

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS OF THE  
ENGLISH MONTREAL SCHOOL BOARD

A Regular Board Meeting of the English Montreal School Board has taken place on Tuesday, December 19, 2023, at 7:00 P.M. in the Laurence Patterson Room, 6000 Fielding Avenue.

Commissioners Present

Mr. Joe Ortona, Chair  
Mr. Agostino Cannavino, Vice-Chair  
Mr. Mario Benvolato, Commissioner – via TEAMS  
Ms. Maria Corsi, Parent Commissioner  
Ms. Sophie De Vito, Commissioner – via TEAMS  
Ms. Rosemarie Federico, Parent Commissioner  
Mr. Julien Feldman, Commissioner  
Ms. Ellie Israel, Commissioner – via TEAMS  
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

Commissioners Not Present

Mr. Jamie Fabian, Commissioner

Administrators Present:

Mr. Nicholas Katalifos, Director General  
Ms. Pelagia Nickoletopoulos, Assistant Director General, Education – via TEAMS  
Me Jack Chadirdjian, Assistant Director General, Administration  
Me Nathalie Lauzière, Secretary General

Mr. Mario Cardin, Director, Material Resources  
Mr. Jimmy Giannacopoulos, Sector Director, West  
Ms. Angela Spagnolo, Sector Director, AEVS  
Ms. Darlene Kehyayan, Assistant Director, Human Resources  
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, Interim Assistant Director, Student Services  
Mr. Mike Cohen, Manager, Marketing & Communications  
Ms. Brigida Sellato, Consultant, Secretariat General

1.	<p><u>Land Acknowledgement</u></p> <p>The Chair acknowledged that the English Montreal School Board is located on the traditional ancestral and unceded territory of the Kanien'kehá:ka. We are grateful to live, learn, and work in Tiohtià:ke which has long been a site of meeting and exchange for many First Nations and is currently home to diverse groups of indigenous and other peoples. As a School Board, it is important that we acknowledge the historic and ongoing role of educational institutions in perpetuating injustices against indigenous communities. We are committed to educating staff and students about the true history and current realities of the indigenous peoples of what we now call Canada. Celebrating the cultures contributions and knowledge of the many First Nations Inuit and Métis communities, listening to and amplifying indigenous voices and partnering with local indigenous community members. We offer this acknowledgement as a first step and public commitment to our ongoing process towards reconciliation and justice for indigenous peoples and communities.</p>
2.	<p><u>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"> <li>➤ Legal Challenges</li> <li>➤ Measures for students who require additional help</li> </ul> <p>A Question from Ms. Christine Gravel was read and addressed by the Chair, Mr. Joe Ortona, regarding the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ EMSB curriculum</li> </ul>
3.	<p><u>Nomination of Amelio Santini as Student of the Month</u></p> <p>The Student of the Month for December is Amelio Santini from Royal Vale School.</p> <p>Amelio Santini is a star on and off the ice. He is an honour roll student at Royal Vale School while developing into an elite hockey player. On the ice Santini plays Midget AAA hockey for the Lac St. Louis Lions and is a candidate for Team Canada to represent our country at the upcoming Youth Olympic Games, which will take place in Gangwon, China in 2024. Congratulations Amelio!</p>
4.	<p><u>Approval of Agenda</u></p> <p>IT WAS MOVED BY MS. ROSEMARIE FEDERICO AND RESOLVED THAT the agenda be approved, as presented.</p> <p>Vote: 13-1-0, Adopted (Mr. A. Cannavino voted against)</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><u>Resolution # 23-12-19-4</u></p>
5.	<p><u>Adoption of Minutes</u></p> <p><u>5.1 Adoption of the Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting held on November 7, 2023</u></p> <p>IT WAS MOVED BY MR. TONY SPERANZA AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED THAT the Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting held on November 7, 2023, be approved as presented.</p> <p>Vote: 14-0-0, Adopted</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><u>Resolution # 23-12-19-5.1</u></p>

