

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS OF THE
ENGLISH MONTREAL SCHOOL BOARD

A Regular Meeting of the English Montreal School Board has taken place on Tuesday, May 19, 2026, 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 – via TEAMS
Mr. Julien Feldman, Commissioner
Ms. Jessica Houde-Woytiuk, Parent Commissioner – via TEAMS
Ms. Paula Kilian, Commissioner
Ms. Julie Kristof, Parent Commissioner
Mr. Pietro Mercuri, Commissioner – via TEAMS
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. Chelsea Craig, 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. 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
Ms. Angela Vaudry, Assistant Director, Human Resources
Mr. Mauro Zampini, Director, School Organization
Mr. Michael Cohen, Manager, Marketing and Communications
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>Nomination of Élise Au-Pichette as Student of the Month</u></p> <p>The EMSB Student of the Month for May is Élise Au-Pichette from John Caboto Academy. Élise is a hardworking and enthusiastic grade 4 student who brings positive energy to every aspect of school life. Known for her kindness and outgoing nature, Élise truly embodies the values that are upheld at John Caboto Academy. Her dedication, teamwork, and respectful attitude make her a role model within the school community. In April, Élise was chosen to represent Ahuntsic-Cartierville at the closing ceremony of the <i>Jeux de Montréal</i>. This honour reflects Élise's leadership, spirit, and the pride she brings to the EMSB and JCA. Congratulations Élise!</p>
3.	<p><u>Question Period</u></p> <p>A question from John Ranger was addressed by the Chair, Mr. Joe Ortona, regarding the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ EMSB Complaints Process
4.	<p><u>Approval of Agenda</u></p> <p>IT WAS MOVED BY MR. MARIO PIETRANGELO AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED THAT the agenda be approved, as presented.</p> <p>Vote: 14-0-0, Adopted</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><u>Resolution # 26-05-19-4</u></p>
5.	<p><u>Adoption of Minutes</u></p> <p><u>5.1. Regular Board Meeting held on April 21, 2026</u></p> <p>IT WAS MOVED BY MR. JAMES KROMIDA AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED THAT the Minutes of the Board Meeting held on April 21, 2026, be approved as presented.</p> <p>Vote: 14-0-0, Adopted</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><u>Resolution # 26-05-19-5.1</u></p>

6.	<p><u>Business Arising Out of Minutes</u></p> <p>None.</p>
7.	<p><u>Chair's Report</u></p> <p>Presented by the Chair, Mr. Joe Ortona:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Chair, Mr. Joe Ortona, reported that he attended the EMSB chorale performance <i>The Lyre's Dream</i> at Rosemount High School and at the Senate, and expressed appreciation to students, partners, and supporting senators; • Mr. Ortona acknowledged May as Jewish Heritage Month and highlighted the contributions of Jewish communities; • Mr. Ortona recognized Teacher Appreciation by honoring three teachers: Anna Maria Lombardo, Patty Foschi, and Luigi Rucci. • Mr. Ortona reported that he attended F.A.C.E. School's 50th anniversary concert and commended the students' performances and strong school community spirit; • Mr. Ortona indicated that he participated in Lester B. Pearson High School's 50th anniversary celebrations and noted the presence of alumni, staff, and former administrators. • Mr. Ortona expressed gratitude for a \$20,000 donation from Gestion MMTP in support of four Saint-Leonard schools. • Mr. Ortona marked Mother's Day by recognizing and thanking mothers in the EMSB community for their contributions.
8.	<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, Mr. Nick Katalifos, expressed appreciation to all staff and partners who contributed to the successful AAESQ/QESBA conference in Québec City, noting EMSB's significant role and congratulating Commissioner Chelsea Craig and Principal Alex Kulczyk as co-chairs; • Mr. Katalifos highlighted the recognition of Assistant Director of Educational Services, Tony Pita, who received an Exceptional Service Award for his years of dedicated leadership as Principal; • Mr. Katalifos acknowledged the contributions of EMSB students who performed at the conference, including the LaurenHill Academy Dance Troupe and Rosemount High School's Class Act; • Mr. Katalifos reported on the Teacher Recognition Awards held at Laurier Macdonald High School, congratulating Anna Maria Lombardo, Luigi Rucci, and Patty Foschi, and thanking event sponsors; • Mr. Katalifos noted the successful presentation of <i>The Lyre's Dream</i> at the Canadian Senate and Rosemount High School, recognizing it as a significant achievement for students and thanking organizers and Senator Leo Housakos; • Mr. Katalifos reported on the 50th anniversary celebrations of M.I.N.D. High School, highlighting its legacy of innovative education and the week of commemorative events; • Mr. Katalifos highlighted the launch of "Mismatched Pair Day" promoting diversity and anti-bullying across Montreal schools, noting his participation at Royal West Academy; • Mr. Katalifos reported on a financial literacy workshop at Wagar Adult Education Centre, emphasizing its value for newcomer students in developing practical life skills.
9.	<p><u>School Tax Revenue for 2026-2027</u></p> <p>WHEREAS as per the Act to establish a Single School Tax Rate, SQ 2019, c5, the English Montreal School Board (EMSB) must forward to the Comité de gestion de la taxe scolaire de l'île de Montréal (CGTSIM), by resolution of its Council of Commissioners, a request requiring the payment of the amount for financing local needs;</p>

