



Moving ahead. Together. | Aller de l'avant. Ensemble.

Eastern Townships

School Board

Annual Report 2017-2018

A BILINGUAL
ENVIRONMENT
WHAT AN ADVANTAGE!

Message from the Chairman & the Assistant Director General

This is the final Annual Report based on the targets and goals as set out in the Eastern Townships School Board's (ETSB) 2013 – 2018 Strategic Plan. As we look back on the past five years, we are pleased to report progress and improvement, albeit greater in some areas than others. All ETSB personnel have united to improve student learning and achievement in virtually all the categories assessed. They have responded with inspiring pedagogical leadership to the constantly increasing expectations assigned to the education system. There are many challenges still to be met to ensure that all ETSB students achieve their full potential, but we are confident that we are on the right path to foster continuous growth of our students; academically, socially, and emotionally.

We are particularly proud that our efforts have had a dramatic positive effect in decreasing the dropout rate. For 2015-2016 (the latest year of data) the ETSB's official MEES dropout rate is 19.5%, an improvement of 4.8% in one year. If we take into account students who left the ETSB to study elsewhere, our internal analysis shows that the rate drops to 18.7% for those with proof and as low as 15.1% for all students who left to study elsewhere. These results represent a

remarkable decrease from the over 39% we experienced in 2005. We realize that everyone has a role to play in keeping students in school, and therefore we remain committed to working collaboratively with all stakeholders to ensure our students succeed.

Other milestones for this year include; a fourth consecutive increase in enrollment, the launch of a partnership with the three other Estrie (French) School Boards to offer vocational training to each-other's students, approval for an essential enlargement of Drummondville Elementary School, and approval for the largest infrastructure budget that the ETSB has ever secured for the renovation of our buildings and grounds. We also initiated the Educational Leadership Assessment Process program to develop educational leaders that is already yielding gratifying results. A class action lawsuit over fees charged to parents targeting 68 Quebec school boards, was resolved near the end of the year. A major consultation process has been launched on the issue of free education by the Ministry. We benefit from generous volunteer and community support throughout our network that enable us to enrich and elaborate experiences for students beyond the Quebec Education Program.

Donors are also generous with scholarships and bursaries, which among other things, help our students who must leave home for post-secondary study. We are pleased to be able to offer services in English to adults of all ages through our Community Learning Centres (CLC), now serving seven areas. In addition to opening our schools to the community, the CLCs work with their schools to provide enriching opportunities for students and link the school to its community and its resources.

The 2017 – 2018 school year also saw extensive consultation for the ETSB's Commitment to Success Plan. During the consultation it was apparent that our dedication to innovative approaches for better learning and our four foundational pedagogical pillars are engrained in the culture of the ETSB. The pillars are; sound pedagogical leadership, attachment-based developmental approach to learning, professional learning communities, and student engagement. Working with the pillars as our base, we are confident that the main objective of our Commitment to Success Plan to raise the seven year graduation and qualification rate will be achieved.

In closing, we will continue to move ahead together in a bilingual environment in which students and educators have every opportunity to flourish and succeed.



Michael Murray,
Chairman



Michel Soucy,
Assistant Director
General

Council of Commissioners



Michael Murray
Chairman



Gordon Barnett
Lennoxville



Claire Beaubien
Ward 6*



Daniel Brodie
Magog



Richard Gagnon
Lac Brome



Gary Holliday
Richmond



Joy Humenuik
Farnham**



Mary-Ellen Kirby
Ward 19***



Frank MacGregor
Sherbrooke



Alice McCrory
Waterloo/Granby



Tina Pezzi-Bilodeau
Danville/Drummondville



Jonathan Murray
Cowansville



Mary Gilman
Parent
Commissioner



Paul Laberge
Parent
Commissioner



Ken Waterhouse
Parent
Commissioner



Cindy Véronneau
Parent
Commissioner

Ayer's Cliff/North Hatley/Stanstead*
Vice-Chairman**
Bury/Cookshire/Sawyerville***

The Council held ten regular and two special meetings. Here are some highlights of the decisions made:

