

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS OF THE
ENGLISH MONTREAL SCHOOL BOARD

A Special Board Meeting of the English Montreal School Board has taken place on Tuesday, November 13, 2024, at 7:00 P.M. in the Laurence Patterson Room, 6000 Fielding Avenue.

Commissioners Present

Mr. Joe Ortona, Chair
Mr. James Kromida, Vice-Chair
Ms. Maria Corsi, Commissioner
Ms. Chelsea Craig, Commissioner
Mr. Julien Feldman, Commissioner
Ms. Jessica Houde-Woytiuk, Parent Commissioner
Ms. Paula Kilian, Commissioner
Ms. Julie Kristof, Parent Commissioner
Mr. Pietro Mercuri, Commissioner
Ms. Sharon Nelson, Commissioner
Ms. Susan Perera, Commissioner
Mr. Mario Pietrangelo, Commissioner
Ms. Merika Ramundo, Parent Commissioner
Ms. Jennifer Rutt, Parent Commissioner
Ms. Paola Samuel, 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

Mr. Jimmy Giannacopoulos, Sector Director, West
Ms. Angela Spagnolo, Sector Director, AEVS
Ms. Livia Nassivera, Director, Financial Services
Ms. Marilyn Ramlakhan, Assistant Director, Human Resources
Ms. Julie René de Cotret, Director, Student 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

1.	<p><u>Land Acknowledgement</u></p> <p>We/I would like to acknowledge that the English Montreal School Board is located on the traditional, ancestral, and unceded territory of the Kanien'kehá:ka*. We are grateful to live, learn, and work in Tiohtiá:ke*, which has long been a site of meeting and exchange for many First Nations, and is currently home to diverse groups of Indigenous and other peoples.</p> <p>As a School Board, it is important that we acknowledge the historic and ongoing role of educational institutions in perpetuating injustices against Indigenous communities. We are committed to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Educating staff and students about the true history and current realities of the Indigenous Peoples of what we now call Canada. • Celebrating the cultures, contributions, and knowledge of the many First Nations, Inuit, and Métis communities. • Listening to and amplifying Indigenous voices. • And partnering with local Indigenous community members. <p>We offer this acknowledgement as a first step and public commitment to our ongoing process towards reconciliation and justice for Indigenous peoples and communities.</p>
2.	<p><u>Confirmation of Notice of the Meeting</u></p> <p>The Secretary General, Me Nathalie Lauzière, confirmed that proper notice of this meeting was given.</p>
3.	<p><u>Approval of Agenda</u></p> <p>IT WAS MOVED BY MR. PIETRO MERCURI 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 # 24-11-13-3</u></p>
4.	<p><u>Composition of the Council of Commissioners following Election on November 3, 2024</u></p> <p><u>COMPOSITION OF THE COUNCIL OF COMMISSIONERS (S.162 Act Respecting School Elections)</u></p> <p>CHAIR Joe Ortona WARD 1 Susan Perera WARD 2 Chelsea Craig WARD 3 Paola Samuel WARD 4 Maria Corsi WARD 5 Sharon Nelson WARD 6 Pietro Mercuri WARD 7 James Kromida WARD 8 Mario Pietrangelo WARD 9 Paula Kilian WARD 10 Julien Feldman</p> <p><u>PARENT COMMISSIONERS:</u></p> <p>Merika Ramundo Jessica Houde-Woytiuk Jennifer Rutt Julie Kristof</p>

5. Filing of Oath of Office

The Secretary General reported that the necessary Oath of Office has been completed by elected Commissioners for all Wards, as per section 164 of the Act Respecting School Elections.

Statement from the Chair:

Good Evening,

I stand here deeply honored and grateful for the overwhelming trust you've place in me, in every ward Commissioner and the Parent Commissioners that were elected to represent this new council. To have over 18,000 people express their vote and again have the highest turnout in the last 26 years at 23% is a profound affirmation of the shared values we hold and the clear vision we have for the English Montreal School Board. We don't take this responsibility lightly; it reflects not only your trust but also the vital role the EMSB plays in ensuring the vitality of English-speaking education in Quebec.

Over the past four years, we stood together through truly challenging times and I'm incredibly proud of what we've achieved as a community. We were faced with a global pandemic that disrupted every aspect of our lives. In response, we mobilized swiftly and decisively to create solutions that kept our students learning, our teachers supported and our community safe. The Quebec Virtual Academy, which we established early on, ensured that our students could continue their education seamlessly from home. We also adapted new health protocols and reimagined our classrooms to be flexible, safe and conducive to learning, even in times of crisis.

