

EASTERN TOWNSHIPS SCHOOL BOARD

COUNCIL OF COMMISSIONERS

TUESDAY, JANUARY 25, 2022 – 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	A	Helene Turgeon	Z
Shawn Jersey	A	Daniel Zigby, Vice-Chair	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, Chair	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

Holly Bailey, Communications Consultant

PUBLIC

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

Matthew McCully, The Record

David Proulx, Waterloo Elementary Parent

Charline Rodrigue, Waterloo Elementary Parent

Tara Coulombe, Waterloo Elementary Parent

Lisa Brasseur, Waterloo Elementary Parent

Annie Brasseur, Pope Elementary Parent

Linda Brasseur, Waterloo Elementary Secretary

Ashley Lawrence, Waterloo Elementary Parent

Naomi Royer, Waterloo Elementary Parent

Adriana Lyons, Waterloo Elementary Principal

Barbra Plouffe, Parkview Elementary Principal

MaryAnn Murphy, Heroes' Memorial Elementary Secretary

Liane Flynn, Heroes' Memorial Elementary Interim Principal

Renalee Gore, Knowlton Academy Principal

Kim Graveline, Waterloo Elementary Teacher

Lorie Wheeler-Giroux, Waterloo Elementary HSA Staff

Karen Lemaire, Waterloo Elementary Staff

1. CALL THE MEETING TO ORDER

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

2. QUORUM AND ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

QUORUM WAS ESTABLISHED AND IT WAS MOVED BY Commissioner G. Holliday to adopt the Agenda of January 25, 2022 as deposited.

Carried unanimously

3. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF NOVEMBER 23, 2021

Resolution No. ETSB 22-01-32

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

WHEREAS a copy of the Minutes of the meeting of November 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 November 23, 2021 as modified:

9.3.1.4 WHEREAS the ETSB is implementing a three-year **plan** risk management plan on corruption and ...

WHEREAS the ETSB has assessed the first year of the action plan, reviewed the measures implemented and presented its results to the **Audit Committee**;

9.4.1 The phrase should have read WHEREAS the Eastern Townships School Board did not make modifications to **these** criteria for the enrolment of students for the 2022-2023 school year;

9.4.1 The phrase should have read **IT WAS MOVED BY** Commissioner M.E. Kirby that the Eastern Townships School Board approves the criteria for enrolment of students in schools of the Eastern Townships School Board for the 2022-2023 school year.

Carried unanimously

4. QUESTION PERIOD

M. Seline: Will the Eastern Townships School Board (ETSB) provide N95 masks and rapid tests for teachers?

M. Murray: As of now, the Ministry did not ship nor provide any masks or rapid tests for teachers.

M. Seline: Will the ETSB reimburse the staff if employees buy some for themselves?

M. Murray: We will consider it and will get back to you.

M. Seline: I sent a letter to the Members of Parliament asking the them to create a tax exemption for the education sector workers to pay for their "PPE" (Personal Protective Equipment) to feel safe. Seems to be an appropriate avenue to feel safe and that it doesn't impact their budget. Is it possible to reach out to the deputies and ask for compensation for teachers that must buy their own PPE?

M. Murray: I would be happy to look into it at the next meeting, thank you for sending the letter to the Secretary General please.

C. Rodrigue: Is it normal for a teacher to go at school to get tested and then circulate within the school with a positive result?

M. Murray: I'm not sure what you are alluding to. It is normal to test at school if teachers are there. The teacher probably felt it was important to have that closure with students, in saying goodbye. More precautions should have been applied.

M. Seline: At the last Council meeting, the article in The Record indicated that Chair Mr. Murray and the Board were in discussions with the unions. Is the Council aware that the union wasn't in discussion with the ETSB on this? Contrary to what was reported in The Record, does the ETSB know that the union never met with the ETSB regarding the health of staff?

