

EASTERN TOWNSHIPS SCHOOL BOARD

COUNCIL OF COMMISSIONERS

TUESDAY, AUGUST 23, 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	A
Claire Beaubien	Z	Helene Turgeon	P
Shawn Jersey	Z	Daniel Zigby, Vice-Chair	P
Richard Gagnon	Z	Eliza McKnight	P
Gary Holliday	P	DIRECTORS' COMMITTEE (DC)	
Joy Humenuik	Z	Secretary General – Éric Campbell	P
Mary-Ellen Kirby	Z	Assistant Director General – Kandy Mackey	Z
Frank MacGregor	Z	Director General – Michel Soucy	P
Alice McCrory	P	Director of Human Resources – Jeffrey Pauw	Z
Jonathan Murray	Z	Director of Financial Services – Sophie Leduc	Z
Michael Murray, Chair	P	Director of Instructional Technology and Pedagogical Services – Eva Lettner	P
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

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 H. Turgeon to adopt the Agenda of August 23, 2022 as modified with the following addition:

7.1 Lennoxville Elementary School – Governing Board composition for the 2022-2023 school year

Carried unanimously

3. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF JUNE 28, 2022

Resolution No. ETSB 22-08-01

Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting of the Council of Commissioners held on June 28, 2022

WHEREAS a copy of the Minutes of the meeting of June 28, 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 June 28, 2022 with the following corrections:

Public observers:

A. Brasseur – Pope Memorial Elementary parent

D. Proulx – Waterloo Elementary parent

Carried unanimously

4. QUESTION PERIOD

M. Seline: Modifications have been done to the patio at Alexander Galt Regional High School beside the library. Teachers are concerned about safety and the principal indicated that the project is not done yet, however, Buildings & Grounds says that the project is complete. Are there some security issues with these modifications? Can this infrastructure be used as is?

E. Plante: This project is complete. The length of the rails is two (2) inches above standard. We don't see any risks or safety issues.

5. RECOGNITION OF EXCELLENCE

Chairman M. Murray invited the following to present the August 23, 2022 Recognition of Excellence:



The Piper Classic - Back on the Greens!

Commissioner G. Barnett: After two years of virtual fundraisers, golfers rejoiced as they reunited for Alexander Galt Regional High School's (GALT) 12th annual tournament. The in-person event was well attended as usual, but on June 24th more than 153 golfers showed up at the Dufferin Heights Golf Club in support of the school's athletic department.

For the 3rd consecutive year, GALT's *Piper Classic* has raised more than \$30,000 annually with a grand total of \$31,000 here in 2022 – what an accomplishment for the school and community at large.

GALT's Athletic Director, Robbie Fisk, was pleased to accept a generous donation of \$7,500 from the Clinton Munkittrick Memorial Golf tournament run by colleague Drew Pollock (GALT's Vice Principal of cycle 1) as seen in the picture.

Congratulations go out to the *Piper Classic's* winning foursome featuring Josh Picard, Scott Loach, Xavier Fisk and Cole Benett (all former students of GALT) who took home the championship trophy with a combined score of 16 under.

What a tradition in support of Alexander Galt's athletic department and a fun way to get the community involved in school life – BRAVO to all!

6. BUSINESS ARISING

There was no business arising.

7. NEW BUSINESS

7.1 **Resolution No. ETSB 22-08-02**

Lennoxville Elementary School – Governing Board composition for the 2022-2023 school year

WHEREAS according to section 43 of the *Education Act*, the school board shall determine the number of parent representatives and staff representatives on the governing board after consulting with each group concerned;

WHEREAS section 44 of the *Education Act* states that, the total number of seats for staff representatives must be equal to the total number of seats for parent representatives;

WHEREAS the Lennoxville Elementary School governing board has difficulty finding the number of parents and staff required for the composition of its governing board;

WHEREAS the Council of Commissioners received a request from the principal and the Chair of the Lennoxville Elementary school governing board that the number of parents for the governing board be changed from 7 to 5 starting in the 2022-2023 school year;

IT WAS MOVED BY Commissioner G. Barnett to approve the changes in the Lennoxville Elementary governing board composition to 5 parents and 5 staff representatives.

