

EASTERN TOWNSHIPS SCHOOL BOARD

COUNCIL OF COMMISSIONERS

TUESDAY, JANUARY 26, 2021 – 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

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

ZOOM (Z) – MEMBERS PRESENT (P) – MEMBERS ABSENT (A)

OBSERVERS

Sharon Priest, Communications Consultant

PUBLIC

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

Matthew McCully, The Record

Linda Brasseur, Waterloo Elementary Secretary

Kim Graveline, Waterloo Elementary Teacher

1. CALL THE MEETING TO ORDER

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 7:07 p.m.

2. QUORUM AND ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

QUORUM WAS ESTABLISHED AND IT WAS MOVED BY Commissioner R. Gagnon to adopt the Agenda of January 26, 2021 as modified:

4.4.4 Appointment of alternate members

It should have read as follows:

IT WAS MOVED BY Commissioner R. Gagnon that nominations for two Alternate Commissioners representing the Council as alternate members of the Appeal Committee cease.

Commissioner Holliday and Commissioner A. McCrory will represent Council as alternates on the Appeal Committee.

Carried unanimously

3. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF NOVEMBER 24, 2020

Resolution No. ETSB 21-01-48

Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting of the Council of Commissioners held on November 24, 2020

WHEREAS a copy of the Minutes of the meeting of November 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 T. Pezzi-Bilodeau to excuse the Secretary General from reading the Minutes and to approve the Minutes of the meeting held on November 24, 2020 as deposited.

Carried unanimously

4. QUESTION PERIOD

- M. Seline: Will the air quality for all schools and centres of the Eastern Townships School Board (ETSB) be tested? What is the timeline? When will the results be presented?
- É. Plante: Yes, all classrooms in schools and centres will be tested for air quality. The deadline is February 28, 2021.
- M. Seline: Is the Council aware that students at Campus Brome-Mississquoi (CBM) are ready to quit the welding program because of not having access to English materials?
- M. Murray: Issues were addressed today. Having just discovered this, we are in the process of providing materials.
- M. Soucy: English materials are available and will be accessible very soon; we have everything there and the situation will be corrected quickly.
- M. Seline: Quebec Provincial Association of Teachers (QPAT) produced six YouTube videos. Are actors teachers that she knows (C. Beaubien) personally? The videos were sent to Commissioners and the Record...what did Commissioners take away from that?
- C. Beaubien: The videos were done a long time ago and were very well done as well as informative, but that is it. Can you resend the links?
- M. E. Kirby: Well done, touching, should equip our teachers with superhero capes – our ETSB teachers are among the best!
- R. Gagnon: After watching them, I felt great empathy for the people there. I felt like wanting to go give them a hand.
- M. Seline: I heard a radio ad for the ETSB. Who is responsible for the advertisement regarding the ETSB enrolment?
- S. Priest: Eric Campbell and I are. The radio advertising the registration period on Rouge FM and Energie in Estrie and Virgin radio in Montreal is heard in the western sector of the Board. The advertising for the registration period is also printed in many newspapers. A promotional campaign is also on social media.
- M. Seline: Who is responsible for the advertisement for jobs in the Record?
- J. Pauw: The Human Resources Department took the opportunity with the Record to advertise in their jobs supplement.

5. RECOGNITION OF EXCELLENCE

Chairman M. Murray invited the following Commissioners to present the January 26, 2021 Recognition of Excellence:

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

- **Gordon Barnett:** Each year during the month of December, the Bishop's University men's basketball team historically bags groceries at the local Provigo to raise funds for the Alexander Galt Christmas Basket Campaign. This year with the global pandemic and the region being labelled a 'Red Zone,' the team members did not want this holiday tradition that spans back more than a decade to be put on hold. Led by former Galt Piper and current Bishop's Gaiter James Murray and his teammates, the Gaiters ran a digital campaign to raise funds in lieu of their usual bagging groceries. Provigo Lennoxville also collected donations on the Gaiters' behalf for the first week of the month. The new approach proved to be a successful one and the Gaiters raised \$2,117, which they distributed to the three high schools of the Eastern Townships School Board: Alexander Galt, Richmond Regional and Massey-Vanier. On behalf of the Council of Commissioners, we want to recognize the team members for their ingenuity and for not giving up on this important annual holiday tradition. As well, we extend our thanks on behalf of all those families you benefitted from the communities', the Provigo Lennoxville's and the Gaiters Men's Basketball Teams' generosity.
- **Michael Murray:** The Fédération des Transporteurs par Autobus is celebrating its 33rd edition of School Bus Safety Weeks from February 1st to February 12th 2021. 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 to 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 record putting our students' well-being and safety as a priority.
- **Claire Beaubien:** Every year in February it is our pleasure to celebrate Teacher Appreciation Week. This year the week of February 1st to the 7th, 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.
- **Mary-Ellen Kirby:** 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 15th to 19th 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.

