

**EASTERN TOWNSHIPS SCHOOL BOARD**

**COUNCIL OF COMMISSIONERS**

**TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2016 – 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):**

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

*GH = Google Hangout*

**OBSERVERS**

Sharon Priest, Communications Consultant

**GUESTS**

Megan Seline, President of the Appalachian Teachers' Association (ATA) and Matthew McCully, The Record.

1. **CALL THE MEETING TO ORDER**

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m.

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

**QUORUM WAS ESTABLISHED AND IT WAS MOVED BY** Commissioner G. Holiday to adopt the Agenda of February 23, 2016, with the following additions:

Item 9.1 Operation Backpack

Item 9.2 Joint Memorandum with Estrie School Boards

Carried unanimously

3. **Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting of January 26, 2016**

**Resolution No. ETSB16-02-47**

**Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting of January 26, 2016**

**WHEREAS** a copy of the Minutes of the meeting of January 26, 2016 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 January 26, 2016 as deposited.

Carried unanimously

4. **QUESTION PERIOD**

Megan Seline

Ms. Seline asked why the website for the Centre Brome-Missisquoi was only in French and only representative of the CSVDC school board?

*The Communications Consultant, who was an observer at the meeting was asked to reply, saying that she was currently in the process of working with the Centre to help them create a website that represented the bilingual nature of the Centre, as well as the two school boards.*

5. **RECOGNITION OF EXCELLENCE**

- The seventh edition of the Hooked on School Days week took place from February 15th – 19th across the province. Under this year's theme, "Be a Superhero", 21 schools and centres across the Eastern Townships School Board organized activities to promote and celebrate school perseverance. In addition to the events taking place in local schools and centres, two were organized in collaboration with the *Partenaires pour la*

*réussite éducative en Estrie (PRÉE)*. First the official launch of the Hooked on School Days week took place on February 10<sup>th</sup> at Sherbrooke Elementary School. Students from cycle 1 – cycle 3 received a standing ovation as they entered the gym, being applauded as ‘Superheros’ for their school perseverance. To close the press conference, the Sherbrooke Elementary School rock band gave a pitch perfect rendition of “The Best Days of My Life”. The second activity took place on February 11<sup>th</sup> and involved three of our elementary schools working in collaboration with their local French counterparts. Asbestos-Danville-Shipton Elementary (ADS), Princess Elizabeth Elementary (PEES) and St. Francis Elementary Schools delivered a Perseverance Flag to their local municipality asking the elected officials to display it during the Hooked on School week, to show their support for youth in their community. As well as the official flag, students from ADS had designed and made their own Perseverance flag and students from PEES made a poster about why their community was a great place to live. We would like to congratulate all the personnel involved in all the activities that took place as well as thank the many volunteers that gave of their time and expertise to make this week such a success;

- Knowlton Academy is celebrating the 46<sup>th</sup> year of its ski program that offers students the opportunity to go downhill skiing in January and February every year. Started by Canadian Hall of Fame skier, Lucille Wheeler in the 1960’s, the program is quite unique in that the school has all their own equipment to outfit the students. As with many extra-curricular programs in our schools, it would not be possible without a lot of time and energy put in by school staff as well as a lot of support by volunteers and the community at large. Congratulations to Knowlton Academy, on this long-standing tradition and we wish them continued success for the next 46 years.

## 6. **DIRECTOR GENERAL’S REPORT**

There was no Director General’s report.

## 7. **CHAIRS’ REPORT**

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

- Great leadership team in place that is working diligently in the absence of some senior team members;
- Mr. Sébastien Proulx has been named the new Education Minister
- Bill 86 is a distraction, creating divisiveness and offering no improvement to education in general.

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

**8. BUSINESS ARISING****8.1 Approval of the Deed of Establishment for Alexander Galt Regional High School**

This topic was deferred at the last Council meeting so that the Central Parents' Committee would have an opportunity to review the Alexander Galt Regional High School's Deed of Establishment. The Secretary General presented the Deed of Establishment for Alexander Galt Regional High School.

