

## EASTERN TOWNSHIPS SCHOOL BOARD

### COUNCIL OF COMMISSIONERS

TUESDAY, APRIL 27, 2021 – 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	Z	Marc Mercure	Z
Claire Beaubien	Z	Helene Turgeon	Z
Daniel Brodie	Z	Daniel Zigby, <b>Vice-Chair</b>	Z
Richard Gagnon	Z	Eliza McKnight	Z
Gary Holliday	Z	DIRECTORS' COMMITTEE (DC)	
Joy Humenuik	Z	Secretary General – Éric Campbell	Z
Mary-Ellen Kirby	Z	Assistant Director General – Kandy Mackey	Z
Frank MacGregor	Z	Director General and Director of Continuing Education – Michel Soucy	Z
Alice McCrory	Z	Director of Human Resources – Jeffrey Pauw	Z
Jonathan Murray	Z	Director of Financial Services – Sophie Leduc	Z
Michael Murray, <b>Chair</b>	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	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 7:05 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 April 27, 2021 as modified, with the following additions:

9.3.2.7 Approval to join the *Centre d'Acquisition Gouvernementale (CAG)* – Light vehicle;

9.3.2.8 Approval to join the *Centre d'Acquisition Gouvernementale (CAG)* – Propane gas;

9.4.1 Technology acquisition;

9.4.2 Renewal of Laptops for Teachers, Administrators and Professionals.

Carried unanimously

**3. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF MARCH 23, 2021**

Resolution No. ETSB 21-04-79

**Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting of the Council of Commissioners held on March 23, 2021**

**WHEREAS** a copy of the Minutes of the meeting of March 23, 2021 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 23, 2021 as modified.

Carried unanimously

**Corrections to the March 23, 2021 Council minutes:**

9.3.2.3 **WHEREAS** the Eastern Townships School Board (ETSB) experienced a demand for adult education in the area of Magog;

**WHEREAS** this budget needs to be requested ~~to~~ from the *Ministère de l'Éducation du Québec (MEQ)* in the "Ajout d'Espace" measure;

#### 4. QUESTION PERIOD

No questions were asked at this time.

#### 5. RECOGNITION OF EXCELLENCE

Chairman M. Murray presented the April 27, 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:*

- **G. Holliday**: Earlier this year, Richmond Regional High School (RRHS) wood shop teacher, Joseph Kirby along with CLC Coordinator, Siu-Min Jim and Richmond Mayor, Bertrand Menard, collaborated together in a project that has RRHS students in the Industrial Arts program, building combination flower box benches for the community. Due to the pandemic, it can be difficult to get wood for building and the costs have increased significantly. Through the generosity of Jason and Shane Wheeler, owners of Herwood, a palette manufacturing company, the wood supply issue was resolved. The brothers generously donated all the wood for the project, as well as donating over \$2,500 in new wood working tools for the program. The Wheelers have also committed themselves to staying involved with the program so that it may continue. Currently, the students are working on 12 benches that will be used around the school and in the community. With the help of R. McConnell from the Lennoxville Vocational Training Centre, each bench will be branded with the RRHS logo. We would like to extend our appreciation to Jason and Shane Wheeler for their generosity and support, to the Town of Richmond for their support and collaboration, and to the team at RRHS for bringing this project together, specifically Joseph Kirby and Siu-Min Jim. As well, thank you to R. McConnell at LVTC for creating the branding stamp.
- **M. E. Kirby**: As part of this year's Hooked on School Days, the *Fondation Christian Vachon* in collaboration with the *Projet PRÉE*, launched the "My Perseverance, My Pride" contest. Elementary and secondary schools across the Estrie were invited to share an activity or situation that they are proud of and that shows their perseverance. Recently, the winners were announced and Ms. Jessica Stacey's class at Cookshire Elementary was chosen as one of the six winning classes. The students in Ms. Stacey's class will receive funds towards their year-end activity. Congratulations to the students on being chosen and for their continuing perseverance. Thank you to the *Fondation Christian Vachon* and the *Projet PRÉE* for their ongoing support of student success.
- **G. Barnett**: We would like to extend our congratulations to ETSB GALT teacher, April Blampied, who has recently announced the publishing of her first children's book. Written in poem, in both English and French, **Po Plays Pretend – Po s'amuse**. As per the author's website, the book is about the character Po "who sees the potential for hope and adventure in the small stuff everyday". The book, written and illustrated by Ms. Blampied, is in the printing stages right now and can be pre-ordered online by emailing [sugarandpo@gmail.com](mailto:sugarandpo@gmail.com).

