

EASTERN TOWNSHIPS SCHOOL BOARD

COUNCIL OF COMMISSIONERS

TUESDAY, JANUARY 28, 2020 – 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	Marc Mercure	P
Claire Beaubien	A	Hélène Turgeon	P
Daniel Brodie	A	Cindy Véronneau	GH
Richard Gagnon	GH	Daniel Zigby	A
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	P
Tina Pezzi-Bilodeau	GH	Director of Complementary Services, Emmanuelle Gaudet	P
		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)  
Matthew McCully, The Record

1. **CALL THE MEETING TO ORDER**

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 7:26 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 January 28, 2020 as deposited.

Carried unanimously

3. **APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF NOVEMBER 26, 2019**

Resolution No. ETSB 20-01-41

**Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting of the Council of Commissioners held on November 26, 2019**

**WHEREAS** a copy of the Minutes of the meetings of November 26, 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 G. Barnett to excuse the Secretary General from reading the Minutes and to approve the Minutes of the meetings held on November 26, 2019 as deposited.

Carried unanimously

4. **QUESTION PERIOD**

M. Seline: Ms. Seline presented Salt, the ATA companion. Negotiations have started with the teachers' unions. Are the Commissioners aware of the demands that have been made by the management negotiating team , CPNCA when it comes to teacher work loads?

M. Murray: Some have been briefed on major points but not all Commissioners.

5. **RECOGNITION OF EXCELLENCE**

The Commissioners presented the January 28, 2020 Recognition of Excellence:

Two former Alexander Galt Regional High School students are competing at the National U21 Curling Championships being held in Langley, B.C., Meaghan Rivett, part of Team Gauthier and Greg Cheal, part of Team Cheal, both honed their skills as part of the GALT curling team while they were students there. The preliminary results have Team Gauthier with a 3-3 record and now are moving onto the championship pool. Unfortunately, Team Cheal was not able to secure a spot in the Championship pool this year. We would like to take this opportunity to congratulate both teams, and specifically Ms. Rivett and Mr. Cheal in securing their spot at the championships. We also wish Ms. Rivett and Team Gauthier continued success at the tournament. You can follow the tournament and see videos of some of the championship matches at [www.curling.ca](http://www.curling.ca)

On January 11<sup>th</sup>, students attending Richmond Regional High School and St. Francis Elementary School, teacher Erin Scoble, were featured in an article about competitive square dancing. The eight teens, Ryley Keenan, Ruby Mastine, Isabelle Buckland, Steve St-Cyr, Katie Brock, Carl Coddington and Tyla Séguin along with their caller, Erin Scoble helped to demystify square dancing and show that there is a place for this type of dancing with today's youth at a competitive level. We would like to take this opportunity to wish them continued success.

The *Fédération des Transporteurs par Autobus* is celebrating its 32<sup>nd</sup> edition of School Bus Safety Weeks from February 3<sup>rd</sup> to February 14<sup>th</sup> 2020. Once again, this year's slogan is "Do you see me?" which is a reminder for drivers to be cautious in and around school zones and look out for students getting on and off buses and crossing the streets. We would like to take this opportunity to recognize the hard work and dedication of our school bus drivers and all the individuals that work in our transportation department. The ETSB has an excellent safety record putting our students' well-being and safety as a priority.

Every year in February, it is our pleasure to celebrate Teacher Appreciation Week. This year, the week of February 2<sup>nd</sup> to the 8<sup>th</sup> is a time to recognize the significant contribution that teachers make each and every day in the lives of their students. Here, at the ETSB, we would like to say thank you to all our teachers for their continued hard work and dedication. We would also like to encourage students, parents and administrators to take the time during Teacher Appreciation Week, to show their appreciation and say thank you to the teachers in their school or centre.

We would like to take this opportunity to remind everyone that February is also the month where we celebrate school perseverance with the "Hooked on School Days". From February 17<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup>, communities all across the Province will be taking action to encourage youth to stay in school. This year's slogan "our actions, a plus in their success" is to remind everyone that no matter how big or small the action, they all can contribute towards student success.

## 6. BUSINESS ARISING

None.

