

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS OF THE
ENGLISH MONTREAL SCHOOL BOARD

A Regular Meeting of the English Montreal School Board has taken place on Tuesday, April 21, 2026, 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. 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

Ms. Jessica Houde-Woytiuk, Parent Commissioner

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 Sector
Ms. Darlene Kehyayan, Regional Director, East Sector
Mr. Mario Cardin, Director, Material Resources
Ms. Myrienne Lusignan, Assistant Director, Educational Services
Ms. Livia Nassivera, Director, Financial Services
Mr. Tony Pita, Assistant Director, Educational Services
Ms. Marilyn Ramlakhan, Assistant Director, Human Resources
Ms. Julie Rene de Cotret, Director, Student Services
Ms. Anna Sanalidro, Director, Educational Services
Me Magdalena Sokol, Director, Legal Services
Ms. Angela Spagnolo, Director, AEVS
Ms. Luisa Tanzi, Assistant Director, Financial Services
Mr. Charalambos Thomas, Director, Information Technology Services
Ms. Angela Vaudry, Assistant Director, Human Resources
Ms. Ann Watson, Director, Human Resources
Mr. Mauro Zampini, Director, School Organization
Mr. Michael Cohen, Manager, Marketing and Communications
Ms. Brigida Sellato, Consultant, Secretariat General (Regrets)

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>Nomination of Jasmine Cliche as Student of the Month</u></p> <p>The Student of the Month for April is Jasmine Cliche from L.I.N.K.S. High School. Jasmine exemplifies what it means to be a leader and a positive role model. She is actively involved in school life, serving as Vice President of the Student Council, various lunch clubs, as well as generously volunteers her time to lead an after-school dance class for fellow students. Academically, Jasmine is committed and hardworking. She takes her studies seriously and works closely with a school tutor as she progresses toward earning her high school degree. Congratulations Jasmine!</p>
3.	<p><u>Presentation of EMSB's Lifetime Achievement Award</u></p> <p>The EMSB's Lifetime Achievement Award is awarded to Angelo Komatsoulis. 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, Leah Trineer from Roslyn School and Maria Di Fluvio and Claudia Musto from Gerald McShane School. Ms. Pamela Pagano, Reporter from CityNews was also recognized with the Media Recognition Award.</p>
5.	<p><u>Question Period</u></p> <p>No questions.</p>
6.	<p><u>Approval of Agenda</u></p> <p>IT WAS MOVED BY MR. JAMES KROMIDA AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED THAT the agenda be approved with the removal of item 13.2 – Teachers (Tenured) Assigned to Regular Substitution for Reasons of Surplus – 2026-2027.</p> <p>Vote: 14-0-0, Adopted</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><u>Resolution # 26-04-21-6</u></p>

7.	<p><u>Adoption of Minutes</u></p> <p><u>7.1. Board Meeting held on February 10, 2026</u></p> <p>IT WAS MOVED BY MR. PIETRO MERCURI AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED THAT the Minutes of the Board Meeting held on February 10, 2026, be approved as presented.</p> <p>Vote: 14-0-0, Adopted</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><u>Resolution # 26-04-21-7.1</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"> • Mr. Ortona reported on a recent visit to Honoré Mercier Elementary School, where he engaged with K4 and K5 students and observed their creative classroom activities; • Mr. Ortona noted his attendance at the Supreme Court of Canada hearings on Bill 21 in late March, with the decision on the bill's constitutionality currently pending; • Mr. Ortona reported that collaborative advocacy efforts successfully secured a crossing guard at Royal West Academy until June, with ongoing efforts to extend this service; • Mr. Ortona highlighted a visit to Lester B. Pearson High School with Commissioner Susan Perera to present a Student of the Month award to Cyrus He for his outstanding academic achievements; • Mr. Ortona also reported attending an Autism Awareness Day event at Carlyle School, which focused on promoting understanding and acceptance of autism through presentations and guest speakers.
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 Director General highlighted the launch of the EMSB "Lyre's Dream" project, an 18-month educational and artistic initiative culminating in performances in Ottawa and an upcoming concert at Rosemount High School; • The Director General noted a new initiative, "Mismatched Pair Day," taking place in several EMSB schools to promote respect for diversity and raise awareness against bullying; • The Director General reported that several EMSB schools commemorated Yom Hashoah through educational activities and guest presentations focused on Holocaust remembrance, resilience, and combating antisemitism; • The Director General shared that BAFTA-winning sound editor Elan Michelle Woods visited F.A.C.E. School to present her podcast project exploring her grandmother's Holocaust survival and intergenerational storytelling; • The Director General announced the upcoming EMSB Chorale Spring Gala concert to be held at Concordia University's Oscar Peterson Hall; • The Director General noted that students and staff from Laurier Macdonald High School participated in the Greek Independence Day Parade alongside EMSB representatives; • The Director General reported that Vincent Gagnon, a teacher at Vincent Massey Collegiate, was appointed Commanding Officer of the Canadian Grenadier Guards during a formal ceremony; • The Director General announced a new partnership between the EMSB and Scotiabank branches to promote financial literacy through school visits and community events.