WHEREAS since 2012-2013, the Council of Commissioners has authorized the participation of the Eastern Townships School Board in the *Regroupement des commissions scolaires et des centres de services scolaires de la Montérégie and in the Estrie en matières d'assurances*;

WHEREAS the *Centre de services scolaire de la Région de Sherbrooke* agreed to represent the school service centres and school boards that are members of the group with the insurance advisor *Guy Turcot*, from *GT&A Inc.*;

WHEREAS the consolidated purchasing experience has been financially advantageous for the Eastern Townships School Board;

WHEREAS it was moved by Resolution E19-06-106, on June 25, 2019, to agree with the *Regroupement des commissions scolaires de la Montérégie and in the Estrie en matière d'assurances* to a one (1) year contract, plus four yearly renewal options;

WHEREAS the 2021-2022 school year will be the second optional year of the contract;

WHEREAS article 42.0.2 from the *Règlement sur les contrats de service des organismes publics* provides the possibility of renewal options for this type of service contract;

WHEREAS on the recommendation of the ETSB's insurance broker, the context is not favourable to go out with a call for tender;

IT WAS MOVED BY Commissioner D. Zigby to;

MANDATE the firm *GT&A Inc.* to enter into a mutual agreement negotiation with the current brokerage firm, BFL Canada, pursuant to the option to renew clause or to conduct a public tender for the renewal of coverage liability insurance, professional insurance and property insurance for all school service centres and school boards of the group concerned;

UNDERTAKE to accept, after submission of the analysis report of the firm *BFL Canada* or with the firm following a call for tenders for all school service centres and school boards that participated in the group;

AUTHORIZE the Director General or the Secretary General to sign any document resulting from this resolution.

Carried unanimously

7.3 Resolution No. ETSB 21-01-50

Waiver of rights for Stanstead land

WHEREAS a Stanstead citizen has expressed an interest in acquiring a part of Lot 5,075,819 in Stanstead;

WHEREAS Lot 5,075,819 is adjacent to Lot 5,075,820 on which Sunnyside Elementary School is built;

WHEREAS Lot 5,075,819 is now the property of Stanstead Wesleyan College;

WHEREAS Stanstead Wesleyan College is interested in disposing of this strip of land for the benefit of this citizen;

WHEREAS this strip of land with an area of 1,200.1m² shall be annexed to Lot 5,075,818 and shall not become a lot in itself;

WHEREAS the desired strip of land is an integral part of land that had previously been reserved for the seller for educational purposes only;

WHEREAS the lot to which the strip of land will be annexed to is located in a residential and commercial area;

WHEREAS by virtue of a right of first refusal conferred to the Lennoxville District School Board which became the Eastern Townships School Board in an act dated in 1977, our intervention is required for this act of sale in order to consent to it;

WHEREAS the School Board has expressed concern with the sale of a portion of Lot 5,075,819 identified as Lot 5,075,819-P;

IT IS MOVED BY Commissioner C. Beaubien that a real and perpetual servitude, free of charge, prohibiting the cutting of healthy trees be granted against the lot to be sold (Lot 5,075,819-P), in favour of Lot 5,075,820, property of the Eastern Township School Board. This servitude would be to the effect that no healthy tree should be cut on an edge of land identified in blue on the attached plan and having a width of 5 m along the northeast limit of the part of the lot throughout its depth. The said strip of land shall be more fully described in a technical description, prepared shortly for the purpose of creating the easement.

