

**EASTERN TOWNSHIPS SCHOOL BOARD**

**SPECIAL COUNCIL OF COMMISSIONERS**

**TUESDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2014 – 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   | GH |
| Claire Beaubien          | √   | Paul Laberge  | √  |
| Daniel Brodie            | √   | Cindy Véronneau   | GH |
| Richard Gagnon           | GH* | Kenneth Waterhouse  | GH |
| Gary Holliday            | √   |   |    |
| Joy Humenuik             | √   | <b>DC</b>   |    |
| Mary-Ellen Kirby         | √   | Secretary General, Éric Campbell  | √  |
| Frank MacGregor          | √   | Director General, André Turcotte  | √  |
| Alice McCrory            | √   | Assistant Director General and Director of Pedagogical Services, Kandy Mackey | √  |
| Michael Murray, Chairman | √   | Director of Human Resources, Jeffrey Pauw                                     | √  |
| Tina Pezzi-Bilodeau      | GH  | Director of Financial Services, Sophie Leduc                                  | √  |
| Gregg Thomson            | √   | Director of Operations, Michel Soucy  | √  |

\* Via Google Hangouts

**OBSERVERS**

Sharon Priest, Communications Consultant

**GUESTS**

Matthew McCully, *The Record*

**1. CALL THE SPECIAL 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. Thomson to adopt the Agenda of December 9, 2014.

Carried unanimously

### **3. COMPLIANCE WITH THE PROCEDURE FOR CALLING THE SPECIAL MEETING**

The Chairman ascertained with the Secretary General that the procedure for calling the meeting complied with Article 165 of the *Education Act*.

All the commissioners present have received the convocation within the prescribed delays.

### **4. SCHOOL BOARD MERGERS – POSITION TO BE ADOPTED BY THE EASTERN TOWNSHIPS SCHOOL BOARD**

The Chairman, M. Murray, presented the following resolutions:

#### **4.1 *Ministre de l'Éducation, du Loisir et du Sport* School Board Reorganization Proposal**

##### **Resolution No. ESTB14-12-68**

##### ***Ministre de l'Éducation, du Loisir et du Sport* School Board Reorganization Proposal**

**WHEREAS**, on November 20, 2014 the *ministre de l'Éducation, du Loisir et du Sport* proposed, under his reorganization of school boards, a merger of the Eastern Townships School Board (ETSB), New Frontiers School Board and Riverside School Board;

**WHEREAS** the proposal provides for the creation of one English school board covering the administrative regions of Estrie, Central Quebec and most of Montérégie;

**WHEREAS** the proposal would be effective as of July 1, 2016;

**WHEREAS** the merger would create a new school board that would have:

- a territory of over 26,000 square kilometers;
- excess of 300 municipalities;
- over 19,000 students in close to 70 widely separated schools and centres;
- a highly diverse population from urbanized, to suburban and rural;

**WHEREAS** the local Eastern Townships community has demonstrated its support for an accessible locally governed school board and would prefer an alternative solution to the proposal;

**WHEREAS** it is essential that the ETSB continues to be an active contributor to the socio-economic development of the communities it serves;

**WHEREAS** the ETSB has determined its priorities and strategic orientations to meet the needs of its population and has invested human and financial resources in developing local initiatives and approaches to meet these goals;

**WHEREAS** the ETSB administrative costs could not be significantly reduced without severe negative impact on students;

**WHEREAS** the inevitable cost of any merger, in both human and financial resources, would be counterproductive to the government's orientations to reduce administrative overhead;

**WHEREAS** the reorganization proposal should not be detrimental to the essential mission of school boards, which is the success of all students in youth, adult and vocational programs;

**WHEREAS** the proposed reorganization among the Eastern Townships, New Frontiers, and Riverside School Boards would not be in the best interest of the students and the communities served by the ETSB;

**IT WAS MOVED BY** Commissioner J. Humenuik that ETSB proposes alternative solutions to the Minister to address the objectives of his original proposal rather than participate in proposed mergers;

**IT WAS FURTHER MOVED** to mandate the Chairman to communicate this resolution to the New Frontiers School Board, Riverside School Board, Quebec English School Boards Association and the *ministre de l'Éducation, du Loisir et du Sport* and to participate on behalf of the ETSB in any ongoing exchanges with the Minister and all partners involved on this subject.