Carried unanimously

8. REPORTS

8.1 **Director General's report**

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

Good evening everyone,

Before anything else, I want to say “welcome back”!

I hope your summer was exactly what you needed, whether it was adventure or restful. For myself, it was rest.

I also need to say thank you. Thank you to everyone who has a role to play in this big thing we do called education.

Thank you to the Commissioners, Staff, Parents and staff who make it all possible.

In spite of the circumstances last year, we were still able to create a safe and rich environment for our students to develop and grow; both academically and in their personal lives.

Though it was no easy task, it should stand as a testament to the spirit of collaboration that exists in the ETSB between our many schools and centres.

This year will surely have its own set of challenges as well. But I am absolutely confident that we will all rise to the occasion.

The experience we have gained from working through this together has only made us stronger.

I know this amazing ETSB team of ours can meet any challenge and ensure that our students are on the path to success.

Education is a special responsibility in a society. No matter what comes next, we will be prepared, we will adapt, we will improve. Our youth, our families and our communities are counting on us.

On that note, I hope that one 'silver lining' of the past few years has been seeing how interconnected we all are.

We now begin the process of settling into a "new normal" with a greater awareness of the safety and well-being of everyone around us.

We have nothing in particular to announce regarding COVID at the moment. You can rest assured that, if the situation evolves, we will continue working in close collaboration with all partners to ensure that our students remain our highest priority.

So as that "back-to-school" begins, when our hallways and classrooms will once again be filled with young and curious minds.

We will do everything we can to create the environments and opportunities that those students need to succeed.

To a great year for all!

Thank you.

8.2 Chair's report

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

Welcome back, great summer, good to see colleagues and public here in the board room as well as those attending virtually.

As we begin a new school year, I want to outline what I consider to be the most important challenges and opportunities that we should address as we move ahead. Although the impact of COVID-19 remains a factor, dealing with the virus has become just another reality in our daily lives. We are still struggling with staff shortages made more severe by the pandemic, and they are likely to remain with us for the foreseeable future. Staff shortages place additional strain on the personnel we do have, but we need to

move ahead, not ignoring the lingering effects, but adapting while we focus our attention on other priorities.

It is important to understand that Commissioners and Administrators work together as a team to advance toward our objectives. We sometimes engage in lively internal debates over how best to achieve certain goals, but we share our commitment to student success and improve the educational experience for all who attend our schools and centres.

I have used the relative leisure of the past summer to reflect on our collective efforts and the following lists summarize what I believe require attention in the coming months. They are in no particular order of priority, but this year we will be developing a new five-year strategic plan. Our goals must inspire effort and innovation, they must be out of reach but not out of sight and we must use them to accelerate and guide change at all levels. We need to set such goals first, and then identify what must change to achieve them. Our purpose is to do better so change must become and remain the most fundamental and permanent state of our organization.

Strategic Goals:

- Addressing that students entering schools are less well prepared than average;
- Significantly raising the graduation rate from our current 75% range;
- Significantly improving student achievement in mathematics at all levels ;
- Raising French Language competency to meet expectations (bilingual environment);
- Determining how to measure progress in time to guide further development;
- Raising expectations (The Pygmalion Effect) throughout the system.

Acute ongoing challenges:

- Staffing and recruiting;
- Condition of our buildings – most rated unsatisfactory;

As we resume our work in the new year, we will have ample opportunity to modify these orientations. I look forward to your ideas and input to make this the best year yet for students and staff of the Eastern Townships School Board.

