

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS OF THE
ENGLISH MONTREAL SCHOOL BOARD

A Regular Board Meeting of the English Montreal School Board has taken place on Tuesday, February 27, 2024, 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 Bentrovato, Commissioner – via Teams
Ms. Maria Corsi, Parent Commissioner
Ms. Sophie De Vito, Commissioner – via Teams
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

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

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
Ms. Ann Watson, Director, Human Resources
Ms. Angela Vaudry, Assistant Director, Human Resources
Mr. Mike Cohen, Manager, Marketing & Communications
Ms. Brigida Sellato, Consultant, Secretariat General, via Teams

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>Nomination of Joe David as Student of the Month</u></p> <p>The EMSB Student of the Month for February is Joe David from LINKS High School. Joe David is a very responsible, kind, mature and helpful young man. He is a leader in the classroom and he is always willing to help someone in need or cheer someone up. As a student in the Work Oriented Training Pathway Program, this past summer, Joe David worked as a caretaker at a local summer camp as well as recently, he began working at St. Pius Culinary Centre as a way to learn new skills.</p> <p>Personally, Joe David has gone through many trying times, yet he always remained dedicated and responsible for his own learning. He kept up with his school and stage attendance, his classwork and homework, and his attitude was never compromised. Through adversity, Joe David always chooses to grow stronger and more confident. He is positive, enthusiastic and motivates other students in class. He truly is a role model!</p> <p>Congratulations Joe!</p>
3.	<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"> ➤ Several items regarding QESBA <p>A question from Mr. José Ferrer Camps was read and addressed by the Chair, Mr. Joe Ortona, regarding the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Broken Business Model in the Students Transport <p>A question from Ms. France Riendeau was read and addressed by the Chair, Mr. Joe Ortona, regarding the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Transco Dispute
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: 15-0-0 Adopted</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><u>Resolution # 24-02-27-4</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 January 18, 2024</u></p> <p>IT WAS MOVED BY MR. PIETRO MERCURI AND RESOLVED THAT the Minutes of the Special Board Meeting held on January 18, 2024, be approved as presented.</p> <p>Vote: 14-1-0, Adopted (Mr. A. Cannavino voted against)</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><u>Resolution # 24-02-27-5.1</u></p> <p><u>5.2 Adoption of the Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting held on January 23, 2024</u></p> <p>IT WAS MOVED BY MR. JAMES KROMIDA AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED THAT the Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting held on January 23, 2024, be approved as presented.</p> <p>Vote: 15-0-0 Adopted</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><u>Resolution # 24-02-27-5.2</u></p>
6.	<p><u>Business Arising Out of Minutes</u></p> <p>On the Minutes of the Regular Board meeting held on January 23, 2024, Mr. Lalla wanted to know the amounts in which the other School Boards will be allocating to the stay on Bill 96.</p>
7.	<p><u>Chair's Report</u></p> <p>Presented by the Chair, Mr. Joe Ortona:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ January concluded our very successful promotional campaign in our schools, for <i>Le mois du français</i>. Last month, a report was given of all the events that took place in our schools for the promotion of French language in our schools; ➤ Several schools held events for International Holocaust Remembrance Day on January 27, 2024, to commemorate the very important historical event that must never be forgotten; ➤ February 1, 2024, marked the beginning of Black History Month. Throughout the month our schools have held various events and educational projects all about black history. Some schools, in which Mr. Ortona visited had murals and information about some very important historical figures; ➤ Mr. Ortona attended <i>FACE School Symphony Orchestra</i>. It was the first time he attended and was very impressed. It was a very successful event that took place with both F.A.C.E. schools, EMSB and CSSDM F.A.C.E. Schools; ➤ In light of the solar eclipse on April 8, several ped days have been moved. In Elementary Schools, the scheduled ped day for March 22, 2024, has been moved to April 8, 2024. In High Schools, the scheduled ped day for March 15, 2024, has been moved to April 8, 2024. AEVS Centres will have a regular school day on April 8, 2024; ➤ Mid-February was staff appreciation week and Mr. Ortona took a moment to say thank you to all our staff for all that they do for the children. Treats, gifts and cards were given out to show how their work is appreciated; ➤ February 15, 2024, was the launch of the Arts Études Program at Rosemount High School the first of its kind in Quebec, which will offer students full credit for participation in the schools award-winning music program. Mr. Ortona took the opportunity to thank everyone at the Board that was able to make this happen, Mr. Buttino, Principal of Rosemount High School and his entire team; ➤ Mr. Ortona has recently created a blog, where he will be able to keep the public up-to-date about things that are going on at the EMSB, can give his personal view on certain things and make announcements when appropriate; ➤ Concordia University and McGill College announced that they will be both launching their own challenges on Bill 96. Both the EMSB and QESBA have put out messages of support for these court challenges. Mr. Ortona stated that it is very important that our English-language institutions defend and protect the rights of the English-speaking community. The EMSB took a leadership role in 2022 to challenge Bill 96, of which has inspired others to follow suit.