6.	<p><u>Business Arising Out of Minutes</u></p> <p>On the Minutes of the Regular Board meeting held on November 7, 2023, Mr. Agostino Cannavino spoke of item 14 – <i>Election of Chair, Vice-Chair and Members of the Human Resources Committee</i>.</p> <p>On the Minutes of the Regular Board meeting held on November 7, 2023, Mr. Joseph Lalla spoke of item 12 – <i>Contestation of Bill 96 (Stay)</i>.</p> <p>On the Minutes of the Regular Board meeting held on November 7, 2023, Mr. Agostino Cannavino spoke of item 23.4 – <i>Governance and Ethics Committee Report</i>.</p> <p>On the Minutes of the Regular Board meeting held on November 7, 2023, Mr. Daniel Tatone spoke of item 12 – <i>Contestation of Bill 96 (Stay)</i>.</p>
7.	<p><u>Removal of the Vice-Chair of the School Board</u></p> <p><b>WHEREAS</b> section 155.1 of the Education Act states that the Commissioners shall appoint the Vice-Chair of the School Board;</p> <p><b>WHEREAS</b> the Vice-Chair can be removed by a vote of not less than two-thirds of the members of the Council of Commissioners;</p> <p>IT WAS MOVED BY MR. TONY SPERANZA AND RESOLVED that the Vice-Chair be removed.</p> <p>Vote: 11-3-0, Adopted (Mr. M. Bentrovato, Mr. A. Cannavino and Mr. J. Lalla voted against)</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><u>Resolution # 23-12-19-7</u></p>
8.	<p><u>Chair’s Report</u></p> <p>Presented by the Chair, Mr. Joe Ortona:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ On November 13<sup>th</sup>, several members of the Council including Mr. Ortona visited the Montreal Holocaust Museum and they received a tour of the museum. It was a remarkable experience to see the videos that were there, the different objects that they had from that period of time, including the clothes that the prisoners wore, different gifts the prisoners exchanged with each other and accounts from survivors. Mr. Ortona and Ms. Corsi made a podcast about the experience which can be found on the EMSB podcast page for whomever would like to listen. The Chair is very proud that our students of all cultures and backgrounds were able to get this educational experience;</li> <li>➤ Mr. Ortona had the opportunity to meet with the Minister of Education, Mr. Bernard Drainville. They discussed Bill 23 where the Minister gave the news the he intended to present amendments to the Bill, to make it such that it would not apply to the English Education Network. The Minister also stated that he committed to letting QESBA know if ever the government were to change course and decide that it would apply to the English Education Network;</li> <li>➤ The lawyers have been working hard on our stay on Bill 96, gathering evidence. Mr. Ortona took a moment to acknowledge that many employees, Board, School and Centre Administrators have signed affidavits which have been filed in court as evidence and also thanked them for their dedication and commitment to English Public Education;</li> <li>➤ In June 2022, the EMSB launched their challenge on Bill 96. At the time, the EMSB was the only School Board and organization to do so. At the end of November, Riverside School Board voted to become intervenors in the court challenge and have committed to make a financial contribution to the case. On November 21<sup>st</sup> and on November 28<sup>th</sup>, both Eastern Townships School Board and Western Quebec School Board, also became intervenors in the court challenge and have committed to make a financial contribution to the case. Following this in the month of December, QESBA, New Frontiers School Board, Central Quebec School Board and Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board have all become intervenors in the court challenge and have committed to make a financial contribution to the case. Eastern Shores School Board will be meeting tomorrow on the topic and last night Lester B. Pearson School Board adopted a resolution in support of our court challenge. Mr. Ortona is very proud of this accomplishment.</li> <li>➤ Mr. Ortona took the opportunity to wish everyone a very happy and healthy holidays!</li> </ul>

9. Director General's Report

Presented by the Director General, Mr. Nicholas Katalifos:

- Kindergarten Registration Week for the 2024-2025 academic year will launch on Monday, February 5<sup>th</sup> to Friday, February 9<sup>th</sup>. Three years ago, the EMSB adopted a new format whereby parents could book a registration appointment online at some schools as of Monday, January 29<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 a.m. Reservations will now open up at 23 Elementary Schools, a big jump from the five that launched the original pilot project. In order to get more information, visit [www.emsb.qc.ca/reserve](http://www.emsb.qc.ca/reserve). Parents will be called upon to validate their information, told if they have a spot and given an appointment time. We will kick off our Kindergarten Registration campaign at a press conference on January 9<sup>th</sup> at Dante Elementary School;
- There are two prominent alumni who recently visited their former schools to talk to students. Dr. Christopher Labos is a noted cardiologist with a degree in epidemiology who graduated from Lauren Hill Academy in the very first year of the EMSB's existence 25 years ago. Over the last number of years, he has become a frequent commentator on television, radio and in the print media, locally and nationally. He spoke to a full auditorium and a talk moderated by Dan Laxer. Ms. Marilena Lucci who is a newly appointed editor and chief of the Montreal Gazette attended St. Monica Elementary School and Royal West Academy. She's one of the youngest editors the Gazette has ever had. Mrs. Lucci spoke to the students about her love for journalism and how a teacher at St. Monica played an early role in her goal to become a writer. Students had lots of questions and when her presentation was over many fans went up and they asked what it would be like to work for a newspaper one day. A big thank you to both of our guests for speaking to out students;
- With the holidays around the corner, a special group of students at John F. Kennedy High School, dubbed the Girls Group, came together to pack 100 shoe boxes full of necessities for local women shelters. Childcare worker Maria Damiano is the coordinator and group leader of the students and we congratulate them on their efforts;
- To mark Children's Grief Awareness Day which is commemorated every 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday in November, Rosyln Elementary School hosted John Ryder from Myra's Kids Foundation. John spoke to the students about the importance of being present for their friends who are grieving a loss to ensure that they realize they are not alone. Students also participated in the fundraiser from Myra's Kids Foundation by donating \$1 in order to wear blue, the color associated with the day;
- Mr. Katalifos and Mr. Chadirdjian along with all of the DG's and ADG's on the island of Montreal had the pleasure of meeting with the Montreal Police Chief, Mr. Fady Dagher to discuss the issue related to relations with schools. Chief Dagher agreed to visit EMSB schools before the end of the academic year to talk to the students. They also spoke about some very practical issues and he made it clear that he wants to work with the two on island School Boards as well as the three Service Centres;
- We were thrilled to welcome former Minister for Sustainable Development, Environment and the Fight Against Climate Change and Minister of Immigration, Diversity and Inclusion, Mr. David Heurtel as a guest speaker at the recent meeting of the English Montreal Student Advisory Committee (EMSAC). Mr. Heurtel and the students discussed a wide variety of topics ranging from climate change to the university tuition increase as well as the vast repercussions of the labor negotiations and ongoing strike. Most importantly, Mr. Heurtel encouraged the students to get engaged in political discourse themselves, noting that the only way to affect change is to become involved;
- The new edition of Inspirations Newspaper explores the difference between conflict and bullying and how to address both and so much more. Inspirations Newspaper promotes inclusion, mental health and well-being. The theme of bullying versus conflict and how to address both weaves throughout the edition, providing important information on the new build to guide those in need of support and how the new complaints procedure works. All of these articles can be found on the EMSB website and [www.inspirationsnews.com](http://www.inspirationsnews.com). Printed copies will be delivered to the individual schools;