9. ADVISORY COMMITTEES' REPORTS

9.1 Executive Committee

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

9.2 Governance and Ethics Committee

The Chair of the Governance and Ethics Committee, Commissioner R. Gagnon mentioned that the date of the next meeting is scheduled for August 30, 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 22-08-03 Régime d'emprunt à long terme

ATTENDU que, conformément à l'article 78 de la Loi sur l'administration financière (RLRQ, chapitre A-6.001), Commission scolaire Eastern Townships (l'« Emprunteur ») souhaite instituer un régime d'emprunts, valide jusqu'au 31 mars 2023, lui permettant d'emprunter à long terme auprès du ministre des Finances, à titre de responsable du Fonds de financement, pour un montant n'excédant pas 17 133 000 \$;

ATTENDU que conformément à l'article 83 de cette loi, l'Emprunteur souhaite prévoir, dans le cadre de ce régime d'emprunts, que le pouvoir d'emprunter et celui d'en approuver les conditions et modalités soient exercés par au moins deux de ses dirigeants;

ATTENDU qu'il y a lieu d'autoriser ce régime d'emprunts, d'établir le montant maximum des emprunts qui pourront être effectués en vertu de celui-ci, ainsi que les caractéristiques et limites relativement aux emprunts à effectuer, et d'autoriser des dirigeants de l'Emprunteur à conclure tout emprunt en vertu de ce régime, et à en approuver les conditions et modalités;

ATTENDU que le ministre de l'Éducation (le « Ministre ») a autorisé l'institution du présent régime d'emprunts, selon les conditions auxquelles réfère sa lettre du 16 août 2022;

SUR LA PROPOSITION DE J. HUMENUIK, IL EST RÉSOLU :

1. **QU'**un régime d'emprunts, valide jusqu'au 31 mars 2023, en vertu duquel l'Emprunteur peut, sous réserve des caractéristiques et limites énoncées ci-après, effectuer des emprunts à long terme auprès du ministre des Finances, à titre de responsable du Fonds de financement, pour un montant n'excédant pas 17 133 000 \$, soit institué;
2. **QUE** les emprunts à long terme effectués par l'Emprunteur en vertu du présent régime d'emprunts soient sujets aux caractéristiques et limites suivantes :
 - a) malgré les dispositions du paragraphe 1 ci-dessus, l'Emprunteur ne pourra, pendant la durée du présent régime d'emprunts, effectuer des emprunts qui auraient pour effet que le montant total approuvé pour l'Emprunteur, pour une telle période, par le Conseil du trésor au titre de la programmation des emprunts à long terme des commissions scolaires, soit dépassé;

- b) l'Emprunteur ne pourra effectuer un emprunt à moins de bénéficier d'une subvention du gouvernement du Québec conforme aux normes établies par le Conseil du trésor, au titre de l'octroi ou de la promesse de subventions aux centres de services scolaires, ainsi qu'aux termes et conditions déterminés par le Ministre et pourvoyant au paiement en capital et intérêt de l'emprunt concerné même si, par ailleurs, le paiement de cette subvention est sujet à ce que les sommes requises à cette fin soient votées annuellement par le Parlement;
 - c) chaque emprunt ne pourra être effectué qu'en monnaie légale du Canada auprès du ministre des Finances, à titre de responsable du Fonds de financement;
 - d) le produit de chaque emprunt ne pourra servir, outre le paiement des frais inhérents à l'emprunt concerné, que pour financer les dépenses d'investissement et les dépenses inhérentes aux investissements de l'Emprunteur subventionnées par le Ministre.
3. **QU'**aux fins de déterminer le montant total auquel réfère le paragraphe 1 ci-dessus, il ne soit tenu compte que de la valeur nominale des emprunts effectués par l'Emprunteur;
4. **QU'**en plus des caractéristiques et limites énoncées précédemment, les emprunts comportent les caractéristiques suivantes :
- a) l'Emprunteur pourra contracter un ou plusieurs emprunts pendant toute la durée du régime d'emprunts jusqu'à concurrence du montant qui y est prévu, et ce, aux termes d'une seule et unique convention de prêt à conclure entre l'Emprunteur et le ministre des Finances, à titre de responsable du Fonds de financement;
 - b) chaque emprunt sera constaté par un billet fait à l'ordre du ministre des Finances, à titre de responsable du Fonds de financement;
 - c) le taux d'intérêt payable sur les emprunts sera établi selon les critères déterminés par le gouvernement en vertu du décret numéro 513-2022 du 23 mars 2022, tel que ce décret peut être modifié ou remplacé de temps à autre; et
 - d) afin d'assurer le paiement à l'échéance du capital de chaque emprunt et des intérêts dus sur celui-ci, la créance que représente pour l'Emprunteur la subvention qui lui sera accordée par le Ministre, au nom du gouvernement du Québec, sera affectée d'une hypothèque mobilière sans dépossession en faveur du ministre des Finances, à titre de responsable du Fonds de financement.
5. **QUE** l'Emprunteur soit autorisé à payer, à même le produit de chaque emprunt contracté en vertu du présent régime, les frais d'émission et les frais de gestion qui auront été convenus;
6. **QUE** l'un ou l'autre des dirigeants suivants :
- Le président M. Michael Murray;
 - Le vice-président M. Daniel Zigby;

