

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS OF THE
ENGLISH MONTREAL SCHOOL BOARD

A Regular Meeting of the English Montreal School Board has taken place on Tuesday, February 4, 2025, 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 – via TEAMS
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 – via TEAMS
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 (Regrets)
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. Radia Dehimi, Assistant Director, Material Resources
Ms. Sandra Léveillé, Director, School Organization
Ms. Livia Nassivera, Director, Financial Services
Ms. Julie René de Cotret, Director, Student Services
Me Magdalena Sokol, Director, Legal Services
Ms. Ann Watson, Director, Human Resources
Ms. Marilyn Ramlakhan, Assistant Director, Human Resources
Ms. Angela Vaudry, Assistant Director, Human Resources
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>Nomination of The Girls Group as Students of the Month</u></p> <p>The Student of the Month for February is The Girls Group from John F. Kennedy High School.</p> <p>The students of the month for February is the Girls Group from John F. Kennedy High School. An initiative of Child Care Worker Marietta Damiano, the Girls Group first came together three years ago as a way for a group of students to connect and build friendships. Over the course of their time together, the group evolved and began to hone their focus on community initiatives, anchored by their annual "Shoebox Project." The goal of the project is to pack individual shoeboxes worth of personal items and subsequently donate them to women's shelters. This past December, the girls packed and donated 125 boxes. I encourage everyone to visit our website to see both the EMSB TV and CBC Montreal report on their amazing project. Congratulations to Marietta and her girls!</p>
3.	<p><u>Regional Student Ombudsperson's 2023-2024 Annual Report – Du-Confluent Region</u></p> <p>Presentation of the Regional Student Ombudsperson's 2023-2024 Annual Report – Du-Confluent Region by Ms. Sarah-Beth Trudeau.</p>
4.	<p><u>Question Period</u></p> <p>A question from Ms. Samara Perez was read and addressed by the Chair, Mr. Joe Ortona, regarding the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Legal Fees regarding Ethics Complaints <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"> ➤ Virtual participation during Question Period ➤ Public Executive Committee Meetings
5.	<p><u>Approval of Agenda</u></p> <p>IT WAS MOVED BY MS. CHELSEA CRAIG 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 # 25-02-04-5</u></p>

6.	<p><u>Adoption of Minutes</u></p> <p><u>6.1. Regular Board Meeting held on December 17, 2024</u></p> <p>IT WAS MOVED BY MS. MARIA CORSI AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED THAT the Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting held on December 17, 2024, be approved as presented.</p> <p>Vote: 15-0-0, Adopted</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><u>Resolution # 25-02-04-6.1</u></p>
7.	<p><u>Business Arising Out of Minutes</u></p> <p>None.</p>
8.	<p><u>Chair's Report</u></p> <p>Presented by the Chair, Mr. Joe Ortona:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Before the holiday break schools really got into the holiday spirit, performing concerts in the schools for the parents. Many schools raised funds and many collected non-perishable items to donate; ➤ Returning from the holiday break, the Suburban featured an article on EMSB's Holocaust Education Program. We would like to give a special thank you to the Federation CJA for their support to allow us to continue the program for another year; ➤ A reminder to everyone that Kindergarten registration is currently underway; ➤ January 27, 2025, marked Holocaust Remembrance Day. Thanks to the Federation CJA, students are sensitized to the true story of the Holocaust. There was visit to the Montreal Holocaust Museum where the High School students were truly amazed to walk through the different stations, you can tell it was a life changing moment for them to experience and hear the stories of Holocaust survivors; ➤ February 1, 2025, marked the beginning of Black History Month. At the EMSB we make it a point to honor the contributions, achievements and history of black people in Canada, but also around the world. There will be various events taking place in the schools throughout the month of February; ➤ In his capacity as President of the QESBA, Mr. Ortona put out a statement deploring the \$200 million budget cuts that the government has imposed in the Education sector. It will be a very challenging exercise however we will do our best to make sure that these cuts will not directly affect the services that the children receive; ➤ We have received good news, the Supreme Court has decided to hear and debate the Bill 21 appeal where eventually there will be a decision rendered on the constitutionality of the Bill.
9.	<p><u>Director General's Report</u></p> <p>Presented by the Director General, Mr. Nicholas Katalifos:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Mr. Katalifos took a moment to welcome everyone back after the holidays and wished everyone the best for the new year; ➤ The kindergarten registration period has officially begun for the 2025-2026 academic year. We ask parents to visit www.emsb.qc.ca/reserve who are interested to book appointments to register their kids for kindergarten as well as for Pre-K. We have been running advertisements on Global TV, The Gazette, The Suburban, the Beat 92.5, CJAD, TSN690 and on social media. All information regarding registration can be found on our website; ➤ We kicked off Ode to Joy, a celebration of music, on Friday, January 10th at Rosemount High School. The students from Rosemount High School's Arts-Études Program were joined by students from 4 Elementary Schools, Nesbitt, Gerlad McShane, Willingdon and St. Monica to perform and share how the magic of song is built into the curriculum from kindergarten onwards. A number of professional musicians were on also on hand and were all extremely proud of the performance the students gave;

