice-Chair of the Audit Committee, as per the recommendations 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 Council of Commissioners shall consider if the Commissioner meets the minimal requirements of the Audit Committee, including the qualities of Vice-Chair as per section 10.1.2 of By-Law no. 11 on Internal Governance;

WHEREAS the Vice-Chair of the Audit 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 all submission forms sent by Commissioners who wanted to present themselves as Vice-Chair of the Audit Committee were received and acknowledged by the Secretary General, and forwarded to the Chair and Members of the Governance and Ethics Committee on October 5, 2023, for their final recommendation to the Council of Commissioners, as per section 10.1.3 of By-Law no. 11 on Internal Governance;

**WHEREAS** the following Commissioner has submitted his candidacy for the election of Vice-Chair of the Audit Committee:

Tony Speranza

**WHEREAS** the Members of the Governance and Ethics Committee met to review the candidacies at their meeting held on October 11, 2023;

WHEREFORE IT WAS MOVED BY MR. PIETRO MERCURI AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED, AS RECOMMENDED BY THE GOVERNANCE AND ETHICS COMMITTEE, THAT effective November 7, 2023, Mr. Tony Speranza be designated as Vice-Chair of the Audit Committee.

Vote: 13-0-0, Adopted

Resolution # 23-11-07-13.3

## 14. Human Resources Committee

## 14.1 Election of Members

WHEREAS pursuant to section 193.1 of the Education Act, the Council of Commissioners must establish a Human Resources Committee;

**WHEREAS** it is recommended by the Governance and Ethics Committee that the Human Resources Committee be composed of five (5) members of the Council of Commissioners;

**WHEREAS** pursuant to section 10.1.3 of By-Law no. 11 on Internal Governance, the Governance and Ethics Committee recommends nominations of Members for the Human Resources Committee;

WHEREAS the Commissioners sitting on this Committee have experience in human resources management, preferably acquired in public administration, as per section 10.5.3 of By-Law no. 11 on Internal Governance;

WHEREAS all submission forms sent by Commissioners who wanted to present themselves as Members of the Human Resources Committee were received and acknowledged by the Secretary General, and forwarded to the Chair and Members of the Governance and Ethics Committee on October 5, 2023, for their final recommendation to the Council of Commissioners, as per section 10.1.3 of By-Law no. 11 on Internal Governance;

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 Human Resources Committee:

Mario Bentrovato Sophie De Vito Julien Feldman Joseph Lalla Mario Pietrangelo

**WHEREAS** the Members of the Governance and Ethics Committee met to review the candidacies at their meeting held on October 11, 2023;

WHEREFORE IT WAS MOVED BY MR. JAMES KROMIDA AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED, AS RECOMMENDED BY THE GOVERNANCE AND ETHICS COMMITTEE, THAT effective November 7, 2023, the following Commissioners be designated as Members to the Human Resources Committee:

Mario Bentrovato Sophie De Vito Julien Feldman Joseph Lalla Mario Pietrangelo

Vote: 13-0-0, Adopted

Resolution # 23-11-07-14.1

# 14.2 Election of Chair

**WHEREAS** the Council of Commissioners elects the Chair of the Human Resources Committee, as per the recommendations 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 Council of Commissioners shall consider if the Commissioner meets the minimal requirements of the Human Resources Committee, including the qualities of Chair as per section 10.1.2 of By-Law no. 11 on Internal Governance;

**WHEREAS** the Chair of the Human Resources 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 all submission forms sent by Commissioners who wanted to present themselves as Chair of the Human Resources Committee were received and acknowledged by the Secretary General, and forwarded to the Chair and Members of the Governance and Ethics Committee on October 5, 2023, for their final recommendation to the Council of Commissioners, as per section 10.1.3 of By-Law no. 11 on Internal Governance;

**WHEREAS** the following Commissioners have submitted their candidacy for the election of Chair of the Human Resources Committee:

Mario Bentrovato Julien Feldman Joseph Lalla WHEREAS the Members of the Governance and Ethics Committee met to review the candidacies and proceeded to an open vote at their meeting held on October 11, 2023;

WHEREFORE IT WAS MOVED BY MS. MARIA CORSI AND RESOLVED, AS RECOMMENDED BY THE GOVERNANCE AND ETHICS COMMITTEE, THAT effective November 7, 2023, Mr. Julien Feldman be designated as Chair of the Human Resources Committee.

