

EASTERN TOWNSHIPS SCHOOL BOARD

COUNCIL OF COMMISSIONERS

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 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
Shawn Jersey	Z	Daniel Zigby, Vice-Chair	Z
Richard Gagnon	Z	Eliza McKnight	Z
Gary Holliday	Z	DIRECTORS' COMMITTEE (DC)	
Joy Humenuik	Z	Secretary General – Éric Campbell	A
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, Chair	Z	Director of Instructional Technology and Pedagogical Services – Eva Lettner	Z
Tina Pezzi-Bilodeau	Z	Director of Complementary Services – Emmanuelle Gaudet	Z
Sharon Priest – taking notes	Z	Director of Material Resources – Éric Plante	Z

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

OBSERVERS

Sharon Priest took notes for the Secretary General for this meeting
Holly Bailey, Communications Consultant

PUBLIC

Megan Seline, President of the Appalachian Teachers' Association (ATA)
Matthew McCully, The Record
Shawn Frost, Raymond Chabot Grant Thornton (RCGT), Auditor
Claudia Veilleux, Raymond Chabot Grant Thornton (RCGT), Auditor
Adriana Lyons, Waterloo Elementary School Principal

1. CALL THE MEETING TO ORDER

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 7:03 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 October 26, 2021 as deposited.

Carried unanimously

3. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF SEPTEMBER 28, 2021

Resolution No. ETSB 21-10-14

Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting of the Council of Commissioners held on September 28, 2021

WHEREAS a copy of the Minutes of the meeting of September 28, 2021 has been given to each Commissioner at least 6 hours before the opening of the meeting, the Director General is excused from reading the Minutes.

IT WAS MOVED BY Commissioner E. McKnight to excuse the Director General from reading the Minutes and to approve the Minutes of the meeting held on September 28, 2021 as deposited.

Carried unanimously

Correction: Council of Commissioners – Minutes of September 28, 2021:

- Point 12 – QESBA: 3rd bullet word being g was missing a "g".

4. QUESTION PERIOD

No questions were asked at this time.

5. RECOGNITION OF EXCELLENCE

Chairman M. Murray invited the following Commissioners to present the October 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:

Joy Humenuik



TERRY FOX @ BUTLER ELEMENTARY

On October 5th 2021, Butler Elementary took to the streets in fine form and made history with this year's Terry Fox run!! The students were given the goal of raising \$4,000 for cancer research, and they grabbed the challenge and ran with it. Principal Mr. Morgan sweetened the pot by agreeing to some rewards if students could reach their fundraising goal – he would get his hair wildly dyed, wear his undies over his clothes and hit the dunk tank. Well, the pics speak for themselves ... Butler students not only surpassed their goal but doubled it by collecting a grand total of \$8,238.30 – the highest ever in the school's history!!!! The highest earning student from each class had the chance to dunk their principal in the ice-cold water tank – sweet victory!

Thank you to the generosity of the community and school families, hats off to the Butler staff, and CONGRATULATIONS to these fabulous kids who really went above and beyond for the benefit of others.

Tina Pezzi-Bilodeau

BIG NEWS over at Drummondville Elementary School - DES students participated in an international scientific journal!

Almost 2 years ago, Ms. Levesque's grade 5 students took part in the peer-review process of a scientific article with the help of their mentor, Dr. Benjamin Gold, who has a PHD in neuroscience from McGill University and is now pursuing postdoctoral work in Nashville, TN.

After some delay due to the pandemic, the article "How Do You Test a Rat's Memory?" by Dr. Wright has finally been published on the "Frontiers for Young Minds" online journal. The journal has over 1750 authors and over 3000 young reviewers worldwide.

This, however, is the **FIRST** time that a group of students from Québec has participated in the peer-review mentorship program. We are so proud of our students! This great opportunity was possible thanks to our partners at CASE-MCQ. Exceptional DES - GREAT WORK!!!

Exceptional DES - GREAT WORK!!!



6. **BUSINESS ARISING**

There was no business arising.