M. Murray: The ETSB received input on this matter from union members.

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

5. RECOGNITION OF EXCELLENCE

Chairman M. Murray invited the following to present the January 25, 2022 Recognition of Excellence:



- **Commissioner G. Barnett:** Every year during the month of December, the Bishop's University men's basketball team jump into action and raise funds for the Alexander Galt Christmas Basket Campaign! Historically, the team bags groceries at the local Provigo for this cause. This year with the global pandemic changing the game plan once again, the team members still upheld this holiday tradition brought forth by former assistant coach, Charles Kobelt, that spans back more than a decade. Led by former Galt Piper and Bishop's Gaiter James Murray and his teammates, the Gaiters ran a digital campaign to raise funds in lieu of their usual grocery bagging. The Gaiters reached their goal and raised \$2,000 to be distributed between 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 commitment to this important annual holiday tradition, which dates back to 2009. As well, we extend our thanks on behalf of all those families who benefited from the communities' and for the Gaiters Men's Basketball Teams' generosity.



THANK YOU!



THANK YOU!



THANK YOU!

- **Commissioner G. Holliday:** The *Fédération des Transporteurs par Autobus* is celebrating its 34th edition of School Bus Safety Weeks from January 31st to February 11th 2022. Once again, this year's slogan is "Did 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 when crossing roads. We would like to take this opportunity to recognize the hard work and commitment 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.

DID YOU SEE ME? 



- **Commissioner M. Mercure:** Every year in February, it is our sincere pleasure to celebrate Teacher Appreciation Week. This year, the week of February 6th to the 12th, is a time to recognize the incredible contribution that teachers make each and every day in their students' lives. Here at the ETSB, we would like to say thank you to all our teachers for their resiliency, resourcefulness and all-around hard work! We encourage students, parents and administrators to take a moment during Teacher Appreciation Week, to show their gratitude and say thank you to the teachers in their school or centre.

**OUR
ACTIONS,
A+ IN
THEIR
SUCCESS!**



FEBRUARY 14 – 18, 2022

**HOOKED ON
SCHOOL
DAYS**
#JPS2022



**YOU
MAKE IT
MEANINGFUL**

- **Commissioner M. E. Kirby:** February is also the month when we celebrate school perseverance with the "Hooked on School Days". From February 14th to 18th, communities throughout Quebec will be taking action to encourage youth to stay in school and create a healthy study/work/life balance to ensure their academics are a top priority. This year's slogan "You make it meaningful" is to remind everyone that we choose where we put our focus and efforts, and that our success reflects our investment. We would like to take this moment to congratulate our students for persevering despite all of the challenges of late and we salute them for their hard work – it's paying off!

6. BUSINESS ARISING

There was no business arising.

7. NEW BUSINESS

7.1 Presentation of the 2020-2021 Annual Report

The Director General, M. Soucy submitted and presented the 2020-2021 Annual Report. The Director of Instructional Technology and Pedagogical Services, E. Lettner also participated in the presentation. [Click here](#) to access the 2020-2021 Annual Report, which was received by the Council of Commissioners.

7.2 Resolution No. ETSB 22-01-33 Heroes' Memorial Elementary School – Appointment of Principal

WHEREAS the position of Principal 100% of the Heroes' Memorial Elementary School became vacant with the long-term leave of absence of Ms. Anne Stairs;

WHEREAS the position has been advertised throughout the Eastern Townships School Board (ETSB) territory through the internal posting procedures for the Eastern Townships Association of Administrators (ETAA) and to Management members;

WHEREAS the Selection Committee unanimously recommends Ms. Katrina Paxton to the Council of Commissioners;

WHEREAS a Commissioner's Sub-Committee was formed to meet with the candidate in view to share their appreciation to the Executive of the Council of Commissioners;

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

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

IT WAS MOVED BY Commissioner J. Murray that the Council of Commissioners appoint Ms. Katrina Paxton, Principal of Heroes' Memorial Elementary School effective January 26, 2022.