Vote: 11-2-0, Adopted (Mr. A. Cannavino and Mr. J. Lalla voted against)

Resolution # 23-11-07-14.2

# 14.3 Election of Vice-Chair

WHEREAS the Council of Commissioners elects the Vice-Chair of the Human Resources Committee, as per the recommendations 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 Council of Commissioners shall consider if the Commissioner meets the minimal requirements of the Human Resources Committee, including the qualities of Vice-Chair as per section 10.1.2 of By-Law no. 11 on Internal Governance;

**WHEREAS** the Vice-Chair of the Human Resources 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 all submission forms sent by Commissioners who wanted to present themselves as Vice-Chair of the Human Resources Committee were received and acknowledged by the Secretary General, and forwarded to the Chair and Members of the Governance and Ethics Committee on October 5, 2023, for their final recommendation to the Council of Commissioners, as per section 10.1.3 of By-Law no. 11 on Internal Governance;

**WHEREAS** the following Commissioners have submitted their candidacy for the election of Vice-Chair of the Human Resources Committee:

Mario Pietrangelo Joseph Lalla

WHEREAS the Members of the Governance and Ethics Committee met to review the candidacies and proceeded to an open vote at their meeting held on October 11, 2023;

WHEREFORE IT WAS MOVED BY MR. JAMES KROMIDA AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED, AS RECOMMENDED BY THE GOVERNANCE AND ETHICS COMMITTEE, THAT effective November 7, 2023, Mr. Mario Pietrangelo be designated as Vice-Chair of the Human Resources Committee.

Vote: 13-0-0, Adopted

Resolution # 23-11-07-14.3

# 15. Election of Members to the Transportation and Safety Advisory Committee (TSAC)

WHEREAS pursuant to section 2 of the Regulation respecting student transportation, CQLR, c. I-13.3, r. 12) and section 12.5.2 of By-Law no. 11 on Internal Governance, the Council of Commissioners must elect two (2) Commissioners as Members to the Advisory Committee on Transportation and Safety;

**WHEREAS** pursuant to section 10.1.3 of By-Law no. 11 on Internal Governance, the Governance and Ethics Committee recommends nominations for Members to the Advisory Committee on Transportation and Safety;

WHEREAS all submission forms sent by Commissioners who wanted to present themselves as Members to the TSAC were received and acknowledged by the Secretary General, and forwarded to the Chair and Members of the Governance and Ethics Committee on October 5, 2023, for their final recommendation to the Council of Commissioners, as per section 10.1.3 of By-Law no. 11 on Internal Governance;

**WHEREAS** the following Commissioners have submitted their candidacy for Members to the Advisory Committee on Transportation:

Sophie De Vito Pietro Mercuri Daniel Tatone

WHEREAS the Members of the Governance and Ethics Committee met to review the candidacies and proceeded to an open vote at their meeting held on October 11, 2023;

WHEREFORE IT WAS MOVED BY MR. JULIEN FELDMAN AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED, AS RECOMMENDED BY THE GOVERNANCE AND ETHICS COMMITTEE, THAT effective November 7, 2023, Ms. Sophie De Vito and Mr. Pietro Mercuri be designated as Members to the Advisory Committee on Transportation and Safety.