Carried unanimously

#### **4.2 Sharing of Services between Francophone and Anglophone School Boards**

##### **Resolution No. ETSB14-12-69**

##### **Sharing of Services between Francophone and Anglophone School Boards**

**WHEREAS**, on November 20, 2014 the *ministre de l'Éducation, du Loisir et du Sport* proposed, under his reorganization of school boards, a merger among Eastern Townships School Board (ETSB), New Frontiers School Board and Riverside School Board;

**WHEREAS** the ETSB requests that the Ministre re-evaluate his proposed reorganization in favour of alternative solutions to address the objectives of the original proposal;

**WHEREAS** the ETSB and its predecessors have over 45 years of experience and expertise in the collaboration and sharing of services, establishments, and personnel with Francophone school boards;

**WHEREAS** the ETSB has met with Francophone school boards in Estrie, namely the *Commission scolaire des Sommets*, *Commission scolaire des Hauts-Cantons* and the *Commission scolaire de la Région-de-Sherbrooke* to discuss possible partnerships;

**IT IS MOVED BY** Commissioner G. Holliday that the ETSB proposes:

- To share services with the Francophone school boards with which it shares territory;
- To evaluate all other possible sharing of services and facilities that will allow for improved efficiency;

- To actively participate, in good faith, with the Francophone school boards with which it shares territory and with the Minister;
- To explore all other areas of collaboration that may be in the best interest of students;

**IT WAS FURTHER MOVED** to mandate the Chairman, to present the terms of this resolution to the *ministre de l'Éducation, du Loisir et du Sport*, and to the Quebec English School Boards Association and all partners involved on this subject;

**IT WAS FURTHER MOVED** to mandate the Chairman to work with and collaborate with the chairmen of the Francophone school boards with which it shares territory and participate on behalf of the Eastern Townships School Board in any ongoing exchanges with the Minister and all partners, current and future.

Carried unanimously

#### 4.3 **Ministre de l'Éducation, du Loisir et du Sport – Central Quebec Administrative Region Proposal**

##### **Resolution No. ETSB14-12-70**

##### **Ministre de l'Éducation, du Loisir et du Sport – Central Quebec Administrative Region Proposal**

**WHEREAS**, on November 20, 2014 the *ministre de l'Éducation, du Loisir et du Sport* proposed, under his reorganization of school boards, a merger among the Eastern Townships School Board (ETSB) New Frontiers School Board and Riverside School Board;

**WHEREAS** in the proposed new map for school boards, one scenario shows the territory currently served by the ETSB in the Central Quebec Administrative Region and specifically Drummondville Elementary School, located at 50 Chabanel Street, Drummondville Québec, to be annexed to the Central Quebec School Board's territory;

**WHEREAS** the ETSB re-established an English elementary school in Drummondville in 1998, at the request of the community and after consultation with the Central Quebec School Board;

**WHEREAS** the current boundary between ETSB and Central Quebec School Board represents the optimal solution for minimizing the time and distance for student transportation to the nearest English School, thereby supporting student success;

**WHEREAS**, since opening, the school's enrolment has increased from 99 students in 1998 to its current population of 222, demonstrating the increased and sustained support of the English community for the school;

**WHEREAS** the Central Quebec School Board has declared its disinterest in extending its already vast territory to encompass Drummondville;

**IT WAS MOVED BY** Commissioner T. Pezzi-Bilodeau:

- that ETSB urges the *ministre de l'Éducation, du Loisir et du Sport*, to retain the attachment of Drummondville in the basin of the Eastern Townships School Board; and
- that the boundary dividing the Central Quebec School Board territory from the ETSB territory be retained to minimize student transportation distances and time;

**IT WAS FURTHER MOVED** to mandate the Chairman to communicate this resolution to the *ministre de l'Éducation, du Loisir et du Sport*, the Quebec English School Board Association and the Central Quebec School Board and to participate on behalf of the Eastern Townships School Board in any ongoing exchanges with the Minister and all partners involved on this subject.

Carried unanimously

## 5. **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Chairman, M. Murray, made a verbal report during which he mentioned the following items:

- *Table des présidents et directeurs généraux de l'Estrie;*
- Professional Development Session for Commissioners.

## 6. **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned on a motion by Commissioner R. Gagnon at 8:25 p.m.

---

Éric Campbell  
Secretary General

---

Michael Murray  
Chairman

/EC

2014-12-10