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Quebec / Local News

# Marlene Jennings apologizes for backing premier in school spat

*"Boy was I wrong," she tells the English Montreal School Board.*

Philip Authier • Montreal Gazette

Apr 08, 2021 • 16 hours ago • 1 minute read • [Join the conversation](#)





Marlene Jennings: "I apologize unreservedly to EMSB. Full stop." PHOTO BY JOHN MAHONEY /Montreal Gazette

QUEBEC — Marlene Jennings says she was wrong to back Premier François Legault when he suggested the English Montreal School Board was not qualified to decide about school openings and closings.



And she has apologized to the board.



“When you are wrong, you are wrong!,” Jennings, head of the Quebec Community Groups Network, said in a tweet Thursday.

“And boy was I wrong to support Legault on school closures (or not).

“EMSB was right and I was wrong. I apologize unreservedly to EMSB. Full stop.”

 **MarleneJennings2.0**   
@marleneqcg

When you are wrong, you are wrong! And boy was I wrong to supprt Legault on school closures (or not)! EMSB WAS RIGHT AND I WAS WRONG. I apologize unreservedly to

**EMSB, full stop!**

3:16 PM · Apr 8, 2021



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 Copy link to Tweet


Jennings touched off a controversy Tuesday when, in a tweet, she expressed support for Legault after he took a swipe at the EMSB for its refusal to comply with his government's initial order to send all high school students back to class full time.

Though the government decided to rescind the order, Legault sounded irritated during his news conference and questioned whether the EMSB was qualified to make decisions about the matter.


"We have to rely on science; we have to rely on the real experts," Legault said. "I have not seen the EMSB experts."

In her tweet, Jennings sided with the premier: "I love it!!! I am with Premier Legault. I too would like to know who those EMSB 'experts,' are and their credentials."


The tweet irritated the EMSB and the Quebec English Boards Association. QESBA executive director Russell Copeman said he found Jennings's stance "odd."



**Russell Copeman**  
@racopeman



I find it odd that the only dissonant voice in our community about the EMSB's legitimate and correct response to the yo-yo decisions of the Govt of Québec on the successful hybrid model in high school is the President of @QCGN #polqc #COVID19 #ÉducationQc



**MarleneJennings2.0** @marleneqcgcn

Replying to @eliasmakos and @toinz

I love it!!! I am with Premier Legault; I too would like to know who those EMSB 'experts' are & their credentials.



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