

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS OF THE
ENGLISH MONTREAL SCHOOL BOARD

A Regular Board Meeting of the English Montreal School Board has taken place on Tuesday, May 28, 2024, at 7:00 P.M. in the Laurence Patterson Room, 6000 Fielding Avenue, Montreal.

Commissioners Present

Mr. Joe Ortona, Chair
Mr. Mario Bontrovato, 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
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

Mr. James Kromida, Vice-Chair (Regrets)
Ms. Ellie Israel, Commissioner

Administrators Present:

Mr. Nicholas Katalifos, Director General
Me Jack Chadirdjian, Assistant Director General, Administration
Me Nathalie Lauzière, Secretary General

Ms. Darlene Kehyayan, Sector Director, East
Ms. Angela Spagnolo, Sector Director, AEVS
Ms. Livia Nassivera, Director, Financial Services
Ms. Julie René de Cotret, Director, Student Services
Ms. Anna Sanalidro, 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
Mr. Mauro Zampini, Assistant Director, Student Services
Mr. Mike Cohen, Manager, Marketing & Communications
Ms. Brigida Sellato, Consultant, Secretariat General

One member of the public was present.

1.	<p><u>Land Acknowledgement</u></p> <p>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.</p> <p>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:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. <p>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>Nomination of Elsa Kuerti as Student of the Month</u></p> <p>The Student of the Month for May is Elsa Kuerti from F.A.C.E. School.</p> <p>Elsa is one of the hardest working students in Theodora Stathopoulos' class. At only 10 years old, Elsa is not only an accomplished artist on her violin but a great role model and mentor to her peers. Playing at a collegial level, Elsa participates in the F.A.C.E. Symphony Orchestra, which rehearses weekly, after school, for 2 and a half hours. However, in order to support her peers and help the elementary school string orchestras, she gives an hour of her time each week during lunch to support and lead the Junior Orchestra and another hour after school to lead the Intermediate Orchestra. A testament to her ability, this winter, Elsa was one of the four F.A.C.E. elementary students featured in Vivaldi's concerto, which was performed at Place Des Arts to celebrate the 25th anniversary of F.A.C.E. Symphony Orchestra. Congratulations Elsa!</p>
3.	<p><u>Question Period</u></p> <p>Questions from Ms. Myrtis Fossey were read and addressed by the Chair, Mr. Joe Ortona, regarding the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Collaborations on Bill 21 ➤ Collaborations on Bill 96 <p>Questions from Ms. Allison Gonsalves were read and addressed by the Chair, Mr. Joe Ortona, regarding the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Position of Principal at F.A.C.E. School <p>Questions from Mr. Chris Eustace were read and addressed by the Chair, Mr. Joe Ortona, regarding the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Question Period