Vote: 13-0-0, Adopted

Resolution # 23-11-07-15

## 16. Election of an Observer to the Advisory Committee on Special Education Services (ACSES)

WHEREAS pursuant to sections 185 and 186 of the Education Act, the Advisory Committee on Special Education Services (ACSES) is constituted with a parent majority, employees of the English Montreal School Board and representatives of bodies that provide services to these students;

**WHEREAS** the Council of Commissioners must elect one (1) Commissioner as Observer to the Advisory Committee on Special Education Services, as per section 12.4.2 of By-Law no. 11 on Internal Governance;

**WHEREAS** pursuant to section 10.1.3 of By-Law no. 11 on Internal Governance, the Governance and Ethics Committee recommends nominations for an Observer to the ACSES;

WHEREAS all submission forms sent by Commissioners who wanted to present themselves as an Observer to the ACSES were received and acknowledged by the Secretary General, and forwarded to the Chair and Members of the Governance and Ethics Committee on October 5, 2023, for their final recommendation to the Council of Commissioners, as per section 10.1.3 of By-Law no. 11 on Internal Governance;

**WHEREAS** the following Commissioner has submitted his candidacy for Observer to the Advisory Committee on Special Education Services:

Daniel Tatone

**WHEREAS** the Members of the Governance and Ethics Committee met to review the candidacies at their meeting held on October 11, 2023;

WHEREFORE IT WAS MOVED BY MS. MARIA CORSI AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED, AS RECOMMENDED BY THE GOVERNANCE AND ETHICS COMMITTEE, THAT effective November 7, 2023, Mr. Daniel Tatone be designated as Observer to the Advisory Committee on Special Education Services (ACSES).

Vote: 13-0-0, Adopted

Resolution # 23-11-07-16

# 17. Proposal for Vocational Programs in the Construction Sector – For Consultation

WHEREAS with the shortage of workers in the construction industry the Ministère de l'Éducation has provided school boards with the opportunity to offer programs for the short term without the usual authorization;

**WHEREAS** the English Montreal School Board (EMSB) has been given the temporary authorization to provide the following vocational programs in a shorter form: Carpentry (STC – Skills Training Certificate), Electricity (DVS – Diploma of Vocational Studies), Heating and Plumbing (DVS – Diploma of Vocational Studies);

**WHEREAS** the EMSB is proposing that the new vocational programs will be offered by Rosemount Technology Centre and be housed at Lester B. Pearson High School;

WHEREAS the Lester B. Pearson High School will need to be retrofitted to meet the program requirements;

WHEREAS the Lester B. Pearson High School governing board, the Rosemount Technology Centre governing board and the EMSB Parents' Committee be invited to submit their views by no later than November 24, 2023;

WHEREAS the English Montreal School Board Long Range Planning Committee met on November 2, 2023 and recommended that the EMSB assign the space at Lester B. Pearson High School, as per attached document, to AEVS for future use;

IT WAS MOVED BY MR. JAMES KROMIDA AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED, AS RECOMMENDED BY THE LONG RANGE PLANNING COMMITTEE, THAT the Council of Commissioners approve for consultation that the EMSB assign the space at Lester B. Pearson High School, as per attached document, to AEVS for future use;

IT WAS FURTHER UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED THAT the Council of Commissioners consult the Lester B. Pearson High School governing board, the Rosemount Technology Centre governing board and the EMSB Parents' Committee to submit their views by no later than November 24, 2023.

Vote: 13-0-0, Adopted

Resolution # 23-11-07-17

## 18. Genocide Education

IT WAS MOVED BY MR. JULIEN FELDMAN AND RESOLVED to table this resolution to the next meeting of the Ad Hoc Committee on Education to be held on December 4<sup>th</sup>, 2023.