8. Director General's Report

Presented by the Director General, Mr. Nicholas Katalifos:

- Mr. Katalifos congratulated on behalf of Ms. Nickoletopoulos and Mr. Chadirdjian all of EMSB employees. In honor of Staff Appreciation Week, Mr. Katalifos thanked all employees who do their utmost on a daily basis;
- March will mark Nutrition Month at EMSB, we invite the public to visit our website for details;
- The EMSB is proud to announce that Rosemount High School inaugurated its new Arts-Études program, the first ever in Quebec in the anglophone sector. We are very proud of the Rosemount community for all the work that went into this project, as well as all the employees at the School Board that supported this project particularly our Educational Services Department;
- Eighty-one years after he enrolled in Grade 1 at Bancroft Elementary School, former Montreal General Physician and Chief, Dr. Phil Gold returned to speak to students about his new autobiography entitled "Gold's Rounds", on February 22. It was amazing to hear about the talk he had with the students in terms of what he remembered regarding his school, what it meant to him in the past and how it led him to his career;
- F.A.C.E. School Symphony Orchestra marked its 25th anniversary with a show at the concert hall, home to the Montreal Symphony Orchestra. EMSB instrumental music teacher Theodora Stathopoulos has been steering the ship since day one and is very proud of her students. Ms. Stathopoulos wishes to thank English sector Principal, Ms. Jennifer Harriet and Alexis Kronström Richard, Vice-Principal from the French side, for their extraordinary cooperation. It was incredible to watch all of our talented students;
- Voices of Olympia Canada is proud to announce for a fourth consecutive year, participants of their school competition will present their work at the Civil Society Forum organized during the 68th session of the United Nations Commission on the status of women. This event will take place in New York City from March 11 to 22, 2024. Discussions at the event round tables will explore youth lead solutions that address intersections of feminization of poverty, health, education, gender based violence and highest economic policies and practices. There will be four teams from the EMSB that will be participating and we will be informing the public of those very soon;
- The Suburban Newspaper recently published the results of its annual Best of Montreal Magazine in the Elementary School category. The EMSB is proud to announce John Caboto Academy came in first and Honoré Mercier Elementary School came in third. At the Secondary level Lester B. Pearson High School finished first, and for the second year in a row in the Vocational sector, the Shadd Health and Business Centre came in third. Congratulations to all;
- Inspirations Newspaper and the EMSB School Climate team in Student Services Department are pleased to introduce Inspirations Ambassador for mental health, Samara Gorman on Pink Shirt Day, February 28, 2024. Ms. Gorman will share a message of kindness, anti-bullying and leadership with Elementary level students at FACE School on February 28;
- Carlyle Elementary School held the Annual International Baccalaureate (IB) PYP Exhibition on February 22, 2024. Grade 6 students were hard at work researching discoveries and exploring through time;
- Mr. Katalifos reminded the public on the position the School Board took regarding the ped day on April 8, 2024, for the solar eclipse, of which the Chairman spoke earlier in his report. A reminder for the parents to take note of the changes at their particular schools;
- Shadd Health and Business Centre started a new accelerated course for homecare assistance mandated by the Provincial Government. We want to thank the school community for all the work that went in to setting up the program. This is a program that aims to graduate students who will be working in this particular field, of which is in dire need of labour;
- With the shortage of workers in the construction industry, the Ministry of Education has provided three School Boards with the opportunity to offer additional vocational programs. The EMSB has now introduced a new program in carpentry with the skills training certificate. This training will be offered under the hospices of Rosemount Technology Centre and will be housed at the Lester B. Pearson High School. The ladder has been retrofitted to meet the program requirements. The AEVS Department along with the administration of the school has done an incredible amount of work into setting up the program in a very short time span. Congratulations to all of them;
- Mr. Katalifos wished everyone a safe and restful Spring Break.