- **M. Mercure:** We would also like to once again recognize Ms. Tammy Lace and Ms. Annalise Milroy, co-owners of *Fripperie Karma* in Lac Brome. The duo donates the proceeds from their shop to worthy causes in and around their community and has donated tens of thousands of dollars to ETSB schools. Earlier this year, the duo created their own scholarship award called the **Karma Award**, with all the monies raised going to a graduate from Massey-Vanier High School to help them with their future studies. Despite setbacks from being closed due to COVID, the community that frequents the store has been very generous and a total of \$5,400 was raised for the Karma Award Scholarship. The monies will go towards the purchase of a MacBook laptop of the students chosen with the balance to help pay for the costs of attending *CEGEP*. We would like to extend our heartfelt appreciation to Ms. Milroy and Ms. Lace for their generous support.
- **R. Gagnon:** Congratulations goes out to Sutton School/ *École Sutton* who just received the judge's prize for their newest project with the organization *Impulsion 100 degrés*. Spearheaded by the school's communo-serre committee, the school has been awarded \$15,000 to create a community greenhouse. The project is to build a technological greenhouse that will allow the students to learn about and grow produce while participating in the process. The next steps in the project are to find partners to ensure that the project comes to fruition and can be sustained as a solid part of the school community. We would like to thank *Impulsion 100 degrés* for their generous support.

## 6. **BUSINESS ARISING**

There was no business arising.

## 7. **NEW BUSINESS**

The Secretary General, E. Campbell introduced the SEAC Commissioner:

### 7.1 **SEAC Commissioner – Oath of Office**

Ms. Eliza McKnight has been sworn in. The Oath of Office has been read. All pertinent documents have been signed.

Ms. McKnight will complete the term initially started by R. Darwin and will continue until next year in order to complete her two (2) year mandate.

## 8. **REPORTS**

### 8.1 **Director General's report**

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

Currently, the various employee groups in education are without a contract and therefore are in negotiations with the government. We realize that various disruption of services may cause some inconveniences, but rest assured that in all decisions, the Eastern Townships School Board (ETSB) will continue to always put our students and staff's safety and well-being first.

I am happy to say that our School Board continues to see a low number of active COVID cases in our schools and centres. Once again, I want to recognize the tremendous effort that our school and centre personnel are making in respecting and applying the many sanitary measures in place. As well, thank you to our students and parents for their cooperation and resilience. These combined efforts are paying off and helping to keep our schools and centres a safe place to learn.

## **8.2 Chair's report**

The Chair of the Commissioners' Council, M. Murray had nothing new to report.

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

### **9.1 Executive Committee**

The Chair of the Executive Committee, Commissioner M. Murray, mentioned that the topics discussed at tonight's Executive meeting are the same as the Council agenda.

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

The Chair of the Governance and Ethics Committee, Commissioner R. Gagnon mentioned that the next meeting is scheduled for May 4, 2021.

### **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 21-04-80**

##### **Ecoenergetic Projects – 12 schools involved – Phase A – Pricing envelope**

**WHEREAS** the Eastern Townships School Board (ETSB) would like to mandate a specialized company on an integrated realization eco-energetic project with a guaranty of performance;

**WHEREAS** Ayer's Cliff Elementary, Butler Elementary, Cookshire Elementary, Heroes' Memorial Elementary, Knowlton Academy, Mansonville Elementary, North Hatley Elementary, Parkview Elementary, Sawyerville Elementary; St. Francis Elementary, Sunnyside Elementary and Sutton Elementary are the schools involved in Phase A of the Eco-energetic project;

**WHEREAS** the ETSB has for a goal to reduce the carbon footprint of these 12 schools, to lower energy consumption by replacing outdated heating equipment, to change toward a cleaner heating system (electric), to replace lighting with LED fixtures, to install/improve HVAC systems, to update the system's programming and controls to maximize efficiency;