**Resolution No. ETSB16-02-48  
Deed of Establishment**

**IT WAS MOVED BY** Commissioner M. Kirby to approve the Alexander Galt Regional High School Deed of Establishment.

**9. NEW BUSINESS****9.1 Operation Backpack**

This initiative was started last year by a group of volunteers outside of the ETSB in order to support families from Lennoxville (Alexander Galt Regional High School and Lennoxville Elementary School) that were in need of some help for school supplies. Last year as well, Commissioner Alice McCrory initiated a similar project on a smaller scale for Waterloo Elementary School. This year, Ms. McCrory's group would like to expand their initiative to include Waterloo Elementary School and Knowlton Academy. She is asking the Council for their approval to move ahead with the expanded project, as sponsors are ready to support the initiative.

**IT WAS MOVED BY** Commissioner A. McCrory to move ahead with this initiative.

Carried unanimously

**9.2 Joint Memorandum with Estrie School Boards**

The Chairman explained that he is working in collaboration with the three francophone School Boards in *Estrie* to prepare a memorandum to be sent to the Parliamentary Commission on Bill 86.

**IT WAS MOVED** by Commissioner M. Kirby to approve the Eastern Townships School Board participation with its fellow *Estrie* Francophone School Boards in this memorandum. The Chairman will represent the School Board in this initiative.

Carried unanimously

## 10. REPORT

### 10.1 Executive Committee

The Chair of the Executive Committee mentioned that the following items were discussed at the Executive Committee:

- Director General Search Committee
- Staffing Plan.

### 10.2. Audit Committee

#### 10.2.1 Transportation

##### 10.2.1.1 School Bus Bids 2015-2016 School Year

#### **Resolution No. ETSB16-02-48** **School Bus Bids 2015-2016 School Year**

**WHEREAS** the Eastern Townships School Board owns and operates a fleet of school buses;

**WHEREAS** to maintain a dependable fleet and keep repair costs down, it is necessary to replace buses on a regular basis;

**WHEREAS** the *ministère de l'Éducation, de l'Enseignement supérieur et de la Recherche* (MEERS) has established parameters for the exchange of buses and has monies set aside for this purpose;

**WHEREAS** on January 8, 2016, the MEESR authorized the Eastern Townships School Board to proceed with a call of tenders for the purchase of new vehicles in accordance with the terms of the management measure "School bus".

**WHEREAS** the Eastern Townships School Board requested bids for the purchase of school buses for the 2015-2016 school year;

**WHEREAS** bids were received from four (4) suppliers and opened on February 5, 2016;

**WHEREAS** the bids from all suppliers conformed to the requirements set out in the call for tenders;

**WHEREAS** the amount of the lowest bid from A. Girardin inc. is \$709,855.65, including taxes;

**WHEREAS** the MEESR must conduct an analysis of the bids received and will confirm their authorization of the allocated amount based on the methods of management of the additional and specific allowances and other activities for 2015-2016;

**IT WAS MOVED BY** Commissioner G. Holliday that the Eastern Townships School Board accept the bid received from A. Girardin inc. for five (5) 72-passenger school buses and one (1) 54 passenger school bus conditional to the authorization from the MEERS.

Carried unanimously

## **10.2.2 Finance**

### **10.2.2.1 Procedure on Signing Authority in Schools/Centres and Central Office Departments - Provisional Delegation of Power**

#### **Resolution No. ETSB16-02-49**

#### **Procedure on Signing Authority in Schools/Centres and Central Office Departments - Provisional Delegation of Power**

**WHEREAS** there exists a policy, namely PO21-1 regarding the procedure on signing authority in schools/centres and central office departments;

**WHEREAS** Policy P021-1 defines the maximum financial signing limits per purchase order/invoice authorized for each level of management of the School Board;

**WHEREAS** with policy P021-1, the Council of Commissioners approved a maximum signing limit up to \$50,000 for specific funds; operating, capital equipment, building and grounds and long-term contracts for the Director General;

**WHEREAS** the Director General has resigned from his position and will be absent for an undetermined period of time;

**WHEREAS** during the absence of the Director General, authorizations will be required to ensure the timely and efficient operation of the school board;

**IT WAS MOVED BY** Commissioner J. Humenuik to authorize, during the absence of the Director General, the transfer of the authority for signing all documents related to these funds to the Assistant Director General or in her absence, the Secretary-General in conformity with policy P021-1.

