

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS OF THE  
ENGLISH MONTREAL SCHOOL BOARD

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A Regular meeting of the English Montreal School Board was held in the Laurence Patterson Room, 6000 Fielding Avenue, on Wednesday, September 25, 2019 at 4:30 p.m.

Commissioners Present

Ms. Angela Mancini, Chairman  
Me Joe Ortona, Vice-Chairman  
Mr. M. Antal, Commissioner  
Mr. Agostino Cannavino Commissioner  
Mr. Julien Feldman, Commissioner  
Mr. Norm Gharibian, Parent Commissioner  
Mr. James Kromida, Commissioner  
Mr. Joseph Lalla, Commissioner  
Me Patricia Lattanzio, Commissioner (In Camera only)  
Ms. Sylvia Lo Bianco, Commissioner  
Ms. Mubeenah Mughal, Parent Commissioner  
Mr. Andrew Ross, Parent Commissioner  
Mr. Bernie Praw, Commissioner (In Camera only)  
Mr. Rosario Ortona, Commissioner

Absent

Mr. Pietro Mercuri, Parent Commissioner

Present:

Ms. A. M. Matheson, Director General  
Me B. Duhême, Deputy Director General, Administration Division  
Ms. E. Alfonsi, Deputy Director General, Education Division  
Me N. Lauzière, Secretary General  
Me Lucie Roy, Director of Legal Services  
Ms. P. Nickoletopoulos, Regional Director, West  
Mr. J. Pevec, Regional Director, East  
Ms. A. Spagnolo, Regional Director of Adult Education and Vocational Services  
Mrs. S. Furfaro, Director of Educational & Technology Services  
Ms. L. Nassivera, Director of Financial Services  
Ms. A. Watson, Director of Human Resources  
Mr. M. Cardin, Director of Material Resources  
Ms. S. Léveillé, Director of School Organization  
Mr. L. Lewis, Director of Student Services  
Mr. M. Cohen, Communications and Marketing Specialist  
Ms. B. Sellato, Communications Consultant

There were six (6) members of the public present.

1. Approval of Agenda

Mr. A. Cannavino motioned to table item number 10.

VOTE: 8-4-0, Adopted

In favor	Mr. A. Cannavino, Mr. J. Feldman, Mr. J. Kromida, Ms. P. Lattanzio, Mr. R. Ortona, Mr. B. Praw, Mr. A. Ross, Mr. J. Ortona
Against	Mr. N. Gharibian, Mr. J. Lalla, Ms. S. Lo Bianco, Ms. A. Mancini
Not present for the vote	Mr. A. Antal, Ms. M. Mughal

IT WAS MOVED BY JAMES KROMIDA AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED THAT the agenda be approved with the proposed modifications;

*2.6 Fees Reimbursement*

*Tabling of Item #10*

*17.1 Declaration on Climate Change Emergency*

VOTE: 12-0-0, Adopted

Resolution #19-09-25-1

Mr. J. Ortona motioned to reconsider the agenda at this point in light of recent reconsideration motions later in the meeting.

There was a challenge to the Chair called to accept the motion by Mr. J. Ortona.

VOTE: 7-4-1, Adopted

In favor	Mr. A. Cannavino, Mr. J. Feldman, Mr. J. Kromida, Mr. J. Lalla, Mr. R. Ortona, Mr. B. Praw, Mr. J. Ortona
Against	Mr. N. Gharibian, Ms. S. Lo Bianco, Mr. A. Ross, Ms. A. Mancini
Abstain	Ms. P. Lattanzio
Not present for the vote	Mr. A. Antal, Ms. M. Mughal

On the motion to reconsider the agenda by Mr. J. Ortona.

VOTE: 0-8-3, Defeated

Against	Mr. A. Cannavino, Mr. J. Feldman, Mr. J. Kromida, J. Lalla, Ms. P. Lattanzio, Mr. R. Ortona, Mr. J. Ortona, Ms. A. Mancini
Abstain	Mr. N. Gharibian, Ms. S. Lo Bianco, Mr. A. Ross
Not present for the vote	Mr. A. Antal, Ms. M. Mughal, Mr. B. Praw,

2. In Camera

2.1 Motion to Move In Camera

IT WAS MOVED BY MR. J. LALLA AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED THAT the meeting move In Camera at 5:37 P.M.

VOTE: 11-0-0, Adopted (Mr. M. Antal, Ms. M. Mughal and Mr. B. Praw not present for the vote)

Resolution #19-09-25-2

The meeting resumed from In Camera at 8:32 p.m.

