

**EASTERN TOWNSHIPS SCHOOL BOARD**

**COUNCIL OF COMMISSIONERS**

**TUESDAY, AUGUST 25, 2015 – 7:00 P.M.**

**ETSB BOARD ROOM  
340 SAINT-JEAN-BOSCO  
MAGOG, QC. J1X 1K9**

**MINUTES**

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***Enhanced Literacy and Numeracy – Dropout Prevention – Physical and Mental Health***

**MEMBERS PRESENT (P):**

<b>Commissioners</b>		<b>Parent Commissioners</b>	
Gordon Barnett	P	Mary Gilman	P
Claire Beaubien	Absent	Paul Laberge, Member	P
Daniel Brodie	P	Cindy Véronneau	GH
Richard Gagnon	P	Kenneth Waterhouse	P
Gary Holliday	P		
Joy Humenuik, Vice-Chairman	P	<b>Administrators</b>	
Mary-Ellen Kirby	P	Secretary General, Éric Campbell	P
Frank MacGregor	P	Director General, André Turcotte	P
Alice McCrory	P	Assistant Director General and Director of Pedagogical Services, Kandy Mackey	P
Michael Murray, Chairman	P	Director of Human Resources, Jeffrey Pauw	P
Tina Pezzi-Bilodeau	Absent	Director of Financial Services, Sophie Leduc	P
Gregg Thomson	GH	Director of Operations, Michel Soucy	P

*GH = Google Hangout*

**OBSERVERS**

Sharon Priest, Communications Consultant

**GUESTS**

Megan Seline, Appalachians' Teachers Association (ATA) President, Matthew McCully, The Record, Julie Dubois, TRUUS President, Me Christian Beaudry, Student Ombudsman.

**1. CALL THE MEETING TO ORDER**

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 7:11 p.m.

**2. QUORUM AND ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**

**QUORUM WAS ESTABLISHED AND IT WAS MOVED BY** Commissioner G. Holliday to adopt the Agenda of August 25, 2015, with the following amendment:

- Addition of Item 7.2: GAFE for Commissioners

Carried unanimously

**3. Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting of June 23, 2015 and of the Adjourned Meeting of July 7, 2015**

**Resolution No. ETSB15-08-01**

**Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting of June 23, 2015 and of the Adjourned Items of July 7, 2015**

**WHEREAS** a copy of the Minutes of the meeting of June 23, 2015 and of the Adjourned Meeting of July 7, 2015 have been given to each Commissioner at least 6 hours before the opening of the meeting, the Secretary General is excused from reading the Minutes.

**IT WAS MOVED BY** Commissioner G. Barnett to excuse the Secretary General from reading the Minutes and to approve the Minutes of the meeting held on June 23, 2015 and of the Adjourned Meeting of July 7, 2015 as deposited.

Carried unanimously

**4. QUESTION PERIOD**

Megan Seline

Q: With the current state of negotiations between Management and the Unions, is the Council of Commissioners aware that teachers will be implementing work-to-rule in the coming school year?

A: *Mr. Murray replied that the Council of Commissioners is aware and deplors the government refusal to move ahead, creating a state of uncertainty.*

