

**MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS OF THE
ENGLISH MONTREAL SCHOOL BOARD**

A Regular Meeting of the English Montreal School Board has taken place on Tuesday, December 9, 2025, at 7:00 P.M. in the Laurence Patterson Room, 6000 Fielding Avenue, Montreal.

Commissioners Present

Mr. Joe Ortona, Chair
Mr. James Kromida, Vice-Chair
Ms. Maria Corsi, Commissioner
Ms. Chelsea Craig, Commissioner
Mr. Julien Feldman, Commissioner
Ms. Jessica Houde-Woysiuk, 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 Sector
Ms. Darlene Kehyayan, Regional Director, East Sector
Ms. Sandra Leveille, Director, School Organization
Ms. Livia Nassivera, Director, Financial Services
Ms. Julie Rene de Cotret, Director, Student Services
Ms. Anna Sanalitro, Director, Educational Services
Me Magdalena Sokol, Director, Legal Services
Ms. Angela Spagnolo, Director, AEVS
Mr. Charalambos Thomas, Director, Information Technology Services
Ms. Ann Watson, Director, Human Resources
Ms. Marilyn Ramlakhan, Assistant Director, Human Resources
Ms. Angela Vaudry, Assistant Director, Human Resources
Mr. Mauro Zampini, Assistant Director, Educational Services
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>Nominations for Student of the Month</u></p> <p><u>2.1 December – Adam and Jamie Fernandes</u></p> <p>The EMSB Students of the Month for December are Adam and Jamie Fernandes from Royal Vale School.</p> <p>Despite having an incredibly difficult year, which sadly saw Adam and Jamie lose their father to cancer, the siblings have channeled their pain into a positive for the community. At school, they are dedicated students and athletes, but outside the classroom, they give of their time to help others. Adam and Jamie are actively involved with Myra's Kids Foundation, helping to support, console and be present for other grieving children. They consistently attend Myra's Kids ongoing support groups and are active in ensuring the foundation's summer camp is one filled with hope and joy. Additionally, Adam and Jamie's compassion is also visible via their dedication to NDG's homeless community, as they often purchase and personally distribute food to those in need throughout the neighbourhood.</p> <p><u>2.2 January – Joey Sousa</u></p> <p>The student will be honored in the spring.</p>
3.	<p><u>Question Period</u></p> <p>Questions from Karine Toledano, were read and addressed by the Chair, Mr. Joe Ortona, regarding the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ What actions the EMSB is taking at both the school and board levels to address rising anti-Zionist hostility; ➤ Determine how these issues will be integrated into the school's educational approach so that students understand the real-world impact of harmful behaviors. <p>Question from Lisa Israelovitch, was read and addressed by the Chair, Mr. Joe Ortona, regarding the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Determining how to equip educators, staff, and learners with the knowledge and tools needed to understand the historical roots of these issues.

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

- Ensuring that the Board's response to these forms of hostility is aligned with its statutory obligations under Quebec's Education Act and is clearly reflected in its ABAV policies;
- Identifying the mechanisms that ensure incidents targeting specific student groups are recognized as discrimination under ABAV protections.

Question from Fatima Ahmad was read and addressed by the Chair, Mr. Joe Ortona, regarding the following:

- Ensuring that any organization selected to deliver genocide education upholds principles of human rights and is not involved in supporting or enabling contemporary acts of mass violence.

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

- Did the government grant the EMSB's request to use surplus funds to balance the budget?
- Will the EMSB establish a specific spending limit for any commissioner's defense?

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

- Can the Chair confirm whether a motion has been received by the administration and transmitted to the Council of Commissioners?
- Since parents are raising concerns about the sources of funding of partner organizations, rather than their educational programming, can the Chair outline the formal process for parents to have such concerns reviewed by the Council?

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

- Could EMSB broaden its curriculum to include a fact-based, archaeology-supported course on over 3,000 years of Middle Eastern history;
- Considering ways to reinforce instruction in English vocabulary so that terms with significant historical weight are used accurately and responsibly.

A statement was made by the Chair, Mr. Joe Ortona, regarding public question period moving forward.

The rules have always been clear: the question period is open to members of the public who wish to attend in person and ask their questions. We have always respected that rule. People were here tonight, and they had the opportunity to ask their questions, which poses no issue for me whatsoever.

