

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 6, 2022, at 7:00 P.M. in the Laurence Patterson Room, 6000 Fielding Avenue.

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 – via TEAMS
Mr. Jamie Fabian, Commissioner
Ms. Ellie Israel, Commissioner
Mr. Joseph Lalla, Commissioner
Mr. Pietro Mercuri, Commissioner
Mr. Mario Pietrangelo, Commissioner
Mr. Tony Speranza, Parent Commissioner

Commissioners Not Present

Mr. Julien Feldman, Commissioner
Mr. James Kromida, Commissioner
Ms. Mubeenah Mughal, Parent Commissioner
Mr. Daniel Tatone, Parent 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. Jimmy Giannacopoulos, Sector Director
Ms. Livia Nassivera, Director, Financial Services
Ms. Julie René de Cotret, Director, Student Services
Me Magda Sokol, Director, Legal Services
Mr. Bob Thomas, Director, Information Technology
Ms. Ann Watson, Director, Human Resources
Mr. Mike Cohen, Manager, Marketing & Communications
Ms. Brigida Sellato, Consultant, Secretariat General

2 members of the public were present

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>Approval of Agenda</u></p> <p>IT WAS MOVED BY MR. JAMIE FABIAN AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED THAT the agenda be approved, as presented.</p> <p>Vote: 11-0-0, Adopted</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><u>Resolution # 22-09-06-1</u></p>
3.	<p><u>Nomination of Emma Ryann Corbett as Student of the Month</u></p> <p>Emma Ryann Corbett, a Grade 4 student from Merton Elementary School, has been chosen as the EMSB Student of the Month for September. While Emma suffers from respiratory issues caused by her congenital scoliosis, this did not prevent her from raising over \$15,000 dollars for the Shriners Hospital and in turn, helping countless children in their time of need. In recognition of this and her incredible perseverance, Emma was also chosen to serve as one of the child ambassadors for the Montreal Children's Hospital Caring For Kids Radiothon which took place on August 25. We're all very proud of you Emma!</p>
4.	<p><u>Question Period</u></p> <p>Questions from Mr. Chris Eustace with regards to the Bill 40 Campaign and Bill 96 Challenge were addressed by the Chair, Mr. Joe Ortona.</p> <p>Questions from Mr. Chae Dickie-Clark with regards to the Student Complaint Process were addressed by the Chair, Mr. Joe Ortona.</p>

<p>5.</p>	<p><u>Adoption of Minutes</u></p> <p><u>5.1 Adoption of the Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting held on June 21, 2022</u></p> <p>IT WAS MOVED BY MR. PIETRO MERCURI AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED THAT the Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting held on June 21, 2022, be approved as presented.</p> <p>Vote: 11-0-0, Adopted</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><u>Resolution # 22-09-06-5.1</u></p> <p><u>7.2 Adoption of the Minutes of the Special Board Meeting held on June 29, 2022</u></p> <p>IT WAS MOVED BY MR. MARIO PIETRANGELO AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED THAT the Minutes of the Special Board Meeting held on June 29, 2022, be approved as presented.</p> <p>Vote: 11-0-0, Adopted</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><u>Resolution # 22-09-06-5.2</u></p>
<p>6.</p>	<p><u>Business Arising Out of Minutes</u></p> <p>Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting held June 21, 2022:</p> <p><u>18.2 Creation of an Ad Hoc Committee on Finance and Budget – Nominations of Members</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - This item was tabled, it is not on the Agenda for September 6, 2022. It must be brought to the Governance and Ethics Committee meeting in which this committee will make the recommendation to the Council of Commissioners for their final approval. <p><u>18.4 Creation of an Ad Hoc Committee on Education – Nomination of Members</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - This item was tabled, it is not on the Agenda for September 6, 2022. It must be brought to the Governance and Ethics Committee meeting in which this committee will make the recommendation to the Council of Commissioners for their final approval. <p>Minutes of the Special Board Meeting held on June 29, 2022:</p> <p><u>7. 2022-2023 Operating, Debt Service, and Capital Investment Budget</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The budget should be balanced on annual basis. We should use the surplus money to directly benefit the students and schools.
<p>7.</p>	<p><u>Chair’s Report</u></p> <p>Presented by the Chair, Mr. Joe Ortona:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Honoré Mercier Elementary School held a special event to inaugurate the first day of school; • A celebration took place at Westmount High School for their 150th school year. It was a beautiful event that the school organized, in which past and present administrators and students were present. They gave touching speeches about their memories at the school; • The province of Quebec is in the middle of a provincial election campaign and the EMSB is reaching out to various parties in the hopes of having them agree to meet with us and it would be a nice opportunity to get to know some of the candidates and for them to get to know us. This would be a great opportunity to discuss some issues that are important to us as a community, including the language policy, court challenges that we have launched, what are their plans in education. On September 20th, there will be an event being held virtually for all high school students where candidates from various parties will be invited. An invitation has been sent to all major parties to have the opportunity to have discussions with the students and for the students to ask questions about issues that are important to them. It gives students a chance to be exposed to politics at a younger age, it allows them to be more involved in their civic duty and once they turn 18 years old they will be able to vote.