- For the third consecutive year, the Italian Government’s Ministry of International Affairs with the support of the Consulate General of Italy in Montreal, has granted 3 Elementary Schools at the EMSB with 17,000\$ in funding for their integrated PELO program. These grants received from the Italian Government through a Measure for the creation and maintenance of Italian language courses at foreign educational institutions, teaching Italian language and culture have been instrumental in supporting integration of Italian language and instruction in our schools. The monies that the Italian Government has given the EMSB has allowed us to expand the reach and impact of the Italian language programs particularly at the kindergarten level at Dante, Pierre de Coubertin and East Hill. A special thank you to the Italian Government and Consulate for all of their support;
- We invite the public to listen to the latest EMSB Holocaust Education Podcast, where host Mark Bergman sits down with Grade 6 students from Edward Murphy Elementary School along with Rocco Speranza, the school’s Personal Development and Community Involvement Animator to reflect on their visit to the Montreal Holocaust Museum. They explored the students experiences starting with what they knew about the Holocaust before the visit and the educational preparation that they received in class. The students shared moments that impacted them the most and discussed why learning from mistakes of the past is vital for fostering respect, acceptance, inclusion and understanding in today’s world.
- Roslyn and Edinburgh Elementary Schools welcome back Madame Julie and Madame Diane, teachers who arrived at the EMSB from France three years ago who were absent due to immigration issues which were well documented in the media. A shout out to QESBA and their team for their assistance in getting our teachers back home;
- St. Monica Elementary School proudly celebrates the remarkable achievement of Majd Al-Ghabkari, a Grade 5 student who recently participated in the prestigious World Karate Tournament in Kawasaki, Japan. Congratulations to him and his family;
- The EMSB was featured prominently in the Suburban Newspaper recently which does its annual best of Montreal Contest. A number of our schools were mentioned at the Elementary level. John Caboto was second for a second year in a row. Pierre de Coubertin, F.A.C.E. School, at the High School level Lester B. Pearson, F.A.C.E. School, Laurier Macdonald and at the Vocational level, Laurier Macdonald Career Centre and St. Pius X Career Centre were all highlighted;
- Rosemount Technology Centre will present their upcoming open house from noon to 6:00 p.m. and their internal skills competition from 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. on February 27th, 2025. We invite the public to visit the Centre, they do incredible work and there are lots of opportunities for students who are interested in the different vocational programs;
- Students in the Socio-vocational Integration or SVI Community engagement class at Wagar Adult Education Centre have been working hard spreading warmth and kindness during this challenging winter season. In anticipation of plummeting temperatures brought on by the Polar Vortex, the students established 152 care packages affectionately called “Warmth from Wagar bags”. Each package includes a hat, a pair of socks and snacks, small but essential items to help those who experience homelessness as they face the cold;
- On the issue of budget cuts, the administration here at the EMSB have been hard at work and will be following the criteria set forth by the Ministry and we will be presenting the results at the next Regular Board meeting.

