

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 5, 2023, at 7:00 P.M. in the Laurence Patterson Room, 6000 Fielding Avenue and continued on September 11, 2023, at the same time and location.

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
Ms. Rosemarie Federico, Parent Commissioner
Mr. Julien Feldman, Commissioner
Ms. Ellie Israel, Commissioner
Mr. James Kromida, 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

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, West
Ms. Angela Spagnolo, Sector Director, AEVS
Mr. Mario Cardin, Director, Material Resources
Ms. Sandra Léveillé, Director, School Organization
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. Anna Villalta, Assistant Director, Education Services
Mr. Mike Cohen, Manager, Marketing & Communications
Ms. Brigida Sellato, Consultant, Secretariat General

1. Land Acknowledgement

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.

2. Nomination of Ella Huot-Attia as Student of the Month

The EMSB Student of the Month for September is Ella Huot-Attia, a Grade 6 student at Mackay Centre. Ella was only six years old when she was diagnosed with episodic ataxia, a rare genetic condition that causes problems with walking, moving and balancing as well as nerve and muscle pain. Yet, Ella has found a way to persevere through music and dancing. An avid dancer before her diagnosis, she engages in music therapy at the Montreal Children's Hospital and learned to dance in her wheelchair. Ella's bright smile and positive outlook is an inspiration to anyone who meets her.

See this story: <https://globalnews.ca/news/9926245/montreal-childrens-hospital-music-therapy-program/>

3. Approval of Agenda

Mr. Mario Bentreovato moved to add Commissioner Renumeration to the agenda.

On a motion by Mr. Joe Ortona on the challenge of his ruling that this is not an urgent matter.

Vote: 11-2-2, Adopted

In favor	J. Ortona, M. Corsi, S. De Vito, J. Fabian, R. Federico, J. Feldman, E. Israel, J. Kromida, P. Mercuri, T. Speranza, D. Tatone
Against	M. Bentreovato, M. Pietrangelo
Abstained	A. Cannavino, J. Lalla

IT WAS MOVED BY MR. PIETRO MERCURI AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED THAT the agenda be approved, as presented.

Vote: 14-1-0 Adopted, (Mr. J. Lalla voted against)

Resolution # 23-09-05-3

4. In Camera

4.1 Motion to Move In Camera

On a motion by Mr. Tony Speranza the meeting went In Camera at 7:16 p.m.

The meeting returned from the In Camera session at 7:44 p.m.

5.	<p><u>Adoption of Resolution(s) from In Camera</u></p> <p><u>4.2 Decision of the Student Ombudsman – File SO 100523</u></p> <p>WHEREAS the Plaintiffs filed complaints in disagreement with a decision rendered on March 29th and May 1st, 2023, by the administration;</p> <p>WHEREAS, as established in sec. 220.2 of the Education Act, the Student Ombudsman has jurisdiction over a complaint, filed by a parent or student, which concerns the services the School Board provides under this Act and involves dissatisfaction with the handling of the complaint or with the outcome;</p> <p>WHEREAS on April 20th, 2023, the Student Ombudsman received complaints by the Plaintiffs and presented a preliminary report to the Council of Commissioners on May 23, 2023 that the decision of the administration was reasonable and that it would be unreasonable to recommend that the Council revoke the decision, weeks from the end of the school year;</p> <p>WHEREAS the Student Ombudsman proceeded to an investigation and gave the Council of Commissioners a report on the complaints within the 30 day delay prescribed by article 220.2 of the Education Act and article 8.1.8 of English Montreal School Board (EMSB) By-Law no. 8 (2020) on Complaint Examination Procedure;</p> <p>WHEREAS the Council of Commissioners has reviewed said reports in accordance with section 8.1.9 of English Montreal School Board (EMSB) By-Law no. 8 (2020);</p> <p>IT WAS MOVED BY MR. PIETRO MERCURI AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED THAT the Council of Commissioners inform the complainants that, following the review of the reports submitted by the Student Ombudsman no action will be taken and the parents will be advised of the reasons thereof.</p> <p>BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Secretary General inform the parents individually in writing.</p> <p>Vote: 15-0-0 Adopted</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><u>Resolution # 23-09-05-4.2</u></p>
6.	<p><u>Question Period</u></p> <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"> ➤ QESBA Membership Fees ➤ Team Ortona
7.	<p><u>Adoption of Minutes</u></p> <p><u>7.1 Adoption of the Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting held on June 20, 2023</u></p> <p>IT WAS MOVED BY MR. JAMES KROMIDA AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED THAT the Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting held on June 20, 2023, be approved as presented.</p> <p>Vote: 15-0-0 Adopted</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><u>Resolution # 23-09-05-7.1</u></p>

