John F Kennedy High School
Governing Board Meeting Minutes
January 20th, 2026

Present: S. Dector, L. Fiumidinisi, P. Kilian, M. Mancini, H. Michalpoulos, J. Serraiocco, S. Sollazzo, A. Tonin, G. Tullio, J. Venditti, F. Vetrone

1. Approval of agenda:

   Motion to approve by S. Dector, seconded by M. Mancini. All in favor.

2. Approval of minutes:
   a. October 28th minutes: motion to approve by J. Venditti, seconded by S. Dector. All in favor.
   b. November 18th minutes: motion to approve by A. Tonin, seconded by J. Venditti. All in favor.

3. Business arising none.

4. New Business

   Principal criteria: will keep criteria from 2024.

5. Chairperson Report

   5.1 Promotion Committee
   H. Michalopoulos is hoping for financial support from the school board for advertising. S. Muoio has gone around getting testimonials from staff and students. P. Kilian suggests reaching out to Mike Cohen.

   5.2 Fundraising: Canada Helps. Choose JFK High School
   H. Michalopoulos explains that Canada Helps website keeps 15% for fundraising. However, cheques are also still possible to submit for donations. One of the JFK alumni from the first graduating class would like to make a donation this way. Once this is done, we will figure out what is needed at the school to help in any way.

   5.3 Bike Path – Onsite Meeting with City to Come
   The city has agreed to meet in front of the school to discuss the bike path with drop off and pick up. A date is to be determined. J. Venditti suggests bringing up the snow removal that causes a divider between the street and bike path to get across. P. Killian would like to take the approach with the other French school in the area that has bike paths but also 4 zones for drop off/pick up an hour in the morning and 1 hour in the afternoon, and that we should have something similar.

5.4 Beautification Project
G. Tullio will see if the Eco Quartier across the street can help. Discussion about the soccer field and possibly using parts of it for projects was discussed since using it as a soccer field in its current state is not feasible.

6. Principal/VP report:
   H. Michalopoulos contacted an HVAC company to come in to give a quote for ventilation/air conditioning for the gymnasium. Architectural plans are needed; H. Michalopoulos is looking into obtaining this.

7. Treasurer Report: none.

8. Teacher's report: A. Tonin reports:

   Last week of school before the break, there were holiday activities at lunch. Ms. Marietta and her girls group does a great job with decorations and community involvement.
   Over 20 JFKHS families received a food basket through donations and the school community that came through, with baskets from $150-$200 worth of food and other products.
   Ms. Dow is organizing JFKHS representation at the leadership camp in April. We have approximately 10 students going this year.
   For Valentine's Day we will be taping positive messages on students' lockers.
   Basketball season is underway but coming to the end in February.
   Futsal has 3 boys teams and 1 girls team in GMAA.

9. Student Services report: G. Tullio reports:
   Mr. Lacroce, our PDCIA, is hosting the Fit to Fight program which includes Mindful Minute and Yoga, as well as the weight room.
   Our guidance counselor B. Stamatakos will be helping with CEGEP applications/adult education referrals at recess, lunch and after school during February. Students have also been taking advantage of 'student for a day' at various institutions.
   Carrefour Jeunesse Emploi has resumed with their program at our school. The representative at our school averages 4-6 students every Monday who come to ask questions.
   REISA: will book workshops for secondary 4s about knowing your rights when stopped by police and civil rights for secondary 4 and the secondary 3 students will receive a workshop on sexual violence and exploitation and healthy relationships from the YWCA.

Names were submitted to "Fairy Godmothers" to dress them with a complete wardrobe for prom, for boys and girls.
This year we were able to submit names of 2 secondary 3 students to receive scholarships of $500 from Educaide. These students have been accepted and will continue to receive the funding each year until they graduate. Names can be submitted again for secondary 3 students next year.

10. Student's report: M. Tonin reports:
    Student council will be selling val-o-grams and sending them out to students on February 12th. February 23rd to 27th we will be holding carnival week, where student council will come up with different activities. Student council and leadership club is looking into the possibility of volunteering at the CLSC right next door.

