

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS OF THE
ENGLISH MONTREAL SCHOOL BOARD

A Regular Meeting of the English Montreal School Board has taken place on Tuesday, December 17, 2024, at 7:00 P.M. in the Laurence Patterson Room, 6000 Fielding Avenue, Montreal.

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, Regional Director, West
Ms. Darlene Kehyayan, Regional Director, East
Ms. Angela Spagnolo, Regional Director, AEVS
Mr. Mario Cardin, Director, Material 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
Ms. Angela Vaudry, Assistant Director, Human Resources
Mr. Mike Cohen, Manager, Marketing & Communications
Ms. Brigida Sellato, Consultant, Secretariat General

1. Land Acknowledgement

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.

As a School Board, it is important that we acknowledge the historic and ongoing role of educational institutions in perpetuating injustices against Indigenous communities. We are committed to:

- Educating staff and students about the true history and current realities of the Indigenous Peoples of what we now call Canada.
- Celebrating the cultures, contributions, and knowledge of the many First Nations, Inuit, and Métis communities.
- Listening to and amplifying Indigenous voices.
- And partnering with local Indigenous community members.

We offer this acknowledgement as a first step and public commitment to our ongoing process towards reconciliation and justice for Indigenous peoples and communities.

2. Nomination of Andrii Nechyporenko as Student of the Month

The Student of the Month for December is Andrii Nechyporenko from Royal Vale. Andrii Nechyporenko is a Grade 10 student at Royal Vale School. Since arriving in Canada from Ukraine last November and enrolling at the EMSB, Andrii has made a tremendous effort to be an exceptional student and classmate. Since English was not his first language, Andrii spent his first year at Royal Vale immersing himself in the language, visiting the school library regularly at lunchtime to practice reading as well as participating in the school's production of A Midsummer Night's Dream. Now, having established a solid foundation in English, he is onto French and regularly borrows books to practice on his own. Andrii's learning efforts go beyond the acquisition of new language skills; an insatiable curiosity means he is always learning and exploring. In the classroom and amongst friends, Andrii is a very gentle and friendly person and his positive attitude is valued by students and staff alike.

We would also like to recognize the Student of the Month for the month of October and November.

Student of the Month for October: The EMSB's co-Students of the Month for October are Owen Graham-Roache and Biagio Daniele Jr. Both Owen and Biagio are Secondary 5 Sport-Études students who attend the EMSB's Virtual Academy, and despite their intense athletic schedules, both still maintain a full academic workload. Respectively, Owen is a striker for the CF Montreal U18 team and has been a member of the CF Montreal Development Program for three years and Biagio will begin his first full season with the Acadie-Bathurst Titans of the QMJHL this fall after being selected 9th overall in the 2024 draft. The classmates are shining examples of student-athletes, thriving at school and pursuing their dreams of becoming elite athletes.

Student of the Month for November: The Students of the Month for November are Lucas & Layla Levy (Grade 4) from Merton Elementary School in Cote Saint Luc. Since the tragic passing of their mother two years ago, Lucas and Layla have demonstrated incredible resilience to keep their mother's memory alive as well as help other children who have suffered a loss. For the past two years, Lucas & Layla have benefitted from the help of Myra's Kids Foundation to cope with their grief and used these tools to heal other broken hearts in Montreal. Additionally, the siblings have been actively raising funds for the Lighter Fund, which was set up in memory of their mother. Through lemonade stands and by selling handmade bracelets, stickers and crafts on Monkland Avenue, they have raised \$5,000 to support Mental Health projects at the Douglas Mental Health Mobile Outreach Program as well as for Myra's Kids Foundation. These children are incredible role models and are examples of how to triumph over tragedy and help others do the same.