	<p>IT WAS MOVED BY MS. SHARON NELSON AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED THAT the English Montreal School Board requests that the Comité de gestion de la taxe scolaire de l'île de Montréal (CGTSIM) transfer to the EMSB the maximum amount of school tax revenue for financing local needs for the 2026-2027 fiscal year;</p> <p>IT WAS FURTHER UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED THAT a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the CGTSIM.</p> <p>Vote: 14-0-0, Adopted</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><u>Resolution # 26-05-19-9</u></p>
10.	<p><u>English Montreal School Board (EMSB) Request to the Ministère de l'Éducation du Québec (MEQ) for Permanent Vocational Training Program Authorizations for Auto Bodywork (5872) and High-Pressure Welding (5883)</u></p> <p>WHEREAS the English Montreal School Board (EMSB), through its Adult Education and Vocational Services (AEVS) department, currently offers Automobile Mechanics and Welding and Fitting vocational programs at the Des Grandes Prairies campus of the Laurier Macdonald Vocational Centre, in Saint-Leonard;</p> <p>WHEREAS the EMSB seeks to increase its course offerings by applying for two new permanent vocational training program authorizations in Auto Bodywork (5872) and High-Pressure Welding (5883);</p> <p>WHEREAS the EMSB already possesses the necessary facilities and equipment to offer Auto Bodywork (5872) and High-Pressure Welding (5883);</p> <p>WHEREAS the Provincial Organization of Continuing Education Directors (PROCEDE), which represents all English School Boards in Québec, on March 31, 2026, passed a resolution in support of the EMSB's request for permanent program authorizations for the above-mentioned programs;</p> <p>WHEREAS the English Language Vocational Education Council (ELVEC), which also represents the English Boards of Québec, on April 23, 2026, passed a resolution in support of the EMSB's request for permanent program authorizations for the above-mentioned programs;</p> <p>WHEREAS the Ministère de l'Éducation du Québec (MEQ) authorization is required to attain permanent vocational training authorizations;</p> <p>IT WAS MOVED BY MS. MERIKA RAMUNDO AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED THAT the EMSB formally submit a request to the MEQ for permanent program authorizations for Auto Bodywork (5872) and High-Pressure Welding (5883);</p> <p>IT WAS FURTHER UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED THAT the Director General or the Assistant Directors General be authorized to sign all necessary forms and documents related to the application to the MEQ for permanent or provisional vocational training program authorizations for Auto Bodywork (5872) and High-Pressure Welding (5883) on behalf of the EMSB.</p> <p>Vote: 14-0-0, Adopted</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><u>Resolution # 26-05-19-10</u></p>
11.	<p><u>Confirmation of Board Level Administrators</u></p> <p>This item was presented by the Director General, Mr. Nick Katalifos, for information. The Director General confirmed the following Board Level Administrator in their assignment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Sam Servello, Coordinator, School Organization ➤ Tony Pita, Assistant Director, Educational Services ➤ Mauro Zampini, Director, School Organization

12. Committee Reports

12.1 ACSES (Advisory Committee on Special Education Services)

Item presented by the Parent Commissioner of the Committee, Ms. Julie Kristof:

- There has been no meeting since the last report. The next meeting will be on May 26th.

12.2 Transportation and Safety Advisory Committee

Item presented by the Chair of the Committee, Mr. Pietro Mercuri:

- Mr. Mercuri indicated that, as of March 31, 2026, the transportation budget remains on track within the allocated \$14,851,000;
- Mr. Mercuri noted that transportation allocation checks have been issued to eligible high school families using public transit;
- Mr. Mercuri clarified that eligibility for the \$180 transportation allowance requires that the student live more than 2.4 km from the school, reside within EMSB territory, and attend school in person;
- Mr. Mercuri reported that transportation services will continue for the 2026–2027 school year for Giant Steps, Summit School, Vanguard School, and Yaldei.