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:

Yesterday the Minister of Education of Quebec, Jean-Francois Roberge, held a press conference to announce the grand success of the first week of reopening school buildings after the period of distance learning following the Christmas break. Also yesterday we sent a letter to all parents, one of the many communications over the past month, concerning the risk that we may need to cancel bus runs at short notice due to the absence of drivers. While untrained individuals can supervise a classroom of students, you will be reassured to learn that no unqualified drivers will be transporting children.

There has been little clarity in some of the communications and frequent changes of rules so I believe it is important to summarize our current situation. However, these conditions may change with little or no notice. You should understand that school boards are being given explicit instructions on how to function that are not all made public. Note that the Minister's press conference shed very little info on this.

Prevention of COVID-19 transmission in schools has effectively been abandoned. While students and staff are still required to wear masks there is no contact tracing, no isolation of contacts, no case tracking and no notification of parents when a case is confirmed in their child's school or class. There will henceforth be no announcement of outbreaks. Windows are to be opened to freshen air but the CO₂ detectors now partially deployed are not to be taken literally and measures of extreme concentrations are not to be made public. The Ministry prefers to average the data so that overnight lows will serve to offset daytime concentrations in published statistics. I am reminded of the old adage that figures don't lie but liars figure.

Schools are forbidden to close classes and school boards are forbidden to close schools. This measure allows the Minister to announce with great pride that there has been no breakdown of educational services. Moments later, the Minister admitted that in some cases parents have been asked to supervise classes while the teacher, sick with COVID-19, teaches the class from isolation via internet. Also, perhaps on the margin, he admitted some classes have been closed but not reported to him. Apparently, the Minister is not, perhaps never has been, concerned over the quality of education of our students as long as they attend school.

The government clearly is unconcerned for the health and well-being of school personnel, since their exposure to contagion and illness is assumed. There has been systematic refusal to provide high-quality N95 masks to staff or air exchangers for classes. The Minister even claimed that there are hundreds of air exchangers available to school boards upon request but that few requests have been received. ETSB did request air exchangers some time ago – told they will arrive any day now. School boards have been instructed to prepare lists of replacements for sick teachers, particularly by appealing to retired teachers to return but also transferring personnel and, yes, inviting parents to volunteer. In fact, many of our retired teachers are subbing and some have stepped forward. They were told that their pension wouldn't be affected and they will be paid at the highest level. Yesterday, he announced that pay for retirees who accept the call would be at top of scale and would not impact their pensions. ETSB is in the process of contacting retirees all the way back to 2015 to invite them to serve as spares.

The Minister went on to tell parents that they have no need for information on the number of cases in schools or whether their children have been exposed since they are required by law to send their children to school unless they are ill. Information on absenteeism is being collected but the Minister declined to reveal how many. Among the many confusing instructions issued by the Minister is for teachers to open windows to refresh classroom air, but to use discretion in cold weather. It is unclear whether a teacher should be more attentive to student comfort with the indoor temperature or to student health. Their own health mentioned previously is not an issue.

It is hardly surprising that amid such conflicted chaotic and rapidly changing orders, school staff are extremely stressed. The entire burden of student safety, health and security has been downloaded onto their shoulders. I can only ask for parents to be understanding and flexible. We have great people doing their utmost to serve your children in difficult circumstances with little appreciation or consideration from the authorities.

9. ADVISORY COMMITTEES' REPORTS

9.1 Executive Committee

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

9.2 Governance and Ethics Committee

The Chair of the Governance and Ethics Committee, Commissioner R. Gagnon, mentioned the topics discussed at the December 7, 2021 meeting:

- COVID-19 update;
- By-Laws Review update;
- Advisory Committee Format – ZOOM meetings until February 2022;
- Process for Policy Development – To be discussed in the new year.

The date of the next Governance & Ethics meeting is scheduled for February 1st 2022.