3.	<p><u>Question Period</u></p> <p>The Chair, Mr. Joe Ortona stated that there were no questions submitted for this meeting.</p>
4.	<p><u>Approval of Agenda</u></p> <p>IT WAS MOVED BY MR. MARIO PIETRANGELO 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 # 24-12-17-4</u></p>
5.	<p><u>In Camera</u></p> <p><u>5.1. Motion to Move In Camera</u></p> <p>On a motion by Mr. Pietro Mercuri the meeting went In Camera at 7:10 p.m., all in favor.</p> <p>The meeting returned from the In Camera session at 7:15 p.m.</p>
6.	<p><u>Adoption of Resolution(s) from In Camera</u></p> <p><u>5.2 Health and Safety in the Workplace – CNESST Retrospective Plan - Choice of Limit per Claim and CNESST Dues for 2025.</u></p> <p>WHEREAS the English Montreal School Board (EMSB) has advised the Commission des normes, de l'équité, de la santé et de la sécurité du travail (CNESST) of the Board's choice of limit per claim regarding the maximum insurable annual salary of an employee for the period of January 1, 2024 to December 31, 2024 (#23-11-07-7.2);</p> <p>WHEREAS OPTIMUM CONSULTANTS AND ACTUARIES INC., after a study of the CNESST documentation received in year 2024, the final assessment year of 2021, recommend in their report an optimal choice of 150% for the yearly maximum insurable wage \$98,000, for an insurance limit amount set to \$147,000 for year 2025;</p> <p>IT WAS MOVED BY MS. MARIA CORSI AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED THAT:</p> <p>A) Commission des normes, de l'équité, de la santé et de la sécurité du travail (CNESST) be advised that the Board's choice of limit per claim in phase III of the CNESST Retrospective Plan for 2025, regarding occupational injuries and diseases, be set at 150% the yearly maximum insurable wage \$98,000, for an insurance limit amount set to \$147,000 per claim for year 2025;</p> <p>B) the Director General be authorized to sign on behalf of the Board the pertinent documents related to the CNESST Retrospective Plan.</p> <p>Vote: 15-0-0, Adopted</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><u>Resolution # 24-12-17-5.2</u></p>
7.	<p><u>Adoption of Minutes</u></p> <p><u>7.1. Regular Board Meeting held on September 10, 2024</u></p> <p>IT WAS MOVED BY MR. PIETRO MERCURI AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED THAT the Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting held on September 10, 2024, be approved as presented.</p> <p>Vote: 15-0-0, Adopted</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><u>Resolution # 24-12-17-7.1</u></p>

	<p><u>7.2. Special Board Meeting held on November 13, 2024</u></p> <p>IT WAS MOVED BY MS. SHARON NELSON AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED THAT the Minutes of the Special Board Meeting held on November 13, 2024, be approved as presented.</p> <p>Vote: 15-0-0, Adopted</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><u>Resolution # 24-12-17-7.2</u></p> <p><u>7.3. Special Board Meeting held on November 28, 2024</u></p> <p>IT WAS MOVED BY MS. JULIE KRISTOF AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED THAT the Minutes of the Special Board Meeting held on November 28, 2024, be approved as presented.</p> <p>Vote: 15-0-0, Adopted</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><u>Resolution # 24-12-17-7.3</u></p>
8.	<p><u>Business Arising Out of Minutes</u></p> <p>None.</p>
9.	<p><u>Chair's Report</u></p> <p>Presented by the Chair, Mr. Joe Ortona:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Since taking office, Mr. Ortona had the privilege of attending for the second time a meeting of the English Montreal Student Advisory Committee. It was a wonderful meeting where the children had the opportunity to talk about all sorts of things; ➤ The Chair has been very busy getting back to work and meeting with people to discuss various files; ➤ As we are heading into the holiday break, Mr. Ortona took the opportunity to wish everyone a very peaceful and restful break.
10.	<p><u>Director General's Report</u></p> <p>Presented by the Director General, Mr. Nicholas Katalifos:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Kindergarten Registration Week for the 2025-2026 academic year will take place from Monday, February 3rd, 2025, to Friday, February 7th, 2025. As of Monday, January 27th, at 7 a.m., reservations will open at 23 Elementary Schools, a big jump from the 5 that launched the original pilot project. To book an appointment, please visit www.emsb.qc.ca/reserve; ➤ Congratulations to music teachers Christine Crawford and 19 of her students at Carlyle Elementary School for successfully completing what may well be the EMSB's first flash mob. It took place during lunch hour on December 11th at the Le Fou Fou Food Hall at the sprawling Royalmount shopping complex. The children sang three beautiful songs and as flash mobs go, they surfaced while people were dining as a total surprise. Principal, Dina Vourdousis was very proud of her students as are all of us; ➤ For a third year, the Italian Government's Ministry of International Cooperation, along with the support of the Consulate General of Italy, has granted 3 EMSB Elementary schools including Dante, Pierre de Coubertin and Honoré Mercier, an amount of \$17 030 in funding for their integrated PELO Program; ➤ The Girls Group from John F. Kennedy High School are once again kicking off the holiday season with their Shoebox Project, an initiative to fill 125 shoe boxes with essential items which will be donated to woman shelters across Montreal. An initiative of teacher Marietta Damiano and a select group of grade 11 girls, the Shoebox Project was started last holiday season to brighten up a very difficult time of the year for at-risk women in Montreal. Each shoe box to be filled with essential items such as shampoo, conditioner, body wash, etc. Congratulations to the entire team at the school for this wonderful initiative;