7. **NEW BUSINESS**

7.1 **Auditor's Report**

The Raymond Chabot Grant Thornton (RCGT) auditors presented the audited financial statements for the year ending June 30, 2021. The auditors reported that they found no irregularities and reported no reservations or comments:

In conformity with Article 287 of the *Education Act*, the following is a summary of the audited Financial Statements for the Eastern Townships School Board for the school year ending June 30, 2021:

Summary of Financial Statements

Statement of Revenues and Expenditures

Revenues	95,864,002
Expenditures	<u>97,935,304</u>
Deficit for the year	-2,071,302

Statement of Financial Situation

Financial Assets	113,005,540
Liabilities	<u>201,624,753</u>
Net Financial Assets (Net Debt) –	88,619,213
Non-Financial Assets	<u>83,845,603</u>
Accumulated Surplus (Deficit)	– 4,773,610

These figures are subject to the external auditor's report

Report on Governance:

- Internal controls only deficiency is the segregation of duties;
- RCGT operated at arm's length;
- It was a clean auditor's report with no reserves;
- There has been no fraud.

7.2 Resolution No. ETSB 21-10-15

Deposit of Financial Statements for the year ending June 30, 2021

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

WHEREAS the Secretary General gave public notice of the date, time and place of the presentation of the financial statements on October 8 and 9, 2021;

WHEREAS the Director General published a summary of the annual financial statements of the School Board in three local newspapers on October 15 and 16, 2021;

WHEREAS the external auditors have deposited their report to the School Board;

IT WAS MOVED BY Commissioner J. Humenuik that the financial statements for the year ending June 30, 2021 be received as tabled.

Carried unanimously

8. REPORTS

8.1 Director General's report

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

8.2 Chair's report

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

This is my first formal report since the new school year began. I will keep it short but I want to let everyone know that we have turned a corner. Last year and at the beginning of this year, we were preoccupied with adjusting to constantly changing public health directives and the attendant stress on all our personnel. Now that the new school year has been launched successfully, we have refocused on student success and progress toward our academic and organizational goals. It is refreshing to feel things returning to normal, or at least to a new normal that involves masks, hand-washing, social distancing and constant vigilance. Some examples include resuming sports and in-school activities. Music is back up and running at Massey Vanier in Cowansville. Sunnyside hosted a track meet for neighbouring schools including Ayers Cliff, North Hatley and Lennoxville. Alexander Galt and Massey Vanier high school teams took part in soccer tournaments and Richmond Regional held its first soccer game on campus in almost two years.

COVID-19 infection and outbreaks in schools across Quebec have plateaued. Vaccination of secondary students is being credited with stabilizing the situation. ETSB has the highest rate of fully vaccinated secondary students among the English boards at over 90%. The next phase of the effort to control COVID will be to vaccinate elementary-school students. The government is moving quickly to prepare for approval to vaccinate children between the ages of 5 and 11, the last major segment of the population remaining entirely unprotected. At ETSB, we can congratulate our personnel for the very effective limitation of cases that remains far below the average in our region.

In that context, I want to recognize our personnel in maintenance of buildings and grounds and of our technological infrastructure. They are often overlooked or taken for granted when we speak of issues in education, but maintaining environments conducive to learning and student success is an essential element of education. A large measure of our success in suppressing COVID in schools must be attributed to the maintenance personnel who clean, disinfect and refresh classrooms, gyms and cafeterias. Those schools are also undergoing substantial upgrades. In the past few years, we have

been granted very substantial amounts of financing for capital projects to improve buildings, playgrounds and systems. It takes skilled, dedicated personnel to manage those millions, identifying those sites most in need of new windows, doors, roofs, plumbing, heating and electrical support. We have upgraded and beautified many schools as well as increasing efficiency of services and continue to do so thanks to their efforts. Only yesterday at around 7:30 in the evening, I was advised of a breakdown at Heroes' Elementary in Cowansville that might have left nearly half that building without heat. This morning I learned that our personnel, working through the night, managed to correct the problem and today students and staff can function in comfort. I am happy to extend, on your behalf, special appreciation for our many unsung heroes.

We suffered a shock on October first when a letter from the Treasury Board instructed us (and all other boards) not to count on funding for salary increases, pay equity adjustments or retroactive payments in their 2020-2021 accounts. Apparently, this is due to some of the negotiated and widely announced collective agreements not yet signed or not having received sanction from the Treasury Board. We had already proceeded with those increases in calculating our liabilities and assumed the funds would follow. The result for ETSB was to create a very substantial deficit as was reported by the auditors earlier this evening. No indication has been given of how the government intends to fund the amounts negotiated once the contracts are signed.