Carried unanimously

The following two resolutions were read by the Director General:

7.4 Resolution No. ETSB 21-01-51
COVID-19 Vaccination – Education sector

WHEREAS the Government of Québec has always emphasized the importance of keeping schools/centres open;

WHEREAS the Eastern Townships School Board (ETSB) also recognizes the importance of schools/centres being open, and the impact of closures on the well-being of students;

WHEREAS educational services have been recognized by the Government of Québec as essential services throughout the pandemic;

WHEREAS during the Premier's press conference on December 11, 2020, the Premier confirmed that to date, most of the outbreaks of COVID-19 were in schools/centres and businesses;

WHEREAS the Premier also specified during said press conference that the priority of the vaccination schedule is established by the public health authorities;

WHEREAS public health officials indicated on January 8, 2021, that by this spring, all school/centre personnel will be eligible for the vaccine on the priority list;

WHEREAS the ETSB has always advocated for the health and safety of its students and employees;

IT WAS MOVED BY Commissioner M. E. Kirby that in view to support the health and safety of its students and personnel, the Council of Commissioners welcomes the Premier's and the public health authorities' recognition that all staff working in the education sector be prioritized in the COVID-19 vaccination schedule as stated on January 8, 2021;

AND THAT this resolution is sent directly to the *Ministère de l'Éducation du Québec* with an accompanying letter signed by the Chairperson of the Eastern Townships School Board requesting to keep such a prioritization.

Carried unanimously

7.5 Resolution No. ETSB 21-01-52 **Cost of school elections**

WHEREAS under the current regulations, school boards are obliged to cover the full cost of school elections, which take place every four years;

WHEREAS the Government of *Québec* provides no additional financing for these school elections;

WHEREAS the Government of *Québec* has suspended, on two occasions, the school elections scheduled for November 1st 2020;

WHEREAS suspending the school elections has incurred additional costs for the Eastern Townships School Board (ETSB);

WHEREAS due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, school elections are expected to be more costly given the health and safety guidelines that must be adhered to;

WHEREAS the Quebec English School Board Association (QESBA) has issued a letter to the *Ministre de l'Éducation du Québec* requesting that school boards be reimbursed for the added school election costs, as well as proper funding for school elections once they resume;

WHEREAS the Council of Commissioners of the Eastern Townships School Board supports the request made by the QESBA;

IT WAS MOVED BY Commissioner J. Humenuik that the Council of Commissioners of the Eastern Townships School Board formally request that the *Ministère de l'Éducation du Québec* reimburse the School Board (the ETSB and all school boards) for all additional costs incurred due to the suspension of school elections on two occasions;

AND THAT proper funding be provided to all English-language school boards to cover the cost of school elections;

BE IT FURTHER MOVED THAT this resolution be sent to the *Ministère de l'Éducation du Québec* with an accompanying letter signed by the Chairperson of the Eastern Townships School Board.

Carried unanimously

8. REPORTS

8.1 Director General's report

The Director General, M. Soucy, had nothing new to report.

8.2 Report from the Chair

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

It was a pleasure to write the year 2021 in the heading of this report. I sincerely hope that our sense of relief that 2020 was finally over is justified. For the moment, we are hearing some encouraging reports on the pandemic front and there seems to be hope for a rapid return to more normal lifestyle opportunities. We all share that hope.

Overseeing a school board, even one as relatively small as ours, is a challenging and complex undertaking. Sixteen parttime community and parent representatives are responsible to establish policy and oversee its implementation for this organization with over 900 employees and an annual budget of \$100 million. I know millions don't seem as important as they once did, but it is still a lot of money. We are charged with guiding and monitoring an amazingly complex organization charged with educating and caring for over 5,600 students from early youth through adolescence to adulthood. It is a daunting task at times, so I want to congratulate Commissioners who devote so much time, energy, concern and caring to this responsibility. Not everyone has the time or desire to take on such a burden, but those who do deserve far more credit and recognition than they usually receive.

One of the most fundamental functions of a Council of Commissioners is to hold the School Board accountable, not merely for its intentions, but for how it implements them. Earlier today, I wrote a heartfelt apology to two students in one of our vocational programs. I was apologizing to them because in their local centre, they were told they could not have pedagogical materials in English. Undoubtedly, this arose from misunderstanding since I am confident that everyone working for ETSB has the best of intentions and does the best they can to serve students well. However, it shocked and dismayed me that the student had to complain to the Chair of the School Board and to the Director General to have

the situation remedied. We are all busy. The entire education system has assumed enormous additional burdens in efforts to mitigate the effects of the pandemic. Our personnel is stressed, exhausted and overwhelmed. Mistakes will happen and sometimes unfortunate students suffer the consequences. We all need to understand that there can be no excuses, no matter how many explanations there may be. Our obligation is to correct the mistakes as quickly as possible and to take whatever measures are required to minimize the risk of repetition.