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ For her exceptional commitment to sharing Canadian history from a new perspective, Chantal Clabrough, a teacher from Westmount High School has been named a laureate of the Governor General’s History Awards for Excellence in Teaching, the country’s most prestigious history honor. Administered by Canada’s History Society, this award recognizes and encourages teachers and schools to strive for excellence in the teaching of Canadian History. Ms. Clabrough designed Westmount High School’s Memorial Project to get her 10<sup>th</sup> grade history students involved in the preservation of the school’s history. From 2014 to 2022, students researched the lives of 141 Westmount High School students who died in service to Canada during the Second World War;</li> <li>➤ Perspectives I and II Alternative High Schools hosted a very special an inspiring event called My Montreal Conference on November 27<sup>th</sup>. This motivational summit, organized by Spiritual Community Animator, Vince Lacroce, was a collaborative effort involving local community leaders, professionals and influencers who are passionate about uplifting youth in our community. The intent of this event was to provide Outreach High School students with valuable guidance and inspiration to unlock their full potential as they navigate through the challenges of life and education;</li> <li>➤ Finally, the Voices of Olympia Canada held its launch ceremony for the 2023-2024 edition of the school competition on December 6<sup>th</sup> at Royal West Academy. Students from different schools made presentations on an important topic, transposing into a Canadian context a priority theme. This will be discussed with the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women in March 2024;</li> <li>➤ Congratulations to Ms. Nathalie Lacroix-Maillette, Regional Director, on her recent retirement. Ms. Lacroix-Maillette had an incredible and very distinguished career as an educator and we wish her the very best for a long, happy and healthy retirement;</li> <li>➤ The newly appointed Regional Director (East Sector) will be Ms. Darlene Kehyayan, who is currently the Assistant Director in Human Resources. We wish her the very best of luck in her new post, congratulations to Darlene!</li> <li>➤ Ms. Angela Vaudry, Principal of F.A.C.E. has been appointed the new Assistant Director of Human Resources. We wish her nothing but the best in her new role;</li> <li>➤ Mr. Katalifos took a moment on behalf of the entire administration to wish everyone a very happy holidays and health and happiness for the new year!</li> </ul>
10.	<p><u>In Memoriam</u></p> <p><u>10.1 Tribute for December 2023</u></p> <p><b>WHEREAS</b> the Board values the contributions made by its employees;</p> <p><b>WHEREAS</b> 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>Nelly Cohen Perez, Retired Vice Principal, PSBGM  Rawanah Ramasamy, Retired Maintenance Worker, Class II, Royal Vale</p> <p>and that an expression of sympathy be sent to the bereaved families.</p> <p>Vote: 14-0-0, Adopted</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><u>Resolution # 23-12-19-10.1</u></p>
11.	<p><u>2022-2023 Annual Report</u></p> <p><b>WHEREAS</b> Section 220 of the Education Act states that every school board shall prepare an Annual Report giving its community an account of the results obtained with regard to the goals and measurable objectives set out in the Commitment-to-Success Plan with the Ministère de l’Éducation du Québec (MEQ);</p>

**WHEREAS** the said report shall also give an account to the Minister of the results obtained with regard to the directions and objectives of the Commitment-to-Success Plan established by the MEQ;

**WHEREAS** the Annual Report includes the EMSB Commitment-to-Success report, the financial statements, service contracts (Chapter G-1.011) and Staffing Report (Chapter G-1.011);

**WHEREAS** the Board shall send a copy of the report to the Minister by December 31, 2023, as per the Education Act;

IT WAS MOVED BY MS. ROSEMARIE FEDERICO AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED THAT the 2022-2023 English Montreal School Board Annual Report, including the EMSB Commitment-to-Success Plan report, the financial statements, the service contracts (Chapter G-1.011) and Staffing Report (Chapter G-1.011), be approved on December 19, 2023 and that a formal presentation of this document be given on January 23, 2024, at the St. Pius X Career Centre, located at 9955 Papineau Avenue, Montreal.

IT WAS FURTHER RESOLVED THAT copies of the report be sent to the Ministère de l'Éducation du Québec (MEQ) by December 31, 2023.

