

EASTERN TOWNSHIPS SCHOOL BOARD

COUNCIL OF COMMISSIONERS

TUESDAY, September 24, 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	GH
Richard Gagnon	A	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	P
		Director of Material Resources, Éric Plante	P

GH: Google Hangout

OBSERVERS

Sharon Priest, Communications Consultant

PUBLIC

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

Matthew McCully, The Record

Christian Beaudry, ETSB Student Ombudsman

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 M.E. Kirby to adopt the Agenda of August 27, 2019 as deposited, with the following addition:

9.3.2.2 Resolution: Farnham Elementary School - Opportunity to Purchase a Strategic Property

Carried unanimously

3. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF August 27, 2019

Resolution No. ETSB 19-08-10

Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting of the Council of Commissioners held on August 27, 2019

WHEREAS a copy of the Minutes of the meetings of August 27, 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.

IT WAS MOVED BY Commissioner H. Turgeon to excuse the Secretary General from reading the Minutes and to approve the Minutes of the meeting held on August 27, 2019 as modified.

Carried unanimously

4. QUESTION PERIOD

M. Séline: May I have an update on the agreement with the Commission scolaire Val-des-Cerfs concerning the CBM campus?

M. Murray: The negotiations are progressing and we have a draft agreement ready at this time.

M. Séline: How does this affect or impact Massey-Vanier High School?

M. Murray: There is separate entente for the Massey-Vanier campus, that includes the Ville de Cowansville, for the auditorium, rink and pool. We have one single building manager for the whole campus. The entente for Sutton School has been finalized.

5. **RECOGNITION OF EXCELLENCE**

Chairman M. Murray presented the September 24, 2019 Recognition of Excellence:

For an 8th consecutive year, the *Fondation Christian Vachon* (Foundation) joined forces with many partners including the Eastern Townships School Board (ETSB) to present the 12th *Fondation Christian Vachon* Cross-Country run. More than 50 students from ETSB schools participated in this cross-country run, which was held on Saturday September 21st in Magog. On the same day, the *Relais-du-Lac-Memphrémagog* was held with team participants running around Lake Memphrémagog to raise funds for the Foundation. This event is one of the Foundation's most important annual fundraising activities. As in the past five years, the ETSB manned a checkpoint during the relay, with a team of ETSB volunteers cheering on the runners. We would like to take this opportunity to thank all those individuals who donated their time at both the cross-country run and the checkpoint. This year the Foundation will support more than 200 students who are among the most vulnerable in our community. The Foundation will also invest more than \$115,000 to help these students buy school supplies and clothing. This money will also enable some to participate in extracurricular activities and others to benefit from up to three hot lunches per week at school.

September 26th is the *Journée nationale du personnel de soutien scolaire*, Support Staff in Education Day. We would like to take this opportunity to recognize the valuable contribution that each and every one of our support staff personnel makes towards the success of our students. Their hard work and dedication is appreciated. On behalf of the students, parents, and your fellow colleagues, we thank you.

Chairman M. Murray commented on the recent Townshippers' Festival that was held on Saturday, September 21st at Massey-Vanier High School. The facilities were appreciated by the attendees and lent well to the activities being presented. Student performances were one of the highlights, with the Knowlton Academy Choir, Massey-Vanier Dancers and the Massey-Vanier Band performing on the main stage. In all it was a successful day and congratulations go out to the organizers on a job well done.

6. **BUSINESS ARISING**

There was no business arising.

7. **NEW BUSINESS**

7.1 **Student Ombudsman Annual Report**

The Student Ombudsman presented his annual report.

- 14 complaints received during the 2018-2019 school year
- 13 complaints were referred to internal procedures
- 1 complaint was received from an Adult Education student

- 1 complaint was investigated, an elementary school student complained of discrimination and left the school at the end of the year
- There were no complaints about bullying or violence, which is comparable to other school boards of the same size as ETSB.

Copies of the report were given to all the Commissioners.

7.2 Draft Legislation

Chairman M. Murray shared that he wanted to inform all about the new legislation pertaining to School Board Governance, but the government has not yet deposited the legislation.

