

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS OF THE
ENGLISH MONTREAL SCHOOL BOARD

A Regular Meeting of the English Montreal School Board has taken place on Tuesday, March 18, 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
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
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
Me Jack Chadirdjian, Assistant Director General, Administration
Me Nathalie Lauzière, Secretary General – via TEAMS

Mr. Jimmy Giannacopoulos, Regional Director, West
Ms. Darlene Kehyayan, Regional Director, East
Ms. Angela Spagnolo, Regional Director, AEVS
Mr. Mario Cardin, Director, Material Resources
Ms. Livia Nassivera, Director, Financial Services
Ms. Diana Nguyen, Assistant Director, Material Resources
Ms. Julie René de Cotret, Director, Student Services
Ms. Marilyn Ramlakhan, Assistant Director, Human Resources
Ms. Anna Sanalidro, Director, Educational Services
Me Magdalena Sokol, Director, Legal Services
Mr. Charalambos Thomas, Director, Information Technology Services
Ms. Angela Vaudry, Assistant Director, Human Resources
Ms. Ann Watson, 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>Awarding of King Charles III Coronation Medal to Director General Nicholas Katalifos</u></p> <p>A King Charles III medal will be presented to Director General Nicholas Katalifos by the Honorable Leo Housakos.</p> <p>In May 2023, a medal program was announced to mark the Coronation of His Majesty King Charles III.</p> <p>This program features the awarding of 30 000 Coronation Medals to those “who have made significant contributions to the country, a province, territory, region or community, or an achievement abroad that brings benefit or honour to Canada.”</p> <p>The King Charles III Coronation Medal is a way to recognize outstanding individuals of all ages and from all walks of life who have made a difference in their communities, provinces, territories or who have attained an outstanding achievement abroad that brings credit to Canada.</p> <p>Congratulations to our Director General!</p>
3.	<p><u>Robert A. Peck Prize for Excellence in French</u></p> <p>Robert Alfred Peck had been an employee of former Protestant School Board of Greater Montréal who had served as a Teacher, Department Head, Superintendent of French and was Vice-Principal of Riverdale High School before retiring in 1970.</p> <p>Mr. Peck had co-authored the textbook for the teaching of French as a second language called “Le Français pratique” which was mainstay in Protestant schools in Québec for over 20 years. He had been described by a long-time educator as “one of the best French teachers he had ever known”.</p> <p>Mr. Peck’s family had asked our Board to establish a prize in their family’s name and this was done in May 2002. The prize was awarded for the first time in December 2002 and Mr. Peck was in attendance to present the students their prize. Mr. Peck passed away in February 2006 at the age of 92.</p> <p>The prize is given annually to a graduating student or students of the EMSB who has/have achieved the highest mark in French Secondary Language.</p> <p>There are 13 recipients for the prize for 2023-2024 who attained the mark of 100%, they are:</p>

	<p><u>ROYAL WEST ACADEMY</u> Brad Coleman Marlena Long Sae Ah-Park Sophie Iny David Sun Gabrielle Pomerleau Kate Ye Madeleine Henin Levine Mia Riggi Sarah Angelica Buchignani</p> <p><u>WESTMOUNT HIGH SCHOOL</u> Gianna Clara Kim</p> <p><u>OUTREACH</u> Kasey Partington</p> <p><u>M.I.N.D. SCHOOL</u> Anaïs Mark</p> <p><u>VINCENT MASSEY COLLEGIATE</u> Sophie Béliveau Sofia Bilotto Hailey Di Spirito Sarah Fraga Paolo Oliverio Maëva Pagé Elizabeth Poulin Giannouli F. Ragusa Edmond Renaud Kayla Sarkis</p>
4.	<p><u>Nomination of Jamal (Anthony) Coleman as Student of the Month</u></p> <p>The Student of the Month for March is Jamal (Anthony) Coleman, a Grade 10 student from LaurenHill Academy in St. Laurent. Jamal is a dedicated and accomplished student who has demonstrated excellence across academics, leadership, and innovation. Jamal was recently awarded a full scholarship to Shad Academy's prestigious STEAM program, a highly competitive program that fosters innovation in science, technology, engineering, arts, and mathematics. His aptitude for programming has earned him prizes in past competitions and his passion for entrepreneurship led his team to win the Fusion Jeunesse Entrepreneurship Prize and multiple RoboCup awards as well. Beyond academics, Jamal is an honours student and an active leader in the LaurenHill community, serving as secretary on the Student Council's executive team. His commitment to both his studies and his peers makes him a true role model. Congratulations Jamal!</p>
5.	<p><u>Question Period</u></p> <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"> ➤ The amount for the EMSB's budget cut is \$2.6 million. What has the EMSB cut so far, and what else does the board expect to cut by the end of the month? ➤ Given that the EMSB invests significantly in its membership with the Quebec English School Boards Association, could Chair Ortona clarify the pedagogical and cultural benefits it brings to any EMSB classroom and school?
	<p>Ms. Jessica Houde-Woytiuk left the meeting at 7:30 p.m. and returned at 7:36 p.m.</p>