We struggle with the increasing amounts of program funding that are decentralized to schools rather than administered centrally at the Board. We have many small schools and in most cases, the funding is based on the number of students in each building. Amounts attributed to schools for special needs services, library services, early intervention, homework and many other desirable supports for students are too small and diverse to be useful. Our small schools often have part-time principals, so the administrative burden of dealing with such targeted funding is beyond their capacity when added to the roles of pedagogical leader, general administrator and parent communicator. Add to those issues the shortage of skilled and qualified specialists to deliver services and it becomes clear that this highly decentralized approach is impractical in all but the largest schools. The result is a growing challenge in using funds effectively and all too often schools are unable to use them at all. Despite the official decentralization of these very substantial resources, it has become apparent that internally within ETSB our students will be better served by grouping the amounts together centrally. Over the coming months, we will be developing ways to do so while maintaining equity for all.

English school boards are gradually moving toward holding public meetings in person. Our experience at ETSB holding meetings on ZOOM has been positive but as some Commissioners have pointed out, it still falls short of meeting in person for collaboration and informal exchanges. However, our boardroom is not easily adapted to the spacing requirements and other mitigation measures required under the COVID-19 guidelines, particularly for significant numbers. Consequently, we have decided to proceed with caution. The next phase, to begin in January will be to hold our internal committee meetings in a blended concurrent model, some Commissioners physically present and others online. We will continue to monitor the level of COVID contagion in the community and public health guidelines as we progressively extend the invitation for the public to attend. I anticipate that we will continue to offer the option of attending virtually to the public.

With that, I will wish you all a Happy Halloween and look forward to our continuing progress.

9. **ADVISORY COMMITTEES' REPORTS**

9.1 **Executive Committee**

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

- Staffing plan;
- Various resolutions reviewed.

9.2 **Governance and Ethics Committee**

The Chair of the Governance and Ethics Committee, Commissioner R. Gagnon, mentioned the topics discussed at the October 19, 2021 meeting:

- Business arising:
 - ✓ By-Law modification;
 - ✓ Code of Ethics / Human Resources (HR) Initiatives – Proposed Code of Ethics is out for consultation;
 - ✓ Report on Symposium;
 - ✓ Resumption of the Blended Concurrent meetings.
- New Business:
 - ✓ Rules of Internal procedures regarding ZOOM meetings – E. Campbell is working on the protocol.

The date of the next Governance & Ethics meeting is scheduled for November 2, 2021.

9.3 **Audit Advisory Committee**

The Chair of the Audit Advisory Committee, Commissioner J. Humenuik mentioned the topics discussed at the October 12, 2021 meeting:

- Buildings & Grounds:
 - ✓ Princess Elizabeth Elementary School (PEES) – Corridor renovation;
 - ✓ *CARME (Comité des Achats Regroupés de la Montérégie Estrie)* – School furniture;
 - ✓ Underground reservoirs dismantle;
 - ✓ Lennoxville Elementary School (LES) – Wall repair & Mural;
 - ✓ Parkview Elementary School (PES) – Sanitary Block Renovations.

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 21-10-16 Lennoxville Elementary School – Wall repair & Mural

WHEREAS the Eastern Townships School Board (ETSB) would like to integrate a mural on Lennoxville Elementary School's (LES) outdoor wall;

WHEREAS the estimated cost of the mural is \$57,255 + taxes;

WHEREAS some repairs were needed, buildings & grounds accepted to participate to this project for an amount up to \$30,000 from the *Réfection et Transformation des Bâtiments (RTB) mesure 50624*;

WHEREAS the mural would replace the need to renovate the wall as well as brighten up the building;

WHEREAS LES plans to finance the remainder by fundraising and rentals;

WHEREAS approval was obtained from the Governing Board;

IT WAS MOVED BY Commissioner G. Barnett 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 21-10-17 Parkview Elementary School – Sanitary Bloc 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 it was moved by resolution #E21-01-54, on January 27, 2021, that a company known today as *Construction Bugère Inc.* be awarded a contract in the amount of \$387,500, including professional fees and taxes, for the project stated above;

WHEREAS an additional amount of \$84,175 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 \$471,675;

WHEREAS all additional funds required to complete the project will be taken from *MDB - Maintien des bâtiments 2019-20 Mesure: 50621* program;

IT WAS MOVED BY Commissioner A. McCrory 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 21-10-18
Princess Elizabeth Elementary School – Corridor renovation

WHEREAS the *ministère de l'Éducation (MEQ)* approved a budget of \$232,413 for the project stated above, under the program *MDB - Maintien des bâtiments 2019-2020 Mesure: 50621*;