**5. RECOGNITION OF EXCELLENCE**

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

- Last March, students in Mrs. Coles' Cycle 3 – year 2 class at Parkview Elementary School participated in the Fordyce Woman's Institute writing contest. Every student in the class participated by writing their essay on the topic 'My trip to Mars'. At the local level students from Parkview won first, second and third place and one of these entries took first place at the provincial level. A member of the Women's Institute presented the winners with their awards at the school during the Grade 6 Moving-Up Ceremony in June. The winners were at the local level; first prize – Jeremy Riti, second prize – Emma Letendre and third prize – Alexandra Barrows. At the provincial level Alexandra Barrows also took the first place honours. We would like to extend our congratulations to the three students who won, their teacher Mrs. Charlotte Coles and all the students who participated. As well we would like to thank the Fordyce Woman's Institute for making this opportunity possible for our students;
- On June 27<sup>th</sup> the 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Piper Classic Golf Tournament, which honours the late John Haller and raises money to support the Alexander Galt Regional High School athletics program, was held at the Milby Golf Club. This year the tournament raised a record amount of \$17,557.93 and had 104 golfers in attendance. Retired teacher and coach Morgan Quinn was named the honorary chairman for the event to recognize his 25 years of dedication and commitment to the Alexander Galt Regional High School athletics program. During the evening organizers handed out 56 door prizes that were graciously donated by local businesses, graduates and friends as well as 11 raffle prizes. We would like to congratulate the organizers namely; Robbie Fisk, Jimmy Donnachie, Dave Beaulieu, Nancy Dubeau and Steve Dunn as well as thank the sponsors and especially the players who made this event such a success. Mark your calendars for next year's tournament, which will be held on June 25, 2016 at the Milby Golf Club.

## 6. **BUSINESS ARISING**

There was no business arising.

## 7. **NEW BUSINESS**

### 7.1 **Student Ombudsman's Annual Report 2014-2015**

The Student Ombudsman, Me Christian Beaudry, presented his annual report to the Council of Commissioners as per article 220.2 of the *Education Act*. The information will also be published in the Annual Report.

### **Resolution No. ETSB15-08-02** **Student Ombudsman's Annual Report**

**IT WAS MOVED BY** Commissioner D. Brodie to accept the annual report from the Student Ombudsman as deposited.

Carried unanimously

## **7.2 GAFE for Commissioners**

Last year, the Eastern Townships School Board adopted GAFE for pedagogical services dossiers. Commissioners are now reflecting on using GAFE as well.

The Director General explained that we did not move on with GAFE for Commissioners, because of confidentiality issues. The School Board has the responsibility to coordinate and to secure the information, which is sent to Commissioners.

It was finally suggested to discuss this proposal later on in a working committee.

## **8. DIRECTOR GENERAL'S REPORT**

The Director General presented his written report in which the following items were highlighted:

- Welcome back;
- Our increase in enrolment.

A copy of the Director General's Report is attached to and forms a part of the official copy of the Minutes.

## **9. REPORT FROM THE CHAIR**

The Chair presented his written report in which the following items were highlighted:

- Restructuring of the School Boards;
- Changes at the Ministry level.

A copy of the Chair's Report is attached to and forms a part of the official copy of the Minutes.

## **10. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **10.1 Executive Committee**

The Chair of the Executive Committee, M. Murray, mentioned that the members of the Executive Committee have discussed the 2015-2016 staffing plan.

### **10.2 Governance and Ethics Committee**

The Chair of the Governance and Ethics Committee, R. Gagnon, informed the Council that there was nothing to report as there were no meetings.

The Director of Pedagogical Services, K. Mackey, presented the following resolution:

#### **10.2.1 Agreement between the *Ministère de la Culture et des Communications (MCC)* and the Eastern Townships School Board (ETSB), to support the plan of cultural outings of the "*La culture à l'école*" program**

**Resolution No. ETSB15-08-03****Agreement between the *Ministère de la Culture et des Communications* (MCC) and the Eastern Townships School Board (ETSB), to support the plan of cultural outings of the “*La culture à l’école*” program**

**WHEREAS** the *Education Act* states that the school is an educational institution designated to contribute to social and cultural development;

**WHEREAS** the orientation of the ETSB’s cultural policy intends to promote the cultural development of students, among others;

**WHEREAS** the cultural outings component of the “*La culture à l’école*” program is put at the disposal of school principals and teachers by way of financial aid for the implementation of cultural projects within the school context;

**WHEREAS** the MEESR and the MCC have jointly contributed funds to school boards toward the financing of such activities since 1997, within the context of the “*La culture à l’école*” program;

