

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS OF THE
ENGLISH MONTREAL SCHOOL BOARD

A Regular Board Meeting of the English Montreal School Board has taken place on Tuesday, January 23, 2024, at 7:00 P.M. in the Library of St. Pius X Career Centre, 9955 Papineau Avenue, Montreal.

Commissioners Present

Mr. Joe Ortona, Chair
Mr. James Kromida, Vice-Chair
Mr. Agostino Cannavino, Commissioner – via TEAMS
Mr. Mario Bentrovato, Commissioner – via TEAMS
Ms. Maria Corsi, Parent Commissioner
Ms. Sophie De Vito, Commissioner
Ms. Rosemarie Federico, Parent Commissioner
Mr. Julien Feldman, Commissioner
Ms. Ellie Israel, Commissioner
Mr. Pietro Mercuri, Commissioner
Mr. Mario Pietrangelo, Commissioner
Mr. Tony Speranza, Parent Commissioner
Mr. Daniel Tatone, Parent Commissioner

Commissioners Not Present

Mr. Jamie Fabian, Commissioner
Mr. Joseph Lalla, Commissioner

Administrators Present:

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

Mr. Jimmy Giannacopoulos, Sector Director, West
Ms. Darlene Kehyayan, Sector Director, East
Ms. Angela Spagnolo, Sector Director, AEVS
Ms. Livia Nassivera, Director, Financial Services
Ms. Julie René de Cotret, Director, Student Services
Ms. Anna Sanalidro, Director, Educational Services
Me Magdalena Sokol, Director, Legal Services
Mr. Bob Thomas, Director, Information Technology Services
Ms. Ann Watson, Director, Human Resources
Ms. Marilyn Ramlakhan, Assistant Director, Human Resources
Ms. Angela Vaudry, Assistant Director, Human Resources
Mr. Mike Cohen, Manager, Marketing & Communications
Ms. Tracy Mangal, Consultant, Educational Services
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. Robert A. Peck Prize for Excellence in French

This year the prizes will be presented by the School Board's French Consultant, Hélène Goetz. There are 21 recipients for the prize for 2022-2023 who attained the mark of 100%, they are:

Royal West Academy

Hannah Anson
Eve Bercuvitz
Victoria Cormier
Cassidy Engo
Emily Kathleen Gardner
David Hernandez
Gaelle Le Dantec
Simon Maclaren
Alessia Marquez Borelli

Vincent Massey Collegiate

Audrey Barroso Toribio
Édouard Chassé
Adriana Di Lalla
Mateo Duque
Anna Gartner
Emma Gibeau

Westmount High School

Nicolas Chen
Alec Murphy
Alyna Nguyen
Nina Rose Rebellati-Mitnick

M.I.N.D. School

Ella Eichler
Ivy Kelly-Smith

The students were presented with a certificate and a prize of \$100.

3.	<p><u>Nomination of Chloe Xiao as Student of the Month</u></p> <p>The Student of the Month for January is: Chloe Xiao from Carlyle School.</p> <p>Chloe is in Grade 1 and has overcome many obstacles in her life and continues to persevere with a positive attitude, which resonates throughout the school. Chloe comforts other children who cry or experience anxiety as well as helps the Pre K students during recess. Academically, she is an advanced reader – reading at a Grade 5 level – attends Hebrew class and is always willing to volunteer and participate in a variety of extracurricular activities. Chloe is a bright star in the Carlyle community and is a very deserving Student of the Month. Congratulations Chloe!</p>
4.	<p><u>Question Period</u></p> <p>Questions from Mr. Chris Eustace were read and addressed by the Chair, Mr. Joe Ortona, regarding the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Public Question Period ➤ QESBA Meeting <p>Questions from Ms. Allison J. Gonsalves were read and addressed by the Chair, Mr. Joe Ortona, regarding the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Position of Principal at F.A.C.E. School
5.	<p><u>Presentation of the 2022-2023 Annual Report</u></p> <p>Ms. Tracy Mangal, Consultant, presented the 2022-2023 Annual Report.</p>
6.	<p><u>Approval of Agenda</u></p> <p>IT WAS MOVED BY MS. ROSEMARIE FEDERICO AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED THAT the agenda be approved, as presented.</p> <p>Vote: 13-0-0, Adopted</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><u>Resolution # 24-01-23-6</u></p>
7.	<p><u>Adoption of Minutes</u></p> <p><u>7.1 Adoption of the Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting held on December 19, 2023</u></p> <p>IT WAS MOVED BY MS. MARIA CORSI AND RESOLVED THAT the Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting held on December 19, 2023, be approved as presented.</p> <p>Vote: 12-1-0, Adopted (Mr. A. Cannavino voted against)</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><u>Resolution # 24-01-23-7.1</u></p>
8.	<p><u>Business Arising Out of Minutes</u></p> <p>On the Minutes of the Regular Board meeting held on December 19, 2023, Mr. Agostino Cannavino spoke of item 7 – <i>Removal of the Vice-Chair of the School Board</i>.</p> <p>On the Minutes of the Regular Board meeting held on December 19, 2023, Mr. Agostino Cannavino spoke of item 8 – <i>Chair’s Report</i>.</p>