	<p><u>7.2 Adoption of the Minutes of the Special Board Meeting held on June 29, 2023</u></p> <p>IT WAS MOVED BY MR. PIETRO MERCURI AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED THAT the Minutes of the Special Board Meeting held on June 29, 2023, be approved as presented.</p> <p>Vote: 15-0-0 Adopted</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><u>Resolution # 23-09-05-7.2</u></p> <p><u>7.3 Adoption of the Minutes of the Special Board Meeting held on August 16, 2023</u></p> <p>IT WAS MOVED BY MR. PIETRO MERCURI AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED THAT the Minutes of the Special Board Meeting held on August 16, 2023, be approved as presented.</p> <p>Vote: 15-0-0 Adopted</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><u>Resolution # 23-09-05-7.3</u></p>
8.	<p><u>Business Arising Out of Minutes</u></p> <p>On the Minutes of the Special Board meeting held on August 16, 2023, Mr. Cannavino read an anonymous letter signed by French Teachers that he received with regards to the comment that was given by Ms. De Vito on social media.</p> <p>Ms. De Vito expressed her apologies on her statement that was given on social media.</p> <p>Following this, discussion took place on the matter.</p> <p>On the Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting held on June 20, 2023, Mr. Lalla expressed how there was no discussion on the change of format with regards to the Volunteer Appreciation event amongst Council members. Further discussion took place on the matter.</p> <p>On the Minutes of the Special Board meeting held on June 29, 2023, Mr. Lalla asked about the item on School Board Credit Cards. His questions were if the Chair had a credit card and if the points accumulated were used by the School Board or the individual.</p>
	<p>Mr. Daniel Tatone left the meeting at 8:49 p.m.</p>
	<p>On a motion by Mr. Tony Speranza, the Council of Commissioner voted to take a 5 minute recess.</p> <p>Vote: 14-1-0, Adopted (Mr. A. Cannavino voted against)</p>
	<p>The meeting reconvened at 8:57 p.m.</p>
9.	<p><u>In Memoriam</u></p> <p><u>9.1 Tribute for September 2023</u></p> <p>WHEREAS the Board values the contributions made by its employees;</p> <p>WHEREAS the Board wishes to take official cognizance of the passing of any member of its large family of employees;</p>

	<p>IT WAS MOVED BY MR. JOE ORTONA AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that the Board note with regret the passing of:</p> <p>Adele Paluzzi, Retired Teacher, East Hill School</p> <p>and that an expression of sympathy be sent to the bereaved family.</p> <p>Vote: 14-0-0 Adopted, (Mr. D. Tatone not present for the vote)</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><u>Resolution # 23-09-05-9.1</u></p>
10.	<p><u>Chair’s Report</u></p> <p>Presented by the Chair, Mr. Joe Ortona:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ A very nice event took place at Carlyle School to start off the school year. Mr. Ortona was present alongside the Commissioner for this Ward, Ms. Israel, also present were Mr. Peter Malouf, Mayor of Town of Mont-Royal and Michelle Setlakwe, MNA of Mount-Royal/Outremont. Mr. Ortona and Ms. Israel had a chance to meet with them to discuss about local issues, education, the Bill 40 judgment that was received and pedestrian security around schools; ➤ During the summer, Mr. Ortona and Mr. Feldman met with the MNA for Saint-Henri/Sainte-Anne, Guillaume Cliche-Rivard, to also discuss about issues regarding education, the pending Bill 40 as at the time the judgement had not been received yet. They also had good discussions on Bill 21 and Bill 96, they spoke about some of the specific needs that there is at the English Montreal School Board; ➤ On August 2nd, we received the much anticipated judgment on Bill 40. The media reported that we won. The three main points in which we were successful, all regarding management and control are the following. Firstly, the constitutional right to have elected officials, the constitutional right to hold elections, the constitutional right for the English-speaking community to choose their representatives and to have elected people that are accountable to the English-speaking community. Also, the electoral list was declared unconstitutional. At this moment anyone can sign up to be on the list which does not ensure that the English-speaking communities are the electors who elect the representatives. The judge issued a stay on this part of his ruling for 18 months. The government will have 18 months to make the legislative changes, once past the deadline it will be deemed unconstitutional. Secondly, that this government did not consult the English-speaking community, inviting them to present a brief. The government has an obligation to listen to the concerns of the English-speaking community, to address their concerns, in the legislation that they pass. Lastly, some of the measures in the Education Act regarding funding were deemed unconstitutional. Management and control means that the School Board determines how and where we allocate certain funds. The government has until September 11, 2023, to file an appeal on the ruling of Bill 40.
11.	<p><u>Director General’s Report</u></p> <p>Presented by the Director General, Mr. Nicholas Katalifos:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ On behalf of the entire management team, Mr. Katalifos wished all of our stakeholders the very best for the new academic year. Everyone is excited about the new year and the promise that it holds. The 2023-2024 academic year marks the 25th Anniversary since the Quebec government recreated public school boards along linguistic rather than religious lines. The EMSB looks forward to celebrating this milestone with all of our stakeholders. The EMSB’s commemorative logo designed by Emine Arslan already appears in our new banners and t-shirts and we look forward to including this milestone in all our events this year. This anniversary was formally marked on the first day of classes at Carlyle Elementary School. A very big thank you to Principal Dina Vourdouisis and her entire staff and community for hosting, they did a terrific job;