10.

In Memoriam

10.1. Tribute for February 2025

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:

Michael Bambek, Retired Principal, EMSB

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

Vote: 15-0-0, Adopted

Resolution # 25-02-04-10.1

11. 2023-2024 Annual Report

WHEREAS Section 220 of the Education Act states that every School Board shall prepare an Annual Report giving its community an account of the results obtained with regards to the goals and measurable objectives set out in the Commitment-to-Success Plan with the Ministère de l'Éducation du Québec (MEQ);

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

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

WHEREAS the Board shall send a copy of the report to the Ministère de l'Éducation du Québec (MEQ);

IT WAS MOVED BY MR. PIETRO MERCURI AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED THAT the 2023-2024 English Montreal School Board Annual Report, including the EMSB Commitment-to-Success Plan report, the financial statements, the service contracts (Chapter G-1.011) and Staffing Report (Chapter G-1.011), be approved on February 4, 2025;

IT WAS FURTHER UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED THAT copies of the report be sent to the Ministère de l'Éducation du Québec (MEQ);

Vote: 15-0-0, Adopted

Resolution # 25-02-04-11

12. Recommendations from the Governance and Ethics Committee

12.1 Governance and Ethics Committee – Composition Increase to Five (5) Members

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

WHEREAS it was decided by the EMSB Council of Commissioners that the Governance and Ethics Committee be composed of three (3) members of the Council of Commissioners, as per resolution #24-11-13-9.1;

WHEREAS following a Special Governance & Ethics Committee held on December 12, 2024, the members approved and recommended to reinstate the membership of the Governance and Ethics Committee to five (5) Commissioners;

IT WAS MOVED BY MS. SHARON NELSON AND RESOLVED, AS RECOMMENDED BY THE GOVERNANCE AND ETHICS COMMITTEE, THAT the Governance and Ethics Committee of the English Montreal School Board will be composed of five (5) Members.

Vote: 14-1-0, Adopted (Ms. Jessica Houde-Woytiuk voted against)

Resolution # 25-02-04-12.1

12.2 Governance and Ethics Committee – Election of Two Additional Members

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

WHEREAS following a Special Governance & Ethics Committee held on December 12, 2024, the members approved and recommended to reinstate the membership of the Governance and Ethics Committee to five (5) Commissioners;

WHEREAS the Governance & Ethics Committee recommended that a submission form be sent to members of Council for the appointment of the two (2) additional members on the Governance and Ethics Committee;

WHEREAS a submission form was sent to all Commissioners who wanted to present themselves as a Member of the Governance and Ethics Committee and was received and acknowledged by the Secretary General, and forwarded to the Chair and Members of the Governance and Ethics Committee on January 17, 2025, for their 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 on January 22, 2025 and have voted to recommend to the Board that Maria Corsi and Pietro Mercuri be appointed as members on the Governance & Ethics Committee;

IT WAS MOVED BY MS. CHELSEA CRAIG AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED, AS RECOMMENDED BY THE GOVERNANCE AND ETHICS COMMITTEE, THAT effective February 4, 2025, the following Commissioners be designated as Members to the Governance and Ethics Committee:

Maria Corsi
Pietro Mercuri

Vote: 15-0-0, Adopted

Resolution # 25-02-04-12.2

13. Draft Calendars (Teachers) for the Youth, Adult and Vocational Sectors for 2025-2026 – Following Consultation

WHEREAS the Human Resources Department has drafted the calendars (teachers) for the youth, adult and vocational sectors for 2025-2026;

WHEREAS the calendars (teachers) for the youth, adult and vocational sectors for 2025-2026 were sent out for the purposes of official consultation, following approval by the Council of Commissioners, to the following groups: - *English Montreal School Board Parents Committee (EMSBPC); Central Management Advisory Committee - Resource Allocation Committee (CMAC- RAC); Association of Montreal School Administrators (AMSA); Montréal Teachers Association (MTA);*