11. Revised Budget 2025-2026

WHEREAS Section 277 of the Education Act (Chapter I-13.3) stipulates that the English Montreal School Board (EMSB) shall adopt its Operating, Capital Investment, and Debt Service Budget for the 2025-2026 school year and transmit same to the Minister of Education;

WHEREAS the Minister of Education may authorize a school board to adopt a budget whose expenses exceed revenues pursuant to section 279 of the Education Act;

WHEREAS the draft budgetary rules and provisional parameters, providing for budgetary compressions and prohibiting the use of accumulated surplus funds, were communicated on June 12, 2025, after deadlines in collective agreements to abolish positions had passed for all categories of staff, other than daycare workers, technicians and attendants for students with special needs;

WHEREAS on June 19, 2025, the Ministry indicated that no request for a deficit budget based on the new budgetary compressions would be accepted;

WHEREAS the final budgetary rules and initial parameters of July 16, 2025, still required substantial budgetary compressions and prohibited the use of accumulated surplus funds;

WHEREAS the EMSB, along with the Quebec English School Boards Association (QESBA) and all other English school boards, brought a court application challenging the changes to the budgetary rules under s. 23 of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms (500-17-135152-257) and sought a stay;

WHEREAS the government, since the court application was initiated, agreed to temporarily lift restrictions on the use of certain funds (dedicated and protected measures) until the Bill 40 case is resolved;

WHEREAS on October 22, 2025, in a letter of that date from Carole Arav, Deputy Minister, the Ministry withdrew measure 16034, made adjustments allowing greater flexibility in hiring staff, and indicated that English-language school boards or French-language school service centres should contact the Ministry if these adjustments still did not enable them to respect their budgets;

WHEREAS the deadline to submit budgets, initially set to September 26, 2025, was postponed by the Ministry to October 30, 2025;

WHEREAS on the basis of these substantial adjustments and representations which helped both English-language school boards and French-language school service centres, the EMSB, along with the QESBA and all other English language school boards, withdrew the application for a stay on October 24, 2025, on the understanding that a request could be made if the adjustments were insufficient to enable the EMSB to balance its budget;

WHEREAS the EMSB deployed substantial efforts to reduce expenses in compliance with collective agreements while minimizing as much as possible impacts on students, including by not filling vacancies at all levels of the school board, but the scale of budgetary compressions required and the timing of their communication makes impacts on students (including students with special needs) unavoidable;

WHEREAS in October 2025, the EMSB nonetheless expected to incur expenses exceeding revenues by \$7,818,268.00 in its Operating Budget for the 2025-2026;

WHEREAS this amount, \$7,818,268.00, was less than 15% of the accumulated surplus as of June 30, 2024, excluding the net value of land, that is, the limit on the appropriation of accumulated surplus funds applicable prior to the 2025-2026 budgetary rules;

