

EASTERN TOWNSHIPS SCHOOL BOARD

COUNCIL OF COMMISSIONERS

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 26, 2019 – 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 (P):

COMMISSIONERS		PARENT COMMISSIONERS	
Gordon Barnett	P	Marc Mercure	P
Claire Beaubien	P	Hélène Turgeon	P
Daniel Brodie	P	Cindy Véronneau	A
Richard Gagnon	P	Daniel Zigby	P
Gary Holliday	P	DIRECTORS' COMMITTEE (DC)	
Joy Humenuik, <i>Vice-Chairman</i>	P	Secretary General, Éric Campbell	P
Mary-Ellen Kirby	P	Director General, Kandy Mackey	A
Frank MacGregor	P	Interim Director General and Director of Continuing Education, Michel Soucy	P
Alice McCrory	P	Interim Assistant Director General and Director of Human Resources, Jeffrey Pauw	P
Jonathan Murray	P	Director of Financial Services, Sophie Leduc	P
Michael Murray, <i>Chairman</i>	P	Director of Instructional Technology and Pedagogical Services, Eva Lettner	A
Tina Pezzi-Bilodeau	GH	Director of Complementary Services, Emmanuelle Gaudet	A
		Director of Material Resources, Éric Plante	P

Google Hangout: GH

OBSERVERS

Sharon Priest, Communications Consultant

PUBLIC

Megan Seline, President of the Appalachian Teachers' Association (ATA)

1. **CALL THE MEETING TO ORDER**

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 7:15 p.m.

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

QUORUM WAS ESTABLISHED AND IT WAS MOVED BY Commissioner H. Turgeon to adopt the Agenda of November 26, 2019, as deposited.

Carried unanimously

3. **APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF October 22, 2019**

Resolution No. ETSB 19-11-32

Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting of the Council of Commissioners held on October 22, 2019

WHEREAS a copy of the Minutes of the meetings of October 22, 2019, 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.

WHEREAS Commissioner C. Beaubien enumerated the CLC activities that took place last month, especially the Container Art Project, which allows the students to show their artistic talents. She also visited three elementary schools from her sector to share Living Schools documentation and to have an update on future projects.

IT WAS MOVED BY Commissioner G. Barnett to excuse the Secretary General from reading the Minutes and to approve the Minutes of the meetings held on October 22, 2019, as modified.

Carried unanimously

4. **QUESTION PERIOD**

M. Seline: Today I visited Waterloo Elementary School during lunch period. Staff members brought lunch from the cafeteria to the meeting and it looked and smelt so appetizing. It was well balanced and interesting. The menu was posted up for the month with meals only costing \$3.50. On a recent visit to Richmond Regional High School, the cafeteria only has a vending machine with snacks such as beef sticks for \$3.25, instant soup for \$2.50 and rice packs for \$3.50. Teachers will give muffins to needy students and keep ramen noodles in their desk for some.

My question is, why is there no cafeteria service at Richmond Regional High School? The situation at RRHS seems to contradict the ETSB's policy P-029 on good health. What do teachers need to do to get café services at RRHS?

M. Murray: There are no cafeteria services because the position is a unionized one and we cannot therefore privatize the cafeteria with outside personnel. The funding required for a unionized position, exceeded the revenue and after running a deficit for multiple years, the Governing Board made the decision to close the cafeteria. It was a local decision and not one taken centrally by the School Board.

As for P-029: I am not familiar enough with the wording of the policy to comment, but if there are elements that do not meet it, then they should be removed from the vending machines. If the teachers have any suggestions for a solution, please pass them along to the school.