9.3 Audit Advisory Committee

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

9.3.1 Finance:

9.3.1.1 Resolution No. ETSB 22-01-34 Interest Rate on Overdue Taxes and Other Overdue Receivables

WHEREAS Section 316 of the *Education Act* requires that school boards establish an interest rate on overdue school taxes;

WHEREAS school boards should also establish the interest rate for other overdue receivables;

WHEREAS the interest rate per annum will be clearly identified on the tax bills and other invoices;

WHEREAS from July 2015 to June 2019, as per resolution ETSB15-05-147, the Eastern Townships School Board interest rate on overdue tax accounts and other overdue receivables was set at 15%;

WHEREAS according to Section 42 of the Act to establish a single school tax rate adopted on April 2019, the Minister must mention in the *Gazette Officielle*, the applicable interest rate;

WHEREAS the following interest rates were published annually in the *Gazette Officielle*:

2019-2020	7%
2020-2021	7%
2021-2022	5%

IT WAS MOVED BY Commissioner J. Humenuik that the Eastern Townships School Board adopts the prescribed rates on overdue tax accounts and other overdue receivables as per the rates published annually in the *Gazette Officielle*.

Carried unanimously

9.3.1.2 Resolution No. ESTB 22-01-01-35
Heroes' Memorial Elementary School and Campus Brome Missisquoi –
Signing Officers for Schools/Centres

WHEREAS the Eastern Townships School Board (“ETSB”) appointed the National Bank to provide banking services;

WHEREAS the accepted bid received from the National Bank also includes banking services for ETSB schools and centres;

WHEREAS the National Bank requires the names of representatives authorized to sign banking documents on behalf of ETSB schools and centres;

WHEREAS new principal and secretary assignments have changed the names of the representatives at the Campus Brome Missisquoi - Vocational Training and Heroes' Memorial Elementary School;

WHEREAS only those individuals listed below are authorized to sign for their respective school/centre;

IT WAS MOVED BY Commissioner J. Humenuik that the following individuals be authorized to sign banking documents on behalf of their respective school/centre:

Campus Brome Missisquoi - Vocational Training	Liette Béchard
	Lisa-Anne Payne
	Erika Bazin

Heroes' Memorial Elementary School

Katrina Paxton
Mary-Ann Murphy

Carried unanimously

9.3.2 **Material Resources:**

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

9.3.2.1 **Resolution No. ETSB 21-01-36** **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 *RDE – Résorption du déficit d'entretien 2018-2019 Mesure: 50626*;

WHEREAS a company known today as *Comco Entrepreneur en Bâtiment* was awarded a contract in the amount of \$261,867 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 \$74,159 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 \$336,026;

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 J. Murray 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

9.3.2.2 **Resolution No. ETSB 21-01-37** **Heroes' Memorial Elementary School – Outside Doors and Marquise Renovation**

WHEREAS the *Ministère de l'Éducation (MEQ)* approved a budget of \$371,860 for the project stated above, under the program *MDB – Maintien des bâtiments 2019-2020 Mesure: 50622*;

WHEREAS a company known today as *Construction GCP Inc.* was awarded a contract in the amount of \$428,897 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 \$51,949 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 \$480,846;

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

IT WAS MOVED BY Commissioner J. Murray 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

9.3.2.3 Resolution No. ETSB 21-01-38
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 a company known today as *Construction Encore Inc.* was awarded a contract in the amount of \$271,100 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 \$29,417.50 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 \$300,518;

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

9.3.2.4 Resolution No. ETSB 21-01-39
Alexander Galt Regional High School – Electric Panels Replacement

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 three (3) companies retrieved the project specifications after a public invitation to bid on the project;

WHEREAS three (3) bids were received by the Eastern Townships School Board by the date and time specified;

WHEREAS the lowest bid in the amount of \$95,832 (excluding taxes), was received from the company *E.C.E. Électrique Inc.*;