**WHEREAS** the ETSB did go on a call for candidature where one (1) candidature was received by the selection committee;

**WHEREAS** the selection committee did complete their evaluation and stated conformity of the applicant with a score of 85.95%;

**WHEREAS** after reviewing the bid, the selection committee has recommended the company Ecosystem, the highest score in conformity, to do the work;

**WHEREAS** the ETSB took notice of the proposal and agreed upon systems proposed;

**IT WAS MOVED BY** Commissioner J. Humenuik to let the ETSB proceed with the project stated above and open the pricing envelope; **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 21-04-81**

**Asbestos-Danville-Shipton Elementary School – Asbestos Removal and locker room renovation**

**WHEREAS** the *ministère de l'Éducation (MEQ)* approved a budget of \$371,861 for the project stated above, under the program *MDB - Maintien des bâtiments 2019-2020 Mesure: 50621*;

**WHEREAS** two (2) 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 \$377,000 (excluding taxes), was received from the company *Construction Encore Ltée*;

**WHEREAS** after reviewing the bids, the assigned professional firm of *Lemay Coté Architecte* has recommended the company *Construction Encore Ltée*, the lowest bidder in conformity, to do the work for the amount of \$496,974, including taxes and professional fees;

**WHEREAS** all additional funds required to complete the project, will be taken from *MDB - Maintien des bâtiments 2019-2020 Mesure: 50621* program;

**IT WAS MOVED BY** Commissioner T. Bilodeau 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 21-04-82**

**Asbestos-Danville-Shipton Elementary School – Asbestos removal and bathroom renovation of the left wing – Phase 1**

**WHEREAS** the *ministère de l'Éducation (MEQ)* approved a budget of \$488,067 for the project stated above, under the program *MDB - Maintien des bâtiments 2020-2021 Mesure: 50621*;

**WHEREAS** three (3) companies were invited 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 \$43,700 (excluding taxes), was received from the company *Décontamination IGR Inc.*;

**WHEREAS** after reviewing the bids, the assigned professional firm of *Réalisations B* has recommended the company *Décontamination IGR Inc.*, the lowest bidder in conformity, to do the work for the amount of \$58,649, including taxes and professional fees;

**IT WAS MOVED BY** Commissioner T. Bilodeau 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 21-04-83**

**St. Francis Elementary School – Concrete stairs renovation and sidewalk**

**WHEREAS** the *ministère de l'Éducation (MEQ)* approved a budget of \$92,965 for the project stated above, under the program *MDB - Maintien des bâtiments 2020-2021 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 \$82 420 (excluding taxes), was received from the company *Lambert & Grenier inc.*;

**WHEREAS** after reviewing the bids, the assigned professional firm of *Structure St-George* has recommended the company *Lambert & Grenier inc.* the lowest bidder in conformity, to do the work for the amount of \$105,069, including taxes and professional fees;

**WHEREAS** all additional funds required to complete the project, will be taken from *MDB - Maintien des bâtiments 2020-2021 Mesure: 50621* program;

**IT WAS MOVED BY** Commissioner T. Bilodeau 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 21-04-84**

**Approval to join the Centre d'acquisition gouvernementale (CAG) – Photocopier**

**WHEREAS** the *Centre d'Acquisition Gouvernementale (CAG)* has been created on September 1<sup>st</sup> 2020;

**WHEREAS** the CAG has for mission to acquire quality goods and services, at the right time, at the right price to the benefit of public organizations;

**WHEREAS** public organizations will have to acquire from the CAG exclusively unless there is an exception accepted from them;

**WHEREAS** the CAG has started a new call for tender for the acquisition of multifunction photocopiers;

**WHEREAS** the Eastern Townships School Board finds it advantageous to benefit from that mandate;

**IT WAS MOVED BY** Commissioner G. Holliday to proceed in joining the CAG for the mandate 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 21-04-85**

**Approval to join the Centre d'acquisition gouvernementale (CAG) – Electric furniture & equipment**

**WHEREAS** the *Centre d'Acquisition Gouvernementale (CAG)* has been created on September 1<sup>st</sup> 2020;



**WHEREAS** the CAG has for mission to acquire quality goods and services, at the right time, at the right price to the benefit of public organizations;

