

EASTERN TOWNSHIPS SCHOOL BOARD

COUNCIL OF COMMISSIONERS

TUESDAY, MAY 26, 2020 – 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	Z	Marc Mercure	Z
Claire Beaubien	Z	Hélène Turgeon	Z
Daniel Brodie	Z	Cindy Véronneau	A
Richard Gagnon	Z	Daniel Zigby	Z
Gary Holliday	A	DIRECTORS' COMMITTEE (DC)	
Joy Humenuik, <i>Vice-Chair</i>	Z	Secretary General, Éric Campbell	P
Mary-Ellen Kirby	Z	Director General, Kandy Mackey	A
Frank MacGregor	Z	Interim Director General and Director of Continuing Education, Michel Soucy	P
Alice McCrory	Z	Interim Assistant Director General and Director of Human Resources, Jeffrey Pauw	P
Jonathan Murray	Z	Director of Financial Services, Sophie Leduc	Z
Michael Murray, <i>Chairman</i>	Z	Director of Instructional Technology and Pedagogical Services, Eva Lettner	Z
Tina Pezzi-Bilodeau	Z	Director of Complementary Services, Emmanuelle Gaudet	Z
		Director of Material Resources, Éric Plante	P

ZOOM: Z

OBSERVERS

Sharon Priest, Communications Consultant - ZOOM

PUBLIC – ZOOM

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 7:15 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 May 26, 2020 as modified.

Addition:

7.3 Seeking Intervention in order to obtain an exemption from Bill 40.

Remove:

9.3.2.2 Heroes Elementary School – Gym Renovation and Heating Replacment.

Carried unanimously

3. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS OF APRIL 28 AND MAY 5, 2020

Resolution No. ETSB 20-05-83

Approval of the Minutes of the Meetings of the Council of Commissioners held on April 28 and May 5, 2020

WHEREAS a copy of the Minutes of the meetings of April 28 and May 5, 2020 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 April 28 and May 5, 2020 as modified.

Carried unanimously

Modifications/Corrections from the April 28, 2020 Minutes**Resolution No. ETSB 20-04-75****Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting of the Council of Commissioners held on March 24, 2020**

WHEREAS a copy of the Minutes of the meetings of March 24, 2020 has been given to each Commissioner at least 6 hours before the opening of the meeting, the Secretary General is excused from reading the Minutes.

IT WAS MOVED BY Commissioner G. Barnett to excuse the Secretary General from reading the Minutes and to approve the Minutes of the meeting held on March 24, 2020 as deposited.

This resolution should have read meeting and not meetings.

Modification – Item 8.2:

~~T. Jacklin~~ T. Pezzi-Bilodeau: Like Mary-Ellen, I had many calls and emails and to date, none have said they will be sending their children to school. I feel our schools will be empty.

~~T. Jacklin~~ T. Pezzi-Bilodeau: One child wants to go and one does not, but they cannot because they are both in High School.

Modification – Item 15: H1N1

M. Murray: We had plans in place for the H1N1 and they will still be valid.

4. QUESTION PERIOD

M. Seline: Western Quebec Schools have the intent on closing because of the extreme heat, with no possibility to fill up water bottles and no possibility to use fans. Does the ETSB intend to close their schools as well?

M. Murray: With the Director of the Santé Public's approval to use ventilators, this heat wave is not different of the situations we used to have. Schools are encouraged to put some measures in place like opening windows at night, the use of ventilators, etc. With these measures, we have decided to keep schools open. That does not mean that under specific circumstances we will not reassess. Directives have been sent to schools to inform them of procedures that they can take.

M. Seline: I'm in contact with QPAT – with regards to fans and DSPu, teachers can only put fans on when they are alone in the classroom. Previous measures included hydrating, filling up water bottles and fans cannot be used, therefore this situation is more severe.

- M. Murray: The last three schools that did not have bottle fillers have been remedied.
- É. Plante: Some schools have seen fountains being changed in order to have a bottle filler. Only Ayer's Cliff Elementary School needs one; all others have a bottle filler. We have asked everyone to bring their own water bottles.
- E. Gaudet: The Director of the Santé Public has allowed, in the Estrie region, the use of fans with two conditions: No blowing in students' faces and no rotation activation of said fans.

