

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS OF THE
ENGLISH MONTREAL SCHOOL BOARD

A Regular Board Meeting of the English Montreal School Board has taken place on Tuesday, March 26, 2024, at 7:00 P.M. in the Laurence Patterson Room, 6000 Fielding Avenue.

Commissioners Present

Mr. Joe Ortona, Chair
Mr. James Kromida, Vice-Chair
Mr. Mario Benvolato, Commissioner – via TEAMS
Ms. Maria Corsi, Parent Commissioner – via TEAMS
Ms. Sophie De Vito, Commissioner – via TEAMS
Mr. Jamie Fabian, Commissioner
Ms. Rosemarie Federico, Parent Commissioner
Mr. Julien Feldman, Commissioner – via TEAMS
Ms. Ellie Israel, Commissioner
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

Mr. Agostino Cannavino, 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

Ms. Darlene Kehyayan, Sector Director, East
Ms. Angela Spagnolo, Sector Director, AEVS
Mr. Mario Cardin, Director, Material Resources
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 IT Services
Ms. Ann Watson, Director, Human Resources
Ms. Angela Vaudry, Assistant Director, Human Resources
Mr. Mauro Zampini, 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>Nomination of Aiva Furfaro as Student of the Month</u></p> <p>The Student of the Month for March is Aiva Furfaro from East Hill Elementary School.</p> <p>Aiva Furfaro, a well-rounded Grade 5 East Hill student is the EMSB's Student of the Month for March. Aiva is shaking things up at East Hill School by encouraging her peers to take an active role in helping nurture the environment. To do this, Aiva created her own Ted Talk, where she spoke to the topic of pollution. Reaching out to the mentors at the Jane Goodall Institute, Aiva invoked expert advice and offered youth-oriented solutions to the growing climate crisis, reminding kids everywhere that they are not too young to become environmental activists. Congratulations Aiva!</p> <p>Her video can be seen here: https://youtu.be/9OjPEMcNKVc</p> <p>An interview with CBC Montreal can be seen here: https://vimeo.com/917249289</p>
3.	<p><u>Question Period</u></p> <p>Questions from Mr. Irwin Rapoport were read and addressed by the Chair, Mr. Joe Ortona, regarding the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Admission requests for Wesmount High, and the possibility of expanding into another school ➤ The Quebec Court of Appeals ruling on Bill 21
4.	<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: 14-0-0, Adopted</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><u>Resolution # 24-03-26-4</u></p>
5.	<p><u>Adoption of Minutes</u></p> <p><u>5.1 Adoption of the Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting held on February 27, 2024</u></p> <p>IT WAS MOVED BY MR. PIETRO MERCURI AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED THAT the Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting held on February 27, 2024, be approved as presented.</p> <p>Vote: 14-0-0, Adopted</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><u>Resolution # 24-03-26-5.1</u></p>