- Also, at John F. Kennedy High School the Movember Project led by team captain Raymond Tomasino took an active role in raising funds for Movember each year. This year Joe Lamantia cycled 60 kilometers helping the JFK team raise over \$8 500 for Cancer Research. Congratulations to all;
- The EMSB has engaged two new education professionals, Ray Johnson and Kurt Kershel, to serve as project development officers to provide indigenous student support, focusing on the many layers of support for indigenous students and families. They will work collaboratively with multiple education teams to ensure a baseline of cultural safety that's realized for indigenous people here at the EMSB;
- The 2024-2025 Fall edition of the Inspirations Newspaper is now available online and is in our schools. This edition's positive mental health and well-being section featuring articles written by EMSB Student Services specialist, is rich with helpful information on how the home and school connection bolsters mental health facts and tips for parents about sexting and much more. This edition also features research related to Autism, inspiring success stories, a celebration of Simon Chang difference makers, the Leaders on Wheels at the Mackay Centre and Satellite class at Westmount High School;
- Following an annual tradition, 10 EMSB schools came together on December 11th at Gerald McShane Elementary School to wrap thousands of pairs of socks for local charities. Congratulations to all students who participated in this activity;
- Westmount High School hosted members of a Selection Committee on the impacts of screens and social media on young people's health and development from the National Assembly of Quebec. The Committee participated in a facilitated dialogue in English and French with selected students regarding screens and social media;
- Matt Gilmour from CTV News recently visited East Hill Elementary School to prepare a story about how the internet, social media and screen time are affecting young people. He wanted to see and hear about the way East Hill's media teacher, Nadia Barrafato educates East Hill students about digital citizenship;
- The special needs students at the Wagar Adult Education Centre were profiled by Pamela Pagano on City News Montreal for The Art Seen, a program that strives to enhance the visibility of neuro divergent artists in Montreal. Congratulations to the students and staff at Wagar for this wonderful activity;
- The Director General, Mr. Nick Katalifos took a moment on behalf of the administration, to wish everyone the very best for the holiday season.

11. In Memoriam

11.1. Tribute for December 2024

WHEREAS the Board values the contributions made by its employees;

WHEREAS the Board wishes to take official cognizance of the passing of any member of its large family of employees;

IT WAS MOVED BY MR. JOE ORTONA AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that the Board note with regret the passing of:

Ramzi Antwan, Teacher, HSM Adult Education Centre
 Marie Chodat, Cook Class III, Royal Vale School
 John Andrew Pittman, Caretaker, Options School
 Dennis Ryan, Teacher, L.I.N.K.S. School
 Koula Sarganis, Retired Daycare Educator, Sinclair Laird School

and that an expression of sympathies be sent to the bereaved families.

Vote: 15-0-0, Adopted

Resolution # 24-12-17-11.1

12. Recommendations from the Governance and Ethics Committee

12.1. Audit Committee

12.1.1. Election of Members

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 all submission forms sent by Commissioners who wanted to present themselves as Members 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 on November 25, 2024, 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 Governance and Ethics Committee met on November 28, 2024 and only one (1) Commissioner submitted their candidacy;

WHEREAS the Governance & Ethics Committee recommended that a second submission form would be sent to members of Council for the appointment of the two (2) other members on the Audit Committee, including the position of Chair and Vice-Chair;

WHEREAS the following Commissioners have submitted their candidacy for the election of Members to the Audit Committee:

Julien Feldman
Paula Kilian
Pietro Mercuri

WHEREFORE IT WAS MOVED BY MR. JAMES KROMIDA AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED, AS RECOMMENDED BY THE GOVERNANCE AND ETHICS COMMITTEE, THAT effective December 17, 2024, the following Commissioners be designated as Members to the Audit Committee:

Julien Feldman
Paula Kilian
Pietro Mercuri

Vote: 15-0-0, Adopted

Resolution # 24-12-17-12.1.1

12.1.2. Election of Chair

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 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 on November 22, 2024, 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 Governance and Ethics Committee met on November 28, 2024 and no Commissioner submitted their candidacy for Chair of the Audit Committee;

WHEREAS the Governance & Ethics Committee recommended that a second submission form would be sent to members of Council for the appointment of the two (2) other members on the Audit Committee, including the position of Chair and Vice-Chair;

WHEREAS the following Commissioner has submitted their candidacy for the election of Chair of the Audit Committee.

Paula Kilian

WHEREFORE IT WAS MOVED BY MR. PIETRO MERCURI AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED, AS RECOMMENDED BY THE GOVERNANCE AND ETHICS COMMITTEE, THAT effective December 17, 2024, Ms. Paula Kilian be designated as Chair of the Audit Committee.

Vote: 15-0-0, Adopted

Resolution # 24-12-17-12.1.2

12.1.3. Election of Vice-Chair

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 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 on November 25, 2024, 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 Governance and Ethics Committee met on November 28, 2024 and no Commissioner submitted their candidacy for Vice-Chair of the Audit Committee;

WHEREAS the Governance & Ethics Committee recommended that a second submission form would be sent to members of Council for the appointment of the two (2) other members on the Audit Committee, including the position of Chair and Vice-Chair;

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

Pietro Mercuri

WHEREFORE IT WAS MOVED BY MS. MARIA CORSI AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED, AS RECOMMENDED BY THE GOVERNANCE AND ETHICS COMMITTEE, THAT effective December 17, 2024, Mr. Pietro Mercuri be designated as Vice-Chair of the Audit Committee.

