

EMSB calls meeting to discuss school transfers

Education Minister Jean-François Roberge is expected to announce a cabinet decree transferring three English schools to a French board.

KATHERINE WILTON, MONTREAL GAZETTE

([HTTPS://MONTREALGAZETTE.COM/AUTHOR/KWILTONMONTREALGAZETTE](https://montrealgazette.com/author/kwiltonmontrealgazette))



The English Montreal School Board has called a special meeting Thursday night to discuss the scheduled transfer of three schools (<https://montrealgazette.com/news/local-news/transfer-of-3-emsb-schools-to-french-board-starting-today-roberge-says>) to a French school board in the east end.

The meeting will also give commissioners a chance to discuss how to respond to Education Minister Jean-François Roberge's threat to transfer the buildings to the Commission scolaire de la Pointe-de-l'Île to solve overcrowding issues in their east end schools. The meeting starts at 7:30 p.m. at the board's office on Fielding Ave. in Notre-Dame-de-Grâce.

The three schools are General Vanier elementary and John Paul I junior high, both in St-Léonard, and Gerald McShane elementary in Montreal North. About 750 students will be affected by the transfers.

Last week, Roberge said he couldn't see how to avoid transferring the schools after [the EMSB and CSPI failed to negotiate a cohabitation agreement.](https://montrealgazette.com/news/local-news/french-school-board-wants-education-minister-to-transfer-english-schools) (https://montrealgazette.com/news/local-news/french-school-board-wants-education-minister-to-transfer-english-schools) He said he was in favour of the boards cohabiting on a short-term basis and said there was still time to reach a deal. The decision to transfer the buildings must be made by cabinet decree. The Quebec cabinet meets on Wednesday.

The head of the CSPI told the Montreal Gazette last week that the simplest solution to the overcrowding problem is to transfer schools. The majority of the French board's new students start their schooling in welcoming classes because they have little knowledge of French. The CSPI's mandate is to integrate the new immigrants as quickly as possible into regular French classes, something that requires a francophone environment, he said.

So far, the EMSB has not made public any plans to relocate its students for next year and commissioners have mused about challenging the transfers in court. If the board obtained a temporary injunction, the CSPI would not have access to the buildings until the case was settled.

The EMSB holds its final board meeting next week to adopt its budget.

The head of the Commission scolaire de Montréal, Catherine Harel-Bourdon, said her board has no plans to ask Roberge to transfer any EMSB schools next year. Harel-Bourdon said the CSDM has been in talks with the EMSB about transferring buildings that are not being used for school purposes. They have also discussed cohabitation between English and French students in EMSB buildings with low enrolment.

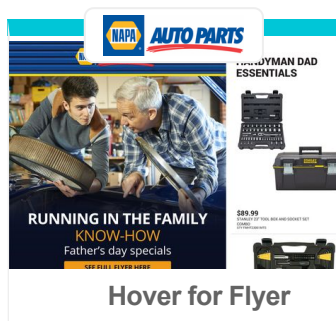
kwilton@postmedia.com (mailto:kwilton@postmedia.com)

RELATED

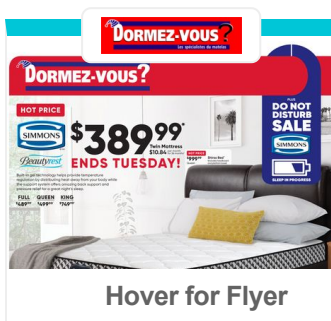
Families, staff 'thrown into flux' by transfer of 3 EMSB schools to French board
(<https://montrealgazette.com/news/local-news/transfer-of-3-emsb-schools-to-french-board-starting-today-roberge-says>)

French school board wants education minister to transfer English schools
(<https://montrealgazette.com/news/local-news/french-school-board-wants-education-minister-to-transfer-english-schools>)

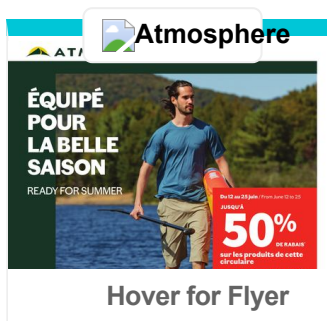
This Week's Flyers



Hover for Flyer



Hover for Flyer



Hover for Flyer



Hover for Flyer

Powered by

COMMENTS

Postmedia is pleased to bring you a new commenting experience. We are committed to maintaining a lively but civil forum for discussion and encourage all readers to share their views on our articles. Comments may take up to an hour for moderation before appearing on the site. We ask you to keep your comments relevant and respectful. Visit our [Community Guidelines](https://pages.postmedia.com/community-guidelines/) (<https://pages.postmedia.com/community-guidelines/>) for more information.

SIGN IN TO COMMENT

MOST LIKED

NEWEST

0 Comments

There are no comments yet.

([HTTPS://WWW.POSTMEDIA.COM](https://www.postmedia.com))

365 Bloor St East, Toronto, ON, M4W3L4, www.postmedia.com

© 2019 Postmedia Network Inc. All rights reserved.

Unauthorized distribution, transmission or republication strictly prohibited.

Powered by WordPress.com VIP (<https://wpvip.com/>?

[utm_source=vip_powered_wpcom&utm_medium=web&utm_campaign=VIP%20Footer%20Credit&utm_term=montrealgazette.com](https://wpvip.com/?utm_source=vip_powered_wpcom&utm_medium=web&utm_campaign=VIP%20Footer%20Credit&utm_term=montrealgazette.com))