This is but one of many instances that demonstrate the value of an elected school board with a genuine mandate of oversight and control of the educational system. In the case I cited above, I am confident that some administrators would have moved quickly to correct the error and reassure the student, provided that the complaint had reached the appropriate person. However, it should be comforting for students and families to know that beyond all the hierarchy of personnel there is a level of governance that can address grievances, adjust policy and monitor implementation to ensure that every student receives the quality of service and concern that we are committed to deliver.

This week I submitted an affidavit to the legal firm preparing to contest Bill 40 before the courts. The hearings are scheduled for April. In preparation I was asked for personal anecdotes that illustrate the role of commissioner. I am fortunate to personally have a history stretching back to 1986 as Commissioner, Parent Commissioner, Executive Committee member and eventually Chairperson of this School Board. I know how much Commissioners have contributed over the years to make ETSB the caring employer, the engaged educational institution and the innovative pedagogical leader that it has become. This School Board belongs to our community and adapts to the conditions of our localities in a myriad of ways that differ from other school boards. Each is and should be unique: similar but with significant individualization. I trust we can continue to celebrate the role of citizens who themselves may not be professional educators but who bring an understanding of families, villages, and local circumstances that can refine and modulate the educational services we provide.

9. ADVISORY COMMITTEES' REPORTS

9.1 Executive Committee

The Chair of the Executive Committee, Commissioner M. Murray, mentioned the topics discussed at tonight's executive meeting will be presented in resolution at tonight's Council of Commissioners' meeting.

The Chair also welcomed Mr. Ryan Darwin, the new SEAC Commissioner.

9.2 Governance and Ethics Committee

The Chair of the Governance and Ethics Committee, Commissioner R. Gagnon, mentioned the subjects discussed at the last meetings:

December 8, 2020

- Air Filtration in the Classrooms;
- Emergency Day Care Update;

- Code of Ethics – By Law #3.

January 19, 2021

- Resolutions – Standard (new projects);
- Advisory Committees 2020-2021 calendar;
- ETSB support resolutions address to Minister;
- COVID-19 Update (data, latest sanitary measures, etc.);
- MEQ announcements;
- Interior Air Quality Plan Update.

The next meeting is scheduled on March 16, 2021.

9.3 Audit Advisory Committee

The Chair of the Audit Advisory Committee, Commissioner J. Humenuik, presented the following resolutions other than 9.3.2.1 presented by the Director of Material Resources:

9.3.1 Finance:

None.

9.3.2 Material Resources:

9.3.2.1 Resolution No. ETSB 21-01-53 Sutton Elementary School – Gymnasium entry renovations

WHEREAS the *Ministère de l'Éducation (MEQ)* approved a budget of \$185,930 for the project stated above, under the program *MDB - Maintien des bâtiments 2019-2020 Mesure : 50621*;

WHEREAS four (4) 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 \$125,500 (excluding taxes), was received from the company *Comco Entrepreneur en Bâtiment*;

WHEREAS after reviewing the bids, the assigned professional firm of *EBA Architecture* has recommended the company *Comco Entrepreneur en Bâtiment*, lowest bidder in conformity, to do the work for the amount of \$158,091;

IT WAS MOVED BY Commissioner R. Gagnon to proceed with the work for the project stated above; **IT WAS FURTHER MOVED** that the Director General be authorized to sign all associated documentation and that in the absence of the Director General, the Director of Material Resources can also sign.