**WHEREAS** within the context of the abolition of the network of regional MEESR offices, both ministries confirm the continuance of their respective budgets, they must all the same review the division of responsibilities related to the financial support of the activities that were related to this program;

**WHEREAS** since the beginning of the 2014-2015 school year the *Ministère de la Culture et des Communications* (MCC) manages the grants of the cultural outings component of the “*La culture à l’école*” program, an agreement must be signed between MCC and the ETSB so that students of the ETSB may benefit;

**IT WAS MOVED BY** Commissioner G. Thomson to acknowledge and approve the request for an agreement between the *Ministère de la Culture et des Communications* and the *Eastern Townships School Board*, in order to support the cultural outings component of the “*La culture à l’école*” program and to authorize the Secretary General to sign said agreement.

Carried unanimously

**10.3 Audit Advisory Committee**

The Chair of the Audit Advisory Committee, J. Humenuik, informed the Council that the notes of the July 6, 2015 Audit Advisory Committee meeting were included in the Commissioner’s kits.

The Director of Operation, M. Soucy, presented the following resolutions:

**10.3.1 Finances**

No resolutions were presented.

### **10.3.2 Buildings and Grounds**

#### **10.3.2.1 Saint-Francis Elementary School - Drainage**

##### **Resolution No. ETSB15-08-04**

##### **Saint-Francis Elementary School – Drainage**

**WHEREAS** the Eastern Townships School Board (ETSB) has dedicated a budget of \$50,000 for the project stated above, under the program *AMT - Maintien des actifs et transformation fonctionnelle 2015-16*;

**WHEREAS** delays which the ETSB faces, forces us to present the resolution on a budgetary basis for the amount of \$50,000;

**WHEREAS** the contract will be granted as soon as the results of the call for tenders will be known;

**WHEREAS** the contract will be granted in respect of budget dedicated by ETSB for this project (contract, professional fees & taxes included) and the ETSB's purchase policy and government requirements (laws, policies, rules, etc...);

**WHEREAS** if additional funds are required to complete the project, monies will be taken from the *AMT - Maintien des actifs et transformation fonctionnelle program*;

**WHEREAS** the contract will be granted according to the recommendations of the professional firm;

**IT WAS MOVED BY** Commissioner R. Gagnon to proceed, in conformity with the authorization by the MEESR and the ETSB's purchase policy and government requirements, for the project stated above; **IT WAS FURTHER MOVED** that the Director General be authorized to sign all associated documentation and that in the absence of the Director General, the Director of Operations can also sign.

Carried unanimously

#### **10.3.2.2 Heroes' Memorial Elementary School – Basement Floor Replacement**

##### **Resolution No. ETSB15-09-05**

##### **Heroes' Memorial Elementary School – Basement Floor Replacement**

**WHEREAS** the Eastern Townships School Board (ETSB) dedicated a budget of \$40,000 for the project stated above, under the program *AMT - Maintien des actifs et transformation fonctionnelle 2015-16*;

**WHEREAS** an emergency situation is facing the ETSB to present the resolution on a budgetary basis for the amount of \$40,000;

**WHEREAS** contracts have been granted in advance in order to have the project completed before the first day of classes;

**WHEREAS** contracts were granted respecting the budget dedicated by the ETSB for this project (contract, professional fees & taxes included) and the ETSB's purchase policy and government requirements (laws, policies, rules, etc...);

**WHEREAS** if additional funds are required to complete the project, monies will be taken from the *AMT - Maintien des actifs et transformation fonctionnelle program*;

**WHEREAS** the contract will be granted according to the recommendations of the professional firm;

**IT WAS MOVED BY** Commissioner G. Thomson to proceed, in conformity with the authorization by the ETSB's purchase policy and government requirements, for the project stated above; **IT WAS FURTHER MOVED** that the Director General be authorized to sign all associated documentation and that in the absence of the Director General, the Director of Operations can also sign.