- Le directeur général M. Michel Soucy ou
- La directrice des finances Mme. Sophie Leduc.

de l'Emprunteur, **pourvu qu'ils soient deux agissant conjointement**, soit autorisé, au nom de l'Emprunteur, à signer la convention de prêt, les conventions d'hypothèque mobilière et les billets, à consentir à toute clause et garantie non substantiellement incompatibles avec les dispositions des présentes, à livrer les billets, à apporter toutes les modifications à ces documents non substantiellement incompatibles avec les présentes, ainsi qu'à poser tous les actes et à signer tous les documents, nécessaires ou utiles, pour donner plein effet aux présentes;

7. **QUE**, dans la mesure où l'Emprunteur a déjà adopté une résolution instituant un régime d'emprunts pour les mêmes fins, la présente résolution remplace la résolution antérieure, sans pour autant affecter la validité des emprunts conclus sous son autorité avant la date du présent régime d'emprunts.

Carried unanimously

9.3.1.2 Resolution No. ETSB 22-08-04
Richmond Regional High School – Signing Officers

WHEREAS the *Caisse Desjardins du Val-Saint-François* requires the names of representatives authorized to sign banking documents on behalf of the ETSB Richmond Regional High School;

WHEREAS new assignments have changed the names of representatives in this school;

IT WAS MOVED BY Commissioner G. Holliday that, effective August 23 2022, only the individuals listed below be authorized to sign, on behalf of the Eastern Townships School Board, all banking documents required by the *Caisse Desjardins du Val-Saint-François*:

Steve Element
Jeremy Frizzle

IT WAS FURTHER MOVED that the previous resolution appointing signing officers, be rendered null and void.

Carried unanimously

9.3.1.3 Resolution No. ETSB 22-08-05
St. Francis Elementary School – Signing Officers

WHEREAS the *CIBC* requires the names of representatives authorized to sign banking documents on behalf of ETSB St-Francis Elementary School;

WHEREAS new assignments have changed the representatives authorized to sign in this school;

WHEREAS only those individuals listed below are authorized to sign;

IT WAS MOVED BY Commissioner G. Holliday that the following individuals be authorized to sign banking documents on behalf of the school;

IT WAS FURTHER MOVED that any previous authorizations are rendered null and void by this resolution.

St-Francis Elementary School Kirk Robinson
Tamara Porter

Carried unanimously

9.3.1.4 Resolution No. ETSB 22-08-06
Sunnyside Elementary School – Signing Officers

WHEREAS the *Caisse Desjardins du Lac Memphrémagog* requires the names of representatives authorized to sign banking documents on behalf of the ETSB Sunnyside Elementary School;

WHEREAS new assignments have changed the representatives authorized to sign in this school;

WHEREAS only those individuals listed below are authorized to sign;

IT WAS MOVED BY Commissioner H. Turgeon that the following individuals be authorized to sign banking documents on behalf of the school;

IT WAS FURTHER MOVED that any previous authorizations are rendered null and void by this resolution.