WHEREAS on October 28, 2025, the EMSB requested authorization from the Ministry to adopt an Operating, Capital Investment and Debt Service Budget providing for expenses exceeding revenues by \$7,818,268.00 by letters of October 28, 2025, addressed to the Minister and the Direction générale des politiques budgétaires et du financement des réseaux of the Ministry;

WHEREAS on October 29, 2025, the Council of Commissioners adopted an Operating, Capital Investment and Debt Service Budget providing for expenses exceeding revenues by \$7,818,268.00, subject to receiving ministerial approval;

WHEREAS the EMSB responded to all requests for information made by the Ministry regarding its budget;

WHEREAS the EMSB took proactive steps to address its budgetary situation notably by mandating Raymond Chabot Grant Thornton starting in February 2026 to assist the EMSB in its efforts to identify structural measures to restore fiscal balance in a context of declining enrolment and budgetary compressions;

WHEREAS on March 12, 2026, the Ministry of Education refused the EMSB's request for authorization to adopt a deficit budget and required the EMSB to submit a new budget by April 14, 2026;

WHEREAS the EMSB's capacity to reduce expenses at this stage of the school year is highly limited given the expenses already incurred and its commitments notably in staff remuneration for the year;

WHEREAS the EMSB is in the process of conducting a detailed review of its budgetary situation in collaboration with Raymond Chabot Grant Thornton to reduce, as much as possible, the anticipated deficit for 2025-2026;

WHEREAS on April 9, 2026, the EMSB advised the Ministry that this detailed review was on-going and that a response would be provided following the regular meeting of the Council of Commissioners of April 21, 2026;

WHEREAS the EMSB has identified, through this detailed review, certain compressions and reductions in expenses for the 2025-2026 school year, including a reduction in funds reserved for litigation;

WHEREAS despite its best efforts, the EMSB expects to incur a deficit of \$ 2,648,779.00 for the 2025-2026 school year and is working to develop a 3-year recovery plan in collaboration with Raymond Chabot Grant Thornton;

WHEREAS it is the intention of the EMSB to continue working with Raymond Chabot Grant Thornton on the implementation of the 3-year recovery program;

IT WAS MOVED BY MR. JAMES KROMIDA AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED THAT the EMSB request authorization from the Minister of Education to adopt an Operating, Capital Investment and Debt Service Budget providing for expenses exceeding revenues by \$2,648,779.00 and that this resolution be transmitted to the Ministry of Education;

IT WAS FURTHER UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED THAT subject to the Minister's authorization, and as recommended by the Central Management Advisory Committee – Resource Allocation Committee CMAC/RAC Committee, the Operating, Capital Investment and Debt Service Budget providing for Revenues of \$458,717,240.00 and Expenditures of \$461,366,019.00 be adopted and transmitted to the Minister of Education, as outlined in the documentation submitted at the meeting.

Vote: 14-0-0, Adopted

Resolution # 26-04-21-11

12. Proposed Schedule of Meetings – 2026-2027

12.1 Draft By-Law No. 1 (2026) – To Affix the Date, Time and Place of the Regular Meetings of the English Montreal School Board

WHEREAS 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;

WHEREAS 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;

IT WAS MOVED BY MR. MARIO PIETRANGELO AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED THAT:

- a) approval be given to Draft By-Law No. 1 (2026) setting the day, time and place of regular meetings of the English Montreal School Board during the 2026-2027 school session;
- b) final approval of By-Law No. 1 (2026) be given at the regular meeting of the Board to be held on June 9, 2026.

Vote: 14-0-0, Adopted

Resolution # 26-04-21-12.1

12.2 Draft By-Law No. 4 (2026) – To Affix the Date, Time and Place of the Regular Meetings of the Executive Committee of the English Montreal School Board

WHEREAS Section 162 of the Education Act requires that the regular meetings of the Executive Committee be established, by by-law;

WHEREAS 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;

IT WAS MOVED BY MS. CHELSEA CRAIG AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED THAT:

- a) approval be given to Draft By-Law No. 4 (2026) setting the day, time and place of regular meetings of the Executive Committee of the English Montreal School Board during the 2026-2027 school session;
- b) final approval of By-Law No. 4 (2026) be given at the regular meeting of the Board to be held on June 9, 2026.