6.	<p><u>Approval of Agenda</u></p> <p>IT WAS MOVED BY MR. PIETRO MERCURI 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 # 25-03-18-6</u></p>
7.	<p><u>Adoption of Minutes</u></p> <p><u>7.1. Regular Board Meeting held on February 4, 2025</u></p> <p>IT WAS MOVED BY MS. MERIKA RAMUNDO AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED THAT the Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting held on February 4, 2025, be approved as presented.</p> <p>Vote: 15-0-0, Adopted</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><u>Resolution # 25-03-18-7</u></p>
8.	<p><u>Business Arising Out of Minutes</u></p> <p>None.</p>
9.	<p><u>Chair's Report</u></p> <p>Presented by the Chair, Mr. Joe Ortona:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Mr. Ortona deferred his report to the Director General.
10.	<p><u>Director General's Report</u></p> <p>Presented by the Director General, Mr. Nicholas Katalifos:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The Quebec Ministry of Education designated March 17th to the 21st as Violence and Bullying Prevention Week. While a variety of activities are being held throughout the EMSB network, a special presentation will take place tomorrow March 19th at Westmount Park Elementary School, featuring speaker Svens Telemaque. Quebec Education Minister, Bernard Drainville prepared video messages which we played to our students and will post on our website. Thanks to the Student Services Department team for their efforts in organizing this campaign during the course of a week; ➤ Cases of measles are being reported in different regions of Quebec at the moment. As measles is on the rise in several countries around the world, travelers may contract measles when they are abroad and be the source of outbreaks in Quebec when they return. Measles is a highly contagious respiratory disease that can result in many complications and serious consequences. In Canada, 1 in 3,000 people pass away from measles. There is no specific treatment for the disease, but it can be avoided by vaccination. Vaccination is the best way to protect yourself. A memo has been sent out to all staff and students on the subject; ➤ Dr. Christopher Labos once again spoke at his former high school, LaurenHill Academy last week. He was well received and the students really enjoyed his presentation; ➤ The EMSB Chorale is celebrating its 45th anniversary season this year. For the occasion, the choir has commissioned internationally-renowned Montreal composer Marie-Claire Saindon to write a piece which will be premiered at the Annual Spring Gala Concert on May 3rd at the Oscar Peterson Hall. Accompanying the choir will be pianist Anne-Marie Denoncourt, as well as a guest string quartet and percussionist Kristie Ibrahim. Tickets go on sale mid-March; ➤ The worlds of robotics, computer science, digital technology and art converged once again for the 24th edition of the CRC Robotics Competition: Tak Tik 2025, from February 19th to the 22nd. After months of dedicated preparation, 30 High Schools and Colleges went head-to-head to showcase their mastery in robotics and strategy at St. Pius X Carrer Centre. Mr. Katalifos attended with many

