



Commission scolaire English-Montréal

English Montreal School Board

Office of the Director General

March 15, 2019

Mr. Lamoureux
Governing Board Chairman
Willingdon Elementary School

RE: Preparation for the opening of the new Willingdon annex

Dear Mr. Lamoureux,

In our recent email exchange, you asked me to comment on whether the requests made by the Willingdon Governing Board will be agreed to in light of Council's approval of the new Willingdon senior annex.

When the Council of Commissioners approves by resolution to implement a new initiative like the Willingdon annex, it naturally follows that financial and human resource needs will be required; and in the months following that decision, the Council follows through on their commitment by approving the allocation of those necessary resources. So without getting into all of the specifics, I am confident that the board will be able to provide the necessary resources required for the opening of the annex.

Already, the Long Range Planning Committee of the board has met to discuss needs and timelines – both short term and longer term.

Already, the Material Resources department has assigned a Project Manager, who with the Director, the MR team and external professionals such as engineers and electricians to name a few, will review and plan the move and building preparations. They have also already met with the Willingdon administration.

Already, the Director of Educational and Technology Services has assigned the board's education consultants to work with the Willingdon administration, teacher specialists and librarian to set up the new classrooms with a 21st century vision. Preparations for required IT services and materials are also being reviewed.

Already, the Director of School Organization, who oversees school Transportation, has begun to draw up the transportation routes for both Willingdon campuses.

Already, the senior Directorate has begun to review the budgets needed to accommodate other needs to assure the success of this initiative.

I recognize that a detailed list of needs and wants were included in your brief. But I will not undertake a 'check-list' approach to report on each of those items. I will assure you, however, that the Directorate and senior Management of the EMSB is committed to the success of the annex project, and as such, we will work to ensure that Willingdon has all necessary resources.

Last, I have been made aware that some have concerns that at some point, Willingdon, in taking on this annex project, may find itself in a situation of over-crowding in the future – a situation wherein specialist classrooms could be placed in jeopardy. In response to that concern, I would like to assure you that as an educator myself, having spent 25 years as an in-school professional in several different roles, I believe that specialist subjects are of vital importance and as such, proper locales for those subjects must be ensured.

In conclusion, I would like to assure you that the school board's Management Team and Long Range Planning Committee will be working closely with the Willingdon administration as the annex initiative comes to life!

I am hoping to be able to attend part of your *Information Session* on Thursday evening – my schedule permitting. Until then, I wish you well and remain.

Yours truly,



A.M. Matheson
Director General

Cc: Ms. Carmen Nicolas, Principal
Ms. Pela Nickoletopoulos, Regional Director
Me. Benoit Duheme, Deputy Director General
Ms. Evelyne Alfonsi, Deputy Director General
Mr. Joe Lalla, Commissioner