John F Kennedy High School
Governing Board Meeting Minutes
February 17th, 2026

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

1. Approval of agenda:

   Motion to approve by M. Mancini, seconded by J. Venditti. All in favor.

2. Approval of minutes:

   January 20th minutes: motion to approve by J. Venditti, seconded by S. Dector. All in favor.

3. Business arising: none.

4. New Business

   Budget Building Process 2026-2027 (due April 10th, 2026)
   - S. Sollazzo will write up a draft for approval based on the previous report and present it at the next meeting.

5. Chairperson Report

   5.1 Promotion Committee: Tabled.

   5.2 Fundraising: Canada Helps. Choose JFK High School
   - Canadadonates website: P. Kilian explained that the website only retains from about 3% to 3.5% of any donation, not 15%, and that the tax receipt gets processed and sent by email to the donor rather than waiting for the school board to issue the tax receipt. S. Sollazzo asked if we can send this website to parents. L. Fiumidinisi suggested that we send this out when we have a specific goal such as sports equipment or other activity/items rather than just sending the community the donation website on its own so that the contributions would seem transparent in terms of where the funds would be going. Once a goal is brought forward by staff, we will look into this.

   5.3 Beautification Project
   - Tonin will discuss with JFKAEC and RTC to see if a project can be started on the courtyard.

5.4 Pathways 2026-2027

- We do not have any information yet as to whether a Pathways program would be possible for 2026-2027. We are waiting for information from the school board.

5.5 Aim High 2026-2027 tuition fees – Art Therapy

- Some confusion was brought to the attention of S. Sollazzo about the fees for art therapy if they already have art class. These two are different – art therapy is done with a licensed therapist who uses art as a medium to discuss different social and emotional topics with students. Art class has a specific curriculum and students are marked on their work.

6. Principal/VP report:
    - There is a project for JFK with the SPVM for students to go to one of their stations in Anjou to use their art skills to contribute to a mural that the SPVM is working on there. We will come up with students and a staff member who can take them to and from every Friday to take part in this.

7. Treasurer Report: none.

8. Teacher report:

S. Dector reports:

- On December 8th, the Secondary 4 and 5 students went to see the Kimberly Akimbo play at the Segal Center and had a great time.
- We will be receiving a Shakespeare company production on March 12th for the younger grades.

A .Tonin reports:

- Teachers have been busy inputting their marks at this time of year.
- February is Black History Month. Daily announcements highlight someone important as a mini biography. We also had an African dance presentation for our junior students.
- Secondary 1-2 students had a trip to the Biodome, connected to ecosystems in their classes.
- Sports news:
- Our bantam basketball team has made the playoffs!
- We have 4 different futsal teams and 3 are still undefeated so far.

9. Student Services report: G. Tullio reports:

- On February 3rd, we had an intergenerational community service volunteer program visit to the CHSLD Dante Nursing Home February 10th.
- Veronica and Vince, our two PDCIA at JFK, planned the Black History Month assembly in the auditorium with Luke Bambara for the Junior grade levels.
- On February 11th we had an Underground Railroad Workshop for Black History Month for the Secondary 3-4-5 students.
- From February 3rd to the 23rd we had a We Rise Together Push Up Challenge for Mental Health.
  JFK is going for a goal of 2000 push-ups. Two students have already done over 400 each.
- On February 23rd, Otis Grant, retired boxing champion from Montreal will be giving an assembly for the secondary 4 and 5 students as well as the WOTP students. He's coming with one of his former teachers, Mr. Tony Lacroce, former DG of the EMSB.
  On February 24th, we will have another Intergenerational Community Service Volunteer Program visit to Giardino D'italia Seniors Residence.
- For the whole month of February, Miss Reyes, Ms. Mignacca and Mr. Tomasino is working on a mural "I have a dream."
- Also in February, Ruby Bridges Foundation cards are being written and created with the Miss Reyes students.
  From Miss Betty and the guidance department, Miss Betty and G. Tullio have made themselves available to help secondary five students with CEGEP applications. They are available at lunch for five students and after school for seven. Students are signing up and are attending. Students are reminded that the deadline is March 1st.
- G. Tullio was informed a student has been awarded a perseverance scholarship from the Carrefour Jeunesse Emploi for about $500.
  The same organization will be contributing about $500.00 to our school for other activities.
- The representative from Carrefour Jeunesse Emploi sees on average 4 to 6 kids students everyday he is on. They also help financially and JFK has received a $1000 grant, for example, for the WOTP program.
- With the REISA organization, there is a presentation "Your rights when stopped by police and civil rights," booked for secondary 4 CCQ classes. There is also a booking for a presentation on sexual violence and exploitation. It was supposed to be for secondary 3 students, but it will be done in secondary 4 because it falls into the their curriculum for CCQ.

