

EASTERN TOWNSHIPS SCHOOL BOARD

COUNCIL OF COMMISSIONERS

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 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	P
Claire Beaubien	P	Helene Turgeon	P
Shawn Jersey	Z	Daniel Zigby, Vice-Chair	P
Richard Gagnon	A	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	A
Frank MacGregor	Z	Director General – Michel Soucy	P
Alice McCrory	Z	Director of Human Resources – Jeffrey Pauw	P
Jonathan Murray	Z	Director of Financial Services – Sophie Leduc	Z
Michael Murray, Chair	P	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	P

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 7:00 p.m.

2. QUORUM AND ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

QUORUM WAS ESTABLISHED AND IT WAS MOVED BY Commissioner D. Zigby to adopt the Agenda of October 25, 2022 as deposited.

Carried unanimously

3. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF SEPTEMBER 27, 2022

Resolution No. ETSB 22-10-16

Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting of the Council of Commissioners held on September 27, 2022

WHEREAS a copy of the Minutes of the meeting of September 27, 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 September 27, 2022 as deposited.

Carried unanimously

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 25, 2022 Recognition of Excellence:

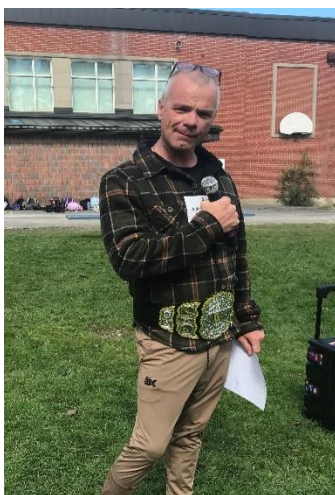
***This month the Council of Commissioners and Senior
Administrators of the Eastern Townships School Board
would like to signal the following:***

Official Inauguration of Sunnyseed Garden



Commissioner C. Beaubien: Sunnyseed Garden was officially inaugurated with a red ribbon cutting ceremony on September 30th 2022! This school-community garden was a year in the making with the Sunnyside Community Learning Centre (CLC) as the driving force behind this partner based project. Many were invested in the realization of the Sunnyseed garden, with major contributions by the Regional Municipal County of Mephémagog (MRC), Desjardins Caisse du Lac-Mephémagog, TD Friends of the Environment Foundation, and the Stanstead Farmer's Market to name but a few. Ms. Julie Sage, political attaché of the Honourable Ms. Marie-Claude Bibeau (P.C., M.P. Compton-Stanstead and Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food), The Mayor of Stanstead, Mr. Stone, as well ETSB Commissioner Claire Beaubien all said a few words of congratulations among other speakers who were out to celebrate this accomplishment. Students, parents, Sunnyside staff and community guests were treated to refreshments and garden fresh bruschetta served by happy student ambassadors. It was a beautiful day to inaugurate a delicious and satisfying achievement. Congratulations to the *Jardin Sunnyseed Garden* community and the many hands who made it come to life!

Butler Elementary Sets a New Terry Fox Record!







Commissioner J. Humenuik: The staff and students of Butler Elementary took to the streets of Bedford for their annual fundraiser run on September 29th 2022. Every year the school makes it their mission to raise the bar, but this year proved to be record-breaking.

While the main goal is to show up, support and collectively raise awareness for cancer research, the students were also encouraged to fundraise. With the added incentive that Butler's Principal, Mr. Morgan would take on the school's concierge Mr. Monette in a mud-wrestling competition might have been the needed push to

surpass the \$6,000 bar. The school more than reached their goal and collectively raised \$10,001. UNBELIEVABLE!!

Stay tuned for footage of the mud wrestling bonanza which is sure to delight, as other staff members are on the bill to compete as well. Congratulations to all who contributed to this amazing feat and to the community and families who generously donated to this cause in Bedford and throughout the ETSB in the multiple runs that took place. Did we ever “Try like Terry!”