- The Fall edition of the EMSB Express newspaper has been published. It includes an overview of High School open houses, messages from the Directorate, the Chair, the Youth Sector Calendar, a special section recognizing volunteers, another special section on gifted and exceptional learners, sports and more. It can be read on our website and deliveries will be made to schools and drop off points this week;
- The EMSB Primary and Secondary schools will also be holding open houses this fall, the public may visit www.emsbopenhouses.com for all the details. We welcome the public to come and visit our schools and all they have to offer;
- In response to the Minister of Education’s announcement, that cellphones will not be permitted in classrooms, the school board has responded to numerous media requests. EMSB High Schools already have protocols in place in different formats and while this is not a particularly a major issue at the Primary level, the school board will be keeping tabs on what the Ministry does next when it comes to this issue;
- Inspirations Newspaper continues to serve the community with inspiring and important stories related to special needs and mental health. The new edition will be coming out within a month and a half. The newspaper will be distributed and also will be available on our website and on our Facebook page for the public to view;
- For all our EMSB students from Grades 4 to Secondary 5 who like to sing are invited to audition for the EMSB Chorale. Now in its 44th season, the Chorale offers exceptional musical training and opportunities to develop ones singing voice, enhanced language, auditory skills, memory, discipline, self-confidence and to perform with the best classical, contemporary and multicultural Chorale literature, work with professional musicians, performing at Montreal’s top concert venues and so on. Students can audition at a Saturday morning rehearsal on September 9th , 16th , 23rd or 30th at Royal Vale School. We invite potential students and their parents to contact Patricia Abbott at pabbottt@emsb.qc.ca or call the School Board at 514-483-7200, ext. 7234, for an appointment;
- Last year the EMSB obtained a one time Nova Grant from the Jewish Community Foundation of Montreal to undertake a Holocaust Education Program. Thanks to this funding, many school trips were arranged to the Montreal Holocaust Museum with survivors as guest speakers as well as a number of school based programs. Thanks to the generosity of some donors, the EMSB will be able to run a program again this year and most notably a big thank you to young Montreal businessman Henry Zavriyev, who has made a special allocation for five east-end schools, Laurier Macdonald High School, Lester B. Pearson High School, Rosemount High School, Vincent Massery Collegiate and John F. Kenndey High School;
- For the 2023-2024 academic year, the EMSB is happy to announce that Programme Mile End has added Secondary 3 classes;
- Finally, a team from the Shadd Health & Business Centre will be part of the BDO Cedars CanSupport Dragon Boat Race on Saturday, September 9th, between 8:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. at Promenade Père-Marquette in Lachine. Other activities will take place throughout the day including Zumba, Yoga and family events. This event is crucial to help raise awareness and much needed funds for the Cedars CanSupport Centre which has and continues to provide free psychological, emotional, practical and financial support to cancer patients and their families one person at a time for the past 30 years. Congratulations to the team at Shadd for participating and putting together this great effort.

12. Committee Reports

12.1 ACSES (Advisory Committee on Special Education Services)

Item presented by Parent Commissioner, Ms. Rosemarie Federico:

- No report since the last meeting. The next meeting is scheduled for October 22nd.

12.2 Transportation and Safety Advisory Committee

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

- No report since the last meeting. The next meeting is scheduled for October 26th.