- Appointment of Director of Complementary Services
- The James Strickland Fund creation
- Request to the MEES for additional space at Drummondville Elementary school
- Appointment of Director of Continuing Education (Adult Education/Vocational Training/Distance Education)
- Board Office – Reorganization/Expansion – Phase I
- Legal action against Eastern Townships School Board’s insurers
- Financial statements for the year ending June 30, 2017
- Appointment of a new Commissioner –Ward no. 2
- Class Action Suit
- Appointment of the Director General
- Appointment of the Assistant Director General
- Recommendation for the implementation of a Community Learning Centre (CLC) approach with an expanded model at Sunnyside Elementary School
- Appointment of Director of Institutional Technology and Pedagogical Services
- Electric School Bus Bids 2017-2018
- Realization of a study aimed at the regionalization of business services of the four Estrie school boards
- Approval of the revised procedure on the use of School and Centre bank accounts (P019-1)
- *Demande à la municipalité de Saint-François-Xavier-de-Brompton – Mesures correctives afin d’améliorer la sécurité des piétons*
- 2018-2023 Commitment-to-Success Plan
- Confirmation of the head office administrative structure 2018-2019
- Confirmation of the schools and centres administrative structure 2018-2019
- Approval of the school/centre budgets 2018-2019
- Approval of the Eastern Townships School Board budget 2018-2019
- Mandate to proceed with an Energy Efficiency Study for 12 of the Eastern Townships School Board (ETSB) Schools
- Membership – Mandate for the purchase of technology equipment in the framework of technology Combos per SAR-220-2018 of *Collecto, services regroupés en éducation (Collecto)*
- Approval of the Policy on Employment Practices

Professional Review Committee:

As per article 175.1 of the Education Act, The Council of Commissioners must, by by-law, establish a code of ethics and professional conduct which is applicable to the commissioners.

The code shall set out the duties and obligations of the commissioners, and may prescribe standards that vary according to the various classes of commissioners or that apply only to certain classes of commissioners. The code must, among other things;

- (1) include preventive measures, in particular rules for the disclosure of interests;
- (2) deal with the identification of situations of conflict of interest;
- (3) regulate or prohibit practices relating to remuneration;
- (4) specify the duties and obligations of commissioners even after they leave office;
- (5) include enforcement mechanisms, in particular the designation of the persons charged with the enforcement of the code, and provide for penalties.

No member of the council of commissioners or employee of a school board may be responsible for determining if the code has been contravened or for imposing a penalty.

The school board must ensure public access to the code, and publish it in its annual report.

[BY-LAW NO. 3 - CODE OF ETHICS AND PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT FOR THE COMMISSIONERS OF THE EASTERN TOWNSHIPS SCHOOL BOARD](#)

The annual report shall, in addition, state the number of cases dealt with and the follow-up thereof and set out any breaches determined during the year by the disciplinary authorities, the determination thereof, any penalties imposed by the competent authorities, and the names of any commissioners divested of office by a court during the year.

This section must not be construed so as to restrict the freedom of speech inherent in a commissioner's function.

For the 2017-2018 school year there were no complaints brought before the Professional Review Committee.

Student Ombudsman's Report

ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE 2017 - 2018 SCHOOL YEAR (from July 1, 2017 to June 30th 2018)

As per Sections 220.2 and 242 of the *Education Act*, and the *By-Law of the Eastern Townships School Board establishing the procedure for the examination of complaints from students or their parents*, here is my annual report as Student Ombudsman for the period from July 1, 2017 to June 30, 2018.

During the above-mentioned period, I received thirteen complaints. In six cases, the complainants had not exhausted the remedies provided for in the procedure for the examination of complaints; therefore, they were referred to the Secretary General.

Of the remaining seven complaints:

- Three were resolved with the assistance of the Secretary General and of the director of the service concerned by the situation;
- One involved a student of another school board; therefore, it was referred to the Student Ombudsman of that school board;
- One was withdrawn during the course of my investigation;
- One was related to the safety of pedestrians. As such matter does not fall under the jurisdiction of the School Board, the complaint was not admissible. The complainant was informed accordingly;
- One was related to an incident which occurred prior to registration for adult education. As such matter does not fall under the jurisdiction of the Student Ombudsman, the complaint was not admissible. The complainant was informed accordingly.

