

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS OF THE
ENGLISH MONTREAL SCHOOL BOARD

A Regular Board Meeting of the English Montreal School Board has taken place on Wednesday, February 23, 2022, at 7:00 P.M. via TEAMS.

Commissioners Present

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

Commissioners Not Present

Mr. James Kromida, 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. Demetrios Giannacopoulos, Sector Director, Elementary
Ms. Angela Spagnolo, Sector Director, AEVS
Mr. Mario Cardin, Director, Material Resources
Ms. Livia Nassivera, Director, Financial Services
Ms. Marilyn Ramlakhan, Assistant Director, Human Resources
Ms. Julie René de Cotret, Director, Student Services
Ms. Anna Sanalidro, Director, Educational Services
Me Magdalena Sokol, Director of Legal Services
Mr. Bob Thomas, Director, Information Technology Services
Ms. Ann Watson, Director, Human Resources
Mr. Mike Cohen, Manager, Marketing & Communications
Ms. Brigida Sellato, Governance and Special Events Consultant, Secretariat General

1.	<p><u>Approval of Agenda</u></p> <p>IT WAS MOVED BY MR. PIETRO MERCURI AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED THAT the agenda be approved, as presented.</p> <p>Vote: 13-0-0, (Mario Pietrangelo not present for vote) Adopted</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><u>Resolution # 22-02-23-1</u></p>
2.	<p><u>Nomination of Ava Nicole Smith as Student of the Month</u></p> <p>As the source of inspiration for many of her peers, Willingdon School’s Ava Nicole Smith (Grade 5) has been named the EMSB’s Student of the Month for February.</p> <p>Despite facing many academic challenges herself, Ava was determined to find a way to boost her own scholastic performance and that of her friends. As such, she asked staff at Willingdon’s Senior Campus to help her create a “Catch Up” club which would allow students extra time to complete their work, thus helping them achieve better results.</p> <p>Ava promotes the club within the school, shows up daily to complete her work as well as ensures her friends do the same. Furthermore, she convinced Support Staff: Ms. Avery and Mr. Mark to house the club in the school’s resource room and provide oversight.</p> <p>“The club is full every day,” said Maya Doughan, Vice Principal. “For students and staff, Ava Nicole is a breath of fresh air in these very difficult times.”</p>
3.	<p><u>In Camera</u></p> <p><u>3.1 Motion to Move In Camera</u></p> <p>On a motion by Mr. Joseph Lalla the meeting moved In Camera at 7:05 p.m.</p> <p><u>3.2 Report of the Student Ombudsman – Parent Complaint</u></p> <p>The item was presented to Council Members, for information.</p>
	<p>The meeting returned from In Camera at 7:15 pm.</p>
4.	<p><u>Question Period</u></p> <p>Questions were addressed by the Chair, Mr. Joe Ortona:</p> <p>Questions from Mr. Chris Eustace:</p> <p>With regards to the Question Period, why not have the public seen and heard now as was done before?</p> <p>What is the amount paid by the EMSB to challenge Bill 40?</p> <p>What is the dispute between Énergère and the EMSB?</p>