5. RECOGNITION OF EXCELLENCE

Chairman M. Murray and the Communications Consultant introduced the May 26, 2020 readers of the Recognition of Excellence:

This month the Council of Commissioners and Senior Administrators of the Eastern Townships School Board would like to signal the following:

- With the current social distancing restrictions in place and the extended cancellation of classes at the secondary level, high school graduation events have been put on hold. Not wanting to let this important rite of passage go by, some staff members at Alexander Galt Regional High School came up with a unique way to recognize the class of 2020. During the three days designated for students and parents to come and retrieve belongings left at the school, staff members set up poster size grad photos of each graduate along the entrance way and fields, coming into the school. As students began to arrive on the first day, they were greeted by a walk of fame celebrating the 158 students who are part of the school's 50th graduating class, coined as the 'Golden Pipers'. We would like to take this opportunity to recognize the staff members involved who thought outside of the box to give the students a special memory of their graduating year.
- We would like to congratulate Butler Elementary's Secondary One class for being chosen as the Grand prizewinner of the Canada's Coolest School Trip contest. The Secondary One class won a nationwide contest that will see them fly to B.C. and visit Kootenay National Park for 5 days. Given the circumstances, the trip will take place in the spring of 2021, and the Principal of Massey-Vanier, where the students will be attending next year, has graciously given permission for the class to reunite next year to embark on this grand adventure. Congratulations to the students for being chosen and thank you to Butler teachers, Ms. Blinn and Mr. Viens, for their involvement in making this happen for their students.
- On May 13th all ETSB elementary schools reopened and welcomed students back to school. In a little over two weeks' time, our schools were transformed under the directives of Santé publique, so that those parents who chose to send their children to school, would be doing so with the knowledge that the environment was one that promoted safety and followed government directives. We would like to

take this opportunity to thank our school teams, the Head Office team and everyone involved in getting our schools ready and keeping them a safe place to learn for the balance of this school year.



6. **BUSINESS ARISING**

None.

7. **NEW BUSINESS**

The Secretary General, É. Campbell, presented the Schedule of Council of Commissioners meetings for 2020-2021 explaining that this is governed by an ETSB Bylaw:

7.1 **Resolution No. ETSB 20-05-84**
Schedule of Council of Commissioners meetings for 2020-2021

1 – August 25, 2020

2 – September 22, 2020

No meetings in October 2020

3 – November 24, 2020

No meetings in December 2020

4 – January 26, 2021

5 – February 23, 2021

6 – March 23, 2021

7 – April 27, 2021

8 – May 25, 2021

9 – June 22, 2021

Carried unanimously

The Interim Director General, M. Soucy, presented and explained the following resolution:

7.2 Resolution No. ETSB 20-05-85

Appointment of Principal 100% of Sutton Elementary School

WHEREAS the position of Principal at Sutton Elementary School had become vacant with the departure of Ms. Sarah MacNeil;

WHEREAS this position is within an agreement between the *Commission scolaire du Val des Cerfs (CSVDC)* and the Eastern Townships School Board regarding the sharing of resources at Sutton Elementary School;

WHEREAS the selected candidate has been replacing Sarah MacNeil since October 2019;

WHEREAS the Selection Committee unanimously recommends this person to the Council of Commissioners;

WHEREAS the candidate selected retains the qualifications and experience that respond to the criteria designated by the General Directorate;

WHEREAS the *Commission scolaire du Val des Cerfs* was consulted and approves this appointment;

WHEREAS the approved candidate will be subject to up to one-year probationary period and performance appraisal process;

IT WAS MOVED BY Commission R. Gagnon that the Council of Commissioners appoint Mr. Donald Kerr, Principal 100% of Sutton Elementary School, effective July 1st 2020.