To my knowledge, no student was expelled due to acts of bullying or violence.

I have no recommendation to make with respect to measures required to prevent and stop bullying and violence, as complaints of this nature were properly managed internally.

September 12, 2018



Christian Beaudry
Student Ombudsman

Report on Bullying & Violence

As outlined in Bill 56 “An Act to prevent and deal with bullying and violence in schools”...

Article 210.1 stipulates

“The school board shall see to it that each of its schools provides a healthy and secure learning environment that allows every student to develop his or her full potential, free from any form of bullying or violence. The school board shall prepare an annual report which states, for each school, the number of acts of bullying or violence reported to the director general of the school board by the principal and the nature of those acts. The school board shall also describe the measures taken to improve the school’s results with respect to preventing and dealing with bullying and violence and enhancing the quality of the learning environment. “

During the 2017- 2018 school year there were no complaints of bullying or violence reported to the Director General.

All of our schools have a Plan of Action in conformity with the law, and as well have adapted their code of conduct to comply. Each school has a Safe School Committee and all schools have violence and bullying initiatives in place.

[Safe School Policy- P035](#)

[Safe School Procedures](#)

Report on our Workforce

As outlined in Law 17 “An Act respecting workforce management and control within government departments, public sector bodies and networks and state-owned enterprises...”

Article 20 al.1 stipulates

A public body must report on the application of this chapter in its annual report. The report must set out the public body’s staffing level and the distribution of its staff by job class. If a public body was assigned a staffing level under subdivision 2 of Division III, the public body must also ...

(1) indicate whether the staffing level was complied with and, if not, state the extent of the overstaffing as well as the means it has taken to correct the situation;

For the 2017-2018 school year staffing levels increased slightly by 4802.5 hours over the target. This was due largely to the grant monies received during the year for students with special needs and an overall increase in enrollment. Both required the hiring of more teachers, support staff and professionals to deliver direct services to students in the classroom. No corrective measures are foreseen as the special grants may not be recurring.

(2)) include the information determined by the Conseil du trésor regarding service contracts involving an expenditure of \$25,000 or more.

For the period from July 1, 2017 to June 30, 2018, the Eastern Townships School Board signed and or entered into four (4) service contracts for a total amount of \$168,805.

The Eastern Townships School Board is...

Who we are...

The Eastern Townships School Board covers a vast geographic area in the southeastern part of the province of Quebec. Within its territory, we find eight municipal regional counties (MRCs), 20 elementary schools, three high schools, two adult education centres, and two vocational training centres. Depending on the location of each school, the population varies in terms of numbers and language spoken at home, ranging from 20 students in the smallest of our elementary schools to approximately 900 students in our largest secondary school. Although English is the mother tongue for a majority of the students, the large number of students who have French as a mother tongue confirms the bilingual nature of the school board and of the region in general. Seven of our 20 elementary schools have been designated as schools that can benefit from the New Approaches, New Solutions (NANS) Intervention Strategy for schools in economically disadvantaged areas.

An International Student Program:

Now in its ninth year, the ETSB's International Student Program (ISP) has incited students from across the globe to experience the journey of a lifetime. The program has gained an international reputation for excellence by providing a bilingual, safe, and innovative environment for learning. The program currently hosts students from three continents in 13 countries, including: Brazil, Mexico, Germany, Austria, Czech Republic, Spain, Switzerland, Thailand, Netherlands, Philippines, France, China, and Japan. With its homestay program, students become part of a Canadian family and have an opportunity to share in local community cultural activities. In addition, a partnership with *le Collège Mont-Saint-Anne* provides a residence option for male students attending Alexander Galt Regional High School.

In addition to its proven long-term programs, the ISP offers elementary and vocational students the opportunity to spend one month abroad through its short-term programs. Students are housed in a residence and have an intensive educational and cultural experience with one of our schools or centres.

Our Vision!

We, at the ETSB, are... Passionate people moving ahead together to make our school board the best place to learn and a great place to work. Anywhere.