Vote: 14-0-0, Adopted

Resolution # 26-04-21-12.2

Ms. Chelsea Craig and Mr. Julien Feldman left the meeting at 8:11 p.m.

13. Teachers' Staffing Changes – 2026-2027

13.1 Non-Re-Engagement of Teachers (Non-Tenured) for Reasons of Surplus

WHEREAS the English Montreal School Board has a surplus of seven (7) teachers in category 101 English Elementary Generalist, one (1) teacher in category 104 Physical Education Elementary, and three (3) teachers in category 120 English & Drama Secondary.

WHEREAS 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;

WHEREAS the eleven (11) aforementioned teachers have not achieved tenure as per Article 5-3.03 of the said Collective Agreement;

IT WAS MOVED BY MS. SHARON NELSON 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 eleven (11) Non-Tenured teachers for reasons of surplus effective July 1, 2026.

<u>Name:</u>	<u>Category:</u>	<u>Seniority:</u>
Schulz-Peissel, Robin Ann	101	07-122
Madew, Taylor	101	07-119
Hindler, Alexandra Lynn	101	07-035
Vlahopoulos, Karaline	101	06-135
McGuire, Tara	101	06-015
Biberkraut, Allison	101	05-181
Fishman, Dayna	101	05-126
Feola, Rosalie	104	09-020
Todi, Alexandra Melissa	120	06-118
Day, Sean Kenneth	120	05-118
Faoro, Julia	120	05-039

Vote: 12-0-0, Adopted (Ms. C. Craig and Mr. J. Feldman not present for the vote)

Resolution # 26-04-21-13.1

13.2 Teachers (Tenured) Assigned to Regular Substitution for Reasons of Surplus

Item Removed

13.3 Teachers Placed on Availability (Tenured) for Reasons of Surplus

WHEREAS the English Montreal School Board has a surplus of eleven (11) teachers in category 101 English Elementary Generalists, two (2) teachers in category 104 Physical Education Elementary;

WHEREAS 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;

WHEREAS the thirteen (13) aforementioned teachers have achieved tenure as per Article 5-3.03 of the said Collective Agreement;

IT WAS MOVED BY MS. SHARON NELSON AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED THAT, as per the conditions established in clauses 5-3.16, 5-3.19, 5-3.21, and 5-3.23 of the 2023-2028 Teachers' Collective Agreement, the English Montreal School Board place on availability the following thirteen (13) tenured teachers for reasons of surplus effective July 1, 2026.

<u>Name:</u>	<u>Category:</u>	<u>Seniority:</u>
Bavas, Diana	101	08-065
Amyot, Sarah	101	08-044
Fonicolo, Anna	101	08-034
Manis, Erica	101	07-189
Graziani, Brittany Mae	101	07-160
Martin, Shanna	101	07-140

Laranjeiro, Kathleen	101	07-137
Turgel, Sarah	101	07-136
Gifuni, Caroline	101	07-122
Garizzi, Jenna	101	06-170
Sorella, Stephanie	101	06-039

Karaminas, Stefanie	104	08-040
Tortorici, Nicola	104	06-139

Vote: 12-0-0, Adopted (Ms. C. Craig and Mr. J. Feldman not present for the vote)

Resolution # 26-04-21-13.3

14. Recommendation from the Governance and Ethics Committee – Non-Compliance with the Delays by the Ethics Commissioner

WHEREAS on August 25, 2025, the Ethics Commissioner was mandated to deal with a Complaint dated August 24, 2025, bearing number 2025-941, for a potential breach of the Code of Ethics (EMSB By-Law no. 3 entitled Code of Ethics and Professional Conduct for the Members of the Council of Commissioners);

