

EASTERN TOWNSHIPS SCHOOL BOARD

COUNCIL OF COMMISSIONERS

TUESDAY, MARCH 22, 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	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	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
Derek Conlon, CTV News
Grade 6 students, Waterloo Elementary School
Karen Lemaire, Waterloo Elementary Parent
Tara Coulombe, Waterloo Elementary Parent
Lisa Brasseur, Pope Elementary Parent
Annie Brasseur, Pope Elementary Parent
Peggy McCourt, Alexander Galt Regional High School Principal
James Lemaître, Sunnyside Elementary School Principal
Adriana Lyons, Waterloo Elementary School Principal
Timothy Croteau, Parkview Elementary Teacher
David Proulx, Waterloo Elementary Parent
Gail Klink, Massey-Vanier High School Parent
Julie Edwards, Eastern Townships School Board Human Resources Assistant Director

1. CALL THE MEETING TO ORDER

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m.

2. QUORUM AND ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

QUORUM WAS ESTABLISHED AND IT WAS MOVED BY Commissioner G. Holliday to adopt the Agenda March 22, 2022 as deposited.

Carried unanimously

3. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF FEBRUARY 22, 2022**Resolution No. ETSB 22-03-52****Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting of the Council of Commissioners held on February 22, 2022**

WHEREAS a copy of the Minutes of the meeting of February 22, 2022 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 February 22, 2022 with the following corrections.

Public Observers: James Lemaître should have read the Principal of Sunnyside and not Sutton.

Recognition of Excellence: Commissioner J. Humenuik reported on the Farnham Elementary School activities.

Carried unanimously

4. QUESTION PERIOD

The Secretary General, E. Campbell read the Question Period norms.

J. Beaugard, WES student: Our Grade 6 class decided to go on strike. We have been bullied, yelled at and humiliated by our teacher. What do the Grade 6 students have to do to be heard by the Board and have our complaints taken seriously?

M. Murray: You must make your complaints clear to your Principal, then the Principal sends said complaint to the Council of Commissioners and the Secretary General. General complaints are difficult to manage. Be specific.

M. Seline: Is the Council aware of a public health survey on mental health for the youth aged 12-25 years old in the Estrie region?

M. Murray: Yes, the Council is aware of the fragile state of mental health of students due to COVID. The Parent's Committee Administrators are aware of this survey. Results will be generated and the Director of Complementary Services, E. Gaudet will share them with the Council.

M. Seline: Does the Council know that the results are specific to the Estrie region?

M. Murray: I repeat; it has been presented by E. Gaudet to the Administrators and to the Parents' Committee. The Council has not yet seen the presentation.

Tara Coulombe: My son is part of the WES group and he has a question.

E. Read-Consela: Our teacher yelled at me and when she realized it, she turned around and asked if I would now run home and tell my mom. Do you encourage students to keep their struggles to themselves? What will happen to the teacher? I feel bullied and unsafe!

M. Murray: Certainly, we do not. We hope that you communicate with your parents and that parents communicate with us. I suggest you do tell your parents and that they use the structures in place to communicate with us. The Principal will have a discussion with the teacher to work out better processes so that you feel comfortable and safe in class.

M. Seline: Regarding the Survey, would the Council entertain the highlights from the report? I can read 5 of them to you if you like.

M. Murray: We prefer to wait to get the full flavour of the report and discuss it at length together.

- M. Seline: Can some of the recommendations that will come out of this survey be put on the Student Advisory Committee agenda?
- M. Murray: We are taking note of it and will follow up on it.
- J. Lefebvre: This question is for Mr. Murray. Did you take the comments from the students seriously when they were saying that they felt unsafe at school? What have you done since you have been informed about the situation?
- M. Murray: We take it very seriously. We have added resources at WES and are working to resolve these issues and have also taken the question seriously. No, we will not give specific details due to confidential information. We are sensitive to the complaints and take action when we find a solution to improve the situation. Staff and personnel are engaged in the process.
- WES Grade 6 student: We have been to the Principal multiple times now and nothing happens, nothing gets done! What have you done?
- M. Murray: Thank you for the question. Many things have been done and we will continue to improve the atmosphere at WES. Things are being done that you are not privy to.
- Tara Coulombe: There was a recent incident at the school where the police got involved. My child was brought in for questioning without me being aware. What is the protocol when police meet with students at school? Is parental authorization needed?
- M. Murray: The Police work independently. We have no control when police investigate. You should communicate with the Principal to know more.
- J. Lefebvre: Who is responsible for the children when they are at school?
- M. Murray: The person taking care of the children is responsible for them.
- J. Lefebvre: So, why were they left alone with the Police?
- M. Murray: Please take it up with the Police; we have no control over their actions.
- J. Beauregard, WES student: You mentioned earlier that things are being done. Can you specify what you have done?
- M. Murray: We have reviewed procedures and have added extra resources. We are working on this situation on a continual basis in order to improve the atmosphere and the situation at WES.

