

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS OF THE  
ENGLISH MONTREAL SCHOOL BOARD

A Regular Meeting of the English Montreal School Board has taken place on Tuesday, April 29, 2025, at 7:00 P.M. in the Library Room of St. Pius X Career Centre, 9955 Papineau 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

Mr. Jimmy Giannacopoulos, Regional Director, West  
Ms. Darlene Kehyayan, Regional Director, East  
Ms. Angela Spagnolo, Regional Director, AEVS  
Ms. Sandra Léveillé, Director, School Organization  
Ms. Livia Nassivera, Director, Financial Services  
Ms. Julie René de Cotret, Director, Student Services  
Ms. Marilyn Ramlakhan, Assistant Director, Human Resources  
Ms. Anna Sanalitra, 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"> <li>• Educating staff and students about the true history and current realities of the Indigenous Peoples of what we now call Canada.</li> <li>• Celebrating the cultures, contributions, and knowledge of the many First Nations, Inuit, and Métis communities.</li> <li>• Listening to and amplifying Indigenous voices.</li> <li>• And partnering with local Indigenous community members.</li> </ul> <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>Nomination of Carina Messina as Student of the Month</u></p> <p>The Student of the Month for April is Carina Messina from Leonardo Da Vinci Academy in RDP. Carina is a dedicated role model who has consistently stepped up and showed excellent leadership and citizenship skills in the LDVA community. In preparation for the school's annual Gala, which will hopefully raise over \$20,000 for the Montreal Neurological Institute, Carina has served as a mentor to younger students teaching them choreography while learning her own dances as well. She is consistently regarded as a considerate and respectful community leader who always goes above and beyond to make others feel welcomed and acknowledged. Congratulations Carina!</p>
3.	<p><u>Presentation of EMSB's Lifetime Achievement Award</u></p> <p>The EMSB's Lifetime Achievement Award is awarded to Lew Lewis. Congratulations!</p>
4.	<p><u>Volunteer Recognition Ceremony</u></p> <p>In celebration of National Volunteer Week, the EMSB is pleased to present the Volunteers of Distinction, Avice Roberts-Joseph from St. Monica School and Veronica Reis from Bancroft School.</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"> <li>➤ Commissioners' Remuneration</li> <li>➤ Question Period</li> </ul>
6.	<p><u>Approval of Agenda</u></p> <p>IT WAS MOVED BY MS. CHELSEA CRAIG AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED THAT the agenda be approved with the removal of the following items:</p> <p>14.2 – Teachers' Staffing Changes 2025-2026 – Teachers (Tenured) Assigned to Regular Substitution for Reasons of Surplus</p> <p>14.3 – Teachers' Staffing Changes 2025-2026 – Teachers Placed on Availability (Tenured) for Reasons of Surplus</p> <p>Vote: 15-0-0, Adopted</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><u>Resolution # 25-04-29-6</u></p>

7.	<p><u>Adoption of Minutes</u></p> <p><u>7.1. Regular Board Meeting held on March 18, 2025</u></p> <p>IT WAS MOVED BY MR. PIETRO MERCURI AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED THAT the Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting held on March 18, 2025, be approved as presented.</p> <p>Vote: 15-0-0, Adopted</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><u>Resolution # 25-04-29-7.1</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"> <li>➤ The National Assembly has deposited Bill 94, which is the expansion of Bill 21 that applies to all the employees of the EMSB which is the removal of anything tied to religion. There are measures now in place to bar exceptions to be given to students who miss exams due to religious holidays. There are no more accommodations of any kind for personal days or paid days for employees due to religious holidays, and the banning of wearing religious symbols which has been already in place under Bill 21. The EMSB has already voiced their position against Bill 21 which is being contested all the way to the Supreme Court of Canada. The QESBA has been invited to the Parliamentary Commission on Education and Culture to speak about Bill 94. It was a very heated debate. They expressed how we remain firm and stand by our principles and values and do not agree with this. The EMSB is an institution, and our schools should be secular and should not promote one religion over others;</li> <li>➤ Mr. Ortona attended the Chai Lifeline Gala – Rebuilding Dreams, where many people were given various honors. One of our very own Parent Commissioner, Ms. Julie Kristof, was recognized as parent of the year. It was a beautiful event where people from our community came together and were recognized for their great accomplishments;</li> <li>➤ The decision on Bill 40 was presented from the Court of Appeal of Quebec with a tremendous win. Every section of the Bill that was being contested except for one small one was deemed unconstitutional. It was a unanimous decision, which means that if the government of Quebec does decide to appeal, they must seek permission from the Supreme Court to be granted the right to appeal. This decision concludes that nothing will change for the EMSB and will continue to run as a School Board. The EMSB continues to show management and control over its schools and the education system which shows proof of responsibility and accountability;</li> <li>➤ April 23<sup>rd</sup> was Holocaust Remembrance Day. A beautiful event that took place at the Montreal Holocaust Museum. Many of the Holocaust survivors in attendance were asked to light candles. Every year, there are less and less Holocaust survivors as many are in their 80's and 90's. It is important that they continue to tell their stories so that they will be remembered in the years to come. Hate is still very much alive in Canada and throughout the world and as a community we must recognize it and speak against it. We must be human with one another and treat each other with dignity and respect, kindness, tolerance and acceptance.</li> </ul>
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"> <li>➤ Mr. Katalifos congratulated Mr. Ortona for the leadership he has shown within our community;</li> <li>➤ Three in-school administrators have been confirmed in their position. Effective July 1<sup>st</sup>, Mr. David Lee will be Principal at Merton School, Ms. Cynthia Canale will be Principal at Honoré Mercier School and Ms. Jessica Doubt will be Vice-Principal at Willingdon School. On behalf of the Board</li> </ul>