Carried unanimously

7.3 Resolution No. ETSB 20-05-86

Seeking Intervention in order to obtain an exemption from Bill 40

WHEREAS the National Assembly introduced a bill to reform the Province's public education system entitled An Act to amend mainly the Education Act with regard to school organization and governance ("Bill 40") on October 1st 2019;

WHEREAS the English-speaking community in Quebec has expressed grave concerns with the effects of Bill 40 on the English-language minority's power of management and control protected by s. 23 of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms;

WHEREAS the National Assembly gave assent to Bill 40 on February 8, 2020;

WHEREAS Bill 40 provides for the election of the members of the Board of Directors of the new English-language school service centres on November 1st 2020;

WHEREAS the Quebec English School Boards Association (“QESBA”) has launched a constitutional challenge to Bill 40 on May 15, 2020 filed jointly with Lester B. Pearson School Board and Mr. Adam Gordon, Chairman of the Sir-Wilfrid Laurier School Board Parents Committee, as co-applicants;

WHEREAS until a judgment on the merits is rendered, the application of Bill 40 will have significant harmful effects on s. 23 rights holders’ management and control;

WHEREAS the QESBA and its co-applicants have also applied for an exemption for all English-language school boards from Bill 40 until a final judgment on its constitutionality is rendered;

WHEREAS the Eastern Townships School Board wishes to be exempt from Bill 40 before a final judgment on its constitutionality is rendered;

IT WAS MOVED BY Commissioner F. MacGregor **AND RESOLVED THAT** the Eastern Townships School Board expresses its full support for the QESBA and its co-applicants’ challenge to Bill 40’s constitutionality;

IT WAS FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Eastern Townships School Board also expresses its full support for QESBA and its co-applicants’ application to obtain an exemption from Bill 40 for all English-language school boards in Quebec before a final judgment on its constitutionality;

IT WAS FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Eastern Townships School Board wishes to benefit from any exemption from Bill 40 granted by the courts in order to protect the power of management and control for s. 23 rights holders residing in its territory before a judgment on Bill 40’s constitutionality is rendered;

IT WAS STILL FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Eastern Townships School Board shall mandate external lawyers to file a declaration of intervention in order to become a co-applicant in the constitutional challenge to Bill 40 and benefit from any exemption granted by the court from Bill 40 before a final judgment on its constitutionality is rendered.

Carried unanimously

8. REPORTS

8.1 DIRECTOR GENERAL’S REPORT

The Interim Director General, M. Soucy, reported the following:

It will be two weeks tomorrow that all our elementary schools reopened to welcome students back to school. Approximately 35% of our students have returned to the classroom of which half requested school bus transportation. There has been a slight fluctuation in the number of students in some schools but overall, the attendance is stable.

In the weeks leading up to the reopening, school teams worked diligently to rearrange classrooms so each student has their own space, marked corridors to help students abide by the 2-meter social distancing, drop-off locations were prepared for those coming in by school bus and those being driven by their parents. From new hand-washing and bathroom rules to creative ways and ideas to keep students engaged in the classroom and online at a distance, our school teams have been working very hard in this new reality. I want to thank them for putting our students first.

On May 11th, our Vocational Training and Adult Centres resumed their activities with online teaching and partial classes for hands on training for vocational courses. Again, all the rules for social distancing and the measures from Santé publique had to be put in place to provide a safe and secure environment for our adult students.

Of course there are leaders that pull the team together, and for this, I want to thank our school principals and centre directors, who have put in countless hours to organize the return for students and staff. With directives coming often on a daily basis, they have had to rework and reorganize more than once.

I would not want to forget to mention our Head Office teams who have worked throughout to provide support and guidance for our schools and centres. I want to thank them.

The reopening of our schools and centres has not been a walk in the park, but it has given us all an opportunity to put some practices into place which will help us to better prepare for what the new school year may look like.

One important thing we have seen over the past few weeks is that our ETSB personnel has demonstrated their capacity to adapt to all kinds of situations and challenges with their focus always being on the best way to ensure the safety, security and well-being of our students.

8.2 REPORT FROM THE CHAIR

The Chair of the Commissioners' Council, M. Murray, reported the following:

Twenty more days! The countdown has begun.