WHEREAS the proposed calendars (teachers) for the youth, adult and vocational sectors for 2025- 2026 were modified, as a result of the consultation, to reflect a change in the QPAT Convention date from October 17, 2025, to November 7, 2025;

WHEREAS the groups previously consulted - *English Montreal School Board Parents Committee (EMSBPC); Central Management Advisory Committee - Resource Allocation Committee (CMAC-RAC); Association of Montreal School Administrators (AMSA); Montréal Teachers Association (MTA)* have been informed of the revised calendars (teachers) for the youth, adult and vocational sectors for 2025-2026;

IT WAS MOVED BY MR. JAMES KROMIDA AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED THAT the revised calendars (teachers) for the youth, adult, and vocational sectors for 2025-2026 be approved.

Vote: 15-0-0, Adopted

Resolution # 25-02-04-13

14.	<p><u>Proposal to Rescind Policy DG-26.1 – To Facilitate the Disclosure of Wrongdoings – Following Consultation</u></p> <p>WHEREAS Policy DG-26.1 – Disclosure of Wrongdoings was adopted by the English Montreal School Board on April 24, 2019, as per Resolution #19-04-24-10.2;</p> <p>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;</p> <p>WHEREAS the Board approved Resolution #24-12-17-12.5 on December 17, 2024, permitting that Policy DG-26.1 – Disclosure of Wrongdoings to be rescinded and sent out for consultation purposes to the Central Management Advisory Committee - Resource Allocation Committee (CMAC- RAC);</p> <p>WHEREAS the feedback received from the Central Management Advisory Committee - Resource Allocation Committee (CMAC- RAC) was taken into consideration;</p> <p>IT WAS MOVED BY MR. PIETRO MERCURI AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED THAT the Council of Commissioners approve the rescindment of Policy DG-26.1 – Disclosure of Wrongdoings, as submitted to the meeting, effective immediately.</p> <p>IT WAS FURTHER UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED THAT Resolutions #19-05-22-11.2 and #23-05-23-16.2 appointing Designated Officers be rescinded effective immediately.</p> <p>Vote: 14-0-1, Adopted (Ms. Jessica Houde-Woytiuk abstained)</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><u>Resolution # 25-02-04-14</u></p>
15.	<p><u>Request to the Ministère de l'Éducation du Québec (MEQ) for Renewal of the Sports-Études Program – Lester B. Pearson High School</u></p> <p>WHEREAS the Council of Commissioners approved the establishment of the Sports-Études Program at its meeting of May 30, 2001 (resolution #01-05-30-8.2);</p> <p>WHEREAS the Council of Commissioners approved that the Sports-Études Program be established at Lester B. Pearson High School as of 2002-2003, at its meeting of October 13, 2001 (resolution #01-10-30-9);</p> <p>WHEREAS the Ministère de l'Éducation du Québec (MEQ) requires that this agreement be renewed every five (5) years;</p> <p>WHEREAS the present agreement expires on June 30, 2025;</p> <p>IT WAS MOVED BY MS. SUSAN PERERA AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED THAT approval be given for the continuation of the Sport-Études Program at Lester B. Pearson High School until June 30, 2030.</p> <p>Vote: 15-0-0, Adopted</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><u>Resolution # 25-02-04-15</u></p>
16.	<p><u>Rollovers 2023-2024 to 2024-2025</u></p> <p>WHEREAS as per Section 96.24 of the <i>Education Act</i> the School Board may credit all or part of the schools' and centres' surpluses to the school or centre or another educational institution if the Resource Allocation Committee recommends it and the Council of Commissioners implements the recommendation;</p> <p>WHEREAS as per Section 193.4 of the <i>Education Act</i> the Resource Allocation Committee must annually make a recommendation to the Council of Commissioners regarding the allocation of the surpluses of the School Board's educational institutions;</p>

WHEREAS as per Section 193.5 of the *Education Act* the School Board may entrust the functions assigned to the Resource Allocation Committee under this Act to the advisory committee on management, herein after referred to as the Central Management Advisory Committee/Resource Allocation Committee (CMAC/RAC);