12.3 EMSBPC (English Montreal School Board Parents' Committee)

Item presented by Parent Commissioner, Ms. Maria Corsi:

- The Parents' Committee had a special meeting on August 21st, where they discussed their response to the consultation on By-Law No. 13 – The Procedure for the Examination of Complaints Relating to the Functions of the School Board. The Parents' Committee proceeded with an email vote on two recommendations on minor additions to the By-Law in which were accepted;
- Ms. Corsi also expressed how she encourages all parents to attend their annual school assemblies, to volunteer and to join their PPO's and Governing Boards. It is very rewarding to be involved in your child's day-to-day education and activities and also to have a say in matters that are of concern to parents. The Parents' Committee hopes to see a lot of new faces around the table.

12.4 Governance and Ethics Committee

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

- No report since the last meeting.

12.5 Audit Committee

Item presented by the Chair of the Committee, Mr. James Kromida:

- The Committee met with the audit team to discuss their approach, what assumptions they are making, what they will be doing and the target date to report the findings for the audit is October 12th. One thing to note, there are new regulations that have come into place. Firstly, it is now required to have more sampling, which will increase the work that needs to be done. Secondly, is the asset retirement obligation which allows funds to be put aside as a liability for the future net present value;
- The next meeting is scheduled for October 12th.

12.6 Human Resources Committee

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

- No report since the last meeting.

12.7 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:

- No report since the last meeting. The next meeting is scheduled for September 14th.

12.8 EMSAC (English Montreal Student Advisory Committee)

Item presented by the Observer, Mr. Joseph Lalla:

- No report since the last meeting. The next meeting will be held as soon as the new student representatives are elected.

13. Commissioners' Report

Item presented by Commissioner, Mr. James Kromida:

- At Gardenvue Elementary School, there has been some changes to the circulation system. Mr. Kromida has been informed by the Major that the Government of Quebec and the City of Montreal have allocated funds to make the areas around schools safer.

Item presented by Commissioner, Mr. Joseph Lalla:

- Congratulations to Ella, the EMSB student of the month, a Grade 6 student at Mackay Centre School in Mr. Lalla's ward. What an absolute inspiration to her fellow students and to us all. Well done, Ella;
- In June, students from Royal Vale School got to visit the NHL Mobile Museum at nearby Confederation Park. They were invited by the Montreal Canadiens. The mobile museum is a unique experience featuring 840 square feet of history, including exclusive artifacts from players of all backgrounds, video components, an interactive play-by-play broadcast booth and a look at the next generation of young players, officials, broadcasters and women in hockey. The exhibit celebrates trailblazers and changemakers from multiple underrepresented and multicultural demographics, all of whom have left their mark on our sport and are truly highlighting that hockey is for everyone;
- Both the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation and Orange Shirt Day take place on September 30th. The day honours the children who never returned home and Survivors of residential schools, as well as their families and communities. Orange Shirt Day is an Indigenous-led grassroots commemorative day intended to raise awareness of the individual, family and community inter-generational impacts of residential schools. This year, the Edinburgh Home and School Association is excited to partner with Iron Horse Wear House, an indigenous business located in Kahnawake. The shirt features a unique indigenous design with the words "Every Child Matters" inscribed in the centre. Proceeds from orange shirt sales will be directed to the Native Northwest Reconciliation Fund to support people and families who continue to be impacted by Residential Schools and intergenerational trauma.

Item presented by Commissioner, Ms. Ellie Israel:

- Security and safety in and around the schools is very important and at Marymount Academy International, the Principal James Fequet and his staff are doing an excellent job about it. Ms. Israel has been campaigning to slow down traffic to 30km on Côte-Saint-Luc Rd;
- Ms. Israel thanked Mr. Fequet, Principal of Marymount Academy International for inviting her to participate in Marymount's graduation ceremony;
- At Coronation School, an event was organized by the Communications department where Coronation graduate Julian Sher came to speak. Julian Sher is a Canadian investigative journalist, filmmaker or producer of the 5th estate, author and newsroom trainer. He spoke to the children and told them that they are capable of doing anything they want in life;
- Under the organization of Mike Cohen, Daniel Smajovits and Brigida Sellato, we celebrated on the first day of school at Carlyle, the 25th anniversary with all the media present along with our Chair, Mr. Ortona, Director General, Mr. Katalifos, Assistant Directors General, Ms. Nickoletopoulos and Mr. Chadirdjian and Regional Director Mr. Giannacopoulos. It was a fun event hosted by Principal Dina Vourdousis and Vice-Principal Mario Benvenuto;
- Thank you and congratulations to our EMSB negotiators Mr. Ortona, Chair, Mr. Katalifos, Director General and with the support of the Governing Board of Dunrae Gardens and the Mayor of the Town of Mont-Royal, Peter Malouf, we saved Dunrae Gardens and the green park beside it;
- Ms. Israel attended the graduations of Sinclair Laird and St. Raphael;
- Ms. Israel congratulated Craig Olenik and his staff for being Principal of 11 schools in the Alternative Network this year. Mr. Olenik makes it fun for students to attend school and not quit and as a result many students have registered.