This is a note from a teacher that I saw this morning: After all the drama of the past year; the political maneuvering to centralize ministerial control of education; the emergency of the pandemic; quarantine, lockdown, frequent online meetings when we hadn't been able to figure it out for years; moving teaching online; social distancing and finally our fearful and hesitant reopening, only 20 student days left in the calendar.

This is a perfect moment to recognize and celebrate the expertise of teachers and our other school-based personnel. Unlike parents with four or fewer children in the home, teachers have twenty or more at once to motivate, engage and make learning joyful. There have been many public comments by parents struggling to help their children during this time that emphasize the qualities and skills that teachers have. Many of our

teachers ran a dual system since elementary schools reopened, teaching groups in person and also remaining in online contact with other students. Teachers exercise classroom management, provide structure and discipline as well as feedback appropriate to leading students towards self-reliance and self-confidence as they encounter new challenges. Teachers handle all the multiple facets of individualizing instruction, providing emotional support, and maintaining a positive context for learning while making sure students are having fun in the process. Their special ability is to make school a rewarding experience for most if not all students. Educators are a treasure too little appreciated in normal times. Let's not overlook this opportunity.

Winston Churchill is reputed to have said, "Never let a good crisis go to waste." I worry about the frequently expressed hope that we will soon return to normal, that is, the way things were last year, or last fall or in some other recent past. I seem to recall that we had difficulties and challenges then too with many identifiable needs for improvement. It is all too easy to fall into the error of idealizing a remembered condition, glossing over the undesirable aspects to focus only on the positives. Instead of looking back, we need to be looking forward and our focus should be on making our future better than the past. Let's not strive for "Normal" even if that means a more comfortable experience. Instead, let's commit ourselves to the less comfortable, but far more rewarding goal of improving student achievement and success.

What have we learned from our past three months living with COVID-19? Some lessons are evident. We have learned that we don't need to assemble to hold meetings, discuss issues and reach decisions. Videoconferencing that as recently as last January was dismissed by many as too awkward or "not as good as meeting face-to-face" has become our new normal. Over a territory as vast as ETSB is, it has saved us countless hours of travel time, reduced the time spent in meetings and multiplied our options for interaction. Efficiency and effectiveness have improved. As restrictions on meetings are relaxed, let's not forget that we save time, energy and expenses meeting virtually while getting the job done.

Another striking lesson is the importance of school for reasons other than teaching and learning. Having listened to child psychiatrists agonize over the mental health of children deprived of both peer and significant adult contacts while concerns over welfare, nutrition, and safety multiplied, it is clear that schools serve a vital function that is built into the model of attendance at a building. Online programs or even the most assiduous efforts at contact by telephone and video do not fill the need. As we reopen schools, we need to build back better with more comprehensive nutrition programs, better counselling resources and stronger links to social services available from outside education. Childcare needs to be recognized as an integral part of education.

An even more striking lesson, at least to me, is that we have to expand our focus for teacher professional development. The frantic scramble that followed school closings, with committed teachers struggling to learn how to teach online effectively while trying to do it at the same time is ample evidence. Their professionalism in classroom pedagogy is well developed but it requires a whole different skill-set to engage students and excite their commitment too and love of learning online. Our first priority over the coming months must be to use our professional development budgets and personnel to support teachers as they develop the understanding and skill required by the online environment that seems likely to become a permanent feature of education. It will give us opportunity to enrich learning, add variety to our course offerings and engage students in ways that interest them.

There are many other lessons to be applied. What is important is that we concentrate on moving ahead rather than going back!

9. ADVISORY COMMITTEES' REPORTS

9.1 Executive Committee

The Chair of the Executive Committee, Commissioner M. Murray, mentioned that the topics that were discussed at tonight's Executive meeting are also addressed at tonight's Council of Commissioners 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 June 9, 2020.

