

# Highlights

## **Council of Commissioners' meeting of Tuesday, June 21, 2011.**

- The recognition of excellence item was presented by Chairman Michael Murray and signaled the Lieutenant Governor of Quebec Awards and the retiring personnel. Parent Commissioner Paul Laberge also signaled Sherbrooke Elementary School who recently received Gold status in the *ISO Actif* from the *Réseau du sport étudiant du Québec des Cantons de l'Est* for the *Lève toi et Bouge* contest; (see the attached report);
- The Director General has been reviewing and signing the Management and Educational Success Agreements (MESA) for the school and centres. In reviewing these agreements she noted that the schools and centres on committed to students success and have put plans in place to achieve their goals;
- After a one-year probationary period, Anastasia Christodouloupoulos was confirmed into her administrative position. Ms Christodouloupoulos is currently the Vice-Principal at Sherbrooke Elementary School and has demonstrated with high success her abilities within the administrative ranks. We wish her continued success;
- The Council of Commissioners' unanimously passed the appointment of Bruce Banfill as the new Superintendent of Transportation, effective August 8<sup>th</sup> 2011. Mr. Banfill brings with him over 18 years of combined experience in the transport and school transportation fields. He is a former graduate of the ETSB and has a solid knowledge of the ETSB territory and its communities. We would like to welcome Mr. Banfill to the ETSB and look forward to working together;
- Due to an increase in population and the proportion of special needs students the assignment for Principal Elaine Baylis-Creary at Sunnyside Elementary School has been increased to 60%. Ms Baylis-Creary will continue to support Complementary Services with the remaining 40%;
- Director General's Report:
  - Thank you to the schools and centres for their work on the MESA's and specifically Gilles Ribaux, Kandy Mackey and their team,
  - Recognizing the hard work and support of the head office staff,
  - Thank you to the Council of Commissioners' for their support,
  - Thank you to the Director's Committee and Ms Angela Vaillancourt for their support and hard work.  
(For more on these items, please see the attached report):
- Report from the Chair –
  - Remembering those commissioners that had left over the school year, and welcoming those that had joined,
  - Thank you to everyone in the system for the accomplishments, successes and recognitions received,  
(For more on these items, please see the attached report):
- The following building modification and repairs were approved under one of the following measures: *résorption du déficit d'entretien 2009-2010/2010-2011, Maintiens des bâtiments 2010-2011, amélioration de l'accessibilité des immeubles aux personnes handicapés*:
  - Princess Elizabeth Elementary School – washroom and roof repairs,
  - Waterloo Elementary School – washroom repairs and replacement of the intercom system,
  - A.D.S. Elementary School – major repairs,
  - Alexander Galt Regional High School- replacement of the intercom system and window replacement,
  - Sherbrooke Elementary school- universal access for washrooms,
  - Richmond Regional High school- replacement of the intercom system,
  - Massey-Vanier High School- replacement of the intercom system.

**The following resolutions were adopted:**

- Signing Officers for Knowlton Academy;
- Composition of Governing Board for Drummondville Elementary School increased;
- *Entente spécifique sur le décrochage scolaire;*
- Confirmation of the Head Office Administrative Structure;
- Confirmation of an Administrative position;
- Appointment of Superintendent of Transportation;
- Increase in Principal's assignment to 60% at Sunnyside Elementary School;
- Building repairs and modifications (see above),
- Interest rate of 12% on overdue taxes and other overdue receivables,
- Nomination of Franck MacGregor and Michael Murray to the QESBA Board of Directors,
- Nominations of Michael Murray for QESBA Senior Administrative Position.