9. Revised Timeline – Consultation on the Opening of a New School in the Nesbitt Building and Close St. Raphael School

WHEREAS Resolution # 23-06-20-18.3 authorized a consultation for the purpose of opening a new school in the Nesbitt building be launched and the consultation period was to end June 20, 2024;

WHEREAS section 7.0 of Policy DG-18 “Maintenance or Closure of Schools”, the school board reserves the right to modify the consultation timeline within the limits of the Education Act;

WHEREAS the original timeline outlined in the above-mentioned resolution must be modified in order to commence the consultation in March 2024 and for a period of five months;

WHEREAS the Administration of the English Montreal School Board (EMSB) is proposing to open a new school, with its own deed of establishment, in the Nesbitt building according to the revised timeline and close St. Raphael School;

WHEREAS a revised timeline has been proposed and was presented to the members of the Long Range Planning Committee on February 21, 2024 and was approved;

WHEREAS the Long Range Planning Committee recommends that the Board approve a consultation process for the opening of the new school in the Nesbitt building according to the revised timeline and close St. Raphael School;

IT WAS MOVED BY MR. AGOSTINO CANNAVINO AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED, AS RECOMMENDED BY THE LONG RANGE PLANNING COMMITTEE, THAT the Board approve the launch of the consultative process for the opening of the new school in the Nesbitt building and close St. Raphael School according to the revised timeline whereby the consultation period will commence on March 2024 and for a period of five months.

Vote: 15-0-0, Adopted

Resolution # 24-02-27-9

10. Recommendation from the Governance and Ethics Committee

10.1 Election of a Member of the Audit Committee

WHEREAS pursuant to section 193.1 of the Education Act, the Council of Commissioners must establish an Audit Committee;

WHEREAS it is recommended by the Governance and Ethics Committee that the Audit Committee be composed of three (3) members of the Council of Commissioners;

WHEREAS pursuant to section 10.1.3 of By-Law no. 11 on Internal Governance, the Governance and Ethics Committee recommends nominations of Members for the Audit Committee;

WHEREAS the Commissioners sitting on this Committee have experience in finance or accounting or in financial or physical resources management, as per section 10.4.3 of By-Law no. 11 on Internal Governance;

WHEREAS James Kromida was elected Vice-Chair to the Council on January 18, 2024, and therefore must vacate his seat as a Member of the Audit Committee pursuant to section 10.1.1 of By-Law No. 11 on Internal Governance;

WHEREAS all submission forms sent by Commissioners who wanted to present themselves as a Member of the Audit Committee were received and acknowledged by the Secretary General, and forwarded to the Chair and Members of the Governance and Ethics Committee, for their final recommendation to the Council of Commissioners, as per section 10.1.3 of By-Law no. 11 on Internal Governance;

WHEREAS the following Commissioner has submitted his candidacy for the election of a Member to the Audit Committee:

Daniel Tatone

WHEREAS the Members of the Governance and Ethics Committee met to review the candidacies at their meeting held on February 22, 2024;

WHEREFORE IT WAS MOVED BY MR. JAMES KROMIDA AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED, AS RECOMMENDED BY THE GOVERNANCE AND ETHICS COMMITTEE, THAT effective February 27, 2024, Mr. Daniel Tatone be designated as a Member to the Audit Committee.

Vote: 13-0-2, Adopted (Mr. A. Cannavino and Mr. J. Lalla abstained)

Resolution # 24-02-27-10.1

10.2 Election of Chair of the Audit Committee

WHEREAS the Council of Commissioners elects the Chair of the Audit Committee, as per the recommendations of the Governance and Ethics Committee, pursuant to sections 10.1.2 and 10.1.3 of By-Law no. 11 on Internal Governance;

WHEREAS the Council of Commissioners shall consider if the Commissioner meets the minimal requirements of the Audit Committee, including the qualities of Chair as per section 10.1.2 of By-Law no. 11 on Internal Governance;

WHEREAS the Chair of the Audit Committee shall have the highest personal standards with regard to honesty, reliability and commitment to the role, pursuant to section 10.1.2 of By-Law no. 11 on Internal Governance;

WHEREAS James Kromida was elected Vice-Chair to the Council on January 18, 2024, and therefore must vacate his seat as Chair of the Audit Committee pursuant to section 10.1.1 of By-Law No. 11 on Internal Governance;