14. By-Law No. 13 – Procedure for the Examination of Complaints Relating to the Functions of the School Board (220.2 of the Education Act) – Following Consultation

WHEREAS the *English Montreal School Board (EMSB)* proposes to adopt By-Law No.13 – *Procedure for the Examination of Complaints Relating to the Functions of the School Board (220.2 of the Education Act)*;

WHEREAS the Board approved resolution #23-06-20-24.2, on June 20, 2023, to send out for consultation purposes By-Law No. 13 to the following groups:

1. *Central Management Advisory Committee (CMAC)*;
2. *EMSB Parents Committee (EMSBPC)*;

WHEREAS the consultation period ended on August 25, 2023;

WHEREAS the feedback received from the groups was taken into consideration and used to revise the By-Law;

WHEREAS in accordance with Section 392 of the Education Act, public notice of 30 days has been given;

IT WAS MOVED BY MR. JAMES KROMIDA AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED THAT By-Law No. 13 – *Procedure for the Examination of Complaints Relating to the Functions of the School Board (220.2 of the Education Act)* be approved and come into force on the day of the publication of a public notice.

Vote: 14-0-0 Adopted, (Mr. D. Tatone not present for the vote)

Resolution # 23-09-05-14

15. School Board Elections – Electoral Divisions (Final Version)

WHEREAS a draft proposal for the ten (10) electoral divisions authorized by the Minister of Education was submitted to the Council of Commissioners at the Board meeting of June 6, 2023;

WHEREAS by virtue of resolution #23-06-06-5, the proposal for the ten (10) electoral divisions was approved and the provisions of Section 9 of the Act Respecting School Elections were applied within fifteen (15) days of said approval, whereby the proposed electoral divisions were the subject of a public notice published on June 14, 2023;

WHEREAS by virtue of Section 9.3 of the Act respecting School Elections, 400 or more electors were needed to register their objections to the proposed electoral divisions in order for the Council of Commissioners to hold a public meeting to hear the persons present in respect of the division proposal;

WHEREAS subsequent to the publication of the public notice, no individual signed an opposition to the proposed electoral divisions;

WHEREAS by virtue of Section 9.6 of the Act respecting School Elections, the Council of Commissioners shall adopt, by a vote of at least 2/3 of its members who have the right to vote, a resolution dividing the territory of the school board into electoral divisions after the expiry of the time in which electors may file objections to the division proposal or after the day of the public meeting, as the case may be, but before December 31st of the year preceding the year in which the general election for which the division is required is to be held;