WHEREAS after reviewing the bids, the company *E.C.E. Électrique Inc.* the lowest bidder in conformity, to do the work for the amount of \$118,462, including professional fees and taxes;

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

9.3.2.5 Resolution No. ETSB 21-01-40
Sunnyside Elementary School – K4 Renovation

WHEREAS the *Ministère de l'Éducation (MEQ)* approved a budget of \$278,896 for the project stated above, under the program *RDE – Résorption du déficit d'entretien 2020-2021 Mesure: 50621*;

WHEREAS a company known today as *Construction Encore Ltée* was awarded a contract in the amount of \$213,337 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 \$72,490 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 \$285,827;

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

9.3.2.6 Resolution No. ETSB 21-01-41
Sherbrooke Elementary School – Kitchen and Cafeteria Renovation

WHEREAS the *Ministère de l'Éducation (MEQ)* approved a budget of \$604,274 for the project stated above, under the program *MDB - Maintien des bâtiments 2021-2022 Mesure: 50621*;

WHEREAS three (3) companies retrieved the project specifications after a public invitation to bid on the project;

WHEREAS three (3) bids were received by the Eastern Townships School Board by the date and time specified;

WHEREAS the lowest bid in the amount of \$489,794 (including taxes), was received from the company *Grondin Marois Inc.*;

WHEREAS after reviewing the bids, the company *Grondin Marois Inc.* is the lowest bidder in conformity, to do the work for the amount of \$542,970, including professional fees and taxes;

IT WAS MOVED BY Commissioner M. Mercure 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

9.3.2.7 Resolution No. ETSB 21-01-42
Clarenceville Elementary School – Building Sale

WHEREAS the Clarenceville Elementary School has been offered to public organizations with the intention of selling it;

WHEREAS the Town of *Saint-George de Clarenceville (TSGC)* has shown interest in acquiring the property;

WHEREAS the *Société Québécoise des Infrastructures (SQI)* have led the alienation process;

WHEREAS negotiations between the Eastern Townships School Board (ETSB) and the TSGC has led to a verbal agreement under condition of each other's council acceptance;

WHEREAS the ETSB accepts to assume the cost of the decontamination;

WHEREAS the TSGC accepts to assume the cost of the demolition;

WHEREAS once TSGC has passed a resolution to this effect and the agreement has been notarized, the ETSB accepts to sell the land for \$1;

IT WAS MOVED BY Commissioner M. Murray to allow the Eastern Townships School Board to alienate this asset complying with the procedure in place; **IT WAS FURTHER MOVED** that the Director General and/or the Director of Material Resources be authorized to sign all associated documentation.

Carried unanimously

9.3.2.8 Resolution No. ETSB 21-01-43

Asbestos-Danville-Shipton, Sutton and Butler Elementary Schools – Playground Annual Project

WHEREAS the Eastern Townships School Board (ETSB) offers a financial aid of \$75,000 in playground improvement for three schools every year. An equal amount of \$25,000 is available to each school's project;

WHEREAS for every playground improvement project, the ETSB will contribute to a maximum of \$25,000;

WHEREAS the *Ministère de l'Éducation du Québec* (MEQ) will contribute up to \$50,000 per school playground project;

WHEREAS the ETSB will offer this recurring financial participation of \$75,000 annually;

WHEREAS the ETSB will use the monies from its global envelope of the *RTB – Réfection et transformation des Bâtiments* program to assume its share of the project;

IT WAS MOVED BY Commissioner T. Pezzi-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

The date of the next Audit Advisory meeting is scheduled for February 15, 2022

9.4 Educational Advisory Committee

The Chair of the Educational Advisory Committee, M.E. Kirby, mentioned the topics discussed at the November 30, 2021 meeting:

- COVID-19 update;
- Secondary 1 in Elementary Schools;
- Review of priority items for discussion in 2021-2022;

- Homework guidelines;
- Demystifying Vocational Training and Adult Education;
- Graduation/Certification Results June 2021;
- Mission/Visions/Values Proposal;
- Glissades d'Été Projects 2021;
- Diversity, Equity and Inclusion.