	<p>Administrators, congratulations to everyone and best wishes in their new endeavors. Between March 23<sup>rd</sup> and March 25<sup>th</sup>, over 160 high school and college level exhibitors took part in Expo Sciences Hydro-Québec and representing the EMSB was Royal West Academy. Guided by science teachers, Ms. Jessica Fogel and Mr. Adam Wiltzer, Royal West sent 9 projects to the event and won several awards. Congratulations to the team from Royal West!</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ On Friday, April 11<sup>th</sup>, to mark the one-year anniversary of the passing of community hero Eddie Nolan, Roslyn Elementary School held a commemorative assembly and walk in his memory. Before the walk began, the students presented a special plaque to Mrs. Mary Nolan. Mr. Nolan, who worked at Roslyn for 13 years, spearheaded the school's Annual Terry Fox Run in the Fall and raised an estimated \$250,000. Although Mr. Nolan worked for several other schools during his career, he always felt a very strong connection to Roslyn returning every year to waive the Terry Fox flag and spread Terry's message of Hope;</li> <li>➤ In the first ever event of its kind, more than 600 students from 75 French and English high schools gathered on this day at the Centre Mont-Royal for the <i>Rendez-vous jeunesse sur la démocratie scolaire</i>. This event was organized by the Table of Directors General and Assistant Directors General of all the 5 School Boards and or School Service Centres on the island of Montreal. The objective of the event was for student council members at the secondary level to express their views and debate proposals on issues that are important and relevant to them. Thank you to Mr. Paul Carpentine and his team for putting together this event;</li> <li>➤ Royal Vale officially unveiled the Marco Scandella Fitness Centre on April 25<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Scandella, a Royal Vale graduate, recently announced his retirement after a 14-year career as a National Hockey League defenseman. He made a generous donation of \$30,000, which will be used for scholarships and sport memorabilia to be displayed in the state-of-the-art fitness room. Mr. Scandella addressed the student body, answered questions and unveiled the sign for the fitness centre;</li> <li>➤ Congratulations to Sheri Cameron, a Science and Physical Education Teacher at Lauren Hill Academy and Karen Allen, a Guidance Counsellor at Westmount High School for being awarded the King Charles III Coronation Medal;</li> <li>➤ Grade 6 students at Carlyle Elementary School wrote a song on mental health and the different factors that can affect our well-being. The song has already been featured on Global News and City TV Montreal. Congratulations to the students and team at Carlyle;</li> <li>➤ The EMSB Chorale's 45<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations continue as they hosted an alumni <i>Cinq à sept</i> on April 25<sup>th</sup> where many former choristers originally from the PSBGM Chorale were in attendance. Celebrations will continue at their Annual Spring Gala Concert on May 3<sup>rd</sup> at 7:00 p.m. at the Oscar Peterson Hall;</li> <li>➤ Laurier Macdonald Career Centre welcomed Quebec racecar driver Alex Tagliani to their campus. Mr. Tagliani is recognized for his impressive career in various racing categories, including IndyCar and NASCAR. A new collaboration has been established between the two parties and LMAC students will be eligible for internships at his Tag E-Karting &amp; Amusement Centre in Saint-Thérèse. Thank you to Mr. Tagliani for all of his help and for partnering up with the LMAC Career Centre.</li> </ul>
11.	<p><u>Proposed Schedule of Meetings – 2025-2026</u></p> <p><u>11.1 Draft By-Law No. 1 (2025) – To Affix the Date, Time and Place of the Regular Meetings of the English Montreal School Board</u></p> <p><b>WHEREAS</b> Section 162 of the Education Act requires that the Council of Commissioners establish, by by-law, the day, time and place of its regular meetings;</p> <p><b>WHEREAS</b> in accordance with Section 392 of the Education Act, public notice of the by-law must be given at least 30 days prior to its adoption;</p> <p><u>Amendment:</u> Ms. Paula Kilian proposed to move the meeting of March 10, 2026 to March 17, 2026.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Vote on amendment: 15-0-0</p>