9. Chair's Report

Presented by the Chair, Mr. Joe Ortona:

- For the second year in a row, the EMSB has dedicated the month of January as the month where we promote our French Programs, called “À la CSEM, on cultive le Français...jour après jour!”. Throughout the month of January, we highlight some of the amazing ways that our students are learning and appreciating local French culture. This campaign began at Dante Elementary School on January 9th, 2024, where a press conference took place in French;
- Mr. Ortona also took the opportunity to highlight the Robert A. Peck Prize for Excellence in French. 21 students were awarded this prize for scoring 100% on the Secondary 5 French Exam and that 26 students scored 99%. This is something to be proud of and proves that we are doing very well, and this gives us the chance to expand our appreciation of Quebec Culture throughout all of our schools;
- January 27th, 2024 is International Holocaust Remembrance Day. The EMSB is marking this day with a video interview with Nathan Leipziger, a 95-year-old Holocaust survivor who wrote a book that was published by the Azrieli Foundation called *The Weight of Freedom*. The video will be made available on January 26th, 2024. As many Holocaust survivors are getting older and there are less among us, we will be able to hear their stories through these books and videos. We as a School Board continue to teach Holocaust and Genocide Education to our students, an effective way to ensure that we teach acceptance, tolerance and that we speak out against hate, discrimination and acts of violence of any kind. Thank you to Mr. Leipziger who shared his inspiring story.

10. Director General's Report

Presented by the Director General, Mr. Nicholas Katalifos:

- Ms. Jennifer Harriet was appointed Interim Principal at F.A.C.E. School. Congratulations to her!
- Kindergarten Registration Week will take place starting on February 5th through February 9th. As of January 29th, at 7:00 a.m. reservations will open online at 23 Elementary Schools on the following website, www.emsb.qc.ca/reserve. Parents will be called to validate their information, once registered online, told if they have a spot and given an appointment time. As per the EMSB enrollment policy, priority will be given to children residing within the schools distinct boundary;
- Our Québec Francophone Cultural Campaign has been a great success. Mr. Katalifos thanked the Communications team for their incredible work to promote our French programs throughout the School Board. On this day, Minister Eric Girard visited the students at Dunrae Gardens and got to see first hand some of the activities that the children run in French to help build up their command of the language.
- One special feature that will be online is an online advent calendar for January, with each clickable date opening a window into a mini cultural experience. This is in direct connection with our French campaign, created by a team of pedagogical consultants for French as a second language in Elementary Schools. This calendar was designed for teachers to explore with their students the diverse aspects of Quebec culture in French including songs, literature, sports, dance, painting, cooking and much more, and is available in two versions appropriate for younger and older students in Elementary School. Parents can find the links on the EMSB website and in the Focus Newsletter;
- Mr. Katalifos was pleased to announce that we have surpassed our expectations for the 2023-2024 academic year with the hiring of nine new teachers from France which brings us to a total of twelve. These teachers are teaching in nine Elementary Schools as generalists across all grades, and in three High Schools who teach the French language as well as other courses taught in French. This recruitment project has been a huge success and we do intend to continue it;
- To mark Québec Francophone Culture Month, *Electric Thunder*, the Pierre Elliot Trudeau Elementary School Rock Band took to the stage on January 19th, for a special French only performance in the school's Makerspace;