WHEREAS all submission forms sent by Commissioners who wanted to present themselves as Chair of the Audit Committee were received and acknowledged by the Secretary General, and forwarded to the Chair and Members of the Governance and Ethics Committee, for their final recommendation to the Council of Commissioners, as per section 10.1.3 of By-Law no. 11 on Internal Governance;

WHEREAS the following Commissioner has submitted his candidacy for the election of Chair of the Audit Committee:

Tony Speranza

WHEREAS the Members of the Governance and Ethics Committee met to review the candidacies at their meeting held on February 5, 2024;

WHEREFORE IT WAS MOVED BY MR. JULIEN FELDMAN AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED, AS RECOMMENDED BY THE GOVERNANCE AND ETHICS COMMITTEE, THAT effective February 27, 2024, Mr. Tony Speranza be designated as Chair of the Audit Committee.

Vote: 13-0-2, Adopted (Mr. A. Cannavino and Mr. J. Lalla abstained)

Resolution # 24-02-27-10.2

10.3 Election of Vice-Chair of the Audit Committee

WHEREAS the Council of Commissioners elects the Vice-Chair of the Audit Committee, as per the recommendations of the Governance and Ethics Committee, pursuant to sections 10.1.2 and 10.1.3 of By-Law no. 11 on Internal Governance;

WHEREAS the Council of Commissioners shall consider if the Commissioner meets the minimal requirements of the Audit Committee, including the qualities of Vice-Chair as per section 10.1.2 of By-Law no. 11 on Internal Governance;

WHEREAS the Vice-Chair of the Audit Committee shall have the highest personal standards with regard to honesty, reliability and commitment to the role, pursuant to section 10.1.2 of By-Law no. 11 on Internal Governance;

WHEREAS James Kromida was elected Vice-Chair to the Council on January 18, 2024, and therefore must vacate his seat as Chair of the Audit Committee pursuant to section 10.1.1 of By-Law No. 11 on Internal Governance;

WHEREAS all submission forms sent by Commissioners who wanted to present themselves as Vice-Chair of the Audit Committee were received and acknowledged by the Secretary General, and forwarded to the Chair and Members of the Governance and Ethics Committee, for their final recommendation to the Council of Commissioners, as per section 10.1.3 of By-Law no. 11 on Internal Governance;

WHEREAS the following Commissioner has submitted his candidacy for the election of Vice-Chair of the Audit Committee:

Daniel Tatone

WHEREAS the Members of the Governance and Ethics Committee met to review the candidacies at their meeting held on February 22, 2024;

WHEREFORE IT WAS MOVED BY MS. ROSEMARIE FEDERICO AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED, AS RECOMMENDED BY THE GOVERNANCE AND ETHICS COMMITTEE, THAT effective February 27, 2024, Mr. Daniel Tatone be designated as Vice-Chair of the Audit Committee.

Vote: 13-0-2, Adopted (Mr. A. Cannavino and Mr. J. Lalla abstained)

Resolution # 24-02-27-10.3

11. Rescindment of Policies

11.1 Proposal to Rescind Policy SS-4 – Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) – For Consultation

WHEREAS the Policy SS-4 Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) was adopted by the English Montreal School Board on June 22, 1988, as per Resolution #88-06-22-7.1;

WHEREAS Santé Publique has had a *Guide d'intervention, Prévention et contrôle dans les services de garde et écoles du Québec*, since 2015;

WHEREAS the *Guide d'intervention, Prévention et contrôle dans les services de garde et écoles du Québec* is revised by Santé publique on a regular basis;

WHEREAS the schools must follow the recommendations highlighted in the guide with respect to Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS), now called VIH;

WHEREAS the Policy SS-4 Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) has become obsolete;

WHEREAS Policy SS-4 Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) was presented at the Ad Hoc Committee on Education on February 19, 2024, in order to inform the members that said Policy will need to be rescinded;

WHEREAS the proposal to rescind Policy SS-4 Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) must be sent out for the purpose of official consultation to the following groups:

- Central Management Advisory Committee – Resource Allocation Committee (CMAC-RAC)
- English Montreal School Board’s Parents Committee – EMSBPC

WHEREAS the end date for the consultation purposes with the committees, will be THIRTY (30) days following the date of this Board meeting;

IT WAS MOVED BY MR. JOSEPH LALLA AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED THAT the proposed rescindment of Policy SS-4 - Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) be approved and sent out, for purposes of consultation, to the Central Management Advisory Committee – Resource Allocation Committee (CMAC-RAC) and the English Montreal School Board’s Parents Committee – EMSBPC.