	<p>IT WAS MOVED BY MR. MARIO PIETRANGELO AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED THAT:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>a) approval be given to Draft By-Law No. 1 (2025) setting the day, time and place of regular meetings of the English Montreal School Board during the 2025-2026 school session;</li><li>b) final approval of By-Law No. 1 (2025) be given at the regular meeting of the Board to be held on June 17, 2025.</li></ul> <p>Vote: 15-0-0, Adopted</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><u>Resolution # 25-04-29-11.1</u></p> <p><u>11.2 Draft By-Law No. 4 (2025) – To Affix the Date, Time and Place of the Regular Meetings of the Executive Committee of the English Montreal School Board</u></p> <p><b>WHEREAS</b> Section 162 of the Education Act requires that the regular meetings of the Executive Committee be established, by by-law;</p> <p><b>WHEREAS</b> in accordance with Section 392 of the Education Act, public notice of the by-law must be given at least 30 days prior to its adoption;</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;"><u>Amendment:</u> Ms. Sharon Nelson proposed to move the meeting of March 10, 2026 to March 17, 2026.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Vote on amendment: 15-0-0</p> <p>IT WAS MOVED BY MR. PIETRO MERCURI AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED THAT:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>a) approval be given to Draft By-Law No. 4 (2025) setting the day, time and place of regular meetings of the Executive Committee of the English Montreal School Board during the 2025-2026 school session;</li><li>b) final approval of By-Law No. 4 (2025) be given at the regular meeting of the Board to be held on June 17, 2025.</li></ul> <p>Vote: 15-0-0, Adopted</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><u>Resolution # 25-04-29-11.2</u></p>
12.	<p><u>For Consultation</u></p> <p><u>12.1 Proposal for Expanding the Academic Program at Options High School, Outreach High School and Perspectives II High School to Include Secondary 3</u></p> <p><b>WHEREAS</b> Options High School and Outreach High School and Perspectives II High School are outreach schools for vulnerable and at-risk students;</p> <p><b>WHEREAS</b> Options High School and Outreach High School and Perspectives II High School currently serve students in Secondary 4 and 5;</p> <p><b>WHEREAS</b> Options High School and Outreach High School and Perspectives II High School propose the addition of Secondary 3 program;</p> <p><b>WHEREAS</b> the EMSB Long Range Planning Committee recommends that Options High School and Outreach High School and Perspectives II High School add Secondary 3 to their academic program;</p> <p>IT WAS MOVED BY MS. CHELSEA CRAIG AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED THAT the Board proceed to a consultation process, as recommended by the Long Range Planning Committee with respect to Options High School and Outreach High School and Perspectives II High School, to add Secondary 3 to their academic program for the 2025-2026 school year;</p>