5. RECOGNITION OF EXCELLENCE

- From November 18th to the 22nd, we celebrated our Education Professionals, who work in pedagogical, student complementary, and administrative services. Each and every day they make a difference in our students' lives and success. We would like to thank them for their dedication and hard work throughout the year.
- On October 17th, the first edition of the Jalon Awards for Sustainable Mobility was held in Montreal. Sixty organizations presented more than a hundred different projects and Transport MRC Memphrémagog distinguished itself among them with its taxi service for teenagers. Tarif Taxi 12-17 is a service offered to teenagers, 12 to 17 years of age from the City of Magog and the Canton d'Orford. For as little as \$3.00 teens can get a taxi ride within the limits of the City and Canton between 8:00 am to 11:00 pm. This service provides them with a safe, secure and affordable way to get around. We would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Transport MRC de Memphrémagog on being recognized for this award and extend our appreciation for their commitment and involvement with area youth. As well we would like to personally recognize Parent Commissioner Hélène Turgeon, who works with Transport MRC de Memphrémagog, and who is an integral member in this project;
- We would also like to recognize Ms. Tammy Lace, owner of Fripperie Karma in Lac Brome. Each month Ms. Lace donates the proceeds from her shop to a worthy cause in and around her community. In October, she donated over \$900 each to Mansonville and Waterloo Elementary schools for their breakfast programs. These donations are a result of Ms. Lace's generosity and commitment to her community. We would like to thank Ms. Lace for her donation and her support for our area schools.

6. BUSINESS ARISING

None.

7. NEW BUSINESS

7.1 Resolution No. ETSB 19-11-33

Entente concernant la cession de droits et obligations de "Les Télécommunications Xittel inc." PRÉVUS À LA CONVENTION DE CONSTRUCTION ET D'OPÉRATION D'UN LIEN FIBRES OPTIQUES DU 23 AVRIL 2002

ATTENDU qu'une convention de construction et d'opération d'un lien de fibres optiques est intervenue entre la *Eastern Townships School Board (ETSB)*, la Commission scolaire du Val-des-Cerfs (CSVDC), la Municipalité régionale de comté de la Haute-Yamaska (MRC), Réseau d'informations scientifiques du Québec (RISQ) et Les Télécommunications Xittel inc. et a pris effet le 23 avril 2002 et automatiquement renouvelée depuis avril 2007 pour des termes de 5 ans. Le dernier terme sera échu le 22 avril 2022;

ATTENDU que Maskatel a fait l'acquisition, en date du 30 avril 2015, de l'entreprise Les Télécommunications Xittel inc.;

ATTENDU que la convention prévoyait que l'entreprise Les Télécommunications Xittel inc. ne pouvait aliéner, en tout ou en partie, la propriété des Accessoires aux Fibres sans le consentement préalable, unanime, discrétionnaire et écrit des parties;

ATTENDU que la convention prévoyait que l'entreprise Les Télécommunications Xittel inc. ne pouvait céder, en tout ou en partie, les droits qui lui sont attribués dans cette convention sans le consentement préalable unanime, discrétionnaire et écrit des parties;

ATTENDU que le 18 juillet 2019, Maskatel a sollicité de la part de ETSB, CSVDC, MRC, RISQ les consentements écrits qui avaient été omis en lien avec son acquisition de l'entreprise Les Télécommunications Xittel inc.;

II EST RÉSOLU sur proposition de G. Holliday de permettre à Michel Soucy, Directeur général par intérim et Michael Murray, Président, de signer tous les documents relativement au consentement à la cession des droits et obligations et d'accepter et de ratifier le transfert des droits et obligations de l'entreprise Les Télécommunications Xittel inc. prévus à la convention en faveur de Maskatel.

Carried unanimously

7.2 Resolution No ETSB 19-11-34
Request for an Alcohol Permit – Sawyerville Elementary

WHEREAS Sawyerville Elementary is renting its premises to Daniel Fortier for a family party to be held on January 1st, 2020, at the school where alcohol will be served;

WHEREAS the Sawyerville Elementary Governing Board was consulted and approved the requites for the above-mentioned event and are fully aware that alcohol will be available;

WHEREAS no minors will be present at the event and it will be held outside of the regular hours of school;

WHEREAS Daniel Fortier is responsible for the event and the serving of alcohol and has the required liability insurances;

WHEREAS Daniel Fortier will conform with the *Régie des alcools, des courses et des jeux du Québec (RACJ)*;

WHEREAS Daniel Fortier must obtain a resolution from the Council of Commissioners authorizing them to have alcoholic beverages on the premises and in this case, will supply a photocopy of the permit provided by the RACJ once received to the Secretary General's office;

IT WAS MOVED BY Commissioner M. Kirby to authorize Daniel Fortier to serve alcoholic beverages, in conformity with the *Régie des alcools, des courses et des jeux du Québec*, at the above-mentioned event being held on January 1st, 2020.