## 7. NEW BUSINESS

### 7.1 Resolution No. 20-01-42

#### Deeds of Establishment 2020-2021 and 3-year plan of allocation and destination of immovables

The Secretary General presented the Deeds of Establishment and the 3-Year Plan of Allocation and Destination of Immovables.

IT WAS MOVED BY Commissioner M. Mercure to approve the Deeds of Establishment for the 2020-2021 school year as presented. IT WAS FURTHER MOVED to adopt the 3-year plan of allocation and destination of immovables.

Carried unanimously

### 7.2 Resolution No 20-01-43

#### Request for an alcohol permit – Sutton Elementary School

WHEREAS Sutton Elementary School is renting its premises to the Coop gym santé Sutton for a Beatles Tribute night, to be held on February 1, 2020 at the school where alcohol will be served;

WHEREAS the Sutton Elementary School 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 the Coop gym santé Sutton is responsible for the event and the selling of alcohol and has the required liability insurances;

**WHEREAS** the Coop gym santé Sutton has conformed with the *Régie des alcools, des courses et des jeux du Québec (RACJ)*;

**WHEREAS** the Coop gym santé Sutton must obtain a resolution from the Council of Commissioners authorizing them to sell 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 R. Gagnon to authorize the Coop gym santé Sutton to sell alcoholic beverages, in conformity with the *Régie des alcools, des courses et des jeux du Québec*, at the above-mentioned event being held on February 1st, 2020.

Carried unanimously

**7.3      Resolution No 20-01-44**  
**2018-2019 Annual Report**

The Interim Director General presented and reviewed the Annual Report for the 2018-2019 school year.

**IT WAS MOVED BY** Commissioner G. Holliday that the ETSB Annual Report for the 2018-2019 school year be received as tabled.

Carried unanimously

**8.        REPORTS**

**8.1       DIRECTOR GENERAL'S REPORT**

The Interim Director General, Michel Soucy, had nothing to report.

**8.2       REPORT FROM THE CHAIR**

The Chair of the Council of Commissioners, M. Murray, read the following report:

Welcome to the new decade. Finally, we have a decade; the twenties, that is easy to say, easy to remember and resonates with the echoes of the Roaring Twenties of the last decade. Let's look forward together to a great second half of this academic year and a great decade ahead for public education.

In the spirit of fresh beginnings, members of the Council have been devoting time and energy to improving our model of governance. With the help of an outside consultant, we have begun to understand an approach to governance that can apply, not only to how this Council relates to the employees, the parents and the students of this School Board, but to how each administrator, teacher, professional and support staff member can better understand how they contribute significantly to the success of the whole organization. Our governance focus will be on Clarity, Commitment and Accountability. We have been made aware through surveys and interviews that the most common need identified by our personnel in ETSB is for Clear Leadership and Clear Expectations. That begins with effective governance that provides such clarity. When expectations and objectives are clear, we can ask for commitment to our common goals and ambitions. With conscious deliberate commitment comes accountability for outcomes. We are confident that we can launch a process of effective governance that will infuse the ETSB with clarity of purpose, individual commitment and objective accountability. I want to thank the Commissioners for going above and beyond their regular

responsibilities to commit extra time to our fresh approach. We will be continuing to develop and refine our tools throughout the coming year.

As elected Commissioners, we have a long proud history of working for our Board. Long before a Ministry of Education was established in Quebec by the Government of Jean Lesage in 1964, community leaders came together to organize English education. With the consent of their communities they levied taxes, built schools, hired teachers and established curriculum. While French education in Quebec remained a responsibility of the Catholic Church until the 1960s, English school commissioners were drawn from and accountable to the surrounding community and recognized as local leaders. In that vein, I am delighted to take this opportunity to congratulate Commissioner Joy Humenuik on her commitment, energy and continuing enthusiasm. At a ceremony in November recognizing employees who have attained 25 years of service to the Board, Joy was among those honoured. Such continuing devotion to public service deserves recognition and I trust members of this Council will join me once again to congratulate her.