	<p>IT WAS FURTHER UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED THAT Options High School and Outreach High School and Perspectives II High School principals, EMSB Parents' Committee, James Lyng High School governing board, James Lyng Adult Education Centre governing board, Venture High School and Elizabeth High School and Focus High School and Perspectives I High School principals be invited to submit their views by no later than June 2, 2025.</p> <p>Vote: 15-0-0, Adopted</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><u>Resolution # 25-04-29-12.1</u></p> <p><u>12.2 Proposed Three-Year Plan for the Allocation and Destination of Immovables 2025-2028</u></p> <p><b>WHEREAS</b> Section 211 of the Education Act requires school boards to establish a Three-Year Plan for the allocation and destination of its immovables on an annual basis;</p> <p><b>WHEREAS</b> the said Section also requires school boards to issue a deed of establishment for each school and adult education and vocational training centre under its jurisdiction;</p> <p>IT WAS MOVED BY MR. JAMES KROMIDA AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED THAT, as recommended by the Long Range Planning Committee, the proposed Three-Year Plan for the Allocation and Destination of Immovables 2025-26, 2026-27 and 2027-28 be approved for the purpose of consultation with the English Montreal School Board Parents' Committee (EMSBPC), the municipalities on the Board's territory and the Advisory Committee on Special Education Services (ACSES);</p> <p>IT WAS FURTHER UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED THAT the EMSBPC, the municipalities on the Board's territory and ACSES be invited to forward their views on the matter by Monday, June 2, 2025.</p> <p>Vote: 15-0-0, Adopted</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><u>Resolution # 25-04-29-12.2</u></p>
13.	<p><u>Following Consultation</u></p> <p><u>13.1 Rescindment of Policy PS-2 – Language of Instruction for the Ethics and Religious Culture (ERC) Program</u></p> <p><b>WHEREAS</b> the Policy PS-2 - Language of Instruction for the Ethics and Religious Culture (ERC) Program was adopted by the English Montreal School Board on April 25, 2012, as per Resolution #12-04-25-13;</p> <p><b>WHEREAS</b> the Board approved resolution #25-03-18-13.1 on March 18, 2025, permitting that Policy PS-2 to be rescinded be sent out for consultation purposes to the following groups:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Central Management Advisory Committee - Resource Allocation Committee (CMAC- RAC);</li> <li>- English Montreal School Board Parents' Committee (EMSBPC);</li> </ul> <p><b>WHEREAS</b> the feedback received from the parties consulted was taken into consideration;</p> <p>IT WAS MOVED BY MS. JESSICA HOUDE-WOYTIUK AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED THAT the Council of Commissioners approve the rescindment of PS-2 – Language of Instruction for the Ethics and Religious Culture (ERC) Program, as submitted to the meeting, effective immediately.</p> <p>Vote: 15-0-0, Adopted</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><u>Resolution # 25-04-29-13.1</u></p> <p><u>13.2 Rescindment of Policy PS-4 – Reporting Practices</u></p> <p><b>WHEREAS</b> the Policy PS-4 – Reporting Practices was adopted by the English Montreal School Board on June 27, 1984, as per Resolution #84-06-27-8.10;</p>

	<p><b>WHEREAS</b> the Board approved resolution #25-03-18-13.2 on March 18, 2025, permitting that Policy PS-4 to be rescinded be sent out for consultation purposes to the following groups:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Central Management Advisory Committee - Resource Allocation Committee (CMAC- RAC);</li> <li>- English Montreal School Board Parents' Committee (EMSBPC);</li> </ul> <p><b>WHEREAS</b> the feedback received from the parties consulted was taken into consideration;</p> <p>IT WAS MOVED BY MS. JESSICA HOUDE-WOYTIUK AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED THAT the Council of Commissioners approve the rescindment of PS-4 – Reporting Practices, as submitted to the meeting, effective immediately.</p> <p>Vote: 15-0-0, Adopted</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><u>Resolution # 25-04-29-13.2</u></p> <p><u>13.3 Rescindment of Policy PS-13 – Physical Education Safety</u></p> <p><b>WHEREAS</b> the Policy PS-13 – Physical Education Safety was adopted by the English Montreal School Board on December 16, 1998, as per Resolution #98-12-16-9;</p> <p><b>WHEREAS</b> the Board approved resolution #25-03-18-13.3 on March 18, 2025, permitting that Policy PS-4 to be rescinded be sent out for consultation purposes to the following groups:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Central Management Advisory Committee - Resource Allocation Committee (CMAC- RAC);</li> <li>- English Montreal School Board Parents' Committee (EMSBPC);</li> </ul> <p><b>WHEREAS</b> the feedback received from the parties consulted was taken into consideration;</p> <p>IT WAS MOVED BY MR. PIETRO MERCURI AND RESOLVED THAT the Council of Commissioners approve the rescindment of PS-13 – Physical Education Safety, as submitted to the meeting, effective immediately.</p> <p>Vote: 11-4-0, Adopted (Ms. Jessica Houde-Woytiuk, Ms. Julie Kristof, Ms. Merika Ramundo and Ms. Jennifer Rutt voted against)</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><u>Resolution # 25-04-29-13.3</u></p>
14.	<p><u>Teachers' Staffing Changes 2025-2026</u></p> <p><u>14.1 Non-Re-Engagement of Teachers (Non-Tenured) for Reasons of Surplus</u></p> <p><b>WHEREAS</b> the English Montreal School Board has a surplus of six teachers in category 101 English Elementary Generalists, two teachers in category 104 Physical Education Elementary, and one teacher in category 126 Mathematics Secondary;</p> <p><b>WHEREAS</b> in conformity with the process outlined in Clause 5-3.00 Section B of the Teachers' Collective Agreement, a list of teachers has been pre-identified;</p> <p><b>WHEREAS</b> the nine aforementioned teachers have not achieved tenure as per Article 5-3.03 of the said Collective Agreement;</p> <p>IT WAS MOVED BY MR. MARIO PIETRANGELO AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED THAT as per the conditions established in clauses 5-3.16, 5-3.19, 5-3.21, 5-3.22, and 5-3.23 of the 2023-2028 Teachers' Collective Agreement, the English Montreal School Board terminate the engagement of the following nine non-tenured teachers for reasons of surplus effective July 1, 2025:</p>