Carried unanimously

8. REPORTS

8.1 DIRECTOR GENERAL'S REPORT

The Interim Director General, Michel Soucy addressed the recent school cancellations we have had so far this year and in particular November 19th. On that morning after consulting with our transportation personnel including some of our ETSB bus drivers, and our fellow school boards, the decision was made early that we would remain open. Due to the size of our territory, the weather conditions in the western sector were worse. As soon as our transporters in the west started their routes, they quickly realized that it was not safe and the decision was made to suspend service, therefore we reversed our decision and cancelled school for the ETSB.

It is important to keep in mind, that with the size of our territory, the conditions may look fine in one area but are unsafe in another. We have to take the whole territory into consideration when making our decision and always put the safety and security of all of our students and staff as our main priority!

It is with a heavy heart that we received the news that one of our employees, Jarrod Sharman, passed away on Friday, November 22, 2019, surrounded by family, after having fought a courageous battle with a rare illness.

Mr. Sharman was a graduate of Bishop's University and began his teaching career in Thetford Mines in 1998, where he taught various levels of elementary school from Kindergarten to Cycle 3. In 2012, he joined the ETSB at Alexander Galt where he quickly became an integral member of the GALT team. Working with some of our most vulnerable students, he is remembered as a devoted and caring teacher who wouldn't give up on his students, no matter how great the challenge.

His loss will be felt not only in but also out of the classroom, where he gave countless hours coaching soccer and basketball. In his final season, he coached the senior boys' basketball team to a league championship and a spot in the provincials, even though his condition was taking a toll.

Often referred to as a "Gentle Giant" his legacy at GALT with his students and colleagues as well as in his community will be the positive impact he had on the many lives he touched.

We would like to extend our heartfelt condolences to his wife Tara McCully as well as both the Sharman and McCully families, on this devastating loss. Also, the many students and colleagues who are mourning the loss of a mentor and friend.

8.2 REPORT FROM THE CHAIR

The Chair of the Commissioners' Council, M. Murray, reported that QESBA Professional Development in Longueuil took place the end of October. The Chairman participated at a presentation of a brief about Bill 40 with QESBA on November 4th, 2019, in Québec City at the Ministry's public consultations and presentation of another joint brief with Estrie and Montérégie school Boards on November 11, 2019. The Commissioners participated at the annual Commissioners Symposium on November 8th and 9th at the Auberge 4 Saisons in Orford.

Thinking Big For Our Children

Mr. Murray also attended the 'Think Big For Our Children' event organized by Collectif Estrien partnered with Projet PRÉE for the 0-5 year olds.

8.3 Resolution No. ETSB 19-11-35

Thinking big for our children

In order to increase the proportion of children who start school without vulnerability, in one of the domains mentioned, from 71% to 80% by 2025, and to promote their success throughout their education, we commit ourselves to:

- ✓ putting ahead the needs of the child at the heart of our decision-making;
- ✓ recognizing that the four principles of action are essential to our collective success;
- ✓ taking concrete actions that are consistent with these principles;
- ✓ making the Charter known and encouraging our colleagues, our organization, or our partners to join.

IT WAS MOVED by M. Kirby to subscribe the vision of a region where all children have an equal opportunity to attain their highest potential.

9. ADVISORY COMMITTEES' REPORTS

9.1 Executive Committee

The Chair of the Executive Committee, Commissioner M. Murray, mentioned that the resolutions presented at tonight's meeting were previously discussed at the Executive meeting.

9.2 Governance and Ethics Committee

The Chair of the Governance and Ethics Committee, Commissioner R. Gagnon mentioned that the next meeting is scheduled on December 10, 2019.