During COVID, meetings were broadcast but not open to in-person attendance. Because of that exceptional circumstance, we temporarily allowed written submissions. The rule itself did not change, but we made an accommodation so people could still participate. For those who submitted questions in writing, I read them aloud and provided answers. That process, however, is not part of the official rules.

This will be the last month that I accept written questions. For several months now, I've received submissions that I am not comfortable reading. If I choose not to read them, I'm accused of censorship or even threatened with being taken to the Ethics Commissioner. If I do read them, I worry that the wording, spoken in my voice, could be misrepresented.

Going forward, anyone who wishes to ask a question may do so by attending in person. This is a public forum. As long as questions are asked respectfully, follow the rules of decorum, and meet basic standards of decency, anyone is welcome to participate. But I will no longer accept questions submitted in writing.

4.	<p><u>Approval of Agenda</u></p> <p>Mr. Mario Pietrangelo moved that item 20 be discussed in camera at item 5.4.</p> <p>IT WAS MOVED BY MS. SHARON NELSON AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED THAT the agenda be approved, as amended.</p> <p>Vote: 15-0-0, Adopted</p>
	<u>Resolution # 25-12-09-4</u>
5.	<p><u>In Camera</u></p> <p><u>5.1 Motion to Move In Camera</u></p> <p>On a motion by Ms. Maria Corsi the meeting went In Camera at 7:41 p.m., all were in favor.</p> <p>Mr. Julien Feldman left the room at 7:41.</p> <p>The meeting returned from In Camera session at 8:00 p.m.</p> <p>Mr. Julien Feldman returned to the meeting at 8:00.</p>
6.	<p><u>Adoption of Resolution(s) from In Camera</u></p> <p><u>5.2 Health and Safety in the Workplace – CNESST Retrospective Plan – Choice of Limit per Claim and CNESST dues for 2026</u></p> <p>WHEREAS the English Montreal School Board (EMSB) has advised the Commission des normes, de l'équité, de la santé et de la sécurité du travail (CNESST) of the Board's choice of limit per claim regarding the maximum insurable annual salary of an employee for the period of January 1, 2025, to December 31, 2025 (Resolution # 24-12-17-5.2);</p> <p>WHEREAS OPTIMUM CONSULTANTS AND ACTUARIES INC., after a study of the CNESST documentation received in year 2025, the final assessment year of 2022, recommend in their report an optimal choice of 900% for the yearly maximum insurable wage \$103,000, for an insurance limit amount set to \$927,000 for year 2026;</p> <p>IT WAS MOVED BY MS. CHELSEA CRAIG AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED THAT:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Commission des normes, de l'équité, de la santé et de la sécurité du travail (CNESST) be advised that the Board's choice of limit per claim in phase III of the CNESST Retrospective Plan for 2026, regarding occupational injuries and diseases, be set at 900% the yearly maximum insurable wage \$103,000 for an insurance limit amount set to \$927,000 per claim for 2026; - The Director General be authorized to sign on behalf of the Board the pertinent documents related to the CNESST Retrospective Plan. <p>Vote: 15-0-0, Adopted.</p>

WHEREAS the appropriate investigation has been conducted;

WHEREAS the Union has been informed by written notice of the Board's intention to terminate the engagement of employee # 321752205;

WHEREAS it has been confirmed that the reason for termination is misconduct and immoral behavior;

IT WAS MOVED BY JAMES KROMIDA AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED THAT in accordance with Clause 5.7-00 of the Teachers' Collective Agreement, the Contract of Engagement between the English Montreal School Board (EMSB) and employee # 321752205 be terminated immediately and that effective December 9, 2025, he/she be dismissed from the service of the Board.

Vote: 15-0-0, Adopted.

Resolution # 25-12-09-5.3

7. Adoption of Minutes

7.1. Special Board Meeting held on November 14, 2025

IT WAS MOVED BY MS. CHELSEA CRAIG AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED THAT the Minutes of the Special Board Meeting held on November 14, 2025, be approved as presented.

Vote: 14-0-1, Adopted (Ms. J. Houde-Woytiuk abstained)

Resolution # 25-12-09-7.1

8. Business Arising Out of Minutes

None.