- D. Proulx: What is the procedure if a student gets interrogated by a staff member and asks the children to have their parent present in order to accompany the child in regards to the Police? Can the school refuse the presence of a parent when Police wants to meet with a student?
- E. Campbell: Having the presence of a parent every time that a student requests it when they are meeting with an adult from the school, regarding the function of the school is not realistic nor is it manageable to think a parent can be present at all times. With the police, the school cannot stop parents from being there for the interrogation.
- M. Murray: It is not a policy situation, but judged on a case-by-case basis. These are unique situations, so we are unable to have a general policy that covers all incidents that may arise. Short answer: there is no policy for this.

5. RECOGNITION OF EXCELLENCE

Chairman M. Murray invited the Commissioners to present the March 22, 2022 Recognition of Excellence:

Recognition of Excellence March 22nd 2022

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



DRUMMONDVILLE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL'S Grand Opening!

Commissioner T. Pezzi-Bilodeau: The anticipation and excitement was on high as students, staff and community members of Drummondville proudly unveiled their NEW school. The process to arrive at this moment was long and winding, but thanks to the committed efforts of many, the goal was finally realized on March 8th 2022 when Drummondville Elementary School (DES) officially opened its doors.

DES is the 1st new build since 1968 for the Eastern Townships School Board (ETSB), and the results were well worth the wait! The cutting edge school, with its ergonomic workspaces, minimalist-zen design and technological integration make for a truly inspiring and welcoming learning environment.

A grand press conference was held with the Ministry of Education, local dignitaries and ETSB Commissioners & Directors in attendance for the official ribbon-cutting ceremony. Multiple media outlets were pleased to cover this monumental event “that doesn’t happen every day,” as they stated!

On top of this, a promotional video was produced to showcase the new facilities at DES and capture this special achievement. A community event is also being planned to welcome the broader community and allow them a tour of the school and the chance to join in the celebrations.

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL!

The ETSB community observes Black History Month

Commissioner R. Gagnon: Black History Month was recognized throughout the ETSB during the Month of February. Many interesting and poignant opportunities were created for students and staff to explore our shared history and carry the learning forward. Below, you will find a few highlights from our schools.



**Asbestos-Danville-Shipton Elementary School (ADS) –
Commissioner T. Pezzi-Bilodeau:**

During the month of February, Ms. Viens’ grade 6 students at ADS Elementary School learned about Black History Month. They researched famous Canadians who marked Black History, such as Viola Desmond and Carrie Best & learned about the Underground Railroad and the fascinating journey of Harriet Tubman. Ms. Palik, principal of ADS, visited the class to share her experience living and teaching in West Africa. She also shared pictures, artifacts and the historical background of slavery and slave castles. Students were especially attentive when Ms. Palik shared stories from her personal experience of being married to an African man and how it created a beautiful blend of both cultures in her life.



Knowlton Academy (KA) – Soul Foods
Commissioner R. Gagnon

The students of Knowlton Academy studied how various foods that are very common in today's North American diet actually originated from Africa and were brought here as seeds and roots with the slaves. Students talked about black-eyed peas & licorice, watermelons, sweet potatoes and what a "mess of greens" was. Students looked at how over the years, all of these foods developed into what is today considered soul food and a part of the traditional African American diet. Together with KA gardener Jen Muir, the students' explorations were full of colour and significance.