Sunnyside Elementary School Amy Gallant
Heather Stratton
Tammy Mosher

Carried unanimously

9.3.2 Material Resources:

9.3.2.1 Resolution No. ETSB 22-08-07
Asbestos-Danville-Shipton (A.D.S.) Elementary School – Driveway and parking lot reconfiguration (Drop-off area and electrification)

WHEREAS the *Ministère de l'Éducation (MEQ)* approved a budget of \$1,284,777 for the project stated above, under the program *MDB - Maintien des bâtiments 2019-2020 Mesure: 50621*;

WHEREAS four (4) companies retrieved the project specifications after a public invitation to bid on the project;

WHEREAS 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 \$1,130,432 (excluding taxes), was received from the company *Gestimaction Inc.*;

WHEREAS after reviewing the bids, the assigned professional firm of *St-Georges Structures* has recommended the company *Gestimaction Inc.* the lowest bidder in conformity, to do the work for the amount of \$1,416,969, including taxes and professional fees;

WHEREAS \$472,667 is related to electrification and subject for grant from the *MEQ*;

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

9.3.2.2 Resolution No. ETSB 22-08-08
St. Francis Elementary School – Sale of 2 portions of land

WHEREAS St-Francis Elementary School has a section of land that is not part of the playground that separates the neighboring homes;

WHEREAS two neighbors have each requested to purchase a small section of this land of about 150 square meters each;

WHEREAS it would be beneficial for all parties to sell this portion of land because it does not affect the size of the playground and would allow the neighbors to extend their backyard;

WHEREAS a professional firm will conduct an inspection to determine the value of the lots;

WHEREAS if we proceed with the sale of the land, a fence will be installed between our lots;

WHEREAS all related expenses, except for the fence and survey, will be the buyer's responsibility;

IT WAS MOVED BY Commissioner G. Holliday 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 Committee is scheduled for October 18, 2022.

9.4 Educational Advisory Committee

The Chair of the Educational Advisory Committee, M.E. Kirby mentioned that the date of the next meeting is scheduled for September 20, 2022.

9.5 Communications Advisory Committee

The Secretary General, E. Campbell mentioned that the date of the next meeting is scheduled for October 11, 2022.

9.6 Human Resources Advisory Committee

The Chair of the Human Resources Advisory Committee, C. Beaubien mentioned that the date of the next meeting is scheduled for September 6, 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 November 8, 2022.

9.8 Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC)

The Chair , E. McKnight mentioned that the date of the next SEAC meeting is to be determined.

10. PARENTS' COMMITTEE

The Commissioner representing parents, D. Zigby mentioned that the date of the next Parents' Committee meeting is scheduled for October 12, 2022.

11. STUDENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Commissioner J. Humenuik, representing the Student Advisory Committee, mentioned that the date of the next meeting is to be determined.

12. QESBA

The Labor Relations Committee (LRC) met today and prepared the upcoming negotiations. The current negotiations will end on March 30, 2023. The strategic planning committee meets tomorrow. There has been no news on multiple court challenges against the various legislative acts.

13. COMMISSIONER'S COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS

- A. McCrory: The curriculum should be looked at. I heard on a radio talk show that they were asking kids what they would like. The kids mentioned finance for when they graduate and get out and run up a lot of debt; they would benefit from some finance lessons taught at school.
- M. Murray: We can add these subjects to what options are available, but cannot modify the curriculum.
- G. Holliday: Students from the Central Student Advisory Committee mentioned wanting to learn how to cope for when they move out and specifically, how to budget once they have graduated.

14. UPCOMING EVENTS

The Welcome Back Activity is underway. The DC members will tour all ETSB schools in person. The visits will take place on August 25th and August 29th. A little token of appreciation will be given to all staff members.

15. CORRESPONDENCE

None.

16. QUESTION PERIOD

M. Seline

ATA president: Alexander Galt Regional High School (AGRHS) teachers contacted me regarding issues for students leaving campus. There are two locations where students can leave; at the front and rear gate (called the smoker's corner – they go to smoke, drink and sometimes fight). It's a safety issue. Kids need permission to leave through the front gate, but not the rear gate. Do students need permission to leave by the rear exit? Can they be asked for identification?

M. Murray

ETSB Chair: This would be a Governing Board (GB) decision. Please address the GB in question.

E. Campbell

Secretary General: All three high schools require permission to leave.

17. GOVERNANCE AND COMMUNICATION

None.

18. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned on a motion by Commissioner R. Gagnon at 7:53 p.m.

Éric Campbell
Secretary General

Michael Murray
Chairman