6.	<p><u>Business Arising Out of Minutes</u></p> <p>None.</p>
7.	<p><u>Chair's Report</u></p> <p>Presented by the Chair, Mr. Joe Ortona:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ At the end of February, the Make a Wish Foundation shocked Leonardo Da Vinci Academy's hero, Emma Stivaletta with a trip to Orlando to go visit Walt Disney World, Universal Studios and SeaWorld. Emma was a recipient of the Student of the Month award from a prior month. Emma has been going through a tough battle and it was very emotional for her and her family; ➤ Mr. Ortona was happy to report that the bus strike between the Transco company and the bus drivers union has been resolved. The bus services are back and operating; ➤ The hearing on the stay of Bill 96 was heard and a decision will be rendered shortly, approximately within the next month. The judge did not indicate that there would be a prior notice about the judgment. The public and the Council of Commissioners will be immediately advised once there is a decision; ➤ To mark International Women's Day on March 8th, Cycle 3 students at Roslyn Elementary School had a special guest speaker Kyra Milan Brown, the gregarious 11 year-old who has dedicated her life to helping women and girls of all ages. A few years ago, Kyra created Kyra Kate Bags, where she collects travel sized toiletries for women at the Open Door Organization as well as the homeless population of Montreal. From her home in the South Shore, whenever Kyra and her family leave their house, they always have a steady supply of bags filled with necessities, just in case they encounter someone less fortunate who could use the assistance. Students at Roslyn will be and have been collecting goods which will help fill these bags. For her efforts, Kyra was named one of CBC Montreal's Black Changemakers in 2023. A special thank you to Grade 5 student, Aaliyah for suggesting this generous initiative; ➤ Mr. Ortona was pleased to announce that the EMSB's continued achievement has been met of having the highest graduation success rate in the province of Quebec, according to the MEQ's latest statistics from 2022. The EMSB's graduation rate stands at an impressive 92.7% marking a slight increase from 91.6% in 2021. While the majority of students graduated within five years, it is note worthy that the Ministry allows for a two-year extension to ensure students have ample opportunities to earn their diplomas or obtain their initial qualifications. Currently, our six-year cohort boasts a remarkable success rate of 94.8%. Congratulations go out to the students for their remarkable success and of course to all teachers, the administrators and all of the in-school staff for the tremendous work that they do. They all contribute greatly to the success of our students.
8.	<p><u>Director General's Report</u></p> <p>Presented by the Director General, Mr. Nicholas Katalifos:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Mr. Katalifos congratulated all of the incredible employees at the EMSB that have helped to achieve the incredible success rate of 92.7%. All of the work done within our schools by our teachers, administrators, support staff, professional, every single level of employee group at the Head Office is huge collective effort which has benefited our students to achieve success. Congratulations from the Directorate! ➤ The Spring Edition of the EMSB Express Newspaper has been published. In it you will read about celebrating the Quebec Francophone culture, including a special message from Quebec Culture Minister, Mathieu Lacombe, Rosemount High School's new Arts-Études Program, visits to schools by some of our more prominent graduates, the EMSB Holocaust Education Program, the F.A.C.E. Symphony Orchestra's 25th anniversary concert and more. The Spring Edition can be found on the EMSB's website; ➤ Internationally acclaimed choreographer and dancer Margie Gillis, returned to visit her former Elementary School, Carlyle on February 28th. She answered questions, showcased many of the medals she's been awarded and even danced with and for the students;

- A special shout out to the Human Resources Department and a very large number of in-school administrators for their work in last weeks blitz. 240 candidates who are looking to become teachers were interviewed in order to have the best possible group to select from for teaching positions next year. Thank you to the entire HR department and in-school administrators for organizing this blitz;
- The Solar Eclipse will take place on April 8th. We will do our part to ensure that the students and staff can safely take advantage of the once in a lifetime celestial opportunity by distributing well over 30,000 solar glasses throughout our network. Partnering with the Montreal Planetarium, we will ensure the delivery of the specialized glasses throughout March to safeguard the unique viewing opportunity for all of our stakeholders. In addition to providing the protective viewing glasses, the Educational Services Department's Science and Technology consultants have also been working diligently with schools to ensure the solar eclipse becomes a learning opportunity for all students;
- The EMSB will host its first Canadian Affiliate Bowl of the Future Problem-Solving Program International on April 20th at LaurenHill Academy Jr. Campus. Over the past few months, many EMSB students worked tirelessly and diligently as they engaged in the Global Issues Problem Solving enrichment program across various schools. The program is being led by Dr. Birlean, EMSB Consultant for Gifted and Exceptional Learners;
- The Youth and Parents Agape Association, in partnership with Giant Steps, presented a free online two-day province-wide symposium entitled *Autism in the Early Year* recently. This symposium for parents and professionals featured keynote presentations, a panel on autism service navigation across Quebec, and sessions on communication support at home, parent training, empowerment and more. Mr. Katalifos had the privilege of serving on a panel which sought to inform and provide tools to parents navigating the often complex systems of autism services across sectors in Quebec. Experts from the health, daycare, education and social services sectors discussed the autism services offered across the province and help participants better understand the options, challenges and processes to access these services. Mr. Katalifos thanked the Student Services Department who helped him prepare for the panel;
- The Champions for Life Foundation will host a 30-minute virtual conference on perseverance, in collaboration with the Lester B. Pearson School Board and the EMSB, with Champion Ambassador, Mike Matheson, Assistant Captain from the Montreal Canadiens on April 5th at 2:00 pm. The goal of the session is to offer High School students a special presentation by an inspiring individual. Matheson grew up in the community, went to John Rennie High School, and overcame various obstacles to ultimately achieve his goal of playing for the Canadiens;
- The Space Exploration Educators Conference takes place every year at NASA, at the Houston Johnson Space Center in Texas, and offers teachers a chance to learn about space exploration and to participate in STEM lesson planning. This year Merton teachers, Debbie Adams (Science and Technology) and Georgia Gotsis (Grade 6 Math) went to the conference and met many amazing people, educators, astronauts and other space enthusiasts. They learned all about the Artemis II mission set to go to the moon in the fall of 2025 with a Canadian astronaut on board. We encourage any Canadian educator to explore this unique opportunity;
- The new "Student Learning Lab" at Galileo Adult Education Centre is a multi-use flex space that serves as a hub for 21st century skills development, helping students become critical thinkers, problem solvers and effective communicators. This new lab can be used as a flex classroom, computer lab and/or a quiet study area. It is equipped with a range of computers, laptops, tablets and other digital devices that students can utilize for research and multimedia projects. Additionally, it is equipped with interactive whiteboards, audio visual equipment and a variety of software programs to enhance learning and engagement. Mr. Katalifos took a moment to congratulate the administration and staff at Galileo for putting this wonderful project together.