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 20-05-87

Sunnyside Elementary School – Drainage and Parking Pavement

WHEREAS the *ministère de l'Éducation et de l'Enseignement supérieur (MEES)* dedicated a budget of \$371,861 for the project stated above, under the program MDB - Maintien des bâtiments 2019-20 Mesure: 50621;

WHEREAS five (5) 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 \$349 939 (excluding taxes), was received from the Company Les Entreprises Richard Brisson inc.;

WHEREAS after reviewing the bids, the assigned professional firm of *Côté & Jean Associés*, has recommended the Company Les Entreprises Richard Brisson 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 \$399,778;

IT WAS MOVED BY Commissioner C. Beaubien to proceed, in conformity with the authorization by the *MEES* and the ETSB's purchase policy and government requirements, for the project stated above; **IT WAS FURTHER MOVED** that the Interim Director General is authorized to sign all associated documentation and that in the absence of the Interim Director General, the Director of Material Resources can also sign.

Carried unanimously

9.3.2.2 Resolution No. ETSB 20-05-88

Lennoxville Elementary School – Drainage and Parking Pavement

WHEREAS the *ministère de l'Éducation et de l'Enseignement supérieur (MEES)* dedicated a budget of \$468,370 for the project stated above, under the program MDB - Maintien des bâtiments 2019-20 Mesure: 50621;

WHEREAS ten (10) companies retrieved the project specifications after a public invitation to bid on the project;

WHEREAS five (5) bids were received by the Eastern Townships School Board by the date and time specified;

WHEREAS the lowest bid in the amount of \$395,942 (excluding taxes), was received from the company *Grondin Excavation inc.*

WHEREAS after reviewing the bids, the assigned professional firm of FNX Innov, has recommended the company *Grondin Excavation 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 \$481,678;

IT WAS MOVED BY Commissioner G. Barnett that the Company Grondin Excavation 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. ETSB 20-05-89

Alexander Galt Regional High School – Partial Window and Roof Replacement (Bloc C)

WHEREAS the *ministère de l'Éducation et de l'Enseignement supérieur (MEES)* dedicated a budget of \$334,337 for the project stated above, under the program MDB - Maintien des bâtiments - Budget additionnel 2017-18 Mesure: 50625;

WHEREAS the *ministère de l'Éducation et de l'Enseignement supérieur (MEES)* dedicated a budget of \$624,062 for the project stated above, under the program RDE - Résorption du déficit d'entretien 2018-19 mesure: 50622;

WHEREAS the *ministère de l'Éducation et de l'Enseignement supérieur (MEES)* dedicated a budget of \$364,288 for the project stated above, under the program RDE - Résorption du déficit d'entretien 2018-19 mesure: 50622;

WHEREAS six (6) 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 \$1,130,311 (excluding taxes), was received from the Company Construction R. Bélanger inc.;

WHEREAS after reviewing the bids, the assigned professional firm of *Cimaise*, has recommended the company Construction R. Bélanger 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 \$1,391,763;

IT WAS MOVED BY Commissioner F. MacGregor to proceed, in conformity with the authorization by the *MEES* and the ETSB's purchase policy and government requirements, for the project stated above; **IT WAS FURTHER MOVED** that the Interim Director General is authorized to sign all associated documentation and that in the absence of the Interim Director General, the Director of Material Resources can also sign.

Carried unanimously

The next Audit Advisory Committee meeting is scheduled for June 16, 2020.

9.4 Educational Advisory Committee

The Chair of the Educational Advisory Committee, M.E. Kirby, mentioned that that the next Educational Advisory Committee meeting is scheduled June 2, 2020

9.5 Communications Advisory Committee

The Chair of the Communications Advisory Committee, D. Zigby, mentioned that the following topics were discussed at the May 5, 2020 meeting:

- Registration update 2020-2021;
- Townshippers' Day Partnership;
- School Elections.

The next Communications Advisory Committee meeting is scheduled for 2020.

9.6 Human Resources Advisory Committee

The Chair of the Human Resources Advisory Committee, C. Beaubien, mentioned that the following topics at the May 12, 2020 meeting were discussed:

- Grievances & Negotiations;
- Recap of positions;
- COVID-19 update.

The next Human Resources Advisory Committee meeting is scheduled for September 2020.