	<u>Name</u>	<u>Category</u>	<u>Seniority</u>
	Caroline Gifuni	101	06-122
	Robin Ann Schulz-Peissel	101	06-122
	Taylor Madew	101	06-119
	Karaline Vlahopoulos	101	06-019
	Jenna Garizzi	101	05-170
	Stephanie Sorella	101	04-040
	Francis Martin	104	10-128
	Deep Patel	104	06-181
	Lisa Gumbs	126	03-085
	Vote: 15-0-0, Adopted		
	Resolution # 25-04-29-14.1		
	<u>14.2 Teachers (Tenured) Assigned to Regular Substitution for Reasons of Surplus</u>		
	Item Removed		
	<u>14.3 Teachers Placed on Availability (Tenured) for Reasons of Surplus</u>		
	Item Removed		
15.	<u>EMSB Code of Ethics (2025) – HR-11.1</u>		
	<p><b>WHEREAS</b> 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><b>WHEREAS</b> this Code of Ethics is applicable to members of their personnel and to any person required to work with minor students or students with special needs, or be regularly in contact with them;</p> <p><b>WHEREAS</b> 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><b>WHEREAS</b> 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><b>WHEREAS</b> 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><b>WHEREAS</b> 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><b>WHEREAS</b> EMSB's Governance and Ethics Committee Members met on April 15<sup>th</sup> to review the documentation submitted;</p> <p>IT WAS MOVED BY CHELSEA CRAIG THAT, AS RECOMMENDED BY THE GOVERNANCE AND ETHICS COMMITTEE, 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 MOVED 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 MOVED THAT former EMSB Code of Ethics HR-11 adopted in 1995 be rescinded accordingly.</p> <p>Ms. Paula Kilian proposed the following amendment:</p> <p>Paragraph 2.3 should read “must not promote” instead of <i>must avoid promoting</i>.</p> <p>Vote on amendment: 15-0-0, Adopted</p> <p>Mr. Julien Feldman proposed to add in the <i>Legal and Regulatory Framework</i> section the EMSB resolution #21-05-05-12 entitled <i>International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA)</i>.</p> <p>Vote on amendment: 14-1-0, Adopted (Ms. Jessica Houde-Woytiuk voted against)</p> <p>Vote on main motion including amendments: 15-0-0, Unanimously resolved and adopted.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><u>Resolution # 25-04-29-15</u></p>
16.	<p><u>Resolution Calling on the Government to Keep F.A.C.E. School</u></p> <p><b>WHEREAS</b> the Fine Arts Core Education (F.A.C.E. School) is a unique and irreplaceable institution in Quebec, offering a bilingual, bicultural, and arts-focused education under a rare and successful cohabitation model between the Centre de services scolaire de Montréal (CSSDM) and the English Montreal School Board (EMSB);</p> <p><b>WHEREAS</b> F.A.C.E. School, established in 1975 and housed in the historic High School of Montreal building on University Street, has served generations of students from both the anglophone and francophone communities;</p> <p><b>WHEREAS</b> the century-old building urgently requires major renovations for the safety and security of students and personnel, which the Ministère de l’Éducation had previously committed to fund, including the cost of relocating both the elementary and high school students during the work;</p> <p><b>WHEREAS</b> the Ministère de l’Éducation has now withdrawn its support for the rehabilitation project, without warning, and without any meaningful consultation with either the CSSDM or the EMSB;</p> <p><b>WHEREAS</b> the Ministère’s withdrawal of its support for the rehabilitation project risks permanently splitting the elementary and high school programs into separate facilities starting in the 2025–26 academic year, and directly undermines F.A.C.E.’s longstanding and pedagogically valuable model of unity and cohabitation;</p> <p><b>WHEREAS</b> the EMSB has heard the clearly expressed desire of F.A.C.E. parents and staff to maintain the unique model of unity and cohabitation whereby all F.A.C.E. elementary and high school students of the CSSDM and EMSB remain in one shared building;</p> <p><b>WHEREAS</b> the EMSB is committed to proactively exploring options to preserve the F.A.C.E. School’s unique and valuable model of unity and cohabitation;</p> <p><b>WHEREAS</b> the EMSB invites the Minister to consider whether there are potential changes to the rehabilitation project that would sufficiently reduce costs to allow F.A.C.E. School to return to its current location, without impacting safety and security of students and staff;</p> <p><b>WHEREAS</b> the EMSB is exploring as an alternative the possibility of using the site of the former St. Raphael School of the EMSB at 8735 Henri-Julien, Montréal H2M 1M5, for the construction of a new state-of-the-art facility specifically designed for the arts to house elementary and high school students of the CSSDM and EMSB together;</p>