WHEREAS in the decision admissibility summary dated October 28, 2025, the Ethics Commissioner stated that he expected the process would be completed by November 28, 2025;

WHEREAS in an email to the Secretary General dated November 19, 2025, the Ethics Commissioner informed the Secretary General of his modified suggested timeline stating it was accepted by the parties, and that the upcoming holidays would delay the submission of the decision in this matter;

WHEREAS the Ethics Commissioner failed to comply with article 8.7.4.2 of BY-LAW NO. 3 (2020) Code of Ethics and Professional Conduct for the Members of the Council of Commissioners, which provides that the Ethics Commissioner shall present to the Governance and Ethics Committee a written request containing the reasons for the extension of the delay for rendering his decision to the Governance and Ethics Committee;

WHEREAS no such request was made by the Ethics Commissioner to the Governance and Ethics Committee to extend the deadline to submit his final decision, and no extension of delay was granted by the Governance and Ethics Committee beyond the original deadline of November 28, 2025;

WHEREAS in an email to the Secretary General dated November 19, 2025, the Ethics Commissioner informed the Secretary General that he would submit his decision around January 15, 2026;

WHEREAS again, the Ethics Commissioner failed to comply with article 8.7.4.2 of BY-LAW NO. 3 (2020) Code of Ethics and Professional Conduct for the Members of the Council of Commissioners, which provides that the Ethics Commissioner shall present to the Governance and Ethics Committee a written request containing the reasons for the extension of the delay for rendering his decision to the Governance and Ethics Committee;

WHEREAS no such request was made by the Ethics Commissioner to the Governance and Ethics Committee to extend the deadline to submit his final decision, and no extension of delay was granted by the Governance and Ethics Committee for the Ethics Commissioner to submit his decision by January 15, 2026;

WHEREAS in an email to the Secretary General dated January 12, 2026, the Ethics Commissioner informed the Secretary General that he would submit his decision on January 29, 2026, with no explanation of the reasons for further delay;

WHEREAS again, the Ethics Commissioner failed to comply with article 8.7.4.2 of BY-LAW NO. 3 (2020) Code of Ethics and Professional Conduct for the Members of the Council of Commissioners, which provides that the Ethics Commissioner shall present to the Governance and Ethics Committee a written request containing the reasons for the extension of the delay for rendering his decision to the Governance and Ethics Committee;

WHEREAS no such request was made by the Ethics Commissioner to the Governance and Ethics Committee to extend the deadline to submit his final decision, and no extension of delay was granted by the Governance and Ethics Committee for the Ethics Commissioner to submit his decision by January 29, 2026;

WHEREAS the Ethics Commissioner did not submit his decision on his self-imposed and self-approved deadline of January 29, 2026;

WHEREAS at the Governance and Ethics Committee meeting held on February 10, 2026, members were informed by the Secretary General that the Ethics Commissioner submitted his final decision with regards to the Ethics Complaint bearing number 2025-941 on February 9, 2026;

WHEREAS at the Governance and Ethics Committee meeting held on February 10, 2026, members were informed by the Secretary General that following his submission of his final decision with regards to the Ethics Complaint bearing number 2025-941 on February 9, 2026, he immediately informed the Secretary General via email of his “proposition d'extension de délais” (proposal of extension of delay) in which he acknowledged he had already written his final decision;

WHEREAS the retroactive request for extension of delay in the submission of the Ethics Commissioner’s final decision does not comply with article 8.7.4.2 of BY-LAW NO. 3 (2020) Code of Ethics and Professional Conduct for the Members of the Council of Commissioners, and was deemed unethical by members of the Governance and Ethics Committee;

WHEREAS due to the multiple instances outlined above of the failure of the Ethics Commissioner to comply with article 8.7.4.2 of BY-LAW NO. 3 (2020) Code of Ethics and Professional Conduct for the Members of the Council of Commissioners, at no point was the Ethics Commissioner authorized to continue his investigation of the Ethics Complaint bearing number 2025-941 beyond the initial deadline of November 28, 2025;