	<p>others from the management team and in-school administrators and were very impressed with the quality of the work that was done by our students;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ CF Montréal has announced the signing of EMSB Quebec Virtual Academy student, Owen Graham-Roache, a forward, to his first professional contract as a Homegrown player for the 2025 and 2026 seasons, with options for 2027, 2028 and 2029. We look forward to seeing him continue his growth at the professional level. We want to extend our congratulations to him, it's a big honor to have made it to that level professionally; ➤ Chai Lifeline an organization that serves children with cancers and other medical illnesses is doing a fundraising Gala on April 1st and they will be honoring our very own EMSB Parent Commissioner, Julie Kristof as “parent of the year”. Congratulations Julie, very well deserved! ➤ The Galileo Adult Education Centre will hold a benefit comedy show on March 29th at 7:30 p.m. at Laurier Macdonald High School. Tickets are \$40.00, with all proceeds going directly to support the valuable services provided by the Centre. Please view our Focus Newsletter for the details; ➤ Laurier Macdonald Career Centre auto-mechanics teachers Edward (Ted) Mackay, Frank Di Tirro and Dino Buontempo took part in the VIP visit of the TAG E-Karting and Amusement Center at Plaza St. Thérèse recently for the launch of the next-generation racing simulator, breathtaking experience. Quebec race car driver Alex Tagliani was on hand to unveil the new feature. Congratulations to them for being able to participate in this event!
11.	<p><u>Honoring Sharon Nelson as CBC’s Black Changemakers of 2024</u></p> <p>WHEREAS the English Montreal School Board values diversity;</p> <p>WHEREAS the English Montreal School Board values the contributions made by members of the EMSB community;</p> <p>WHEREAS Ms. Sharon Nelson has distinguished herself through her work as the vice-president of the Jamaica Association of Montreal, an organization dedicated to the development of Montreal's Jamaican community;</p> <p>WHEREAS Ms. Sharon Nelson is the Assistant Director for the Executive MBA Program at Concordia University’s John Molson School of Business and uses her knowledge and skills towards activism that helps communities be more resilient and inclusive;</p> <p>WHEREAS Ms. Sharon Nelson was recently recognized as part of the CBC’s Black Changemakers;</p> <p>IT WAS MOVED BY MR. PIETRO MERCURI AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED THAT Ms. Sharon Nelson be recognized publicly by the EMSB Council of Commissioners for her extraordinary work as a 2024 Black Changemakers and be given a public display of thanks.</p> <p>Vote: 15-0-0, Adopted</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><u>Resolution # 25-03-18-11</u></p>
12.	<p><u>In Memoriam</u></p> <p><u>12.1. Tribute for March 2025</u></p> <p>WHEREAS the Board values the contributions made by its employees;</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. JOE ORTONA AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that the Board note with regret the passing of:</p> <p>Carole Caron, Retired Teacher, Royal Vale</p> <p>and that an expression of sympathies be sent to the bereaved family.</p> <p>Vote: 15-0-0, Adopted</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><u>Resolution # 25-03-18-12.1</u></p>