7.3 Resolution No. E19-09-11

Knowlton Academy Elementary School – Request for an Alcohol Permit

WHEREAS the Knowlton Academy Elementary School planned an appreciation event to thank community volunteers and donors to be held on September 13, 2019, at the school where it wishes to serve alcohol;

WHEREAS the Knowlton Academy Elementary School Governing Board was consulted and approved the requites for this appreciation event and were fully aware that alcohol would be available;

WHEREAS Knowlton Academy must conform with the *Régie des alcools, des courses et des jeux du Québec (RACJ)*;

WHEREAS Knowlton Academy must obtain a resolution from the Council of Commissioners authorizing them to have alcoholic beverages on the premises and in this case, must supply a photocopy of the permit provided by the RACJ;

WHEREAS given the timeline constraint to receive the permit, it was verbally authorized for Knowlton Academy Elementary School to proceed with obtaining the alcohol permit as discussed at the Governance and Ethics meeting held on September 10, 2019 and that a resolution after the fact will be presented;

IT WAS MOVED BY Commissioner A. McCrory to authorize Knowlton Academy Elementary School to serve alcoholic beverages, in conformity with the *Régie des alcools, des courses et des jeux du Québec*, at the appreciation event being held September 13, 2019, organized by the School and being held on the school grounds.

Carried unanimously

8. REPORTS

8.1 DIRECTOR GENERAL'S REPORT

The Interim Director General, Michel Soucy, presented his report:

September is almost over and the school year is well on its way. September is a busy month in our schools and centres, with activities to welcome students back and everyone getting settled into their routine.

It is also the time of year for two important fundraising activities, the Christian Vachon Foundation Run and Relay, and the Terry Fox School Run. In each of these events our students are shown how important it is to give back to your community and how the community supports our youth.

For the Christian Vachon Foundation Run, as you heard in the recognition, students are invited to have a fun filled day being active and getting out with other students, not only from the ETSB but also our fellow school boards. On the same day the Relais Desjardins du Lac Memphrémagog is held to raise the much-needed funds that make it possible for the foundation to support so many of our students and their families. I would like to extend a big thank you not only to the Christian Vachon Foundation, but also to the many teams of relay runners, some of which were comprised of ETSB personnel, who completed the 123-kilometer relay around Lake Memphrémagog.

I would also like to recognize our schools and centres, the students and staff, who raise funds and awareness for the Terry Fox Foundation. September 26th is the National School Day Run, and although not all of our schools and centres run on that day, many if not most hold an activity commemorating Terry Fox. Over the years our ETSB schools and centres can be very proud of the contributions they have made towards cancer research and awareness.

Mr. Soucy also reported that Ms. Tia Rousseau has been appointed as Vice-Principal of Sherbrooke Elementary School at 100%.

8.2 REPORT FROM THE CHAIR

The Chair of the Commissioners' Council, M. Murray, presented his report:

I want to begin this evening by expressing my particular appreciation as well as that of those of you who accepted the invitation of the Appalachian Teachers Association to a Meet and Greet last week. It was a marvellous and possibly unique gesture by a teacher union to meet informally and personally with Commissioners and Administrators to share common concerns and interests. Many of us already knew each other but for some it was an opportunity to meet new colleagues and to exchange perceptions on our common interests. They promised good conversation and over the three hours of the event we certainly enjoyed great opportunities to share ideas and reinforce the benefits of being a small board, even though we are dispersed over a large territory. I was touched by the gesture and I can assure those of you who were unable for various reasons to attend that you missed a wonderful occasion. The ambiance of the setting in a local vineyard was merely an agreeable background to a warm and collaborative exchange.

The Ministry of Education (MEES) published Graduation rates for the 2011 cohort on September 6, 2019. The 2011 cohort consists of students who began Secondary 1 in 2011/12. Seven years later in 2018/19 the number of graduates was determined by region and by school board. Graduation includes all forms of certification from youth and adult sectors, vocational training and alternate paths. The report is issued explicitly to permit school boards to evaluate their performance relative to provincial averages and other school boards. It also permits boards to assess their progress towards the target graduation rates in their Commitment to Success Plan (CTS).

The Eastern Townships School Board graduation rate for the 2011 cohort was 74.5%. The graduation rate for girls at 79.8% was higher than that for boys at 69.7% leaving a disparity of close to 10 percentiles. Our Commitment to Success Plan (CTS) focused on raising the graduation rate. The reference year was the 2008 cohort when the graduation rate was 68.5%. We can celebrate having moved six percentiles towards our goal with less than two percentiles left to achieve in the remaining 3 years of the plan. However, in the 2008 cohort the disparity between boys and girls was less than eight percentiles compared to our current disparity of almost 10 percentiles. While this statistic varies widely from year to year and we have made progress overall. The disparity between boys and girls remains challenging and schools will need to address it more effectively during the balance of our plan.

We are also at a critical juncture in the political maneuvering around the promised abolition of school board elections and the replacement of school boards by service centres. While we are still awaiting details on the structural changes proposed, I can state categorically that this is a solution in search of a problem. At no time has the government or the minister of education even attempted to link this major restructuring to improving the quality of education, student achievement or management of public resources.