9.7 Transportation Advisory Committee

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

9.7.1 Resolution No. ETSB 20-05-90 Bus Purchase – 2019-2020 – Phase II

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

WHEREAS on February 18, 2020, the *MEES* authorized the Eastern Townships School Board to proceed with a call of tenders for the purchase of new vehicles in accordance with the terms of the management measure "School bus";

WHEREAS the Eastern Townships School Board requested bids for the purchase of school buses for the 2019-2020 school year;

WHEREAS bids were received from two (2) suppliers and opened on May 8, 2020;

WHEREAS the bids from all suppliers conformed to the requirements set out in the call for tenders;

WHEREAS the amount of the lowest bid from *A. Girardin Inc.* \$1,212,031.96, including taxes and trade in;

WHEREAS the *MEES* must conduct an analysis of the bids received and will confirm their authorization of the allocated amount based on the methods of management of the additional and specific allowances and other activities for 2019-2020;

IT WAS MOVED BY Commissioner H. Turgeon that the Eastern Townships School Board accepts the bid received from *A. Girardin Inc.* for nine (9) school buses with 12 rows conditional to the authorization from the MEES. **IT WAS FURTHER MOVED** that the interim Director General or the Director of Transportation be authorized to sign all associated documentation.

Carried unanimously

At the last Transportation meeting, the following topics were discussed:

- Update on bus rates;
- COVID-19;
- New Policy;
- Bilingual pamphlet.

The next Transportation Advisory Committee meeting scheduled for 2020 is **to be determined**.

9.8 Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC)

The Director of complementary services, E. Gaudet, mentioned that the following topics at the May 13, 2020 meeting were discussed:

- COVID-19 update – New opening date;
- DSPu Conditions and our 4 ETSB Conditions;
- The Interim Director General's visit for the next meeting.

M. Murray expressed concerns about the disproportionate number of Special needs students that have not returned to school and that they may need extra help.

E. Gaudet mentioned that teachers are reaching out, but also Professionals have been reaching out to these students directly and working with them. It has helped that the different professional orders have exercised some flexibility in the role as professionals.

The next SEAC meeting is scheduled June 10, 2020.

10. Parents' Committee

The Commissioner representing parents, D. Zigby, mentioned the following topics were discussed at the May 6, 2020 meeting:

- Reopening of schools;
- Governing Boards;
- School communication surveys.

The next Parents' Committee meeting is scheduled on June 3, 2020.

11. Student Advisory Committee

Commissioner J. Humenuik, representing the Student Advisory Committee, mentioned that the May 19 meeting was cancelled. M. Murray said that one RRHS student participated at a student advisory committee organized by QESBA.

J. Humenuik also mentioned that the Student Advisory Committee is not active this year and is trying to reorganize an online meeting with Commissioners. Keeping in touch has been more problematic with secondary students not being present in school.

The next Student Advisory Committee meeting is **to be determined**.

12. QESBA

Reports from the committee were shared.

13. COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS

Commissioner A. McCrory: A student in a French school has been tested positive for COVID-19. Everyone in schools should be tested.

Commissioner M. Murray: We are not responsible for the testing so we do not have control.

Commissioner C. Beaubien: I received information that the Piper's Golf Tournament has been cancelled. The Alexander Galt Regional High School (AGRHS) Athletic Director is seeking approval from the Galt Governing Board to send out a letter asking for donations instead. Usually, the School Board covers the fee for Commissioners to play. The subject will be discussed at the next Governance and Ethics Committee meeting.

Commissioner M. E. Kirby: Last Wednesday, I participated in a meeting with partners from the MRC Haut-St-François (which all three Compton schools are part of) about the resources available in the MRC in the current context of COVID-19. They are trying to disseminate information to their population. They are distributing a bilingual list of resources of government and community organizations to help and support during the COVID-19 crisis. One of the main problems they want to address is the lack of internet accessibility in rural areas. Are there any other MRC's that have started a committee like this?

Commissioner H. Turgeon: The MRC Memphremagog is the only one doing this so far.

Commissioner M. Murray: I contacted my local MP for the federal program that assists families to get satellite internet in rural areas. The Federal government should be announcing a program this week.

