

School Commissioner's Report

SUPPORT FOR ENGLISH-LANGUAGE SCHOOL BOARDS IN QUEBEC IS GROWING: POLL

(Montreal Gazette, Dec 15, 2022)

A recent poll suggests that already solid support for independent and elected English-language school boards in Quebec has grown even higher during the past three years. 90 per cent of the national poll's respondents (1/3 of them living in Quebec) felt that English-language schools boards are important to them. 84 per cent of respondents felt that English-language school boards should be elected by the population at large, while 93 per cent felt the elimination of English-language school boards would place minority rights at risk.

The survey also found that 84 per cent of respondents felt English-language school boards should be independent from government.

EMSB BOASTS HIGHEST SUCCESS RATE AMONG QUEBEC SCHOOL BOARDS

Once again, the English Montreal School Board boasts a 91.6% success rate in graduation and qualification, the highest among public school boards in Quebec. The EMSB is only 1.9 % below the private school rate, despite the fact that private schools have rigorous entrance exams and charge hefty fees.

A RECORD 16 EMSB STUDENTS AWARDED PRIZES FOR EXCELLENCE IN FRENCH

Based on the 2021-22 academic year, four Secondary IV and 11 Secondary V students were recognized for attaining the mark of 100 percent on their French course. They will each receive certificates and cheques in the amount of \$100.

There are five (5) from Royal West Academy in Montreal West, ten (10) students from Vincent Massey Collegiate in Rosemount and one (1) from LaurenHill Academy in St. Laurent.

The students from RWA are Kelly Chow, Noémie English-Moreau, Ella Etienne Labelle, Naomi Raimbert and Phoenix Trew.

The late Mr. Peck began teaching in the 1930s and served as the superintendent of French for the Ministry of Education and held similar posts with the former Westmount School Board and the former Protestant School Board of Greater Montreal. He was a department head for French at Lachine High School and vice-principal of Riverdale High School on the West Island, having completed his career as a teacher in Africa. Mr. Peck co-authored *Le Français Pratique*, the textbook for the teaching of French as a second language with Elizabeth Buchanan. It was a mainstay in Quebec Protestant English schools for over 20 years. This prize was established by the Peck family and the EMSB in 2002.

EMSB CO-STUDENTS OF THE MONTH FOR JANUARY FROM ROYAL WEST ACADEMY

Two outstanding students from Royal West Academy, Raphaëlla Etienne-Krief and Marilena Sahlas-Roy were selected as EMSB students of the month for January.

MEETINGS OF THE EMSB COUNCIL OF COMMISSIONERS

Public meetings of the Council of Commissioners of the English Montreal School Board take place in the Administration Building at 6000 Fielding Avenue, and commence at 7:00 p.m. You are invited to attend in person. As well, all meetings of the Council are webcast. The link to the recording of the meetings is normally available on the EMSB website 48 hours after the live webcast of the meeting.

Bill 21

The Quebec Court of Appeal has now heard the legal challenge to Bill 21 on state secularism, passed by the CAQ in 2019. It prohibits teachers in the public system, police officers, Crown attorneys and a host of other officials to wear religious symbols while on duty. The CAQ pre-emptively invoked the notwithstanding clause of the Constitution when drafting the bill to protect it from legal challenges.

Whatever the decision rendered by the Court of Appeal, the Government of Quebec and those who oppose this law have hinted that they will likely appeal the judgment and that it will ultimately go to the Supreme Court of Canada to decide in this case.

Bill 40

We are all waiting for the decision to be rendered regarding Bill 40, which eliminates school boards and elected school commissioners. Whatever the decision rendered by the Court, the Government of Quebec and those who oppose this law have hinted that they will likely appeal the judgment and that it will ultimately go to the Supreme Court of Canada to decide in this case.

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English Montreal School Board / Commission scolaire English-Montréal