Mr. Mario Pietrangelo left the room at 7:30 p.m.

9. Resolution Concerning the Requirements Prescribed in the Règlement sur l'assurance de la responsabilité professionnelle des membres du Barreau du Québec

WHEREAS Me Arielle Corobow, member of the Barreau du Québec, works exclusively for the English-Montreal School Board (EMSB) since her hiring;

WHEREAS she did not take the professional liability insurance offered by the Barreau du Québec;

WHEREAS in accordance with Article 3 (7) of the *Règlement sur l'assurance de la responsabilité professionnelle des membres du Barreau du Québec*, a resolution of the employer (EMSB) must be adopted to that effect;

IT WAS MOVED BY MR. JAMES KROMIDA AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED THAT it be declared, for the purposes of the *Règlement sur l'assurance de la responsabilité professionnelle des membres du Barreau du Québec*:

- THAT the English Montreal School Board will stand surety for the following employee (lawyer):

<u>NAME</u>	<u>DATE OF HIRE</u>
Me Arielle Corobow	October 24, 2022

- THAT the English Montreal School Board takes up the defence of Me Corobow and accepts financial responsibility for the consequences of any error or omission committed by her in the performance of her duties since her hiring.

Vote: 13-0-0, Adopted (Mr. Mario Pietrangelo not present for the vote)

Resolution # 24-03-26-9

10. National Summit to Combat Antisemitism be Convened

WHEREAS data from Statistics Canada and Jewish organizations such as the Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs, Friends of Simon Wiesenthal Centre and B'nai Brith indicate a shocking rise in antisemitic incidents across Canada over the past years;

WHEREAS since October 2023, Canada's Jewish community has witnessed shots fired at its schools, arson attempts at its communal buildings, vandalism targeting private businesses and the intimidation of its students at universities;

WHEREAS a first national summit to combat antisemitism was convened by then Special Envoy for Preserving Holocaust Remembrance and Combatting Antisemitism, the Honourable Irwin Cotler, in July 2021 in the wake of the war with Hamas in May of that year, alerting Canadians to a spiraling number of hate incidents including violent attacks on Jews in Toronto and Montreal;

WHEREAS that first summit led to Canada forming a high-level delegation headed by Prime Minister Justin Trudeau that made robust promises to the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance's (IHRA) Conference in October 2021 on how Canada could better confront hate aimed at Jews;

WHEREAS police departments across the country all report major and unprecedented increases in hate crimes since October 2023 with the Jewish community being by far the most targeted;

WHEREAS Marvin Rotrand, the outgoing National Director of B'nai Brith's League for Human Rights, has called on the provincial legislatures to adopt resolutions urging the convening of a second national summit;

