

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS OF THE  
ENGLISH MONTREAL SCHOOL BOARD

A Special Board Meeting of the English Montreal School Board has taken place on Wednesday, August 16, 2023, at 6:00 P.M. in the Laurence Patterson Room, 6000 Fielding Avenue.

Commissioners Present

Me Joe Ortona, Chair  
Mr. Agostino Cannavino, Vice-Chair  
Mr. Mario Bentreovato, Commissioner  
Ms. Maria Corsi, Parent Commissioner  
Ms. Rosemarie Federico, Parent Commissioner – via TEAMS  
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 – via TEAMS

Commissioners Not Present

Ms. Sophie De Vito, Commissioner  
Mr. Jamie Fabian, Commissioner  
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. 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>Confirmation of Notice of the Meeting</u></p> <p>The Secretary General, Me Nathalie Lauzière, confirmed that proper notice of this meeting was given.</p>						
3.	<p><u>Approval of Agenda</u></p> <p>IT WAS MOVED BY MR. MARIO PIETRANGELO AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED THAT the agenda be approved as presented.</p> <p>Vote: 12-0-0, Adopted</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><u>Resolution # 23-08-16-3</u></p>						
4.	<p><u>Question Period</u></p> <p>Questions from Mr. Chris Eustace were addressed by the Chair, Mr. Joe Ortona, regarding the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Bill 40 Challenge</li> <li>- Global Philanthropic, a fund-raising agency</li> </ul>						
5.	<p><u>Motion requesting Commissioner Sophie De Vito to Resign</u></p> <p><b>WHEREAS</b> on Thursday, August 3, 2023 Commissioner Sophie De Vito posted racist anti-Francophone remarks on Twitter, and subsequently apologized;</p> <p><b>WHEREAS</b> such remarks are undignified of a school commissioner, who should be a model of the highest ethical standards to parents, students and the public;</p> <p><b>WHEREAS</b> such racial remarks directly harm those who are targeted, operates inherently as a shortcut to internalized oppression, and leads to an increasing escalation of hate, bias, and injustice in our society;</p> <p><b>WHEREAS</b> such undignified remarks from a school commissioner, tarnish the image of the English Montreal School Board, its Council of Commissioners and all its employees;</p> <p>IT IS MOVED BY MR. JOSEPH LALLA AND MR. AGOSTINO CANNAVINO THAT Sophie De Vito, commissioner for Ward 7, be requested to resign effective immediately.</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="151 1759 1533 1885"> <tr> <td>In favor</td> <td>A. Cannavino, J. Lalla</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Against</td> <td>J. Ortona, M. Corsi, R. Federico, J. Feldman, E. Israel, P. Mercuri, M. Pietrangelo, T. Speranza, D. Tatone</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Abstain</td> <td>M. Bentrovato</td> </tr> </table> <p>Vote: 2-9-1, Motion Defeated</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><u>Resolution # 23-08-16-5</u></p>	In favor	A. Cannavino, J. Lalla	Against	J. Ortona, M. Corsi, R. Federico, J. Feldman, E. Israel, P. Mercuri, M. Pietrangelo, T. Speranza, D. Tatone	Abstain	M. Bentrovato
In favor	A. Cannavino, J. Lalla						
Against	J. Ortona, M. Corsi, R. Federico, J. Feldman, E. Israel, P. Mercuri, M. Pietrangelo, T. Speranza, D. Tatone						
Abstain	M. Bentrovato						

6.	<p><u>Adjournment</u></p> <p>IT WAS MOVED BY MR. MARIO PIETRANGELO AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED THAT the meeting be adjourned at 7:10 p.m.</p> <p>Vote: 12-0-0, Adopted</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><u>Resolution # 23-08-16-6</u></p>
	<p>Signed in Montreal, _____</p> <p>_____ Me Joe Ortona, Chair</p> <p>_____ Me Nathalie Lauzière, Secretary General</p>