4.	<p><u>Approval of Agenda</u></p> <p>IT WAS MOVED BY MS. ROSEMARIE FEDERICO AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED THAT the agenda be approved as presented.</p> <p>Vote: 13-0-0, Adopted</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><u>Resolution # 24-05-28-4</u></p>
5.	<p><u>Adoption of Minutes</u></p> <p><u>5.1 Adoption of the Minutes of the Special Board Meeting held on April 10, 2024</u></p> <p>IT WAS MOVED BY MR. PIETRO MERCURI AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED THAT the Minutes of the Special Board Meeting held on April 10, 2024, be approved as presented.</p> <p>Vote: 13-0-0, Adopted</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><u>Resolution # 24-05-28-5.1</u></p> <p><u>5.2 Adoption of the Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting held on April 30, 2024</u></p> <p>IT WAS MOVED BY MR. MARIO PIETRANGELO AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED THAT the Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting held on April 30, 2024, be approved as presented.</p> <p>Vote: 13-0-0, Adopted</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><u>Resolution # 24-05-28-5.2</u></p> <p><u>5.3 Adoption of the Minutes of the Special Board Meeting held on May 6, 2024</u></p> <p>IT WAS MOVED BY MR. PIETRO MERCURI AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED THAT the Minutes of the Special Board Meeting held on May 6, 2024, be approved as presented.</p> <p>Vote: 13-0-0, Adopted</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><u>Resolution # 24-05-28-5.3</u></p>
6.	<p><u>Business Arising Out of Minutes</u></p> <p>On the Minutes of the Regular Board meeting held on April 30, 2024, Mr. Joseph Lalla spoke of item 3 – <i>Presentation of EMSB’s First Lifetime Achievement Award.</i></p>
7.	<p><u>Chair’s Report</u></p> <p>Presented by the Chair, Mr. Joe Ortona:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Mr. Ortona along with Mr. Feldman were invited to a meeting with Heidi Berger and Marcy Bruck from the Foundation for Genocide Education. Their mission is to collaborate with governments and educational experts to ensure that the history of genocide and the steps leading to it are taught in High Schools across Canada and the United States. Representatives from the organization continue to speak at EMSB schools. The EMSB has adopted a resolution calling for mandatory education related to the Holocaust and Genocide. The Foundation was the driving force behind the Quebec Education Ministry’s initiative to create a universal guide on teaching genocide. This educational tool features case studies of nine significant 20th century genocides, including the First Nations Genocide, definitions of the stages leading to genocide along with customizable teaching plans and reference materials. The interactive guide is now available in English and French online, in every High School across Quebec, reaching over 310,000 students in 800 schools. No other resource has achieved such widespread educational impacts on the study of genocide and educators from across Canada are eager to review this unique educational tool and bring it to their classrooms. A very productive and interesting discussion took place at the meeting about how to expand this into more schools and classrooms, a meeting with the Minister of Education will be scheduled;

- The Long Service reception for the employees with 25 years of service took place during the month of May. It was very nice to congratulate and celebrate with the employees who dedicated 25 years of service to the EMSB and appreciate all of those employees for all of their years of service and we wish them many more years of success within the EMSB;
- Also in the month of May, the QESBA/AAESQ Spring Conference took place. It was a very successful event with fantastic keynote speakers and professional development sessions. A special thank you to Mark Power, Audrey Mayrand and Perri Ravon from Power Law for their very insightful presentation on section 23 of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms;
- Mr. Ortona made a public statement on behalf of the EMSB about Minister Roberge's comments regarding French instruction in our schools. The Minister says that we should be doing more to teach French, Mr. Ortona felt it was important to correct the record. EMSB students fare very well on the French Exit exam, including those in Français enrichi and Français langue maternelle. In regards to the French language, students are not all on the same level. There are students who are struggling, who are coded, who have learning disabilities and certain difficulties with adjustments and social maladjustments, we have to find ways to make their educational pathway easier and successful rather than more difficult. No comment or response was given by the Minister of Education following Mr. Ortona's statement;
- Mr. Ortona attended the Ted Ed Students Talks at Royal West Academy, where he got to see the students from all of our High Schools give very impressive speeches. It was nice to see the students showcasing their talents, talking about subjects that interested them and the amount of research that was done. It was a great event and many parents were there to watch their kids;
- The Laurier Macdonald Vocational Centre held its open house. There were many sports and muscle cars on display. Students had the opportunity to take a tour of the school, play with some of the equipment and experiment with woodworking or welding. Congratulations go out to Ms. Borsellino and the entire administration for their hard work for a successful open house;
- The CGTSIM gave out their *bourse de mérite pour la persévérance scolaire*. Scholarships of \$500 were given to students in Elementary Schools, High Schools and the Adult Sector for their perseverance in school. Congratulations go out to all our students for their efforts and a fantastic year they had.

8.

Director General's Report

Presented by the Director General, Mr. Nicholas Katalifos:

- In honour of Teacher Recognition Day on May 7th, three teachers were presented with special awards at Lester B. Pearson High School. The EMSB launched this ceremony more than a decade ago to coincide with National Teachers Day in the United States and recognize the profession towards the end of the academic year. There were many nominations from parents for the awards. Maria Frank from the Bâton Rouge Restaurant chain was on hand to present gift cards and certificates to several teachers including, Paul Karpontinis, a Social Studies teacher at Lester B. Pearson High School, Karine Gomes Silva, a Physical Education teacher at Gerald McShane Elementary School and Georgette Amar, a Common Core Basic Education teacher at Galileo Adult Education Centre. Congratulations to all of these teachers for their incredible work and the recognition that they received;
- On May 21st, singer David Marino returned to his former Elementary School, Leonardo Da Vinci Academy to perform and speak to the students. David who continued on to study at Vincent Massey Collegiate made his mark in 2017 as a contestant and finalist on the French language reality show La Voix. It was wonderful to see an alumni come back and speak to our students;
- Westmount High School was fortunate to be part of the JeunesExplo Program, becoming the first and only EMSB school to have taken part in this program. We hope to bring forward more information about this program in the near future;
- Secondary 4 and 5 science classes at Marymount Academy International School had a special visit from former astronaut and politician Marc Garneau. A number of years ago, the school named its science program after Mr. Garneau, one of the first Canadians to ever travel into space. He also served as a Member of Parliament for Westmount, NDG and sat in cabinet holding the portfolios of Foreign Affairs in Transport. Mr. Garneau provided students with a fascinating look at the Canadian Space Program and answered a series of interesting questions;

- The Breakfast Club of Canada has made an important contribution to John Grant High School. This school for students with learning disabilities offers tailored programs and community partnerships under the guidance of teacher David Armour. A group of students oversee the preparation of breakfast and lunch, feeding at least 120 people a day in the school cafeteria. Thanks to the subsidies from The Breakfast Club of Canada, all students are provided with a nutritious breakfast to help foster student success. Quebec MNA's, Désirée McGraw and Elisabeth Prass from D'Arcy McGee spent part of the day at John Grant to learn more about the program. Principal Gregory Watson and members of the staff were on hand and we congratulate them on their hard work;
- In honor of Yom Hashoah, Holocaust Remembrance Day, Merely Weitzman, a member of The Foundation for Genocide Education school presentation program, shared the remarkable story of her late father, Leon Calderon, with over 100 Secondary 5 students at Royal Vale High School on May 7th. Also in this regard, on May 13th, the Grade 6 students at Westmount Park Elementary School visited the Holocaust Museum of Montreal following their novel study of "Number the Stars" and delving into inspiring stories of Heroes of the Holocaust. This was a profound educational experience witnessing authentic artifacts from that dark period of history of which left an indelible mark on their hearts and minds. The key takeaway resonated deeply to glean invaluable lessons from history, ensuring that past mistakes are not repeated;
- More than 300 people purchased tickets for the CF Montreal game on May 22nd for the Canadian Championship series game against Forge FC from Hamilton. The imposing team won by a two one margin, but a very good time was had by all;
- To celebrate the end of the school year with the EMSB family, we ask the public to join us on June 20th at 7:30 p.m. as the Montreal Alouettes begin their quest to repeat versus the Ottawa Redblacks, tickets begin at \$17. We hope to see a lot participation from the EMSB family;
- The Quebec Virtual Academy had a milestone event on May 1st, when Samuel Boro-Norman was the first QVA student to participate in a GMAA competition. Samuel, originally a student at Westmount High School, currently attends the Quebec Virtual Academy as an athlete training at an elite level. He is a Secondary 2 student who balances his academic demands with QVA and his intense training with the track and field organization *Club de Vainqueurs*. The flexibility that the QVA program gives students, like Samuel, the opportunity to focus on their passion and sport without compromising the quality of education. With a bright future ahead of himself on and off the track, Samuel is returning from an injury and ran a race in the 800 meters, where he ranked 9th in Quebec in that particular event. Samuel has qualified for the regionals to be held on May 13th, with the hopes of qualification to represent QVA at the Provincial track and field competition in June. Physical Education teacher, Deep Patel and Principal, David Servello were in attendance to cheer him on;
- On May 3rd, the F.A.C.E. symphony orchestra under the direction of EMSB music teacher, Theodora Stathopoulos and the F.A.C.E. Wind Ensemble Con Brio under the direction of Marie-Ève Arseneau, participated in a gala concert at the Maison Symphonique;
- The new edition of Inspirations has arrived and is available online and in all schools. This edition has something for everyone. The mental health and well-being section is rich and important, its resourceful and helpful content written by experts in our EMSB Student Services Department. Consult the edition to learn about how to access mental healthcare in Quebec, an interview with Psychiatrist, Dr. Julian Z. Xue on mental healthcare and young people, sleep disorders, what they are, how to assess them and what to do, music and mindfulness and more. We invite everyone to take the opportunity to read the magazine, it can be found online at <https://inspirationsnews.com/inspirations>.