	<p>IT WAS MOVED BY MR. JOE ORTONA AND MS. MARIA CORSI AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED THAT the Council of Commissioners of the EMSB invites the Minister to consider whether there are potential changes to the rehabilitation project that would sufficiently reduce costs to allow F.A.C.E. School to return to its current location, without impacting safety and security of students and staff;</p> <p>IT WAS FURTHER UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED THAT the Council of Commissioners of the EMSB mandates the Administration to study the possibility of using the site of the former St. Raphael School of the EMSB at 8735 Henri-Julien, Montréal H2M 1M5 for the construction of a new state-of-the-art facility specifically designed for the arts to house elementary and high school students of the CSSDM and EMSB together, for future community consultation following a preliminary analysis by Council.</p> <p>Vote: 15-0-0, Adopted</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><u>Resolution # 25-04-29-16</u></p>
17.	<p><u>Deposit of Ethics Commissioner Decision - S. Perez vs. P. Kilian - 2025-04</u></p> <p>Deposit of the Decision of Me Vincent Guida, Ethics Commissioner dated April 17, 2025, S. Perez vs. P. Kilian.</p>
18.	<p><u>Committee Reports</u></p> <p><u>18.1 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"> <li>➤ The committee met on April 7<sup>th</sup>. They reviewed the budget priorities. It is a critical part of the process of aligning a committee's or group's priorities with action;</li> <li>➤ The committee looked at the priorities around paramedical services and work-oriented training paths. One thing that came up was to really have a better understanding of the line between where rehab services stop and where services are offered by schools. The schools work with a triage system, but parents are asking for some transparency around timelines and what can be expected;</li> <li>➤ Budget and budget cuts were also discussed. It would be helpful to understand what the playbook is regarding the priorities of the ACSES Committee and what they can anticipate in planning strategically for the future;</li> <li>➤ An exciting program is starting at John Grant called Brilliant Minds and Bright Futures on May 15<sup>th</sup>, which is a coming together and celebration of our neurodivergent community. It is inspiring to see that our schools are reaching out to the community and helping our students gain awareness of community resources. This event will take place between 6:00 p.m. and 8:30 p.m.</li> </ul> <p><u>18.2 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"> <li>➤ The committee discussed the updated transport budget for 2024-2025. With the addition of an extra Berlin from February to June 2025 costing \$18,000, an extra minibus from March to June 2025 costing \$12,000, and an extra taxi service from March to June 2025 costing \$18,000, the deficit is \$42,000;</li> <li>➤ For the 2024-2025 school year, high school parents will be receiving transportation allocation checks of \$180 to defray the costs of bus passes for students residing more than 2.4 km from their school and who are on the EMSB territory;</li> <li>➤ The EMSB will continue to provide transport to Giant Steps, Yaldei, Summit and Vanguard Schools for the 2025-2026 school year;</li> <li>➤ Regarding the request to obtain public transportation services for students that reside in Rivière-des-Prairies who wish to attend Rosemount High School, the committee has decided to write a letter to the entire borough council of Rivière-des-Prairies–Pointe-aux-Trembles to ask for their assistance on the ongoing request.</li> </ul>

### 18.3 EMSBPC (English Montreal School Board Parents' Committee)

Item presented by Parent Commissioner, Ms. Merika Ramundo:

- The committee discussed the budget building process. The following were their priorities in order of importance:
  - Significantly increase current staffing ratios and weighted staffing ratios for professionals;
  - Continue to invest, develop and improve programs, professional services and resources;
  - Ensure food programs are maintained throughout the year without compromise to nutritional guidelines;
  - Continue to invest and improve the physical learning environment for students by increasing funding for security, health and safety;
  - Continue to invest and improve in new technologies in our schools;
  - Improved training for all teachers with regards to artificial intelligence and ethical use of it;
  - Request additional funds to reimburse public transportation fares for high school students;
  - Continue to invest and maintain the ongoing marketing of our schools;
  - The English Parents' Committee Association has launched a consultation on Bill 94. The EMSBPC will be participating in the process;
  - A third letter has been written and sent to the Administration regarding the Board-wide use of EMSB e-mail addresses by EMSB Governing Boards;
  - Recently, the English Parents' Committee Association held two workshops. On April 22<sup>nd</sup>, the first workshop was given by Dr. Méliissa G  n  reux from the University of Sherbrooke, where she presented the findings on the National Survey on Family Well-Being. On April 28<sup>th</sup>, the second workshop was on Digital Literacy. There will be two upcoming workshops Managing Challenging Behaviors to be held on May 5<sup>th</sup> and Consent and Boundaries on May 21<sup>st</sup>.