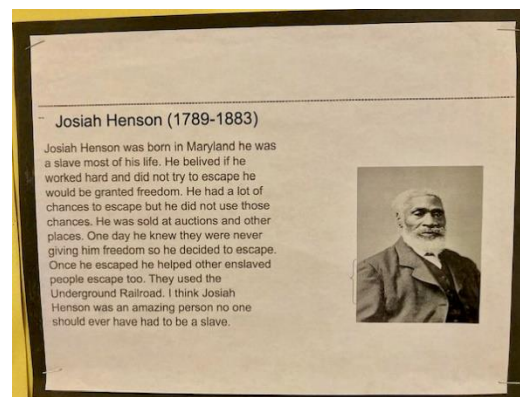
Sutton School
Commissioner R. Gagnon

To highlight Black History Month, the entire Sutton school took a moment to read a story together. Principal Don Kerr ZOOMED into the classes and shared the wonderful tale entitled "Sulwe." This opportunity provided excellent framework for some very thoughtful and enriching conversations to take place.



Waterloo Elementary
Commissioner A. McCrory

At Waterloo Elementary, the grade 4 class, led by Ms. Elston created small group projects celebrating incredible people of colour. After researching these historical characters, the grade 4 students presented their findings to Ms. Gower's grade 1 students! What an interactive way to learn about these incredible people's contributions and a fantastic practice of teaching each other!



Lennoxville Elementary – Commissioner G. Barnett

The 4R gang led by Ms. Emily and M^{me} Richard honoured Black History Month at Lennoxville Elementary School (LES). To celebrate and honour Black people all around the world, the class headed to Bishop's University to visit their Black History exhibit of the Eastern Townships. The LES students learned all about Black people who were brave and who fought to end segregation. The class then researched and wrote about famous Black Canadians. They created a display to show support for the people who worked hard to create change. There were athletes, musicians, lawyers, doctors, politicians and many more!

6. BUSINESS ARISING

There was no business arising.

7. NEW BUSINESS

7.1 Resolution No. ETSB 22-03-53 School Bus Bids – 2021-2022

WHEREAS the Eastern Townships School Board owns and operates a fleet of school buses;

WHEREAS to maintain a dependable fleet and keep repair costs down, it is necessary to replace buses on a regular basis;

WHEREAS the *Ministère de l'Éducation du Québec (MEQ)* has established parameters for the exchange of buses and has monies set aside for this purpose;

WHEREAS on December 20, 2021, the *MEQ* authorized the Eastern Townships School Board to proceed with a call of tenders for the purchase of new vehicles in accordance with the terms of the management measure "School bus";

WHEREAS the Eastern Townships School Board requested bids for the purchase of school buses for the 2021-2022 school year;

WHEREAS one (1) bid was received from one (1) supplier and opened on February 24, 2022;

WHEREAS the bid conformed to the requirements set out in the call for tenders;

WHEREAS the amount of the lowest bid from *La Compagnie Lion Electrique* was \$3,427,711.37, including taxes and trade in;

WHEREAS the amount does not include the \$1,350,000.00 from the *MTQ* financial aid program for the electrification of school transportation by the province of Quebec;

WHEREAS the *MEQ* must conduct an analysis of the bids received and will confirm their authorization of the allocated amount based on the methods of management of the additional and specific allowances and other activities for 2021-2022;

IT WAS MOVED BY Commissioner G. Holliday that the Eastern Townships School Board accepts the bid received from *La Compagnie Lion Electrique* for nine (9) 72-passenger school buses conditional to the authorization from the *MEQ*; **IT WAS FURTHER MOVED** that the Director General or the Director of Transportation be authorized to sign all associated documentation.

Carried unanimously

8. REPORTS

8.1 Director General's report

The Director General, M. Soucy, reported on the new Drummondville Elementary School:

Good evening,

Last Thursday we held the official inauguration for the new school in Drummondville in the presence of Ministry representatives, local MNAs, the Mayor of Drummondville, Commissioners and most importantly students and staff of ETSB.

It was an emotional day for many, myself included, as we listened to Ms. Grenon talk about the positive impact this new building was going to have on the school community.

The staff and students did a great job and excelled under difficult conditions in the old building, and for that we say a big thank you.

Congratulations to everyone involved who helped make this dream a reality. This is a very proud moment for the ETSB.

Over the last few weeks, we have seen the relaxing of many of the sanitary measures that were in place for COVID.

Although we are seeing a gradual return to a more normal life, it is important that we continue to be careful to hopefully avoid another wave.

As always, we will prioritize the health and well-being of students and staff and remain cautious to ensure their continued safety.

Now that it is officially spring, we are in the final months of the school year.

It is the perfect time for us to make sure to sharpen our focus and our efforts on supporting students and staff so that together, we can make this a successful school year.

Final words for our students, you have come so far this year, don't give up, you are in the home stretch.