13.	<p><u>For Consultation</u></p> <p><u>13.1. Proposal to Rescind Policy PS-2 – Language of Instruction for the Ethics and Religious Culture (ERC) Program</u></p> <p>WHEREAS Policy PS-2: <i>Language of Instruction for the Ethics and Religious Culture (ERC) Program</i> was adopted by the English Montreal School Board (EMSB) on April 25, 2012, as per Resolution 12-04-25-13;</p> <p>WHEREAS each department is responsible for reviewing and updating the policies and procedures within its purview;</p> <p>WHEREAS policies and procedures must be reviewed regularly to reflect changes in legislation, including the <i>Education Act</i> and the <i>Basic School Regulation</i>;</p> <p>WHEREAS Policy PS-2, concerning the language of instruction for the ERC program, is no longer relevant or applicable due to the implementation of the <i>Culture and Citizenship in Quebec (CCQ)</i> program and should therefore be rescinded;</p> <p>WHEREAS pursuant to Sections 96.25, 110.13 and 183 of the Education Act, the proposal to rescind Policy PS-2: <i>Language of Instruction for the Ethics and Religious Culture (ERC) Program</i> must be submitted for official consultation to the Central Management Advisory Committee - Resource Allocation Committee (CMAC-RAC) and the English Montreal School Board Parents' Committee (EMSBPC) should be consulted;</p> <p>WHEREAS the consultation period with these committees will conclude THIRTY (30) days following the date of this Board meeting;</p> <p>IT WAS MOVED BY MR. MARIO PIETRANGELO AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED THAT the proposed rescindment of Policy PS-2: <i>Language of Instruction for the Ethics and Religious Culture (ERC) Program</i> be approved and sent out for consultation to the Central Management Advisory Committee - Resource Allocation Committee (CMAC-RAC) and the English Montreal School Board Parents' Committee (EMSBPC).</p> <p>IT WAS FURTHER UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED THAT the results of this consultation be submitted to Nathalie Lauzière, EMSB Secretary General, no later than April 22, 2025, in accordance with the documentation presented at this meeting.</p> <p>Vote: 15-0-0, Adopted</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><u>Resolution # 25-03-18-13.1</u></p> <p><u>13.2. Proposal to Rescind Policy PS-4 – Reporting Practices</u></p> <p>WHEREAS Policy PS-4: <i>Reporting Practices</i> was adopted by the English Montreal School Board (EMSB) on June 27, 1984, as per Resolution # 84-06-27-8.10;</p> <p>WHEREAS each department is responsible for reviewing and updating the policies and procedures within its purview;</p> <p>WHEREAS policies and procedures must be reviewed regularly to reflect changes in legislation, including the <i>Education Act</i> and the <i>Basic School Regulation</i>;</p> <p>WHEREAS reporting practices and time periods have been determined by the Ministry of Education since the 2011-2012 school year, rendering Policy PS-4 no longer relevant or applicable;</p>
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WHEREAS pursuant to Sections 96.25, 110.13 and 183 of the Education Act, the proposal to rescind Policy PS-4: *Reporting Practices* must be submitted for official consultation to the Central Management Advisory Committee - Resource Allocation Committee (CMAC-RAC) and the English Montreal School Board Parents' Committee (EMSBPC) should be consulted;

WHEREAS the consultation period with these committees will conclude THIRTY (30) days following the date of this Board meeting;

IT WAS MOVED BY MS. CHELSEA CRAIG AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED THAT the proposed rescindment of Policy PS-4: *Reporting Practices* be approved and sent out for consultation to the Central Management Advisory Committee - Resource Allocation Committee (CMACRAC) and the English Montreal School Board Parents' Committee (EMSBPC).

IT WAS FURTHER UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED THAT the results of this consultation be submitted to Nathalie Lauzière, EMSB Secretary General, no later than April 22, 2025, in accordance with the documentation presented at this meeting.

Vote: 15-0-0, Adopted

Resolution # 25-03-18-13.2

13.3. Proposal to Rescind Policy PS-13 – Physical Education Safety

WHEREAS Policy PS-13: *Physical Education Safety* was adopted by the English Montreal School Board (EMS) on December 16, 1998, as per Resolution # 98-12-16-9;

WHEREAS each department is responsible for reviewing and updating the policies and procedures within its purview;

WHEREAS policies and procedures must be reviewed regularly to reflect changes in governance and to ensure alignment with the *Education Act* and the *Basic School Regulation*;

WHEREAS each school's Governing Board is responsible for establishing that school's internal rules of conduct and safety measures, including dress codes;

WHEREAS certain instructions in Policy PS-13 are outdated and no longer reflect current practices or needs;

WHEREAS pursuant to Sections 96.25, 110.13 and 183 of the Education Act, the proposal to rescind Policy PS-13: *Physical Education Safety* must be submitted for official consultation to the Central Management Advisory Committee - Resource Allocation Committee (CMACRAC) and the English Montreal School Board Parents' Committee (EMSBPC) should be consulted;

WHEREAS the consultation period with these committees will conclude THIRTY (30) days following the date of this Board meeting;

IT WAS MOVED BY MR. JAMES KROMIDA AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED THAT the proposed rescindment of Policy PS-13: *Physical Education Safety* be approved and sent out for consultation to the Central Management Advisory Committee - Resource Allocation Committee (CMAC-RAC) and the English Montreal School Board Parents' Committee (EMSBPC).

IT WAS FURTHER UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED THAT the results of this consultation be submitted to Nathalie Lauzière, EMSB Secretary General, no later than April 22, 2025, in accordance with the documentation presented at this meeting.