Our other concerns and preoccupations remain. While Bill 40 was not adopted through closure last December as many expected, it remains the stated intention of the Government to abolish democratically elected school boards. We remain adamantly opposed to the intention and to the details of the Bill; removing the local component of governance would leave public education in the hands of distant bureaucrats who, history tells us, are customarily more interested in equality than in equity, more concerned over budgets than services and who are relatively insensitive to local variations in practice and culture. The latest form of the Bill does contain what appears to be a hastily improvised concession to allow English School Boards to retain some vestiges of local input, but it is clear that the overriding purpose is to place all decision-making in the hands of the Minister and the Ministry. It is not our jobs or our paltry stipends we are working to defend, but the ability to make decisions independent of centralized powers; decisions that keep small schools open in communities that operate open and welcoming schools as centres of activity for the English community and that cater to local priorities and student needs first.

I have recently represented the Board in a number of forums where I had opportunities to express opposition to Bill 40. The Quebec Secretariat for Anglophone Relations held regional and province-wide consultations with English community representatives. Many of our partners also participated and there were consistent expressions of opposition to abolition of school board democracy. I also was part of a delegation of four representatives of the English Public Schools that met with the Minister of Education Jean-Francois Roberge in Montreal in December to explain specific aspects of his Bill that we found unworkable. The Minister listened and appeared open to discussing modifications to his Bill, but since then, the promised meetings with his staff have not occurred. Last Friday, I participated in a press conference with representatives of municipalities, community groups and school boards to once again demonstrate the broad public opposition to the Bill. Meanwhile, clause-by-clause, study of the Bill continues by the Commission for Culture and Education. I took the opportunity to ask Christine Labrie, MLA for Sherbrooke who sits on that Commission about progress and she indicated that only a small fraction of the over 300 clauses have been addressed. There were media reports lately that the Minister appears to be becoming impatient and has started to accuse the opposition parties of filibustering to slow progress.

On a different front, 2020 is a year in which collective agreements for all parts of public education must be renegotiated. In December, I attended an extended briefing by the English Labour Relations Advisory Committee. These are our negotiators and we discussed key issues to be addressed in this round of negotiations. While salary and benefits are negotiated directly with Treasury Board and our negotiators have nothing to say about those terms, other issues that tend to receive far less media attention are important for effective management of public education. We were able to establish a number of positions that if adopted would facilitate managing our huge territory with our widely scattered small schools.

I want to take a moment to acknowledge the outstanding efforts of Michel Soucy, our Interim Director General. He not only heads our internal management team but also participates in both the English Directors-General Table and our regional Estrie DG table and on all the related committees. He also answers to the Minister when called upon. It is an overwhelming complex task that he handles with grace and competence. I am delighted to work closely with him and I trust the efforts of our entire Council of Commissioners contribute in some way toward making ETSB function better.

One of Michel's many priorities is to restructure and streamline our services to adults. We have been, as many know, partners for over 40 years with the Commission Scolaire Val-des-Cerfs in Cowansville where we jointly operate a vocational training centre. More recently, we embarked in a joint venture with the three French Estrie School Boards to offer tailored training to employers. A manager, Jean-Michel Dupont, has been engaged to launch the Services Aux Entreprises Estrie and he reports encouraging progress in building an inventory of skilled trainers and representatives to address the needs of employers. The chronic shortage of labour that has emerged over the past year or two means more employers are looking to retrain existing employees because they cannot find new personnel with the skills they need. This means a culture shift is required in our adult services, particularly in Estrie, to adapt to the reality that courses as we traditionally offered them do not attract students, or if they do, the students leave before completing the course to accept job offers from eager employers. This situation is at the root of the substantial financial losses our adult services have suffered and continue to suffer. Only by restructuring and adopting a different culture can we turn the situation around. It is essential that we achieve improvement both to address our budget constraints and to better serve our potential clientele. The new joint service is among such changes that we plan to implement over the coming months.

In conclusion, change is in the air. I have mentioned only a couple of the most current issues that occupy our time and attention. We have many diverse challenges ahead of us that we are preparing to meet. ETSB has demonstrated its capacity to innovate and adapt over the past decades. I am confident that we will rise to the occasion again.