To achieve this vision, the Eastern Townships School Board strives to be:

- A place of excellence, where students are at the center of our activities, and where all students achieve their full potential and are prepared for life: academically, physically, socially, emotionally, and morally;
- An inspiring place, where our personnel are valued as individuals, make a difference in our students' lives and are ready to innovate and to take risks to ensure student success;
- A welcoming place, where parents, community members, and business partners have an important role to play in the enhancement of our students' learning environment, by providing real-life experiences and outreach opportunities for our students.

Our Strategic Plan!

Based on 4 pillars:

1. Pedagogical leadership in our schools/centres, knowing that research shows that “powerful school leadership on the part of the principal has a positive effect on student achievement” (Dufour & Marzano, 2011, p.48);
2. Attachment-based developmental approach, based on the importance of student/adult relationship and understanding the development of the child/adolescent;
3. Professional Learning Community (PLC), a structure for adult-learning, where educators collaborate on improving student learning by responding to four critical questions, using collective inquiry into the best practices in teaching and learning;
4. Student Engagement, focusing on intellectual engagement and effective technology integration as one of the means.

By prioritizing its resources and energies, the ETSB will continue improving its graduation/qualification rates and success rates whilst decreasing its drop out rate. The ultimate aim is for its students to enjoy learning and to grow socially, physically, intellectually, and emotionally.

Strategic Plan

Orientations:

Orientation 1:

Ensure the academic, social and personal success of our students in the youth, adult and vocational sectors.

Goals:

- #1: Increase graduation rates and qualifications before age 20;
- #2: Improve command of the English and French Languages;
- #3: Improve levels of retention in school and academic success, especially among handicapped students or students with learning or adjustment difficulties;
- #4: Promote a healthier and safer school environment;
- #5: Increase in the number of students under 20 enrolled in vocational training.

Orientation 2:

Empower and support our personnel in their efforts to offer the highest quality level of services to our students.

Goals:

- #1: Support the continued professional development of our personnel and provide coaching and mentoring to administrators and teachers;
- #2: Recognize the hard work, devotion, and success of ETSB personnel.

Orientation 3:

Promote effective partnerships and communication with parents and communities.

Goals:

- #1: Support parents in their engagement to ensure their children's success;
- #2: Create community spirit by reaching out to our community partners, making them feel welcome in our schools and centres, and recognizing the value of their contribution.

[Strategic Plan 2013-2018](#)

Partnership Agreement - Annual Report

The ETSB Partnership Agreement Report obligation as per ART. 220 of the Education Act has not been respected for the past four school years due to the fact that the ETSB 2013-2018 Partnership Agreement was not approved by the “*Ministère de l’Éducation, de l’Enseignement supérieur*” (MEES).

Strategic Plan 2017-2018 - Monitoring Chart

ORIENTATION 1 :

Ensure the academic, social and personal success of our students in the youth, adult and vocational sectors

Goal 1 : Increased graduation rates and qualifications before age 20	Targets	Results (June 2018)
<p>Objective 1: Increase the graduation and qualification rate after 7 years</p>	<p>From 69.3% in 2012 (June 2011 data) to 75.0% in 2018</p>	<p>71.2% (June 2016 data)</p> <p>Comment: In the past five years, where rates have varied from 69.3% to 74.4%, it is the 2008 cohort that has experienced the greatest challenge in obtaining its graduation or qualifications in the expected seven-year time span. Although the June 2016 data is below target, it is important to note that the ETSB rate after seven years increased 2.7 percentage points since June 2015 and between the 1998 cohort and this cohort, it has shown an increase of 12.6 percentage points. Provincially, the graduation and qualification rate after 7 years for Estrie is 74.4%, Montérégie 74.6%, and Quebec Public 76.5%.</p>