9.3 Audit Advisory Committee

The Chair of the Audit Advisory Committee, Commissioner J. Humenuik, presented the following resolutions:

9.3.1 Finance

None.

9.3.2 Material Resources

9.3.2.1 Resolution No. ETSB 19-11-36

Princess Elizabeth Elementary School – Standardization of the Stairwells

WHEREAS the *ministère de l'Éducation et de l'Enseignement supérieur (MEES)* should be dedicating a budget of \$278,896 for the project stated above, under the program *MDB - Maintien des bâtiments 2019-20 Mesure: 50621*;

WHEREAS four (4) companies retrieved the project specifications after a public invitation to bid on the project;

WHEREAS three (3) bids were received by the Eastern Townships School Board by the date and time specified;

WHEREAS the lowest bid in the amount of \$197,900 (excluding taxes), was received from the company *Comco Entrepreneurs en Bâtiment*;

WHEREAS after reviewing the bids, the assigned professional firm of *ADSP Architecture & Design*, has recommended the company *Comco Entrepreneurs en Bâtiment*, lowest bidder in conformity, to do the work;

WHEREAS the amount of the lowest bid from the contractor plus the professional fees and taxes is \$227,536;

IT WAS MOVED BY Commissioner H. Turgeon that the Company *Comco Entrepreneurs en Bâtiment* be awarded the contract for the project stated above; **IT WAS FURTHER MOVED** that the Interim Director General and/or the Director of Material Resources be authorized to sign all associated documentation.

Carried unanimously

9.3.2.2 Resolution No. ETSB 19-11-37

Drummondville Elementary School – Construction of a New School – Land Purchase Agreement

WHEREAS the *ministère de l'Éducation et de l'Enseignement supérieur (MEES)* approved a budget of \$13,246,010 for the construction of the new Drummondville Elementary School;

WHEREAS the Eastern Townships School Board (ETSB) met with the Town of Drummondville in order to find the ideal land available;

WHEREAS the Town of Drummondville has agreed to keep land for the ETSB;

WHEREAS the transaction needed to be under the supervision of the *Société québécoise des Infrastructures (SQI)*;
WHEREAS the *SQI* mandated an evaluator that evaluated the land on Farrell Street at \$370,000;

WHEREAS the Town of Drummondville mandated an evaluator that evaluated the land on Farrell Street at \$440,000;

WHEREAS the Town of Drummondville and the ETSB have agreed to fix the purchase price at \$370,000 plus taxes and associated fees;

IT WAS MOVED BY Commissioner T. Pezzi-Bilodeau that the purchase of the land be awarded for the project stated above; **IT WAS FURTHER MOVED** that the Interim Director General and/or the Director of Material Resources be authorized to sign all associated documentation.

Carried unanimously

9.3.2.3 Resolution No. ETSB 19-11-38

Opportunity to purchase a strategic property – Farnham Elementary School

WHEREAS Farnham Elementary School has experienced an important enrollment growth since the 2016-2017 school year;

WHEREAS according to the current student enrolment and the projections for 2019 to 2024, there is a need for additional space at Farnham Elementary School in order to adequately serve the student population;

WHEREAS the Eastern Townships School Board submitted a request for additional space in the *Plan québécois des infrastructures 2020-2030* program;

WHEREAS the ETSB was informed that a property near the school was supposed to be on sale for non-payment of municipal taxes on Tuesday, October 15, at 1:30 pm, at Farnham City Hall but the debt got paid in time to avoid the auction;

WHEREAS the ETSB was informed that the same neighbouring property (church) will be placed on the market by a bailiff in the next few days or weeks;

WHEREAS the ETSB and the *ministère de l'Éducation et de l'Enseignement supérieur (MEES)* are looking at the best way to fund the transaction if possible;

WHEREAS the ETSB might have to borrow funds to acquire the property where ETSB will be responsible for capital and interest on loans;

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

IT WAS MOVED BY Commissioner J. Humenuik to do what is necessary to proceed with the purchase of the said property, with respect to the best use of budgets, the ETSB's purchase policy and government requirements (laws, policies, rules, etc.);

IT WAS FURTHER MOVED that the Interim Director General - Michel Soucy or the Director of Material Resources – Eric Plante be authorized to sign all associated documentation.