- Mr. Katalifos alongside the two Assistant Directors General, Ms. Nickoletopoulos and Mr. Chadirdjian, had the opportunity to visit with the Consul General of the United States and with the Director of Concordia University, where they discussed a number of academic projects that they hope to develop, the potential for partnerships and being open to bringing in students from the USA as International Students. Specifically with the Director of Concordia, they discussed a number of issues, including the possibility of developing more programs at Concordia University in terms of teachers and occupational therapists;
- The Orchestre Symphonique FACE (OSF) will celebrate its 25th anniversary with a concert at the Maison Symphonique at Place des Arts on February 1st at 5:00 p.m. EMSB instrumental music teacher, Theodora Stathopoulos founded the OSF in 1998 at the EMSB’s very first year;
- Star Montreal Alouettes running back William Stanback, along with teammate and offensive tackle, Jamar McGloster visited Gardenview Elementary School on January 12th with the Grey Cup trophy. Stanback’s son is in kindergarten at the school and they were introduced to loud cheers. The players spoke to the children about the path that they’ve taken and it was very exciting for the children to see the Grey Cup;
- Nesbitt Elementary School is proud to announce that out of thousands of submissions nationwide, their Ukulele and Percussion Ensemble, directed by Music Specialist, Caroline Derome, won third place in the Category #2 (Instrumental – Grade 4 to 6) of the 2023 CBC Canadian Music Class Challenge. The ensemble performed their instrumental rendition of the song “Born to be wild” by Steppenwolf. Congratulations to all the students who participated;
- February is Black History Month and our team of Spiritual Animators are organizing all sorts of activities to take place throughout the month.

11. In Memoriam

11.1 Tribute for January 2024

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:

Dan Novak, Retired Head Teacher, Montreal Children’s Hospital

Jacklin (Jackie) Webb, Retired Principal, Parkdale

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

Vote: 13-0-0, Adopted

Resolution # 24-01-23-11.1

12. Appointment of Returning Officer

WHEREAS school board elections will be held on November 3, 2024;

WHEREAS Section 22 of the Act Respecting School Elections states that the Director General of the school board is the Returning Officer ex officio and that, if he should not wish to act as such, the Council of Commissioners shall appoint another person to replace him;

WHEREAS the Director General wishes not to serve as the Board’s Returning Officer;

	<p>IT WAS MOVED BY MR. JAMES KROMIDA AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED to exempt the Director General to serve as the Board’s Returning Officer and to appoint Natalie Audet as this Board’s Returning Officer for the school board elections to be held in November 2024.</p> <p>Vote: 13-0-0, Adopted</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><u>Resolution # 24-01-23-12</u></p>
13.	<p><u>Rollovers for Daycares from 2022-2023 to 2023-2024</u></p> <p>WHEREAS as per Section 96.24 of the Education Act the School Board may credit all or part of the schools’ and centres’ surpluses to the school or centre or another educational institution if the Resource Allocation Committee recommends it and the Council of Commissioners implements the recommendation;</p> <p>WHEREAS as per Section 193.4 of the Education Act the Resource Allocation Committee must annually make a recommendation to the Council of Commissioners regarding the allocation of the surpluses of the School Board’s educational institutions;</p> <p>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);</p> <p>WHEREAS the CMAC/RAC has reviewed and endorsed the proposed distribution of Daycare surpluses and the deficits to be covered for the school year 2022-2023;</p> <p>IT WAS MOVED BY MR. PIETRO MERCURI AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED, AS RECOMMENDED BY THE CENTRAL MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE/RESOURCE ALLOCATION COMMITTEE, THAT the school daycare surpluses and deficits at June 30, 2023 be allocated to the 2023-2024 fiscal year;</p> <p>AND THAT the school daycare deficits be covered by the central daycare availability, as outlined in the documentation submitted at this meeting;</p> <p>Vote: 13-0-0, Adopted</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><u>Resolution # 24-01-23-13</u></p>
14.	<p><u>Budget Building Process for 2024-2025 – For Consultation</u></p> <p>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;</p> <p>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);</p> <p>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;</p> <p>WHEREAS in conformity with Sections 275 and 193.3 of the Education Act, a document entitled Budget Building Process for 2023-2024 has been created;</p> <p>WHEREAS Appendix A of the document describes the Objectives, Guiding Principles, Criteria and related Orientations proposed for 2024-2025;</p>

WHEREAS the CMAC/RAC has reviewed and endorsed this document;

IT WAS MOVED BY MS. MARIA CORSI AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED THAT:

1) the document entitled Budget Building Process for 2024-2025 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;

2) the document entitled Budget Building Process for 2024-2025 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 22, 2024.