9. Proposed Revision of EMSB Administrative Organizational Chart 2024-2025 – Following Consultation

WHEREAS the Council of Commissioners approved for consultation, the proposed revision of the EMSB Administrative Organizational Chart for 2024-2025;

WHEREAS the Association of English Montreal Board Administrators (AEMBA), the Association québécoise des cadres scolaires – EMSB Section (AQCS), the Association of Montreal School Administrators (AMSA), the Central Management Advisory Committee – Resource Allocation Committee (CMAC-RAC) and English Montreal School Board Parents Committee (EMSBC) were consulted on the proposed revision of the EMSB Administrative Organizational Chart and invited to submit their views in writing;

WHEREAS the responses to consultation are part of the documentation submitted;

IT WAS MOVED BY MR. PIETRO MERCURI AND RESOLVED THAT the proposed revised EMSB Administrative Organizational Chart 2024-2025 be approved.

Vote: 11-2-0, Adopted

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

Resolution # 24-05-28-9

10. School Tax Revenue for 2024-2025

WHEREAS as per the Act to establish a Single School Tax Rate, SQ 2019, c5, the English Montreal School Board (EMSB) must forward to the Comité de gestion de la taxe scolaire de l'île de Montréal (CGTSIM), by resolution of its Council of Commissioners, a request requiring the payment of the amount for financing local needs;

IT WAS MOVED BY MR. PIETRO MERCURI AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED THAT the English Montreal School Board requests that the Comité de gestion de la taxe scolaire de l'île de Montréal (CGTSIM) transfer to the EMSB the maximum amount of school tax revenue for financing local needs for the 2024-2025 fiscal year.

IT WAS FURTHER UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED THAT a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the CGTSIM.

Vote: 13-0-0, Adopted

Resolution # 24-05-28-10

11. Additional Money for Schools and Centres

WHEREAS school fundraising activities are regularly held in our schools to enable schools to undertake additional projects and other activities not covered by regular funding for the exclusive benefit of students, including, but not limited to, the purchase of instruments, equipment for recreational purposes, yard improvements, and graduation ceremonies;

WHEREAS additional money to schools would alleviate some of the pressure for schools to organize fundraising activities for the benefits of students;

WHEREAS in previous years money from the English Montreal School Board's accumulated surplus has helped schools to purchase musical instruments, equipment for recreational purposes and school yard improvements;

WHEREAS it is expected for the English Montreal School Board to once again have an accumulated surplus this year;

WHEREAS it is permitted to use money from the appropriated surplus to provide additional support to our students and schools;

WHEREAS for the 2015-16 school year, due to an accumulated surplus of money at the school board, approximately \$2,000,000 was allocated to schools and centres in addition to their regular annual school budgets;

- Each elementary school, high school, and adult and vocational centre was allotted an additional \$20,000. As well, each elementary and high school received an additional allocation of \$2,500 to purchase library books.

Below are some examples of how this money could be spent:

- Furniture, equipment, computers, iPads;
- Materials and Supplies: Art materials, storage bins, textbooks, office supplies, paper
- Building maintenance and repairs, graffiti removal, etc. (non-capital)
- Student Activities
- Teacher Training
- Student Tutoring
- Library books

- School administrations and Governing Boards determined how the money was to be spent.

WHEREAS for the 2016-17 school year, due to an accumulated surplus of money at the school board, approximately \$1,000,000 was allocated to schools and centres in addition to their regular annual school budgets;

- Each elementary school, high school, and adult and vocational centre was allotted an additional \$15,000.