It should also be noted that Butler’s Home and School Association (BHSA) just raised over \$28,000 in gross sales for the school through a chicken fundraiser! Can we tip our hats to this amazing team and to the school and community that showed up in shades! Way to go everyone for your efforts and investment in school life & spirit. The monies raised from the Chicken fundraiser will support school activities and the revamping of facilities such as the end of year trips, a new sound system & gear for the stage and graduation celebrations amongst many others. BRAVO BHSA!

Snowsuit Mission





Commissioner T. Pezzi-Bilodeau: The Christian Vachon Foundation generously delivered box loads of warm gear to distribute amongst our schools. Items included 75 snowsuits and many hand-knit tuques and scarves. Asbestos-Danville-Shipton, Ayer's Cliff, Cookshire, Farnham, Heroes', Knowlton Academy, Mansonville, Parkview, Pope, Princess Elizabeth, Sherbrooke and Sunnyside Elementary schools will all benefit from this thoughtful donation. This was the 5th edition of the annual snowsuit drive initiated by Robert Bernard's Point S Garage along with Nokian Tyres. The 2 companies teamed up with the *Fondation Christian Vachon* to reach children and families in need here in Quebec. Many happy little people will be warmly clothed for winter fun again this year – thank you!

Lennoxville Vocational Training Centre's Trade Challenge LAUNCH!



Commissioner F. MacGregor:

CONGRATULATIONS to the Lennoxville Vocational Training Centre (LVTC) that hosted the fun and successful launch of the TRADE CHALLENGE on October 17th! It was a first for the region that united 4 French *centres de services scolaires* and our English school board, the ETSB.

The purpose of the Trade Challenge is to demystify the vocational options available to students and familiarize them with what career pathways are offered in the trades. Nearly 3000 students in secondary 1 (grade 7) from public schools of the eastern Estrie sector had the opportunity to discover specialized professions in five vocational training centres across the region. Students had the chance to try out amusing challenges focused on the agricultural, health, construction, administration, mechanics, forestry and food industries. What an opportunity to explore these trades!

The *Défis des Recrues*/Trade Challenge ran from Oct. 18-21st and was organized by *L'équipe de la Table de concertation formation professionnelle (FP) en Estrie* and supported in house by LVTC's development agent, Melanie Thompson!



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, 2022. 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 year ending June 30, 2022:

Summary of Financial Statements

Statement of Revenues and Expenditures

Revenues	107,802,124
Expenditures	<u>104,257,544</u>
Surplus (Deficit) for the year	3,544,580

Statement of Financial Situation

Financial Assets	137,663,398
Liabilities	<u>240,239,274</u>
Net Financial Assets (Net Debt) –	102,575,876
Non-Financial Assets	<u>101,346,846</u>
Accumulated Surplus (Deficit) –	1,229,030

These figures are subject to the external auditor's report

7.2 Deposit of Financial Statements for the year ending June 30, 2022

The Financial Statements resolution is presented at item 9.3.1.3.

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

Tonight, I will address two topics that have caught my attention recently. The first is student voice and the second is vocational education. I will also address one critical operational challenge.

Education as an institution has not traditionally been very interested in what students think about the education they receive. Education ministries, school board commissioners, teachers, parents and administrators make all the decisions about what is good and desirable. The idea of asking young people about the purpose of education, their experience of it or their thoughts about how it might be improved have been considered naïve or idealistic. How can children have any idea about what is good for them? They are likely to make inconsequential suggestions.

The best way to understand how wrong those assumptions are is to listen to students who are given encouragement to express their thoughts in an unthreatening environment. Happily at ETSB, we have some far-sighted individuals like Joy Humenuik and Kandy Mackey who pioneered our own Student Advisory Committee that has been functioning for several years. Students meet several times a year to

exchange thoughts and visit other schools. Annually, Commissioners meet the members to discuss issues and questions raised by both groups. Last June, we held the latest iteration. Discussions were serious and thought-provoking.

