# MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS OF THE ENGLISH MONTREAL SCHOOL BOARD

A Regular Board Meeting of the English Montreal School Board has taken place on Tuesday, September 10, 2024, at 7:00 P.M. in the Laurence Patterson Room, 6000 Fielding Avenue, Montreal.

### **Commissioners Present**

Mr. Joe Ortona, Chair

Mr. James Kromida, Vice-Chair

Mr. Mario Bentrovato, Commissioner – via TEAMS

Mr. Agostino Cannavino, Commissioner

Ms. Maria Corsi, Parent Commissioner

Ms. Sophie De Vito, Commissioner

Mr. Jamie Fabian, Commissioner

Ms. Rosemarie Federico, Parent Commissioner

Mr. Julien Feldman, Commissioner

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**

## **Administrators Present**

Mr. Nicholas Katalifos, Director General

Me Jack Chadirdjian, Assistant Director General, Administration

Ms. Pela Nickoletopoulos, Assistant Director General, Education

Me Nathalie Lauzière, Secretary General

Mr. Jimmy Giannacopoulos, Regional Director, West

Ms. Darlene Kehyayan, Regional Director, East

Ms. Angela Spagnolo, Regional Director, AEVS

Ms. Gail Callender, Assistant Director, Student Services

Ms. Sandra Léveillé, Director, School Organization

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. Marilyn Ramlakhan, Assistant Director, Human Resources

Ms. Angela Vaudry, Assistant Director, Human Resources

Mr. Philip Verdi, Assistant Director, Material Resources

Mr. Mike Cohen, Manager, Marketing & Communications

Ms. Brigida Sellato, Consultant, Secretariat General

## 1. Land Acknowledgement

We/I would like to acknowledge 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 Tiohtiá: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. Nomination of Kayla Fusco as Student of the Month

The Student of the Month for September is Kayla Fusco from Lester B. Pearson High School.

While Kayla just began her first year at Lester B. Pearson High School, she is being recognized for her dedication to her fellow students while she attended Gerald McShane Elementary School.

While at Gerald McShane, Kayla was a dedicated volunteer for the school's breakfast program and knew exactly what was needed to make sure that the daily program ran smoothly. As a breakfast monitor, she was always a team player, made sure that breakfast bins were delivered to each classroom, picked up by the end of the day and prepared for the next day. Last year, in recognition of her efforts, the Breakfast Club of Canada named Kayla as one of Canada's "Breakfast Champions", which celebrated the outstanding work of volunteers and school teams who devote their time and energy to ensure children get a healthy start to their day.

Congratulations Kayla! We hope your commitment to the community continues to grow as you begin high school.

Mr. Daniel Tatone joined the meeting at 7:08 p.m.

## 3. Resolution of the English Montreal School Board Recognizing the Contributions of Dr. Clarence Bayne

**WHEREAS** Dr. Clarence Bayne, a distinguished and respected member of our community, recently passed away, leaving behind a legacy of service, leadership, and dedication;

WHEREAS Dr. Bayne was a pillar of the community whose tireless efforts spanned many decades, significantly contributing to the social, cultural, and educational fabric of our society;

WHEREAS Dr. Clarence Bayne immigrated to Vancouver from Trinidad and Tobago in 1955 as a UBC student. He came to Montreal as an industrial economist and became a professor of economics at Concordia University. His passion was advocating for the advancement of minority communities, playing a crucial role in the development of policies and initiatives to promote equity, diversity, and inclusion;

WHEREAS his work in education at Concordia University and particularly within the Black community, helped to foster a generation of empowered and educated individuals who continue to contribute positively to society;

WHEREAS Dr. Bayne's leadership extended beyond education, as he was deeply involved in various community and cultural organizations, including the Quebec Board of Black Educators, the Black Studies Centre of Montreal and Institute for Community Economic Development, the Black Theatre Workshop and Black History Month. He was president of the Black Community Resource Centre, where he demonstrated unwavering commitment to the betterment of others; until his recent passing, Dr. Bayne was also a member of CIM, an advisory committee to Mayor of Montreal; and a member of an advisory body to the Quebec Minister of Culture Communities;

WHEREAS Dr. Bayne's contributions have left an indelible mark on the English Montreal School Board (EMSB), public education and the broader community, inspiring countless individuals and setting a high standard for civic engagement;