- We received two $500 scholarships for our students from Educaide. Parents were invited to come in to present the certificates to the students, and took a nice picture with Harry and the kids, the families.
- As for the Fairy Godmothers organization, JFK has 11 students registered with them and they have all been accepted for a full prom wardrobe, about $800-$1000 worth of clothing. They have a one hour slot, and I'm also going to mention to them, now that they've been accepted, they're going to get their wardrobe and everything. They can also apply. Fairy God mothers also have scholarships available.

10. Student's report: M. Tonin reports:
    - Secondary 1 and 2 girls group held a week long Valentine's fundraiser for activities. Next week, student council will be hosting a week-long carnival week during lunch in La Place. There will be popcorn and cotton candy as well. All money raised will go to the student council account. Last week student council raised $132.
    - Secondary 5 students are currently filling out their CEGEP applications with the help of our guidance counselor.

11. Delegate report: F. Vetrone reports:

    At the February 5th parents committee meeting:

    - Work is underway to have 3 parent workshops with the topic of parent governance and knowing how to make your voice count at the school level. There are 3 proposed dates, one in the West on the 18th of March, and one in the East on the 25th of March and then April 15th as a virtual meeting. It is to learn how to how your voice makes makes a difference, and how parents and guardians help shape their school communities.
    - There was discussion again about EMSB governing board e-mail accounts. There was a motion passed and a letter sent in January to the Ministry of Education to inquire about governing boards having e-mail accounts. The EMSB PC Chair received a go ahead to share the letter with civil servants at the Ministry level for faster action.
    - There was an EMSB PC statement regarding the Q&A period at the Council of Commissioners meeting.
    - There was a petition about the crossing guards, and an email was sent to all parents.
    - There was a discussion about the budget building process and what it is. Forms from the government have not been received yet. However, governing boards can prepare and discuss this topic. It was presented at the meeting how this process is important, especially this year with the budget cuts in place and unknowns regarding other cuts in the

future. It's very important to ask questions about the levels of service and what is being budgeted that serves the needs of the community.

- There was a motion to send a letter from EMSBPC to the Minister of Education regarding budget cuts and denial and the denial of surplus fund access. The motion was approved and the letter will be sent and submitted.
- Bus safety delegates discussed bus safety, specifically emergency procedures and incident reporting.
- This year the ministry changed how Learn Quebec is being funded. Learn Quebec no longer receives fund directly. Funds are given to school boards and then each school board has limits on who can register and how many tutoring sessions are available. These changes are confirmed in January and started with this winter session.

12. Commissioner's report:

- The Board meeting was held on February 10th, 2026.
- The EMSB 2024-2025 Annual Report is posted on the EMSB website. The annual Report includes the year's highlights, events, awards and it reports on the 2024-2025 Commitment to Success Plan. https://cdn.aglty.io/emsb/emsb-website/en/docs/annual-reports/annual-report-2024-2025-en.pdf
- The Regional Student Ombudsperson presented the 2024-2025 Annual Report. The focus in the past year was on raising awareness of the complaint process in schools to parents and stakeholders. https://www.emsb.qc.ca/emsb/services/central-services/ombudsman
- Proposal to establish an Ad Hoc Committee on Environmental Sustainability. Five commissioners were made members, including P. Kilian.
- Commissioner Paola Samuel presented a resolution to formally recognize January 27th as International Holocaust Remembrance Day annually at the EMSB.
- On Feb 10th, Joe Ortona, as President of the QESBA, presented a brief to Minister Simon Jolin-Barrette on Quebec Bill 1-the Quebec Constitution.

Key Concerns for Anglophones (credit commissioner Maria Corsi)**:**

Entrenchment of Restrictive Laws: Bill 1 "bakes in" existing legislation such as Bill 96, which limits access to public services and education in English.

Erosion of Rights: It weakens the Quebec Charter of Human Rights by creating a hierarchy of rights that disadvantages minorities, according to Amnesty International Canada.

Use of Notwithstanding Clause: The proposed Constitution makes it easier to use the notwithstanding clause, shielding laws that affect English-speaking rights from judicial review.

Reduced Judicial Oversight: By strengthening parliamentary sovereignty over the judiciary, it makes it harder to challenge language laws in court.

Limiting Legal Challenges: The bill attempts to prevent public funds from being used to challenge provincial laws, such as those impacting language rights.

13. Correspondence: none.

14. Question period: none.

15. Varia: none.

16. Motion to end meeting: 8:45 p.m. First by G, Tulli, seconded by F. Vetrone. All in favor.

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Sergio Sollazzo, Governing Board Chair

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Harry Michalopoulos, Principal