**WHEREAS** public organizations will have to acquire from the CAG exclusively unless there is an exception accepted from them;

**WHEREAS** the CAG has started a new call for tender for the acquisition of electric furniture and equipment;

**WHEREAS** the Eastern Townships School Board finds it advantageous to benefit from that mandate;

**IT WAS MOVED BY** Commissioner G. Holliday to proceed in joining the CAG for the mandate 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

**9.3.2.7 Resolution No. ETSB 21-04-86**

**Approval to join the *Centre d'acquisition gouvernementale (CAG)* – Light vehicle**

**WHEREAS** the *Centre d'Acquisition Gouvernementale (CAG)* has been created on September 1<sup>st</sup> 2020;

**WHEREAS** the CAG has for mission to acquire quality goods and services, at the right time, at the right price to the benefit of public organizations;

**WHEREAS** public organizations will have to acquire from the CAG exclusively unless there is an exception accepted from them;

**WHEREAS** the CAG have started a new call for tender for the acquisition of a light vehicle;

**WHEREAS** the Eastern Townships School Board finds it advantageous to benefit from that mandate;

**IT WAS MOVED BY** Commissioner G. Holliday to proceed in joining the CAG for the mandate 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

9.3.2.8 **Resolution No. ETSB 21-04-87**  
**Approval to join the *Centre d'acquisition gouvernementale (CAG)* –**  
**Propane gas**

**WHEREAS** the *Centre d'Acquisition Gouvernementale (CAG)* has been created on September 1<sup>st</sup> 2020;

**WHEREAS** the CAG has for mission to acquire quality goods and services, at the right time, at the right price to the benefit of public organizations;

**WHEREAS** public organizations will have to acquire from the CAG exclusively unless there is an exception accepted from them;

**WHEREAS** the CAG have started a new call for tender for the acquisition of propane gas;

**WHEREAS** the Eastern Townships School Board finds it advantageous to benefit from that mandate;

**IT WAS MOVED BY** Commissioner G. Holliday to proceed in joining the CAG for the mandate 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

9.4 **Educational Advisory Committee**

The Chair of the Educational Advisory Committee, M.E. Kirby, mentioned the topics discussed at the March 30 and April 6, 2021 meetings:

- Living school presentation by T. Jacklin;
- Knowlton community garden presented by J. Muir;
- ICT Device purchases.

The Chair of the Educational Advisory Committee invited the Director of Instructional Technology and Pedagogical Services – Eva Lettner to present the following resolutions:

9.4.1 **Resolution No. ETSB 21-04-88**  
**Technology acquisition**

**WHEREAS** the availability of technological equipment in the current context is crucial to maintain alignment with our educational mission and to properly equip our students for the possibility of distance learning;

**WHEREAS** the Eastern Townships School Board (ETSB) requires extra devices to increase the availability of learning devices to meet the needs of all families during this 2020-2021 school year;

**WHEREAS** through a governmental initiative, the Ministry did seek for the ETSB's needs in the event of an emergency shut-down;

**WHEREAS** the Eastern Townships School Board has received 700 new Chromebooks from a Ministerial Reserve, authorized by the Deputy Minister, Mr. Stéphane Lehoux;

**WHEREAS** the ETSB will be reimbursed in totality for expenses incurred in the purchase of these devices by the Ministry via a Financial Aid Agreement (*Mesure*: 50768);

**WHEREAS** all purchases are done according to the government requirements;

**IT WAS MOVED BY** Commissioner M. E. Kirby to authorize the Director General to sign any documentation related to the acquisition of equipment and related items (Software, Shipping, etc.), up to an amount of \$325,000.00 for 2020-2021 effective immediately;

**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 Instructional Technology and Pedagogical Services can also sign.

Carried unanimously

#### 9.4.2 Resolution No. ETSB 21-04-89

##### Renewal of Laptops for Teachers, Administrators and Professionals

**WHEREAS** ETSB's fleet of Macbook Pros (Mid2012) mainly used by teachers and acquired between 2012 and 2014 are now obsolete and 322 devices need to be replaced;

**WHEREAS** a rigorous process conducted by ICT and Pedagogical Services teams to determine the best replacement devices for teachers, professionals and administration was presented to the Educational Services Advisory Committee on April 6, 2021;