WHEREAS it was moved by resolution #E21-03-73, on March 24, 2021, that a company known today as *Construction Yves Lessard Inc.* be awarded a contract in the amount of \$235,504, including professional fees and taxes, for the project stated above;

WHEREAS the amount of \$53,168 to pay for all modification orders, additional work and professional fees (including taxes), is required to finish the project;

WHEREAS an additional amount for the contract including all modification orders, additional work, and professional fees (including taxes), adds up to \$288,672;

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 H. Turgeon 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 21-10-19
Comité des achats regroupés de la Montérégie Estrie (CARME) – Call for tenders for purchase of school furniture and flexible furniture

WHEREAS many Service Centres and School Boards of the *Montérégie* and *Etrie* region have informally joined together in an association called the *Comité des achats regroupés de l'Estrie et de la Montérégie (CARME)* so that either the Service Centres and/or the School Boards can conduct consolidated call for tenders, if necessary;

WHEREAS it is in the interest of *CARME* to include a method of awarding a commission contract concluded with several suppliers so that orders can be assigned to one of the suppliers whose price does not exceed 10% of the lowest price;

WHEREAS the General Auditor of Quebec identifies the group purchasing process as a cost-saving initiative as mentioned in their 2010-2011 report processing of school board administration fees;

WHEREAS the procurement policy for supply, service and construction contracts, which encourages group purchases of goods and services whenever possible and is beneficial to the School Board;

WHEREAS it is in the interest of the School Board to conduct a call for tenders grouped for the purchase of the items listed below in order to save money;

WHEREAS the planned call for tenders will aim to agree on a contract of thirty-one (31) months for the school furniture and thirty (30) months for the flexible furniture, which will allow to obtain a better price;

WHEREAS the Eastern Townships School Board (ETSB) took notice of the proposal and agreed upon systems proposed;

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 21-10-20
Butler Elementary School – Windows & Doors replacement

WHEREAS the *ministère de l'Éducation* (MEQ) approved a budget of \$367,250 for the project stated above, under the program *MDB Maintien des Batiments 2019-2020 Mesure: 50622*;

WHEREAS seven (7) 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 \$146,270 (excluding taxes), was received by the company *J.L. Priest Inc.*;

WHEREAS after reviewing the bids, the assigned professional firm of *David Leslie Architecte* has recommended the company *J.L. Priest Inc.* the lowest bidder in conformity to do the work for the amount of \$205,174, including taxes and professional fees;

WHEREAS the company *J.L. Priest Inc.* withdrew from the contract and paid the difference between his bid and the second best bid, being the company *Élite Construction R.S. Inc.*;

WHEREAS the company *Élite Construction R.S. Inc.*, second lowest bidder in conformity, accepted the contract to do the work for the amount of \$211,763, including taxes and professional fees;

IT WAS MOVED BY Commissioner J. Humenuik 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

The date of the next Audit Advisory meeting is scheduled for November 16, 2021.

9.4 Educational Advisory Committee

The Chair of the Educational Advisory Committee, M. E. Kirby presented the topics discussed at the September 21st meeting:

- Innovation at Sutton Elementary,
- Ped Services & Complementary Services priorities,
- COVID-19 update
- Multimedia equipment purchase

The following resolution was presented by the Director of Instructional Technology and Pedagogical Services – Eva Lettner:

9.4.1 Resolution No. ETSB 21-10-21 Service contract for professional development in Mathematics

WHEREAS in partnership with Leadership Committee for English Education in Québec (LCEEQ), the Eastern Townships School Board (ETSB) has been promoting professional development in Mathematics over the past 7 years led by the Math DNA team;

WHEREAS the professional development offered promotes students' intellectual engagement through a shift in teaching practices to consider conceptual-based learning;

WHEREAS teachers from each of the 9 English school boards were invited to participate in this professional development through a 3-year commitment to a Math Summer Learning Institute;

WHEREAS participation in the Summer Learning Institute was only available to a select number of participants during the month of August;

WHEREAS only elementary schools were targeted during the first years in the offer of professional development;

WHEREAS the ETSB wishes to ensure that our high school Mathematics teachers are exposed to this training to ensure continuity in teaching practices and an increase in student success rates;

WHEREAS our high school teachers would benefit from the expertise of the Math DNA team on making sense of mathematics for teaching and creating shared visions of classroom instruction that advance student achievement;

WHEREAS a representative from the Math DNA team, Dr. Fashid Safi, was approached to support a professional development plan over 7 days for the ETSB for a total cost of \$22,000 USD, including travel;

IT WAS MOVED BY Commissioner M. E. Kirby to authorize the Director General to sign a project contract with Dr. Farshid Safi to the amount of \$22,000 USD for the 2021-2022 school year, 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 of the Educational Advisory Committee, M.E. Kirby, mentioned that the date of the next ESAC meeting is scheduled for November 30, 2021.