Vote: 15-0-0, Adopted

Resolution # 25-03-18-13.3

14.	<p><u>Real Estate Rental Rates for July 1, 2025 – June 30, 2026</u></p> <p>WHEREAS Policy BG-7 Outside Organizations – Rental Policy and Rate Structure for Use of Board Facilities requires an annual review of rental rates and proposes changes for the following year;</p> <p>WHEREAS additional fees may be applied for sanitary reasons under special circumstances;</p> <p>IT WAS MOVED BY MR. PIETRO MERCURI AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED THAT the rental rates for the use of Board facilities by outside organizations for the 2025-2026 school year are increased by 2.4% as outlined in the documentation submitted to this meeting and be applied to all facilities of the English Montreal School Board.</p> <p>Vote: 15-0-0, Adopted</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><u>Resolution # 25-03-18-14</u></p>
15.	<p><u>EMSB Code of Ethics (2025) – HR-11.1</u></p> <p>WHEREAS the Act to reinforce the protection of students, including with regard to acts of sexual violence (2024, chapter 9) introduced a new obligation, which came into effect on March 5, 2025, under section 258.0.1. of the Education Act (chapter I-13.3), for a school service centre and/or school board, and under section 54.0.1. of the Act respecting private education (chapter E 9.1) for a private educational institution, to adopt a code of ethics, in the form prescribed by the Minister;</p> <p>WHEREAS this code of ethics is applicable to members of their personnel and to any person required to work with minor students or students with handicaps, or be regularly in contact with them;</p> <p>WHEREAS every educational organization must adopt a code of ethics that includes the various sections, as well as their content, provided for in the Code of Ethics prescribed form by the Ministère de l'Éducation and therefore, these sections may not be modified in whole or in part, nor may they be removed;</p> <p>WHEREAS it remains possible for a school organization to provide any other element to the code of ethics deemed relevant, in light of the realities of its organization;</p> <p>WHEREAS the code of ethics must be adopted by April 5, 2025, be published on the organization's website and made otherwise accessible to any person who requests it;</p> <p>WHEREAS EMSB Code of Ethics HR-11 adopted in 1995, resolution # 95-03-29-6, has become obsolete and therefore needs to be rescinded;</p> <p>IT WAS MOVED BY MR. JULIEN FELDMAN THAT the proposed Code of Ethics (2025) HR- 11.1 be adopted, as outlined in the documentation submitted to the meeting.</p> <p>IT WAS FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the said Code of Ethics be published on the EMSB's website and made accessible to any person who requests it;</p> <p>IT WAS STILL FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the former EMSB Code of Ethics HR-11 adopted in 1995 be rescinded accordingly.</p> <p>An amendment was proposed by Ms. Maria Corsi to table this item and refer it to the Governance and Ethics Committee.</p> <p>Vote: 14-1-0, Adopted (Ms. Jessica Houde-Woytiuk voted against)</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><u>Resolution # 25-03-18-15</u></p>

16.	<p><u>MEQ Budgetary Reductions 2024-2025</u></p> <p>WHEREAS per Section 277 of the Education Act (Chapter I-13.3), the English Montreal School Board (EMSB) adopted on July 9, 2024 its Operating, Capital Investment, and Debt Service Budget for the 2024-2025 school year;</p> <p>WHEREAS on December 13, 2024, the EMSB received a letter from the Ministère de l'Éducation (MEQ), Bureau de la sous-ministre, indicating that the MEQ was taking actions to respect its 2024-2025 budget by March 31, 2025;</p> <p>WHEREAS consequently, a government measure is implemented for the application of a budget reduction effort by the EMSB in the amount of \$2,596,528.12;</p> <p>WHEREAS an exercise was completed with the Directorate and the Directors of all Departments to reflect this budgetary reduction in the 2024-2025 annual budget, the whole without affecting any services to students, allocations to schools and centres, school and centre operations, as well as centralized services to schools and centres;</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. JAMES KROMIDA AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED THAT the proposed MEQ Budgetary Reductions 2024-2025 be approved, as outlined in the documentation submitted to the meeting.</p> <p>Vote: 15-0-0, Adopted</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><u>Resolution # 25-03-18-16</u></p>
17.	<p><u>Director General's Reporting – As per By-Law No. 10 – Delegation of Powers</u></p> <p>This item was presented by Mr. Nick Katalifos, Director General, for information.</p>
18.	<p><u>Correspondance</u></p> <p><u>18.1. Résolution de l'Arrondissement de Saint-Léonard, Ville de Montréal, pour les Journées de la persévérance scolaire 2025</u></p> <p>This item was presented for information purposes.</p>
19.	<p><u>Committee Reports</u></p> <p><u>19.1 ACSES (Advisory Committee on Special Education Services)</u></p> <p>Item presented by Parent Commissioner, Ms. Julie Kristof:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ There has been no meeting since the last report. <p><u>19.2 Transportation and Safety Advisory Committee</u></p> <p>Item presented by the Chair of the Committee, Mr. Pietro Mercuri:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Mr. Mercuri welcomed Ms. Susan Perera to the Committee as the new Vice-Chair; ➤ The Committee received an update on the M Transport application. At the moment sixteen of our schools are using the M Transport app;