9. Chair's Report

Presented by the Chair, Mr. Joe Ortona:

- Participated in a community event with students and education professionals at Concordia University;
- November 7th, attended the graduation of Laurier MacDonald High School;
- Attended at Rosemount Technology Centre graduation on November 20th, noting the variety of programs completed by students;
- A visit to John Caboto Academy on November 21st where teacher Ms. Jennifer Delu was presented with the Prime Minister's award.
- Attended the EMSB Chorale event on December 6th, an annual gathering of students from multiple schools performing Christmas carols for families and commissioners;
- Recognition of December 6th as the anniversary of the tragic 1989 Montréal Massacre, honoring the 14 women who were killed and acknowledging the ongoing need to address gender-based violence.

10. Director General's Report

Presented by the Director General, Mr. Nicholas Katalifos:

- Preschool and kindergarten registration week for the 2026-2027 academic year will take place on Monday, February the 2nd to Friday, February the 6th;
- Pierre E. Trudeau Elementary School, music teacher, Ashley Vernon, and John Caboto Academy, Math, English, citizenship and Quebec culture teacher, Jennifer Ledrew, have been awarded the Prime Minister's Award for teaching excellence;
- Enhancement of the Holocaust education program to the renewal of a special grant from Federation CJA;

- Fall/Winter edition of *Inspirations* newspaper, Quebec's only English language publication and Resource Hub focus on inclusion, disability and mental well-being. *Inspiration Newspaper* is proud to announce that the Simon Chang Difference Maker Award for Fall 2025 was presented to the Montreal Center for Learning Disabilities. *Inspirations Newspaper* also launched the Jackie Fisher Empathy Tour on December 3rd in the Auditorium at Wager Adult Education Center.
- F.A.C.E. High School recently welcomed the McGill honor band. This event brought together students from 22 high schools for a day. The students had the privilege of being conducted by Danielle Gaudre working in sectionals with several McGill University professors.
- HSM Adult Education Center partnered with an organization called SOVERDI (to plant 6 new trees), a non-profit organization that implements urban greening strategies and planting trees to improve the quality of life and health of the population of Greater Montreal.

11. Proposal for EMSB Action Plan – Quebec Construction Training Offensive Phase III – Following Consultation

WHEREAS at the Board meeting on November 14, 2025, the Council of Commissioners approved for consultation purposes, in Resolution # 25-11-14-3, that the English Montreal School Board (EMSB) assign the space at Lester B. Pearson High School to Adult Education and Vocational Studies (AEVS) for future use;

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

WHEREAS the EMSB Long Range Planning Committee held a meeting on December 8, 2025, and recommended that the EMSB assign the space at Lester B. Pearson High School, to AEVS for future use;

IT WAS MOVED BY MS. SUSAN PERERA AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED, AS RECOMMENDED BY THE LONG RANGE PLANNING COMMITTEE, THAT the Council of Commissioners approve that the EMSB assign the space at Lester B. Pearson High School, to AEVS for future use.

Vote: 15-0-0, Adopted.

Resolution # 25-12-09-11

12. Draft Calendars (Teachers) for the Youth, Adult and Vocational Sectors for 2026-2027 – For Consultation

WHEREAS the Human Resources Department has drafted the calendars (teachers) for the youth, adult and vocational sectors for 2026-2027;

WHEREAS the calendars (teachers) for the youth, adult and vocational sectors for 2026-2027 must be sent out for the purposes of official consultation to the following groups:

English Montreal School Board Parents Committee (EMSBPC)
Central Management Advisory Committee - Resource Allocation Committee (CMAC-RAC)
Association of Montreal School Administrators (AMSA)
Montréal Teachers Association (MTA)

WHEREAS the end date for consultation purposes with the aforementioned committees, unions/associations will be THIRTY (30) days following the date of this Board meeting;

IT WAS MOVED BY MS. MERIKA RAMUNDO AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED THAT the proposed calendars (teachers) for the youth, adult, and vocational sectors for 2026-2027 be approved and sent out, for purposes of consultation, to:

English Montreal School Board Parents Committee (EMSBPC)
Central Management Advisory Committee - Resource Allocation Committee (CMAC-RAC)
Association of Montreal School Administrators (AMSA)
Montréal Teachers Association (MTA)

and the results of the consultation be returned to Ann Watson, Director of Human Resources no later than January 8, 2026, in accordance with the documentation submitted at the meeting.

Vote: 15-0-0, Adopted.