## **9. ADVISORY COMMITTEES' REPORTS**

### **9.1 Executive Committee**

The Chair of the Executive Committee, Commissioner M. Murray, mentioned the topics that were discussed at tonight's Executive meeting will be addressed at the Council of Commissioners' meeting.

### **9.2 Governance and Ethics Committee**

The Chair of the Governance and Ethics Committee, Commissioner R. Gagnon, mentioned that the main topic from the December 10, 2019 meeting discussed was:

- Training regarding governance offered by Al Vachon.

The next meeting is scheduled on February 4, 2020.

### **9.3 Audit Advisory Committee**

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

### 9.3.1 Finances:

#### 9.3.1.1 Resolution No 20-01-45

##### Organizational Framework for Managing the Risks of Corruption and Collusion in the Contract Management Process

**WHEREAS** The Eastern Townships School Board (ETSB) is responsible for acquiring, in the most transparent, effective and efficient manner possible, the goods and services required to fulfil its mission;

**WHEREAS** the ETSB is committed to applying best practices in compliance to its internal Purchasing Policy and to governmental laws and policies applicable to the contract management process for public bodies;

**WHEREAS** on June 14, 2016, the *Conseil du trésor* adopted the *Directive Concernant la gestion des risques en matière de corruption et de collusion dans les processus de gestion contractuelle* (hereinafter, the "Directive");

**WHEREAS** the Directive came into effect on September 1, 2016, and was enacted under section 26 of the Act respecting contracting by public bodies (CQLR, c. C-65.1);

**WHEREAS** in accordance to the Directive, ETSB is required to adopt an organizational framework to manage the risks of corruption and collusion in the contract management process (hereinafter, the "*Organizational Framework*");

**WHEREAS** the ETSB must implement a corruption and collusion risk management plan for public contracts. The plan must include the organizational context, appraisal of the current situation, the desired situation establishing a risk mitigation measures plan, a follow-up monitoring & reviewing the measures implemented;

**WHEREAS** the Organizational Framework document is intended for all employees involved in the contract management process at the ETSB and applies to the contract management process for the purchase of goods and services and for construction projects, regardless of the nature and source of their funding;

**IT WAS MOVED BY** Commissioner J. Humenuik that this Framework comes into effect on the date of its adoption. **IT WAS FURTHER MOVED** that the Interim Director General and/or the Director of Finance be authorized to sign all associated documentation.

Carried unanimously

#### 9.3.1.2 Resolution No 20-01-46

##### External Auditing Services for 2019-2020 to 2021-2022

**WHEREAS** section 286 of the *Education Act* requires that the financial activities of school boards be audited annually;

**WHEREAS** one (1) March audited financial statements every three years and one (1) June audited financial statements every year are required;

**WHEREAS** the external auditors for the Eastern Townships School Board (ETSB), Raymond Chabot Grant Thornton LLP (RCGT) mandate terminated on June 30, 2019;

**WHEREAS** Financial Services has placed a joint public call for tenders jointly with the *Commission scolaire des Sommets* and the *Commission scolaire des Hauts-Cantons* for external auditing services for the next three (3) years with the possibility of a two-year extension on a yearly basis;

**WHEREAS** three (3) bids were received by the Eastern Townships School Board;

WHEREAS the lowest bid was received by Raymond Chabot Grant Thornton (RCGT) in the amount of:

June	\$25,000.00 + tx for 2019-2020
	\$26,500.00 + tx for 2020-2021
	\$27,900.00 + tx for 2021-2022
March	\$7,000.00 + tx

WHEREAS Raymond Chabot Grant Thornton (RCGT) has the required experience in auditing the education sector;

WHEREAS the Executive Committee has reviewed the supporting documentation;

IT WAS MOVED BY Commissioner H. Turgeon, as recommended by the Executive Committee, to appoint Raymond Chabot Grant Thornton (RCGT) as external auditors for the 2019-2020, 2020-2021 and 2021-2022 school years.