Vote: 15-0-0, Adopted

Resolution # 24-02-27-11.1

11.2 Proposal to Rescind Policy SS-6 – Suspected Child Abuse and Neglect – For Consultation

WHEREAS Policy SS-6 Suspected Child Abuse and Neglect was adopted by the English Montreal School Board the last time on September 23, 1992, as per resolutions #86-12-17-8.3, #90-06-27.9.1; #92-09-23-7.1;

WHEREAS Youth Protection has revised the law regarding the obligation to signal all situations related to child physical abuse, sexual abuse, and severe neglect;

WHEREAS Youth Protection has provided a guide to all its stakeholders on the multisectoral entente with respect to child victims of physical abuse, sexual abuse, or severe negligence;

WHEREAS Policy SS-6 Suspected Child Abuse and Neglect has become obsolete due to revision of the DYP law and the signature of the entente;

WHEREAS Policy SS-6 Suspected Child Abuse and Neglect was presented at the Ad Hoc Committee on Education on February 19, 2024, in order to inform the members that said Policies will need to be rescinded;

WHEREAS the proposal to rescind Policy SS-6 Suspected Child Abuse and Neglect must be sent out for the purpose of official consultation to the following groups:

- Central Management Advisory Committee – Resource Allocation Committee (CMAC-RAC)
- English Montreal School Board’s Parents Committee – EMSBPC

WHEREAS the end date for the consultation purposes with the committees, will be THIRTY (30) days following the date of this Board meeting;

IT WAS MOVED BY MR. JAMES KROMIDA AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED THAT the proposed rescindment of Policy SS-6 - Suspected Child Abuse and Neglect be approved and sent out, for purposes of consultation, to the Central Management Advisory Committee – Resource Allocation Committee (CMAC-RAC) and the English Montreal School Board’s Parents Committee – EMSBPC.

Vote: 15-0-0, Adopted

Resolution # 24-02-27-11.2

11.3 Proposal to Rescind Policy SS-8 – Traumatic Events Support Team Services – For Consultation

WHEREAS Policy SS-8 Traumatic Events Support Team Services was adopted by the English Montreal School Board on June 20, 2000, as per Resolution #00-06-20-9.3;

WHEREAS the Student Services Department has organized and trained a Traumatic Events Support Team to assist the school community (i.e. staff, students, parents, etc.) in coping with a traumatic event which may occur at any one or more of the Board's schools or centres;

WHEREAS the professionals of the Student Services Department receive ongoing research based training with respect to intervention in a traumatic event;

WHEREAS the department of Student Services has put in place procedures with respect to intervention in case of traumatic event in a school or a center;

WHEREAS the school Administrators receive on a yearly basis the procedures to follow when they need the involvement of the Traumatic Events Support Team Services;

WHEREAS the policy SS-8 Traumatic Events Support Team Services is obsolete and no longer necessary due to the procedures put in place by the Student Services Department;

WHEREAS Policy SS-8 Traumatic Events Support Team Services was presented at the Ad Hoc Committee on Education on February 19, 2024, in order to inform the members that said Policy will need to be rescinded;

WHEREAS the proposal to rescind Policy SS-8 - Traumatic Events Support Team Services must be sent out for the purpose of official to the following groups:

- Central Management Advisory Committee – Resource Allocation Committee (CMAC-RAC)
- English Montreal School Board’s Parents Committee – EMSBPC

WHEREAS the end date for the consultation purposes with the committees, will be THIRTY (30) days following the date of this Board meeting;

IT WAS MOVED BY MR. PIETRO MERCURI AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED THAT the proposed rescindment of Policy SS-8 - Traumatic Events Support Team Services be approved and sent out, for purposes of consultation, to the Central Management Advisory Committee – Resource Allocation Committee (CMAC-RAC) and the English Montreal School Board’s Parents Committee – EMSBPC.