11. Delegate report: F. Vetrone reports:
    Meeting last week discussed the ongoing budget cuts to the parents committee from $19,000 to $3,000. This money was used for parents to use to help attend the meetings, but also for scholarships for the schools.
    A pamphlet is being distributed on what the parents committee is, so that parents can be informed and want to attend and be part of the committee.
    The PC would like to host information sessions as well to get parents on board and to learn how they can advocate. Details are still up for discussion.
    There is a petition to have crossing guards implemented for high schools.
    F. Vetrone volunteered for the road safety committee, but they haven't had a meeting yet.
    Representatives of PC are asked to find out the status of library services at our schools.

12. Commissioner's report:

    On December 3rd, Joe Ortona hosted a meet and greet with governing board chairs and PC delegates. Mr. Ortona went through the history of the EMSB court challenges and provided an update on where they stand. The parents who were present seemed very attentive and expressed support for our efforts to preserve the control and management of the education of our children.

    The last meeting of the council commissioners was on December 9th at the Fielding head office.

    Council voted to pursue another legal challenge against the provincial government. This is regarding the members who sit on the CGTSIM board. Sonia Lebel tacked on an amendment to Bill 94 in the 11th hour. This was after the bill was studied and debated. The CGTSIM is the body that collects and

administers the school tax on the island of Montreal. Sonia Lebel removed all members and replaced them with the directors general. The three service center DGs are appointed by the Minister of Education, which means that there is taxation without representation. The school tax is a significant tax revenue over which the ministry previously had no control. There is a base amount that goes to each of the school boards and service centers, as stipulated by law. The balance is distributed to help disadvantaged schools. Now the MEQ has control over the balance.

The Chairman announced that beginning with our February meeting, question period will go back to the traditional way. During the COVID pandemic, the process for submitting questions was changed to e-mail written questions. It is time to go back to the in-person format. Meetings of the Council of Commissioners are open to the public. Anybody with a question is welcome to appear in person and ask their question directly to the Chairman. E-mail questions will no longer be read out by Mr. Ortona for information. All meetings are recorded and again in the written version I've included a link so you can go back and you know, look at all of them.

https://www.emsb.qc.ca/emsb/about/governance/commissioners

P. Kilian always give a Ward 9 report at the end and almost always mentions JFK High School.

At the last meeting, Commissioner Julian Feldman brought forth a resolution affirming the EMSB commitment to February being Black History Month. Yesterday was the launch of kindergarten registration week at Cedar Crest School.

There is a very interesting article that appeared this week in the Gazette about Quebec English School eligibility certificates:
https://montrealgazette.com/news/local-news/quebec-english-school-eligibility-certificate
A quote from that article: “It is important to note that once secondary school studies are completed, any application will be refused.” The Education Ministry says “An application submitted near the end of the grade 11 school year may also be refused.” This is significant because students with English eligibility, even if they did not attend an English school board school, are not subject to the enrollment caps in Anglophone CGEPs. This is important because many programs are highly competitive and this increases a student's possibility of being accepted. There is approximately 1/4 of those who have eligibility certificates who are not choosing to attend an English school board school.

When speaking with friends, family and/or acquaintances, P. Kilian points out that only parents with certificates have the CHOICE of where their children go to school. EMSB schools are not overcrowded. They have gymnasiums, music rooms, art rooms, and school yards. Most EMSB schools are French immersion and this WORKS. French is important, but so is the mother tongue. The EMSB is a well-run school board. The parent community is valued and plays a key role in our schools, unlike the culture of the French system, where parents mostly face a brick wall.

13. Correspondence: none.

14. Question period: none.

15. Varia: none.

16. Motion to end meeting: 8:45 p.m. First by A. Tonin, seconded by G. Tullio. All in favor.

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Sergio Sollazzo, Governing Board Chair

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Harry Michalopoulos, Principal