<p>Objective 2: Decrease the number of school leavers without a diploma or a qualification</p>	<p>From 104 in June 2013 (June 2011 data) to 85 in June 2018 (June 2016 data)</p>	<p>75 official MEES dropout data; 72 unofficial internal ETSB data (June 2016 data)</p> <p>ETSB Official: 19.5%, ETSB unofficial: 18.7% Estrie: N/A, Quebec public: 13.0%</p> <p>Comment: According to the MEES 2015-2016 official data, 75 students dropped out from ETSB schools, which is 15 less than the previous year. Of these 75 students, three of these students left the province to study elsewhere for which we have proof. As a result, unofficially, our internal 2016 data shows 72 dropouts and, had we had been able to obtain proof for all our students studying outside Quebec, this number is 50 (13.0%%). Hence, the importance of continuing to obtain proof of studies outside Quebec.</p>
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<p>Goal 2 : Improved command of the French Language (English for English School Boards)</p>	<p>Targets</p>	<p>Results (June 2018)</p>
<p>Objective 1: Increase MEES' exam success rates (SR) in FSL (Base)</p>	<p>From 74.0% in June 2012 ETSB FSL cycle 3-2 exam to 83.0% in June 2018</p>	<p>87.0%</p>
	<p>From 79.0% in June 2012 MEES FSL secondary 5 exam to 88.0% in June 2018, and improving the average mark (AVG) from 71.0% to 75.0%</p>	<p>SR: 95.3%, MEES 90.6% AVG: 76.6% MEES 75.9%</p> <p>Comment: There continues to be success rates above the ninety percentiles in the secondary 5 FSL success rates, and for the past three years, FSL Enrichi success rates have been at 100%. June 2018 data shows we have attained both targets and are above the MEES success rate and average mark.</p>

Objective 2: Increase MEES’s exam success rates in ELA	From 49.0% in June 2012 MEES ELA cycle 3-2 exam to 65.0% in June 2018	72.0%
	From 85.2% in June 2012 MEES ELA Secondary 5 exam to 90.0% in June 2018, and improving the average mark from 68.2% to 73.0%	SR: 97.1%, MEES: 97.0%, AVG: 70.4%, MEES: 76.7% Comment: For the past five years, our success rate in secondary 5 ELA has been over 95%. We have now attained our success rate targets in both cycle 3-2 and secondary 5 ELA, with the exception of the secondary 5 average mark, where we are shy by 2.6 percentage points.

Goal 2 : Improved command of the French Language (English for English School Boards)	Targets	Results (June 2018)
Objective 3: Increase the success rates in Math MEES exam	Cycle 3-2: from 73.0% in June 2012 situational problem (Competency 1) to 80.0% in June 2018	68.0% Comment: While we did not reach our goal, the success rates for Competency 1 (situational problem) have varied between 59% to 69% since June 2013. We have seen an upward trend in success rates over the past 3 years.
	Math CST (Cultural, Social and Technical Option): From 43.9% in CST MEES Math Secondary 4 exam (June 2012) to 65.0% in June 2018 with an increase from 50.2% to 62.0% in the average mark	SR: 63.6% MEES: 70.4% AVG: 60.6% MEES: 67.0% Comment: We remain shy of our target by 1.4 percent (Success rate and average mark).

	<p>Math SN (Science Option): From 75.0% in SN MEES Math Secondary 4 exam (June 2012) to 83.0% in June 2018 with an increase from 65.2% to 71.0% in the average mark</p>	<p>SR: 75.0% MEES 91.6% AVG: 67.5% MEES 80.3%</p> <p>Comment: June 2018 data shows a slight decrease in Math CST and SN success rates. As a result, Mathematics continues to be an area where concentrated efforts are made to address this identified need at ETSB.</p>
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<p>Goal 3 : Improved levels of retention in school and academic success among certain target groups, especially among handicapped students or students with learning or adjustment difficulties</p>	<p>Targets</p>	<p>Results (June 2018)</p>
<p>Objective 1 : Increase the qualification and graduation of students with special needs (handicapped and at-risk) in all programs of the ETSB</p>	<p>For our Work Oriented Training Program (WOTP) students from 44.0% in June 2012 to 55.0% in June 2017</p>	<p>67.0% (June 2018)</p> <p>Comment: Of the 62 students in their final year of the WOTP (either Pre Work or Semi-Skilled), 67.0% of the students received certification. Of the 12 students who were not certified, 33.0% are presently enrolled in school.</p>