	<p>IT WAS MOVED BY MR. MARIO PIETRANGELO AND RESOLVED THAT the ten (10) electoral divisions, which are outlined in the documentation submitted to the meeting and are identical to those approved at the Board meeting of June 6, 2023, be adopted.</p> <p>Vote: 11-3-0 Adopted, (Mr. M. Bentrovato, Mr. A. Cannavino, Mr. J. Lalla voted against and Mr. D. Tatone not present for the vote)</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><u>Resolution # 23-09-05-15</u></p>
16.	<p><u>QESBA Recognition of Long Service Award</u></p> <p>WHEREAS a member of the Council of Commissioners of the English Montreal School Board has served for more than 25 years as Commissioner;</p> <p>WHEREAS the Quebec English School Boards Association (QESBA) is inviting its member school boards to submit, the names of Commissioners who qualify for the 25-year long service award;</p> <p>IT WAS MOVED BY MR. MARIO PIETRANGELO AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED THAT Mr. James Kromida, who was first elected to the Council of Commissioners of the English Montreal School Board in June 1998, be submitted as this Board’s nominee for QESBA Recognition of Long Service Award.</p> <p>Vote: 14-0-0 Adopted, (Mr. D. Tatone not present for the vote)</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><u>Resolution # 23-09-05-16</u></p>
	<p><u>Adjournment of Meeting to September 11, 2023 at 7p.m.</u></p> <p>WHEREAS, as stipulated in By-Law No. 1 – <i>To Affix the Date, Time and Place of the Regular Meetings of the English Montreal School Board</i>, the meetings shall commence at 7:00 p.m. and end no later than 10:00 p.m.;</p> <p>IT WAS MOVED BY MS. ROSEMARIE FEDERICO AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED THAT due to the urgency of certain items on the agenda, the meeting be adjourned and reconvened on Monday, September 11, 2023 at 7:00 p.m.</p> <p>Vote: 14-0-0, Adopted (Mr. D. Tatone not present for the vote)</p>
	<p>The meeting was adjourned at 10:05 p.m.</p>
	<p><u>Continuation of the September 5th Regular Board Meeting on September 11, 2023</u></p> <p>The Chair mentioned that all items 1 through 16 have already been dealt with on September 5, 2023.</p> <p><u>Commissioners Present</u> Me Joe Ortona, Chair Mr. Agostino Cannavino, Vice-Chair Ms. Maria Corsi, Parent Commissioner – via TEAMS Ms. Sophie De Vito, Commissioner Mr. Jamie Fabian, Commissioner Ms. Rosemarie Federico, Parent Commissioner – via TEAMS Mr. Julien Feldman, Commissioner Ms. Ellie Israel, Commissioner Mr. James Kromida, Commissioner – via TEAMS Mr. Joseph Lalla, Commissioner Mr. Pietro Mercuri, Commissioner Mr. Tony Speranza, Parent Commissioner Mr. Daniel Tatone, Parent Commissioner – via TEAMS</p>

Commissioners Not Present

Mr. Mario Bontrovato, Commissioner

Mr. Mario Pietrangelo, 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, West

Ms. Angela Spagnolo, Sector Director, AEVS

Ms. Julie René de Cotret, Director, Student Services

Ms. Anna Sanalidro, Director, Educational Services

Me Magdalena Sokol, Director, Legal Services

Ms. Ann Watson, Director, Human Resources

Ms. Brigida Sellato, Consultant, Secretariat General

17.

Recognizing the Journey and the Legacy of the Italians in Canada and Declare June “*Italian Heritage Month*” in the English Montreal School Board

WHEREAS aside from Indigenous people, every Canadian has ancestors who migrated to Canada during the past 400 years. It is significant to note that the earliest presence of an Italian in Canada can be traced back to 1497 when the Italian navigator and explorer from Venice, *Giovanni Caboto*, claimed the coasts of Newfoundland for King Henry VII of England by unfurling both the English and the Venetian flags;

WHEREAS, in the mid 1800s, a complex series of political, economic, social and cultural changes throughout Europe led to Italians being amongst the early Europeans to leave their homelands and embark on a migratory movement to the *Americas*, where the allure of political freedom and economic opportunities awaited. The significant migration of Italians to Canada occurred during the pre, inter and post-war periods of 1860-1914, 1920-1930 and 1950-1970;

- by 1860, almost 2,000 immigrants from northern Italy had settled in Montreal, Toronto and Vancouver, others in mining and industrial towns. Some found work as teachers, professional artists, musicians, stonemasons, bricklayers, craftsmen, tailors and cobblers. By 1901, the number had risen to 11,000;

- the early 1900s was a period of great seasonal migration, as over 60,000 southern Italians arrived on Canadian shores to respond to the needs of the Canadian National Railway, the Canadian Pacific Railway and the Dominion Coal Company, to gain wages and return to their homeland. The work was hard physical labour and under difficult conditions, in mining, steel production, building railways and bridges, clearing bush in Canada’s heartland and harvesting lumber in Canada’s forests for the construction of transportation systems. For a fee, labour agents arranged for these jobs and transportation. Some agents brought over more men than there were jobs available, leaving them stranded without money to buy a return passage. As a result, in 1904, the Canadian government launched a *Royal Commission to Inquire into the Immigration of Italian Labourers to Montreal and Alleged Fraudulent Practices of Employment Agencies* that resulted in the strict licensing of labour bureaus to regulate the recruitment of immigrants;

- the growth of the essential infrastructure encouraged many to settle as they sent for their women and children to join them. The change in lifestyle was difficult and to assist them with the transition to life in Canada, immigrants found support in the formation of ethnic enclaves, *Little Italy*, communities that nurtured relationships and provided some semblance of home with the language, food, customs, music and religious beliefs that they were accustomed to;