Carried unanimously

### 9.3.1.3 Resolution No 20-01-47

#### Signing officers for schools and centres – CIBC St. Francis

WHEREAS the *CIBC* requires the names of representatives authorized to sign banking documents on behalf of ETSB St. Francis Elementary School;

WHEREAS a new personnel assignment has changed the name of the representative in this school;

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

St-Francis Elementary School	Tamara Porter (add)
	Helen Johnston (remove)
	Patricia Kendall (remove)

Carried unanimously

### 9.3.2 Material Resources:

#### 9.3.2.1 Resolution No. E20-01-48

#### Sherbrooke Elementary School – Windows and exterior doors replacement

WHEREAS the *ministère de l'Éducation et de l'Enseignement supérieur (MEES)* dedicated a budget of \$728,576 for the project stated above, under the program *MDB - Maintien des bâtiments - Budget additionnel 2018-19 Mesure: 50625*;

WHEREAS the *ministère de l'Éducation et de l'Enseignement supérieur (MEES)* dedicated a budget of \$290,663 for the project stated above, under the program *MDB - Maintien des bâtiments 2017-18 Mesure: 50621*;

WHEREAS two (2) projects combined represents an overall budget of \$1,019,239;

WHEREAS three (3) companies retrieved the project specifications after a public invitation 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 \$851,976 (excluding taxes), was received from the company *Construction Encore Ltée*;

WHEREAS after reviewing the bids, the assigned professional firm of *Firme ADSP*, has recommended the company *Construction Encore Ltée*, 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 \$1,023,250;

IT WAS MOVED BY Commissioner F. MacGregor that the company *Construction Encore Ltée* 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. E20-01-49

##### Sutton Elementary School – Replacement of bus parking lot pavement and storm drainage systems

WHEREAS the *ministère de l'Éducation et de l'Enseignement supérieur (MEES)* approved a budget of \$416,329 for the project stated above, under the program *MDB - Maintien des bâtiments - Budget additionnel 2018-19 Mesure: 50625*;

WHEREAS thirteen (13) companies retrieved the project specifications after a public invitation to bid on the project;

WHEREAS seven (7) bids were received by the Eastern Townships School Board by the date and time specified;

WHEREAS the lowest bid in the amount of \$417,534 (excluding taxes), was received from the company *Excavation Désourdy inc.*;

WHEREAS after reviewing the bids, the assigned professional firm of *St-Georges Structures et Civil*, has recommended the company *Excavation Désourdy 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 \$518,134;

WHEREAS all additional funds required to complete the project, will be taken from *MDB - Maintien des bâtiments 2018-19 program*;

IT WAS MOVED BY Commissioner R. Gagnon that the Company *Excavation Désourdy 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

#### 9.3.2.3 Resolution No. E20-01-50

##### Delegation of Power

WHEREAS the Council of Commissioners has the authority on the points stated below;

WHEREAS the Council of Commissioners meeting occurs only once a month;

WHEREAS decisions often need to be taken in a timely manner;

**WHEREAS** the Eastern Townships School Board's (ETSB) investment budget has been increased significantly, thereby creating projects that involve bigger budgets to a point of requiring, by law, the involvement of a Selection Committee;

**WHEREAS** major projects imply the participation of a selection committee;

**WHEREAS** the *Secrétariat du Conseil du Trésor* has provided a list of twenty (20) functions that are allowed to be delegated in line with the *Loi sur les Contrats des Organismes Publics (LCOP)*;

**WHEREAS** the ETSB requests a delegation of power to the Director General regarding the following functions:

- The nomination of the Selection Committee;
- Designation of the Secretary of the Selection Committee;
- Supervise the rotation of the members of the selection committee.

**IT WAS MOVED BY** Commissioner J. Humenuik that the functions stated above could be delegated to the Director General for the current calendar year and is subject to renewal.