THEREFORE, BE IT MOVED BY MR. JULIEN FELDMAN AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED THAT the English Montreal School Board formally recognize and honor the life and contributions of Dr. Clarence Bayne;

BE IT FURTHER UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED THAT the EMSB extend its deepest condolences to the family, friends, and colleagues of Dr. Bayne, acknowledging the profound loss experienced by all who knew him;

BE IT FURTHER UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED THAT a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the family of Dr. Clarence Bayne;

BE IT FINALLY UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED THAT this resolution be entered into the official records of the English Montreal School Board as a testament to Dr. Bayne's extraordinary contributions to our community.

Vote: 14-0-0, Adopted (Mr. J. Fabian not present for the vote)

Resolution # 24-09-10-3

Mr. Jamie Fabian joined the meeting at 7:10 p.m.

## 4. Question Period

Questions from Ms. Suzanne Belson were addressed by the Chair, Mr. Joe Ortona, regarding the following:

> Transportation and Boundaries

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

- ➤ Public Executive Committee meetings
- > CARE Conference

## 5. Approval of Agenda

Mr. Cannavino proposed to remove item 6 - In Camera and item 16 - Deposit of Ethics Commissioner Decision and Applicable Sanction – Agostino Cannavino vs. Joe Ortona.

Vote: 4-11-0, Motion Defeated.

In Favor	M. Bentrovato, A. Cannavino, E. Israel, J. Lalla
Against	J. Ortona, J. Kromida, M. Corsi, S. De Vito, J. Fabian, R. Federico, J. Feldman, P. Mercuri,
	M. Pietrangelo, T. Speranza, D. Tatone
Abstained	

IT WAS MOVED BY MS. ROSEMARIE FEDERICO AND RESOLVED THAT the agenda be approved as presented.

Vote: 13-1-1, Adopted (Mr. A. Cannavino voted against and Mr. M. Bentrovato abstained)

Resolution # 24-09-10-5

#### 6. In Camera

#### 6.1 Motion to Move In Camera

On a motion by Mr. James Kromida the meeting went In Camera at 7:32 p.m., all in favor.

The meeting returned from the In Camera session at 8:04 p.m.

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

<u>6.2 Legal Proceedings Regarding the Repayment of Legal Fees Incurred According to Section 7.7 of EMSB By-Law No. 3</u>

WHEREAS an ethics complaint was filed against a Commissioner, file number 2023-4;

WHEREAS the English Montreal School Board (hereinafter: EMSB) incurred legal fees to defend the concerned Commissioner;

WHEREAS the Ethics Commissioner Me Vincent Guida rendered a decision on the ethics complaint and concluded that the concerned Commissioner "did not perform in good faith in the discharge of his/her functions with regard with the complaint received";

WHEREAS the Council of Commissioners may request repayment of legal fees incurred by the EMSB to defend a Commissioner if the Ethics Commissioner concludes that a Commissioner is found guilty to have acted in bad faith in the context of an ethics complaint, the whole in accordance with section 7.7 of EMSB's By-Law no. 3 entitled *Code of Ethics and Professional Conduct for the Members of the Council of Commissioners*;

WHEREAS discussions were held In Camera;

IT WAS MOVED BY MR. JAMES KROMIDA AND RESOLVED THAT the Council of Commissioners request repayment of the legal fees incurred by the English Montreal School Board (EMSB) to defend the concerned Commissioner in the context of the ethics complaint file 2023-4, the whole within the scope of the discussions held In Camera with the Council of Commissioners;

IT WAS FURTHER RESOLVED that the Council of Commissioners mandate the legal firm ML Avocats s.e.n.c.r.l. to take all necessary steps, including instituting legal proceedings, to request repayment of the legal fees incurred by the EMSB to defend the concerned Commissioner;

IT WAS STILL FURTHER RESOLVED that the Director General be authorized to sign all documents that may be required to request repayment of the legal fees incurred by the EMSB to defend the concerned Commissioner.

Vote: 12-2-1, Adopted (Mr. M. Bentrovato, Mr. A. Cannavino voted against and Mr. J. Lalla abstained)

Resolution # 24-09-10-6.2

## 8. Adoption of Minutes

## 8.1 Adoption of the Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting held on June 18, 2024

IT WAS MOVED BY MR. DANIEL TATONE AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED THAT the Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting held on June 18, 2024, be approved as presented.