The date of the next ESAC meeting is scheduled for February 8, 2022.

9.5 Communications Advisory Committee

The Chair of the Communications Advisory Committee, M. Mercure, mentioned that the date of the next Communications Advisory meeting is scheduled for March 29, 2022.

9.6 Human Resources Advisory Committee

The Director of the Human Resources, J. Pauw, mentioned the topics discussed at the January 11, 2022 meeting:

- Negotiations update;
- Grievances – no new grievances;
- HR priorities;
- COVID-19 update;
- Mentoring of new teachers update;
- Code of Ethics for employees update;
- Training – Secretaries, Attendants and Technicians;
- Information on Allergies;
- Staffing sessions – Teachers.

The date of the next Human Resources Advisory meeting is scheduled for April 12, 2022.

9.7 Transportation Advisory Committee

The Member of the Transportation Advisory Committee, Commissioner H. Turgeon, mentioned the topics at the January 18, 2022 meeting:

- Bus drivers recruitment;
- Bus safety week – Février 2022;
- 2021-2022 School Bus Bids – Phase 2;
- Parent's Committee – Presentation (January 12, 2022);
- Change of name of transportation contractor added at meeting.

The date of the next Transportation Advisory meeting is scheduled for May 3, 2022.

9.8 Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC)

The Special Education Advisory Committee Parent Commissioner, E. McKnight mentioned the following: SEAC did not have a regular meeting in January; only a subcommittee.

The date of the next SEAC meeting is scheduled for May 13, 2022.

10. PARENTS' COMMITTEE

The Commissioner representing parents, D. Zigby, mentioned the topics discussed at the December 1st 2021 and the January 12, 2022 meetings:

December 1st, 2021:

- Pedagogical services highlights;
- School Calendar 2022-2023;
- Homework issues;
- Risks and benefits of COVID-19 vaccinations;
- RCPAQ Strategic Consultant – Lyne Deschamps;
- Bilingualism;
- Communication breakdown at North Hatley Elementary School;
- School Bus Purchases – going electric;
- Drummondville Elementary School construction on schedule;
- Adopted Deeds of Establishment;
- Adopted Criteria for Enrolment;
- Remembrance Day recognized in many of the schools;
- Review of IEP brochure;
- Student services – standard student portrait;
- Updated Website;
- Parkview Elementary School – lost CPC representative.

January 12, 2022:

- E-Bus passes;
- Incident reports on buses;
- Snow days;
- Bilingualism;
- Online school;
- Bill 9 – proposal to change to a national student ombudsman.

The date of the next Parents' Advisory meeting is scheduled for February 2, 2022.

11. STUDENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

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

On January 13, 2022, the Student Advisory Committee met with Mr. Daniel Coulombe from the radio station CJMQ. Other sessions will also be held with him. Different topics were addressed.

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

12. QESBA

12.1 Nomination to the Board of Directors

Mr. F. MacGregor is reconfirmed in his position as a member of the Board of Directors. Mr. Murray is also reconfirmed in his position on the Executive of QESBA and on the Board of Directors of QESBA. These two names will be sent to QESBA.

IT WAS MOVED BY Commissioner D. Zigby to recognize the Nominations to the Board of Directors.

Carried unanimously

QESBA continues to battle against Bill 21 (secularizing law) with other applicants. QESBA also provided reactions regarding Bill 9 (Student Ombudsman) during the hearings.

Also Bill 9, the QESBA presented to the National Assembly – difficulty with the Ombudsman losing independence and no longer engaged directly by school boards. The complaint process will slow down response and create hoops to jump through in order to get a complaint attended to. Our position is that there should be a designated Ombudsman for the eight English School Boards in order to ensure English parents can address the Ombudsman in their own language.