**WHEREAS** the suggested devices are not listed with the *Centre d'acquisition gouvernementale (CAG)*;

**WHEREAS** Eastern Townships School Board (ETSB) published a notice of intent (AI-2021-0003) to purchase devices through a contract of mutual agreement ("*gré à gré*") with Apple Canada via the *Système électronique d'appel d'offres du gouvernement du Québec (SEAO)*, according to the ministry requirements and regulations;

**WHEREAS** the notice of intent was published for 15 days, according to the Act respecting by public bodies, without any opposition or complaints;

**WHEREAS** a Financial Impact Study related to a change in devices was conducted by an external company, *Images et Technology*;

**WHEREAS** the ETSB considers that it will be able to prove that a call for tenders would not serve the public interest, given the object of the contract concerned;

**WHEREAS** a provisional account of \$500,000 was set aside for the purpose of replacement devices for the 2020-2021 school year, based on *Mesure*: 50761, 50765 and 50767 (Digital Action Plan);

**IT WAS MOVED BY** Commissioner H. Turgeon to authorize the Director General to sign any documentation related to the acquisition of equipment and related items (Dongles, cables, adapters, etc.), up to an amount of \$398,650.00 before taxes (According to Apple's quote #2210048920) for 2020-2021 effective immediately;

**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 Instructional Technology and Pedagogical Services can also sign.

Carried unanimously

The Chair also mentioned that the next Advisory Committee meeting is scheduled for April 29, 2021.

#### **9.5 Communications Advisory Committee**

The Chair of the Communications Advisory Committee, M. Mercure, mentioned that the next meeting is scheduled for May 11, 2021.

#### **9.6 Human Resources Advisory Committee**

The Chair of the Human Resources Advisory Committee, C. Beaubien, mentioned the topics discussed at the April 13, 2021 meeting:

Information update:

- Staffing;
- Negotiations;
- Grievances.

Business arising:

- COVID update & School year – Some employees have to stay home because of their children;
- Management Policy.

New business:

- Support staff – Staffing plan 2021-2022;
- Code of Ethics – Policy for consultation – Commissioners would like more time to examine this before it goes out for consultation. The Human Resources are examining staffing requirements. The first posting should be out by the end of the month;
- Allocation of Teaching Resources.

The next Human Resources Advisory Committee meeting is scheduled for September 14, 2021.

### 9.7 Transportation Advisory Committee

The Chair of the Transportation Advisory Committee, Commissioner G. Holliday, mentioned the topics discussed at the April 20, 2021 meeting:

- **2020-2021 School Bus Bids – Phase 2:** Bus purchases are ongoing for the new school year. Electric buses were discussed for next year; we will have to purchase some as per the government program. We will need more than one supplier to choose from in order to be able to meet our needs. Students at Massey-Vanier High School (MVHS) are currently waiting outside for extended periods of time. M. Mercure explained the reason as to why students are waiting outside; each elementary school redid their schedules to include the extra recess times. MVHS chose to not redo their schedule, therefore some buses are arriving later there.

The next Transportation Advisory Committee meeting is scheduled on (to be determined).

### 9.8 Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC)

The SEAC Parent Commissioner, E. McKnight, mentioned the topics discussed at the March 17, 2021 meeting:

- SEAC Parent Commissioner – Eliza McKnight;
- Central Parent Committee SEAC Representative – Ms. Karen Dymond.

The next meeting is scheduled for May 12, 2021.

## 10. PARENTS' COMMITTEE

The Commissioner representing parents, D. Zigby, mentioned the topics discussed at the April 7, 2021 meeting:

- School year budget 2021-2022 presented by S. Leduc;
- Buildings and Grounds projects presented by E. Plante;
- SEAC Representative;
- SEAC Commissioner.

The next Parents' Committee meeting is scheduled for May 5, 2021.

## 11. STUDENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Commissioner J. Humenuik, representing the Student Advisory Committee, mentioned that fire drills and lockdowns were discussed. One of the concerns is how we can be sure that we are not missing any students, especially at lunch time.

Exams schedule was also discussed; the teachers are making their own and they would like to share the way they would like to have exams presented and taken.

The next Student Advisory Committee meeting is scheduled for May 6, 2021 and June 3, 2021 with the Commissioners.