Vote: 14-0-0, Adopted

Resolution # 23-12-19-11

12. Following Consultation

12.1 Draft Calendars (Teachers) for the Youth, Adult and Vocational Sectors for 2024-2025

**WHEREAS** the Human Resources Department has drafted the calendars (teachers) for the youth, adult and vocational sectors for 2024-2025;

**WHEREAS** the calendars (teachers) for the youth, adult and vocational sectors for 2024-2025 were sent out for the purposes of official consultation, following approval by the Council of Commissioners, to the following groups: - English Montreal School Board Parents Committee (EMSBPC); Central Management Advisory Committee - Resource Allocation Committee (CMAC-RAC); Association of Montreal School Administrators (AMSA); Montréal Teachers Association (MTA);

**WHEREAS** the proposed calendars (teachers) for the youth, adult education and vocational sectors were approved as submitted by the groups consulted, with the additional recommendations: from the EMSBPC that “Day after Halloween, November 1, 2024, be a Board wide Ped Day”; and from AMSA and CMAC-RAC, that the dates of the annual School Board Summer closure be included in the calendar;

IT WAS MOVED BY MR. JAMES KROMIDA AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED THAT the revised calendars (teachers) for the youth, adult, and vocational sectors for 2024-2025 be approved.

Vote: 14-0-0, Adopted

Resolution # 23-12-19-12.1

12.2 Vocational Programs in the Construction Sector

**WHEREAS** at the Board meeting on November 7, 2023 the Council of Commissioners approved for consultation purposes, in Resolution # 23-11-07-17, that the English Montreal School Board (EMSB) assign the space at Lester B. Pearson High School to Adult Education and Vocational Services (AEVS) for future use;

	<p><b>WHEREAS</b> the Lester B. Pearson High School governing board, the Rosemount Technology Centre governing board and the EMSB Parents’ Committee were invited to submit their views by no later than November 24, 2023, and their recommendations were considered;</p> <p><b>WHEREAS</b> the EMSB Long Range Planning Committee held a meeting on November 30, 2023 and recommended that the EMSB assign the space at Lester B. Pearson High School, to AEVS for future use;</p> <p>IT WAS MOVED BY MR. PIETRO MERCURI AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED, AS RECOMMENDED BY THE LONG RANGE PLANNING COMMITTEE, THAT the Council of Commissioners approve that the EMSB assign the space at Lester B. Pearson High School, to AEVS for future use;</p> <p>Vote: 14-0-0, Adopted</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><u>Resolution # 23-12-19-12.2</u></p>
13.	<p><u>Rollovers from 2022-2023 to 2023-2024</u></p> <p><b>WHEREAS</b> as per Section 96.24 of the Education Act the School Board may credit all or part of the schools’ and centres’ surpluses to the school or centre or another educational institution if the Resource Allocation Committee recommends it and the Council of Commissioners implements the recommendation;</p> <p><b>WHEREAS</b> as per Section 193.4 of the Education Act the Resource Allocation Committee must annually make a recommendation to the Council of Commissioners regarding the allocation of the surpluses of the School Board’s educational institutions;</p> <p><b>WHEREAS</b> as per Section 193.5 of the Education Act the School Board may entrust the functions assigned to the Resource Allocation Committee under this Act to the advisory committee on management, hereinafter referred to as the Central Management Advisory Committee/Resource Allocation Committee (CMAC/RAC);</p> <p><b>WHEREAS</b> the CMAC/RAC has reviewed and endorsed the proposed distribution of school and centre surpluses and the school and centre deficits to be covered for the school year 2022-2023;</p> <p>IT WAS MOVED BY MR. MARIO PIETRANGELO AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED, AS RECOMMENDED BY THE CENTRAL MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE/RESOURCE ALLOCATION COMMITTEE, THAT the school and centre surpluses and deficits at June 30, 2023 be allocated to the 2023-2024 fiscal year, as outlined in the documentation submitted at this meeting.</p> <p>Vote: 14-0-0, Adopted</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><u>Resolution # 23-12-19-13</u></p>
14.	<p><u>Recommendation from the Ad Hoc Committee on Education</u></p> <p><u>14.1 Genocide Education in Elementary and High Schools</u></p> <p><b>WHEREAS</b> building upon the resolution passed on October 3, 2023, whereby the Council of Commissioners unanimously adopted “That the English Montreal School Board call upon Quebec’s Ministry of Education to make Holocaust education compulsory in elementary and high schools and that the Ministry consults the Ontario curriculum and mandate the Conseil Supérieur de l’Éducation and other stakeholders to determine how best to introduce this new curriculum and ensure teacher training.”</p> <p><b>WHEREAS</b> the understanding of historical events is crucial for fostering empathy, critical thinking, and a sense of global citizenship among students;</p> <p><b>WHEREAS</b> genocide represents a dark chapter in human history that must be acknowledged, studied, and remembered to prevent its recurrence;</p>