Vote: 15-0-0, Adopted

Resolution # 24-02-27-11.3

11.4 Proposal to Rescind Policy SS-9 – Control of Absenteeism – For Consultation

WHEREAS Policy SS-9 Control of Absenteeism was adopted by the English Montreal School Board on March 26, 1986, as per Resolution #88-06-22-7.1;

WHEREAS Youth Protection has revised the law regarding absenteeism, the EMSB policy is not required due to the obligation to follow the DYP Act;

WHEREAS an entente of collaboration between Youth Protection Montreal and the School Service Centres of Montreal, Marguerite-Bourgeoys, Pointe-de-l'Île, the Lester B. Pearson School Board and the English Montreal School Board on absenteeism (art. 37.8 Youth Protection Act and 214.3 Education Act) has been signed on May 30, 2023;

WHEREAS Policy SS-9 Control of Absenteeism has become obsolete due to revision of the DYP law and the signature of the entente;

WHEREAS Policy SS-9 Control of Absenteeism was presented at the Ad Hoc Committee on Education on February 19, 2024, in order to inform the members that said Policy will need to be rescinded;

WHEREAS the proposal to rescind Policy SS-9 Control of Absenteeism must be sent out for the purpose of official consultation to the following groups:

- Central Management Advisory Committee – Resource Allocation Committee (CMAC-RAC)
- English Montreal School Board’s Parents Committee – EMSBPC

WHEREAS the end date for the consultation purposes with the committees, will be THIRTY (30) days following the date of this Board meeting;

IT WAS MOVED BY MR. MARIO PIETRANGELO AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED THAT the proposed rescindment of Policy SS-9 - Control of Absenteeism be approved and sent out, for purposes of consultation, to the Central Management Advisory Committee – Resource Allocation Committee (CMAC-RAC) and the English Montreal School Board’s Parents Committee – EMSBPC.

Vote: 15-0-0, Adopted

Resolution # 24-02-27-11.4

12. Committee Reports

12.1 ACSES (Advisory Committee on Special Education Services)

Item presented by Parent Commissioner, Ms. Rosemarie Federico:

- There has been no meeting since the last report.

12.2 Transportation and Safety Advisory Committee

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

The last meeting was held on January 29, where the committee discussed the following two major items:

- Firstly, the negotiations between Transco and the bus drivers unions have not progressed. It is important that the public understands that the EMSB is not part of these negotiations and that there are between Transco and the bus drivers unions. Some stakeholders are asking the EMSB to enter into a contract with other bus companies. However, it is to be noted that any other new company that we would engage would have to be vetted through an approval process before they can be accepted as a new provider;

- Secondly, the request for public transportation to be provided for High School students residing in Rivières-des-Prairies that attend Rosemount High School cannot be granted due to budgetary constraints. The service cannot be added nor can it be twinned with the existing service going to Vincent Massey Collegiate. The Committee did prepare a draft letter to send to the STM Board as well as several city counselors, which was discussed at the meeting. The STM representative did suggest that the committee organize a meeting with Michel Tremblay, Director of Network Planning and Development at the STM. An update will be given at the next Board meeting regarding this meeting with Mr. Tremblay.

12.3 EMSBPC (English Montreal School Board Parents' Committee)

Item presented by Parent Commissioner, Mr. Tony Speranza:

- Ms. Livia Nassivera, Director of Financial Services, presented the Budget Building Process consultation to the members and answered several questions. The PC presented their views on the guiding principles which is in Appendix A of the Budget Building Process Consultation. All the guidelines and principles were approved;
- Mr. Jimmy Giannacopoulos, Regional Director – West Sector, presented to the members the Principal Selection Criteria process and answered several questions;
- EMSBPC approved the PC Scholarship Award and the PC Literacy Prize. The members asked that a letter be sent to the Principals advising them of the awards and that the PC delegates present the scholarship and prize to the students. Also, the PC asked that the presentation of the award and prize be mentioned on the school social media accounts and that the PC be tagged.
- The PC passed a resolution in the interest of safety ahead of the April 8 Solar Eclipse, the EMSBPC recommends that the EMSB investigates with suppliers the cost in acquiring safety glasses for the students and staff, and in addition, safety education should be provided on the topic;
- The delegate from Nesbitt School spoke to the PC about concerns regarding the EMSB's recent decision to implement guidelines and procedures to allow dogs into EMSB schools and that animal assisted therapy dogs no longer be permitted in schools. The PC passed a resolution recommending that the EMSB administration consider to recognize that animal assisted therapy dogs are a safe alternative to Mira Assisted dogs, when drafting the guidelines and policies for pets in schools.

12.4 Governance and Ethics Committee

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

- The Committee has made recommendations to the Board regarding the election of a new member, Chair and Vice-Chair of the Audit Committee

12.5 Audit Committee

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

- There has been no meeting since the last report. Now that the committee has been officially formed, Mr. Speranza states that a meeting will be scheduled in March or April and he also expressed how he looks forward to working with a new team alongside the Financial Services Department and administration.