3. Adoption of Resolution(s) from In Camera

2.4 Confirmation in Position – Coordinator – Legal Services

WHEREAS the procedures incorporated by the Board require all new administrative appointments to complete a probationary period before confirmation in the assignment;

WHEREAS the year of probation for the administrator listed below ends on October 24<sup>th</sup>, 2019;

WHEREAS a written performance appraisal of this administrator was completed and has been evaluated as being satisfactory;

WHEREAS the Director General has recommended that this administrator be confirmed in her assignment;

IT WAS MOVED BY MR. N. GHARIBIAN AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED THAT, as recommended by the Director General, the following administrator be confirmed in her assignment effective as stated below:

NAME	POSITION	EFFECTIVE DATE
Sokol, Magdalena	Coordinator – Legal Services	September 26 <sup>th</sup> , 2019

VOTE: 10-0-0, Adopted (Mr. J. Feldman, Ms. S. Lo Bianco Ms. P. Lattanzio and Mr. B. Praw not present for the vote)

Resolution #19-09-25-2.4

2.5 Recommendation from the Human Resources Committee

WHEREAS on March 27, 2019, by virtue of Resolution 19-03-27-16.1, the Council of Commissioners of the English Montreal School Board (EMSB) pronounced itself against the proposed Bill 21 - *An Act Respecting the Laicity of the State*;

WHEREAS the *Act Respecting the Laicity of the State* (Bill 21) came into force on July 16, 2019;

WHEREAS individual citizens and public institutions like the EMSB are subject to all laws and regulations that have been duly adopted by the Parliaments of Quebec and Canada;

WHEREAS the validity of Bill 21 is presently being contested in front of the Court of Appeal of Quebec;

WHEREAS the Human Resources Committee of the EMSB met on September 23, 2019 to review all possible legal recourses with regards with Bill 21 that are available to the Council of Commissioners - who are the sole duly elected representative of the Anglophone community on the EMSB territory in Montreal;

WHEREAS on said meeting, a legal opinion was presented to the members of the Human Resources Committee of the EMSB;

IT WAS MOVED BY MR. J. ORTONA AND RESOLVED, AS RECOMMENDED BY THE HUMAN RESOURCES COMMITTEE, THAT the EMSB Council of Commissioners mandate the legal firm, Power Law, to institute on its behalf the appropriate legal recourse to contest the validity of Bill 21, based namely on Section 23 of the *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms* that guarantees minority language educational rights to English-speaking minorities in Quebec;

IT WAS FURTHER RESOLVED that the Administration of the EMSB provides Power Law with all the necessary resources in order to execute their above-mentioned mandate;

IT WAS FURTHER RESOLVED that the EMSB encourage other English school boards, the Quebec English School Boards Association (QESBA), and other representatives of the English-speaking community to participate in this legal action and its fund-raising;

IT WAS STILL FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of the present resolution be sent to the other English school boards in Quebec and the QESBA.

VOTE: 7-3-2, Adopted

In favor	Mr. A. Antal, Mr. A. Cannavino, Mr. J. Feldman, Mr. J. Kromida, Ms. M. Mughal, Mr. R. Ortona and Mr. J. Ortona
Against	Mr. N. Gharibian, Mr. J. Lalla and Mr. A. Ross
Abstain	Ms. S. Lo Bianco and Ms. A. Mancini
Not present for the vote	Ms. P. Lattanzio, Mr. B. Praw

Resolution #19-09-25-2.5

4. First Question Period

Laura Marra, parent of General Vanier, asked a question regarding the use of a classroom currently being shared with Pierre de Coubertin and requested if said room could be fully used by General Vanier students.

Maria Corsi, parent of Pierre de Coubertin, asked what the implications are if the Board is put in trusteeship and how that will impact the east end schools currently in consultation for major school changes. She asked about a letter sent to the Ministry by a Commissioner in November 2018 stating that something was not right at the Board, the Chairman stated that this is not a matter of public record.

Jason Trudeau, parent, asked the Board to ensure that students and families are accommodated with drug counselors in times of transition. He also asked if the employees hired can work with a company should not all posts be filled.

Chris Eustace, member of the public, asked questions regarding the Boards monies put aside for legal files. He asked how the Board deals with the lack of teachers in light of Bill 21.

5. Adoption of Minutes of Meeting held on:

5.1 August 14, 2019 (Special Board)

IT WAS MOVED BY MR. J. LALLA AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED THAT the Minutes of the Special Board Meeting held on August 14, 2019 be approved as presented.

VOTE: 10-0-1, Adopted (Mr. A. Ross abstain, Mr. J. Feldman, Ms. P. Lattanzio and Mr. B. Praw not present for the vote)

Resolution #19-09-25-5.1

5.2 August 28, 2019 (Regular Board)

IT WAS MOVED BY MR. N. GHARIBIAN AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Board Meeting held on August 28, 2019 be approved as presented.