Commissioner G. Barnett: I saw the AGRHS initiative on CBC news on May 14th 2020. It took a lot of work and was very impressive. I also spoke with Dawn Irving, the Principal at Lennoxville Elementary School about the return to school. Claire Beaubien and I attended a ZOOM meeting with the Lennoxville Vocational Training Centre (LVTC) and the funding for vocational training. They were in the process of setting up for the return of students.

14. UPCOMING EVENTS

None.

15. CORRESPONDENCE

From: the CIUSSS

Subject: **Your generous donation**

Dear Mr. Soucy,

We wish to sincerely thank the Eastern Townships School Board for generously donating 200 Ipads to the CIUSSS de l'Estrie - CHUS. We know for a fact that this contribution will have a direct impact on the health and well-being of our most vulnerable users and for this we are profoundly grateful, especially during this national health crisis and period of social distancing.

You can rest assured that our organization will give the Ipads to the users that need them the most. It will not only give the opportunity to stay in contact with their loved ones, but also give the users the peace of mind of knowing that they are just a click away.

We are privileged to be able to count on the Eastern Townships School Board as a close and actively engaged partner in our community.

From: **François Jacques, Député de Mégantic**

Subject: **School reopening in the context of COVID-19 pandemic**

Dear Kandy,

I was very proud to learn that the reopening of your schools, especially the ones located in my riding of Mégantic, went well last May 13.

Following your instructions, school teams have demonstrated rigour to be in line with the sanitary rules as set out from the Direction de la Santé publique. Their individualized and efficient approach have prepared children and parents to go through this unprecedented situation. Hence, the back-to-school process was made possible thanks to their specific actions and involvement.

Students' joy have told us a lot about their high level of resilience and adaptation at this difficult time. I hereby would like to congratulate you and all ETSB staff, including management, teachers, professionals, support and administrative personnel, but also students and their parents for having accomplished this unusual return to school.

I thank you for your great cooperation and hope the current school year continues as best as possible.

François Jacques
Deputy of Mégantic

16. QUESTION PERIOD

M. Seline : Can Internet be a consumable fee? Teachers are paying out of their pocket in order to motivate students in the current context.

M. Murray: It is something that was discussed.

M. Seline: Teachers, given the unusual situation, are paying out of their own pocket items to keep students engaged such as skipping ropes, balls, etc. Also, sunscreen would be supplied by parents but teachers would apply it for elementary students. Teachers are now going out and buying spray sunscreen for students. We have to be careful, as staff, when we are spraying students with sunscreen. This issue has been addressed with the principals in order for them to address this with the parents.

M. Murray: We will certainly take a look at this as time is of the essence.

M. Seline: Would the PPO consider putting some money towards some of these supplies?

T. P-Bilodeau: As a parent, we were always asked to send sunscreen and the spray was suggested. I would think that PPO's would be open to this.

D. Zigby: I would think that PPO's would be open to this and parents can be asked to send in spray sunscreen. Would be more at the school level for this to be organized.

É. Cambell: We should encourage parents to take care of this before students leave in the morning. We have to be cautious that we do not spray something on a student that could make them sick.

- M. Seline: Could something be sent out to parents to this effect? I did suggest to one school to contact their PPO, was this okay?
- E. Gaudet: We sent something out yesterday with the recommendations to bring a water bottle, sunscreen, etc.
- M. Seline: This comment is coming from pedagogical services guidelines for remote learning targeted to secondary teachers: I have concerns with respect to recording and the use of prerecorded sessions/classes and the liability issues.
- M. Murray: This has not been analyzed yet, but our professionals have prepared these instructions, in the best interest of meeting the needs of students and supporting teachers.
- E. Lettner: We are working on a letter to be sent that any recordings are the property of the ETSB. This will be sent to parents to inform them of their rights and responsibilities. Students who do not wish to be recorded can turn off their camera and their mic.
- M. Seline: Can a communication be sent out to teachers as well?
- É.Campbell: A communication will be sent out to parents and staff in regards to recordings.

17. **GOVERNANCE AND COMMUNICATION**

None.

18. **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned on a motion by Commissioner R. Gagnon at 9:00 p.m.

Éric Campbell
Secretary General

Michael Murray
Chairman

EC/gm
26.05.2020