- A discussion took place with regards to the finalized budget figures for 2023-2024. Rather than a projected deficit of \$13,000 we finished with a surplus of \$1,072,000. From the figure \$892,648 remained with the EMSB, the balance was transferred back to the Ministry. For the current year budget 2024-2025, we had forecasted a surplus of \$25,568, however there is a need for another Berlin for half of the year and this will cost approximately \$20,000 leaving a surplus of \$5,000;
- A few points of information were received at the last meeting. They received a study that was conducted by the research firm IRIS, at the request of the Government of Quebec. The study shows that there was a marked increase in the number of school bus service failures between the year 2022 to 2024 due to the lack of human resources as well as conflicts with personnel. The report also says that the rest of Canada prefers that public institutions have their own fleet of vehicles, while in Quebec the preference seems to be to contract with transportation companies. The report recommends that public institutions move towards owning their own fleets in order to lessen future service issues. The FTA which is the association that the transport companies belong to responded to this report stating that the years that were brought forth in the report were no indicative as it was following the extraordinary circumstances related to the Covid pandemic, which of course increased fuel and maintenance costs and therefore has repercussions on human resources and any benefits offered to employees;
- The following items were also discussed:
 - The needs of a group of parents in RDP that are asking about a particular bus route;
 - The impacts of the relocation of students from F.A.C.E. School that may occur on their community and transport matters that are related to that;
 - The ongoing request from several families in RDP to obtain STM services for students who wish to attend Rosemount High School.

19.3 EMSBPC (English Montreal School Board Parents' Committee)

Item presented by Parent Commissioner, Ms. Merika Ramundo:

- Numerous delegates expressed concerns regarding road changes around school premises, including the installation of bike lanes that have the potential to block school access points;
- Question for further discussion/exploration: How can the EMSBPC delegates along Council of Commissioners advocate for more community consultation when it comes to the reconfiguration of roads around EMSB schools?
- Thanks to the EMSB senior administration for taking into consideration the recommendations proposed by the EMSBPC regarding the processes involved in conducting the Educational Project survey across the school board. These recommendations will be brought forward again by the PC when the survey roll out is being planned in a year and half/two years time;
- Thanks to EMSB senior administration for their formal response regarding the implementation and use of service account email addresses for governing board use across the system. Senior administration reported that they will not provide EMSB governing board email addresses for numerous reasons. The Parents' Committee will follow up on this item at a later date;
- 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) recently partnered with public health expert Dr. Méliissa Généreux from the University of Sherbrooke to conduct a second edition of the survey focusing on the well-being of Quebec families. 11,000 parents responded to the survey. Key takeaways:
 - Quality of life scores remain suboptimal for many children;
 - Screen time dominates high school students' free time, reducing engagement in other activities;
 - By Grade 3, one-third of children are online, and connectivity becomes the norm in high school;
 - Social media and video game use continue to rise, highlighting concerns about their addictive nature;
 - Problematic screen use should be closely monitored, as it has a greater negative impact on quality of life than overall screen time;