## 12. QESBA

The Superior Court hearing regarding the Bill 40 challenge will round up this week. The Chairman mentioned part of the arguments that were presented in court. We will await the Justice system to come out with their ruling, which could take months.

Negotiations in Education were also discussed: strike responses, provisional agreement with teachers, but professionals and support staff are still in strike positions. The only negotiators allowed at the meeting table are the government members. There cannot be representatives from the education sector.

The Executive Director, Mr. Russell Copeman is now back at QESBA.

The next meeting is scheduled for tomorrow, April 28, 2021.

## 13. COMMISSIONER'S COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS

Commissioner G. Barnett:

Mr. Barnett attended a Governing Board meeting where course scheduling and organization were discussed. He also attended the Eastern Townships Adult General Education (ETAGE) and the Lennoxville Vocational Training Centre (LVTC) Governing Board meetings:

ETAGE – Their [on-the-road initiative](#) is to reach out to students, to provide services where they are and to demystify Adult Education:

- They have a good relationship with *Plein-Rayons* in the West and are developing company contacts for SIS and SVI students in the East;
- They are working to make their website more attractive and are looking at how students get their information. They are mapping out their service offers to demonstrate what they do, to be transparent, to increase enrolment and to figure out how to get into the community;
- They are also looking at streamlining and modularization the courses offered to facilitate administration;
- They are giving a Winning Attitudes course at LVTC and collaborating in the [Townshippers' Outreach Program](#);
- Within the context of an Outreach Program, ETAGE will attempt to contact some 280 dropouts to offer them services and determine what they need.

Lennoxville Vocational Training Centre (LVTC):

- There has been no COVID problem so far. They are strict with students;
- The new 750 hour CNC machining program, which has many new competencies, is being put into place;
- The IHCA-AEP group is being taught their missing competencies to obtain a *Diplôme d'Études Professionnel* (DEP) allowing them to work anywhere;
- There is currently a third IHCA-AEP group being trained;
- There is a bus driving course underway with twenty-four (24) students;
- There are currently twenty-three (23) students registered for welding, the norm being fifteen (15);
- The Centre will offer a week of welding and machining to women in order to introduce them to these careers.

Lennoxville Elementary School (LES):

- There are nine (9) Pre-K students registered and the renovations are underway to accommodate them;
- They have \$6K for student support outside school hours.

Alexander Galt Regional High School (AGRHS) – Governing Board:

- We are now in the Orange zone but with little change. We can't open gyms, we can't have any contact with anyone, there are no competitions, but we can do drills or training with groups of eight (8) students per 2 metres apart with physical barriers between groups;
- A hyper-controlled Carnival is underway;
- COVID-19 is expected to have a big effect on the budget;
- There is a lot of construction underway, but it has gone very well;
- It is very difficult to get enough tutors and there is a real challenge to accommodate the students;
- We are looking at other graduation proposals and have cancelled our hotel reservation;
- Course selection is also underway. Scheduling and organization without knowing the future situation is a major challenge; a very complex and time-consuming operation. This had to be redone three (3) times last year. If courses change, hiring could be affected.

- Commissioner M. E. Kirby: Ms. Kirby was involved in a series of Townshippers' Association Workshops for gardening and some of the attendees were students from a Massey-Vanier class. Online learning is really happening.
- Commissioner C. Beaubien: Ms. Beaubien mentioned that Mr. Steve Dunn spoke about the initiative between the Central Transition Committee and Eastern Townships Adult General Education (ETAGE) to reach out to the 280+ high school dropouts of the past few years. ETAGE has requested access to the names and contact information so that our Guidance counsellors and Academic counsellors are able to reach out to them. Several points will be addressed with them: their academic pathways, employability and a support system. They want to build a relationship with the high schools and remove the stigma and barriers that Adult Education may have or have perceived. Their Guidance counsellors and Academic advisor's team will be the ones to make the initial contact with them. Steve will be actively involved with all aspects of the outreach.
- Commissioner J. Humenuik: Ms. Humenuik reported on Farnham and Butler CLC activities:
- Stats & Stories;
  - Free workshop series;
  - Support for parents for a healthy bedtime routine;
  - Tips and Tricks for parents;
  - A sleep consultant (clinical psychiatrist) was invited to answer questions;
  - Goodnight Bags program;
  - Body percussion – focusing on building teamwork and a collaborative spirit;
  - Partners this month: English-language Arts Network (ELAN), Townshippers' Association, Eastern Townships School Board (ETSB), Yamaska Literacy Council, Linguistics Department Writing Centre (LDWC) and Learn Quebec.
- Commissioner T. Bilodeau: Ms. Bilodeau also reported on Asbestos-Shipton-Danville (ADS), Drummondville (DES), Richmond Regional High School (RRHS) and St. Francis CLC activities:
- Families are going online;
  - Twenty (20) kindergarten families have volunteer readers – they meet together to have other members read to your child;
  - St. Francis was also offering boxes for mask recycling.
- Commissioner F. MacGregor: Mr. MacGregor attended a Sherbrooke Elementary School (SES) Governing Board meeting:
- **Student population:** 495 students for next year – they will have a full house next year;