Vote: 15-0-0, Adopted

Resolution # 24-09-10-8.1

## 8.2 Adoption of Minutes of the Special Board Meeting held on July 9, 2024

IT WAS MOVED BY MS. MARIA CORSI AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED THAT the Minutes of the Special Board Meeting held on July 9, 2024, be approved as presented.

Vote: 15-0-0, Adopted

Resolution # 24-09-10-8.2

# 9. <u>Business Arising Out of Minutes</u>

None.

# 10. Chair's Report

Presented by the Chair, Mr. Joe Ortona:

- Mr. Ortona mentioned how we ended off the year very well and he attended many graduations that he reported about at the last meeting;
- ➤ We started off the school year at Parkdale School, where everyone had the opportunity to interact with the students and share their experiences and memories about their first day at school. All the students were excited to be back and shared what they were excited about this year.

## 11. Director General's Report

Presented by the Director General, Mr. Nicholas Katalifos:

- Mr. Katalifos expressed on behalf of the entire administration that we want to wish all our stakeholders all the very best for the new school year. We know that our students and staff will continue to succeed as we all work together;
- ➤ The 2024 Fall edition of the EMSB Express has been published and is being delivered to our schools and we welcome our entire community to take advantage and read it and find out about all of the wonderful things that are happening at our Board;
- > School Board Elections are around the corner, voters on the territory of the EMSB will cast their ballots for their choice of Chair and Commissioners for all wards on Sunday, November 3, 2024. We ask that all parents and voters view our website for all information regarding the upcoming election;
- ➤ More than 2,000 Secondary 5 students will be attending the 24<sup>th</sup> Annual English Montral School Board Career Fair on October 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>. The Fair will be taking place at the St. Pius X Career Centre:
- Media Literacy Week will take place during the week of October 21<sup>st</sup>. Media Literacy Week is an annual event that promotes digital media literacy across Canada. Schools, libraries, museums and community groups organize events and activities throughout the week;
- ➤ A piece of information for the public, the Student Services Department staff members who were previously known as Spiritual Community Animators are now Personal Development and Community Involvement Service Animators;

- ➤ The MEQ is launching the Culture and Citizenship Program in Quebec which was introduced to some schools on an optional basis during the 2023-2024 academic year, and will now be mandatory for all schools for the 2024-2025 current year. Learning about culture and citizenship in Quebec, students will evaluate the sources, information, and arguments to identify the characteristics of culture and society in Quebec today and to observe related social relations. More information on this new program can be found in our Focus Newsletter;
- Congratulations to the entire team at the John F. Kennedy Adult Education Centre. The Centre has recently embarked on a campaign to raise awareness about how they effectively address math anxiety among adult learners. Also at the Centre, they are launching an innovated new program called Sequoia, designed to help young adults who struggle with math in high school. Congratulations to the entire administration at the school and the entire team in the AEVS Department for putting this project together.

# 12. In Memoriam

## 12.1 Tribute for September 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:

Anita Gordon, Retired Teacher, EMSB Thérèse Andreoli Milano, former Teacher, EMSB Mike Shaw, Retired Spiritual Animator, EMSB Nancy Bachleda Verrillo, Retired Teacher, Laurier MacDonald High School

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

Vote: 14-0-0, Adopted (Mr. M. Bentrovato not present for the vote)

Resolution # 24-09-10-12.1

## 13. Budget Allocations to Schools and Centres and the MEQ Measures 2024-2025

WHEREAS a committee comprised of the Director General, the Assistant Directors General, the Regional and Sector Directors, and the Directors of departments has reviewed the Budget Allocations to Schools and Centres and the MEQ Measures for 2024-2025;

WHEREAS the Central Management Advisory Committee – Resource Allocation Committee (CMAC-RAC) has reviewed all documentation at their meeting of August 30, 2024;

WHEREAS certain allocations can only be determined when the September 30, 2024 enrolment numbers are known;

WHEREAS the CMAC-RAC recommends to the Board the approval of the Budget Allocations to Schools and Centres as well as the allocation of the MEQ Measures for 2024-2025, as per the documentation submitted at the meeting;

IT WAS MOVED BY MS. ROSEMARIE FEDERICO AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED THAT, as recommended by the Central Management Advisory Committee – Resource Allocation Committee (CMAC-RAC), the Board approve the Budget Allocations to Schools and Centres as well as the allocation of the MEQ Measures for 2024-2025, as per the documentation submitted at the meeting;

AND THAT the Board authorize the Director General to approve the Budget Allocations for the Measures which can only be determined when the September 30, 2024, enrolment is known, as per the documentation submitted at the meeting;

AND THAT the Board authorize the Director General to approve transfers between schools during the 2024-2025 school year.