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Social anxiety, bullying, and discrimination remain major challenges for children; <p>➤ EPCA is organizing a discussion about the survey with parents. It's scheduled for April 22nd at 7 p.m. More details will be found on the EPCA Facebook page.</p> <p><u>19.4 Governance and Ethics Committee</u></p> <p>Item presented by the Chair of the Committee, Mr. Mario Pietrangelo:</p> <p>➤ The Committee met on February 11th to grant 2 extensions for the Ethics Commissioner, a third extension was granted by an e-vote;</p> <p>➤ There was also a Professional Development Session held for all Commissioners on Social Media. Mr. Pietrangelo thanked Mr. Mike Cohen for organizing this event.</p> <p><u>19.5 Audit Committee</u></p> <p>Item presented by the Chair of the Committee, Ms. Paula Kilian:</p> <p>➤ The Audit Committee met on February 19, 2025. The Committee was presented with the Auditors Report for 2023-2024 on Internal Controls for IT as well as for Operations;</p> <p>➤ The manager of Internal Audit, Markela Zyglakis, presented the 2024-2025 Report on the Audit Plan.</p> <p><u>19.6 Human Resources Committee</u></p> <p>Item presented by the Chair of the Committee, Mr. Mario Pietrangelo</p> <p>➤ The Committee met on March 13th, the Committee will begin reviewing the mandate of the Human Resources Committee;</p> <p>➤ The Director General, Mr. Katalifos presented the objectives for 2024-2025;</p> <p>➤ At the next meeting the Committee should be discussing the new staff ratio.</p> <p><u>19.7 CGTSIM (Comité de gestion de la taxe scolaire de l'île de Montréal)</u></p> <p>Item presented by the Representative Member on the Committee, Mr. Joe Ortona:</p> <p>➤ The CGTSIM went over the tenders for cleaning products, hygiene products and also for lights, furniture, chemical products, sanitary products and winter carpets;</p> <p>➤ The president term has been vacant since November 2024. Mr. Di Bello was the only person who had put his name forward and is the newly elected president of the CGTSIM. He had been serving as president since 2019 and is also a Commissioner from the Lester B. Pearson School Board. Congratulations Mr. Di Bello on his presidency!</p> <p><u>19.8 EMSAC (English Montreal Student Advisory Committee)</u></p> <p>➤ Nothing to report, no Commissioners attended.</p>
20.	<p><u>Commissioners' Report</u></p> <p>Item presented by Vice-Chair, Mr. James Kromida:</p> <p>➤ Dr. Christopher Labos visited LaurenHill Academy Senior, where it was a huge success, the students were very interested in what Dr. Labos had to say. Ken Connors from CJAD was present and MCing with Mr. Mike Cohen. Dr. Labos discussed about measles, how to avoid it and how its caused. Mr. Kromida asked to have Dr. Labos present at the junior campus as well. It was an exceptional event and had a great impact on the students.</p>

Item present by Commissioner, Ms. Sharon Nelson:

- Ms. Nelson alongside Mr. Ortona had the opportunity to meet with Counsellor Despina Sourias as well Mayor Gracia Kasoki Katahwa to talk about the bus lanes near St. Monica. There was a great opening to the fact that the borough would like to work with the school to see the possibilities as there are many concerns. There has been at least one accident there that was traumatic for many. This information was reported to the Governing Board and they were very excited about that;
- In collaboration with Star Can Cultural Association and the Jamaica Association, the EMSB was able to partake in the Black History Month Expo for the second year in a row. However, this year the Expo was taken into two EMSB schools, Royal West Academy and James Lyng where we highlighted Black Montrealers that have impacted the city. At James Lyng there was an art contest and the winning piece will be revealed at a community fair that's being held at André-Laurendeau. For Royal West, we want to really commend and thank Makayle Goldsmith who was the driving force. A big thank you to the EMSB in support of community and school coming together.