Vote: 10-3-0, Adopted (Mr. A. Cannavino, Mr. J. Lalla and Mr. P. Mercuri voted against)

Resolution #23-11-07-18

	The Chair Mr. Ortona called a recess at 8:16 p.m. and the meeting reconvened at 8:21 p.m.
19.	Adoption of Minutes
	19.1 Adoption of the Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting held on October 3, 2023
	IT WAS MOVED BY MS. MARIA CORSI AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED THAT the Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting held on October 3, 2023, be approved as presented.
	Vote: 13-0-0, Adopted <u>Resolution # 23-11-07-19.1</u>
20.	Business Arising Out of Minutes
	On the Minutes of the Regular Board meeting held on October 3, 2023, Mr. A. Cannavino spoke of item 11 – <i>Remuneration of Commissioners 2023-2024</i> .
	On the Minutes of the Regular Board meeting held on October 3, 2023, Mr. J. Ortona spoke of item 16 – <i>Business Arising Out of Minutes</i> .
21.	2022-2023 Audited Financial Statements
	<b>WHEREAS</b> 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 2022-2023 school year, by virtue of resolution #22-03-23-12;
	WHEREAS the official 2022-2023 Financial Report (Rapport Financier 2022-2023) has been duly audited by the Board's external auditors prior to submission to the Ministère de l'Éducation du Québec on October 13, 2023;
	<b>WHEREAS</b> a set of financial summaries representing information extracted from the official 2022-2023 Financial Report, indicating the results for the year ended June 30, 2023, has been reviewed by the Board's external auditors, RCGT;
	WHEREAS these summarized financial statements were reviewed by the Audit Committee on October 12, 2023;
	WHEREAS public notice was given in conformity with section 286 of the Education Act;
	WHEREFORE the Council of Commissioners acknowledges that the Financial Statements of the English Montreal School Board for the year ending June 30, 2023, as audited by the Board's external auditors, Raymond Chabot Grant Thornton, be deposited at this meeting.
	Resolution # 23-11-07-21
22.	<u>Chapter G-1.011 – Act Respecting Workforce Management and Control – Information Report</u>
	This item was presented by Ms. Ann Watson, Director of the Human Resources Department, for information.
23.	Committee Reports
	23.1 ACSES (Advisory Committee on Special Education Services)
	Item presented by Parent Commissioner, Ms. Rosemarie Federico:
	➤ There has been no meeting since the last report.

# 23.2 Transportation and Safety Advisory Committee

Item presented by the Chair of the Committee, Mr. Pietro Mercuri:

- Since the contract was signed with Transco at the end of June, all contracts are now in place for all bus transportation service providers for the next five years;
- The Quebec government was supposed to allocate an extra \$4,000 per school bus that provides service in and around the city of Montreal, however the allocation has been reduced to \$3,485 due to the fact that private schools were not included in the original scenario. After negotiations, the MEQ decided to honor the original offer of \$4,000 per vehicle;
- A follow-up on the request for city bus services for High School students residing in Rivière-des-Prairies to go to Rosemount High School, the STM representative sent a message to the committee advising that they would not be considering offering this service due to budget constraints. Mr. Mercuri has drafted a letter which has been sent to members of Management and the Chair for review and then to the committee for final revision before it is sent to the Board of the STM and the borough Mayor of Rivière-des-Prairies – Pointe-aux-Trembles as well as the city councilors;
- There has also been an update on the MTransport application. It is now being used by 16 EMSB schools. The tablets have been issued to the drivers and they have all been trained on how to use the app, however this has been put on hold for the time being due to the Transco bus strike;
- ➤ The 2022-2023 budget was discussed. There was a surplus of \$334,183 due to service failures incurred by Transport Dufresne;
- Not all Camcard allocation checks have been deposited by the families that qualified for one. Please note that if there is a surplus in this budget, 50% stays with the EMSB and the other 50% goes back to the Quebec government;
- ➤ The total budget for 2023-2024 is \$13,499,404. This year there is the need to add two more Berlins to service our students. As a result, it is projected to have a slight deficit for this school year of just over \$13,000;
- As has been reported in the media, there is an ongoing school bus strike that began on October 31st.