Vote: 15-0-0, Adopted

Resolution # 24-12-17-12.1.3

12.2. Human Resources Committee

12.2.1. Election of Members

WHEREAS pursuant to section 193.1 of the Education Act, the Council of Commissioners must establish a Human Resources Committee;

WHEREAS it is recommended by the Governance and Ethics Committee that the Human Resources Committee be composed of five (5) 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 Human Resources Committee;

WHEREAS the Commissioners sitting on this Committee have experience in human resources management, preferably acquired in public administration, as per section 10.5.3 of By-Law no. 11 on Internal Governance;

WHEREAS all submission forms sent by Commissioners who wanted to present themselves as Members of the Human Resources Committee were received and acknowledged by the Secretary General, and forwarded to the Chair and Members of the Governance and Ethics Committee on November 25, 2024, 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 Governance and Ethics Committee met on November 28, 2024 and only four (4) Commissioners submitted their candidacy;

WHEREAS the Governance & Ethics Committee recommended that a second submission form would be sent to members of Council for the appointment of the one (1) other member on the Human Resources Committee;

WHEREAS the following Commissioners have submitted their candidacy for the election of Members to the Human Resources Committee:

Maria Corsi
Chelsea Craig
Sharon Nelson
Mario Pietrangelo
Paola Samuel

WHEREFORE IT WAS MOVED BY MS. CHELSEA CRAIG AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED, AS RECOMMENDED BY THE GOVERNANCE AND ETHICS COMMITTEE, THAT effective December 17, 2024, the following Commissioners be designated as Members to the Human Resources Committee:

Maria Corsi
Chelsea Craig
Sharon Nelson
Mario Pietrangelo
Paola Samuel

Vote: 15-0-0, Adopted

Resolution # 24-12-17-12.2.1

12.2.2. Election of Chair

WHEREAS the Council of Commissioners elects the Chair of the Human Resources 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 Human Resources 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 Human Resources 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 all submission forms sent by Commissioners who wanted to present themselves as Chair of the Human Resources Committee were received and acknowledged by the Secretary General, and forwarded to the Chair and Members of the Governance and Ethics Committee on November 22, 2024, 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 Human Resources Committee:

Mario Pietrangelo

WHEREFORE IT WAS MOVED BY MR. PIETRO MERCURI AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED, AS RECOMMENDED BY THE GOVERNANCE AND ETHICS COMMITTEE, THAT effective December 17, 2024, Mr. Mario Pietrangelo be designated as Chair of the Human Resources Committee.

Vote: 15-0-0, Adopted

Resolution # 24-12-17-12.2.2

12.2.3. Election of Vice-Chair

WHEREAS the Council of Commissioners elects the Vice-Chair of the Human Resources 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 Human Resources 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 Human Resources 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 all submission forms sent by Commissioners who wanted to present themselves as Vice-Chair of the Human Resources Committee were received and acknowledged by the Secretary General, and forwarded to the Chair and Members of the Governance and Ethics Committee on November 22, 2024, 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 her candidacy for the election of Vice-Chair of the Human Resources Committee:

Paola Samuel

WHEREFORE IT WAS MOVED BY MS. MERIKA RAMUNDO AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED, AS RECOMMENDED BY THE GOVERNANCE AND ETHICS COMMITTEE, THAT effective December 17, 2024, Ms. Paola Samuel be designated as Vice-Chair of the Human Resources Committee.

Vote: 15-0-0, Adopted

Resolution # 24-12-17-12.2.3

12.3. Election of Members to the Transportation and Safety Advisory Committee (TSAC)

WHEREAS pursuant to section 2 of the Regulation respecting student transportation, (CQLR, c. I-3.3, r. 12) and section 12.5.2 of By-Law no. 11 on Internal Governance, the Council of Commissioners must elect two (2) Commissioners as Members to the Advisory Committee on Transportation and Safety;

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

WHEREAS all submission forms sent by Commissioners who wanted to present themselves as Members to the TSAC were received and acknowledged by the Secretary General, and forwarded to the Chair and Members of the Governance and Ethics Committee on November 22, 2024, 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 Members of the Governance and Ethics Committee met to review the candidacies on November 28, 2024, and recommended that Mr. Pietro Mercuri and Ms. Susan Perera be designated as Members to the Advisory Committee on Transportation and Safety (TSAC);

WHEREFORE IT WAS MOVED BY MS. MARIA CORSI AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED, AS RECOMMENDED BY THE GOVERNANCE AND ETHICS COMMITTEE, THAT effective December 17, 2024, Mr. Pietro Mercuri and Ms. Susan Perera be designated as Members to the Advisory Committee on Transportation and Safety (TSAC).