Resolution # 25-12-09-12

13. Authorization for Cadastral Amendment and Corrections to the Land Registry Concerning Lot 1 668 206

WHEREAS the Government of Québec abolished Catholic and Protestant school boards (former school boards) by creating anglophone and francophone school boards (new school boards) through Order in Council 1014-97 dated August 13, 1997;

WHEREAS plans for the apportionment of the rights and obligations between the former school boards and the new school boards were established under the Education Act (Act);

WHEREAS in accordance with these aforementioned plans for the apportionment of the rights and obligations, the English Montreal School Board (EMSB) became the owner of Lester B. Pearson School (école Lester B. Pearson) located at 11575 P.M. Favier Avenue, Montreal North, Province of Québec, H1G 6G5;

WHEREAS in accordance with these aforementioned plans for the apportionment of the rights and obligations, the Centre de services scolaire de la Pointe-de-l'Île (CSSPI), formerly known as la Commission scolaire de la Pointe-de-l'Île, became the owner of Jules-Verne School located at 11811 P.M. Favier Avenue, Montreal North, Province of Québec, H1G 6G5;

WHEREAS the EMSB Administration has recently discovered an error in the Land Registry, in that the registered owner of Jules-Verne School is indicated as the EMSB instead of CSSPI, and that both schools are located on the same lot bearing the number 1 668 206;

WHEREAS the EMSB Administration informed the CSSPI Administration that necessary measures should be taken to regularize the situation;

IT WAS MOVED BY MS. SUSAN PERERA AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED THAT the Director General or the Assistant Director General of the EMSB be authorized to sign any legal document or other document in order to subdivide lot 1 668 206 into two distinct new lots so that Lester B. Pearson School and Jules-Verne School each have their respective lot;

IT WAS FURTHER UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED THAT the Director General or the Assistant Director General of the EMSB be authorized to sign any legal document or other document to make any necessary correction to the Land Registry of the Montréal Registration Division so that the English Montreal School Board is designated as the owner of Lester B. Pearson School only, and not Jules-Verne School.

Vote: 15-0-0, Adopted.

Resolution # 25-12-09-13

14. Correction of a Notice of Property Transfer Regarding Our Lady of Pompei School

WHEREAS the Government of Québec abolished Catholic and Protestant school boards (former school boards) by creating anglophone and francophone school boards (new school boards) through Order in Council 1014-97 dated August 13, 1997;

WHEREAS plans for the apportionment of the rights and obligations between the former school boards and the new school boards were established under the Education Act (Act);

WHEREAS in accordance with these aforementioned plans for the apportionment of the rights and obligations, the English Montreal School Board (EMSB) became the owner of Our Lady of Pompei School (école Our Lady of Pompei) located at 9944 St. Michel Boulevard, Montréal, Province of Québec, H1H 5G8;

WHEREAS by deed executed under private signature on November 23, 2001, published under number 5 304 518 at the Land Registry Office of the Montréal Registration Division, notice was given by Charley E. E. Levy, Director General of the EMSB, as per Section 121 of the Act, that the immovables described therein – including Our Lady of Pompei School, known and designated as being lots 1 744 450 and 1 744 872 of the Québec cadastre, Montréal Registration Division, with a building erected thereon at 9944 St. Michel Boulevard, Montréal (Ahuntsic-Cartierville borough), Province of Québec, H1H 5G8 – have been owned by the EMSB since July 1, 1998;

WHEREAS an error occurred in the designation of Our Lady of Pompei School (école Our Lady of Pompei), and the EMSB wishes to correct this error by notifying the Land Registrar of the Montréal Registration Division of the exact designation of the property where Our Lady of Pompei School (école Our Lady of Pompei) is located, namely an immovable whose exact designation is lot 1 744 872 with a building erected thereon at 9944 St. Michel Boulevard, Montréal (Ahuntsic-Cartierville borough), Province of Québec, H1H 5G8;

IT WAS MOVED BY MS. SUSAN PERERA AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED THAT the Director General or the Assistant Director General of the EMSB be authorized to sign any legal document or other document in order to correct the error regarding the designation of Our Lady of Pompei School (école Our Lady of Pompei) in the Québec Land Registry, Montréal Registration Division.

Vote: 15-0-0, Adopted.

Resolution # 25-12-09-14

15.