9.5 Communications Advisory Committee

The Chair of the Communications Advisory Committee, M. Mercure, mentioned the following:

- The October meeting had been cancelled;
- Incoming student population is up by approximately 100 students;
- Elementary schools have a low incoming student population while High Schools have had an increase.

The date of the next Communications Advisory meeting is scheduled for December 14, 2021.

9.6 Human Resources Advisory Committee

The Chair of the Human Resources Advisory Committee, C. Beaubien, mentioned the topics discussed at the October 5, 2021 meeting:

- 2021-2022 HR Priorities :
 - ✓ Absenteeo;
 - ✓ Recruiting – national Canadian site;
 - ✓ Hiring banner on each school;
 - ✓ Advertisement on school maintenance vehicles;
 - ✓ ETSB 2-minute blitz on local radio stations.
- Code of Ethics update for employees – Consultation;
- Summary of various agreements;
- Formative assessment of teachers;
- Mentoring of new teachers;

- School Calendar – National Day for Truth and Reconciliation: Federal holiday, but not recognized as a Provincial holiday, therefore, it will not be part of our school calendar.

The date of the next Human Resources Advisory meeting is scheduled for January 11, 2022.

9.7 Transportation Advisory Committee

The Chair of the Transportation Advisory Committee, Commissioner G. Holliday, mentioned that the date of the next meeting is scheduled on November 9, 2021.

9.8 Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC)

The Special Education Advisory Committee Parent Commissioner, E. McKnight mentioned the topics discussed at the October 13, 2021 meeting:

- SEAC updating the IEP brochure at next meeting;
 - ✓ Elections were held and new and returning members filled all roles.

The date of the next SEAC meeting is scheduled for November 10, 2021.

10. PARENTS' COMMITTEE

The Commissioner representing parents, D. Zigby, mentioned the topics discussed at the October 13, 2021 meeting:

- Code of Ethics special presentation – Loyalty and confidential information;
- Approval of SEAC members;
- Elections:
 - ✓ Chair – D. Zigby;
 - ✓ Vice-Chair – D. Proulx.
- Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) East and West:
 - ✓ Eastern sector – A. Stremmelaar;
 - ✓ Western sector – J. Wright.
- *Regroupement des comités de parents autonomes du Québec (RCPAQ)* Delegates:
 - ✓ 1st delegate of *Fédération des comités de parents du Québec (FCPQ)* – D. Zigby;
 - ✓ 2nd delegate of *FCPQ* – S. Elger.
- Rules of Internal Procedure – presented by D. Zigby.

The date of the next Parents' Advisory meeting is scheduled for November 3, 2021.

11. STUDENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

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

- There will be a meeting on October 14, 2021 in order to get to know each other;
- There will be an election process for positions;
- Sensitivity training – what students would like to see addressed;

- Tik Tok school challenge;
- Terry Fox runs;
- Truth and Reconciliation days.

The date of the next Student Advisory Committee meeting is scheduled for November 11, 2021.

12. QESBA

- J. Kelley is vice-president of the Association;
- We are still waiting on the Bill 40 judgment;
- Two provinces – New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island – have reinstated their school boards;
- QESBA presented a brief on Bill 96;
- PD plan for commissioners is being developed;
- Canadian School Board Association (CSBA) in Saskatoon in July 2022.

13. COMMISSIONER'S COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS

Commissioner G. Barnett:

Lennoxville Elementary School (LES)

- Enrolment is up to 331 students;
- The Pre-kindergarten section was finished late and furniture was delayed. LES borrowed furniture to get this up and running;
- The cafeteria is open. The three kindergarten classes eat in the cafeteria 15 minutes early. Pre-kindergarten classes eat in their classrooms;
- Grades 1 to 6 students that eat hot lunch, eat in the cafeteria, while those who don't have hot lunch eat outside;
- There are 93 Daycare children (60 regular and 33 sporadic);
- Registration invitations are sent to parents in advance of Planning Days.