	<p>WHEREAS the Government of Canada has appointed Deborah Lyons, Canada’s former Ambassador to Israel, as the new Special Envoy for Preserving Holocaust Remembrance and Combatting Antisemitism;</p> <p>WHEREAS the authority vested in the Special Envoy's office permits her to be uniquely placed to convene and chair such a second summit;</p> <p>WHEREAS a second national summit to combat antisemitism would provide a valuable forum for stakeholders representing all levels of government, civil servants, law enforcements, educators and community leaders to share information and agree on effective strategies to blunt the unprecedented wave of hate aimed at Jews;</p> <p>IT WAS MOVED BY MR. JAMIE FABIAN AND MS. ELLIE ISRAEL AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED THAT the English Montreal School Board urge the Government of Canada to mandate the Special Envoy for Preserving Holocaust Remembrance and Combatting Antisemitism to convene a second national summit to combat antisemitism;</p> <p>IT WAS FURTHER UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED THAT this Board invite the Government of Canada to ensure the necessary funding and resources are in place to support such a second national summit;</p> <p>IT WAS STILL FURTHER UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED THAT a copy of this motion be sent to the leaders of all parties represented in the Parliament of Canada.</p> <p>Vote: 13-0-0, Adopted (Mr. Mario Pietrangelo not present for the vote)</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><u>Resolution # 24-03-26-10</u></p>
11.	<p><u>Real Estate Rental Rates for July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2025</u></p> <p>WHEREAS Policy BG-7 Outside Organizations – Rental Policy and Rate Structure for Use of Board Facilities requires an annual review of rental rates and proposes changes for the following year;</p> <p>WHEREAS additional fees may be applied for sanitary reasons under special circumstances;</p> <p>IT WAS MOVED BY MR. TONY SPERANZA AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED THAT the rental rates for the use of Board facilities by outside organizations for the 2024-2025 school year are increased by 2% as outlined in the documentation submitted to this meeting and be applied to all facilities of the English Montreal School Board.</p> <p>Vote: 13-0-0, Adopted (Mr. Mario Pietrangelo not present for the vote)</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><u>Resolution # 24-03-26-11</u></p>
12.	<p><u>For Consultation</u></p> <p><u>12.1 Adoption of Draft Policy ES-19 – Promotion of Students from One Cycle to the Next – For Consultation</u></p> <p>WHEREAS the English Montreal School Board recognizes the importance of maintaining a dynamic and effective promotional policy to ensure the academic success and growth of students;</p> <p>WHEREAS the Quebec Education Act and relevant provincial regulations require periodic review and updating of promotional policies to align with the evolving educational landscape;</p> <p>WHEREAS changes in educational legislation and best practices necessitate the adaptation of the promotional policy to meet current standards;</p>

WHEREAS collaborative efforts have been made to ensure that the revised promotional policy is in harmony with the cultural and linguistic diversity of the Quebec educational context;

WHEREAS the draft Policy ES-19 – Promotion of Students from One Cycle to the Next replaces Policy PS-17 – Promotion Policy;

WHEREAS the said documentation has also been reviewed by the in-school Administrators;

WHEREAS the proposed draft Policy ES-19 – Promotion of Students from One Cycle to the Next be sent out for purposes of official consultation to the Central Management Advisory Committee – Resource Allocation Committee (CMAC-RAC) and the English Montreal School Board Parents’ Committee (EMSBPC);

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

IT WAS MOVED BY MR. PIETRO MERCURI AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED THAT the proposed draft Policy ES-19 – Promotion of Students from One Cycle to the Next be approved and sent out, for purposes of consultation, to the Central Management Advisory Committee – Resource Allocation Committee (CMAC-RAC) and the English Montreal School Board Parents’ Committee, and that the results of the consultation be returned to Nathalie Lauzière, EMSB Secretary General, no later than April 25, 2024, in accordance with the documentation submitted at the meeting.

Vote: 13-0-0, Adopted (Mr. Mario Pietrangelo not present for the vote)

Resolution # 24-03-26-12.1

Mr. Mario Pietrangelo returned to the meeting at 7:34 p.m.

12.2 Proposal to Rescind Policy PS-17 – Promotion Policy – For Consultation

WHEREAS the Policy PS-17- Promotion Policy was adopted by the English Montreal School Board on September 25, 2013, as per Resolution #13-09-25-13;

WHEREAS each department is responsible for reviewing and updating the policies/procedures within its purview;

WHEREAS policies and procedures must be reviewed on a regular basis in order to reflect changes in the law (Education Act, Basic School Regulation);

WHEREAS Policy PS-17 – Promotion Policy has become obsolete due to changes in the educational legislation and best practices and therefore, needs to be rescinded;

WHEREAS a new EMSB Policy ES-19 – Promotion of Students from One Cycle to the Next was drafted to replace Policy PS-17 – Promotion Policy;

WHEREAS the proposal to rescind Policy PS-17 - Promotion Policy and must be sent out for the purpose of official consultation to the Central Management Advisory Committee – Resource Allocation Committee (CMAC-RAC) and the English Montreal School Board’s Parents Committee (EMSBPC);

