

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS OF THE  
ENGLISH MONTREAL SCHOOL BOARD

A Special Board Meeting of the English Montreal School Board has taken place on Wednesday, November 18, 2020, at 7:00 P.M. in the Laurence Patterson Conference Room, 6000 Fielding Avenue.

Commissioners Present

Me Joe Ortona, Chair  
Mr. Agostino Cannavino, Vice-Chair  
Mr. Mario Bentrovato, Commissioner  
Ms. Maria Corsi, Parent Commissioner, by phone  
Mr. Sophie De Vito, Commissioner  
Mr. Jamie Fabian, Commissioner  
Mr. Julien Feldman, Commissioner  
Ms. Ellie Israel, Commissioner  
Mr. James Kromida, Commissioner, by phone  
Mr. Joseph Lalla, Commissioner  
Mr. Pietro Mercuri, Commissioner  
Ms. Mubeenah Mughal, Parent Commissioner, by phone  
Mr. Mario Pietrangelo, Commissioner  
Mr. Tony Speranza, Parent Commissioner  
Mr. Daniel Tatone, Parent Commissioner, by phone

Administrators Present:

Ms. E. Alfonsi, Assistant Director General, Education Division  
Me B. Duhême, Assistant Director General, Administration Division  
Me N. Lauzière, Secretary General  
Mr. M. Cohen, Communications & Marketing Specialist  
Ms. B. Sellato, Consultant, Communications

Mr. Bernard Blackburn, représentant du ministère de l'Éducation du Québec

1.	<p><u>Proper Notice of the Special Board Meeting</u></p> <p>Me Nathalie Lauzière confirmed that proper notice of this meeting was given.</p>
2.	<p><u>Approval of the Agenda</u></p> <p>IT WAS MOVED BY MR. P. MERCURI, AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED THAT the agenda be approved, with the addition of item # 4.1, Motion to Move In Camera and Item #4.2, Appointment of Interim Director General.</p> <p>VOTE: 15-0-0 Adopted</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><u>Resolution # 20-11-18-2</u></p>

3.	<p><u>Question Period</u></p> <p>There was no questions for the question period.</p>
4.	<p><u>In Camera</u></p> <p>4.1 <u>Motion to Move In Camera</u></p> <p>On a motion by Ms. S. De Vito at 7:06 p.m. the meeting moved in camera.</p> <p>Vote 15-0-0, Adopted</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><u>Resolution #20-11-18-4.1</u></p> <hr/> <p>—</p> <p>Return from In Camera at 7:39 pm</p> <hr/> <p>—</p> <p>4.2 <u>Appointment of Interim Director General</u></p> <p><b>WHEREAS</b> Ms. Evelyne Alfonsi was appointed as Interim Director General “until the appointment of a new Director General”, by resolution #20-08-12-4.2;</p> <p><b>WHEREAS</b> Evelyne Alfonsi resigned as Interim Director General on November 17, 2020;</p> <p><b>WHEREAS</b> the hiring process for a permanent Director General is not yet complete;</p> <p><b>WHEREAS</b> Mr. Bernard Blackburn and the English Montreal School Board (EMSB)’s Council of Commissioners believe it is in the EMSB’s interest that an Interim Director General be appointed as soon as possible, and until the appointment of a permanent Director General;</p> <p>IT WAS MOVED BY MR. J. FELDMAN AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED THAT Ms. Pela Nickoletopoulos be appointed Interim Director General until the appointment of a permanent Director General.</p> <p>Vote 15-0-0, Adopted</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><u>Resolution #20-11-18-4.2</u></p> <hr/> <p>—</p> <p>Mr. P. Mercuri expressed gratitude to Ms. Alfonsi. A formal expression of thanks will take place at a public meeting.</p>
5.	<p><u>Request for a Legal Opinion</u></p> <p><b>WHEREAS</b> the Minister of Education issued a ministerial order pursuant to section 478.5 of the <i>Education Act</i> dated November 6, 2020;</p> <p><b>WHEREAS</b> the order requires the English Montreal School Board (EMSB) to implement numerous corrective measures pertaining to the management and control of the school board;</p>

	<p><b>WHEREAS</b> the order requires the EMSB to comply with oversight and monitoring measures;</p> <p><b>WHEREAS</b> the order provides for the appointment of an “intervenant” designated by the Minister and who will report to him on the implementation of corrective measures until June 30, 2021;</p> <p><b>WHEREAS</b> the EMSB represents the English-language minority rights holders protected by section 23 of the <i>Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms</i> and exercises their powers of management and control in education;</p> <p>IT WAS MOVED BY MR. J. KROMIDA AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED THAT the EMSB mandate Power Law to provide a legal opinion on the validity of the ministerial order under the <i>Education Act</i>, the <i>Charter</i> or any other applicable law.</p> <p>IT WAS FURTHER RESOLVED THAT Power Law may retain the services of Miller Thomson to obtain legal advice on behalf of the EMSB where needed.</p> <p>Vote 15-0-0, Adopted</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><u>Resolution #20-11-18-5</u></p>
6.	<p><u>Request for All Documents During Trusteeship Period</u></p> <p>IT WAS MOVED BY MR. P. MERCURI, AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that the item be tabled indefinitely.</p> <p>Vote 15-0-0, Adopted</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><u>Resolution #20-11-18-6</u></p>
7.	<p><u>Suspension of Hiring personnel cadre Until the Appointment of a Director General</u></p> <p>IT WAS MOVED BY MR. M. PIETRANGELO, AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that the item be tabled.</p> <p>Vote 15-0-0, Adopted</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><u>Resolution #20-11-18-7</u></p>
8.	<p><u>Service Contract for Communications</u></p> <p><b>WHEREAS</b> the English Montreal School Board (EMSB) Council of Commissioners has communications needs in transitioning post-trusteeship and with respect to ongoing litigation with the Government;</p> <p><b>WHEREAS</b> the EMSB has retained the services of Jonathan Goldbloom in the past to provide communications advice and the EMSB was satisfied with his consultancy services;</p> <p>IT WAS MOVED BY MR. P. MERCURI, AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED THAT the English Montreal School Board retain the consulting services of Jonathan Goldbloom.</p> <p>Vote 15-0-0, Adopted</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><u>Resolution #20-11-18-8</u></p>

9.	<p><u>Adjournment</u></p> <p>On a motion by Mr. J. Lalla the meeting was adjourned at 7:50 p.m.</p> <p>Vote 15-0-0, Adopted</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><u>Resolution # 20-11-18-9</u></p>
	<p>Signed in Montreal, _____</p> <p>_____ Me Joe Ortona, Chair</p> <p>_____ Me Nathalie Lauzière, Secretary General</p>