

EASTERN TOWNSHIPS SCHOOL BOARD

COUNCIL OF COMMISSIONERS

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2015 – 7:00 P.M.

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

MINUTES

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

MEMBERS PRESENT (√):

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

- *via Google Hangouts*

OBSERVERS

Sharon Priest, Communications Consultant

GUESTS

Megan Seline, President of the *Appalachian Teachers' Association (ATA)*, Gail Klinck, Teacher, ATA Representative, Matthew McCully, *The Record*, Cathy St-Jean, President of *TRUSS*, Scott Stevenson, Parent

1. CALL THE SPECIAL MEETING TO ORDER

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 7:09 p.m.

2. QUORUM AND ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

QUORUM WAS ESTABLISHED AND IT WAS MOVED BY Commissioner J. Humenuik to adopt the Agenda of February 24, 2015 with the following addition:

- Item 7.2: Drummondville Governing Board Report

Carried unanimously

3. Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting of January 27, 2015

Resolution No. ETSB15-02-80

Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting of January 27, 2015

WHEREAS a copy of the Minutes of the meeting of January 27, 2015 has 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 27, 2015 with the following addition:

- Item 13: Commissioner's Comments and Questions:
 - C. Beaubien also attended the Governing Board and the Christmas concerts.

CORRECTION TO THE MINUTES OF JANUARY 27, 2015 AT ITEM 6.1 – Approval of Deeds of Establishment and 3-Year Plan of Allocation and Destination of Immovables (School Years – 2015-2016)

After review of the minutes, and as per resolution No.ETSB06-01-45, the first paragraph of the above-mentioned resolution:

“**WHEREAS** Clarenceville Elementary School located at 70 Main Street, Saint-Georges-de-Clarenceville, ceased to accept students in July 1999 subsequent to an abrupt decline in enrollment;”

has been replaced by:

WHEREAS Clarenceville Elementary School located at 70 Main Street, Saint-Georges-de-Clarenceville, ceased to accept students since July 1, 1999 subsequent to an abrupt decline in enrollment;

And second paragraph:

“**WHEREAS**, since 1999, the Eastern Townships School Board (ETSB) made the decision to suspend the Deed of Establishment of Clarenceville Elementary School;”

has been replaced by:

“**WHEREAS**, since January 25, 2006, the Eastern Townships School Board (ETSB) made the decision to suspend the Deed of Establishment of Clarenceville Elementary School;”

Carried unanimously

4. QUESTION PERIOD

Cathy St-Jean

Q: TRUUS have banners that they would like to display in each school and centre;

Mr. Murray asked if these banners were linked to the negotiations.

Ms. St-Jean answered no.

R: M. Murray replied that we will validate whether they can or not be displayed.

Q: Is there any new information that will be sent to the employees about the mergers. There are many questions from the employees.

R: M. Murray replied that we have not received any official news from the Ministry. The Director General will address this in his report.

Megan Seline

Q: The CBM website link on the ETSB site only goes to a CSVDC website.

R: S. Priest said that we will look in to it.

Q: The School Board has been promoting a bilingual environment. Will it also be promoting the concentrations at Alexander Galt Regional High School?

R: S. Priest replied that the School Board campaign covers all schools and centres. The concentrations at Alexander Galt Regional High School are local and we work with them on their local publicity, as well as for the open houses.

Q: First, in November, then in January, a request has been sent to Council of Commissioners in order to meet with the Centre Brome-Missisquoi employees;

R: M. Murray replied that a preliminary meeting took place today with the Commission scolaire du Val-des-Cerfs to address the situation and look at our next steps.

Q: As Eastern Townships Learning Centre and Alexander Galt Regional High School will merge:

- 1- What are the objectives of merging?
- 2- What will be the gain for special needs kids and how regular students will be affected?

R: M. Murray replied that integration is a mainstay of our organization. The objective is to have one school with a full range of programs to meet the needs of all students, with one administration.

The Director General, A. Turcotte, mentioned that it was not decided yet and that we are in consultation.

Gail Klink

Q: Quebec teachers will have the lowest pay and worst working conditions – Does my School Board support these measures being proposed by the Government for the contract negotiations?

R: M. Murray replied that the School Board was not consulted about this offer and does not have a position at this time. The negotiations are in the early steps and we have not studied the offers on either side.

Ms. Klink added that without considering the weighting of special needs students, a class of 35-40 kids would end up being more like the equivalent of 60 kids.

Scott Stevenson:

Q: As a parent very pleased with the new Principal at GALT, how can parents help to support her and what is the School Board doing to ensure stability?

R: M. Murray replied that it was not the School Board's choice to change Principal. It is our largest school and the School Board has added a 60% administrative position on a temporary basis, to support the school. We also have a mentoring program for our principals.