One important topic was preoccupying: how to help students feel fully bilingual and competent in their command of a second language when they lack the confidence to use their acquired skills. Marks on final exams in French for ETSB graduating classes average above 90 percent, yet students still report discomfort and hesitation when using the language. Many ideas were exchanged; some of which will find their way into pedagogy. We agreed on the need to move past rote learning of irregular verbs to provide real-world experience in conversation and in work contexts. I have to believe, seeing the numbers of our graduates who function effectively in jobs requiring French that we teach the essentials of the language, but students are clear that we need to go further, to provide the kind of experiences and practice that will make them comfortable in realistic situations in their communities. This is all the more important now that restrictions imposed on CEGEPs by the CAQ government will direct more of our graduates into French post-secondary institutions.

Students have a great deal to tell us about their education. We need to prioritize our listening stance in order to encourage more useful feedback from the students we are trying so hard to serve. Preparing them for a world that is in a permanent state of rapid change, a world that we educators can barely perceive and hardly understand is a challenge we need to meet, and students can help us become more effective. It is their world after all, and we need to give them the opportunity to craft it to meet their own needs. Students express their views in many ways. Dropouts are telling us that the education we offer is not what they need. ETSB has succeeded in reducing dropouts by half in the last decade or so, but we still lose over 20%; that is one of every 5 students before they graduate. The rising rate of homeschooling is a further indication that we are not meeting perceived needs. When we finally have the opportunity to listen, as with our Student Advisory Committee, we need to pay close attention.

At this point, I would like to ask whether either Joy Humenuik or Kandy Mackey would like to add their comments on this topic.

My second topic is inspired by the opportunity to attend the launch of the Trades Challenge last week at our ETSB Lennoxville Vocational Training Centre. All five (soon to be six) School Boards and School Service Centres in the Estrie region have come together in a collaboration to promote trades as a viable, desirable and fulfilling career choice. Several thousand students from the first year of secondary school will be visiting one of the nine vocational training centres in the region over the coming days and weeks to experience some of the offerings. Those of us privileged to attend the formal launch of the challenge were able to experience three different challenges; one in machining using numerically controlled equipment; one in health care helping a person deal with the challenges in a hospital or long-term institution and a third in learning some of the issues in starting a business. It was fun and exciting, designed to give students a taste of what to expect in training for a trade or profession. The students who take the challenge will be offered a total of fifteen challenges, so far more than we visitors experienced.

For far too long, there has been a conventional attitude by educators and many parents that the best, most satisfying careers can only be reached through academic education; the usual CEGEP and University path. It may have been true at one time, and society continues to need highly educated individuals. However, now trades people can enjoy fulfilling and rewarding careers without needing to attend university. Many also earn higher salaries than university graduates, careers in professions like health care and small business offer great job satisfaction and stability for those who prefer it. The initiative of the Trades Challenge will introduce young secondary students to some of their options and offer them a wider choice of paths to follow.

I want to emphasize the collaborative aspect of this initiative. For many years it seemed natural, even inevitable, that centres for vocational training (formation professionnelle in French) compete for students. Five years ago, the Estrie school boards collectively chose to break with tradition to collaborate, developing a common “Services aux Entreprises” to help businesses by developing training tailored to employer requirements. The collaboration has grown and diversified, with other services joining in the collective effort to better serve our community. What it means for students is that they are not confined to the selection of options their particular organization may offer, but can begin a career path even before completing secondary graduation. I think we all should applaud the imagination of those who believed, and now are demonstrating, that by working together we can all benefit students, educators and families. Better still, we can improve the offering of professional services on our territory to support continuing growth in industry and commerce. It is a striking example of win-win.