-on August 25, 1939, the government of Canada invoked the *War Measures Act*, and both Italian enemy nationals and Canadian citizens were subject to persecution and internment in more than 40 camps situated throughout Alberta, Ontario and New Brunswick. Approximately 31,000 Italian Canadians were declared enemy aliens. About 700 Italians were arrested and interned mostly at Camp Petawawa in Ontario, where they were denied their rights to habeas corpus or trial, and remained for periods of up to five years. In 2021, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau delivered a formal apology in the House of Commons for the internment of Italian Canadians;

- in 1947, the *Enemy Alien Act* was lifted and in 1949, Canada, as a founding member of the *NATO* agreement, that emphasized the promotion of political, economic and cultural bonds with its allies, endorsed the *Family Sponsorship Program*, which opened the gates to the largest wave of Italian immigration in Canadian history;
- from 1950-1970, Canada's Italian population increased to 450,000. Once again, Italian men, and the women who now joined the work force, contributed to Canada's economic growth in heavy industry, construction, manufacturing, the wine industry, agriculture and hospitality;

WHEREAS a changing world defines its cultural landscape by those who build it and those who settle in it; today, more than 1.5 million Canadians of Italian ancestry claim Canada as their home. Canadians of Italian descent have made innumerable contributions to Canada in the fields of engineering and architecture, arts and entertainment, administration, business and management, sales, communications, community and social services, education, science and technology, farming, fishing and forestry, government, health and medicine, law and public policy;

WHEREAS the 2021 census of Greater Montreal listed 267,240 people of Italian heritage living in the thriving Italian communities of *Little Italy*, *Saint-Leonard*, *Rivière-des-Prairies*, *Montreal-North*, *Ville LaSalle*, *Notre-Dame-de-Grâce*, *the West Island* and *Laval*. Over the years, the Italians in these communities significantly impacted the social, cultural and political identity of Montreal, as-

- in the Little Italy district, the Church of *Madonna della Difesa*, designed and built by Italians in 1918, was designated a *National Historic Site of Canada* in 2002, as it is closely associated with Canada's oldest Italian community established in Montreal in the 1860s;

-in 1969, the former school board, now *Commission Scolaire De La Pointe De L'ile*, completed construction of *École secondaire Antoine de St-Exupéry*, the most advanced comprehensive French-speaking high school on the territory of Saint-Léonard; while *Laurier Macdonald High School*, servicing English-speaking students, was a school without a building, in rented facilities, where students attended classes during the late afternoon and early evening. After years of political strife and debate, a new building was finally opened for the 1983-84 school year;

-in 2023, the English Montreal School Board can boast that it provides integrated PELO (*Programme d'enseignement des langues d'origine*) classes at three elementary schools in Saint Leonard and Rivière-des-Prairies, as well as providing PELO instruction at many other elementary schools at lunchtime or after school, offering students a comprehensive learning experience in Italian;

WHEREAS as we celebrate these contributions, we must also acknowledge that throughout history, Italians have endured hardships, injustices and prejudices. Through it all, a profound commitment to family, strong work ethics and faith in God, have enabled the Italians to persist and persevere in maintaining their identity while contributing to the cultural mosaic that is Canada;

WHEREAS on May 17, 2017, the Canadian Parliament passed a motion to officially recognize June as *Italian Heritage Month*;

IT WAS MOVED BY MR. JOSEPH LALLA AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED THAT, commencing June 2024, the month of June be recognized as *Italian Heritage Month* at the English Montreal School Board;

IT WAS FURTHER RESOLVED THAT, the English Montreal School Board ensures that Italian Heritage Month be celebrated every June at head office, the schools and adult centres, by activities, exhibits and performances that honor the journey and the legacy of the Italians in Canada and celebrate that which unites us as Canadians;

IT WAS STILL FURTHER RESOLVED THAT *Italian Heritage Month* be included on the school board's Multicultural Calendar.

Vote: 13-0-0, Adopted

Resolution # 23-09-11-17

18. Nomination of Representative to Comité de gestion de la taxe scolaire de l'île de Montréal (CGTSIM)

The Council of Commissioners proceeded with the nominations of a Representative:

Mr. Pietro Mercuri nominated Mr. Joe Ortona, who accepted the nomination;
 Ms. Rosemarie Federico nominated Mr. Julien Feldman, who declined the nomination;

There were no other nominations or self-nominations and the nominations ceased;

WHEREFORE IT WAS MOVED BY MR. TONY SPERANZA AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED to elect Mr. Joe Ortona as Representative to the *Comité de gestion de la taxe scolaire de l'île de Montréal (CGTSIM)*.