Carried unanimously

9.3.2.2 Resolution No. ETSB 21-01-54
Parkview Elementary School – Sanitary blocs renovation

WHEREAS the *Ministère de l'Éducation (MEQ)* approved a budget of \$325,378 for the project stated above, under the program MDB - *Maintien des bâtiments 2019-2020 Mesure : 50621*;

WHEREAS eight (8) companies retrieved the project specifications after a public invitation to bid on the project;

WHEREAS one (1) bid was received by the Eastern Townships School Board by the date and time specified;

WHEREAS the lowest bid in the amount of \$299,800 (excluding taxes), was received from the company *Construction Bugère Inc.*;

WHEREAS after reviewing the bids, the assigned professional firm of *Chantal Brodeur Architecte* has recommended the company *Construction Bugère Inc.*, lowest bidder in conformity, to do the work for the amount of \$387,500;

IT WAS MOVED BY Commissioner D. Zigby to proceed with the work for the project stated above; **IT WAS FURTHER MOVED** that the Director General be authorized to sign all associated documentation and that in the absence of the Director General, the Director of Material Resources can also sign.

Carried unanimously

9.3.2.3 Resolution No. ETSB 21-01-55
Heroes' Memorial Elementary School – Gymnasium renovation

WHEREAS the *Ministère de l'Éducation (MEQ)* approved a budget of \$234,185 for the project stated above, under the program MDB - *Maintien des bâtiments 2018-2019 Mesure: 50626*;

WHEREAS four (4) 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 \$208,625 (excluding taxes), was received from the company *Comco Entrepreneur en Bâtiment*;

WHEREAS after reviewing the bids, the assigned professional firm of *Caroline Denommé Architecte* has recommended the company Comco Entrepreneur en Bâtiment lowest bidder in conformity, to do the work for the amount of \$261,867 including taxes and professional fees;

IT WAS MOVED BY Commissioner J. Murray to proceed with the work for the project stated above; **IT WAS FURTHER MOVED** that the Director General be authorized to sign all associated documentation and that in the absence of the Director General, the Director of Material Resources can also sign.

Carried unanimously

9.3.2.4 Resolution No. ETSB 21-01-56
Mansonville Elementary School – Windows and Doors replacement

WHEREAS the *Ministère de l'Éducation (MEQ)* approved a budget of \$299,945 for the project stated above, under the program *MDB - Maintien des bâtiments 2019-2020 Mesure : 50621*;

WHEREAS five (5) 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 \$222,310 (excluding taxes), was received from the company *Construction Encore Inc.*;

WHEREAS after reviewing the bids, the assigned professional firm of BOUM Architecte has recommended the company *Construction Encore Inc.* the lowest bidder in conformity, to do the work for the amount of \$271,100 including taxes and professional fees;

IT WAS MOVED BY Commissioner D. Brodie to proceed with the work for the project stated above; **IT WAS FURTHER MOVED** that the Director General be authorized to sign all associated documentation and that in the absence of the Director General, the Director of Material Resources can also sign.

Carried unanimously

9.3.2.5 Resolution No. ETSB 21-01-57
Knowlton Academy – Sanitary blocs renovation

WHEREAS the *Ministère de l'Éducation (MEQ)* approved a budget of \$139,448 for the project stated above, under the program *MDB - Maintien des bâtiments 2019-2020 Mesure : 50621*;

WHEREAS the lowest bid in the amount of \$62,575 (excluding taxes), was received from the company *Gestion Éric Belleau*,

WHEREAS after reviewing the bids, we recommended the company *Gestion Éric Belleau* lowest bidder in conformity, to do the work for the amount of \$88,575 including taxes and professional fees;

IT WAS MOVED BY Commissioner R. Gagnon to proceed with the work for the project stated above; **IT WAS FURTHER MOVED** that the Director General be authorized to sign all associated documentation and that in the absence of the Director General, the Director of Material Resources can also sign.

Carried unanimously

9.3.2.6 Resolution No. ETSB 21-01-58

North Hatley Elementary School – Drainage, Pavement and Playground stairs

WHEREAS the *Ministère de l'Éducation (MEQ)* approved a budget of \$325,378 for the project stated above, under the program *RDE – Résorption du déficit d'entretien 2019-20 Mesure : 50622*,

WHEREAS a company known today as *Construction Groupe Prévost Inc.* was awarded a contract in the amount of \$224,555 including professional fees and taxes, for the project stated above;

WHEREAS during the project some modifications for additional work needed to be done;

WHEREAS the amount of \$96,300 to pay for all modification orders, additional work and professional fees (including taxes), is required to finish the project;

WHEREAS the total amount for the contract including all modification orders, additional work, and professional fees (including taxes), adds up to \$320,855;

IT WAS MOVED BY Commissioner C. Beaubien that the modification and/or additional work be awarded in order to complete the work for the project stated above; **IT WAS FURTHER MOVED** that the Director General and/or the Director of Material Resources be authorized to sign all associated documentation.