8.

Director General’s Report

Presented by the Director General, Mr. Nicholas Katalifos:

- On behalf of the Directorate, Mr. Katalifos took a moment to welcome everyone back and hoped that everyone had a wonderful summer and had the opportunity enjoy their time off with their friends and family;
- To touch upon last year’s accomplishments and what to expect this year, last year the EMSB has adapted to the constantly changing conditions and made sure that all of our students both in Youth and Adult Education and Vocational Services Sector continue to learn and as a School Board, we displayed our customary strength and resilience through sometimes very difficult circumstances. Based upon our collective leadership, it was made abundantly clear when one considers that the EMSB continues to boast the highest success rate in graduation and qualification in all public School Boards on the island of Montreal, based on a 7 year cohort at 90.3% and the province wide success rate, which includes both the public and private school results, remains stable at 81.8%;
- Our mission as a School Board is to develop the leaders of tomorrow and this includes promoting the notion of social responsibility. This will be a big theme for the EMSB. Last year, with the support of Council, we embarked upon a campaign entitled “*Celebrating Diversity and Inclusivity.*” It offered a glimpse into school life and many of the programs that we are currently running and we fully intend to keep the momentum going by developing policies for our Board and promoting the notion not only of inclusion but ultimately of acceptance. This year, we intend to embark upon a Respect campaign to impress upon our communities and the public at large that our schools are safe spaces and that our stakeholders must be treated with the respect that they deserve.
- The EMSB will also launch a consultation process for a new special needs school and among other things, intend to sign a new entente with the Quebec Board of Black Educators;
- In the hopes of building upon last year’s successes, the Student Services department focused upon Mental Health and Wellness while our Material Resources department continues to coordinate millions of dollars on projects in our buildings.
- The AEVS department pivoted to hybrid models of instruction due to the pandemic and Educational Services, in conjunction with Human Resources and Information Technology and others worked under intense pressure and partnership with our sister School Boards to create the Quebec Online Alliance. QOA is an online campus for students with medical exemptions. It is important that we support our students who need this particular service. This project has led us successfully to apply for the creation of our own virtual school. It was recently announced that the pilot project was accepted by the Ministry of Education. The Quebec Virtual Academy is currently accepting students who qualify based on the criteria that was given by the Ministry.
- As is the case, throughout the entire school system in our province, we’re currently actively tackling the challenges created by the labor shortage and can report that the overwhelming majority of our teachers and staff are in place and our bus routes are operating although there are still some delays in various areas that are being worked on. However, in reality we were able to get our busses rolling on the first day of school and most of our staffing is done;
- Lastly and most importantly, on behalf of all of the EMSB, the Director General would like to offer the community the very best as we start the school year and thank our employees both in the Youth and AEVS sectors as well as our administrative building for everything that they do on a daily basis to educate and inspire our students.

9.

Committee Reports

9.1 ACSES (Advisory Committee on Special Education Services)

- There was no report.

9.2 Transportation and Safety Advisory Committee

Item presented by the Chair of the Committee, Mr. Pietro Mercuri:

- There has been no meeting yet, the next meeting will be held on October 26th ;
- A Special meeting was held in order to review and discuss the transportation contracts.

9.3 EMSBPC (English Montreal School Board Parents' Committee)

Item presented by Parent Commissioner, Ms. Maria Corsi:

- There has been no meeting;
- Ms. Corsi took the opportunity to welcome our parent community to the new school year. The EMSB is very fortunate to enjoy strong parental engagement and involvement in the schools as we emerge from 2 years of restrictions due to the pandemic. Ms. Corsi encourages parents to volunteer in whatever capacity they can as it enriches the school community and the children's education. Also, she strongly encourages parents to attend their school annual general assemblies to elect members to their governing board and delegates to the parents committee to ensure representation and a strong parent voice in the School Board governance structure.