The change has been promoted as a means of saving the cost of elections and of salaries to elected commissioners. Various costs of elections and salaries are mentioned as savings - usually amounting to a tiny fraction of one percent of the education budget. At no time have the costs of the proposed changes been made public and given the vagueness of the plans for the future service centres, it is likely that the costs have yet to be estimated or accounted for.

Happily, the government enjoys a large surplus and appears utterly indifferent to thoughts of economizing taxpayer contributions. Let me add that once the costs are determined I expect they will dwarf any savings, actual or potential. Meanwhile a huge disruption is inflicted on students. I anticipate that the exemption of the English Language boards from abolition, if it actually occurs, will allow us to demonstrate over the coming years that the disruption contributed nothing to student success while sowing chaos across a complex, delicate and already overburdened public education system.

One additional item I would like to bring to your attention. On November 19 the first *Rassemblement Estrien* will be held here in Magog. It will involve Education, Health and Social Services, Community Groups and Municipalities. The theme: "Voir Grand pour Nos Enfants" fits perfectly with our overall strategic objectives. Workshops address, among other topics, preparation of young children to enter the school system and supporting English families and

children. The workshops will be in French but materials will be distributed in both official languages. It looks like an excellent activity to prioritize in your already crowded agendas.

Meanwhile we continue to serve our students, support our schools and contribute to the vitality and activity of our community. It is highly gratifying to see signs of progress even while we identify ever more needs and fresh goals

9. ADVISORY COMMITTEES' REPORTS

9.1 Executive Committee

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

- Personnel and Staffing Plan;
- Presentation of Resolutions adopted at tonight's meeting.

9.2 Governance and Ethics Committee

Chairman M. Murray presented the items discussed at the the last committee meeting:

9.2.1. Notes from the September 10, 2019 Governance and Ethics Committee Meeting:

- Living Schools
- Knowlton Academy Event – Alcohol Permit Resolution
- DG Delegation of Power – Resolution
- Symposium
- Pedagogical Leadership – Principals in Classrooms
- QESBA

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:

9.3.1.1 Resolution No. E19-09-12

Farnham Elementary School - Signing Officers for School/Centres

WHEREAS the Eastern Townships School Board (“ETSB”) appointed the National Bank to provide banking services;

WHEREAS the accepted bid received from the National Bank also includes banking services for ETSB schools and centres;

WHEREAS the National Bank requires the names of representatives authorized to sign banking documents on behalf of ETSB schools and centres;

WHEREAS new head teacher assignment has changed the name of representative at Farnham Elementary;

IT WAS MOVED BY Commissioner J. Humenuik that the following individual be authorized to sign banking documents on behalf of her school

Farnham Elementary School

Samantha Piette (remove)

Karine Lefebvre (add)

Carried unanimously

9.3.2 Material Resources

9.3.2.1 Resolution No. E19-09-13

Sutton Elementary School – Emergency Roof Replacement

The resolution was read by Director of Material Resources, E. Plante:

WHEREAS an emergency situation occurred at Sutton Elementary School in September 2019 with an continuous leak in the gymnasium during average rainfall;

WHEREAS the inspection of the roof states many corrections to be done to a point of having it completely redone;

WHEREAS the *ministère de l'Éducation et de l'Enseignement supérieur (MEES)* dedicated a budget of \$322,649 for the project 18-011-MDB-11 Mansonville Elementary School - Brick Pointing, under the program *MDB - Maintien des bâtiments 2018-19 Mesure: 50621*;

WHEREAS a demand to the MEES is being done to postpone the project 18-011-MDB-11 to next year in order to use these funds for the project stated above (18-020-MDB-39 – SUTTON – Emergency Roof Replacement);

WHEREAS the call for tender has be done under invitation rather than the usual public publication for any projects above \$101,010 in order to avoid the posting time of more than 30 days;

WHEREAS two (2) companies were invited to bid on the project;

WHEREAS two (2) bids were received by the Eastern Townships School Board by the date and time specified;

WHEREAS the lowest bid in the amount of \$198,000 (excluding taxes), was received from the company *Les Toitures Industrie Pro.*;

WHEREAS after reviewing the bids, the assigned professional firm of *Francis Lussier Architecte*, has recommended the company *Les Toitures Industrie Pro*, 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 \$245,257;

IT WAS MOVED BY Commissioner J. Humenuik that the Company *Les Toitures Industrie Pro*. 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. E19-09-14

Farnham Elementary School – Opportunity to Purchase a Strategic Property

WHEREAS the Eastern Townships School Board (ETSB) allocates a budget up to \$100,000 for the project stated above, under the program *RTA - Réfection et transformation des actifs*;