Our commitment to every child's potential has been unwavering. Over the past term, we prioritized and enhanced support for students with special needs, establishing centers of excellence to better serve these students and expanding our network of professionals in speech therapy, psychology and special education. We recognize that each students path to success is unique and we are committed to ensuring they have the resources and support they need to thrive.

One of the cornerstones of our mission has been to modernize and improve our learning environments. We invested substantially in our schools and facilities, undertaking critical renovations and upgrades. Projects like the \$20 million renovation of Westmount Park Elementary School, the modernization of the James Lyng Complex and the LaurenHill Academy Pool Complex are part of our promise to give students safe, inspiring places to learn. In addition to traditional upgrades, we incorporated smart technology and flexible learning spaces that will serve our students well into the future, providing them with cutting edge tools to meet the demands of a rapidly evolving world.

As we celebrate these accomplishments, we remain acutely aware of the broader challenges facing our community. Legislative measures such as Bills 21, 40 and 96 pose serious threats to the rights and freedoms of Quebec's English-speaking community. We have remained firm and vocal in our opposition to these policies. We believe in an inclusive and accessible education system where English-speaking Quebecers have the right to participate fully and we are committed to standing up for these rights in the courts and in every forum necessary. We will not allow our community to be sidelined or our rights to be diminished.

Looking forward, I'm inspired by the work ahead of us. Education is more than academics, it's about cultivating confident, compassionate citizens who are ready to contribute positively to their communities. In the next four years, I know we are all committed to creating environments where every student feels valued, understood, and empowered. We will also strengthen our anti-bullying and anti-racism initiatives, promoting a culture of inclusivity and respect across our schools. These programs are essential, not only to a safe school environment but to developing empathetic and socially aware students who can lead with integrity and compassion. We recognize that a modern education must reflect the diverse multicultural fabric of our community and foster unity and respect.

Academically, we are continually exploring ways to offer new programs and learning pathways that reflect the evolving needs and interests of our students. Whether it's through expanded vocational programs, enhanced language instruction or advanced technology and science courses, we aim to provide a curriculum that prepares students for a range of futures. We want our graduates to be well-rounded, equipped with the skills they need for higher education, the workforce and active citizenship.

We've also made strides in building partnerships with parents, educators and community organizations. These relationships are vital to a thriving school system and over the coming years, we will strengthen them further. We will be holding regular consultations to understand the evolving needs of our students and families, ensuring that the voices of our community are heard and respected at every level of decision-making. Ultimately, our goal is to cultivate a generation of young people who are not only academically capable but also proud of their heritage, fluent in both French and English and committed to their communities. This is the vision we share as a Board and we will work tirelessly to make it a reality.

In closing, I want to thank each and every one of you, thank you for your trust, your partnership and your belief in what we are building together. The future of English public education in Quebec is bright and we are just getting started. Together we will continue to elevate educational heights, defend English rights. I am proud to lead this journey with you and I am excited for the incredible work we will accomplish together over the next four years.

Thank you.

6. Question Period

Questions from Mr. Chris Eustace were read and addressed by the Chair, Mr. Joe Ortona, regarding the following:

- English Textbooks

7. Election of Vice-Chair of the Board

WHEREAS according to section 9.3 of By-Law no. 11 on Internal Governance, the Vice-Chair is elected from among the members of the Council of Commissioners;

WHEREAS according to section 9.3 of said By-Law, all submission forms sent by Commissioners who want to present themselves as Vice-Chair of the Board were received and acknowledged by the Secretary General;

WHEREAS for the election of the Vice-Chair of the Board, the Council of Commissioners considered the qualities of servant leadership, recognized integrity, ethical standards, honesty, transparency, diligence, pragmatism, efficiency, communication skills and consensus-builder, pursuant to By-Law no. 11;

WHEREAS the following Commissioner has submitted his candidacy for the election of Vice-Chair of the Board;

James Kromida

WHEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

IT WAS MOVED BY MR. PIETRO MERCURI THAT effective November 13, 2024, Mr. James Kromida be designated as Vice-Chair of the Board.

Vote: 15-0-0, Adopted

Resolution # 24-11-13-7

8. Executive Committee

8.1 Composition

WHEREAS pursuant to section 179 of the Education Act and section 10.2.2 of By-Law no. 11 on Internal Governance, the Council of Commissioners shall establish an Executive Committee composed of the number of commissioners it determines, by resolution, including the chair, at least one commissioner representing the parents' committee and at least one co-opted commissioner, if any;

WHEREAS the Chair of the Council of Commissioners acts as Chair of the Executive Committee, unless he decides otherwise, and the Vice-Chair of the Executive Committee is appointed from among its members, as per section 10.2.2 of By-Law no. 11 on Internal Governance;

WHEREAS a newly elected Council of Commissioners designates the number and members of the Executive Committee at its first meeting, as per section 10.2.3 of By-Law no. 11 on Internal Governance;

IT WAS MOVED BY MR. MARIO PIETRANGELO AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED THAT the Executive Committee of the English Montreal School Board will be composed of seven (7) Members, including the Chair of the Board as Chair of the Executive Committee, and at least one Parent Commissioner.