Vote: 15-0-0, Adopted

Resolution # 24-09-10-13

# 14. Resolution Regarding Forms to Exercise Voting Rights

WHEREAS one of the responsibilities and obligations of a Commissioner is to encourage citizens to register to be on the EMSB Electoral List and to vote at EMSB Elections;

WHEREAS it is a strength of the foundation of the English Montreal School Board;

**WHEREAS** community involvement and participation are relevant and necessary to impress the importance of the EMSB to the Government;

WHEREAS each Commissioner/Candidate needs to be provided with a supply of application forms so that when an elector requests to be listed on the EMSB Electoral List, that form is readily available;

WHEREAS ENGLISH MONTREAL SCHOOL BOARD be entered in the "school board square;" an x be entered in the "to exercise his voting right in the school board square;" 2024 be entered in the "year box" in the bottom right corner of the document;

IT WAS MOVED BY MS. ELLIE ISRAEL THAT the Administration provide each Commissioner/Candidate with as many forms that he or she requests so that all may fulfill their responsibility and obligation to register many electors on the Electoral Application Form.

Amendment by Commissioner Joseph Lalla:

*(...)* 

WHEREAS each Commissioner/Candidate <u>authorized by Élections Québec for the November 3<sup>rd</sup> election</u> needs to be provided with a supply of application forms so that when an elector requests to be listed on the EMSB Electoral List, that form is readily available;

(...)

IT WAS MOVED BY MS. ELLIE ISRAEL THAT the Administration provide each Commissioner/Candidate <u>authorized by Élections Québec for the November 3<sup>rd</sup> election</u> with as many forms that he or she requests so that all may fulfill their responsibility and obligation to register many electors on the Electoral Application Form.

Vote on amendment: 8-7-0, Adopted

In favor	J. Ortona, M. Bentrovato, A. Cannavino, J. Feldman, E. Israel, J. Lalla, P. Mercuri, D. Tatone
Against	J. Kromida, M. Corsi, S. De Vito, J. Fabian, R. Federico, M. Pietrangelo, T. Speranza
Abstained	

Vote on Main Motion including amendment: 4-11-0, Motion Defeated.

In Favor	M. Bentrovato, A. Cannavino, E. Israel, J. Lalla
Against	J. Ortona, J. Kromida, M. Corsi, S. De Vito, J. Fabian, R. Federico, J. Feldman, P. Mercuri,
	M. Pietrangelo, T. Speranza, D. Tatone
Abstained	

Deposit of Ethics Commissioner Decision and Applicable Sanction – EMSB vs. Sylvia Lo Bianco 15. Deposit of the Decision of Me Vincent Guida, Ethics Commissioner, rendered on June 27, 2024, in the case of EMSB vs. Sylvia Lo Bianco. The Chair, Mr. Ortona read the following sanctions concluded by Ethics Commissioner, Me Vincent Guida: a) A request for a public apology; b) A public reprimand; written reprimand read at a public meeting of Commissioners. Deposit of Ethics Commissioner Decision and Applicable Sanction – Agostino Cannavino vs. Joe Ortona 16. Deposit of the Decision of Me Vincent Guida, Ethics Commissioner, rendered on August 30, 2024, in the case of Agostino Cannavino vs. Joe Ortona. Mr. Ortona called Mr. Cannavino to order as he breached the rules of the quorum and did not make a public apology as per the findings of the Ethics Commissioner. The Chair of the Governance and Ethics Committee, Mr. Julien Feldman, read the following sanctions concluded by Ethics Commissioner, Me Vincent Guida: a) A public apology to be read by the Complainant during a public session of a meeting of the Council of Commissioners as per section 8.8.3 b) of the Code of Ethics; b) A written reprimand to be read by the Chair of the Governance and Ethics Committee during a public session of a meeting of the Council of Commissioners as per section 8.8.3 c) of the Code of Ethics. 17. Annual Report of Ethics Commissioners 2023-2024 This item was presented for information. 18. Annual Report of Designated Officer 2023-2024 This item was presented for information. 19. Schedule of Governance Committee Meetings 2024-2025 This item was presented for information. Committee Reports 20. 20.1 ACSES (Advisory Committee on Special Education Services) Item presented by Parent Commissioner, Ms. Rosemarie Federico: There has been no meeting since the last report. 20.2 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. 20.3 EMSBPC (English Montreal School Board Parents' Committee) Item presented by Parent Commissioner, Ms. Maria Corsi: There has been no meeting since the last report.