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

	<p>IT WAS MOVED BY MR. JOSEPH LALLA AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED THAT the proposed rescindment of Policy PS-17 – Promotion Policy be approved and sent out, for purposes of consultation, to the Central Management Advisory Committee – Resource Allocation Committee (CMAC-RAC) and the English Montreal School Board’s Parents Committee (EMSBPC), and that the results of the consultation be returned to Nathalie Lauzière, EMSB Secretary General, no later than April 25, 2024, in accordance with the documentation submitted at the meeting.</p> <p>Vote: 14-0-0, Adopted</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><u>Resolution # 24-03-26-12.2</u></p>
13.	<p><u>Director General’s Reporting – As per By-Law No. 10 – Delegation of Powers</u></p> <p>This item was presented by the Director General, Mr. Nicholas Katalifos, for information.</p>
14.	<p><u>Recognition of Employees with 25 Years of Service</u></p> <p>This item was presented for information.</p>
15.	<p><u>Committee Reports</u></p> <p><u>15.1 ACSES (Advisory Committee on Special Education Services)</u></p> <p>Item presented by Parent Commissioner, Ms. Rosemarie Federico:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The last meeting took place on March 18th where two presentations were given; ➤ The first presentation was by Ms. Anna Sanalidro, who informed the members about the different exemptions available, namely for Math, Science and French, as well as the criteria and procedures necessary to acquire them. Ms. Sanalidro also expressed that these exemptions are not easy to get and therefore other options are available; ➤ The second presentation was given by an academic advisor from John Abbott College, who spoke about the college and then informed the members of the different options available to students who are unable to receive their High School diploma for whatever reason, not being able to pass French, etc. ➤ There was a lot of discussion and therefore the committee couldn’t discuss the new school project. Therefore the committee scheduled a special meeting for May 6th to discuss the new school project which will affect Nesbitt Elementary School and then the members will decide whether or not they will submit a brief. <p><u>15.2 Transportation and Safety Advisory Committee</u></p> <p>Item presented by the Chair of the Committee, Mr. Pietro Mercuri:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ There has been no meeting since the last report. The next meeting is scheduled for April 25th. <p><u>15.3 EMSBPC (English Montreal School Board Parents’ Committee)</u></p> <p>Item presented by Parent Commissioner, Mr. Daniel Tatone:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The last meeting was on March 14th at which the Director of Student Services, Ms. Julie René de Cotret presented an overview of the four Student Services policies that are proposed to be rescinded as they are obsolete. The members then voted to accept the rescindment of the four policies with recommendations that the Board provide additional supporting information, including links on its website to the guides, procedures and legal framework, as applicable, that replaced the obsolete policies and that every effort be made to ensure English versions be made available should parents wish to consult them;

- The Parents Committee also completed its response to the consultation on the Budget Building Process and developed seven budget priorities. The top three priorities are as follows:
 1. Significantly increase the current staffing ratios and weighted staffing ratios for professionals including but not limited to Psychologists, Speech and Language Pathologists and Guidance Counselors, Resource Teachers (English and French), A & T and Special Education Technicians, taking into consideration services to all students with different learning needs.
 2. Continue to invest, develop and improve programs, professional services and resources including:
 - a) to improve mental health in children by the reinstatement of social workers in schools and /or investment in group or single service therapists to help students with stress and anxiety.
 - b) programs for anti-bullying in person and online.
 - c) educating students on Digital Citizenship.
 3. Continue to invest and improve the physical learning environment for students by increasing funding for security, health and safety including:
 - a) removal of snow and ice in common areas in a timely manner.
 - b) building maintenance, capability, improvements and upgrading projects.
 - c) building adaptations to ensure accessibility to all levels and facilities for students, staff, parents and the public with mobility impairments.

The remaining four priorities related to investments in new technologies, the maintenance of food programs throughout the year, investments in ongoing marketing of schools and additional funds to reimburse public transportation fares for High School students;
- The Committee also decided on a book to be awarded to one student per Elementary School. As part of the Parents Literacy Prize, the book that was selected is *Akata Witch* by Nnedi Okorafor.

15.4 Governance and Ethics Committee

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

- The Committee is waiting for recommendations from the lawyers concerning the Quebec Court of Appeal decision on Bill 21, on whether to appeal the Bill to the Supreme Court of Canada;
- With regards to Bill 40, the case is currently before the Quebec Court of Appeal as well, however no updates have been given on when that decision will come;
- A decision from the Quebec Superior Court on the decision of the stay on Bill 96 has not yet been brought forward.

15.5 Audit Committee

Item presented by the Chair of the Committee, Mr. Tony Speranza:

- There has been no meeting since the last report.

15.6 Human Resources Committee

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

- With regards to Bill 21, the decision from the Quebec Court of Appeal narrowed the approach in Quebec to Section 23 of the Charter. The Committee will ask our lawyers to take a look at this and make their opinions known to the Committee and to the Council of Commissioners concerning the possibility of an appeal.