2024-2025 Annual Report

WHEREAS Section 220 of the Education Act states that every School Board shall prepare an Annual Report giving its community an account of the results obtained with regards to the goals and measurable objectives set out in the Commitment-to-Success Plan with the Ministère de l'Éducation du Québec (MEQ);

WHEREAS the said report shall also give an account to the Minister of the results obtained with regard to the directions and objectives of the Commitment-to-Success Plan established by the MEQ;

WHEREAS the Annual Report includes the EMSB Commitment-to-Success report, the financial statements, service contracts (Chapter G-1.011) and Staffing Report (Chapter G-1.011);

WHEREAS the Board shall send a copy of the report to the Ministère de l'Éducation du Québec (MEQ) by December 31, 2025, as per the Education Act;

IT WAS MOVED BY MS. MERIKA RAMUNDO AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED THAT the 2024-2025 English Montreal School Board Annual Report, including the EMSB Commitment-to-Success Plan report, the financial statements, the service contracts (Chapter G-1.011) and Staffing Report (Chapter G-1.011), be approved on December 9, 2025, and that a formal presentation of this document be given on February 10, 2026, at the EMSB Head Office, 6000 Fielding Avenue, Montreal;

IT WAS FURTHER UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED THAT copies of the report be sent to the Ministère de l'Éducation du Québec (MEQ) by December 31, 2025.

Vote: 13-0-2, Adopted (Ms. C. Craig and Ms. J. Houde-Woytiuk abstained)

Resolution # 25-12-09-15

16. 2025-2026 Remuneration of Commissioners

WHEREAS Order-in-Council #965-2025, dated July 16, 2025, establishes the new parameters for purposes of calculating the maximum global remuneration of school board commissioners for the 2025-2026 school year;

WHEREAS said remuneration parameters include a component determined by the annual number of full-time equivalent Youth, Adult, and Vocational sector students;

WHEREAS the total maximum global remuneration of school board commissioners for 2025-2026 is \$140,167, with the Board determining the allocation of this envelope;

IT WAS MOVED BY MS. JENNIFER RUTT AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED THAT the annual remuneration to EMSB Commissioners be applied retroactively to July 1, 2025, as outlined in the documentation submitted to the meeting;

IT WAS FURTHER UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED THAT authorization be given to Financial Services to take the appropriate action necessary to reflect the total remuneration for 2025-2026 in the annual budget.

Vote: 15-0-0, Adopted.

Resolution # 25-12-09-16

17.

Governance Structure of the Comité de gestion de la taxe scolaire de l'île de Montréal (CGTSIM)

WHEREAS the *Comité de gestion de la taxe scolaire de l'île de Montréal* (“CGTSIM”) serves an important function in collecting and allocating school tax revenue among school organizations of the island of Montréal, as well as managing the cash and loans of those organizations, for the benefit of all students on the island of Montréal;

WHEREAS the decisions of the CGTSIM on the allocation of funding affect the services that can be provided by the EMSB to its students;

WHEREAS commissioners of the EMSB, elected by the English-speaking community in its territory, have represented the EMSB on the CGTSIM since the creation of the EMSB in 1998;

WHEREAS Bill 94, adopted on October 30, 2025, replaces the commissioner designated by the EMSB on the board of the CGTSIM with the director general of the school board or an assistant director general designated by them;

WHEREAS section 23 of the *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms* (“Charter”) protects the minority language community’s right to management and control of minority language education and facilities, including an exclusive right to make decisions regarding the allocation of funds for minority language education;

WHEREAS in the Bill 40 case, the Québec Court of Appeal declared that provisions replacing the chair of the council of commissioners with the director general as the spokesperson of the board were found to violate s. 23 of the *Charter* and to be inapplicable to English-language school boards (at paragraphs 183-186 of the judgment);

WHEREAS the governance structure of the CGTSIM infringes the minority language community’s right to designate its representatives to exercise management and control over funds for minority language education;