Again, this money could be spent on:

- Furniture, equipment, computers, iPads;
- Materials and Supplies: Art materials, storage bins, textbooks, office supplies, paper
- Building maintenance and repairs, graffiti removal, etc. (non-capital).
- Student activities
- Teacher training
- Student tutoring
- Library books

- School administrations and Governing Boards determined how the money was to be spent.

WHEREAS for the 2017-18 school year, due to an accumulated surplus of money at the school board, approximately \$2,000,000 was allocated to schools and centres in addition to their regular annual school budgets;

- Each elementary school, high school, and adult and vocational centre was allotted an additional \$20,000. Additionally, \$4,000 was allocated specifically for tutoring and \$2,400 for library books, for a grand total of \$26,400 for each school and centre.

Again, this money could be spent on:

- Furniture, equipment, computers, iPads;
- Materials and Supplies: Art materials, storage bins, textbooks, office supplies, paper
- Building maintenance and repairs, graffiti removal, etc. (non-capital).
- Student activities
- Teacher training
- Student tutoring
- Library books

- School administrations and Governing Boards determined how the money was to be spent.

WHEREAS for the 2018-19 school year, due to an accumulated surplus of money at the school board, approximately \$2,000,000 was allocated to schools and centres in addition to their regular annual school budgets;

- Each elementary school, high school, and adult and vocational centre was allotted an additional \$20,000. Additionally, \$4,000 was allocated specifically for tutoring and \$2,400 for library books, for a grand total of \$26,400 for each school and centre.

Again, this money could be spent on:

- Furniture, equipment, computers, iPads;
- Materials and Supplies: Art materials, storage bins, textbooks, office supplies, paper
- Building maintenance and repairs, graffiti removal, etc. (non-capital).
- Student activities
- Teacher training
- Student tutoring
- Library books

- School administrations and Governing Boards determined how the money was to be spent.

IT IS MOVED BY MR. JOSEPH LALLA THAT for the 2024-25 school year all elementary schools, high schools, and adult and vocational centres each be allotted an additional \$15,000.

- This money can be spent on:

- Furniture, equipment, computers, iPads;
- Materials and supplies: Art materials, storage bins, textbooks, office supplies, paper
- Building maintenance and repairs, graffiti removal, etc. (non-capital expenses).
- Student activities
- Teacher training
- Student tutoring
- Library books

- School administrations and Governing Boards are to determine how the money is to be spent.

Vote: 2-11-0, Motion Defeated

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

Resolution # 24-05-28-11

12. Joseph Lalla v. Sophie De Vito (File EC-2024-3) – Decision of Ethics Commissioner

The decision of Me Frédéric Henri, Ethics Commissioner, rendered on May 13, 2024, in the case of Commissioners Joseph Lalla v. Sophie De Vito was deposited at this meeting.

A discussion took place amongst Commissioners regarding the item.

13. Committee Reports

13.1 ACSES (Advisory Committee on Special Education Services)

Item presented by Parent Commissioner, Ms. Rosemarie Federico:

- There has been no meeting since the last report.

13.2 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.

13.3 EMSBPC (English Montreal School Board Parents' Committee)

Item presented by Parent Commissioner, Mr. Daniel Tatone:

- The committee was presented with the consultation on the opening of a new school in the Nesbitt building by Ms. Julie René de Cotret and Mr. Mauro Zampini. Questions regarding the consultation were asked and answered. The EMSBPC decided to write a letter rather than a brief to express their concerns and comments. A subcommittee of 7 members was formed in order to write the letter;
- Bill Yong from Chabad Lifeline gave a presentation about Chabad Lifeline and its mandate to the community and to members and answered questions. Chabad Lifeline is a non-sectarian agency dedicated to helping everyone affected by addiction. This is a great partnership between the parents and Chabad Lifeline;
- There was a discussion about the allocations to members for 2024. The Executive Committee further recommends that in order to receive any allocation, any delegate must have to attend at least 4 meetings. Any alternate that was substituting for a delegate and was present for at least 4 meetings will receive the allocation. The remaining balance of the EMSBPC budget will be divided between members who have attended at least 4 meetings. Members who do not wish to receive the allocation may choose to donate it to a charity or school;
- The consultation on the proposed organizational chart was presented to the EMSBPC in which they accepted as is;
- There was some discussion on the subcommittee regarding the EMSB marketing. The committee realigned their priorities and the top 3 recommendations were to bring back information to the Governing Boards, a flyer with information be sent to parents and to re-establish a permanent subcommittee for marketing.