VOTE: 11-0-0, Adopted (Mr. J. Feldman, Ms. P. Lattanzio and Mr. B. Praw not present for the vote)

Resolution #19-09-25-5.2

	<p>5.3 <u>September 3, 2019 (Continuation of August 28)</u></p> <p>IT WAS MOVED BY MR. A. CANNAVINO AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED THAT the Minutes of the Board Meeting held on September 3, 2019 be approved as presented.</p> <p>VOTE: 10-0-1, Adopted (Mr. J. Kromida abstain, Mr. J. Feldman, Ms. P. Lattanzio and Mr. B. Praw not present for the vote)</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><u>Resolution #19-09-25-5.3</u></p> <p>5.4 <u>September 4, 2019 (Continuation of September 3)</u></p> <p>IT WAS MOVED BY MR. A. ROSS AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED THAT the Minutes of the Board Meeting held on September 4, 2019 be approved as presented.</p> <p>VOTE: 9-0-1, Adopted (Mr. A. Cannavino abstain, Mr. M. Antal, Mr. J. Feldman, Ms. P. Lattanzio and Mr. B. Praw not present for the vote)</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><u>Resolution #19-09-25-5.4</u></p>
6.	<p><u>Business Arising Out of Minutes</u></p> <p>There was no business arising.</p>
7.	<p><u>In Memoriam</u></p> <p>WHEREAS the Board values the contribution made by its employee;</p> <p>WHEREAS the Board wishes to take official cognizance of the passing of any member of its large family of employees;</p> <p>IT WAS MOVED BY MR. J. LALLA AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that the Board note with regret the passing of Jamie Timothy Strickland, Storekeeper Class I, Laurier Macdonald Adult Education Centre, and that an expression of sympathy be sent to the bereaved family.</p> <p>VOTE:11-0-0, Adopted (Mr. M. Antal, Ms. P. Lattanzio and Mr. B. Praw not present for the vote)</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><u>Resolution #19-09-25-7</u></p>
8.	<p><u>Monthly Reports</u></p> <p>8.1 <u>ACSES (Advisory Committee on Special Education Services)</u> Ms. M. Mughal informed council that first meeting was held on September 23<sup>rd</sup> and the members of the executive were elected.</p> <p>8.2 <u>GTSIM (Comité de gestion de la taxe scolaire de l'île de Montréal)</u> Mr. A. Cannavino informed council that the evaluation analysis of the properties was looked at and how that will impact the percentage of the taxes to the Boards.</p> <p>8.3 <u>EMSAC (English Montreal Student Advisory Committee)</u> There is no report at this time.</p> <p>8.4 <u>EMSBPC (English Montreal School Board Parents' Committee)</u> Mr. A. Ross informed council that the general assembly is scheduled for Thursday October 17<sup>th</sup>, 2019.</p> <p>8.5 <u>QESBA (Quebec English School Boards Association)</u> Mr. J. Ortona informed council that QESBA is awaiting government legislation sometime in late September or early October.</p>

On a motion by Mr. J. Ortona, the meeting went In Camera at 10:01 p.m., all were in favor.

Mr. M. Antal left the meeting at 10:30 p.m.

The meeting returned from In Camera at 10:56 pm.

On a motion by Mr. J. Lalla and Mr. A. Ross, the meeting was extended at 10:30 p.m.

Mr. J. Ortona brought forth a motion with regard to the QESBA.

Public School Promotion

WHEREAS the Quebec English School Boards Association (QESBA) adopted a detailed Strategic Plan in January 2019;

WHEREAS one of the main sections in the Strategic Plan is the promotion of English language public education and all of the encompassing elements surrounding students, parents and communities;

WHEREAS the Board of Directors of the QESBA has voted to establish a one-time fund to promote English language public education, as per the QESBA Strategic Plan, and is requesting a one-time contribution from all nine member boards towards this fund;

WHEREAS the QESBA recognizes that should the monies from this special fund not be used, in whole or in part, for the purposes it was intended, the unused contribution of the English Montreal School Board will be returned to the English Montreal School Board;

IT WAS MOVED BY MR. R. ORTONA AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED THAT the English Montreal School Board contribute \$200,000.00 as an exceptional, one-time contribution to the QESBA for the promotion of the English language public education.

VOTE: 10-0-1, Adopted

In favor	Mr. A. Cannavino, Mr. J. Feldman, Mr. N. Gharibian, Mr. J. Kromida, Mr. J. Lalla, Ms. M. Mughal, Mr. R. Ortona, Mr. A. Ross, Mr. J. Ortona and Ms. A. Mancini
Abstain	Ms. S. Lo Bianco
Not present for the vote	Mr. M. Antal, Ms. P. Lattanzio and Mr. B. Praw

Resolution #19-09-25-8.5.1

9. 2019-2020 Allocations to Schools and Centres

Ms. S. Lo Bianco proposed an amendment to the main motion, that \$5,000.00 be allocated to each Outreach Network School instead of a lump sum amount.