Vote: 15-0-0, Adopted

Resolution # 24-11-13-8.1

8.2 Term of Office for the Members

WHEREAS pursuant to section 179 of the Education Act and section 10.2.2 of By-Law no. 11 on Internal Governance, the Council of Commissioners shall determine the term of office of the Members of the Executive Committee by resolution;

IT WAS MOVED BY MR. PIETRO MERCURI AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED THAT the term of office of the Members on the Executive Committee is 2 years.

Vote: 15-0-0, Adopted

Resolution # 24-11-13-8.2

8.3 Election of Members

WHEREAS pursuant to section 179 of the Education Act and section 10.2.2 of By-Law no. 11 on Internal Governance, the Council of Commissioners shall establish an Executive Committee composed of the number of commissioners it determines, by resolution, including the Chair, at least one commissioner representing the parents' committee and at least one co-opted commissioner, if any;

WHEREAS the Executive Committee is composed of 7 Members, as per resolution no. 24-11-13-8.1, including the Chair of the Board as the Chair of the Executive Committee, at least one Parent Commissioner and a Co-Opted Commissioner if any;

WHEREAS the term of office of the Members on the Executive Committee is 2 years, as per resolution no. 24-11-13-8.2;

WHEREAS all submission forms sent by Commissioners who want to present themselves as Members of the Executive Committee were received and acknowledged by the Secretary General, Me Nathalie Lauzière and forwarded to the Council of Commissioners on November 11, 2024;

WHEREAS the Council must elect 7 members among the Commissioners;

WHEREAS the following Commissioners have submitted their candidacy for the election of Members on the Executive Committee:

Maria Corsi
Pietro Mercuri
James Kromida
Paula Kilian
Julien Feldman
Jessica Houde-Woytiuk
Sharon Nelson

WHEREAS Mr. James Kromida withdrew his candidacy;

WHEREFORE IT WAS MOVED BY MS. CHELSEA CRAIG AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED:

THAT, effective November 13, 2024, the following Commissioners be designated as members of the Executive Committee:

Maria Corsi
Pietro Mercuri
Paula Kilian
Julien Feldman
Jessica Houde-Woytiuk
Sharon Nelson

Vote: 15-0-0, Adopted

Resolution # 24-11-13-8.3

9. Governance & Ethics Committee

9.1 Composition

WHEREAS pursuant to section 193.1 of the Education Act, the Council of Commissioners must establish a Governance and Ethics Committee;

WHEREAS pursuant to section 10.3.2 of By-Law no. 11 on Internal Governance, the Governance and Ethics Committee is composed of three (3) or five (5) members of the Council of Commissioners, as determined by resolution of the Council;

WHEREAS a newly elected Council of Commissioners designates the members of the Governance and Ethics Committee at its first meeting, as per section 10.3.4 of By-Law no. 11 on Internal Governance;

IT WAS MOVED BY MR. JULIEN FELDMAN AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED THAT the Governance and Ethics Committee of the English Montreal School Board will be composed of three (3) Members.

Vote: 15-0-0, Adopted

Resolution # 24-11-13-9.1

9.2 Election of Members

WHEREAS pursuant to section 193.1 of the Education Act, the Council of Commissioners must establish a Governance and Ethics Committee;

WHEREAS the Council must elect 3 members among the Commissioners;

WHEREAS the following Commissioners have submitted their candidacy for the election of Members to the Governance and Ethics Committee:

Mario Pietrangelo
Julien Feldman
Jessica-Houde Woytiuk

IT WAS MOVED BY MR. JAMES KROMIDA AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED THAT effective November 13, 2024, the following Commissioners be designated as Members to the Governance and Ethics Committee:

Mario Pietrangelo
Julien Feldman
Jessica-Houde Woytiuk

Vote: 15-0-0, Adopted

Resolution # 24-11-13-9.2

9.3 Election of Chair

WHEREAS the Council of Commissioners elects the Chair 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 Chair of the Governance and Ethics 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 the following Commissioners have submitted their candidacy for the election of Chair of the Governance and Ethics Committee:

Mario Pietrangelo
Julien Feldman

WHEREAS Mr. Julien Feldman withdrew his candidacy;

IT WAS MOVED BY MS. MARIA CORSI AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED THAT effective November 13, 2024, Mr. Mario Pietrangelo be designated as Chair of the Governance and Ethics Committee.