12.6 Human Resources Committee

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

- The Director General presented his objectives for 2023-2024 for the committee;
- The Director of the Human Resources Department also shared her objectives for the current year;

- The Committee also spoke of the consultation on the Budget Building Process for staffing for next year;
- The Committee will be arranging an update on Bill 21 as it was mentioned in the media that the Quebec court of appeal will be rendering a decision by the end of the week;
- The Committee received updates following the negotiations with the labor organizations representing teachers and other staff;
- There is a new program called “Catch up”, that is being offered to students who since the pandemic require extra help, free tutoring for students who may need it;
- Also, discussed during the meeting is the EMSB’s Teacher Recruitment Project. Many teachers are being recruited overseas and a favorable decision on Bill 21 could make it easier to hire teachers here in Quebec. There are also French teachers being hired in the Adult sector.

12.7 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 CGTSIM has received the budgetary reports up to December 31, 2023;
- The Committee also received an update on the allocations in the Milieux défavorisés up to December 31, 2023;
- The Committee approved the *Système d’achats coopératif*, the suppliers from March 1, 2024 to February 28, 2025, for all sanitary products, toilet paper, hand paper, garbage bags, etc. Also approved was the *Système d’achats coopératif* for school lockers;
- The school tax payment counter will officially close on February 29, 2024. As of March 1, 2024, the CGTSIM will no longer be accepting payments at their office. It isn’t cost feasible anymore to have people there given the very low number of people who actually make their payments in person at the office, as many are now paying online or through other means.

12.8 EMSAC (English Montreal Student Advisory Committee)

Item presented by the Observer, Mr. Joseph Lalla:

- After a lengthy discussion at the January and February meetings regarding how schools are funded and the merits of funding issues the following are EMSAC’s Budget Priorities:
 1. To maintain or improve the ratio and quality of resources in schools to support students such as a better ratio of professionals.
 2. Improve training (sensitivity and inclusion) for all levels of staff in our schools and improve wellness initiatives.
 3. Increase the allocation in the wellness budget, expand on workshops geared towards students, such as sexuality education, mental health, leadership and enhancing learning opportunities through elective courses as an extracurricular option.
 4. Improve resources for individual needs (human resources/people, integration of international students, availability of gender-neutral washrooms in every school where there is demand, etc...). Greater effort to promote inclusiveness of the LGBTQ+ community.
 5. Interior improvements to our schools (Lockers, ceiling tiles, Sanitary mediation, updated washrooms, accessibility, ventilation and cafeteria tables.).
 6. Replace old and worn-out reading materials, lab instruments and other equipment used for in-person learning with newer and up-to-date equipment. (Schools should actively eliminate worn out and outdated equipment.) Ensure sufficient technology available to students for example additional tablets to mitigate cellphone ban in classrooms.
- And, the following guiding principles were also finalized at the February meeting:
 1. In addition to projects that reduce future capital expenditures, the EMSB should favour practices that promote environmental sustainability, even when it entails an additional cost.
 2. It is important to improve staffing ratios, employ teachers whose practices are up to date and increase training offered to teachers to assure the quality of education.

3. Improve the per capita allocation and enrollment multipliers.
 4. EMSAC hopes to see the increases in efficiencies result in additional funding to schools.
 5. Do more in our schools to mediate stressful situations amongst students, more time for staff to communicate and plan to stagger student evaluations so that they minimize overlap.
- As well as the above, students from each school summarized events that recently took place.
 - Lastly, there was extensive discussions on the impact of AI on academics and students and book bans which are now taking place in school districts and states in the United States.

13. Commissioners' Report

Item presented by Commissioner, Mr. Jamie Fabian:

- Mr. Fabian attended a Governing Board at Merton Elementary School and shared the concerns of parents regarding the Transco situation.

Item presented by Commissioner, Mr. James Kromida:

- Mr. Kromida encouraged everyone to get on the electoral list to vote for the upcoming elections in November.