VOTE: 1-10-0, Defeated

In Favor	Ms. S. Lo Bianco
Against	Mr. A. Cannavino, Mr. J. Feldman, Mr. N. Gharibian, Mr. J. Kromida, Mr. J. Lalla, Ms. M. Mughal Mr. R. Ortona, Mr. A. Ross, Mr. J. Ortona, Ms. A. Mancini
Not present for the vote	Mr. M. Antal, Ms. P. Lattanzio, Mr. B. Praw

	<p><u>On the Main Motion:</u></p> <p>WHEREAS a committee comprised of the DDG – Education, the Regional Directors, and various department Directors have reviewed decentralized operating allocations and mesures;</p> <p>WHEREAS the RAC committee has reviewed all documentation at their meeting of September 17, 2019;</p> <p>WHEREAS the RAC committee recommends to the Board the approval of the Budget Allocations to Schools and Centres 2019-2020, as per the documentation submitted to the meeting;</p> <p>IT WAS MOVED BY MR. J. KROMIDA AND RESOLVED, as recommended by the RAC committee, to approve the 2019-2020 Budget Allocations to Schools and Centres, as per the documentation submitted to the meeting.</p> <p>VOTE: 10-1-0, Adopted (Ms. S. Lo Bianco against, Mr. M. Antal, Ms. P. Lattanzio and Mr. B. Praw not present for the vote)</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><u>Resolution #19-09-25-9</u></p>
10.	<p><u>Elections of Governance Committee Members for 2019-2020</u></p> <p>The item was tabled.</p>
11.	<p><u>Annual Report of Student Ombudsman 2018-2019</u></p> <p>WHEREAS the Student Ombudsman must submit an annual report to the Board stating the number of compliant referrals received and their nature, the corrective measures recommended and any action that was taken;</p> <p>WHEREAS Me Isabelle Turgeon submitted her annual report to the Council of Commissioners on August 26, 2019;</p> <p>WHEREAS the said report must be attached to the Board’s annual report;</p> <p>IT WAS MOVED BY MR. J. LALLA AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED THAT there be received and deposited the Annual Report 2018-19 of the Student Ombudsman.</p> <p>VOTE: 11-0-0, Adopted (Mr. M. Antal, Ms. P. Lattanzio and Mr. B. Praw not present for the vote)</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><u>Resolution #19-09-25-11</u></p>
	<p>Mr. A. Ross and Mr. N. Gharibian left the meeting at 11:28 p.m.</p>
12.	<p><u>Nadeau Report</u></p> <p>Mr. J. Ortona motioned to table the item.</p> <p>VOTE: 7-2-0, Adopted (Ms. S. Lo Bianco and Ms. A. Mancini against, Mr. A. Ross, Mr. N. Gharibian, Mr. M. Antal, Ms. P. Lattanzio and Mr. B. Praw not present for the vote)</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><u>Resolution #19-09-25-12</u></p>
	<p>Mr. A. Ross and Mr. N. Gharibian returned to the meeting at 11:35 p.m.</p>
13.	<p><u>Timeline for Strategic Plan</u></p> <p>In light of impending legislation and legal actions, it was agreed that council wait to proceed with a discussion on the strategic plan.</p>

14.	<p><u>Town Hall meeting with Parents for schools affected by Major School Change Consultations</u></p> <p>Ms. A. Mancini asked for an update on a town hall for affected schools on major school changes. Ms. A. M. Matheson informed council that no requests had been received as yet from governing boards.</p>
15.	<p><u>Report of the Executive Committee Meeting – August 28, 2019</u></p> <p>➤ Authorization to issue a Call for tenders – Employee and Family Assistance Program</p>
	<p>Mr. A. Cannavino left the meeting at 11:45 p.m.</p>
16.	<p><u>Second Question Period</u></p> <p>Maria Corsi, parent of Pierre de Coubertin, asked if the board is looking at ways to increase enrolment in the east end schools.</p> <p>Chris Eustace, member of the community, asked questions regarding other English boards and if they contributed to the QESBA and whether Mr. Copeman’s contract is being renewed at the QESBA.</p>
17.	<p><u>Other Business</u></p> <p>17.1 <u>Declaration on Climate Change Emergency</u></p> <p>Mr. J. Feldman gave a notice of motion for the next meeting with regard to a declaration on climate change.</p>
18.	<p><u>Adjournment</u></p> <p>IT WAS MOVED BY MR. J. LALLA AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED to adjourn the meeting at 12:15 am.</p> <p>VOTE: 10-0-0, Adopted (Mr. M. Antal, Mr. A. Cannavino, Ms. P. Lattanzio and Mr. B. Praw not present for the vote)</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><u>Resolution #19-09-25-18</u></p>
	<p>Signed in Montreal, _____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>Ms. Angela Mancini, Chairman</p> <p>_____</p> <p>Me Nathalie Lauzière, Secretary General</p>