Vote: 13-0-0 Adopted

Resolution # 23-09-11-18

19. Nomination of Substitute to Comité de gestion de la taxe scolaire de l'île de Montréal (CGTSIM)

WHEREAS Mr. Joe Ortona was appointed by the Council of Commissioners on September 11, 2023, as a representative of the *Comité de gestion de la taxe scolaire de l'île de Montréal* as per resolution #23-09-11-18;

WHEREAS a substitute member can be appointed by the Council of Commissioners to the CGTSIM;

The Council of Commissioners proceeded with the nominations of a Substitute:

Mr. Jamie Fabian nominated Mr. James Kromida, who declined the nomination;
 Mr. Tony Speranza nominated Mr. Pietro Mercuri, who accepted the nomination;
 Mr. Joseph Lalla nominated Mr. Agostino Cannavino, who accepted the nomination;
 Mr. Daniel Tatone nominated Mr. Julien Feldman, who declined the nomination;

There were no other nominations or self-nominations;

On a motion by Mr. Jamie Fabian the nominations ceased, all were in favor.

Mr. Agostino Cannavino proposed to proceed to an open vote.

Vote: 12-1-0, Adopted (Ms. E. Israel voted against)

Votes for Substitute		Total Votes
Mr. Agostino Cannavino	Mr. A. Cannavino, Ms. E. Israel, M. J. Lalla	3 votes
Mr. Pietro Mercuri	Mr. J. Ortona, Ms. M. Corsi, Ms. S. De Vito, Mr. J. Fabian, Ms. R. Federico, Mr. J. Feldman, Mr. J. Kromida, Mr. P. Mercuri, Mr. T. Speranza, Mr. D. Tatone	10 votes

WHEREFORE IT WAS MOVED BY MR. JAMIE FABIAN AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED to elect Mr. Pietro Mercuri as Substitute Member to the *Comité de gestion de la taxe scolaire de l'île de Montréal*.

Vote: 13-0-0, Adopted

Resolution # 23-09-11-19

20. Annual Report of Student Ombudsman 2022-2023

WHEREAS, as per section 220.2 of the Education Act, 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>WHEREAS Me Laurence Sarrazin submitted her annual report to the English Montreal School Board on August 30, 2023;</p> <p>WHEREAS the said report must be attached to the Board's annual report;</p> <p>IT WAS MOVED BY MR. JULIEN FELDMAN AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED THAT the Annual Report of the Student Ombudsman 2022-2023 be received and deposited;</p> <p>Vote: 13-0-0 Adopted</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><u>Resolution # 23-09-11-20</u></p>
21.	<p><u>Annual Report of Ethics Commissioner 2022-2023</u></p> <p>This item was presented for information.</p>
22.	<p><u>Annal Report of Designated Officer 2022-2023</u></p> <p>This item was presented for information.</p>
23.	<p><u>Schedule of Governance Committee Meetings 2023-2024</u></p> <p>This item was presented for information.</p>
24.	<p><u>Report of the Executive Committee Meeting held on June 20, 2023</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - EMSB IT Services Mutual Agreement with COMPUGEN for Apple Products - Approval to Participate in Collecto – Tender PS280-2023 – Audit de conformité - <u>Awarding of Service Contracts</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Tender PS23-0529 – Printing Services - Tender PS23-0530 – Open Contract (Contrat à commandes) for Supply of Grocery Products on Demand - <u>Awarding of Construction Contracts</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - P-1915 – Royal Vale – Renovation of 3 New Classrooms and Other Works - P-2105 – Our Lady of Pompei – Major Building Renovation Project - P-2026 – Merton – Major Renovation Project - PS22-0203 – Open Contract (Contrat à exécution sur demande) for Inspection, Maintenance and Repairs of HVAC Systems - PS23-0412 – Open Contract (Contrat à exécution sur demande) for General Contractors - QESBA Membership Fees 2023-2024
25.	<p><u>Other Business</u></p> <p>None.</p>
26.	<p><u>Adjournment</u></p> <p>IT WAS MOVED BY MS. SOPHIE DE VITO AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED THAT the meeting of September 5th continued on September 11, 2023, be adjourned at 7:20 p.m.</p> <p>Vote: 13-0-0 Adopted</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><u>Resolution # 23-09-11-26</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>