15.7 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:

- There has been no meeting since the last report. The next scheduled meeting is April 18th, 2024, at 6:30 p.m.

15.8 EMSAC (English Montreal Student Advisory Committee)

Item presented by the Observer, Mr. Joseph Lalla:

- A discussion took place on the Quebec Court of Appeal's recent ruling that deemed Bill 21, to be constitutional. Students were provided with background on the arguments used to fight in court (Sections 23, 28 of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms), as well as mentioning the practices employed by the EMSB Human Resources Department when interviewing candidates for teachers since the bill came into force. Following a conversation on how this ban affects our schools and how the committee believes that the Bill is completely unnecessary, EMSAC decided to write a statement addressing the Committee's beliefs, directed at the Provincial government. It will also be sent to senior management and the Council of Commissioners;
- Members were shown the Provincial government's "Tableau de bord de l'éducation", which provides easy access to information about school success rates, air quality and other items. A discussion on how this can affect schools, especially depending on how success rates are perceived by prospective students and parents;
- A former EMSB student, has reached out to EMSAC to help raise funds for the 'Strike Out Cancer' initiative.

16. Commissioners' Report

Item presented by Commissioner, Mr. James Kromida;

- Mr. Kromida encouraged everyone to get on the electoral list to vote for the upcoming School Board Election in November 2024;
- Mr. Kromida spoke proudly of the EMSB and how the decisions made today will affect the students of tomorrow. He expressed that having the highest success rate at 92.7% is something the EMSB should be extremely proud of.

Item presented by Commissioner, Mr. Joseph Lalla;

- At Mackay Centre School the physical education teachers are busy preparing students for Défi Sportif, a competition held every year that caters to students with disabilities at the Centre Sportif Claude Robillard. Approximately 58 students will be participating in one or more events in April and May, including: Track and Field, Soccer and Ball Hockey;
- The Home and School Association of Edinburgh School held a very successful community pasta night last week;
- Royal Vale School is becoming a sports powerhouse. Prior to March Break, the girls' basketball team capped off an undefeated 18-0 season to capture the City League Elementary Girls Basketball Championship!
- At Royal Vale School for the second consecutive year, the elementary hockey team rose up to the challenge of playing versus parents, staff and high school students. There were sweet dangles, wicked snipes and lots of laughs. The game ended in a 5-5 tie, but the Dragons prevailed when Xavier scored a cheeky penalty shot that fooled the goalie;
- Let's celebrate Malak and Ibrahim, a brother sister duo that have had a lot of academic and athletic success this year. Both represented Royal Vale School at the GMAA all-star wrestling championships. Both won Gold in their respective weight categories in February. And, both won medals at the Jeux du Québec this month - Ibrahim Silver and Malak Gold. Both have general averages above 90%;

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The Royal West Academy Foundation is pleased to announce that the first “Active Learning Classroom”, dedicated to teaching Math and Science, is now complete! Students were recently welcomed into their new classroom environment including new chairs, new stools and new swing chairs. The active learning classroom furniture will foster dynamic engagement and collaboration among our students. The adaptable seating arrangements will encourage movement and flexibility, creating a more comfortable and inclusive atmosphere conducive to learning and vibrant hubs of creativity, innovation, and academic achievement; ➤ This weekend three teams from Royal West Academy participated in the Aristotle Cup high school debating tournament at Marianopolis College. Matthew and Gianluca went undefeated throughout the competition and won the final round against a team from Selwyn House taking home the Aristotle Cup. It's the first time a team from Royal West has won the tournament in 17 years. Anya and Chloe, the second team from Royal West came in 4th place overall. The four students from Royal West had already qualified for the National Debating Competition to be held in May in Vancouver after competing in the provincial tournament. They're looking forward to the Nationals. Ben and Annika finished 13th in the field of 20 teams. A special thank you to teachers Ms. Holloway, Mr. Zigby and Mr. Diacoumacos for their support to prepare the students and for RWA graduate Cameron O'Hare for being such an excellent coach.
17.	<p><u>Report of the Executive Committee Meeting held on February 27, 2024</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Agreement with Collecto – Deployment of an Integrated Document Management Solution Based on M365
18.	<p><u>Other Business</u></p> <p>None.</p>
19.	<p><u>Adjournment</u></p> <p>IT WAS MOVED BY MR. MARIO PIETRANGELO AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED THAT the meeting be adjourned at 7:51 p.m.</p> <p>Vote: 14-0-0, Adopted</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><u>Resolution # 24-03-26-19</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>