



JAMES LYNG

HIGH SCHOOL

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Governing Board Meeting Agenda

Wednesday February 18th, 2026

Location: Virtual

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1. Welcome

1.1 Land Acknowledgment

The land acknowledgment was delivered by Mr. Kulczyk.

1.2 Welcome Message

Ms. Jennifer Rutt welcomed all participants.

1.3 Attendance

Present:

Alexander Kulczyk, Jennifer Rutt, Farah Mulki, Jean-Philippe St-Louis, Ethan Kam Tong, Julian Feldman, Roberte Louisma, Darlene O'Connor, Mubeenah Mughal, Sam Karimi-Harati

Regrets:

Alex Lalos, Matthew Maxham, Lise Kuhn, Erika Marsan

1.4 Public Question Period

No questions were raised by the public.

1.5 Additions to the Agenda

Mr. Kulczyk added an item related to the budget under point 3.5.

1.6 Approval of the Agenda

The agenda was approved as presented.

Moved by: Darlene O'Connor

Seconded by: Roberte Louisma



Commission scolaire English-Montréal
English Montreal School Board

2. Business Arising from the Minutes

2.1 Approval of January 21, 2026 Meeting Minutes

The minutes of the January 21, 2026 meeting were approved as presented.

Moved by: Sam Karimi-Harati

Seconded by: Roberte Louisma

2.2 Selection Criteria for a Principal

Ms. Jennifer Rutt presented a draft version of the selection criteria for a principal. Few modifications were recommended by the Governing Board. The document will be finalized by Ms. Jennifer Rutt and circulated to Governing Board members for final approval.

3. New Business

3.1 Calendar Change for the 2025–2026 School Year

Mr. Kulczyk presented the updated 2025–2026 academic calendar, including the revised last day of classes and exam start dates.

The calendar change for the 2025–2026 school year was approved.

Moved by: Sam Karimi-Harati

Seconded by: Jennifer Rutt

3.2 Budget Report 2025–2026

Mr. Kulczyk presented the 2025–2026 budget, detailing Board funds, donation funds, school funds, and special funds, including their respective amounts and usage by the school administration.

The budget report was approved as presented.

Moved by: Darlene O'Connor

Seconded by: Jean-Philippe St-Louis

3.3 Modification to School Hours – February 20, 2026

Due to the Winter Activity Day, students will be dismissed at 2:30 p.m. As students will be participating in activities at various locations, this will allow them to return home directly following their respective activities.

The modification to school hours for February 20, 2026 was approved.

Moved by: Roberte Louisma

Seconded by: Farah Mulki

3.4 Staff Appreciation Week (February 23–27, 2026)

The Governing Board will be organizing an activity to recognize Staff Appreciation Week.

3.5 Budget Building

Mr. Kulczyk explained that the budget building exercise is due in April 2026. The objective is to establish priorities for the upcoming school year in the context of significant budget cuts and restrictions imposed on the school board. Last year's priorities were reviewed to determine ongoing needs. The Governing Board agreed on the following priorities for 2026-2027:

- Return of the nutritional funds allocated to the school in order to help students be prepared to learn and help families, free lunch for all students.
- Additional resources (Professionals, Behaviour Technicians, Attendants and Youth Mentors) to best meet the various mental health needs of our school population;
- Increased budget for additional technology equipment (laptops) for the classrooms and assistive technology;
- Additional Teachers to help the various needs of our student population created by the end of "débourlage";
- Increased funding to replace old/broken chairs/desks and capital equipment.

The following information was shared by Mr. Kulczyk regarding the student profile at James Lyng High School:

- 35 students are enrolled in AIM High levels 1, 2, and 3
- 89% of students have Individual Plans (IPs)
- 18 students do not have IPs
- Only 8 students do not have special coding according to established criteria

The proposed budget priorities were approved.

Moved by: Jennifer Rutt

Seconded by: Jean-Philippe St-Louis

4. Reports

4.1 Student Report

Mr. Ethan Kam Tong, Student Representative, reported the following:

- Students experienced increased stress following mid-term exams and were anxious about their results
- Secondary 3–4 field trip to Kent Markham exhibition called *History Is Painted by the Victors* at the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts focused on Indigenous art and historical role-reversal themes
- Secondary 3–4 field trip to the Biodome
- Secondary 4–5 day trip to Ottawa, including a tour of the Parliament Buildings.

4.2 Teacher Report

Ms. Louisma reported that February was a busy exam month. Attendance was good and students were generally well prepared. While students were anxious about receiving their results, the exam period went smoothly. Staff and students are looking forward to the Activity Day on February 20. Clubs remain active, with most students participating in at least one.

4.3 Support Staff Report

Ms. O'Connor reported that students were better prepared for exams compared to last year, with fewer crises observed. Attendance at support groups and tutorials has decreased, and strategies are being considered to improve participation. Staff are working collaboratively to ensure readiness for Winter Activities and are preparing for the final parent-teacher interviews.

4.4 Principal's Report

Mr. Kulczyk and Ms. Kuhn reported the following:

- Commended staff for the successful planning and administration of the exam period
- Replacement of stolen iPads by the EMSB
- Valentine's Day card activity held on February 13
- Activities organized for Black History Month
- Camp Lift presentation by a motivational speaker, well received by students
- Activity Day scheduled for Friday, February 20, with eight activities planned

4.5 Parents' Committee Report

The last Parents' Committee meeting was held on February 5, 2026. Upcoming town halls are planned by the Parents' Committee:

- March 8 (7:00–8:30 p.m.)
- March 25 (East)
- April 15 (virtual)

The objective is to engage parents and guardians and inform them on how they can participate in school decision-making.

The committee sent a letter to the Ministry of Education requesting access to the EMSB surplus, which could significantly impact school budgets.

Additional points discussed included access to librarians (James Lyng currently has a librarian three days per week), changes in tutoring funding, and the transition of *Learn Québec* funding directly to schools. The committee is seeking further clarification on how these funds will be allocated and used.

English Parents Committee Association (EPCA) will be hosting a webinar on March 11, 2026, to provide parents with information on how to present their child's needs.

4.6 Commissioner's Report

Mr. Feldman reported the following:

- A brief was presented by Joe Ortona, Chair of the Quebec School Boards Association (QESBA), during the General Consultation and Public Hearings on Bill No. 1, Constitutional Act, 2025 on Québec. Mr. Ortona also testified via Zoom. QESBA and the English Montreal School Board (EMSB) expressed opposition to Bill No. 1.
- Renewal of a Black History Month resolution was done by Mr. Feldman.
- The EMSB legal challenge to Bill 21 will be heard by the Supreme Court on March 23, 2026, addressing, among other issues, hiring practices, Charter rights, minority protections, and the use of the notwithstanding clause.
- Ms. Mubeenah Mughal, a member of the Governing Board, was recognized by Mr. Feldman as one of the original plaintiffs in the EMSB case against Bill 21.

- EMSB faces an \$8 million deficit from last year, with a projected \$9 million deficit this year. The government intends to reclaim accumulated surpluses (approximately \$75 million), limiting access to these funds by school boards

4.7 PPO Report

No PPO report was presented.

5. Varia

No items were discussed.

6. Public Question Period

No questions were raised by the public.

7. Date of Next Meeting

April 15, 2026

8. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned.
Moved by: Jean-Philippe St-Louis

Governing Board Chair

Principal