9.4 Governance and Ethics Committee

Item presented by the Vice-Chair of the Committee, Mr. Mario Pietrangelo:

- There has been no meeting.

9.5 Audit Committee

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

- There has been no meeting, however Mr. Speranza provided the following update:

At the last meeting a discussion took place about the importance of filing the conflict of interest forms for Commissioners. It was supposed to have gone out in July but as the mandate from the MEQ for the external audit hadn't been published, the forms were not sent out. Now that the mandate has been published, the Audit Committee will look into it and the forms will be sent out very soon.

9.6 Human Resources Committee

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

- There was no report.

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:

- The next meeting is scheduled for September 15th;
- Over the summer, the subcommittee comprised of the alternates from the 3 Service Centres and 2 School Boards met on several occasions. The mandate was to review Policies and By-Laws to accommodate the difference between the terminology of School Service Centres and School Boards, but also to take into consideration the new guidelines for recent legislation that was adopted by Quebec with regards to public institutions and document safekeeping.

9.8 EMSAC (English Montreal Student Advisory Committee)

Item presented by the Observer, Mr. Joseph Lalla:

- There has been no meeting yet as the new student representatives have not yet been elected by all the High Schools to form the Committee. This is usually done towards the later part of this month.

	<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"> • We are still waiting for a judgement on Bill 40; • The Superior Court rendered a decision on Bill 49, in which a person can be on both a City Council and be a School Commissioner. A copy of this decision was distributed; • The next meeting is scheduled for September 9th ; • The Council will be advised of the date for the first Annual General Assembly.
10.	<p><u>Commissioners' Report</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There were no reports.
11.	<p><u>ClicSÉQUR Access</u></p> <p>WHEREAS the Government of Quebec's clicSÉQUR – Enterprise authentication service allows all businesses and organizations to access several online services offered by government departments and agencies free of charge and in complete security;</p> <p>WHEREAS to continue using Quebec's clicSÉQUR a resolution from the Council of Commissioners is required in order to name a representative;</p> <p>IT WAS MOVED BY MR. TONY SPERANZA AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that Soula Natiotis, (Manager Financial Services) and Livia Nassivera (Director, Financial Services) (hereinafter the <i>representatives</i>), be authorized to sign, on behalf of the company, the documents required for registration with clicSÉQUR and, generally, to do whatever they deem useful and necessary for this purpose;</p> <p>AND THAT the Minister of Revenue be authorized to communicate to the representatives the information in his possession and which is necessary for registration with clicSÉQUR.</p> <p>Vote: 11-0-0, Adopted</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><u>Resolution # 22-09-06-11</u></p>
12.	<p><u>Annual Report of Student Ombudsman 2021-2022</u></p> <p>WHEREAS the Student Ombudsman must submit an annual report to the Board stating the number of complaint referrals received and their nature, the corrective measures recommended and any action that was taken;</p> <p>WHEREAS Me Isabelle Turgeon submitted her annual report to the English Montreal School Board on August 14, 2022;</p> <p>WHEREAS the said report must be attached to the Board's annual report;</p> <p>IT WAS MOVED BY MR. JOSEPH LALLA AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED THAT the Annual Report of the Student Ombudsman 2021-2022 be received and deposited.</p> <p>Vote: 11-0-0, Adopted</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><u>Resolution # 22-09-06-12</u></p>
13.	<p><u>Annual Report of Ethics Commissioner 2021-2022</u></p> <p>This item was presented as information.</p>

14.	<u>Annual Report of Designated Officer 2021-2022</u> This item was presented as information.
15.	<u>Confirmation of Board Level Administrators</u> This item was presented by the Director General, Mr. Nick Katalifos, for information. The Director General confirmed the following Board Level Administrators in their assignment: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mr. Demetrios Giannacopoulos, Sector Director - Me Magdalena Sokol, Director of Legal Services
16.	<u>Schedule of Governance Committee Meetings 2022-2023</u> This item was presented as information.
17.	<u>Report of the Executive Committee Meeting held on June 21, 2022</u> - Awarding of Contract – P-1915 – Architect Firm Selection for Royal Vale – Major Renovation Project
18.	<u>Other Business</u> None.
19.	<u>Adjournment</u> IT WAS MOVED BY MR. AGOSTINO CANNAVINO AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED THAT the meeting be adjourned at 8:07 p.m. Vote: 11-0-0, Adopted <u>Resolution # 22-09-06-19</u>
	Signed in Montreal, _____ _____ Me Joe Ortona, Chair _____ Me Nathalie Lauzière, Secretary General