Carried unanimously

9.3.2.4 Resolution No. ETSB 19-11-39**Richmond Regional High School – Soccer Field(s) Lights**

WHEREAS the Eastern Townships School Board (ETSB), the Town of Richmond, the Town of Melbourne, the Townships of Cleveland and Richmond County's political staffer has shown interest in lighting Richmond Regional High School's (RRHS) soccer field(s);

WHEREAS Richmond's soccer teams have to play their local night games in Windsor thus 20 kilometres away;

WHEREAS the facilities will be used by the local population including RRHS student's population;

WHEREAS RRHS students will benefit from this feature during winter late afternoons for physical education classes;

WHEREAS there will be a possibility of having lighted hockey rink(s) during winter;

WHEREAS a partnership is aimed to take place at a level of 33% to 50% coming from the three municipalities including ETSB and 50% to 67% to come from a provincial program;

WHEREAS a first draft of quotes shows that the project could cost around \$600,000 in total;

WHEREAS the ETSB agrees to match the Towns' contribution and more for up to \$150,000 from the RTA program;

WHEREAS the maintenance fees (on Winter and Summer facilities) are still to be negotiated as to who will be accountable;

WHEREAS an emphyteutic lease is needed to be signed between the municipalities and ETSB;

IT WAS MOVED BY Commissioner T. Bilodeau that the contribution of ETSB can reach up to \$150,000 for the project stated above; **IT WAS FURTHER MOVED** that the Interim Director General and/or the Director of Material Resources be authorized to sign all associated documentation.

Carried unanimously

9.3.2.5 Resolution No. ETSB 19-11-40**Parkview Elementary School – Replacing Windows and Brick Pointing**

WHEREAS the *ministère de l'Éducation et de l'Enseignement supérieur (MEES)* dedicated a budget of \$780,618 for the project stated above, under the program *RDE - Résorption du déficit d'entretien 2018-19 mesure: 50622*;

WHEREAS nine (9) companies retrieved the project specifications after a public invitation to bid on the project;

WHEREAS four (4) bids were received by the Eastern Townships School Board by the date and time specified;

WHEREAS the lowest bid in the amount of \$796,800 (excluding taxes), was received from the company *Construction Bugère Inc.*

WHEREAS after reviewing the bids, the assigned professional firm of *Pierre Cabana Architecte inc.*, has recommended the company *Construction Bugère Inc.*, lowest bidder in conformity, to do the work;

WHEREAS the amount of the lowest bid from the contractor plus the professional fees and taxes is \$969,009.30;

WHEREAS all additional funds required to complete the project will be taken from *RDE - Résorption du déficit d'entretien 2018-19 program*;

IT WAS MOVED BY Commissioner A. McCrory that the Company *Construction Bugère Inc.* be awarded the contract for the project stated above; IT WAS FURTHER MOVED that the Interim Director General and/or the Director of Material Resources be authorized to sign all associated documentation.

Carried unanimously

9.4 Educational Advisory Committee

The Chair of the Educational Advisory Committee, M.E. Kirby, mentioned that the next meeting is scheduled for November 28, 2019.

9.5 Communications Advisory Committee

The Chair of the Communications Advisory Committee, D. Zigby, mentioned that the next Communications Advisory Committee meeting is scheduled on December 3, 2019.

9.6 Human Resources Advisory Committee

The Chair of the Human Resources Advisory Committee, C. Beaubien, mentioned that the next Human Resources Advisory Committee meeting is scheduled on December 3, 2019.

9.7 Transportation Advisory Committee

The Chair of the Transportation Advisory Committee, Commissioner H. Turgeon, mentioned that the next Transportation Advisory Committee meeting is scheduled on December 5, 2019.

9.8 Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC)

The next meeting is scheduled on December 11, 2019.

10. Parents' Committee

The Commissioner representing parents, D. Zigby, mentioned there was a nice presentation from the Transportation Service at the last Parents' Committee meeting and applauded the school board's Bill 40 position and paying into a possible legal challenge by contributing from the Commissioner stipend.