Item presented by Commissioner, Ms. Paula Kilian:

- The Principal of John F. Kennedy Adult Education Centre, Ms. Lagodich was very proud to share the following updates on the Sequoia program:
 - Student evaluations have shown good progress;
 - There has been a significant improvement in attendance;
 - There is marked improvement in the emotional and social development of the students;
 - There has been a visible change in the students confidence and self-esteem.
- The Grade 6 students at Carlyle Elementary School had their annual exhibition event for their IB Program;
- Also at Carlyle Elementary School, this week is Winter Carnival, many fun activities have been planned and the students were treated to hot chocolate and Maple taffy on snow;
- Ms. Kilian along with Mr. Ortona were invited to a FIRST Robotics Competition on March 7th. The President of the Professional Order of Engineers was present. It was fascinating to see all the students and we were very happy to meet the team from Westmount High School and teacher Mr. Leclaire who was very proud to introduce his students and to show us their robot and to talk about the program. Ms. Kilian shares an email from Mr. Leclaire which describes the program. They are called the West Tech Paladins 7700, they were founded in 2018. They are the only robotics team in the English Montreal School Board associated with the FIRST Robotics Organization. FIRST stands for: *For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology*. It's a non-profit entity that promotes science and technology for students to enter career related fields. Students are immersed in complex engineering challenges and strategic game play where they grow from this highly collaborative environment. They develop skills and teamwork, logic, communication and critical thinking all while having fun and building self-confidence. Westmount High School has two after school robotics programs running concurrently. The first tech challenge which is our junior robotics and the FIRST Robotics Competition which is the senior robotics program. The overall team consists of roughly 27 dedicated students annually. They compete in two competitions: the first tech challenge which runs between September and February and the FIRST Robotics Competition which takes place between January and April. Additionally, as part of the growing STEAM Program, we also have a robotics class in Grade 9 that uses the tech challenge as the basis of the curriculum for building robots which also provides students with the opportunity to learn programming and computer assisted design.

Item presented by Commissioner, Ms. Chelsea Craig:

- Coronation Elementary School celebrated its 100th day of school by having a parade throughout the school.
- Ms. Craig was invited to attend the Black History Month presentation at Marymount Academy. The presentation was given by our community representative on our Governing Board, Simeon Pompey. Mr. Pompey walked the students through the history of the slaves trade. He had many objects that the students could examine. It was really amazing to be able to be part of an extremely moving presentation;

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Ms. Craig was also invited to speak to the Canadian Jewish Political Affairs Committee. Ms. Craig expressed how it was nice to be able to talk about her experience as a young candidate who ran in the School Board elections; ➤ Lastly, Ms. Craig took a moment to acknowledge that March 8th was International Women's Day, a day to celebrate the contributions and achievements of women across the globe. Education has played a key role in changing how women are viewed and valued in our society. Education continues to be a cornerstone of opportunity and progress not just for women but for everybody in Quebec. The EMSB and all of our other School Boards also play a vital role in ensuring the vitality of the English-speaking community, yet despite being the backbone of our society education professionals remain underpaid and undervalued. In this province, women were only granted the right to vote in 1940. While we have made significant strides since, the barriers still exist. Women supporting women is a real thing. Ms. Craig is immensely proud to serve alongside strong women and dedicated allies. She thanked everyone so much for fighting the good fight and wished every single lady a Happy International Women's Day! <p>Item presented by Commissioner, Mr. Mario Pietrangelo:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Mr. Pietrangelo was not able to attend this year, however on February 24th the Laurier Macdonald Adult Education Centre held the Regional School Olympics for welding.
21.	<p><u>Report of the Executive Committee Meeting held on February 4, 2025</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Group Purchasing – Centre d'acquisitions gouvernementales (CAG) – Tender 2025-7520-80 – Acquisition et renouvellement de licences Microsoft pour l'éducation - Group Purchasing – Centre d'acquisitions gouvernementales (CAG) – Tender 2025-8079-80 – Natural Gas - Awarding of Construction Contract – P-1915 – Royal Vale School – Major Renovation Project
22.	<p><u>Other Business</u></p> <p>None.</p>
23.	<p><u>Adjournment</u></p> <p>IT WAS MOVED BY MS. CHELSEA CRAIG AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED THAT the meeting be adjourned at 8:44 p.m.</p> <p>Vote: 15-0-0, Adopted</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><u>Resolution # 25-03-18-26</u></p>
	<p>Signed in Montreal, _____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>Mr. Joe Ortona, Chair</p> <p>_____</p> <p>Me Nathalie Lauzière, Secretary General</p>