**WHEREAS** the inclusion of genocide studies in the elementary and secondary education curriculum aligns with the principles of promoting tolerance, human rights, and social justice;

**WHEREAS** we at the EMSB have already taken steps to incorporate these topics in pre-existing curriculum responsibly;

**WHEREAS** the Quebec Ministry of Education plays a pivotal role in shaping the educational landscape and curriculum for students in the province;

Be it resolved that:

We, the undersigned, earnestly request the Quebec Ministry of Education to consider and implement the inclusion of genocide studies in the history courses offered in Elementary and Secondary.

The inclusion of genocide studies should encompass a diverse range of case studies, including but not limited to the Holocaust, the Rwandan Genocide, the Armenian Genocide, and others, to provide students with a well-rounded perspective on the global impact of these events.

Resources, teaching materials, and professional development opportunities for educators should be made available to facilitate effective and sensitive delivery of genocide studies in the classroom.

The Quebec Ministry of Education should collaborate with experts, educators, and community representatives to develop a curriculum that is inclusive, culturally sensitive, and reflective of the diverse experiences of affected communities.

Periodic reviews and updates to the curriculum should be conducted to ensure the relevance and accuracy of the content in line with ongoing research and developments in the field of genocide studies.

IT WAS MOVED BY MR. JOSEPH LALLA AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED THAT the English Montreal School Board call upon Québec's Ministry of Education to encourage and support genocide education in elementary and high schools and that the Ministry consults experts in the field to determine how best to introduce these concepts and ensure appropriate teacher training.

Vote: 14-0-0, Adopted

Resolution # 23-12-19-14.1

15. Universal National School Food Policy and Program for all Public Schools

**WHEREAS** New Brunswick Liberal MP Serge Cormier has submitted a Private Member's Bill C-322, National Framework for a School Food Program Act in the House of Commons;

**WHEREAS** it is heartening to see that the Bill has passed second reading and has been sent to committee;

**WHEREAS** support is required from the Standing Committee on Human Resources, Skills and Social Development and the Status of Persons with Disabilities;

**WHEREAS** the preamble to the Bill states, "almost one in five children reported to school or to bed hungry sometimes, often or always because there was not enough food at home";

**WHEREAS** in a country as developed and wealthy as Canada, this is simply unacceptable;

**WHEREAS** Canada is currently the only country in the G7 that does not have a National School Food Program or National Standards ;