Carried unanimously

#### 9.3.2.4 Resolution No. E20-01-51

##### Servitude request for Hydro Quebec and Bell Canada

**WHEREAS** *Hydro-Québec* has requested a servitude (on behalf of *Hydro-Québec* and Bell Canada) on the Eastern Townships School Board's land near Alexander Galt Regional High School (lot #2 129 147);

**WHEREAS** the servitude is for the right to install posts, power lines (underground and/or aerial) and/or any other accessories related;

**WHEREAS** the servitude provides rights to public services and/or municipalities to access if needed;

**WHEREAS** the servitude provides the right to cut, trim or modify foliage if necessary;

**WHEREAS** the servitude touches two lands of an overall area of 75.4 square metres;

**WHEREAS** the servitude touches the ETSB's land of an area of 22.9 square metres;

**WHEREAS** the servitude will be valid for a period of 24 months;

**IT WAS MOVED BY** Commissioner G. Barnett that *Hydro-Québec* and Bell Canada be awarded the servitude requested for the land 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

The Chair mentioned that these topics were discussed at the December 10, 2019 meeting. The next meeting is scheduled on February 18, 2020.

#### 9.4 Educational Advisory Committee

The Chair of the Educational Advisory Committee, M.E. Kirby, mentioned that the following topics were discussed at the January 7 and 14, 2020 meetings:

January 7, 2020: Living Schools – Excellent presentation by Chris Adams;  
Criteria for enrolment of students;  
Adult and vocational education;  
RARC – Corruption and Collusion Risk Management.

January 14, 2020: Criteria for enrolment – suggested changes brought forth;  
FSL programs offered at the ETSB;  
PDRI – Plan Directeur des Ressources Informationnelles.

The Chair also mentioned that the next Educational Advisory Committee meeting is scheduled on March 10, 2020

#### 9.4.1 Resolution No. E20-01-52

*The Director of Pedagogical Services explained the modifications made to the Criteria of Enrolment. It was mentioned that the criteria for K-4 are clear, but for the rest, some wording must be reviewed.*

#### Criteria enrolment of students of the Eastern Townships School Board for the 2020-2021 School Year

**WHEREAS** the Eastern Townships School Board has made modifications to its Criteria for the Enrolment of students for the 2020-2021 school year;

**WHEREAS** the Central Parents' Committee, the Educational Advisory subcommittee and the Management table have been consulted on these criteria;

**IT WAS MOVED BY** Commissioner M. E. Kirby that the Eastern Townships School Board approves the Criteria for Enrolment of students in school of the Eastern Townships School Board for the 2020-2021 school year (section 239 of the *Education Act*).

Carried unanimously

The Chair also mentioned that the next Advisory Committee meeting is scheduled on March 10, 2020.

#### 9.5 Communications Advisory Committee

The Secretary General, É. Campbell, mentioned that the following topics were discussed at the December 3, 2019 meeting:

- Communications Development Working Plan 2018-2021;
- Open Houses – Update and feedback;
- Clientele up to date / September 30, 2019;
- Data for eligibility requests – 2019-2020 school year;
- Communication Plan – Registration Period;
- Communication Department – Implications/events.

The next Communications Advisory Committee meeting is scheduled on March 17, 2020.

#### 9.6 Human Resources Advisory Committee

The Director of Human Resources, J. Pauw, mentioned that the following topics at the December 3, 2019 meeting were discussed:

- Priorities 2019-2020 – Mental health in the workplace;
- Recap: All administration, HSA, SET and teacher's positions have been filled;
- Two snow days – November 12 and 19, 2019;
- Mental health in the workplace survey;
- Mentoring for new teachers (new measures grant);
- 20-minute recess impact;
- Absenteeism report 2018-2019;
- School calendar 2020-2021;
- APPEL (Assessment Process for Prospective Educational Leaders).

The next Human Resources Advisory Committee meeting is scheduled on February 11, 2020.

### 9.7 Transportation Advisory Committee

The Chair of the Transportation Advisory Committee, Commissioner H. Turgeon, presented the following resolutions:

#### 9.7.1 **Resolution No. E20-01-53** **School Bus Bids 2019-2020 (Phase 1)**

**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 et de l'Enseignement supérieur* (MEES) has established parameters for the exchange of buses and has monies set aside for this purpose;

**WHEREAS** the Eastern Townships School Board has nine (9) buses which will meet these parameters by June 30<sup>th</sup> 2020, and therefore will need to be replaced;

**IT WAS MOVED BY** Commissioner H. Turgeon that the Eastern Townships School Board makes a request to the MEES to purchase nine (9) new buses in exchange for nine (9) used buses.