### 18.4 Governance and Ethics Committee

Item presented by the Chair of the Committee, Mr. Mario Pietrangelo:

- The committee met to discuss the new Code of Ethics.

### 18.5 Audit Committee

Item presented by the Chair of the Committee, Ms. Paula Kilian:

- There has been no meeting since the last report. The next scheduled meeting is June 4<sup>th</sup>.

### 18.6 Human Resources Committee

Item presented by the Chair of the Committee, Mr. Mario Pietrangelo:

- There has been no meeting since the last report. The next scheduled meeting is May 1<sup>st</sup>.

### 18.7 CGTSIM (Comit   de gestion de la taxe scolaire de l'  le de Montr  al)

Item presented by the Representative Member on the Committee, Mr. Joe Ortona:

- The committee met on April 10<sup>th</sup>. The allocations for the monies dispersed to the various School Boards and School Service Centres on the island for the *milieu d  favoris  * were adopted;
- The committee approved the tax allocation distribution agreement between the Lester-B.-Pearson School Board and the Centre de services scolaire des Trois-Lacs.

	<p><u>18.8 EMSAC (English Montreal Student Advisory Committee)</u></p> <p>Item presented by the Chair, Mr. Joe Ortona:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ The EMSAC members discussed the Government’s revised promotion policy. Members brought up the advantages and disadvantages of holding back students in a given course. The EMSAC members hope that the new policy allows students to take courses where they would normally fear of being held back;</li> <li>➤ The students discussed field trips and travels to the United States. They discussed how they feel about limiting travel to the USA in the current political climate. Most of the members were happy that trips in the current year were not affected. Some members would understand if future travel would be limited in the coming years, while others expressed that they would be disappointed if they were not able to travel on a traditional grad trip.</li> </ul>
19.	<p><u>Commissioners’ Report</u></p> <p>Item presented by Commissioner, Mr. James Kromida:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ On April 25<sup>th</sup>, Gardenview hosted Chief Fadi Daher whom Mr. Kromida had the pleasure of meeting. Chief Fadi himself attended Gardenview and so do his children. He spoke to the students about Internet security, bullying, etc. Mr. Kromida took some time to speak to Chief Fadi about the issue with speeding around Cedarcrest School and the security of the crosswalk. It is important that we have a collaboration with the city, police and the schools in order to keep our students safe;</li> <li>➤ LaurenHill Junior held a Reach for the top, a wonderful event for thriving academic excellence where there were many prizes to be won.</li> </ul> <p>Item presented by Commissioner, Mr. Pietro Mercuri:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ On April 8<sup>th</sup>, Mr. Mercuri attended the Grade 6 IB Exhibition at Michelangelo International Elementary School. Grade 6 students made presentations on the 17 Sustainable Development goals for the year 2030 as proposed by the United Nations. All the students did an excellent job on their presentations;</li> <li>➤ On April 11<sup>th</sup>, Mr. Mercuri attended the Annual Gala held at Leonardo Da Vinci Academy to benefit the Montreal Neurological Institute. The school outdid themselves and raised \$24,745 to benefit the very worthy cause. Congratulations to the Principal of the school Ms. Sammarco and her staff for their hard work and dedication towards this cause;</li> <li>➤ On April 5<sup>th</sup>, Mr. Mercuri attended a bowling fundraiser organized by Friends for Cause, a non-profit organization based in the East-End. The event was held to raise awareness on autism and some of the proceeds will be donated to three EMSB schools in Rivière-des-Prairies: East Hill, LDVA and Michelangelo. Mr. Mercuri thanked Commissioners Ms. Sharon Nelson, Ms. Maria Corsi, Ms. Paula Kilian, Ms. Paola Samuel and Ms. Susan Perera who were able to attend the event and who supported the fundraiser.</li> </ul> <p>Item presented by Commissioner, Ms. Paola Samuel:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Ms. Samuel acknowledged this day April 29<sup>th</sup> End Jew Hatred Day. Many people are not aware of this day as it has only been around for 5 years. It was established by Human Rights Attorney in 2020 aimed at combatting antisemitism and promoting Jewish rights. It is a day dedicated to standing in solidarity with the Jewish community and taking action against antisemitism. It encourages schools and communities to recognize the day through pledges, educational activities and public statements. In North America, Miami Dade School Board has adopted Jew Hatred, also did the New York City Council and in Colorado the governor has proclaimed this day as End Jew Hatred Day. Since October 7<sup>th</sup>, the rise in antisemitism in Montreal has reached unparalleled heights. School bombings, fire bombings at synagogues and school shootings highlight the urgent need for action.</li> </ul>