WHEREAS article 8.7.4.3 of BY-LAW NO. 3 (2020) Code of Ethics and Professional Conduct for the Members of the Council of Commissioners, provides that “If the Governance and Ethics Committee does not grant the request for extension it shall inform the Council of Commissioners, who can take any measures it deems appropriate given the circumstances”;

WHEREAS the Governance and Ethics Committee, at their meeting of February 10, 2026, rejected the Ethics Commissioner’s retroactive request for extension of delay in the Ethics Complaint bearing number 2025-941, as per sections 8.7.4.2 and 8.7.4.3 of BY-LAW NO. 3 (2020) Code of Ethics and Professional Conduct for the Members of the Council of Commissioners;

IT WAS MOVED BY MS. PAULA KILIAN AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED, AS RECOMMENDED BY THE GOVERNANCE AND ETHICS COMMITTEE, THAT the report of the Ethics commissioner in the case bearing number 2025-941 submitted on February 9, 2026, be deemed invalid.

Vote: 12-0-0, Adopted (Ms. C. Craig and Mr. J. Feldman not present for the vote)

Resolution # 26-04-21-14

15.	<p><u>Recognition of Employees with 25 Years of Service</u></p> <p>A list of EMSB employees who have or will attain their 25 Years of Service with the EMSB by June 30, 2026, was presented for information. A ceremony will be held in the fall.</p>
	<p>Ms. Chelsea Craig and Mr. Julien Feldman returned to the meeting at 8:23 p.m.</p>
16.	<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>
17.	<p><u>Committee Reports</u></p> <p><u>17.1 ACSES (Advisory Committee on Special Education Services)</u></p> <p>Item presented by the Parent Commissioner of the Committee, Ms. Julie Kristof:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Kristof reported that the Advisory Committee on Special Education Services met on March 31st to discuss budget priorities, emphasizing the importance of incorporating diverse perspectives from parents, staff, and stakeholders; • Ms. Kristof highlighted the ongoing work of a subcommittee developing recommendations to support smoother educational transitions for special needs students by addressing information gaps and improving access to resources; • Ms. Kristof noted the importance of increasing awareness of available resources, particularly as students transition out of the youth sector into adulthood; • Ms. Kristof reported attending a resource fair organized by Federation CJA and announced that John Grant High School will host a similar event on May 7th, benefiting both families and service providers; • Commissioner Kristof expressed appreciation for the role of community resource providers and noted that organizing such events has provided valuable insight into the special needs support network; • Ms. Kristof concluded by thanking volunteers for their dedication and support to families, particularly those with children facing complex needs, emphasizing their significant impact. <p><u>17.2 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. Pietro Mercuri reported that the Transportation and Safety Advisory Committee meeting was postponed, and an update will be provided at a future meeting once a new date is confirmed. <p><u>17.3 EMSBPC (English Montreal School Board Parents' Committee)</u></p> <p>Item presented by Parent Commissioner, Ms. Merika Ramundo:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Ramundo clarified that a follow-up letter regarding the decision to no longer accept online public questions at council meetings, prepared in January 2026, was not sent due to an internal error, and she apologized for the resulting confusion; • Ms. Ramundo reported that the Parents’ Committee developed key budget priorities, including increased staffing of professional resources, enhanced mental health services, and continued investment in infrastructure, health, safety, and security; • Ms. Ramundo highlighted the work of the Climate Readiness Subcommittee, which is developing a framework to address extreme weather events as part of a broader environmental plan; • Ms. Ramundo shared that the Parents’ Committee hosted a “Parent Governance 101” workshop on April 15, aimed at helping parents better understand governance structures and participate in school decision-making processes;

- Ms. Ramundo expressed appreciation to participating parents and EMSB administration for their engagement and support, noting strong interest in continued parent involvement initiatives.