# 23.3 EMSBPC (English Montreal School Board Parents' Committee)

Item presented by Parent Commissioner, Mr. Tony Speranza:

The EMSBPC Annual General Assembly was held on Thursday, October 12<sup>th</sup>, where the following parents were elected to the EMSBPC's Executive Committee, Ms. Katherine Korakakis as Chair, Mr. Jason Trudeau as Vice-Chair, Ms. Stephanie Passucci as Treasurer and members including Mr. Steven Merling, Ms. Merika Ramundo and Mr. Joseph Rainone. There were no elections for Parent Commissioners as they are serving their second year mandate.

Item presented by Parent Commissioner, Ms. Maria Corsi:

- ➤ At the EMSBPC meeting held on November 2<sup>nd</sup>, Me Lauzière was invited to give a thorough and much appreciated presentation on Bill 9 Act Respecting the National Student Ombudsman. Me Lauzière provided the committee with an overview of the new complaints process;
- ➤ The committee provided a response on the consultation of the abolishment of By-Law No. 8 Complaint Examination Procedure;
- A very big discussion took place on the certificates of eligibility. This is becoming a very big concern and the committee is urging their members to sound the alarm to families who choose to send their children to French schools as the government seems to be systematically refusing to issue certificates of eligibility when it comes time for them to either go to Cegep or if they want to switch back to the English system somewhere down the road.
- The committee also discussed about the marketing of our schools. The parents want to showcase their schools in any way possible and they are very eager to provide support. Mike Cohen and his team are doing great work, they have been really great about going to Governing Board meetings to work with the members and Principals to discuss marketing of the schools;
- Finally, the committee will be reviewing their internal rules over the course of the next few meetings.

## 23.4 Governance and Ethics Committee

Item presented by the Chair of the Committee, Mr. Julien Feldman:

The committee will meet in the coming weeks to discuss the ongoing By-Law review which is underway with our external lawyers.

## 23.5 Audit Committee

Item presented by the Chair of the Committee, Mr. James Kromida:

- The committee met with the external auditors on October 12<sup>th</sup>. There is a small surplus of \$2,218,564. There is something new in accounting called the Asset Retirement Obligation. The government came up with a figure now for the assets on buildings that we will retire in the future. They came up with a figure of approximately \$90 million. The financial statements showed a tremendous surplus of \$92 million, however it was just matter of this adjustment of the factored in Asset Retirement Obligation (ARO). In reality there was only a surplus of \$2,218,564;
- Together with the external auditors the committee went through the procedures, the testing of student files. There was a big drop in the discrepancies found compared to last year. The audit was good, many questions were asked by the members and a big congratulations to Raymond Chabot Grant Thornton for an excellent job;

## 23.6 Human Resources Committee

Item presented by the Chair of the Committee, Mr. Julien Feldman:

There has been no meeting since the last report.

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

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

A special meeting was held on October 5<sup>th</sup> to adopt La politique du régime de gestion des risques. The regular meeting was held on October 26<sup>th</sup>.

Item presented by Commissioner, Mr. Pietro Mercuri, Substitute Member on the Committee:

- The meeting took place on October 26<sup>th</sup>. In conformity with Canadian tax norms for public sector institutions, the financial statement for the committee was completed on June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2023, and audited by Raymond Chabot Grant Thornton. The 2022-2023 year closed on June 30<sup>th</sup>, with a surplus of \$159,798 and an accumulated surplus of just over \$11 million. The school tax receivables as of July 1<sup>st</sup> was \$5.6 million. When producing their audit, Raymond Chabot Grant Thornton did not detect any anomalies nor any major deficiencies in the internal controls. The auditors did note that the following deficiencies that were reported prior to 2023 were addressed. The first item that was addressed was documentation related to granting security access to new employees. Another item was the process of ensuring that timely removal of security access to former employees was completed and also a formal procedure of periodic evaluation for cyber security risks was put in place;
- A presentation was given by CIM Conseil concerning the optimization of the service related to school tax collection as well as an analysis of the costs related to that service. Some of the areas that were highlighted were optimizing the types of collection notices sent to taxpayers, for example, registered mail versus bailiff. Another item that was brought up was the optimization of online access to tax statements, as well as providing the taxpayer the ability to reinitialize their access to their online statement. They also suggested better training for employees. To conclude CIM Conseil advises that if suggested optimization opportunities were adopted the creation of a tax account would cost \$0.43 less and would provide an optimization of personnel by 23%;