Carried unanimously

#### **10.4 Communications Advisory Committee**

The Chairman of the Communications Advisory Committee, D. Brodie indicated that there was nothing to report as there were not meetings.

#### **10.5 Human Resources Advisory Committee**

The Chairman of the Human Resources Advisory Committee, F. MacGregor, indicated that there was nothing to report as there were no meetings.

#### **10.6 Transportation Advisory Committee**

The Chair of the Transportation Advisory Committee, Commissioner G. Holliday, informed the Council that there was nothing to report as there were no meetings.

#### **10.7 Special Education Advisory Committee**

The Director of Pedagogical Services, K. Mackey, mentioned that there was nothing to report as there were no meetings.

#### **10.8 Parents' Committee**

Parent Commissioner P. Laberge informed the Council that there was nothing to report as there were no meetings.

## **10.9 Student Advisory Committee**

From the Student Advisory Committee (SAC), Commissioner J. Humenuik informed the Council that there was nothing to report as there were no meetings.

## **11. QUEBEC ENGLISH SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION REPORT**

### **11.1 Nominations to the QESBA Board of Directors and Executive Committee Members-at-Large**

Mr. Murray asked Mr. MacGregor if he was willing to remain as a Director for the QESBA. Mr. Murray informed the Council that he would be interested to remain as well. He asked all commissioners if anyone else would be interested. As there were no other names, the resolution was passed as follows:

#### **Resolution Number ETSB15-08-06**

#### **Nomination to the QESBA Board of Directors and Executive Committee Member-at-Large**

**WHEREAS** the Eastern Townships School Board needs to appoint two commissioners as members of the Board of Directors for the Quebec English School Board Association for a two year mandate;

**WHEREAS** one of the two directors will need to be appointed as a member of the Quebec English School Board Association's Executive Committee as a member-at-large;

**IT WAS MOVED BY** Commissioner R. Gagnon to nominate Commissioners Frank MacGregor and Michael Murray as directors for the Quebec English School Board Association;

**IT WAS FURTHER MOVED BY** Commissioner R. Gagnon to nominate Commissioner Michael Murray as the Director of the Executive Committee Member-at-Large of the Quebec English School Board Association.

Carried unanimously

## **12 S.O.F.I.E. REPORT**

Commissioner J. Humenuik mentioned that there was a meeting of SOFIE during the summer. She reported on this meeting. SOFIE reiterated their desire to work close with the two school boards, namely the Eastern Townships School Board and the *Commission scolaire du Val-des-Cerfs*.

## **13. COMMISSIONER'S COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS**

Commissioner G. Barnett mentioned that he had received complaints from taxpayers about the increase in school taxes.

Commissioners F. MacGregor and M. Kirby joined Commissioner G. Barnett and said that they have met with tax payers and answered questions about the increase.

Commissioner M. Kirby asked when the tax rate was at 0.35 cents. The Director General, A. Turcotte, answered her that it was close to 5 years ago.



Commissioner K. Waterhouse inquired about the progress of the elevator at Heroes' Memorial. The Director of Operations, M. Soucy, answered that the project is going well and all is in order with. There may be a slight delay. He will get back to Mr. Waterhouse.

Commissioner P. Laberge wanted to congratulate the Building and Grounds team for the amazing job they did on the Sherbrooke Elementary School's playground.

Commissioner D. Brodie mentioned that the Townshippers' Day will take place on September 12 at Brome. Vocational Training, Adult Education, Heroes' Memorial and Knowlton Academy will be represented.

#### **14. CORRESPONDENCE**

The Secretary General indicated that he received a resolution of support adopted by the Municipality of the Village of North Hatley's Council on July 6, 2015. A response will be sent to the Municipality's Council and Mr. Murray will sign the correspondence.

#### **15. QUESTION PERIOD**

There were no questions.

#### **16. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned on a motion by Commissioner R. Gagnon at 8:07 p.m.

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Éric Campbell  
Secretary General

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Michael Murray  
Chairman

/EC

2015-08-26