Vote: 15-0-0, Adopted

Resolution # 24-12-17-12.3

12.4. Election of an Observer to the Advisory Committee on Special Education Services (ACSES)

WHEREAS pursuant to sections 185 and 186 of the Education Act, the Advisory Committee on Special Education Services (ACSES) is constituted with a parent majority, employees of the English Montreal

School Board and representatives of bodies that provide services to these students;

WHEREAS the Council of Commissioners must elect one (1) Commissioner as Observer to the Advisory Committee on Special Education Services, as per section 12.4.2 of By-Law no. 11 on Internal Governance;

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

WHEREAS all submission forms sent by Commissioners who wanted to present themselves as an Observer to the ACSES were received and acknowledged by the Secretary General, and forwarded to the Chair and Members of the Governance and Ethics Committee on November 22, 2024, 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 Members of the Governance and Ethics Committee met to review the candidacies on November 28, 2024, and recommended that Ms. Sharon Nelson be designated as Observer to the Advisory Committee on Special Education Services (ACSES);

WHEREFORE IT WAS MOVED BY MR. MARIO PIETRANGELO AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED, AS RECOMMENDED BY THE GOVERNANCE AND ETHICS COMMITTEE, THAT effective December 17, 2024, Ms. Sharon Nelson be designated as Observer to the Advisory Committee on Special Education Services (ACSES).

Vote: 15-0-0, Adopted

Resolution # 24-12-17-12.4

12.5. Proposal to Rescind Policy DG-26.1 – To Facilitate the Disclosure of Wrongdoings – For Consultation

WHEREAS the Policy DG-26.1 To Facilitate the Disclosure of Wrongdoings was adopted by the English Montreal School Board on April 24, 2019, as per Resolution #19-04-24-10.2;

WHEREAS Designated Officers were appointed in order to receive and deal with disclosures of wrongdoing relating to public Bodies, as per resolutions #19-05-22-11.2 and #23-05-23-16.2;

WHEREAS as of November 30, 2024, the people wishing to make a disclosure of reprehensible acts within the meaning of Bill 53, an Act respecting the protection against reprisals related to the disclosure of wrongdoings, must be referred to the Public Protector (Protecteur du citoyen);

WHEREAS the School Board must follow the recommendations highlighted in Bill 53, with respect to the protection against reprisals related to the disclosure of wrongdoings;

WHEREAS EMSB Policy DG-26.1 To Facilitate the Disclosure of Wrongdoings has become obsolete;

WHEREAS the Governance & Ethics Committee recommended that the Policy DG-26.1 To Facilitate the Disclosure of Wrongdoings be rescinded, along with resolutions #19-05-22-11.2 and #23-05-23-16.2 appointing Designated Officers;

WHEREAS the rescindment of Policy DG-26.1 To Facilitate the Disclosure of Wrongdoings must be sent out for the purpose of official consultation to the following group:

- Central Management Advisory Committee – Resource Allocation Committee (CMAC-RAC)

IT WAS MOVED BY MS. CHELSEA CRAIG AND RESOLVED, AS RECOMMENDED BY THE GOVERNANCE AND ETHICS COMMITTEE, THAT the proposed rescindment of Policy DG-26.1 – To Facilitate the Disclosure of Wrongdoings be approved and sent for consultation to the Central Management Advisory Committee – Resource Allocation Committee (CMAC-RAC) and the end date for consultation is