- All Service Centres and School Boards along with the CGTSIM participate in a group purchasing plan for items that include anything to hand towels, toilet paper, cleaning and maintenance items, etc. The EMSB participated in all 13 categories of the purchasing plan. There was an increase of \$1.8 million of spending from 2021-2022 to the 2022-2023 school year. The increase was mainly due to spending related to the travel agency category. Due to the fact that travel bans were lifted after the pandemic, more people spent more money on travel. If the travel agency category were to be removed from the equation, there would have been roughly \$500,000 less spent in comparison to the previous year. Total savings using this plan minus the travel agency category would have been approximately \$1.5 million. The committee adopted a resolution choosing two suppliers for the group purchasing plan from December 1st, 2023 to November 30th, 2024, Mégaburo was selected for computer and technology supplies. From December 1st, 2023 to November 30th, 2026, Spectrum, Novexco and Brault & Bouthillier were selected for educational supplies and games;
- Lastly, the committee adopted a map related to academic success in relation to socioeconomic distress in Montreal for 2023.

# 23.8 EMSAC (English Montreal Student Advisory Committee)

Item presented by the Observer, Mr. Joseph Lalla:

- At the September 27<sup>th</sup> meeting, the new and returning members of the English Montreal Student Advisory Committee from each of the twelve schools introduced themselves, and were given an explanation on how parliamentary-style meetings are run, and adopted the rules of internal management;
- At the October 16<sup>th</sup> meeting, members were given a presentation by the Centre d'écologie urbaine de Montréal on participatory budgeting. This initiative has been applied to cities in almost 50 countries around the world. It is the second year that the city of Montreal is involved in this effort, with 30 million dollars having been allocated for said initiative. It involves citizens of the city over 12 years old being able to vote on projects that they believe should be undertaken. Over 600 submissions were made, with 31 making it to the voting stage. Citizens are able to pick 8 out of those 31 proposals. The overall goal is to have more citizen input and to further democratize the city. Advisors and student representatives were then invited to vote. A short discussion followed on the proposed ideas everyone voted on and what they would like to see implemented. Pamphlets were handed out to students, to encourage them to initiate discussions about this in their schools;
- > Secondly, as is done at each EMSAC meeting, students gave a summary as to what has been going on at their respective schools, including beginning of year activities, such as house day, wacky Olympics, dances, family day, etc.

# 24. Commissioners' Report

Item presented by Commissioner, Mr. Jamie Fabian:

Mr. Fabian wanted to reach out to his community and let them know that everyone at the EMSB stands by them and is disgusted by the acts of antisemitism that occurred that morning. Regardless of the opinions that people might have and what's going on halfway across the world, there's no excuse to target any group of people or to punish them. Antisemitism is not tolerable and will not be tolerated. Mr. Fabian has received messages from students who felt unsafe in their schools or fear taking public transit and he wishes to advise everyone that the EMSB is here to support them. Mr. Fabian offered his assistance to anyone who would like to speak about any situation that may arise. First and foremost, the priority is to keep students safe and to make sure that school is a safe and healthy place, a place where learning is encouraged and a place where intolerance will not be tolerated.

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

Mr. Cannavino attended two graduation ceremonies, one as a Commissioner and one as a parent. As a Commissioner he attended the graduation of Rosemount High School, where Mr. Buttino, Principal and Vice-Principal, Ms. Pomilio did an outstanding job to organize this event. There is a lot of work that is put in outside of the normal day, at nights and on weekends. Mr. Cannavino applauds the contribution made day in and day out for the students where endless hours have been put into organizing these events.

Item presented by Commissioner, Mr. Julien Feldman:

Mr. Feldman attended the graduation at Westmount High School and wanted to pay homage to the students and the teachers there as 2023 represents another year that the cohort that went through high school during Covid, another year is leaving to go on to Cegep and other endeavors. As parents and members of the community were amazed that the performance of the students and their teachers, staff and principal in getting these students to the finish line.