	<p><b>WHEREAS</b> the English Montreal School Board fully supports the concept of a universal National School Food Policy and Program for all public schools;</p> <p><b>WHEREAS</b> this type of program could provide a variety of benefits for students, including improving access to nutritious food for students, allowing all students to focus on learning in school, addressing food insecurity and the resulting anxiety and mental health challenges that affect students, improving the social determinants of health for marginalized communities, promoting healthy eating habits, choices, and lifestyles, increasing food literacy, and supporting local agriculture and traditions and a healthier and more sustainable food system;</p> <p><b>WHEREAS</b> a National School Food Policy and Program would also help ensure that all children have the nourishment they need to learn and grow and improve their health and well-being and also contribute to the development of a more sustainable food system by supporting local and sustainable food production, and local economies through the creation of jobs;</p> <p><b>WHEREAS</b> given the widespread need across Quebec and indeed Canada, and the extraordinary diversity of approaches school boards/districts take in forming partnerships to support those in need, there is a strong need for the federal government, in partnership with provincial ministries and school boards/districts, to commit to a National School Food Policy;</p> <p><b>WHEREAS</b> a National Policy would set a standard both for securing food for schools and ensuring it is delivered consistently, sustainably, and within a context of transformative action to end poverty, improve students’ health and achievement outcomes and build cultural and economic success;</p> <p><b>WHEREAS</b> an investment in budget 2024 in a National School Food Program will support both families and school food providers, who have been struggling due to the affordability crisis;</p> <p>IT WAS MOVED BY MR. JOE ORTONA AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED THAT this policy should be followed up by the rollout of a National School Nutritious Meal Program, and with it the \$200 million per year that the Government of Canada committed to in 2021.</p> <p>Vote: 14-0-0, Adopted</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><u>Resolution # 23-12-19-15</u></p>
16.	<p><u>Director General’s Reporting – As per By-Law No. 10 – Delegation of Powers</u></p> <p>This item was presented by the Director General, Mr. Nicholas Katalifos, for information.</p>
17.	<p><u>Committee Reports</u></p> <p><u>17.1 ACSES (Advisory Committee on Special Education Services)</u></p> <p>Item presented by Parent Commissioner, Ms. Rosemarie Federico:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ More in dept discussions were held regarding the Parent Toolkit project. A subcommittee was formed to lead and organize the components of the kit;</li> <li>➤ The committee welcomed 3 new members for a 2-year term, Julie Christophe, Elisa-Marie Mancini and Francesca Pitruzzello.</li> </ul> <p><u>17.2 Transportation and Safety Advisory Committee</u></p> <p>Item presented by the Chair of the Committee, Mr. Pietro Mercuri:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ There has been no meeting since the last report.</li> </ul>

### 17.3 EMSBPC (English Montreal School Board Parents' Committee)

Item presented by Parent Commissioner, Ms. Maria Corsi:

- At the last meeting held on December 7<sup>th</sup>, Ms. Anna Sanalidro was invited to give an interesting presentation on the use of artificial intelligence in the classroom. For example, a math situational problem that could be either scaled down for students that need extra help or made more challenging for students who are fast learners and could benefit from the extra challenge. The use of AI in the classroom is an excellent method to build inclusivity as it can reach all students regardless of their level;
- The committee also reviewed and discussed changes to the internal rules and they are in the process of adopting them via an evote;
- Discussions continued on certificates of eligibility as there is a lot of concern from parents.
- The committee also provided a response to the consultation on the School Calendars;
- The committee approved the appointment of Parent members to ACSES;
- Questions regarding the strike were brought up by Ms. Nathalie Lacroix-Maillette, about how the strike days would be made up;
- Discussions took place on the uniformity of the Educational Project throughout our schools.

### 17.4 Governance and Ethics Committee

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

- At the meeting on November 29<sup>th</sup>, members reviewed the current court actions in which the School Board is involved, including the potential stay on Bill 23 and the potential court action on certain aspects of Bill 96;
- Given the court decision on Bill 40, in which the English School Boards prevailed, the Governance and Ethics Committee has begun a review of the institutional corporate By-Laws implemented during the trusteeship period. The reviews are underway by our advisors at Power Law and the committee expects to see an initial draft in January.

### 17.5 Audit Committee

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

- There has been no meeting since the last report.

### 17.6 Human Resources Committee

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

- The meeting was postponed to the new year.

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

Item presented by the Chair, Mr. Joe Ortona, Representative Member on the Committee:

- The committee reviewed the Financement des allocations du milieu défavorisé and le régime de gestion des risques;
- The Annual Report for 2022-2023 of the committee was adopted.