5.	<p><u>Adoption of Minutes</u></p> <p><u>5.1 Adoption of the Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting held on January 26, 2022</u></p> <p>IT WAS MOVED BY MS. MARIA CORSI AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED THAT the Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting held on January 26, 2022, be approved as presented.</p> <p>Vote: 13-0-0, (Mario Pietrangelo not present for vote) Adopted</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><u>Resolution # 22-02-23-5.1</u></p>
	<p>Mr. Mario Pietrangelo joined that meeting at 7:24 pm.</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"> • As of February 1st, Black History Month kicked off throughout our schools. Throughout the month, students have been proudly celebrating and honoring Black History. Students have been learning about great historical figures like Nelson Mandela and so many Canadians and Americans all across the world who have accomplished many great things. Many schools throughout the EMSB have put up wall banners and bulletin boards with inspiring quotes and accomplishments from historical Black Leaders; • February 7th commenced Teacher Appreciation Week. All our teachers are committed to what they do, they continue to show their resiliency despite the very difficult year they faced. The Chair expressed his gratitude and is very proud; • February is also known as Kindness Month, for example an initiative that was taken at Bancroft School, Grade 4 students got to express what they like and love about themselves; • On February 14th , Valentines Day, student from Pierre de Coubertin made Valentines for veterans; • Hooked on Schools took place during the week of February 14th to the 18th, the week is known for perseverance in schools and to show encouragement for students; • The Chair took the time to recognize and congratulate Commissioner Mubeenah Mughal, as one of the CBC's Black Changemakers; • Today, February 23rd, an Anti-Bullying Campaign was launched (also known as Pink Shirt day).
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"> • Congratulations to Mubeenah Mughal on her achievement as one of the CBC's Black Changemakers; • February is Black History Month, all our schools have stepped up to organize activities that will raise awareness of this important issue. Mr. Katalifos took the time to congratulate all the schools for their work that has been done during this month; • A huge word of thanks to all teachers as we celebrate Teacher Appreciation Week. We are extremely proud of the exceptional educators that represent us in our schools, they do an incredible job even through these challenging circumstances; • The Diversity and Inclusion Campaign continues, the public is invited to visit our website www.emsb.qc.ca/diversity, to view what has been going on;

- Today is Pink Shirt Day, we launched the Anti-Bullying Campaign with a world famous wrestler, Jacques Rougeau, students had a virtual presentation. As we know, bullying is present in schools, workplace, homes, and online. Over the month of February and throughout the year, Pink Shirt Day aims to raise awareness and funds for this initiative;
- The Inside Out Project that has begun at MIND, is a platform that gives everyone the opportunity to make a statement by displaying large-scale black and white portraits of members from their community in public spaces;
- March is Nutrition Month, an interactive nutrition calendar has been created for students. This calendar offers daily health messages, activities on food or nutrients and links to educational material. A Nutrition Month Newsletter will be prepared for the EMSB community;
- Hooked on Schools took place February 14th to the 18th, when student are feeling sluggish and unmotivated this week marks the chance to talk about preserving in school. We want to show encouragement to students, a chance to highlight how far they've come and give them a boost so they can finish the school year strong;
- The ADGESBQ in collaboration with the Member Boards and the Centre de service scolaire, have created a portal to provide more information on the Regions, School Boards, to be able to search and apply for career opportunities, student internships, access resources, career fairs, to address the needs and concerns of the shortage of French teachers;
- A new joint project has been created by the Marketing and Communications, and Educational Services Departments, the French Podcast. It will be starting soon, and it will be hosted by two of our consultants, Nicolas Doyon and Marlene Boudreault.

9.

Committee Reports

9.1 ACSES (Advisory Committee on Special Education Services)

Item presented by Parent Commissioner, Ms. Mubeenah Mughal:

- A Presentation was given on Hors Reseau schools;
- We are in the process of recruiting parents as new members for ACSES next year;
- The Budget Building Process was reviewed, for consultation;
- New Professionals were hired in the Student Services Department.

9.2 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.

9.3 EMSBPC (English Montreal School Board Parents' Committee)

Item presented by Parent Commissioner, Ms. Mubeenah Mughal:

- We had a moment of silence to remember the victims in tragic shooting in the Quebec City Mosque 5 years ago;
- We spoke to Anti-Semitism and Anti-Racism.

Item presented by Parent Commissioner, Ms. Maria Corsi:

- The members renewed the Literacy Prize, where Elementary students received a book;
- The members renewed the Award of Merit, where one student per Elementary and per High school receives an award;
- A review of the Budget Building Consultation and the Parents Committees' responses from last year.

Item presented by Parent Commissioner, Mr. Daniel Tatone:

- The Parent Conference is scheduled for May 29th and will be held virtually, we are working with the EMSB, to source speakers and resources. We are looking forward for a keynote address. More information to come;
- EPCA gave an update on their presentation in the National Assembly on Bill 9.

9.4 Governance and Ethics Committee

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

There has been no meeting since the last report.

9.5 Audit Committee

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

- A lengthy discussion took place and suggestions will be made with regards to Whistleblowing Policy;
- A presentation was given from the Internal Audit Department.