WHEREAS the CMAC/RAC has reviewed and endorsed the proposed distribution of school and centre surpluses and the school and centre deficits to be covered for the 2023- 2024 school year;

IT WAS MOVED BY MS. CHELSEA CRAIG AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED, AS RECOMMENDED BY THE CENTRAL MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE/RESOURCE ALLOCATION COMMITTEE THAT, the school and centre surpluses and deficits at June 30, 2024 be allocated to the 2024-2025 fiscal year, as outlined in the documentation submitted at this meeting.

Vote: 15-0-0, Adopted

Resolution # 25-02-04-16

17. Budget Building Process for 2025-2026 – For Consultation

WHEREAS as per Section 193.3 of the Education Act the Resource Allocation Committee must set up a consultation process with a view to establishing objectives and principles governing the annual allocation of revenues in accordance with section 275;

WHEREAS as per Section 193.5 of the Education Act the School Board may entrust the functions assigned to the Resource Allocation Committee under this Act to the advisory committee on management, herein after referred to as the Central Management Advisory Committee/Resource Allocation Committee (CMAC/RAC);

WHEREAS Section 275 of the Education Act states that taking into account the recommendations of the CMAC/RAC, the school board shall establish objectives and principles governing the allocation of its revenues;

WHEREAS in conformity with Sections 275 and 193.3 of the Education Act, a document entitled Budget Building Process for 2025-2026 has been created;

WHEREAS Appendix A of the document describes the Objectives, Guiding Principles, Criteria and related Orientations proposed for 2025-2026;

WHEREAS the CMAC/RAC has reviewed and endorsed this document;

IT WAS MOVED BY MS. MARIA CORSI AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED THAT:

- 1) the document entitled Budget Building Process for 2025-2026 be approved and forwarded to the school and centre governing boards and the EMSB Parents' Committee for purposes of consultation as per Section 275 of the Education Act, as outlined in the documentation submitted at this meeting;
- 2) the document entitled Budget Building Process for 2025-2026 be also forwarded to ACSES and EMSAC for feedback, as outlined in the documentation submitted at this meeting;
- 3) the results of the consultation be returned to the Director of Financial Services, Ms. Livia Nassivera, no later than April 4, 2025.

Vote: 15-0-0, Adopted

Resolution # 25-02-04-17

18.	<p><u>Deposit of Ethics Commissioner Decision on Admissibility – C. Eustace vs. J. Ortona – 2024-12</u></p> <p>Deposit of the Decision of Me Frédéric Henri, Ethics Commissioner on the admissibility of Complaints deposited on December 10, 2024 - C. Eustace vs. J. Ortona.</p> <p>Mr. Kromida suggested to consider for the future that the plaintiff pays the legal fees when an Ethics Complaint is inadmissible.</p>
19.	<p><u>Deposit of Ethics Commissioner Decision on Admissibility – C. Eustace vs. J. Ortona – 2025-01</u></p> <p>Deposit of the Decision of Me Frédéric Henri, Ethics Commissioner on the admissibility of Complaints deposited on January 6, 2025 - C. Eustace vs. J. Ortona.</p> <p>Mr. Ortona stated that as per the Code of Ethics, Commissioners are barred from communicating with the complainant of an Ethics Complaint, who's lodged a complaint against them and barred from communicating with them not only directly but also indirectly in any way. The reason this was put into place is to protect the complainant from any reprisal threat, any tactic that can be used whereby to try to dissuade or scare someone into dropping a complaint. You are not allowed to communicate with the complainant unless the Ethics Commissioner grants permission and then can specify the circumstances and the modalities. As such, at the time where Mr. Eustace submitted his questions, Mr. Ortona was not allowed to speak to him even if during the public meeting. Mr. Eustace was advised of this and he was made aware that his questions that were submitted at the December meeting would not be addressed publicly.</p>
20.	<p><u>Confirmation of Board Level Administrators</u></p> <p>This item was presented by the Director General, Mr. Nick Katalifos, for information. The Director General confirmed the following Board Level Administrators in their assignment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Darlene Kehyayan, Regional Director ➤ Angela Vaudry, Assistant Director - Human Resources
21.	<p><u>Recognition of Employees with 25 Years of Service</u></p> <p>This item was presented for information.</p>
	<p>Mr. James Kromida left the meeting at 8:45 p.m.</p>
22.	<p><u>Committee Reports</u></p> <p><u>22.1 ACSES (Advisory Committee on Special Education Services)</u></p> <p>Item presented by the Parent Commissioner of the Committee, Ms. Julie Kristof:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The Advisory committee for Special Education met once since the last council meeting. ➤ The upcoming budget cuts are front of mind for all on the committee of course. The following question was posed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>How are the areas targeted for budget cuts being evaluated, and what specific scorecards or metrics are being used to guide these decisions? As members of the ACSES, it is crucial for us to understand the potential impact on our children's education and well-being. We strongly oppose any cuts to services or resources that support special needs students, who are among the most vulnerable members of our school system.</i> ➤ The next parent committee meeting is online this coming Thursday. We will be hearing from Ometz, a local social service agency that provides many services including services related to education, mental health and disabilities. I invite you to join the meeting for this very important presentation.