Carried unanimously

9.3.2.7 Resolution No. ETSB 21-01-59

Princess Elizabeth Elementary School – Standardization of the stairwells

WHEREAS the *Ministère de l'Éducation (MEQ)* approved a budget of \$278,896 for the project stated above, under the program *MDB - Maintien des bâtiments 2019-20 Mesure : 50621*;

WHEREAS a company known today as *Comco Entrepreneur en Bâtiment* was awarded a contract in the amount of \$227,536 excluding professional fees but including taxes, for the project stated above;

WHEREAS during the project some modifications for additional work needed to be done;

WHEREAS the amount of \$63,027 to pay for all modification orders, additional work and professional fees (including taxes), is required to finish the project;

WHEREAS the total amount for the contract including all modification orders, additional work, and professional fees (including taxes), adds up to \$290,563;

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 H. Turgeon that the modification and/or additional work be awarded in order to complete the work for the project stated above; **IT WAS FURTHER MOVED** that the Director General and/or the Director of Material Resources be authorized to sign all associated documentation.

Carried unanimously

The next Audit Advisory Committee meeting is scheduled for February 16, 2021.

9.4 Educational Advisory Committee

The Chair of the Educational Advisory Committee, M.E. Kirby, enumerated the topics discussed at the last meeting:

- Criteria for enrolment;
- Presentation of Ed Services Topics – 2020-2021;
- Commitment to Success Plan Report;
- Emergency daycares;
- Early Intervention for the 2019-2020 school year;
- Working from home policy;
- Increased amount of homework on planning days concerns;
- Reports, Recommendations to Council – Working group recommendation for homework guidelines.

The Director of Pedagogical Services, E. Lettner presented the following resolution and explained that the main clarification made was to emphasize parental choice.

9.4.1 **Resolution No. ETSB 21-01-60** **Criteria for enrolment**

WHEREAS the Eastern Townships School Board has made modifications to its Criteria for the enrolment of students for the 2021-2022 school year;

WHEREAS the Central Parents Committee, the Educational Services Advisory Committee and Management table have been consulted on this criteria;

IT WAS MOVED BY Commissioner M. E. Kirby that the Eastern Townships School Board approve the criteria for enrolment of students in school of the Eastern Townships School Board for the 2021-2022 school year (section 239 of the *Education Act*).

Carried unanimously

The Chair also mentioned that the next Advisory Committee meeting is scheduled on February 9, 2021.

9.5 **Communications Advisory Committee**

The Chair of the Communications Advisory Committee, M. Mercure, mentioned the subjects discussed at the December 15, 2020 meeting:

- Welcome Back Activity – Governing Board Workshop (Feedback);
- GB Workshops postponed due to COVID;
- Open houses had to be modified – each school took their own approach;
- School elections;
- Communication Plan – Registration period;
- Communication Department – implications/events.

The next Communications Advisory Committee meeting is scheduled on March 16, 2021.

9.6 **Human Resources Advisory Committee**

The Chair of the Human Resources Advisory Committee, C. Beaubien, mentioned the subjects discussed at the January 12, 2021 meeting:

- Staffing;
- Negotiations;
- Grievances;
- Covid Update & school year;
- Management Policy – Administrator Working Conditions;
- School Calendar 2021-2022;
- APPEL update;
- Absenteeism report 2019-2020.

The Director of Human Resources, J. Pauw, explained the staffing plan/maternity – as soon as the employee is pregnant, she is not to be in the classroom. He also mentioned that there will be a virtual career fair next year to recruit teachers from out of province.

The next Human Resources Advisory Committee meeting is scheduled on April 13, 2021.

9.7 Transportation Advisory Committee

The Secretary General, E. Campbell, mentioned that the next Transportation Advisory Committee meeting is scheduled on February 9, 2021.