Eric Campbell gave an overview of the Transportation Department.

The CPC reviewed the Deeds of Establishment and concerns regarding Bill 40 were discussed.

The next Parents' Committee meeting is scheduled on December 4, 2019.

11. Student Advisory Committee

Commissioner J. Humenuik, representing the Student Advisory Committee, mentioned that the last Student Advisory Committee meeting took place on November 21, 2019. The next meeting is scheduled on January 17, 2020.

12. QESBA

QUESBA is involved with APPEL, the Alliance for the Promotion of Public English-language Education in Québec.

13. COMMISSIONER'S COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS

Commissioner J. Humenuik attended a presentation of CDEC, an initiative of Mont Sutton. She also mentioned the activities that took place at the Farnham/Bedford CLC.

Commissioner C. Beaubien:

ACES

Cycle 2 and Cycle 3 students became Heroes in 30 minutes! They received a training to prepare students to recognize and act quickly if they see an adult in cardiac arrest, by performing a simple and risk-free CPR technique.

CLC Sunnyside

September & October Report from Clea Corman (Community Development Agent)

This CLC is involving various partners (listed in brackets below) to engage with the community:

- Family Arts & Crafts (Literacy in Action, Équipe Ressource Relais)
- Parenting Workshop (Lennoxville District Women's Centre, CSSS de Memphremagog)
- Francisation Classes (New Horizons)
- Adult Education Support (New Horizons, Distance Education & Phelps Helps)

More details in the attached document.

Commissioner F. MacGregor mentioned that QESBA wrote the template letters that could be used by our constituents with the objective to send them back to the Ministry of Education.

Commissioner A. McCrory mentioned there was a conflict tonight with the Waterloo Governing Board, therefore she could not attend it. Parkview Elementary was doing well and had finished some successful fundraising.

Commissioner M. Kirby participated at an event called CO-LAB at Bishop's University. The theme of this event was Is There Space For English Youth in the area's the job market?

Commissioner D. Brodie attended the awards night at Alexander Galt Regional High School. He was impressed by the number of awards, bursaries, etc., given that night.

Commissioner G. Barnett attended Lennoxville Elementary School's Governing Board meeting and also attended LVTC graduation ceremonies which were well done.

14. Upcoming Events

November 27th

- The ETSB celebrates and recognizes employees with 25 years of service. Held here at the Board Office.

November 28th – 30th

- Galt Performing Arts Concentration, presents the play ELF JR. the Musical.
- Performances are at 7 p.m. in the Alexander Galt Regional High School Auditorium. Special children's matinee on November 30th. For tickets contact the school at ext. 22056

December 2019

- Throughout December various holiday activities and fundraisers are being held in our schools and centres. Most of not all elementary schools will be offering students a 'holiday' lunch.

15. CORRESPONDENCE

Letter from Alain Vachon, Governance continuous improvement project.

16. QUESTION PERIOD

M. Seline: Upon visiting Farnham Elementary School today, it was obvious that this school had a lack of space. There is inadequate quiet space for autistic children, no specialist's offices, quiet spaces for private calls, art classes, reserved spaces for K-4 and bathrooms in the gymnasium. When it comes to maximum capacity is there one for a school?

M. Murray: Yes there is a formula from the Ministry based on enrollment and square footage.

M. Seline: Can portable classrooms be brought in to alleviate the space issues?

M. Murray: Not really, we realize that staff are going above and beyond with the space they have now. We are proceeding as quickly as possible, as you saw earlier this evening, with requests to the Ministry for funding for more space for the school. Unfortunately, it is an old building, much like the school in Drummondville, that was poorly designed especially for today's learning.

M. Seline May I wish a happy holiday to the Council of Commissioners?

Mr. Murray: Yes and the same to you.

17. VARIA

None.

18. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned on a motion by Commissioner R. Gagnon at 9:09 p.m.

Éric Campbell
Secretary General

Michael Murray
Chairman

EC/gm
27-11-2019