- Last week, I had the honor of attending an event hosted by the Holocaust Museum to commemorate the 80th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz. There were 11 million people killed during this horrible period, 6 million Jews, 5 million non-Jews, among them 250,000 people killed simply because of disabilities and special needs. We must remember that this did not happen overnight. Thank you EMSB and Federation CJA for your commitment to education. The dehumanization and marginalization of any group within society can result in unthinkable acts. We must remember and teach our children well.

22.2 Transportation and Safety Advisory Committee

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

- The meeting scheduled for January 16th has been postponed to February 18th, a report will be given at the next Board meeting.

22.3 EMSBPC (English Montreal School Board Parents' Committee)

Item presented by Parent Commissioner, Ms. Merika Ramundo:

- The last English Montreal School Board Parents Committee Meeting was held on January 9, 2025. Delegates received a presentation on the methodology and importance of the annual budget building process that each school Governing Board is asked to do. Considering the government's announcement of budget cuts, this process is especially important. The EMSBPC has requested clarity on what specific scorecard or metrics are being used to apply these cuts.
- Requests for more information about the use of governing board service email accounts and the process related to the educational project survey have been acknowledged by senior administration. The senior administration has agreed to provide some clarification at the March committee meeting.
- The English Parents' Committee Association (EPCA) ran a valuable workshop on parent Governance on January 21st (<https://epcaquebec.org/the-abcs-of-parent-governance/>). The goal of the workshop was to explain governance and to encourage and empower parents to get involved. The session was held by Brigida Sellato from the EMSB's Office of the Secretary General. Thank you to Brigida for sharing your expertise with the community.
- English Parents' Committee Association (EPCA), the Fédération des comités de parents du Québec (FCPQ), the Association pour la santé publique du Québec (ASPQ), and the Réseau québécois pour la réussite éducative (RQRE) have partnered with public health expert Dr. Mélissa Généreux from the University of Sherbrooke to launch a second edition of the survey focusing on the well-being of Quebec families. Last year the survey collected data from over 14,000 respondents.

22.4 Governance and Ethics Committee

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

- The Committee met on January 22nd to discuss and recommend to the Board to expand the composition of the committee with two new members, as discussed in item 12 of the agenda;
- Mr. Pietrangelo also reminded everyone to save the date for the upcoming Professional development session on February 11th.

22.5 Audit Committee

Item presented by the Chair of the Committee, Ms. Paula Kilian:

- There has been no meeting since the last report.

22.6 Human Resources Committee

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

- There has been no meeting since the last report.

22.7 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:

- There has been no meeting since the last report. The next meeting is scheduled for February 13th.