13.4 Governance and Ethics Committee

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

- There has been no meeting since the last report.

13.5 Audit Committee

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

- There has been no meeting since the last report.

13.6 Human Resources Committee

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

- There has been no meeting since the last report.

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

Item presented by the Substitute Member on the Committee, Mr. Pietro Mercuri:

- Reports on receivables as well as budgetary reports up to March 31, 2024, were presented;

- The committee had a follow-up on the optimization recommendations that they were given by CIM Conseil. These recommendations included the training of staff members so that they can complete certain other job functions. Other suggestions included transfer of some job functions to different staff members and to members of employees. Also, there were recommendations pertaining to the purchase of some new equipment related to telephone communications, as well as the re-organization of certain general email addresses that the committee uses. Other technology considerations included upgraded network servers;
- The CGTSIM selected a new supplier in the group purchasing program for school lockers;
- The CGTSIM hosted at the EMSB Head Office an event where they awarded 7 students that truly did merit bursaries and gifts. Mr. Mercuri thanked everyone who helped organize this great event. It was a pleasant evening and it was joyous to see the students being recognized.

13.8 EMSAC (English Montreal Student Advisory Committee)

Item presented by the Observer, Mr. Joseph Lalla:

- Many schools have held events to raise money for the Strike Out Cancer Campaign benefiting the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society of Canada. This initiative was brought to EMSAC by a former LaurenHill Academy student, Anthony Pachella;
- A discussion took place on how sensitive topics can be handled in the school environment, on how certain topics can be approached by students and staff alike, especially in light of the recent conflicts in Gaza and Ukraine, as well as any other conversation which can be considered controversial. Ms. Andrea Dillon, Principal at LaurenHill Academy presented a plan for an event to be organized by 5 School Boards on the island of Montreal. The idea that students would meet and discuss issues that they face on a wider level with the goal of making a positive change in schools as well as to take away new ideas from this experience;
- Students have provided updates on end-of-year initiatives at the schools, including seedling sales, theatrical productions, activity days and elections for Executive members of the students councils for next year;
- To end the meeting, advisors and administrators thanked the students for their monthly attendance and active participation. This year was another year filled with insightful, thought-provoking discussions among many other accomplishments. As a token of appreciation student leaders were given a certificate of recognition as well as a copy of the book “How to know a person”. Graduating students will also receive a bursary at their respective graduation ceremony;
- Lastly, Mr. Jimmy Giannacopoulos, Sector Director, mentioned that Mr. Paul Karpontinis, animator and organizer of EMSAC meetings and also teacher at Lester B. Pearson High School was recognized by the EMSB as one of its outstanding teachers.

14. Commissioners’ Report

Item presented by Commissioner, Ms. Maria Corsi:

- Ms. Corsi attended the Laurier Macdonald Career Centre Open House. It was a wonderful event and it proves that one is never too young to explore post-secondary options and one is never too old to explore new opportunities as there were people of all ages who were in attendance. For children who may think that CEGEP is not for them, there are plenty of career opportunities that are worth exploring. For those who have missed the Open House, there will be an opportunity for them to be a student for a day.

Item presented by Commissioner, Ms. Rosemarie Federico:

- Ms. Federico attended the Laurier Macdonald Career Centre Open House with her son who has special needs, who is worried about what options he has post-secondary. The Open House gave him a lot of hope and so he is considering doing this first and then maybe going to CEGEP afterwards. A shout out to Ms. Borsellino and her team for their incredible work.

