

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS OF THE  
ENGLISH MONTREAL SCHOOL BOARD

A Special Board Meeting of the English Montreal School Board has taken place on Friday, November 14, 2025, at 12:30 P.M. via TEAMS.

Commissioners Present

Mr. Joe Ortona, Chair  
Mr. James Kromida, Vice-Chair  
Ms. Maria Corsi, Commissioner  
Ms. Chelsea Craig, Commissioner  
Ms. Paula Kilian, Commissioner  
Ms. Julie Kristof, Parent Commissioner  
Mr. Pietro Mercuri, Commissioner  
Ms. Sharon Nelson, Commissioner  
Ms. Susan Perera, Commissioner  
Ms. Merika Ramundo, Parent Commissioner  
Ms. Jennifer Rutt, Parent Commissioner  
Ms. Paola Samuel, Commissioner

Commissioners Not Present

Mr. Julien Feldman, Commissioner  
Ms. Jessica Houde-Woytiuk, Parent Commissioner  
Mr. Mario Pietrangelo, Commissioner

Administrators Present

Mr. Nicholas Katalifos, Director General  
Ms. Pela 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  
Mr. Mario Cardin, Director, Material Resources  
Ms. Sandra Léveillé, Director, School Organization  
Ms. Myrianne Lusignan, Assistant Director, Educational Services  
Ms. Livia Nassivera, Director, Financial Services  
Ms. Anna Sanalitro, Director, Educational Services  
Me Magdalena Sokol, Director, Legal Services  
Ms. Ann Watson, Director, Human Resources  
Ms. Marilyn Ramlakhan, Assistant Director, Human Resources  
Ms. Angela Vaudry, Assistant Director, Human Resources  
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"> <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>
	<p><u>Confirmation of Notice of the Meeting</u></p> <p>The Secretary General, Me Nathalie Lauzière, confirmed that proper notice of this meeting was given.</p>
2.	<p><u>Approval of Agenda</u></p> <p>IT WAS MOVED BY MS. CHELSEA CRAIG AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED THAT the agenda be approved with item 4 – Proposal for EMSB Action Plan – Quebec Construction Training Offensive Phase III – For Consultation preceding item 3 – Question Period.</p> <p>Vote: 12-0-0, Adopted.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><u>Resolution # 25-11-14-2</u></p>
	<p>Ms. Paula Kilian moved to have a recess at 12:45 p.m. and returned at 12:50 p.m.</p>
3.	<p><u>Proposal for EMSB Action Plan – Quebec Construction Training Offensive Phase III – For Consultation</u></p> <p><b>WHEREAS</b> according to Resolution #23-12-19-12.2, the English Montreal School Board (EMSB) assigned space at the Lester B. Pearson High School to Adult Education and Vocational Studies (AEVS) for the vocational programs in the construction sector;</p> <p><b>WHEREAS</b> the EMSB has been granted provisional authorisation to offer the Carpentry (DVS) program;</p> <p><b>WHEREAS</b> the Ministère de l'Éducation du Québec (MEQ) announced the launch of Phase III of the Quebec Construction Training Offensive, focusing exclusively on long-term vocational training programs leading to a Diploma of Vocational Studies (DVS);</p> <p><b>WHEREAS</b> the MEQ has authorised the EMSB to open additional cohorts beyond those permitted by the provisional authorisation;</p> <p><b>WHEREAS</b> the EMSB proposes that these additional cohorts be delivered by the Rosemount Technology Centre and housed at Lester B. Pearson High School;</p> <p><b>WHEREAS</b> Adult Education and Vocational Services (AEVS) will require additional space at Lester B. Pearson High School to accommodate the expansion of this program;</p>

**WHEREAS** certain classrooms of Lester B. Pearson High School may need to be modified to meet the program requirements;

**WHEREAS** the Lester B. Pearson High School governing board, the Rosemount Technology Centre governing board and the EMSB Parents' Committee be invited to submit their views no later than December 5, 2025;

**WHEREAS** the English Montreal School Board Long Range Planning Committee met on November 3, 2025, and recommended that the EMSB assign the space at Lester B. Pearson High School, as per attached document, to AEVS;

**WHEREAS** due to the urgency to implement this program, the Long Range Planning Committee recommends a shorter consultation period in order to meet all the requirements;

IT WAS MOVED BY MS. MARIA CORSI AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED, AS RECOMMENDED BY THE LONG RANGE PLANNING COMMITTEE, THAT the Council of Commissioners approve for consultation that the EMSB assign the space at Lester B. Pearson High School, as per attached document, to AEVS;

IT WAS FURTHER UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED THAT the Council of Commissioners consult the Lester B. Pearson High School governing board, the Rosemount Technology Centre governing board and the EMSB Parents' Committee to submit their views no later than December 5, 2025.

Vote: 12-0-0, Adopted.

Resolution # 25-11-14-3

4.

Question Period

Certain questions were not read and addressed by the Chair, Mr. Joe Ortona, as they were not receivable.

Questions from Rafael Lacelle were read and addressed by the Chair, Mr. Joe Ortona, regarding the following:

- Student safety and freedom of expression

A question from Danielle Schirmer was read and addressed by the Chair, Mr. Joe Ortona, regarding the following:

- Implementing restorative measures in the handling of sensitive socio-political issues

A question from Nadine Faraj was read and addressed by the Chair, Mr. Joe Ortona, regarding the following:

- Advocating for an apology to a student in response to a suspension

Questions from Eilah Elan were read and addressed by the Chair, Mr. Joe Ortona, regarding the following:

- EMSB Policy vs. Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms
- Applying the same disciplinary actions to every student

Questions from Stephanie Passucci were read and addressed by the Chair, Mr. Joe Ortona, regarding the following:

- Seeking input from Parent Commissioners regarding budget

Questions from Katherine Korakakis were read and addressed by the Chair, Mr. Joe Ortona, regarding the following:

- Parents' Committee Budget

	<p>Questions from Christine Gravel were read and addressed by the Chair, Mr. Joe Ortona, regarding the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ A communication to the Director General</li> <li>➤ EMSB's partnership with the Azrieli Foundation</li> </ul> <p>Questions from Samara Perez were read and addressed by the Chair, Mr. Joe Ortona, regarding the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Ethics Complaint</li> </ul> <p>Questions from Chris Eustace were read and addressed by the Chair, Mr. Joe Ortona, regarding the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Court challenge regarding educational budget cuts</li> </ul>
5.	<p><u>Adjournment</u></p> <p>IT WAS MOVED BY MS. MARIA CORSI AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED THAT the meeting be adjourned at 1:12 p.m.</p> <p>Vote: 12-0-0, Adopted.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><u>Resolution # 25-11-14-5</u></p>
	<p>Signed in Montreal, _____</p> <hr/> <p>Mr. Joe Ortona, Chair _____ Me Nathalie Lauzière, Secretary General</p>