	<p>Thirty days (30) following the next regular Board meeting;</p> <p>IT WAS FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the rescindment of Policy DG-26.1 be sent for information to the local unions and associations, and that resolutions #19-05-22-11.2 and #23-05-23-16.2 appointing Designated Officers be rescinded.</p> <p>Vote: 14-1-0, Adopted (Ms. Jessica Houde-Woytiuk voted against)</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><u>Resolution # 24-12-17-12.5</u></p>
13	<p><u>2023-2024 Audited Financial Statements</u></p> <p>WHEREAS in conformity with Section 284 of the Education Act, Raymond Chabot Grant Thornton (RCGT) were appointed as external auditors for the English Montreal School Board (EMSB) for the 2023-2024 school year, by virtue of resolution #22-03-23-12;</p> <p>WHEREAS the official 2023-2024 Financial Report (Rapport Financier 2023-2024) has been duly audited by the Board’s external auditors prior to submission to the Ministère de l’Éducation du Québec on October 25, 2024;</p> <p>WHEREAS a set of financial summaries representing information extracted from the official 2023-2024 Financial Report, indicating the results for the year ended June 30, 2024, has been reviewed by the Board’s external auditors, RCGT;</p> <p>WHEREAS public notice was given in conformity with section 286 of the Education Act;</p> <p>IT WAS MOVED BY MR. JAMES KROMIDA AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED THAT the Financial Statements of the English Montreal School Board for the year ended June 30, 2024, as audited by the Board’s external auditors, Raymond Chabot Grant Thornton, be deposited.</p> <p>Vote: 15-0-0, Adopted</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><u>Resolution # 24-12-17-13</u></p>
14.	<p><u>Draft Calendars (Teachers) for the Youth, Adult and Vocational Sectors for 2025-2026 – For Consultation</u></p> <p>WHEREAS the Human Resources Department has drafted the calendars (teachers) for the youth, adult and vocational sectors for 2025-2026;</p> <p>WHEREAS the calendars (teachers) for the youth, adult and vocational sectors for 2025-2026 must be sent out for the purposes of official consultation to the following groups:</p> <p><i>English Montreal School Board Parents Committee (EMSBPC)</i> <i>Central Management Advisory Committee - Resource Allocation Committee (CMAC-RAC)</i> <i>Association of Montreal School Administrators (AMSA)</i> <i>Montréal Teachers Association (MTA)</i></p> <p>WHEREAS the end date for consultation purposes with the aforementioned committees, unions/associations will be THIRTY (30) days following the date of this Board meeting;</p> <p>IT WAS MOVED BY MR. PIETRO MERCURI AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED THAT the proposed calendars (teachers) for the youth, adult, and vocational sectors for 2025-2026 be approved and sent out, for purposes of consultation, to:</p> <p><i>English Montreal School Board Parents Committee (EMSBPC)</i> <i>Central Management Advisory Committee - Resource Allocation Committee (CMAC-RAC)</i> <i>Association of Montreal School Administrators (AMSA)</i></p>

	<p><i>Montréal Teachers Association (MTA)</i></p> <p>and the results of the consultation be returned to Ann Watson, Director of Human Resources no later than January 16, 2025, in accordance with the documentation submitted at the meeting.</p> <p>Vote: 15-0-0, Adopted</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><u>Resolution # 24-12-17-14</u></p>
15.	<p><u>AEVS-Recruitment for International Students PS24-0516 R</u></p> <p>WHEREAS the English Montreal School Board (EMSB) proceeded with a call to tender for candidates for partners providing recruitment and personalized accompaniment of international students for the Adult Education and Vocational Training (AEVS) programs;</p> <p>WHEREAS the call for candidates closed on June 18, 2024;</p> <p>WHEREAS five (5) applicants responded to the EMSB's call to tender;</p> <p>WHEREAS a selection committee met on June 21, 2024, to evaluate the applications based on the tender criteria;</p> <p>WHEREAS three (3) applicants sufficiently met the tender requirements;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Académie Internationale Inc. • Ahmon Institut de Montréal • Can-Share Connection <p>WHEREAS according to clause 4 of their contracts, the EMSB may extend their three-year contracts for an additional two years;</p> <p>WHEREAS recruitment of international students generates important revenues for the Board;</p> <p>IT WAS MOVED BY MS. SHARON NELSON AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED THAT the English Montreal School Board accept the following candidates to be part of the list of partners for the recruitment and personalized accompaniment of international students for the Adult Education and Vocational Training programs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Académie Internationale Inc. • Ahmon Institut de Montréal • Can-Share Connection <p>IT WAS FURTHER UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED THAT the Director General be authorized to sign all partnership agreements, as presented in the Call for Candidates, on behalf of the English Montreal School Board.</p> <p>Vote: 15-0-0, Adopted</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><u>Resolution # 24-12-17-15</u></p>
16.	<p><u>Chapter G-1.011 – Act Respecting Workforce Management and Control – Information Report</u></p> <p>This item was presented by Ms. Ann Watson, Director of Human Resources, for information.</p>
17.	<p><u>Director General’s Reporting – As per By-Law No. 10 – Delegation of Powers</u></p> <p>This item was presented by Mr. Nick Katalifos, Director General, for information.</p>

18. Committee Reports

18.1 ACSES (Advisory Committee on Special Education Services)

Item presented by the Parent Commissioner of the Committee, Ms. Julie Kristof:

- The Advisory Committee for Special Education (or ACSES) met twice this school year, once on September 30th and then on November 25th;
- The student services team presented a new program called Sequoia which is a program at JFK for special learners, no exams and greater attention. This is the first year and it is amazing how innovative programs are being tried to include all our kids. We've also learned about anti-bullying initiatives and anti-troll kits;
- ACSES has been working with student services to create parent and student tool kits for EMSB's Prevention Promotion portal. This is a hidden gem of resources that address mental health, academic support, violence prevention among many other topics. Last year ACSES, with EPCA, produced materials about IEP's, parent-teacher interviews and how to advocate for your child effectively. This year our sub-committee has begun work collecting information about "sexting" and communication skills;
- There is always concern over resources for our special needs kids, waiting lists for professionals and staffing. At our last meeting, student services presented some data for us to consider/chew on and the challenges associated with a growing proportion of EMSB students with codes and IEPs;
- On a personal note, it is thrilling to see some of the innovative projects happening at John Grant high school, my daughter's school. One project is to start a garden outdoors and a greenhouse with the intention to obtain competencies towards stage and to supply our kitchen with fresh produce. The kids were so proud that their first basil harvest was used in the cafeteria this week!