Carried unanimously

#### 9.7.2 **Resolution No. E20-01-XX** **Transportation Policy**

It was suggested to postpone the discussion regarding the Transportation Policy, therefore this resolution was tabled. This matter will be discussed at a special meeting, February 13, 2020 in order to present the proposed Transportation Policy before the adoption of said policy.

The Chair also mentioned that the following topics were discussed at the December 5, 2019 meeting:

- 2019-2020 Budget Presentation;
- 2019-2020 School Bus Purchases;
- Transportation Policy – Final Draft;

- 20-minute recess impacts;
- Bus drivers – Recruitment;
- Crisis Prevention Intervention (CPI) training;
- 2019-2020 TAC Meeting Calendar (January 21 and May 21, 2020).

The next Transportation Advisory Committee meeting is scheduled on May 21, 2020.

#### 9.8 Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC)

The Chair of the SEAC, C. Véronneau, mentioned that the December 11, 2019 and January 8, 2020 meetings were cancelled.

The next SEAC meeting is scheduled on February 12, 2020.

#### 10. Parents' Committee

The Commissioner representing parents, M. Mercure, mentioned the following topics were discussed at the December 4, 2019 meeting:

- DG Update;
- Bill 40;
- Summary of SEAC meeting (November 13, 2019);
- Lockdown at MVHS.

The next Parents' Committee meeting is scheduled on February 5, 2020.

#### 11. Student Advisory Committee

Commissioner J. Humenuik, representing the Student Advisory Committee, mentioned there was a Student Advisory Committee meeting at Massey-Vanier High School on January 17, 2020. She acknowledged that students did a great job at organizing the meeting. Lockdown procedures were presented and discussed. A tour of CBM was also done.

Difficulties about transportation of participants have been raised.

The next Student Advisory Committee meeting is scheduled on March 13, 2020.

#### 12. QESBA

There were two meetings with the Minister of Education regarding Bill 40. The feeling is there is an increase of opposition to the Bill. QESBA, in collaboration with the *Fédération des commissions scolaires du Québec*, is keeping the pressure on the Minister.

The Board of Directors' next meeting is scheduled for January 31, 2020.

#### 13. COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS

Commissioner G. Barnett attended the AGRHS play – Great Job! Participants should be congratulated. He also attended the AGRHS governing board meeting, where the anti-bullying plan was discussed. Mr. Barnett was also present at Teacher Jared Sharman's funeral.

Commissioner G. Holliday mentioned how great the promotional campaign is on the radio about registration.

Commissioner F. MacGregor attended the Governing Board at New Horizons. He is pleased that Adult Education can be offered in most of the ETSB schools.

### 13. UPCOMING EVENTS

February 17, 2020 – Hooked on school days;

February 3 to 14, 2020 – 32<sup>nd</sup> edition of School Bus Safety Week.

### 14. CORRESPONDENCE

None.

### 15. QUESTION PERIOD

M. Seline: Ms. Seline informed the Commissioners of some of the disparities in the negotiations such as the QPAT demands for lower ratios in Kindergarten and Grade One, plus more resources for students with special needs. The CPNCA is countering with an increase in class sizes for grades seven and eight as well as removing the priority rating. This can only set the tone for more ways to allow school boards to increase maximum class sizes and the number of guaranteed resources teachers. Is the Council of Commissioners aware of these demands?

M. Murray: The short answer is no. The Council can express its wishes but all the requests must be rationalized by the team at the CPNCA. There are many areas under review and we cannot comment on them.

### 16. GOVERNANCE COMMUNICATION

Commissioners will have to reflect on:

- To whom we would like to communicate?
- What do we want to communicate?
- What is the frequency of communication? etc.

It was suggested to prepare a plan of communication.

This item will now appear on all future agendas for the Council of Commissioners' meeting replacing Varia.

### 17. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned on a motion by Commissioner R. Gagnon at 9:17 p.m.

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Éric Campbell  
Secretary General

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Michael Murray  
Chairman

EC/gm  
28.01.2020