17.4 Governance and Ethics Committee

Item presented by the Chair of the Committee, Ms. Maria Corsi:

- Ms. Maria Corsi reported that the Governance and Ethics Committee met on April 8th and April 14th to review revisions to By-Laws No. 11 and 12, as well as the mission statement, following extensive preparatory work with administration and legal counsel;
- Ms. Corsi noted that the Committee provided feedback and recommendations to strengthen the By-Laws, which have now been returned to administration for further coordination with legal counsel before additional review and eventual consultation at Council.
- Ms. Corsi indicated that this process marks the beginning of a broader By-Law review, with additional By-Laws to be addressed in future phases.
- Ms. Corsi expressed appreciation for the significant efforts of administration and Committee members in advancing the By-Law revisions.

17.5 Audit Committee

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

- The Audit Committee met on March 31st.

17.6 Human Resources Committee

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

- Mr. Mario Pietrangelo reported that a meeting was held on March 26th, during which the main discussion points are reflected under item 13 of the agenda;
- Mr. Pietrangelo also provided a brief update on local negotiations with staff, noting that further developments are expected.

17.7 EMSAC (English Montreal Student Advisory Committee)

Item presented by the Chair of the Board, Mr. Joe Ortona:

- Mr. Ortona reported that two meetings were held in March and April, during which students discussed safety concerns at Royal West Academy and advocated for crossing guards across schools;
- Mr. Ortona noted that students participated in discussions on the budget process, asking questions and identifying priorities such as maintaining staff ratios, supporting mental health resources, enhancing inclusivity, and maintaining school infrastructure;
- Mr. Ortona highlighted that students emphasized the importance of maintaining extracurricular activities and wellness initiatives to support balanced student development;
- Mr. Ortona reported that, at the April meeting, students acknowledged the installation of a crossing guard at Royal West Academy and noted improvements in safety at the intersection;
- Mr. Ortona shared that students received a presentation on the sexuality education program and discussed its role in promoting awareness, understanding, and acceptance among students.

18. Commissioners' Report

Report presented by Commissioner, Mr. Pietro Mercuri:

- Mr. Pietro Mercuri reported that East Hill Elementary School welcomed Dr. Luigi Maria Esperanza from the Consulate General of Italy, providing students with a valuable opportunity to engage in Italian language learning and cultural exchange;

- Mr. Mercuri highlighted his attendance at the Leonardo da Vinci Academy's 10th annual fundraising event, which raised \$29,140 in support of a charitable cause and showcased student performances;
- Mr. Mercuri reported attending the Michelangelo International Baccalaureate exhibition, where students explored the theme of identity through various forms of expression, including culture, language, and religion;
- Mr. Mercuri noted that several student projects emphasized religious identity as a form of self-expression, drawing attention to its broader social relevance;
- Mr. Mercuri reported meeting with municipal officials to discuss reinstating a crossing guard near Michelangelo International Elementary School, noting that the meeting was positive and that follow-up actions are anticipated.

Report presented by Commissioner, Ms. Sharon Nelson:

- Ms. Sharon Nelson congratulated students from Willingdon School and other participating schools for their involvement in recent storytelling events, highlighting their confidence and engagement in public speaking;
- Ms. Nelson reported on a developing collaboration between Willingdon School and Concordia University's sustainability department, noting initial discussions on a new environmental initiative called "Spring Forward," with potential for expansion to other schools.

Report presented by Commissioner, Ms. Susan Perera:

- Ms. Susan Perera highlighted the achievements of Lester B. Pearson High School students, including Student of the Month Cyrus He and Student Council member Ayden German Cruz, who received the Lieutenant Governor of Quebec Medal for his leadership and environmental initiatives.
- Ms. Perera reported attending the East End storytelling event at Gerald McShane School, where she commended students for their creativity and confidence.
- Ms. Perera noted the success of Our Lady of Pompei Elementary School's annual spring concert, which showcased student talent and the strength of the school's music program.
- Ms. Perera announced her upcoming attendance at Gerald McShane's production of *Aladdin the Musical*, expressing anticipation for the performance.