**Dates to Remember**

<b>July 5<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Continuation of the June 21<sup>st</sup> Council of Commissioners' meeting;</b>
<b>July 25<sup>th</sup> – August 5<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Summer shut down;</b>
<b>August 25<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>First planning day of the 2011-2012;</b>
<b>August 31<sup>st</sup></b>	<b>First day of classes for the youth sector for the 2011-2012 school year.</b>

*These highlights are not to be used as official Board Minutes of the meeting or as Board Policy*



# ***Recognition of Excellence***

June 21, 2011

This month, the Council of Commissioners and Senior Administrators of the Eastern Townships School Board would like to signal the following:

- On June 3<sup>rd</sup> at the Hotel Chéribourg in Orford, the ETSB recognized and celebrated the careers of its retiring personnel at the Annual Retirement Gala. In all, 34 individuals have or will be retiring at the end of this school year. The wealth of experience, dedication and commitment that these individuals have shown towards the students of the ETSB will be missed. This was most evident as each retiree attending the event was honoured with stories that highlighted their accomplishments and unique contributions. We wish all of our retiring personnel a healthy, happy and long retirement;
- Recently six students from ETSB high schools were recognized for their outstanding contributions and were chosen to receive the Lieutenant Governor of Quebec Youth Medal. The six students are: from Alexander Galt Regional High School; Michael Fowlis and Rachel Plamondon, from Massey-Vanier High School; Otus Paré and Julia Wilson; and from Richmond Regional High School; Jimmy Dessureault-Bouffard and Eliza-Jane Morin. Congratulations to these well deserving young men and women. We wish them continued success in their future endeavours;
- Last but not least as the school year comes to a close, we have the pleasure of congratulating all our students. To our kindergarten students who are at the beginning of their journey, our elementary students leaving for new adventures in high school, our high school graduates who now have many paths in front of them to choose from or our adult and vocational education students who are embarking on a new career, congratulations to all on a job well done! We wish you continued success in what ever you choose to do or become.

# DIRECTOR GENERAL'S REPORT

June 21st, 2011

## Steady she goes...

*Being an avid sailor, the analogy of a sailboat to represent our school board always seemed particularly apt to me.*

*The waters were quite turbulent in the province with important compressions and persistent talk of amalgamation of school boards. At the ETSB, despite the squall caused by an \$830 000 compression, we were able to stick to our course.*

*Let's not forget why we are here so that, in the end, we do what is best for our students, whatever structure is deemed best, wherever it takes us...*



## A well deserved break

August 2010. We are all busy preparing for the arrival of teachers, staff and students and, like each year, someone invariably reflects that we'll get to June in a flash... And it's true: here we are, June 21st, with another year gone.

At the ETSB, the year was marked by tragedy, with the loss of students and of close family members of our personnel: children, spouses, siblings, parents. It was also a year of connections, conversations, discussions, school and centre visits, summits,

focus groups, in a word: communication. Our intention was, and remains, to get closer to our schools and centres, where the action is, in order to support them and tap into the talent of our personnel. This will continue next year.

In this era of accountability, the quest for improved results is omnipresent and we are no different in our board. I reviewed and signed all the Management and Educational Success Agreements (MESAs) recently which gave me the opportunity to see what our schools and centres will be working on in the upcoming years. Reading these documents, it was obvious that our principals, centre directors and teachers are focussed on the right priorities as they have been for some time now.

A lot of work went into the MESAs and I'd like to thank our leaders, teachers and administrators, who toiled on them. A special thank you should go to Gilles, Kandy and their team for their excellent support in this important and time-consuming endeavor. To our schools and centres, the ped team and I pledge that we will use the data stemming from these documents wisely and fairly. It will help us support our schools and centres by highlighting the particular context for each of them.

There are two other groups of people who deserve to be thanked for their unfailing support of our schools and centres. Their work is less visible, but no less important.

First, the head office personnel. They make sure that things run smoothly and that "details" such as the pay, buildings, tech support, press releases, salary insurance and CSST claims, registration, taxes, PD, validation, ped support, transportation, classifications, bills, budgets, etc., etc., etc., are taken care of. Thank you very much for all that you do.