- **Masks:** the school is using approximately 1000 masks per day. Disposing them is complicated and expensive. Is the Board looking at a way to dispose of them effectively and economically?

#### 14. UPCOMING EVENTS

None.

#### 15. CORRESPONDENCE

None.

#### 16. QUESTION PERIOD

M. Seline

ATA president:

Will Secondary 1 be offered to Waterloo Elementary School next year?

M. Murray

ETSB Chair:

No.

M. Seline

ATA president:

Hindsight being 20/20, what would the ETSB have done differently for the April 14<sup>th</sup> strike day?

M. Murray

ETSB Chair:

We will take this question under advisement.

M. Seline

ATA president:

What monies are available related to the COVID costs?

M. Murray

ETSB Chair:

This is an open-ended operation and we do not have a precise answer.

M. Seline

ATA president:

There is limited accessibility of vaccine appointments. Can ETSB have vaccines in our schools?

M. Murray

ETSB Chair:

A request has been made to the government, but we have not yet received an answer.

M. Seline

ATA president:

Health and Social Service mask recall: Teachers and Staff have stopped using graphene masks. Which schools and centres had these masks? How will ETSB address the health issues caused by these masks?

M. Murray

ETSB Chair:

Some of our schools had them and they have been recuperated. At this time, there has been no indication of health consequences regarding the use of these masks.

M. Seline

ATA president:

A transgender student noticed letters from the Board and Schools sent out to parents only use the she/he, her/him. Would the ETSB consider the more inclusive pronoun of they/them?

M. Murray

ETSB Chair:

Since they and them are not always grammatically correct, I think it's a very difficult issue to address. When referring to singular persons, it is awkward to use the plural. Once we go down that very slippery slope, we get into the situation where we then begin to be told that there are no more he/she dichotomies. So I think we'll probably stay with what we're doing, understanding that perhaps the evolution of grammar will catch up eventually.

M. Seline

ATA president:

Would the ETSB consider this situation and look to addressing it, either changing the pronoun or sending some kind of communication out to parents, teachers and students with regards to students that are not identifying necessarily as male or female?

M. Murray

ETSB Chair:

Although we are dealing with more pressing matters at the moment, I'm sure we would consider that, among many other things, but at the risk of sounding unempathetic, it seems like a very trivial part of the issues that we have to communicate about health, safety, security of students, security of personnel. It sounds like straining at gnats.

M. McCully

The Record:

Are the pronouns they/them new to the Board?

M. Murray

ESTB Chair:

No. I was simply trying to point out the grammatical difficulty of appeasing all points of view relating to communications.

M. McCully

The Record:

Do you think if reducing the appeal of a trans-student to a grammatical issue might be considered transphobic?

M. Murray

ETSB Chair:

Yes, I'm sure it could be as are many other conventional uses, but at the moment, we maintain ourselves as being not transphobic, not in any way phobic about any of the other variances that have been identified in sexual orientation or gender orientation. So the issue of grammar is, again, I say, a trivial one relative to the issue of actual actions that we take.

**17. GOVERNANCE AND COMMUNICATION**

None.

**18. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned on a motion by Commissioner R. Gagnon at 8:28 p.m.

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Éric Campbell  
Secretary General

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Michael Murray  
Chairman

EC/gm  
04.27.2021