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:

- The sixth edition of the Hooked on School Days took place from February 16th – 20th across the Province. Twenty-five schools and centres throughout the Eastern Townships School Board organized activities to promote and celebrate school perseverance. Of the close to 300 activities taking place across the region during the week, over 50 of them took place in ETSB elementary schools, high schools, and centres. We would like to congratulate all the personnel involved as well as thank the many volunteers that gave of their time and expertise to make this week and all the activities in the schools and centres a success;
- The Horatio Alger Association of Canada, the Canadian affiliate of the Horatio Alger Association of Distinguished Americans Inc. offers as stated in their press release,

“scholarships to full-time high school students in Quebec who have a critical financial need and have demonstrated integrity and perseverance in overcoming adversity, as well as strength of character, a good academic record, a commitment to pursue higher education, and a desire to contribute to society.” This year’s winners of the award include Lydia Toussaint from Alexander Galt Regional High School who will receive a \$5000 scholarship. Lydia exhibits all the qualities that the Association looks for having held an above 90% average for her 5 years at GALT, as well as a desire to continue her post-secondary studies in the health sciences field. Some of you may also remember her as the talented pianist who performed at the 2013 Show Your Talent Gala. We would like to congratulate Lydia on this well-deserved award and recognition, as well as the other 18 recipients from across Quebec. We also extend our appreciation to the Horatio Alger Association for their recognition and support of these outstanding students;

- The Canadian Parents for French (CPF), in partnership with Bishop’s University, the Community Learning Centres and the Quebec Federation of Home and School Associations is presenting the *Petite Suite Québécoise*, the first French-Second Language virtual choir. During January and February 2015, school and community choirs from across the Province will be videotaped singing a medley of Quebec classics. Of the 10 schools taking part in the project, three are from the Eastern Townships School Board, namely Princess Elizabeth, Pope Memorial and Sherbrooke Elementary Schools. Congratulations to all the students and staff involved with this unique project. For photos of the sessions held at each school visit the CPF website under [youth activities](http://qc.cpf.ca/activities/youth-activities/virtual-choir/).
<http://qc.cpf.ca/activities/youth-activities/virtual-choir/>

6. **BUSINESS ARISING**

There was no business arising.

7. **NEW BUSINESS**

7.1 **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. ETSB15-02-81

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 MELS 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 MELS 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 R. Gagnon 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

7.2 Drummondville Governing Board Report

Commissioner T. Bilodeau explained that the Governing Board members of Drummondville Elementary School expressed their willingness to stay with the Eastern Townships School Board at their last meeting. They thank the Council, and will forward a motion to this effect.

8. DIRECTOR GENERAL’S REPORT

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

- Balancing the Provincial Budget
- School Board Reorganization and Mergers.

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 Chairman gave a verbal report touching on:

- The partnership between the Richmond CLC, the CSSS du Val-Saint-François, Townshippers' Association and Valfamille;
- Reaffirming the ETSB's desire to pursue collaboration with the New Frontiers and Riverside School Boards in the International Student and Adult Education/Vocational Training dossiers in order to see if we can merge these services.

It was unanimously adopted to once again support this project.

10. ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORTS

10.1 Executive Committee

The Chairman reported that a staffing report had been deposited at the Executive meeting. It was also mentioned that a new partnership project for the vitality of the English speaking community for Val-Saint-François will take place by the end of March.

10.2 Governance and Ethics

The Chairman, M. Murray, mentioned that the following was discussed: the integration of technology, 4 pillars of the Strategic Plan, 1:1 integration of ipads from Grade 3 to Secondary 3 and retiring of 700 G4 units (ibooks).

He also mentioned that the notes of the February 23, 2015 meeting will be included in the Commissioners' kits at the next meeting.

10.3 Audit Advisory Committee

The Chair of the Audit Advisory Committee, J. Humenuik, informed the Council that there was nothing to report as there was no meeting. She also indicated that the next meeting is scheduled on March 10, 2015.

10.4 Communications Advisory Committee

The Chairman of the Communications Advisory Committee, D. Brodie, informed the Council that there was nothing to report as there was no meeting. He also indicated that the next meeting is scheduled on March 31, 2015.

10.5 Human Resources Advisory Committee

Commissioner G. Barnett informed the Council that the notes of the February 3, 2015 meeting were included in the Commissioners' kits. He also indicated that the next meeting is scheduled on April 7, 2015.

10.6 Transportation Advisory Committee

The Chair of the Transportation Committee, Commissioner G. Holliday, informed the Council that the notes of the February 10, 2015 meeting were included in the Commissioners' kits. He also indicated that the next meeting is scheduled on April 7, 2015.