#### 20.4 Governance and Ethics Committee

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

At the last meeting in July, the Committee approved the extension requested by the Ethics Commissioner for the cases discussed this evening.

### 20.5 Audit Committee

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

The Committee met in July to approve the 2024-2025 Budget.

### 20.6 Human Resources Committee

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

There has been no meeting since the last report.

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

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

There has been no meeting since the last report.

## 20.8 EMSAC (English Montreal Student Advisory Committee)

Item presented by the Observer, Mr. Joseph Lalla:

There has been no meeting since the last report.

# 21. Commissioners' Report

Item presented by Commissioner, Mr. James Kromida:

It was a privilege to pick Parkdale as our opening school for the new year. It was a wonderful experience to see the happy faces of students and staff. Mr. Kromida thanked the front liners for their incredible work.

Item presented by Commissioner, Mr. Joseph Lalla:

- ➤ On September 5<sup>th</sup>, Royal Vale held a very successful Open House attracting hundreds of parents to explore the school and its programs;
- ➤ On September 6<sup>th</sup>, Mr. Lalla attended the Royal Vale Back 2 School Party. It was a great turnout, many happy faces, children and adults. Congratulations to the Home and School Association for organizing such a successful activity;
- ➤ I would like to thank all the staff here at head office for their hard work every day. I would especially like to thank our teachers, our school staff and school administrations for their endless hours of devotion to our students day after day to ensure that no student is left behind;
- ➤ I would like to thank all of the hundreds of parents who volunteer in our schools each year to help organize a whole host of school activities, organize fundraising activities, accompany students on field trips, volunteer for Governing Boards and volunteer for Home and School, to name a few. Parent volunteers are an integral part of our EMSB culture and should be recognized at every opportunity;
- ➤ Lastly, I would like to thank all the parents in the schools in my ward who I am honoured to represent and who have been so supportive of me during my many years as their school Commissioner.

	Item presented by Commissioner, Mr. Julien Feldman:
	➤ Mr. Julien Feldman thanked the administrators at the Board for their help in the process to register students in our schools.
	Item presented by Commissioner, Mr. Jamie Fabian:
	As the last meeting before the elections, Mr. Fabian thanked the administration for all of their hard work for the past 4 years. Thank you to principals and staff for all their hard work from the various schools in ward 4. Mr. Fabian expressed how he will not be running but foreseeing new project within the community.
	Item presented by Parent Commissioner, Mr. Tony Speranza:
	As the last meeting before the elections, Mr. Speranza thanked several people for their work and collaborations throughout his time as a Parent Commissioner of the EMSB.
	Item presented by Commissioner, Ms. Sophie De Vito:
	As the last meeting before the elections, Ms. De Vito expressed her thanks to administration and her colleagues as a Commissioner for the last 4 years.
	Item presented by Parent Commissioner, Mr. Daniel Tatone:
	As the last meeting before the elections, Mr. Tatone expressed his gratitude and thanks for being a Parent Commissioner for the last 4 years.
22.	Report of the Executive Committee Meeting held on June 18, 2024
	- Group Purchasing – Centre de services scolaire de la Pointe-de-l'Île (CSSPI) – Purchase of Dairy Products
23.	Other Business
	None.
24.	Adjournment
	IT WAS MOVED BY MR. MARIO PIETRANGELO AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED THAT the meeting be adjourned at 9:10 p.m.
	Vote: 15-0-0, Adopted <u>Resolution # 24-09-10-24</u>
	Signed in Montreal,
	Mr. Joe Ortona, Chair  Me Nathalie Lauzière, Secretary General

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