A total of 6,219 reported cases of hatred targeting Jews were reported to police in 2024 alone. These violent acts have significantly impacted the Jewish community's sense of safety. There is an urgent need for educational institutions to address antisemitism and promote a safe environment for all students. Both Jew hatred and Yom Hashoah serve as critical opportunities to educate students and the broader community on history and ongoing issues related to Jew hatred. Ms. Samuel calls upon allies in our community and in our school to speak up when they hear language, see symbols or behaviors that are antisemitic or hateful.

Item presented by Parent Commissioner, Ms. Julie Kristof:

- Ms. Kristof attended the beautiful ceremony at the Montreal Holocaust Museum, where her father was also in attendance, a 90-year-old survivor from Budapest. They watched a documentary about the survivors who talked about their childhood, many who described their experiences from day-to-day, from friends who abandoned them, being isolated, spat on, being persecuted in different ways. This is what is happening to students in our schools today, many of whom are afraid to speak up. Tools like IHRA need to be in our schools in order to be able to identify what is antisemitism and what isn't, and administrators need to be able to apply consequences to these actions.

Item presented by Commissioner, Ms. Maria Corsi:

- Vincent Massey Collegiate is scheduled to hold their open house on May 1<sup>st</sup> from 4:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. All parents and families are encouraged to attend. VMC creates a stimulating educational environment for all students;
- On April 17<sup>th</sup>, Vincent Massey Collegiate held its first Walk for Love in memory of beloved teacher Ms. Tina Corolla who passed away in April, one year ago. Thanks to the generosity of the VMC community, \$9,363 were raised for the TRIM Foundation in honor of Ms. Corolla;
- Edward Murphy Elementary School held its first ever Literacy Event on April 24<sup>th</sup>, featuring a showcase of students writing talent and a hugely successful used book sale, raising \$1,000 which will be reinvested in student activities;
- Bancroft Elementary School held a fun and engaging initiative throughout the month of March to encourage the learning of the French language and culture. The interactive initiative was called Mani Musical, similar to March Madness basketball in the United States. However, in this case, participants were to predict which of 16 francophone songs would be the most popular. Voters decided which song would advance to the next round until a champion was named. This event really shows that our teachers go above and beyond to integrate elements of the French culture, language and appreciation of music in our schools;
- On May 1<sup>st</sup> in light of the Minister's decision to cancel the renovations of F.A.C.E. School, the elementary school students performed for the last time in the majestic and beautiful auditorium.

Item presented by Parent Commissioner, Ms. Jessica Houde-Woytiuk:

- Ms. Houde-Woytiuk was grateful to have been invited to Rosemount High School's junior and senior concerts;
- Congratulations to Westmount High School, Royal West Academy, Laurier Macdonald High School and Vincent Massey Collegiate for competing in the EMSB Finals of Battle of the Books which was held at the EMSB Head Office;
- Great job to Royal West Academy's Foundation who put on a great comedy night and raised enough money for an entire new Flex learning classroom;
- Upon requests made by parents, Ms. Houde-Woytiuk is seeking out information regarding additional support and resources to help students find transitional opportunities leaving Secondary 5 without CEGEP acceptances.

20.	<u>Report of the Executive Committee Meeting held on March 18, 2025</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Awarding of Contract – PS24-0830 – Patrol and Security Guard Services – Open Contract (Contrat à exécution sur demande)</li> <li>▪ Awarding of Contract – PS24-0831 – Plumbing Contractors – Open Contract (Contrat à exécution sur demande)</li> <li>▪ Group Purchasing – Centre d’acquisitions gouvernementales (CAG) – Tender 2025-7518-06 – Waste Collection Services (Cueillette de Matières Résiduelles)</li> </ul>
21.	<u>Other Business</u>  None.
22.	<u>Adjournment</u>  IT WAS MOVED BY MR. MARIO PIETRANGELO AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED THAT the meeting be adjourned at 9:59 p.m.  Vote: 15-0-0, Adopted  <div style="text-align: right;"><u>Resolution # 25-04-29-22</u></div>
	Signed in Montreal, _____  <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; margin-top: 20px;"> <div>_____</div> <div>_____</div> </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; margin-top: 5px;"> <div>Mr. Joe Ortona, Chair</div> <div>Me Nathalie Lauzière, Secretary General</div> </div>