	<p>For our special needs students registered in secondary 5 from 49.0% in 2012 (June 2011 data) to 60.0% in 2017 (June 2016 data)</p>	<p>73.0.0% Comment:73.0% of Secondary 5 students with an IEP graduated in 2017-2018. Of the students who did not graduate, 33.0% are registered for the 2018-2019 school year.</p>
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<p>Goal 4 : A healthier and safer school environment</p>	<p>Targets</p>	<p>Results (June 2018)</p>
<p>Objective 1 : Maintain or increase the % of students who feel safe attending school</p>	<p>Elementary students: From 86.0% in June 2012 to 90.0% in June 2017</p>	<p>53.0% 2017-2018 Comment: It is not possible to compare the results from one year to another as the questions have not been consistent.</p>
	<p>High school students: From 83.0% in June 2012 to 87.0% in June 2017</p>	<p>50.0% 2017-2018 Comment: It is not possible to compare the results from one year to another as the questions have not been consistent. As well, the survey was only completed by half of the high schools students in 2018.</p>

Goal 5 : Increase the number of students under the age of 20 registered in vocational training	Target	Results (June 2018)
<p>Objective 1 : Increase the number of students under the age of 20 who start a vocational training program.</p>	<p>From 73 in June 2012 to 115 in June 2018</p>	<p>149 Comment: The number of students under the age of 20 in vocational training has increased and we are well above our target.</p>

ORIENTATION 2 :

EMPOWER AND SUPPORT OUR PERSONNEL IN THEIR EFFORTS TO OFFER THE HIGHEST QUALITY LEVEL OF SERVICES TO OUR STUDENTS

Goal 1 : Support the continued professional development of our personnel and provide coaching and mentoring to administrators and teachers	Targets	Results (June 2018)
<p>Objective 1: Provide Professional Development for all staff</p>	<p>All staff to be trained in the Developmental Approach (including Neufeld) by June 2017</p>	<p>Total days of developmental approach training by category: Teachers: 140 Support staff: 16 Administrators: 96 Professionals/Consultants:22 Total number of employees: 274</p>

Goal 1 : Support the continued professional development of our personnel and provide coaching and mentoring to administrators and teachers	Targets	Results (June 2018)
Objective 2: Increase teacher retention beyond their first five years	From 73.0% in June 2012 to 85.0% in June 2017	82% staff retention from June 2013 – June 2018
Objective 3 : Increase interest in administrative positions	From 3 new applicants by June 2012 to 8 by June 2017	22 applicants

Goal 2 : Recognize the hard work, devotion, and success of ETSB personnel	Targets	Results (June 2018)
Objective 1 : Develop a culture of employee recognition throughout the ETSB	To sensitize all schools/centres to develop a means of recognizing employees by June 2017	There are seven instances during the year where all schools/centres are sensitized and supported in recognizing various employee groups, as well as at the monthly meetings of the Council of Commissioners.
	To sensitize the system through board events recognizing employees hard work, devotion and success	Recognition events were held for years of service and retirement. 2017-2018: 27 retirees, 18 for 25 years of service Total: 45 employees

ORIENTATION 3 :

PROMOTE EFFECTIVE PARTNERSHIPS AND COMMUNICATION WITH PARENTS AND COMMUNITIES

Goal 1 : Support parents in their engagement to ensure their children’s success	Targets	Results (June 2018)
Objective 1 : Support parents in the education of their children	Develop and implement a communication plan with parents	A new Communication Development Plan for 2017-2021 has been developed. All Senior Management attended meetings of the Parents Committee. In total, seven meetings were attended by seven different directors, assistant directors and the Director General.
	Develop and implement, in collaboration with Parents’ Committee, a Professional Development plan for parents	Governing Board (GB) Workshops for all GB members, including parents took place in October and November 2017. A GB Chair workshop also took place on November 13, 2017.
Objective 2 : Help parents support their children during the transition from elementary to secondary	Develop and implement, in collaboration with the Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC), a support plan for all parents of at-risk students (coded or with IEPs) transitioning to high school	A support plan with SEAC has not been developed.