Item presented by Commissioner, Mr. Agostino Cannavino:

- Rosemount High School inaugurated its new Arts-Études program. Mr. Cannavino congratulated Principal, Mr. Buttino and his team and everyone involved in putting the program together. This new program is the first of its kind in English High Schools in Quebec. The program has 165 students across all grade levels. The five year program has music now playing as an integral part of the students daily class schedules. The music courses will take place in dedicated band rooms, repercussion studios and on the auditorium stage. All students are assigned their own instrument at the beginning of the school year, which is there's to keep and maintain for the duration of the academic calendar. Such instruments include flute, trombones, trumpets, tuba, clarinet and hoboies amongst others. The media covered the great event. The local popstar Jordyn Sugar was amongst the invited guests who performed in front of the Rosemount High School students and the students also had an excellent performance. Congratulations to all!

Item presented by Commissioner, Mr. Daniel Tatone:

- Mr. Tatone congratulated F.A.C.E. School on their recent concert and on their success, and the incredible talent that they are generating.
- Mr. Tatone asked if the Administration could advise the Council of Commissioners on what plans are being made for future contingency plans in the event of these types of disruptions. Currently, what is happening with the bus strikes and how the current situation will affect the selection of transportation companies in the future;

Item presented by Commissioner, Mr. Joseph Lalla:

- To show its appreciation for the hard work that the teachers and staff put in to enrich the children's lives every day at school, the Home and School at Edinburgh School is thrilled to announce an exciting new project: the Staff Lounge Refresh! The aim is to create a beautiful, relaxing and energizing space where the teachers and staff can unwind and recharge during breaks. In the coming weeks, the Home and School will be gathering input from the staff to understand their preferences and needs for the lounge makeover;
- Every January, Royal Vale School's girls basketball team, led by coach Norman Katz, makes its way to Ottawa to Turnbull School for their annual tournament. Once again, Royal Vale took home the championship, going undefeated in all four games;
- The Governor General's Academic Medal, established in 1873, recognizes students who have achieved the highest academic average. At Royal West Academy, average includes all secondary 4 and 5 courses listed on the student's official transcript of grades issued by the Ministry of Education.

	<p>On behalf of the Governor General of Canada, RWA is proud to announce Dominic L. as the recipient of the Governor General’s Medal for 2022-2023. Congratulations to all the Royal West Academy students and staff involved in the Tyndale Week Fundraiser. RWA raised a total of \$8,251 this year for the Tyndale St-Georges Community Center. This increases the school’s amount raised since 2007 to an incredible \$133,171. Since 1927, Tyndale St-Georges Community Center has provided empowering educational programming for residents of Little Burgundy from birth through adulthood!</p> <p>Item presented by Commissioner, Ms. Ellie Israel:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Coronation School is in need for a second crossing guard. Ms. Israel has been in contact with the City Counselor and together they alerted the Police and they have assured them that there will be police sitting and observing on that specific intersection; ➤ Ms. Israel wished to recognize, Ms. Katherine Korakakis at Marymount Academy International, on her work and strong advocacy for safety in front of the school; ➤ The parents at Carlyle were happy to see Mr. Joe Ortona, Chair, Mr. Nick Katalifos, Director General and Ms. Pela Nickoletopoulos, Assistant Director General at a recent event at the school; ➤ Ms. Israel recently visited the salon at the Laurier MacDonald Vocational Centre and she complimented them on the great work that the students are doing. The School is thriving and Ms. Israel also acknowledged the outstanding job Ms. Borsellino is doing and the great success of that Vocational Centre.
14.	<p><u>Correspondance</u></p> <p><u>14.1 Résolution de l’Arrondissement de St-Léonard, Ville de Montréal, pour les Journées de la persévérance scolaire 2024</u></p> <p>This item was presented for information purposes.</p>
15.	<p><u>Report of the Executive Committee Meeting held on January 23, 2024</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Group Purchasing – Centre d’acquisitions gouvernementales (CAG) – Tender 2024-7509-50 – Audiovisuels et solutions numériques interactives ▪ <u>Awarding of Construction Contracts</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - P-2027-EG2 – Cedarcrest Elementary School – Major Renovation Project - P-2101-EG-LOT2 – Nesbitt Elementary School – Major Renovation Project - P-1906Phase2-EG – Wagar Adult Education Centre – Replacement of Intercom and Herman Nelson Systems, and Universal Accessibility for Cafeteria Project
16.	<p><u>Other Business</u></p> <p>None.</p>
17.	<p><u>Adjournment</u></p> <p>IT WAS MOVED BY MR. JOSEPH LALLA AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED THAT the meeting be adjourned at 8:21 p.m.</p> <p>Vote: 15-0-0 Adopted</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><u>Resolution # 24-02-27-17</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>