9.8 Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC)

The Chair of the Special Education Advisory Committee, R. Darwin mentioned the topics discussed at the November 11, 2020 meeting:

- Nomination of Secretary;
- Nomination of SEAC Representative on the Council of Commissioners;
- Professional Development – Mental Health;
- Report from Central Parent Committee Representative;
- Report from the Commissioner Representing Parents;
- Teaching Students with an Autism Disorder Profile – C. Boisclair and E. O’Neil;
- Measure 30850 – Eric Plante, Director of Material Resources, ETSB;
- Information D.G. Representative (E. Gaudet);
- Professionals in Schools;
- MEQ Handicap Codes;
- At-Risk and Coded Students.

The next meeting is scheduled on February 10, 2021.

10. PARENTS’ COMMITTEE

The Commissioner representing parents, D. Zigby, mentioned the topics discussed at the last meetings:

November 4, 2020

- DG update;
- Guest presenter É. Campbell and B. Banfill – Transportation management;
- Deeds of establishment;
- Calendar consultation.

December 2, 2020

- DG update;
- Guest presenter J. Pauw – Presentation of the consultation version of the school calendar for 2021/22;
- Guest presenter E. Lettner – Consultation on the Criteria for the Enrollment of Students Plan;
- Guest presenter E. Lettner – Highlights of the Commitment to Success Plan 2019-2023: Progress Report;

- Election of SEAC Commissioner;
- FCPQ.

It was brought to the attention of the Central Parents' Committee (CPC) that lockers in high schools were not accessible. Coat rack systems are being given as alternative arrangements. Parents issued complaints regarding answers provided by the principals, which they deemed unacceptable.

M. Murray noted that guidelines for COVID-19 seem to be subject to interpretation – Is the CPC asking for a follow-up report on what procedures are in place and to know that uniformity is being applied throughout the Board so that all students can have the dignity of having their own locker.

R. Darwin asks who enforces these guidelines? Everyone is stressed out and they want to know who is in charge of making sure this is happening?

E. Gaudet is the lead on most of the COVID-19 measures, but the Principals report to the Director General, M. Soucy. The principal of a school should have some degree of influence/flexibility in applying the rules.

M. Soucy is taking this seriously and is willing to come back to the CPC with some clarity. Also, this decision is taken with our stakeholders into consideration, their operational reality, GB's; it is not just a unilateral decision. The CPC will want a reply from the Administration regarding high school lockers protocol.

The next Parents' Committee meeting is scheduled on February 3, 2021.

11. STUDENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Commissioner J. Humenuik, representing the Student Advisory Committee, mentioned the following:

January 2021 meeting – just before the holidays, the CSAC worked with the other Estrie boards & CSSVDC on the calendar of caring. The calendar was bilingual, and we asked the CSAC members to make some videos for our population in English.

January 14, 2021 meeting – (ZOOM meeting) Transitions from High School to CEGEP – 3 at CEGEP and one a DEP at CBM. Home economics and finance classes are to plan for the future and more career days. Many thought a DEP was the ends to a career. They are not. We need to explore and expose them to all the options available to them after high school.

Alumni – really stepped up and brought a reassuring tone.

CSAC is looking at adding the two adult centres.

The next Student Advisory Committee meeting is to be determined.

12. QESBA

Some resolutions have been adopted tonight: Vaccination and Cost of school elections were suggested by QESBA.

The Executive Director of QESBA is on a loan of service to the English Montreal School Board (EMSB) until April 2021 or until they find a new director general.

Lawyers are still working on the Bill 40 court challenge. Several commissioners, as well as the CPC and SEAC have been contacted.

F. MacGregor confirmed that some time ago, the legal firm representing the court challenge called him asking many questions – the other invitation/questionnaire that was sent to GBs; he wanted to know if people participated in the exercise. D. Zigby's request was sent to all CPC members in order to send to GB members as well. At this time, he does not have any feedback but should have more information their next CPC meeting scheduled in February 2021. R. Darwin mentioned about ten people from the SEAC completed the survey. He was informed that many were happy to participate. The deadline has passed.

13. COMMISSIONER'S COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS

Commissioner A. McCrory: Brought attention to the dire situation that the educational system is in. It is alarming to hear that students going into the education program result in a 30% dropout rate.