Report presented by Commissioner, Ms. Paola Samuel:

- Ms. Paola Samuel reported attending a Holocaust education presentation at Westmount High School organized by the Foundation for Genocide Education, describing it as a powerful and moving experience;
- Ms. Samuel highlighted the recent Senate Standing Committee on Human Rights report addressing rising antisemitism in Canada, emphasizing the importance of education and noting ongoing EMSB efforts in this area;
- Ms. Samuel congratulated all those involved in securing a crossing guard at Royal West Academy, noting it as an important first step toward improving student safety.

Report presented by Commissioner, Ms. Maria Corsi:

- Ms. Maria Corsi reported attending the East End Storytelling event at Gerald McShane School on April 7th, where she commended participating students for their exceptional storytelling skills and engaging performances;
- Ms. Corsi highlighted the participation of Ward 4 schools, including Bancroft Elementary, Dalkeith, Edward Murphy, F.A.C.E., and Nesbitt, with special recognition of F.A.C.E. students for their strong theatrical presentation;
- Ms. Corsi announced that Vincent Massey Collegiate will be holding an open house on April 30th from 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., highlighting the school's enriched academic programs;

- Ms. Corsi noted her upcoming attendance at several school music events, including the Rosemount High School junior and senior concerts and the F.A.C.E. string concert in early May.

Report presented by Commissioner, Ms. Chelsea Craig:

- Ms. Chelsea Craig reported attending the Greek Independence Day Parade in Park Extension alongside EMSB staff and students;
- Ms. Craig noted her attendance at a Holocaust education event at Westmount High School, describing it as a meaningful and moving experience;
- Ms. Craig provided an update on preparations for the QESBA Spring Conference in Quebec City (May 13–15), acknowledging the efforts of the organizing team and encouraging participation;
- Ms. Craig congratulated Marymount Academy on launching a new fencing team, highlighting the students' success in winning five medals at their first tournament;
- Ms. Craig reported attending a West End storytelling event at Willingdon School, commending student participants for their engaging presentations and strong bilingual skills.

Report presented by Commissioner, Mr. Julien Feldman:

- Mr. Julien Feldman expressed appreciation on behalf of local residents for the installation of a crossing guard at Royal West Academy, noting the significant improvement in community safety after longstanding concerns;
- Mr. Feldman highlighted the Holocaust education presentation at Westmount High School organized by the Foundation for Genocide Education, recognizing presenters and thanking the students, staff, administrators, community partners, and attendees whose efforts made the event possible and underscoring its importance in fostering historical awareness and addressing antisemitism through education.

Report presented by Commissioner, Ms. Paula Kilian:

- Ms. Paula Kilian reported that **Marjorie Michel** visited several Park Extension schools, including Sinclair Laird and St. Raphael, as well as John F. Kennedy High School, where she engaged with students about her role as Minister of Health;
- Ms. Kilian highlighted her attendance at storytelling events and recognized student participants for their strong presentations and school representation;
- Ms. Kilian reported on positive developments at John F. Kennedy Adult Education Centre, including improved mathematics outcomes, expanded academic support, and initiatives to support student transitions and reduce stigma surrounding adult education;
- Ms. Kilian noted several achievements and activities at John F. Kennedy High School, including athletic successes, intergenerational community events, educational trips, and student-led initiatives such as “The Incredible Race” for elementary students;
- Ms. Kilian shared updates from Sinclair Laird School, including health and wellness initiatives, enrichment activities, field trips, and community engagement events;
- Ms. Kilian reported on activities at Carlyle School, including student projects, performances, and events promoting creativity and environmental awareness;
- Ms. Kilian highlighted initiatives at Dunrae Gardens School, including wellness programming, environmental projects, and community engagement activities, noting an increase in student enrollment for the upcoming school year.

Report presented by Commissioner, Mr. James Kromida:

- Mr. James Kromida reflected on the recent EMSB presentation at the Canadian Senate, highlighting the importance of arts and cultural initiatives in supporting the development of well-rounded students;
- Mr. Kromida emphasized the value of multicultural participation and community engagement in educational activities, noting the positive impact of diverse representation;