12.3 EMSBPC (English Montreal School Board Parents' Committee)

Item presented by Parent Commissioner, Ms. Merika Ramundo:

- Ms. Ramundo thanked Anna Sanalidro, Director of Educational Services, for presenting information on the funding model for tutorial services, including those provided by LEARN;
- Ms. Ramundo reported that Ms. Sanalidro also shared information on pedagogical resources available to support students during severe weather incidents;
- Ms. Ramundo noted that parents have been provided with access to online educational resources through various platforms;
- Ms. Ramundo indicated that the Parents' Committee introduced a survey to assess school infrastructure conditions, including HVAC systems, accessibility, and outdoor spaces.

12.4 Governance and Ethics Committee

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

- There has been no meeting since the last report.

12.5 Audit Committee

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

- There has been no meeting since the last report.

12.6 Human Resources Committee

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

- The Committee met on April 29th to discuss the staffing plans for APPA, SPPMEM, QFL and the Organizational Chart.

12.7 EMSAC (English Montreal Student Advisory Committee)

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

- The Chair, Mr. Joe Ortona, reported that the English Montreal Student Advisory Committee met on May 11th and discussed the purpose and importance of maintaining a student code of conduct. Mr. Ortona indicated that the Committee identified areas for revision, including the application of an artificial intelligence policy;

- Mr. Ortona reported that the Committee discussed the issue of student absenteeism and its prevalence. Mr. Ortona indicated that the Committee examined factors contributing to student disengagement, including mental health challenges and reduced connections to school. Mr. Ortona reported that members suggested increasing student support services to improve attendance and engagement;
- Mr. Ortona noted that Committee advisors expressed appreciation to members for their participation and contributions throughout the year;
- Mr. Ortona added that members received certificates of recognition and leadership books, and that graduating members will receive a bursary at their convocation ceremonies.

13. Commissioners' Report

Report presented by Commissioner, Mr. Julien Feldman:

- Mr. Julien Feldman reported that he attended the performance of *The Lyre's Dream* and congratulated all those involved;
- Mr. Feldman expressed appreciation to organizers for the successful QESBA conference;
- Mr. Feldman reported on the Holocaust Education lecture held at Westmount High School, attended by over 500 students. Mr. Feldman noted that the event had a significant impact on the school community and thanked the Commissioners who attended the event and the Principal for organizing.

Report presented by Commissioner, Ms. Paula Kilian:

- Ms. Paula Kilian reported that she attended the TED-Ed student talks at Westmount High School on April 29th and commended the students' confidence and presentations;
- Ms. Kilian reported that John F. Kennedy High School held a breast cancer awareness fundraiser on April 29th, raising over \$1,000 through various activities;
- Ms. Kilian noted that the LaurenHill Jazz Band visited Dunrae Gardens and performed a concert for students;
- Ms. Kilian reported that Dunrae Gardens Grade 5 students participated in an educational field trip to the Pointe-à-Callière Museum.
- Ms. Kilian reported that the EMSB choir held its annual spring concert on May 2nd at Oscar Peterson Hall, featuring an all-Canadian music program;

Report presented by Commissioner, Ms. Susan Perera:

- Ms. Susan Perera reported that she attended John Caboto Academy's Tech Fair on May 8th and highlighted the strength of the school's robotics and STEM program. Ms. Perera noted that students demonstrated impressive coding and problem-solving skills during their presentations;
- Ms. Perera reported that she attended Lester B. Pearson High School's 50th anniversary celebration and highlighted its strong history and community legacy. Ms. Perera emphasized the school's lasting impact across generations, noting the presence of former students and their families;
- Ms. Perera reported that she attended the Sri Lankan New Year celebration in Park Extension on May 9th alongside fellow Commissioners, highlighting it as a meaningful cultural community event;
- Ms. Perera reported that Our Lady of Pompei School held a successful Tech Fair on May 13th with strong participation from students, families, and the community.

Report presented by Commissioner, Mr. Mario Pietrangelo:

- Mr. Mario Pietrangelo reported that he attended the Teacher Recognition Day event at Laurier Macdonald High School on May 8th and expressed appreciation for the contributions of educators, each honoured teacher received a \$150 gift certificate;
- Mr. Pietrangelo reported that he met with community partners and successfully secured a \$20,000 donation from Gestion MMTP for 4 Saint-Leonard schools who will benefit by upgrading their gymnasium equipment. Mr. Pietrangelo expressed appreciation to the donors for their generosity and commitment.