	<p>IT WAS MOVED BY MS. MARIA CORSI AND RESOLVED THAT the Council of Commissioners of the EMSB mandates Power Law to initiate a legal proceeding on behalf of the EMSB to challenge the governance structure of the CGTSIM.</p> <p>Vote: 14-1-0, Adopted (Ms. J. Houde-Woytiuk voted against)</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><u>Resolution # 25-12-09-17</u></p>
18.	<p><u>Affirmation Designating February 2026 as a Celebration of Black History Month</u></p> <p>WHEREAS many Canadians and Quebecers of African heritage toiled and endured injustice, never having been accorded the recognition they deserved - and yet paved the way for future generations to seize opportunity - first for freedom, next for education and ultimately, to achieve success;</p> <p>WHEREAS observance of Black History Month is an opportunity for our community and our schools to reflect on, commemorate and celebrate the contributions of African Canadians and Quebecers from all walks of life throughout our history;</p> <p>WHEREAS observance of Black History Month calls on the community to honour the contribution of those pioneers who by recognizing their own spirit, helped ensure our legacy of Civil Rights and Freedoms;</p> <p>WHEREAS we are inspired by the perseverance of our fellow citizens and wish to acknowledge this contribution to the noble goals and shared values of our country, as well, to re-examine and re-assert our contemporary role in preserving and defending the Civil Rights of all citizens;</p> <p>WHEREAS the English Montreal School Board recognizes Black History Month as an occasion for each of its schools to offer students an opportunity to understand the good will and common humanity underlying all people; to develop pride in his or her own identity and heritage; and to understand, respect, and accept the identity and heritage of others;</p> <p>WHEREAS corresponding school activities held during this month encourage students to continue to strive for the best education as a means to fulfill their own potential;</p> <p>WHEREAS not only during the month of February, but throughout the school year, it is important to recognize both disparities and opportunities in working towards greater equity in our schools, in the community and throughout the education system;</p> <p>IT IS MOVED BY MR. JULIEN FELDMAN AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED THAT the English Montreal School Board designate February 2026 as Black History Month, observed in all of its schools and centres.</p> <p>Vote: 15-0-0, Adopted.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><u>Resolution # 25-12-09-18</u></p>
19.	<p><u>2024-2025 Audited Financial Statements</u></p> <p>The 2024-2025 Audited Financial Statements of the English Montreal School Board for the year ended June 30, 2025, as audited by the Board's external auditors, Raymond Chabot Grant Thornton, were presented and deposited as per section 286 of the Education Act.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><u>DP# 25-12-09-19</u></p>
20.	<p><u>Deposit of Ethics Commissioner Decision – S. P. vs. J. F. – 2024-771</u></p> <p>IT IS MOVED BY MS. MARIA CORSI AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED THAT the item be tabled.</p> <p>Vote: 15-0-0, Adopted.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><u>Resolution # 25-12-09-20</u></p>

21.	<u>Chapter G-1.011 – Act Respecting Workforce Management and Control – Information Report</u> This item was presented by Ms. Ann Watson, Director of Human Resources, for information.
22.	<u>Director General's Reporting – As per By-Law No. 10 – Delegation of Powers</u> This item was presented by the Director General, Mr. Nick Katalifos, for information.
23.	<p><u>Committee Reports</u></p> <p><u>23.1 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"> ➤ Met on October 27th, the elected chair is Mr. Vasilios Bill Mandelos and Ms. Julie Kristof as a vice chair; ➤ Met on November 20th, to discuss the impact of budget cuts on our community, transitioning students with complex needs from elementary space to secondary school programs and the transition from secondary into the next phases; ➤ Received a presentation on special programs across schools, including the populations served and program locations. The presentation highlighted the flexibility and creativity required to adapt services to evolving needs. <p><u>23.2 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"> ➤ There has been no meeting since the last report. <p><u>23.3 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"> ➤ Committee agreed to send a letter to the English Parent Committee association outlining our concerns about the implications of Bill 94; ➤ The committee also reviewed and approved a letter to the Ministry of Education seeking clarification in the Education Act on governing boards authority to maintain a dedicated e-mail account; ➤ Members expressed concern regarding Quebec's decision not to accept federal funds for a national food program, despite ongoing food insecurity in schools; ➤ Members were encouraged to circulate a National Assembly petition advocating for crossing guards at high schools with signatures requested before the February deadline; ➤ Marketing and communication subcommittee continues to work on strengthening communication with parents and improving coordination amongst PC members; ➤ The English Parent Committee Association sent a brief to the National Assembly on Bill 1, which raises concerns about minority rights, school governance and restrictions on using certain funds for legal challenges; ➤ Members expressed disappointment that delegates were not consulted on the 82% reduction to the Parent Committee budget. While recognizing broader financial constraints, members noted that cuts of this scale limit parents' ability to participate in meetings and initiatives, undermining their role as "essential collaborators" in student success; ➤ The Climate Readiness subcommittee reported progress on drafting EMSB guidelines for extreme heat and cold, which currently do not exist. Work also includes improving coordination with municipalities on snow removal and school access, and developing recommendations on ventilation, flexible outdoor space use during heat events, and clearer communication with families.