8.2 Chair's report

The Chair of the Council of Commissioners, M. Murray commented on the Drummondville Elementary School (DES) not being a new school, but a new building for a very successful school with growing enrolment since its opening some 50 years ago.

9. ADVISORY COMMITTEES' REPORTS

9.1 Executive Committee

The Chair of the Executive Committee, Chairman M. Murray mentioned that the topics discussed at the Executive meeting will also be addressed at the Council meeting.

9.2 Governance and Ethics Committee

The Chair of the Governance and Ethics Committee, Commissioner R. Gagnon presented the following resolution:

9.2.1 Resolution No. ESTB 22-03-54 **Ukrainian Refugees**

WHEREAS the Government of Québec has announced that Québec will welcome Ukrainian Refugees "with open arms";

WHEREAS a number of school service centres have already announced that they are willing to receive refugees from Ukraine;

WHEREAS some Ukrainian refugees may have some knowledge of English as a second language;

WHEREAS English language school boards in Québec are equipped to take in students and teach both French and English;

WHEREAS the Charter of the French language has a humanitarian clause allowing for the admission to the English school system under exceptional circumstances;

WHEREAS the Ukrainian refugee crisis is a humanitarian issue;

WHEREAS Québec's English school boards are willing and able to help in assisting in the education of Ukrainian refugees in Québec;

IT WAS MOVED BY Commissioner R. Gagnon hereby to indicate to the competent governmental authorities that it is willing to welcome Ukrainian refugees into our schools on humanitarian grounds effective immediately.

Carried unanimously

The date of the next Governance & Ethics meeting is scheduled for April 19, 2022.

9.3 Audit Advisory Committee

The Chair of the Audit Advisory Committee, Commissioner J. Humenuik mentioned that the date of the next meeting is scheduled for May 17, 2022.

9.4 Educational Advisory Committee

The Chair of the Educational Advisory Committee, M.E. Kirby mentioned that the date of the next ESAC meeting is scheduled for April 5, 2022.

9.5 Communications Advisory Committee

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

9.6 Human Resources Advisory Committee

The Director of the Human Resources, J. Pauw presented the highlights of the 2022-2023 school youth sector calendar and the following resolution:

9.6.1 Resolution No. ETSB 22-03-XX Youth Sector Calendar – 2022-2023

WHEREAS in conformity with section 8-5.02 of the Local Agreement, the Eastern Townships School Board has consulted with the Appalachian Teachers' Association in the development of the 2022-2023 school calendar for the youth sector;

WHEREAS pursuant to section 193 (7) of the Education Act, the Parents' Committee has been consulted on March 9, 2022 on the proposed 2022-2023 youth sector calendar;

IT WAS MOVED BY Commissioner C. Beaubien that the Eastern Townships School Board approve the proposed 2022-2023 school calendar for the youth sector;

13 in favor

3 opposed

0 abstained

On division

The date of the next Human Resources Advisory meeting is scheduled for April 12, 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 for May 3, 2022.

9.8 Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC)

The Special Education Advisory Committee Parent Commissioner E. McKnight mentioned that the date of the next SEAC meeting is scheduled for April 13, 2022.

10. PARENTS' COMMITTEE

The Commissioner representing parents, D. Zigby, mentioned the topics discussed at the March 9, 2022 meeting:

- Youth Sector Calendar – 2022-2023;
- Special needs students;
- Bilingualism survey.

The date of the next Parents' Advisory meeting is scheduled for April 6, 2022.

11. STUDENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

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

- Environmental initiatives;
- Transitions from high schools to Cegeps or other venues;
- Feedback on homework;
- Creating a group of former students that will come to speak to current students;
- Perception of alternate programs.

The date of the next Student Advisory Committee meeting is scheduled for April 14, 2022.

12. QESBA

- Ukrainian refugees resolution;
- Outstanding legal issues regarding Bill 40 is still underway;
- Bill 21 Court of Appeal;
- Monitoring the clause by clause study of Bill 9;
- A belated Thank-you to the Commissioners for the contribution of \$10,000 to the legal fund (This money is from the Commissioners' personal funds and not taken out of an ETSB budget). A fundraiser will be organized soon in order to raise money to contribute to the legal funds. The support of the Commissioners is very much appreciated.