On a different note, I know that every enterprise and service is facing shortages of personnel. Nowhere does it seem more painful in ETSB than in Transportation. While we struggle to find teachers, classroom aides and professionals, the challenges in school bussing services have become acute. Our schools function thanks to heroic extra efforts by our personnel. During the past two years, COVID-19 added fresh stress to the mix. However, we have been pleased if not triumphant that every classroom has a teacher, and that our various in-school support services are meeting student needs. It is heartbreaking, therefore, to be unable to provide the one service that, until now, has been taken for granted; bussing. Our schools are widely separated and many of them draw students from considerable distances. Now we are forced to cancel several bus runs every week and there seems to be no immediate solution. Despite all other efforts, if the student is not at school, they are not able to benefit. The burden of transportation is falling on parents who may not be able to provide it.

Driving a school bus is a challenging occupation. It requires specialized training and there is no possibility of finding substitutes, even temporarily. A driver sits with his or her back to a crowd of potentially rowdy high-spirited students, but is still responsible for their behavior and safety. They drive large clumsy vehicles on country roads in every kind of weather. Drivers are the first employee to greet a student in the morning and the last to wish them a good afternoon at the end of the day. They influence student perceptions directly and can become great role models. Locally, they are often a helpful resource to families.

The hours make the job unattractive for some, beginning early in the morning with an interval of several hours in the middle of the day before the afternoon shift. Drivers work only 180 days a year, so despite an attractive hourly wage, they may find their total income inadequate. At one time, small-scale farmers

could drive buses and use the balance of their day to operate the family enterprise, but with the disappearance of small family farms, fewer such drivers are available. We are recruiting steadily and offer training, yet we cannot find enough drivers. If you know of potential drivers, please contact our Human Resources Department.

Thanks for indulging me.

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 are on the Council of Commissioners' agenda.

9.2 **Governance and Ethics Committee**

The Director General, M. Soucy presented the following resolution:

9.2.1 **Resolution No. ETSB 22-10-17**

Board Office – Appointment of Director of Human Resources

WHEREAS the position of the Director of the Human Resources Department will become vacant with the retirement of Mr. Jeffrey Pauw;

WHEREAS the position was advertised in September 2022, both externally and internally, following the Eastern Townships School Board (ETSB) internal posting procedures;

WHEREAS fifteen (15) candidates applied to the position in which five (5) candidates were invited to the interview;

WHEREAS the Selection Committee unanimously recommends this person to 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 a one-year probationary period and performance appraisal process;

IT WAS MOVED BY Commissioner C. Beaubien that the Council of Commissioners appoint Pierre-André Arel, Director of Human Resources effective November 21, 2022.

Carried unanimously

The date of the next meeting is scheduled for November 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 22-10-18 Régime d'emprunt à court terme

ATTENDU que, conformément à l'article 78 de la Loi sur l'administration financière (RLRQ, chapitre A-6.001), la Commission scolaire Eastern Townships (l'« Emprunteur ») souhaite instituer un régime d'emprunts, lui permettant d'effectuer des emprunts par marge de crédit auprès du ministre des Finances, à titre de responsable du Fonds de financement, pour financer la part subventionnée, par le ministre de l'Éducation, de ses projets d'investissement, notamment les projets sous la responsabilité de la Société québécoise des infrastructures (les « Projets »);

ATTENDU que le montant et l'échéance des emprunts à contracter en vertu de ce régime d'emprunts ne devra pas excéder les montants autorisés de temps à autre par le ministre de l'Éducation, conformément à la Loi sur l'instruction publique (RLRQ, chapitre I-13.3) et à la Loi sur l'administration financière pour ces Projets;

ATTENDU que les Projets seront financés uniquement auprès du ministre des Finances, à titre de responsable du Fonds de financement;

ATTENDU que, pour les projets sous la responsabilité de la Société québécoise des infrastructures, le financement temporaire est initié par cette dernière, sur son crédit;