18.2 EMSBPC (English Montreal School Board Parents' Committee)

Item presented by Parent Commissioner, Ms. Merika Ramundo:

- The EMSB Parents Committee has met twice. At the December 5 meeting, three EMSB Educational Services teams presented on Indigenous Initiatives, Elementary Literacy Projects, STEAM Initiatives. The EMSB PC thanks them for their time and expertise;
- Several questions and concerns were raised with EMSB senior administration on the following topics:
 1. **School Websites:** Parents emphasized the importance of up-to-date and accurate school websites as key tools for communication and promotion. Concerns were noted about update delays, occasional inaccuracies, and the balance between standardization and personalization of sites across the system.
 2. **Service Account Emails for governing boards:** Governing Board delegates highlighted the benefits of using a service account email address for continuity purposes, archiving, streamlining and formalizing communications. However, senior administration confirmed these accounts for governing boards are not permitted, with correspondence required to go through the school principal. The Parents Committee will follow up for further clarification, particularly regarding alignment with the *Education Act* and best practices in governance. The aim is to foster clearer and more transparent communication between parents, governing boards and administration.
 3. **Educational Project Surveys:** Concerns were raised about inconsistencies in the implementation and data collection process during the rollout of the educational project survey across the school board last year. Senior administration clarified that survey execution is at the discretion of school principals, with no standardized process planned. The Parents Committee will continue to explore this issue as it relates to the Education Act and related activities to better understand the approach and potential for greater consistency.

- On December 13th, the collective *Pas une mort de plus* held a rally to mark the second anniversary of the death of young Mariia in Montreal in 2022 and to advocate for road safety reforms. A motion to support the collective's proposals and sign their letter advocating for change was passed unanimously by the EMSB Parent Committee.

18.3 Governance and Ethics Committee

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

- The Committee met twice on November 28, 2024, and December 12, 2024 for the nominations and election of members on the various committees.

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

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

- Mr. Ortona was unable to attend the meeting on October 24th, as there was a Bill 40 fundraiser on the same night, which was very well attended;
- Mr. Ortona attended the meeting on December 5th, where many of the items were discussed In Camera. There were positions and vacancies that were filled;
- We welcomed our new substitute member on the committee, Ms. Paula Kilian;
- They received various updates on the financing of the allocations for the milieu défavorisé, on the régime de gestion des risques, on la loi sur la gestion et le contrôle des effectifs for a certain period and recommendations that were received by SIMConseil. We will continue to follow the situation regarding the milieu défavorisé and the money allocations that are coming. The School Board will be getting these monies in January.

18.5 EMSAC (English Montreal Student Advisory Committee)

Item presented by the Observer, Mr. Joe Ortona:

- Mr. Ortona had the pleasure of attending in November an EMSAC meeting. Watching the students discuss about all sorts of various issues that affect them and they had a very interesting discussion on the topic of artificial intelligence (AI) that dominated the agenda. They discussed about how it can be used for assignments and how you know sometimes where that line is as some students use it to draft assignments in full and of course that is plagiarism. However, they sometimes use it to correct spelling or grammar or just to tweak a paper that they wrote. Following this, they discussed about the tools that identify whether you know AI wrote a paper or not and how reliable they could be. Some students gave examples that they wrote papers that were 80% AI generated. All in all, it was nice to see the students having grown up conversations and how they understand the issues;
- There was another meeting held on December 16th, however the Chair was unable to attend.

19. Commissioners' Report

Item presented by Vice-Chair, Mr. James Kromida:

- Mr. Kromida attended LaurenHill where they had an exceptional visit and presentation by Mr. Ian Halperin, a world famous individual author. Mr. Halperin spoke about racism and anti-semitism, how it festered, how to deal with it in such a mature and intelligent way. It gave people hope and you could see everyone there was spellbound. It was a really wonderful experience and Mr. Kromida commended Mr. Mike Cohen, his department and everyone involved in the organization of such events which make a difference in our students.

Item presented by Commissioner, Mr. Pietro Mercuri:

- Mr. Mercuri commended the extraordinary work of Ms. Nadia Barrafato, the media teacher at East Hill Elementary School. CityNews recently reported on the incredible work being done to educate our children about digital citizenship;
- Leonardo Da Vinci Academy held their holiday concert on December 12th which also doubled up as a fundraiser event where just over \$6,000 was raised in gift cards and donations. These were collected and given to Saint Brendan's Parish that services Montreal's English-speaking community;
- Finally, Mr. Mercuri wished everyone in Ward 6, teachers, principals, parents and students a very joyous and healthy holiday season.