## 17.8 EMSAC (English Montreal Student Advisory Committee)

Item presented by the Observer, Mr. Joseph Lalla:

- At the December EMSAC meeting, former Member of the National Assembly, Cabinet Minister, and current political pundit David Heurtel was the guest speaker. David spoke and answered questions on immigration, the environment society, politics and many other issues. Mr. Heurtel participated in the other discussions during the meeting, providing students with some valuable input. He also gave examples to the student leaders how they can be more involved in the political life of our society;
- Students expressed their concerns about the effects of the tuition fee increase for out-of-province students and how it could negatively affect the province and specifically the three English universities;
- Lastly, EMSAC members submitted a letter of support for our striking teachers and employees to Premier Legault and treasury board minister Sonia Lebel. One quote from the EMSAC letter: “it is the belief of the English Montreal Student Advisory Committee that they be given better working conditions and a salary that ... correctly reflects their contributions to society, especially in these times, with an ongoing worker shortage and the constant cost of living increases. They are the key individuals in shaping the leaders of tomorrow and they are more than worthy of their demands.”

## 18. Commissioners' Report

Item presented by Commissioner, Mr. Joseph Lalla:

- Mr. Lalla congratulated Amelio Santini from Royal Vale School and wished him the best of luck in the pursuit of his hockey passion;
- Marilena Lucci, a St. Monica graduate and the new Editor-in-Chief of The Gazette, was enthusiastically received by the students of St. Monica Elementary when she recently addressed them.
- This school year staff and students at St. Monica will be piloting a social-emotional learning program titled: Me, You, Us. The program will be following a different topic every month, such as: Emotional Awareness and Regulation; and, Resisting peer pressure and the role of the bystander;
- The Willingdon girls' soccer team recently participated in the annual Lower Canada College tournament playing games against primarily private schools from the Montreal area and even a couple of schools from out of town. The team made it all the way to the finals;
- For yet another year, Royal Vale Cycle II elementary students had the pleasure of welcoming an artist from ELAN's Artists Inspire. The students explored what they saw, heard and felt when in nature and when listening to Louise Campbell play her clarinet;
- Royal Vale's Truth and Reconciliation Committee hosted Dr. Mindy Carter and Dr. Maija-Liisa Harju from McGill University's Walk Alongside project. They were introduced to the project's website to discover a host of resources that they can refer to when trying to walk alongside indigenous partners during the path to reconciliation;
- Royal Vale's wrestling team was hosted by Royal West Academy recently for a free clinic with former world champion and Olympic silver medalist, Gia Sissaouri; as well as Canadian national champion, Amanda Savard;
- Students in Grade 5 at Edinburgh Elementary were recently visited by former CTV journalists, Annie DeMelt and Paul Karwatsky to speak about media literacy for young digital citizens. Students learned strategies on how to identify misinformation with online 'news';
- The annual Montreal West Charity Golf Tournament took place in September. The event raised just over \$6,500 for Edinburgh, Elizabeth Ballantyne, the Children's Library, the Little Red Playhouse, and Meals on Wheels;

	<p>➤ The Voices of Olympia Canada held its launch ceremony for the 2023-2024 Edition of the School Competition in December at Royal West Academy. Students from nine different schools, including two from Ottawa, made presentations on an important topic, “Feminization of poverty and its impacts on the Empowerment of Girls and Women in Canada.” The EMSB was represented by four of our high schools. It is of special significance that December 6 was chosen as the date for this ceremony as Canada’s National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women is commemorated. The EMSB was proud to be hosting this competition, where high school girls are introduced to issues discussed at the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women.</p>
19.	<p><u>Other Business</u></p> <p>None.</p>
20.	<p><u>Adjournment</u></p> <p>IT WAS MOVED BY MS. ROSEMARIE FEDERICO AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED THAT the meeting be adjourned at 8:18 p.m.</p> <p>Vote: 14-0-0 Adopted</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><u>Resolution # 23-12-19-20</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>