Second, the commissioners. After having seen other Councils, let me tell you: we are lucky. No hidden agenda for these men and women, who not only advocate for "their" school or centre, but also support the administration of the board with their time, ideas and efforts, for very little pay... We greatly appreciate the relationship that has developed over the years.

Personally, I would not have been able to do half as much without the help, support, friendship and, sometimes, challenges of my assistant, Angela, and of the DC. You rock guys and gals! Tenez vos tuques, on repart en août!

We now have the classic summer fare to look forward to: lazy, hazy afternoons in a hammock with a cold one, epic BBQs with family and friends, late evenings at the Jazz Fest or at the cottage, a good book on the beach, working in the garden, seeing new places and making new friends, having time to do... NOTHING!

And it will be all the sweeter following the hard work and successes of the 2010-2011 school year...

Enjoy and be safe.

## Report to Council

As we reach the end of another school year, it seems natural to review what we have accomplished together and how well we have progressed as an organization. It has been a busy and productive year with a new leadership team at the helm and several new faces at the council table.

We lost Duncan Eastman to cancer. Duncan was a long-serving member who contributed his common sense to our deliberations and kept us grounded. Diane Jones, a more recently elected commissioner of great promise resigned and moved to Montreal for personal and career reasons. Theo Creary, our youngest commissioner who had kept us attuned to student realities completed his first degree at Bishops and has moved on. Progressively through the year we welcomed Paul Laberge, elementary parent commissioner, Jennifer Bardati, Jane Wardell and Daniel Brodie to replace them. The newcomers have injected their enthusiasm and commitment, and remind us frequently of how much we take for granted.

We do take a great deal for granted. In less than a decade this school board has risen in relative performance ranking, providing our students with vastly improved opportunities for learning and growing. We have been recognized and honored by the Fraser institute, the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, various educational bodies and even Selection du Reader's Digest. Those are significant accomplishments not only for the quality of instruction, but also for the sense of pride and attachment our personnel feel about being part of a dynamic, successful organization that makes a difference in people's lives. We have evolved a culture of constant change, continuous improvement and rising expectations. It is all too easy in our urge to keep getting better, to overlook and undervalue our accomplishments.

Professor Thierry Karsenti of the *Université de Montréal* reminded us of just how extraordinary our teachers are when he presented his report on our laptop initiative. After studying students, schools and systems across our network he concluded that ETSB educators routinely implement and use advanced and sophisticated technological techniques and strategies that can only be dreamed of in most school boards to the very substantial benefit of our students. Other voices are finally being raised across education urging the adoption of "new" pedagogy such as we have pioneered to reach disaffected students in the way they consume information and respond to

their environments. The Quebec government's decision to provide a laptop for every teacher and an interactive electronic whiteboard for every classroom, was yet another indicator that we have been moving in the right direction and continue to do so. We are no longer alone in this. Consequently this council has committed to renewing and extending our technological initiatives.

We have also begun to consolidate our major accomplishments in other ways. The Global Learning Institute which is a virtual school teaching students over the internet is merging with our Distance Education Service that already serves most of Quebec. We intend to integrate our spectacularly successful program for attracting students from other countries to our schools. Students from other cultures and backgrounds enrich our educational offerings and expose our rural students to fresh and fascinating aspects of the world. At the same time through use of the Internet, social networking and videoconferencing, these personal connections can provide a basis for meaningful educational opportunities.

Within the past year we have concluded Management Educational Success Agreements between the board and each of our schools, setting specific measurable goals for improvement, and focusing efforts on a package of objectives designed to move education further into the 21<sup>st</sup> century. We are planning for further success and even more opportunities for students attending our schools. We will never lack challenges and obstacles but thanks to the dedication and skill of our leadership, the competence and caring of our front line personnel and our determination to be the best we can be, I feel confident we will continue to move ahead.

I want to thank everyone in our system. You all should be proud of what you have achieved, and inspired by the opportunity to continue to progress. Thank-you. I hope all of you will enjoy a wonderful summer and will return refreshed, energized and inspired to launch the next year, now barely nine weeks away.