Vote: 15-0-0, Adopted

Resolution # 24-11-13-9.3

9.4 Election of Vice-Chair

WHEREAS the Council of Commissioners elects the Vice-Chair 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 Governance and Ethics 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 Governance and Ethics Committee shall have the highest personal

	<p>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;</p> <p>WHEREAS the following Commissioner has submitted his candidacy for the election of Vice-Chair of the Governance and Ethics Committee:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Julien Feldman</p> <p>IT WAS MOVED BY MR. MARIO PIETRANGELO AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED THAT effective November 13, 2024, Mr. Julien Feldman be designated as Vice-Chair of the Governance and Ethics Committee.</p> <p>Vote: 15-0-0, Adopted</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><u>Resolution # 24-11-13-9.4</u></p>
10.	<p><u>Nomination of Representative to Comité de gestion de la taxe scolaire de l'île de Montréal (CGTSIM)</u></p> <p>The Council of Commissioners proceeded with the nominations of a Representative:</p> <p>Mr. Joe Ortona nominated himself to continue being a representative;</p> <p>There were no other nominations or self-nominations and the nominations ceased;</p> <p>WHEREFORE IT WAS MOVED BY MS. SHARON NELSON 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).</p> <p>Vote: 15-0-0, Adopted</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><u>Resolution # 24-11-13-10</u></p>
11.	<p><u>Nomination of Substitute to Comité de gestion de la taxe scolaire de l'île de Montréal (CGTSIM)</u></p> <p>WHEREAS Mr. Joe Ortona was appointed by the Council of Commissioners on November 13, 2024, as a representative of the Comité de gestion de la taxe scolaire de l'île de Montréal as per resolution #24-11-13-10;</p> <p>WHEREAS a substitute member can be appointed by the Council of Commissioners to the CGTSIM;</p> <p>The Council of Commissioners proceeded with the nominations of a Substitute:</p> <p>Ms. Maria Corsi nominated Ms. Paula Kilian, who accepted the nomination;</p> <p>There were no other nominations or self-nominations and the nominations ceased;</p> <p>WHEREFORE IT WAS MOVED BY MS. MARIA CORSI AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED to elect Ms. Paula Kilian as Substitute Member to the Comité de gestion de la taxe scolaire de l'île de Montréal.</p> <p>Vote: 15-0-0, Adopted</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><u>Resolution # 24-11-13-11</u></p>
12.	<p><u>QESBA – 2024-2025</u></p> <p><u>12.1 Nominee to Executive Committee</u></p> <p>Item removed.</p>

	<p><u>12.2 Nominees to Board of Directors</u></p> <p>WHEREAS the Quebec English Montreal School Boards Association (QESBA) invited its member boards to submit nominations for positions on the QESBA Board of Directors;</p> <p>Ms. Maria Corsi nominated Ms. Chelsea Craig who accepted the nomination;</p> <p>There were no other nominations or self-nominations and the nominations ceased;</p> <p>IT WAS MOVED BY MS. MARIA CORSI AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED THAT Ms. Chelsea Craig be nominated to QESBA Board of Directors for 2024-2025 remaining term.</p> <p>Vote: 15-0-0, Adopted</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><u>Resolution # 24-11-13-12.2</u></p>
13.	<p><u>Remuneration of Commissioners</u></p> <p>WHEREAS Order-in-Council #1216-2024, dated August 14, 2024, establishes the new parameters for purposes of calculating the maximum global remuneration of school board commissioners for the 2024-2025 school year;</p> <p>WHEREAS said remuneration parameters include a component determined by the annual number of full-time equivalent Youth, Adult, and Vocational sector students;</p> <p>WHEREAS the total maximum global remuneration of school board commissioners for 2024-2025 is \$140,473, with the Board determining the allocation of this envelope;</p> <p>IT WAS MOVED BY MS. CHELSEA CRAIG AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED THAT the annual remuneration to EMSB Commissioners be applied as outlined in the documentation submitted to the meeting;</p> <p>IT WAS FURTHER RESOLVED THAT authorization be given to Financial Services to take the appropriate action necessary to reflect the total remuneration for 2024-2025 in the annual budget.</p> <p>Vote: 15-0-0, Adopted</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><u>Resolution # 24-11-13-13</u></p>
14.	<p><u>Adjournment</u></p> <p>IT WAS MOVED BY MS. SHARON NELSON AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED THAT the meeting be adjourned at 7:52 p.m.</p> <p>Vote: 15-0-0, Adopted</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><u>Resolution # 24-11-13-14</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>