Item presented by Commissioner, Ms. Maria Corsi:

- On this day, Ms. Corsi had the pleasure of attending the family holiday breakfast at Dalkeith Elementary School. The school was a buzz with holiday spirit as families enjoyed a delicious breakfast followed by various activities including arts and crafts, face painting and a photo booth. A group of entrepreneurial, cycle three students set up tables to sell craft kits and holiday treats to raise money for their Grade 6 graduation. A big thank you to Principal, Mr. John Wright for the invitation to this great holiday event. Ms. Corsi also wanted to shine the spotlight on the driving force who was responsible for its organization and execution, Dalkeith's long time extraordinary volunteer, Ms. Patty Smythe. Ms. Patty not only baked the goods for the breakfast, but she also transformed Dalkeith into a magical holiday landscape with decorations and of course with the support from the staff;
- On November 26th, the Secondary 3 students from Rosemount High School visited the Holocaust Museum. The Chair, Principal of Rosemount High School, Mr. Iammarone, Commissioner, Ms. Samuel and Ms. Corsi herself were also there to highlight not only the importance of Holocaust education, but also to acknowledge the generous contributions made by the Federation CJA to support the EMSB's Holocaust Education Program;
- On November 13th, FedEx made a special delivery to students at Edward Murphy Elementary School bringing a coat to every student as part of operation Warm. This operation is a national non-profit that manufactures brand-new high-quality coats and shoes for children in need;
- There will be a series of open houses in Ward 4 starting in January the schools include Edward Murphy Elementary School, Nesbitt Elementary School, Pierre Elliot Trudeau Elementary School and Bancroft Elementary School. Then following in February Dalkeith Elementary School will also be having their open house.

Items presented by Commissioner, Ms. Paula Kilian:

- Ms. Kilian had the pleasure of attending John F. Kennedy Adult Centre where Mr. Svens Telemaque visited the students to speak about the Sequoia Program. The students were hanging on every word and really connected with Mr. Telemaque. He spoke of his own experiences and how he made mistakes as a youth and with the help of the EMSB pulled himself out of difficulty and now has his own business;
- John F. Kennedy High School held two Governing Board meetings that Ms. Kilian attended. The first was online and the second was in person where the Principal served a lovely holiday meal. Three students from EMSAC were also present and were very proud to be part of the conversation and give their report about the EMSAC program. They were full of enthusiasm as well as meeting Mr. Ortona, the students really enjoyed it and they were looking forward to the next meeting;
- Ms. Kilian had the pleasure of attending Royalmount where Carlyle's Flash Mob sang beautifully. The spectators were very moved and had a rousing applause;
- Dunrae Gardens recently had their open house where Ms. Kilian was invited to attend and participate as being a former parent at the school. She was on hand to give some tours of the school and to answer some questions. Dr. Camelia Berlin of the EMSB was there to talk about the enrichment program that she brought to the school. The open house was well attended both

	<p>morning and afternoon and the parents seemed very impressed with the school and the staff. The school, with the help of the Dunrae Gardens Families Association, spruced up the stairwells with inspirational messages. In the afternoon, the school had their annual book flood which was brought in a few years ago. It's an initiative where the parents association reaches out to the community for used books, the parent volunteers then sort the books according to the ages and every classroom get a box of books, each student gets a book along with a chocolate. This event is something the students really enjoy and look forward to every year;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Ms. Kilian wished everybody a very happy holidays and a joyful, healthy new year. <p>Item presented by Parent Commissioner, Jessica Houde-Woytiuk:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Ms. Houde-Woytiuk had the honor to accompany two of our students to Montreal West Town Hall where they spoke very eloquently; ➤ Thanks to a great partnership between members of the EMSB and elected officials in Montreal West, the SPVM and the local MNA, we are glad to report that there are three new stop signs on the corner of Ainsley and Westminister to increase the safety of our students.
20.	<p><u>Report of the Executive Committee Meeting held on September 10, 2024</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Awarding of Construction Contract – P-1920-EG – Dante Elementary School – Major Renovation Project - Awarding of Service Contract – P-2401-ARCH – Lester B. Pearson High School – Major Renovation Project - Services provided by the Montreal Oral School for the Deaf (MOSD) to Integrated Students with Hearing Impairments of the EMSB – 2024-2025
21.	<p><u>Other Business</u></p> <p>None.</p>
22.	<p><u>Adjournment</u></p> <p>IT WAS MOVED BY MS. CHELSEA CRAIG AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED THAT the meeting be adjourned at 7:59 p.m.</p> <p>Vote: 15-0-0, Adopted</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><u>Resolution # 24-12-17-22</u></p>
	<p>Signed in Montreal, _____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>Mr. Joe Ortona, Chair</p> <p>_____</p> <p>Me Nathalie Lauzière, Secretary General</p>