<p>Goal 2 : Create community spirit by reaching out to our community partners, making them feel welcome in our schools and centres and recognizing the value of their contribution</p>	<p>Targets</p>	<p>Results (June 2018)</p>
<p>Objective 1 : Facilitate access to ETSB’s schools for as many eligible students as possible</p>	<p>Increase the number of applicants for eligibility by 5% each year</p>	<p>The number of applications for eligibility dealt with in 2017-2018 was 764 compared to 731 in 2016-2017, an increase of close to 4.3%.</p>
	<p>Increase the registration rate of eligible students in our schools</p>	<p>98.7% of students with eligibility registered with the ETSB for the 2018-2019 school year, compared to 97.3% in 2017-2018.</p>
<p>Objective 2 : Increase ETSB’s visibility</p>	<p>Increase the ETSB’s presence (including virtually) and association with organizations and initiatives in at least five (5) “urban” centers on its territory</p>	<p>Many actions have been put in place to reach this objective. A promotional campaign for the registration period and high school open houses continued again this year. Media presence and press conferences helped to raise awareness of the ETSB. For partnerships, the Christian Vachon Foundation sponsored 16 out of 23 of our schools (an increase of one school) and we are continuing our association with the <i>Projet PRÉE</i> and <i>RSEQ Estrie</i>.</p>
	<p>Develop partnerships and relationships with representatives of the MRCs on ETSB territory</p>	<p>In 2017-2018, the ETSB still focused on developing partnerships through its Community Learning Centres. The CLC schools are very visible and connected in their communities. Ten out of 23 ETSB schools are now considered as CLC schools with the implementation of a new CLC at Sunnyside. All these schools are supported by 6 Community Development Agents. A total of 54 active partnerships (partners may be represented more than once if working with multiple schools) have been developed or maintained throughout the year.</p>

<p>Objective 3 : Ensure that the school board and its schools and centres are welcoming places for community members</p>	<p>Make all our buildings ready to welcome parents, community partners and visitors</p>	<p>In an effort to make our buildings more appealing for students, parents, and the community, the Buildings and Grounds Department oversaw 87 projects totalling \$5,512,125 in investments.</p>
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Financial Statements

In keeping with the Québec Government’s desire to strive for transparency with its public sector entities, for the 2017-2018 Annual Report the complete financial statements for the Eastern Townships School Board will be made available. Please visit the following links to access the complete statements. As these are official government documents, they are available in French only.

[Financial Statements June 2018](#)

Recognitions & Events

Year after year, the ETSB holds many special events to recognize the dedication and excellence of the many people that contribute to our students’ success. Here are just a few examples of activities and events held during the 2017-2018 school year:

Retirement Gala: The ETSB highlighted, at the Annual Retirement Gala held in June, the dedication and work of many of its staff members who are leaving the School Board to enjoy a well-deserved retirement. We wish them the best and cannot thank them enough.

Employee and Volunteer Recognition: Once again this year, the 25 years of Service Recognition and the annual Volunteer recognition events were held separately. Both events were an opportunity for administrators, commissioners, and colleagues to recognize employees with 25 years of service with the ETSB at the board office in Magog. On a separate evening in Orford, members of the Parents’

Committee as well as senior administrators and commissioners recognized the valuable contribution of volunteers in our schools and centres.

Recognition at the Council of Commissioners' meetings: Each month, the Council of Commissioners pay homage to the students and staff members who have participated, initiated, or contributed to significant events.

ETSB Music Festival - United in Music: The eighth edition of the ETSB Music Festival was organized by teachers and brought together more than 300 students to celebrate their collective passion for music. This year's theme was "Songs of Change" .

The 29th Annual ETSB Grade 2/3 Math Competition was held at Waterloo Elementary School. Once again this year's competition had teams participating from schools across the ETSB territory. This friendly competition is designed to be a fun way to get students to think outside the box and stretch their math knowledge.

The Fourth Annual Athletics Competition was held in April 2018. Preliminary competitions were held virtually with teams competing from their schools, with the final competition being held at the School Board offices in Magog and being live broadcast through Google hangout.

Many other local events were also held with the communities such as Terry Fox runs, Remembrance Day Ceremonies, plays and concerts.