9.6 Human Resources Committee

Item presented by the Chair of the Committee, Mr. Mario Bentrovato:

There has been no meeting since the last report. The next meeting is scheduled for March 9, 2022 via Teams.

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

Item presented by the Vice-Chair, Mr. Agostino Cannavino, Alternate Member on the Committee:

- As usual, the Maximum Short-Term Borrowings, Budget and Tax Projections were reviewed;
- The new poverty map should be completed for October 2023 and in effect for the 2024-2025 school year. This will permit the school classification to properly implement the new guidelines;
- Following the retirement of the Secretary General of Legal Affairs, a search has begun for a replacement.

9.8 EMSAC (English Montreal Student Advisory Committee)

Item presented by the Observer, Mr. Joseph Lalla:

- Elpis Argyrakopoulos, Pedagogical Consultant from the Educational Services Department, made a presentation on inner city schools and socio-economic disadvantages. It was pointed out during the presentation the disadvantages people in inner school areas may face, such as social, health, educational, safety, economic, etc. The presentation was very eye opening as to how students from all different walks of life can have different advantages or disadvantages in both life and school;
- Feedback on the Budget Building Process was tabled until the next meeting.

	<p><u>9.9 QESBA (Quebec English School Boards Association)</u></p> <p>Item presented by the Chair, Mr. Joe Ortona, Member on the QESBA:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • QESBA has presented jointly with ADGESBQ to the Parliamentary Commission on Culture and Education about Bill 9 at the National Assembly; • Still waiting on a decision with regards to Bill 40; • A brief discussion took place about Bill 96. The Parliamentary Commission on Culture and Education is reviewing the Bill clause by clause; • On January 29th the 2nd part of the Annual General Meeting took place, where Keith Eldridge was awarded with an Award of Merit. Also on this day, the QESBA re-elected Dan Lamoureux as president and Judy Kelly as Vice-President.
10.	<p><u>Commissioners' Report</u></p> <p>Item presented by Parent Commissioner, Mr. Daniel Tatone:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Ad Hoc Committee on Equity has a goal in which to align our efforts with what the EMSB is doing, and to address issues that have been brought up; • The main topic that was discussed is the lack of diversity in the learning environment and selective enrollment process in some of the 240 Schools. The Committee is looking for solutions for this issue.
11.	<p><u>Draft Calendars (Teachers) for the Youth, Adult and Vocational Sectors for 2022-2023 – For Consultation</u></p> <p>WHEREAS the Human Resources Department has drafted the calendars (teachers) for the youth, adult and vocational sectors for 2022-2023;</p> <p>WHEREAS the calendars (teachers) for the youth, adult and vocational sectors for 2022-2023 were sent out for the purposes of official consultation, following approval by the Council of Commissioners, to the following groups: - <i>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);</i></p> <p>WHEREAS the above parties submitted several proposed revisions to change the initial proposed Christmas holiday break, as well as the Spring break period;</p> <p>WHEREAS the proposed calendars (teachers) for the youth, adult and vocational sectors for 2022-2023 have been modified, as a result of the consultation, to reflect these proposed changes as well as the addition of a fixed professional day to reflect the provincial election day scheduled for October 3, 2022;</p> <p>WHEREAS as a result of the above, the revised draft calendars (teachers) for the youth, adult and vocational sectors for 2022-2023 must be sent out for the purposes of official consultation to the following groups:</p> <p><i>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)</i></p> <p>IT WAS MOVED BY MR. PIETRO MERCURI AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED THAT the proposed calendars (teachers) for the youth, adult and vocational sectors for 2022-2023 be approved and sent out, for purposes of consultation, to <i>English Montreal School Board Parents Committee (EMSBPC),</i></p>