Vote: 13-0-0, Adopted

Resolution # 24-01-23-14

15. Committee Reports

15.1 ACSES (Advisory Committee on Special Education Services)

Item presented by Parent Commissioner, Ms. Rosemarie Federico:

- The last meeting took place on January 15th, where the committee welcomed its newest members, Julie Kristof, Lysa Maria Mancini and Francesca Pitruzzello;
- Prior to the meeting of January 15th, the subcommittee including, Ms. Federico, Ms. Julie René de Cotret, Ms. Gail Callendar and Ms. Katherine Korakakis, met to review documents which the committee felt would be beneficial for the parents to access through the EMSB Parent toolkit. ACSES then met to review, discuss and approve the same documents.

15.2 Transportation and Safety Advisory Committee

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

- There has been no meeting since the last report.

15.3 EMSBPC (English Montreal School Board Parents' Committee)

Item presented by Parent Commissioner, Ms. Maria Corsi:

- The committee welcomed the new Regional Director for the East sector, Ms. Darlene Kehyayan;
- Mike Cohen was the guest speaker of the month. He spent an hour with the PC delegates, sharing tips and tricks on marketing and promoting our schools. The discussion led to a list of 8 tips that delegates could take back to their governing boards. A big thank you to Mike for his support and for contributing his ideas to the committee on enrollment and marketing;
- EPCA President, Ms. Katherine Korakakis provided an update on the catch-up plan announced by the Minister of Education;
- The PC Executive drafted a letter to the Administration summarizing the points that were raised during the December meeting regarding the educational projects survey process. The letter also provided recommendations to improve the process, and this letter was approved in an e-vote.

15.4 Governance and Ethics Committee

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

- There has been no meeting since the last report.

	<p><u>15.5 Audit Committee</u></p> <p>Item presented by the Vice-Chair of the Committee, Mr. Tony Speranza:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ There has been no meeting since the last report. <p><u>15.6 Human Resources Committee</u></p> <p>Item presented by the Chair of the Committee, Mr. Julien Feldman:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ There has been no meeting since the last report. <p><u>15.7 EMSAC (English Montreal Student Advisory Committee)</u></p> <p>As the observers on EMSAC were not present, the Director General, Mr. Nicholas Katalifos presented:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Mr. Katalifos had the opportunity to be present at the EMSAC meeting which took place at LaurenHill Academy. Mr. David Heurtel was present as a guest speaker to talk to the students about their civic responsibility, being involved in the public discourse and why its important to be involved with community organizations and to be aware about the political realities in our province. The intention is for him to return and run some activities with the students.
16.	<p><u>Commissioners' Report</u></p> <p>Item presented by Commissioner, Mr. James Kromida:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Mr. Kromida attended a terrific event at Gardenvue on January 12th, Montreal Alouettes running back William Stanback, along with teammate and offensive tackle, Jamar McGloster visited the school. The children loved it. Many people from the media were there to report on the event including Pat Hickey, Terry Haig and Marc de Foy, journalist from le Journal de Montréal, . Mr. Kromida emphasized how we should be very proud as a School Board for the difference we make in our society, including our Francophone society.
17.	<p><u>Report of the Executive Committee Meeting held on December 19, 2023</u></p> <p>- Group Purchasing – Centre d’acquisitions gouvernementales (CAG) – Tender 2024-7518-50 – Waste Disposal for All Schools and Centres.</p>
18.	<p><u>Other Business</u></p> <p>None.</p>
19.	<p><u>Adjournment</u></p> <p>IT WAS MOVED BY MR. PIETRO MERCURI AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED THAT the meeting be adjourned at 8:50 p.m.</p> <p>Vote: 13-0-0, Adopted</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><u>Resolution # 24-01-23-19</u></p>
	<p>Signed in Montreal, _____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>Mr. Joe Ortona, Chair</p> <p style="text-align: right;">_____</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Me Nathalie Lauzière, Secretary General</p>