23.4 Governance and Ethics Committee

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

- There has been no meeting since the last report.

23.5 Audit Committee

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

- The audit committee met on October 27th and received the 2024-2025 audit report.

23.6 Human Resources Committee

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

- There has been no meeting since the last report.

23.7 CGTSIM (Comité de gestion de la taxe scolaire de l'île de Montréal)

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

- Changed the structure to the committee to Directors General of the five island boards and service centers.

23.8 EMSAC (English Montreal Student Advisory Committee)

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

- On November 6th and the students discussed the municipal election results;
- They discussed the new secularism law;
- Spoke about the impact of the budget cuts.

24. Commissioners' Report

Item presented by Commissioner, Mr. James Kromida:

- On November 25th, Inspirations newspaper with the assistance of the Jacqueline Fisher Foundation sent us Araf Fisher to LaurenHill Academy.

Item presented by Commissioner, Ms. Paola Samuel:

- Royal West's Student Life Association held its first homecoming on October 3rd, with over 250 Secondary IV and V students attending. The event raised \$2,500, which was donated to the NDG Food Bank;
- An inspirational speaker, Mariam Ghani, was at Wager Adult Education Center and John Grant;
- Very first Hanukkah on the hill in Ottawa hosted by Anthony Housefather and joined by colleagues Sharon Nelson, Paula Kilian, Julien Feldman and Chelsea Craig.

Item presented by Commissioner, Ms. Sharon Nelson:

- Attended the first City Council meeting for the newly elected board City Council in NDG to discuss the bike paths near St. Monica;
- Attended the Willingdon school Open House.

Item presented by Commissioner, Ms. Maria Corsi:

- On November 20th, attended the graduation ceremony at Rosemount Technology Center;
- On December 5th, attended the holiday concert at Rosemount High School featuring performances from secondary IV to secondary V students in the music program.

Item presented by Parent Commissioner, Ms. Jennifer Rutt:

- Recognize James Lyng's significant improvement in the Fraser Report, rising from 0.6 in 2018 to 3.4 in 2024, and recognized the principal, vice-principal, teachers, and support staff for their dedication;
- Holiday Art Show on December 18th, from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., with proceeds going to the snack program.

Item presented by Commissioner, Ms. Paula Kilian:

- On Halloween, Ms. Kilian visited several youth sector schools in Ward 9, including St. Raphael, Sinclair Laird, Perspectives II, JFK High School, Carlyle, and Dunrae Gardens, all of which held creative and well-attended haunted house events;
- For Remembrance Day, JFK Adult Centre and JFK High School held a joint commemoration marking the 80th anniversary of the end of World War II, followed by a Holocaust Museum tour on November 24th with JFK students;
- On December 3rd, our chair, Mr. Ortona, hosted a meet-and-greet with GB Chairs and PC Delegates, presenting the history of EMSB's legal challenges starting with Bill 21.

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

- The Frazier report, as James Lyng did get the most improved nomination and Royal West was also acknowledged;
- A petition was launched at the National Assembly. This was for crossing guards, to include high school students.

Item presented by Parent Commissioner, Ms. Julie Kristof:

- Attended the holiday lunch.

25.	<p><u>Report of the Special Executive Committee Meeting held on November 14, 2025</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Services Provided by the Montreal Oral School for the Deaf (MOSD) now called <i>Résonance Montréal</i> to Integrated Students with Hearing Impairments of the EMSB 2025-2026
26.	<p><u>Other Business</u></p> <p>None.</p>
27.	<p><u>Adjournment</u></p> <p>IT WAS MOVED BY MS. JESSICA HOUDE-WOYTIUK AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED THAT the meeting be adjourned at 9:09 p.m.</p> <p>Vote: 15-0-0, Adopted.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><u>Resolution # 25-12-09-27</u></p>

Signed in Montreal, _____

Mr. Joe Ortona, Chair

Me Nathalie Lauzière, Secretary General