	<p><i>Central Management Advisory Committee - Resource Allocation Committee (CMAC-RAC), Association of Montreal School Administrators (AMSA) and Montréal Teachers Association (MTA)</i> and the results of the consultation be returned to Ann Watson, Director of Human Resources no later than March 21, 2022, in accordance with the documentation submitted at the meeting.</p> <p>Vote: 14-0-0, Adopted</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><u>Resolution # 22-02-23-11</u></p>
12.	<p><u>Rollovers for 2021-2022</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 school and centre surpluses and the school and centre deficits to be covered for the school year 2020-2021;</p> <p>IT WAS MOVED BY MR. JAMIE FABIAN AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED, AS RECOMMENDED BY THE CENTRAL MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE/RESOURCE ALLOCATION COMMITTEE THAT the school and centre surpluses and deficits at June 30, 2021 be allocated to the 2021-2022 fiscal year, as outlined in the documentation submitted at this meeting.</p> <p>Vote: 14-0-0, Adopted</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><u>Resolution # 22-02-23-12</u></p>
13.	<p><u>Motion to Study the Creation of a Grade 12 Program at the EMSB</u></p> <p>WHEREAS in recent years there has been a significant increase in applications (enrollment) for CEGEPS, resulting in some EMSB students being turned away from CEGEP admission;</p> <p>WHEREAS there is a need to provide opportunities for post-secondary education for students who do not wish to attend CEGEP or were not accepted to the CEGEP of their choice;</p> <p>WHEREAS some EMSB students may wish to take advantage of a one-year academic program leading to University;</p> <p>WHEREAS Grade 12 is available throughout North America and students must currently enroll in private schools to benefit from a Grade 12 program in Quebec;</p> <p>WHEREAS the Quebec Education Act states that a school board can organize post-secondary classes;</p> <p>WHEREAS it would be beneficial to collect data on EMSB graduates to better inform and strengthen programs at EMSB high schools;</p>

	<p>IT WAS MOVED BY MR. TONY SPERANZA AND MS. MARIA CORSI AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED THAT the EMSB Council of Commissioners invite the Administrators of the EMSB to examine the feasibility of developing a Grade 12 program at the EMSB, with the intent of offering it as an option to EMSB students as of the 2023-24 school year, and to report on a plan to Council by June 2022.</p> <p>Vote: 14-0-0, Adopted</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><u>Resolution # 22-02-23-13</u></p>
14.	<p><u>Recognizing Commissioner Mubeenah Mughal</u></p> <p>WHEREAS the English Montreal School Board values diversity;</p> <p>WHEREAS the English Montreal School Board values the contributions made by members of the EMSB Community;</p> <p>WHEREAS Commissioner Mubeenah Mughal has distinguished herself through her advocacy work with Femmes Noires Musulmanes au Québec and Bâtiment 7;</p> <p>WHEREAS Commissioner Mubeenah Mughal has contributed to the EMSB community through her participation at the EMSB Parents' Committee, the EMSB Advisory Committee on Special Education Services as well as Governing Board;</p> <p>WHEREAS Commissioner Mubeenah Mughal has contributed to the EMSB community through her role as an EMSB Parent Commissioner;</p> <p>WHEREAS Commissioner Mubeenah Mughal was recently recognized as one of the CBC's Black Changemakers;</p> <p>IT WAS MOVED BY MR. PIETRO MERCURI AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED THAT Commissioner Mubeenah Mughal be recognized publicly by the EMSB Council of Commissioners for her many contributions to local causes and to the EMSB community and that Commissioner Mughal be given a public display of thanks.</p> <p>Vote: 14-0-0, Adopted</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><u>Resolution # 22-02-23-14</u></p>
15.	<p><u>Correspondence</u></p> <p>- Résolution de l'Arrondissement de St-Léonard, Ville de Montréal, pour les Journées de la persévérance scolaire 2022</p>
16.	<p><u>Other Business</u></p> <p>None.</p>

<p>17.</p>	<p><u>Adjournment</u></p> <p>IT WAS MOVED BY MR. AGOSTINO CANNAVINO AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED THAT the meeting be adjourned at 8:12 p.m.</p> <p>Vote: 14-0-0, Adopted</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><u>Resolution # 22-02-23-17</u></p>
	<p>Signed in Montreal, _____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>Me Joe Ortona, Chair</p> <p style="text-align: right;">_____</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Me Nathalie Lauzière, Secretary General</p>