WHEREAS the student population capacity in Farnham Elementary School building supports the need for additional space, in order to adequately serve the student population of Farnham Elementary School;

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

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

WHEREAS the Eastern Townships School Board will submit a request for additional space in the *Plan Québécois des infrastructures 2020-2030* program before the end of the current school year;

WHEREAS the Eastern Townships School Board was informed that a property near the school will be on sale for non-payment of municipal taxes on Tuesday, October 15, at 1:30 pm, at Farnham City Hall;

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 of the budget dedicated, 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

The Chair mentioned that the next Audit Advisory Committee meeting is scheduled for October 15, 2019.

9.4 Educational Advisory Committee

The Chair of the Educational Advisory Committee, M.E. Kirby, mentioned that the next Advisory Committee meeting is scheduled on October 8, 2019.

9.5 Communications Advisory Committee

The Chair of the Communications Advisory Committee, D. Zigby, presented the notes from the last meeting:

9.5.1 Notes from the September 17, 2019 Meeting:

- Promotional Pamphlet
- Commitment to Success Plan
- Welcome Back Activity
- Communication Development Plan 2017-2022
- Student Population
- Governing Board Workshops
- Open Houses
- Website Development
- Access to Information Requests
- Upcoming Events

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 minutes from the September 17, 2019 meeting will be added to the October Council of Commissioners meeting.

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 November 19, 2019.

9.8 Special Education Advisory Committee

9.8.1 Report from the September 11, 2019 meeting

The Chair of the Special Education Advisory Committee, Parent Commissioner Cindy Véronneau reported that a Letter of Recommendation was presented to the Director General.

The next meeting is scheduled on October 9, 2019.

10. Parents' Committee

The Commissioner representing parents, D. Zigby, mentioned that the next Parents' Committee meeting is scheduled on October 9, 2019.

11. Student Advisory Committee

Commissioner J. Humenuik, representing the Student Advisory Committee, mentioned that a meeting had been planned for September 26, 2019 but will be postponed. The following meeting is scheduled on November 21, 2019.

12. Quebec English School Boards Association Report (QESBA)

The Chairman, M. Murray reported that QESBA was waiting for the impending legislation on school governance reform. As well they are in the process of planning the upcoming professional development session, of which commissioners should have received information on.

13. COMMISSIONER'S COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS

Commissioner G. Barnett attended the Lennoxville Elementary School's Governing Board meeting. He mentioned that the student population has increased to 318 students.

Commissioner D. Brodie mentioned that a fundraiser activity will take place on September 28, 2019 to raise money for the outdoor gazebo in honour of Pervana Mladenoff, the former CLC coordinator at Princess Elizabeth Elementary School.

Commissioner M.E. Kirby attended a Lampe Foundation (provided scholarships to Phelps students) meeting. Interesting information was given at this meeting about the Sunnyside CLC and Phelps Helps.

Commissioner A. McCrory attended the Governing Board meetings at Parkview Elementary School. Waterloo elementary school has yet to hold a meeting.

Commissioner F. MacGregor mentioned that there had not yet been any Governing Board meetings at Alexander Galt Regional High School or at Sherbrooke Elementary School.

Commissioner C. Beaubien mentioned that Ayer's Cliff Elementary School offers a "Second Cup" coffee between 8:00 and 8:15 a.m. for parents to touch base.

Commissioner M. Mercure attended the annual Massey Vanier High School Pig Roast Fundraiser, held on the Brome Fairgrounds. They raised funds for the Massey Vanier High School Athletics Department. It was a good year.

Chairman M. Murray underlined that he attended a couple of Governing Board meetings. Some schools have a hard time filling the quota of parents for the Governing Board positions, especially the smaller schools. How do we encourage parents and support them?

He also mentioned his concern about the sound and video quality of online participation. An update of our video-online conferencing would be in order to lessen travel and time and make meetings more efficient.

Commissioner J. Murray mentioned that the Community School at Heroes' Memorial Elementary School will start on September 26th and will run for 10 weeks.

14. Upcoming Events

- Terry Fox Run in certain ETSB schools
- Support Staff Recognition Day on September 26th
- School/Centre Administrators Week October 21st – 25th
- Professionals in Education Week November 18th – 22nd

15. CORRESPONDENCE

There was no correspondence

16. QUESTION PERIOD

There were no questions.

17. VARIA

18. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned on a motion by Commissioner M. Mercure at 8:22 p.m.

Éric Campbell
Secretary General

Michael Murray
Chairman

EC/amc
26-09-2019