Item presented by Commissioner, Mr. Joseph Lalla:

- At St. Monica Elementary School, the Spring Concert took place on April 14th. All of the grades as well as a steel pan group had the opportunity to perform in front of an audience of supportive parents and acquaintances;
- Also at St. Monica Elementary School, a parent workshop was held on May 15th, entitled “Rediscovering Joy in Anxious Times” with tips and strategies on how to manage anxiety;
- At Royal Vale School, the Showcase Fine Arts took place on May 16th, where the community packed the gymnasium to listen to the many talented musicians and watch the marvelous dancers;
- On May 7th, Secondary 5 students at Royal Vale High School received the very powerful and enlightening testimony of Merely Weitzman, daughter of Holocaust survivor Leon Calderon;
- Royal Vale School is placed on the top fundraising schools of 2023 list. The school was 4th in all of Canada and 1st place in Quebec for the Jump Rope for Heart Foundation. This serves as a reminder, the unwavering commitment and passion that Royal Vale has demonstrated in the fight against cancer;
- This year the EMSB storytelling festival for the West Sector took place at Willingdon Elementary School on April 15th, it was a resounding success;
- 5 schools including Willingdon Elementary School participated in the EMSB Junior Interschool Debate competition on May 3rd;
- Lastly at Willingdon Elementary School, the Inaugural Film Festival was organized by a parent committee in collaboration with the Home and School Association. Two-minute clips were submitted by students from Kindergarten to Grade 6 and were compiled into a 70 minute film. On May 16th, parents packed the gymnasium to view the film;
- Meanwhile at Edinburgh Elementary School, the BASE Daycare held a seedling sale on May 23rd. Throughout the Spring students grew different plants and vegetables and then sold these to the parent community and donated a large portion of the produce to the NDG Food depot;
- On April 24th, also at Edinburgh Elementary School, guest speaker Rachel Ricci from Caden’s Lighthouse spoke to the students about Autism Spectrum Disorder;
- Royal West Academy’s battle of the books team emerged as the winners of the EMSB battle. Royal West finished second at the ultimate battle of the books against the winners from the Lester B. Pearson School Board and the Independent Schools Association;
- Between April 19th and 21st, Lower Canada College hosted the largest Canadian National French Debating Tournament to date. Royal West Academy placed second overall in the country. All the debates were done entirely in French and teams came to the debate from all across the country;
- Teams from Royal Vale School and Royal West Academy competed in the science enrichment program *Let’s Talk Science* hosted by McGill University. Royal West Academy won first place and Royal Vale finished second, largely against other private High Schools;
- Mr. Lalla was delighted to attend the EMSB junior and senior Annual Spring Gala Concert which took place at the Oscar Peterson Hall;
- Last September, the EMSB Council of Commissioners adopted unanimously a resolution that commencing June 2024, the month of June would be recognized as Italian Heritage Month. It was further adopted that the EMSB ensure that Italian Heritage Month be celebrated every June at the Head Office, Schools and Adult Centres by activities, exhibits and performances that honor the journey and the legacy of Italians in Canada. To acknowledge the many contributions that the Italian community has made to the development of Montreal, Quebec and Canada. We must also recall that throughout history, Italians have endured hardships, injustices and even prejudices. Throughout it all, a profound commitment to family, strong work ethics and faith in God have enabled Italians to persist and persevere in maintaining their identity while contributing to the cultural mosaic that is Canada.

15. Report of the Executive Committee Meeting held on April 30, 2024

- Additional Support Services for EMSB Students Integrated at Peter Hall School for the 2023-2024 School Year
- Awarding of Construction Contract – P-2036-EG – Westmount High School – Major Renovation Project

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Awarding of Construction Contract – P-2209-EG – Mountainview High School – General Renovation Project - Awarding of Construction Contract – P-2213-EG – Gardenview Elementary School – Major Renovation Project - Awarding of Construction Contract – P-2208-EG – Marymount Academy – Major Renovation Project
16.	<p><u>Other Business</u></p> <p>None.</p>
17.	<p><u>Adjournment</u></p> <p>IT WAS MOVED BY MR. MARIO PIETRANGELO AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED THAT the meeting be adjourned at 8:50 p.m.</p> <p>Vote: 13-0-0, Adopted</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><u>Resolution # 24-05-28-17</u></p>
	<p>Signed in Montreal, _____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>Mr. Joe Ortona, Chair</p> <p style="text-align: right;">_____</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Me Nathalie Lauzière, Secretary General</p>