Alexander Galt Regional High School (AGRHS)

- There are still some COVID-19 restrictions, but there are baby steps in a return to normalcy with subsequent evaluations;
- Lockers are being used, some inter-school sports and some trips are underway with a proof of passport, which is recorded;
- The Bill 56 – Anti-Bullying showed few incidents last year, but there was an increase this year with Tik-Tok challenges causing concern;
- AGRHS has good police contacts and involvement in anti-violence and anti-bullying programs;

- AGRHS is looking at how to coordinate the many community offers for service;
- The Tell-Them-From-Me survey is underway;
- The mental welfare of students caused by COVID-19 restrictions is a concern and there is an intervention structure in place for students needing additional support.

Eastern Townships Adult General Education (ETAGE)

- The October 21st meeting concerned the size of the Governing Board, which remains at 16 members;
- Recruitment of community representatives was also discussed.

Lennoxville Vocational Training Centre (LVTC)

- ATE Welding still has only four students who are paid and learn on the job. This is a new approach for teachers;
- The individualized group is also underway plus the 2ForU program has 20 students (14 new);
- These students can switch to individualized programs when they finish school;
- The new Director wants to get the new LVTC *Formation Professionnelle* – Training Centre sign in place and then work on the separate entrance with perhaps a special welded structure to attract attention;
- The third IHCA-PAB cohort for the CHSLD started in September;
- LVTC meets twice a week with three other Boards to plan, discuss best practices, finances and develop English courses.

Commissioner C. Beaubien:

Lennoxville Vocational Training Centre (LVTC)

- Ms. Johanna Bisson, Assistant-Director would like a bilingual sign that lights up. Ms. Bisson also says that they would like their own door to enter the school.
- Regarding winter concerns, there would be lots of work to do with the hill and ice.

Commissioner F. MacGregor:

Clarification on the 2.7 million dollars that the Government owes the School Board. Does the Government allow us to offer the retroactive pay before the grant monies come in?

Jeff Pauw, Director of HR:

Mr. Jeff Pauw, Director of Human Resources answered that we will owe monies based on the new agreements signed, which represents approximately a 2% increase per year over 3 years. We are not being financed at this time, so this has to be represented as a loss in the budget in the Financial Statements for the year ending June 30, 2021.

Commissioner A. McCrory:

Ms. McCrory commented regarding the elimination of the Ethics and Religious Culture Program (ERC) in the current curriculum. She said that no teacher or Board was consulted when this new program was tabled: *Citizenship and Culture*.

Michael Murray, President:

Mr. Murray responded saying that we have not seen the course, it's still obscure and typical CAQ process to announce it as "fait accompli", when in fact, it's far from complete and ready to go.

Eva Lettner, Director of Instructional Technology and Pedagogical Services

Ms. Lettner said there is a call to pilot the program in the upcoming weeks. However, there is no information at this time.

14. UPCOMING EVENTS

None.

15. CORRESPONDENCE

None.

16. QUESTION PERIOD

M. Seline

ATA President:

Regarding the new teacher evaluation tool, what is the timeline and who is involved in the revamp?

J. Pauw

Director of Human Resources:

Educational Services and Human Resources are in the planning stages. The current evaluation package has done its time. Various groups will be consulted before this new evaluation tool is launched.

M. Seline

ATA President:

Clarification – Correction of the "misprints" in The Record: 1st correction is the misprint of the CBM acronym, which reads CMP at one point in The Record article. The 2nd correction was asked by M. Seline regarding the relations between Val-des-Cerfs and the CBM Centre at the September Council meeting. The

Record's article, dated September 30, 2021, referred to the successful relationship that the Board has with Val-des-Cerfs.

M. McCully

The Record, journalist:

Mr. McCully asked the Board to ask Megan Seline to explain her clarification.

M. Murray

ETSB Chair:

Mr. Murray asked M. Seline to explain her question.

M. Seline

ATA President:

The Eastern Townships School Board (ETSB) and Val-des-Cerf's relationship has been brought to the Commissioners over the years. It's the relationship between the two boards and not the relationships between the directors or personnel that is of concern. The issue/strain is not between the directors and Teachers at the Centre and Sutton School. Some readers misinterpreted.

17. GOVERNANCE AND COMMUNICATION

None.

18. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned on a motion by Commissioner R. Gagnon at 8:15 p.m.

Michel Soucy, Director General signing for
Éric Campbell, Secretary General

Michael Murray
Chairman

EC/gm

10.26.2021