The Chair of the Transportation Committee, G. Holliday, presented the following resolution:

10.6.1 School Bus Bids 2014-2015

Resolution No. ETSB15-02-82

School Bus Bids 2014-2015

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, du Loisir et du sport* (MELS) has established parameters for the exchange of buses and has monies set aside for this purpose;

WHEREAS on December 18, 2014, the MELS 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 2014-2015 school year;

WHEREAS bids were received from four (4) suppliers and opened on February 6, 2015;

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 Autobus Leeds Transit is \$660,930.34 (including taxes and trade-in busses);

WHEREAS the MELS 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 2014-2015;

IT WAS MOVED BY Commissioner G. Holliday that the Eastern Townships School Board accepts the bid received from Autobus Leeds Transit in the amount of \$ 660,930.34 (including taxes and trade-in busses) for five (5) 72 passenger school buses and two (2) 54 passenger buses conditional to the authorization from the MELS.

Carried unanimously

10.7 Special Education Advisory Committee

Commissioner C. Véronneau informed the Council that the notes of the January 14, 2015 meeting were included in the Commissioners' kits. She also indicated that the notes of the February 11, 2015 meeting will be included in the commissioners' kits at the next meeting which is scheduled on March 24, 2015.

10.8 Parents' Committee

Parent Commissioner P. Laberge informed the Council that the highlights of the February 4 meeting were included in the Commissioners' kit. He also indicated that the next meeting will be held on March 12, 2015.

10.9 Student Advisory Committee

From the Student Advisory Committee (SAC), Commissioner J. Humenuik mentioned that there was nothing to report as there was no meeting. She also indicated that the next meetings will be held on March 17, at Alexander Galt Regional High School and April 28, 2015 at Massey-Vanier High School. The students would like to speak with Commissioners. Need a venue time that meets their needs and allows for the interaction of the students with the Commissioners.

11. QUEBEC ENGLISH SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION REPORT

The Chairman, M. Murray, mentioned that the Professional Development Session for Commissioners on April 10 is cancelled. A number of meetings took place with the Minister of Education regarding the governance of school boards and there will be periodic updates on negotiations.

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

There was no report.

13. COMMISSIONER'S COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS

- Commissioner J. Humenuik mentioned that she met the Council of Noyan and that the Mayor had some misinformation. Hope to get a survey as to the number of eligible students for a school in Clarenceville. From now on, the information going out will be the "right" information. She also highlighted the need for information about eligibility in these areas;
- Commissioner C. Beaubien mentioned that both Sunnyside Elementary School and North Hatley Elementary School celebrated 'Hooked on School Days' by combining career orientation and involving parents in various activities. She also attended the North Hatley Elementary School Governing Board;

- Commissioner T. Bilodeau first thanked Luc Grandchamp for the sound quality on Google Hangout. She also informed the Council that all of her schools were on board with the “Hooked on School Days” activities. She also mentioned Saint-Francis’ delightful deeds program;
- Commissioner M. Kirby mentioned that she attended a delightful basket-ball tournament;
- Commissioner G. Holliday mentioned that he visited the Robotics room at Richmond Regional High School and that he found it wonderful to see how the students were engaged in this activity;
- Commissioner D. Brodie mentioned some activities that took place with the Memphremagog CLC in January and in February. Chris Hadfield presented a conference at Bishops and Cycle III students went to see him;
- Commissioner P. Laberge encouraged everyone to spread the word out about the Volunteer Recognition event on April 15, 2015;
- Commissioner G. Barnett mentioned that he attended a press conference given by Guy Hardy about investments in Alexander Galt Regional High School and Lennoxville Elementary School;

He also mentioned that he attended the Governing Board meeting at Lennoxville Elementary School and the Governing Board meeting and Consultation Session at the Eastern Townships Learning Centre;

- Commissioner M. Gilman mentioned that there will be a Regional Science Fair at Massey-Vanier High School on March 17. She also congratulated Massey-Vanier High School and Alexander Galt Regional High School Junior hockey teams.

14. **CORRESPONDENCE**

The Secretary General indicated that there was no correspondence received.

15. **QUESTION PERIOD**

Scott Stevenson

Q: Asked for an update about a question asked at the last Council of Commissioners’ meeting regarding the showers at Alexander Galt Regional High School;

R: *The Director of Operations, M. Soucy, answered that temporary measures should already be in place. The work on the lockers, showers and the gym area will be done in the next 2 years.*

Cathy St-Jean

Q: Asked to clarify what was meant by new bussing opportunities from the Transportation Advisory Committee report;

R: M. Soucy replied that private schools on our territory have requested quotes for school transportation. The result of this potential agreement could help lessen the time on the bus for some of our students.

16. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned on a motion by Commissioner R. Gagnon at 8:50 p.m.

Éric Campbell
Secretary General

Michael Murray
Chairman

/EC
2015-02-25