Carried unanimously

## **10.3 Parents' Committee**

The Chair of the Parents' Committee mentioned that the highlights of the February 3, 2016 Parents' Committee meeting were included in the Commissioners' kits. He also informed the Council that the next meeting is scheduled for March 9, 2016.

#### **10.4 Special Education Advisory Committee**

The Chairman mentioned that the notes of the February 9, 2016 Special Education Advisory Committee meeting were included in the Commissioners' kits. He also informed the Council that the next meeting is scheduled for April 5, 2016.

#### **10.6 Student Advisory Committee**

Commissioner J. Humenuik mentioned that the following items were discussed at the Central Student Advisory Committee (CSAC) on February 19, 2016:

- Data from the Educational Services (Fraser Report) were shared with students;
- Discussion about the TTFM survey;
- Commissioner J. Humenuik shared information from the Student Voice Conference;
- Three more meetings are planned so that the CSAC has the opportunity to visit each of the high schools;
- The CSAC wants to get the message back to students at large that the CSAC is important and that the discussions are open between adults and students and that the committee's voice is being heard.

#### **10.7 QUEBEC ENGLISH SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION REPORT (QESBA)**

The Chairman mentioned that QESBA lobbying efforts concerning Bill 86 are ongoing. The QESBA has also received support from minority language school boards in other provinces across the country.

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

Commissioner J. Humenuik informed the Council that there will be a SOFIE meeting this Friday, February 26, 2016.

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

Commissioner G. Barnett attended the New Horizons' Governing Board meeting where they discussed status of their student population. On the other hand the numbers at Job Links are down, due to their dependency on *Emploi-Québec* for their enrolment.

He also attended the Lennoxville Elementary School Governing Board meeting where the Principal presented Bill 86. The criteria for Principal were also discussed.

He also attended the press conference for the launch of the Projet PRÉE's *Hooked on School Days* that was held at Sherbrooke Elementary School.

Commissioner M. Kirby attended a community seed festival in Sawyerville last Saturday. At this festival, she attended a conference about school gardens with the Community Learning Centre coordinator for the Bury area.

She also received a call from a parent about the guidelines regarding pets in schools.

Commissioner T. Pezzi-Bilodeau attended St. Francis Elementary School Governing Board meeting. The guidelines regarding pets in school were also discussed and a teacher from the Governing Board was unhappy with this guideline. It was presented as a policy, and not as a law.

Commissioner M. Gilman attended the Butler Elementary School Book Fair.

Commissioner A. McCrory attended the Waterloo Elementary School Governing Board meeting at which Bill 86 was discussed.

Commissioner K. Waterhouse mentioned that representatives from the Granby Zoo gave a hands-on presentation to students from Heroes' Memorial Elementary School.

Commissioner J. Humenuik mentioned that she attended two Community Learning Centre (CLC) presentations at Farnham Elementary School and at Butler Elementary School. The Secretary General gave a very good presentation that was very well received by the staff of both schools. Both Governing Boards have sent their resolutions expressing their desire to become a CLC school. The hiring process is ongoing until February 26, 2016.

## **12. CORRESPONDENCE**

The Chairman mentioned that the ETSB had received correspondence from Quebec City area school boards mentioning that they are working on a common memorandum including an Anglophone School Board, namely the Central Quebec School Board.

## **13. QUESTION PERIOD**

Megan Seline

Will the administrative organigram change for next year?

*The Chairman replied that it was a possibility, seeing as the organigram was the prerogative of the Director General.*



**14. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned on a motion by Commissioner C. Beaubien at 8:15 p.m.

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Éric Campbell  
Secretary General

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Michael Murray  
Chairman

/EC  
2016-02-24