Commissioner T. Pezzi-Bilodeau: Enumerated and commented on several ongoing CLC activities in Richmond, Danville and Drummondville. She is happy to mention that CLCs have a great impact for the community. Some of the CLC activities are as follows:

- Mother goose online at Asbestos, Danville, Shipton (ADS);
- Books to belly online at ADS, Drummondville Elementary School (DES), St. Francis;
- Artists inspired workshops at Richmond Regional High School (RRHS);
- Community Micro-grants in VSF & DES sources;
- I Belong! Project at ADS, St. Francis, RRHS;
- Occupational Therapist Support in K4 at DES;
- Online Reading Buddies at ADS, DES, St. Francis;
- Parent Workshop on Mental Health;
- Parent Workshop on Speech Development;
- Self-regulation approach at ADS;
- SHINE Workshop at ADS & DES;
- Summer Books Giveaway;
- ADS food pantry.

Commissioner M. E. Kirby: Accolades for the Pope and Sawyerville CLCs, which are also doing a great job focusing on Literacy. Seventy-eight (78) books have been given to children who attended the CLC activities. She is impressed by the CLC staff with all ongoing activities on breaking social isolation:

- Canadian War Museum Exploration;
- Creation of Christmas cards for local seniors.

Commissioner F. MacGregor: Attended the Alexander Galt Regional High School (AGRHS) GB meeting, which addressed topics such as the amount of homework during the weekend, the wearing of masks for certain students and the parent's night was very well done on ZOOM, which was a great experience.

Commissioner G. Barnett: The Sherbrooke region became red before Christmas (November 12), but this had little effect on the Lennoxville Elementary School (LES) since they had been operating as if the area was red since the beginning of the school year.

At the GB meeting before Christmas, LES was planning to acquire computers for Kindergarten, Grade 1 and Grade 2.

The LES cafeteria and Daycare were running deficits. The employees have to be paid just the same but with parents working at home, with less or no students attending daycare, the daycare revenues were down and the cafeteria is closed. Supervision revenues are also down.

At AGRHS, no consumables fees were collected before Christmas for the sports concentration and other fees because of the tenuous situation. Also, all ECAs were cancelled due to the red zone.

Students at AGRHS were not allowed to use their lockers to keep students apart but stowing their belongings in the classroom resulted in property disappearance. One teacher spent an hour after each of her three classes (Home Ec) to disinfect the classroom. There was also a concern about where money raised for various activities might be because the groups (bubbles) had already been formed and because of balance, it was very difficult to go to one day on one day off.

Lennoxville Vocational Training Centre (LVTC) wanted to give a high pressure-welding course but didn't have enough students. It is difficult to implement the ATE (*Alternance travail étude*) program for machining and welding because the industry is very reluctant to accept outside workers in their business due to COVID-19.

The second group of Institutional Home Care Assistants students finished January 21. If LVTC has 14 students, another course will start in February. Some students were sent to 24 Juin instead of LVTC. The constantly changing directives present a challenge.

LVTC participates in the new *Programme d'aide à la relance par l'augmentation de la formation (PARAF)* initiative to retrain people who lost their jobs due to COVID-19. Students receive \$500 a week and will get a DEP. They also joined SAE after much reflection. Moreover, LVTC finances and operation are being examined. MEES financing may be changed. The COVID-19 shutdown negatively affected finances.

Eastern Townships Adult General Education (ETAGE): A lot of effort goes into managing COVID-19 directives. Students are required to take a computer course for a Secondary 5 credit in order to function online. There are 36 students online for 27 hours a week with access to teachers most days. A course was given so that students don't require guidance. They were ordering Chrome Books to be able to go online but there was a backlog.

Commissioner R. Gagnon:

There were discussions about using February 2 as a Governance & Ethics meeting. A draft agenda will be sent out.

14. UPCOMING EVENTS

None.

15. CORRESPONDENCE

A complaint was sent to the School Board regarding a lack of access to English materials. This issue has been addressed by the Director General, M. Soucy confirming English materials are available and will be accessible very soon; we have everything there and the situation will be corrected quickly.

16. QUESTION PERIOD

M. McCully

The Record:

In what capacity does Daniel Brodie attend this meeting; is he still acting Commissioner from Ward 5 in Magog?

M. Murray

ETSB President:

Daniel Brodie continues to be the Commissioner due to the postponement of the elections and also because no one presented their candidacy at the school elections. A commissioner is maintained in their position until they are replaced.

17. GOVERNANCE AND COMMUNICATION

None.

18. ADJOURNMENT

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

Éric Campbell
Secretary General

Michael Murray
Chairman

EC/gm
01.26. 21