Item presented by Commissioner, Ms. Maria Corsi on behalf of Commissioner Mr. Mario Pietrangelo:

- ➤ Pierre de Coubertin Elementary School held a very successful open house on October 26<sup>th</sup>. Ms. Corsi and Mr. Pietrangelo were both invited to volunteer during this time to meet parents and to answer any questions they may have had;
- Laurier Macdonald High School also held their open house on October 19<sup>th</sup>, it was also very successful, and Mr. Pietrangelo extends his congratulations to the school administration, staff and the students for their hard work. The students are really good ambassadors of their schools, whether it be at the Elementary School level or the High School level. The hard work that the school administration and the staff put in does not go unnoticed, all the planning and producing of a welcoming environment for students and parents, showcasing all the wonderful things and programs that the schools have to offer;
- ➤ Mr. Pietrangelo also attended the Laurier Macdonald High School graduation ceremony on November 3<sup>rd</sup>, where over 120 students graduated. Congratulations to all of them!
- ➤ Honoré Mercier Elementary School will be holding its open house on November 30<sup>th</sup>, 2023 and Dante Elementary School will be holding its open house on December 7<sup>th</sup>, 2023. The EMSB has a school for every learner and there's a program for everyone and we really encourage parents to attend their open houses.

#### Item presented by Commissioner, Mr. Joseph Lalla:

- > Once again, Edinburgh Elementary proudly took part in the annual Terry Fox Run, raising more than \$8,600 this year for cancer research. Students from pre-K to grade 6 took part in the event. Students ran the outdoor route around the school, as parent volunteers cheered them on. "It is truly the spirit of such a great school and community that made this event so special. Our staff and students would make Terry Fox proud," commented Mr. Cho, the physical education teacher and event organizing;
- ➤ In October Philip E. Layton and Mackay Centre schools also took part in the annual Terry Fox Run raising \$8,200. Students ran, walked and wheeled for Terry Fox. They recalled the amazing effort that Terry put in to raise money for cancer research. Students, staff and families all helped raise money so they could continue what Terry started;
- > Recently, on Canadian School Library Day, Willingdon School welcomed two of their own parents wrote and illustrated The Girl with the Big Voice: a book that takes young readers on an empowering journey of self-discovery and resilience. This heartwarming tale follows Emma, who helps children aged three to eight embrace their uniqueness and stay true to themselves;
- ➤ The program BiblioQualité which started a couple of years ago, is a provincial evaluation of the public libraries in Québec, organised by the Quebec Public Libraries Association. The libraries of Montreal West the Public Library and the Children's Library obtained a total score of 97% for the year 2023 based on statistics from 2022. Some may not be aware that the Montreal West Children's Library is physically located in Elizabeth Ballantyne School and provides services to our students;

	➤ Lastly, at Royal West Academy on the weekend of September 30 <sup>th</sup> approximately 540 students wrote the entrance exams for admission to Secondary 1 in September 2024.
25.	<ul> <li>Report of the Executive Committee Meeting held on October 3, 2023</li> <li>Services Provided by the Montreal Oral School for the Deaf (MOSD) to Integrated Students with Hearing Impairments of the EMSB – 2023-2024</li> <li>Group Purchasing – Centre d'acquisitions gouvernementales (CAG) – Tender 2023-7547-50 – Acquisition of Standard and Scalable Classroom Furniture</li> </ul>
26.	Other Business
	None.
27.	<u>Adjournment</u>
	IT WAS MOVED BY MR. AGOSTINO CANNAVINO AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED THAT the meeting be adjourned at 9:17 p.m.
	Vote: 13-0-0 Adopted
	Resolution # 23-11-7-27
	Signed in Montreal,
	Mr. Joe Ortona, Chair  Me Nathalie Lauzière, Secretary General