22.8 EMSAC (English Montreal Student Advisory Committee)

- Nothing to report, no Commissioners attended.

23. Commissioners' Report

Item presented by Commissioner, Ms. Paula Kilian :

- **Carllyle:** The Media Club held a press conference for Michelle Setlakwe and Eric Girard. The students were adorable and asked pertinent questions. You can watch it on Youtube. Following the press conference, the choir under the guidance of Ms. Christine, performed a concert with mostly French songs.
- **Dunrae Gardens:** Grade 6 students were treated to a surprise welcome breakfast on the first day back at school. Grades 4-6 enjoyed an activity called Comedy for Kids. They learned about comedy writing and improv. Geordie Theatre presented an adaptation of The Velveteen Rabbit for the younger grades.
- **Sinclair Laird:** Grades 5 and 6 visited the Holocaust Museum. K4's and 5's learned to make pizza. The students celebrated Lunar New Year with a craft activity and eggrolls and dumplings.
- **JFK High school:** The Girls Club with Ms. Marietta were named Students of the Month for their shoe box initiative. We had the pleasure of meeting them earlier.
- **Perspectives I:** Will have a winter carnival this month which will end with their annual beach day bash.
- **Perspectives II:** Which is the senior high school, is holding a six week mental health awareness workshop called Fit for Life. These workshops cultivate healthy lifestyles for the students and include topics such as meditation, nutrition, fitness, and community engagement.
- **JFK Adult Center:** A very interesting new course was announced which has great relevance today and could benefit MANY people.

Misinformation & Disinformation: The Politics of Fake News & Conspiracy Theories. How can you tell what's real and what's not?

- Explore how misinformation spreads on social media and its impact on society.
- Gain practical skills to identify and protect yourself from misleading information.
- Learn through real-world examples & hands-on activities that make these topics easy to understand
- Stay informed. Think critically. Don't be fooled.

The dates for the Spring Session: March 24 – June 27, 2025

Item presented by Commissioner, Mr. Julien Feldman:

- Mr. Feldman paid homage to those who supported the Bill 21 constitutional challenge over the last five years, the administrators, and our legal advisors at Power Law. The ongoing support from Council is very humbling and thank you to the EMSB community who has supported us over the years.

	<p>Item presented by Commissioner, Ms. Sharon Nelson:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Ms. Nelson took the opportunity to congratulate the children and the administration at Willingdon Junior for a fantastic Winter Carnival. The students were just so delightful to watch and so excited. <p>Items presented by Commissioner, Ms. Maria Corsi:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Ms. Corsi was invited to attend Pierre Elliot Trudeau Elementary School’s open house on January 23rd, it was a huge success. The school is very dynamic and has an involved school community with a strong parental engagement and strong bilingual academic program including STEAM and Robotics. The students were so engaging and Ms. Corsi was especially impressed by the students impeccable French language skills which is a strong focus of the school’s program. In fact, the French workbooks that the Cycle 3 students use are the same ones used in French schools. It is really a testament to the quality of the French language instruction in our schools. ➤ On February 5th, Dalkeith Elementary School will be holding its open house from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., I invite all parents to attend.
24.	<p><u>Report of the Executive Committee Meeting held on December 17, 2024</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Election of Vice-Chair of the Executive Committee - Additional Support Services for EMSB Students Integrated at Peter Hall School for the 2024-2025 School Year - Authorisation Contrat Infonuagique Décret 596-2020 - Awarding of Service Contract – P-2305-ARCH – John Caboto Elementary School – Major Renovation Project
25.	<p><u>Other Business</u></p> <p>None.</p>
26.	<p><u>Adjournment</u></p> <p>IT WAS MOVED BY MS. JULIE KRISTOF AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED THAT the meeting be adjourned at 8:59 p.m.</p> <p>Vote: 14-0-0, Adopted</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><u>Resolution # 25-02-04-26</u></p>
	<p>Signed in Montreal, _____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>Mr. Joe Ortona, Chair</p> <p>_____</p> <p>Me Nathalie Lauzière, Secretary General</p>