13. COMMISSIONER'S COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS

M. Mercure: Did we get any decision regarding the Bill 40 challenge?

M. Murray: No, we are still in limbo. We are still waiting for a decision. We have been asked twice for further clarification on the ETSB's position and were told that we might benefit from 24h advance notice when the decision is to go public. It is a constitutional case, which will very likely go to the Supreme Court. The judge may be proceeding cautiously because he is conscious of the impacts of such a decision.

14. UPCOMING EVENTS

None.

15. CORRESPONDENCE

None.

16. QUESTION PERIOD

M. Seline

ATA President:

Does the ETSB have to align its calendar with the Centre de service scolaire Val-des-Cerfs (CSSVDC) calendar?

M. Murray

ETSB Chair:

We do our best to align the calendars, but we are not required to do so. We try for similar holidays, but differences occur every year. Teacher convention, pedagogical days and other occasions when timetables don't match up. We continue to make effort to align them, but we prioritize our programs.

A. Brasseur

WES Parent:

What is the process for a parent who is not satisfied with an Ombudsman report? Why is it not available on the ETSB's website?

M. Murray

ETSB Chair:

Bill 9 seeks to replace the Ombudsman that is directly hired by the School Board. To have an Ombudsman on our territory who is familiar to the broad community is a big advantage. A written complaint should be sent to the Council of Commissioners for the parent to be heard by the Council members at a public meeting or in private (in camera).

A. Brasseur

WES Parent:

To be clear, to make a report at the Board level (if dissatisfied with the Ombudsman's report), which will be submitted to the Council of Commissioners. How many reports/decisions have been overturned by the Board in this process?

M. Murray

ETSB Chair:

None were opposed nor taken through this process to my knowledge.

M. Seline

ATA President:

Heidi Yetman remains dumbfounded by air quality in schools (quotes article in The Record). What is the status of CO₂ sensors, ventilation, air purifiers at ETSB schools and centres? What is the ETSB's position regarding the installation of air exchangers and CO₂ detectors in the schools?

M. Murray

ETSB Chair:

We have asked for some air exchangers, but we are still waiting. CO₂ detectors have already been installed in some of our schools. We can manage several schools in a week. The delay is in them arriving. The Minister says air exchangers are available upon request, which we have requested, but we still haven't received them. For ventilation, we consistently recommend to open windows and doors; assured by public health this will work. We have to rely on them (the authorities) seeing we're not health officials. Opening windows only needs to last a couple of minutes to refresh and change the air.

A. Brasseur

WES Parent:

Regarding graduation percentage rates > 30% of kids have IEPs (Individualized Educational Plan), among them they have 3 to 4 times the non-graduation rate. What percentage of the boost or increase reported in the annual report reflects

these IEP students? What proportion of students with an (IEP) is part of the 5% difference in graduation rates compared with other English school boards?

M. Murray

ETSB Chair:

That is a very involved question, but we can't answer on percentages.

E. Lettner

Pedagogical Director:

We are looking to reduce the gaps between different subgroups. We are working hard and the gaps are being reduced. What's included in the graduation rate is very difficult to determine. We are looking at different pathways for these students to increase their odds.

M. Seline

ATA President:

In regards to the Recognition of Excellence – school centres and teachers appreciate it. Is there a protocol or procedure to bring special events to the Board's attention. Do we send our suggestions to Ms. Bailey? Is it possible for an individual to suggest someone that could be part of the Recognition of Excellence for the Council meeting?

M. Murray

ETSB Chair:

We would love for more stories to be shared. The Communications Department is happy to receive information, etc. Letters and certificates are also sent out to congratulate the students highlighted. Yes, you may send your suggestions to Ms. Bailey or to the Board in general.

17. GOVERNANCE AND COMMUNICATION

None.

18. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned on a motion by Commissioner M. Mercure at 8:18 p.m.

Éric Campbell
Secretary General

Michael Murray
Chairman

EC/gm

01.25.2022