13. COMMISSIONER'S COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS

Commissioner G. Barnett:

Lennoxville Elementary School (LES):

Mr. Barnett attended a LES Governing Board (GB) meeting. The following was discussed:

- ✓ Mural Project – The School is coordinating relations between the *Mur à Mur* and the School Board regarding the Mural project and any changes needed to the north wall. So far, the School has raised \$8,000 - \$9,000.
- ✓ Breakfast program – The School is trying to get the program up and running again after being closed by COVID, probably with baskets going to classrooms since they cannot get back to the cafeteria because of schedule changes.
- ✓ COVID – Students and not staff received a box of rapid tests after Christmas. There are no school vaccination clinics planned, but students can go to a local clinic to receive a vaccination. Also, students are still receiving masks.
- ✓ Bubbles – Students no longer have to be in class bubbles and they do not have to wear masks when seated, but they do have to wear them elsewhere. In this regard, students are much happier.
- ✓ *Santé Globale* (SG) School – The School will become a SG school, which requires 150 minutes of physical activity a week plus one hike per year, one overnight camp, 18h per year on health and well-being and one school project per year in order to bring the community together. The School has 7 outdoor activities and uses several local sites. The students are using nature to learn. This reduces their anxiety and stress and they are much more willing to speak French. It was a challenge to have 150 m/w in physical activity and was achieved by increasing physical education and French to 420 minutes per week; the outside activities being in French. SG has a lot of available pedagogical material.
- ✓ Winter Fun Day – The students really appreciated this and one was heard to say that school is starting to look like normal.
- ✓ Registration is currently at 310 students.
- ✓ Google Classroom – Parents found online learning to be a challenge with several children online, more time being required for younger students. Google Classroom was found to be useful to explain autonomous work to parents and students.

Commissioner T. Pezzi-Bilodeau:

Ms. Pezzi-Bilodeau briefly reported on the CLC mid-year report activities reaching many people in the community in the Danville-Drummondville-Richmond area. More than 300 people attended the CLC activities.

Commissioner A. McCrory: Ms. McCrory attended the Waterloo Elementary School (WES) Governing Board (GB) meeting. A new program called 3J will be implemented at the school. The Principal presented the budget and it was accepted. Ms. McCrory asked if there was a procedure if there is a bullying situation and a procedure for promoting nutritional foods.

Chairman M. Murray: Yes, we do have an anti-bullying procedure.

14. UPCOMING EVENTS

None.

15. CORRESPONDENCE

None.

16. QUESTION PERIOD

M. McCully

The Record, journalist:

Regarding buses and the purchase of electric buses, will it be possible for a bus driver to charge the bus at home in the future?

M. Murray

ETSB Chair:

Due to the charge capacity needed for batteries, specific chargers are needed. It will no longer be possible to charge buses at the bus driver's residence.

M. Seline

ATA president:

What is the cost for the equalized students?

M. Murray

ETSB Chair:

I suppose, in theory, you could divide the total budget by the number of students in the Board, but this has no relation to reality. You cannot make the system work with this method. The heating costs for a school are the same with low or high enrolment. Bussing full or at 2/3 of capacity costs the same to run the bus. The overall picture; our enrolment of roughly 6,000 students divided into 90 million could give you an idea, but it's not about per student cost that can be fruitfully used for planning purposes.

M. Seline

ATA president:

What is the equalized tax rate?

M. Murray

ETSB Chair:

The question is irrelevant in the sense that taxes do not relate to the number of students in any way. A decree from the government mentions that they have declared a crisis, so one decree is to set the tax rate across the province (related to the value of real estate). Students and tax revenues cannot be related here.

A. Brasseur

Pope Memorial parent:

For the employees like HSA that are wearing two hats, how will it be possible during the Fall break to get the training if they are also Daycare technicians and if Daycare services are offered at the same time?

M. Murray

ETSB Chair:

That is an astute question to which I do not have all the details. We are actively working with that issue and the broader issue of HSA's working in different roles and needing training, but it is something that will be considered. It will belong to the GB of each school to decide on having a Daycare service.

A. Brasseur

Pope Memorial parent:

If it ensures training to HSA's, personally as a parent of a special needs student, I prefer to keep my child at home and not use Daycare services in order for HSA's to receive more training.

M. Murray

ETSB Chair:

Parents will be invited to share their preference.

17. GOVERNANCE AND COMMUNICATION

None.

18. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned on a motion by Commissioner H. Turgeon at 8:25 p.m.

Éric Campbell
Secretary General

Michael Murray
Chairman

EC/gm

03.22.2022