ATTENDU que le financement temporaire des projets sous la responsabilité de la Société québécoise des infrastructures doit périodiquement être transféré auprès du ministre des Finances, à titre de responsable du Fonds de financement, au nom de l'Emprunteur, à la demande de la Société québécoise des infrastructures;

ATTENDU qu'il est opportun, à cet effet, d'autoriser ce régime d'emprunts et d'en approuver les conditions et modalités;

ATTENDU que, conformément à l'article 83 de la Loi sur l'administration financière, l'Emprunteur souhaite, dans le cadre de ce régime d'emprunts, que le pouvoir d'emprunter et celui d'approuver les conditions et les modalités des emprunts soient exercés par au moins deux de ses dirigeants;

ATTENDU que le deuxième alinéa de l'article 83 précise que, lorsqu'il s'agit d'effectuer un emprunt à court terme ou par marge de crédit, le pouvoir peut être exercé par un membre du personnel autorisé par l'organisme, pouvant agir seul;

ATTENDU que ce régime d'emprunts doit être autorisé par le ministre de l'Éducation, conformément à la Loi sur l'instruction publique et à la Loi sur l'administration financière;

ATTENDU qu'il y a lieu de reconduire toute convention de marge de crédit conclue entre l'Emprunteur et le ministre des Finances, à titre de responsable du Fonds de financement;

IL EST EN CONSÉQUENCE RÉSOLU :

1. QUE, sous réserve de l'autorisation requise du ministre de l'Éducation, l'Emprunteur soit autorisé à instituer un régime d'emprunts lui permettant d'effectuer des emprunts par marge de crédit auprès du ministre des Finances, à titre de responsable du Fonds de financement, pour financer la part subventionnée, par le ministre de l'Éducation, de ses projets d'investissement, notamment les projets sous la responsabilité de la Société québécoise des infrastructures (les « Projets »), selon les limites et caractéristiques suivantes :
 - a) 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;
 - b) les emprunts effectués par marge de crédit seront réalisés en vertu de la convention de marge de crédit conclue avec le ministre des Finances, à titre de responsable du Fonds de financement, conformément aux conditions et aux modalités qui y sont établies;
 - c) le montant des emprunts à contracter en vertu de la marge de crédit ne devra, en aucun temps, excéder le montant autorisé de temps à autre par le ministre de l'Éducation en vertu de lettres d'autorisation qu'il délivre pour ces Projets.
2. QUE les Projets soient financés uniquement auprès du ministre des Finances, à titre de responsable du Fonds de financement;
3. QUE, pour les projets sous la responsabilité de la Société québécoise des infrastructures, les demandes d'emprunt par marge de crédit soient initiées par cette dernière;
4. QU'aux fins de déterminer le montant des emprunts auquel réfère le paragraphe 1c), il ne soit tenu compte que du solde des emprunts en cours et non encore remboursés contractés auprès du ministre des Finances, à titre de responsable du Fonds de financement;
5. QUE l'Emprunteur soit autorisé, sauf pour les demandes d'emprunt par marge de crédit initiées par la Société québécoise des infrastructures, à remettre au ministre des Finances, à titre de responsable du Fonds de financement, une confirmation de transaction pour constater chaque emprunt ou chaque remboursement de capital ou d'intérêt sur la marge de crédit;

6. QUE, lorsqu'une demande est initiée par la Société québécoise des infrastructures, le capital de l'emprunt par marge de crédit soit versé, à la date de l'emprunt, à la Société québécoise des infrastructures, pour et l'acquit de l'Emprunteur, en remboursement des dépenses effectuées pour les projets d'investissement de l'Emprunteur, dont la gestion lui a été confiée;
7. QUE le directeur général, la directrice générale adjointe, ou la directrice des finances de l'Emprunteur, pourvu qu'ils soient deux agissant conjointement, soit autorisé, pour et au nom de l'Emprunteur, à signer la convention de marge de crédit, à consentir à tout ajout ou modification non substantiellement incompatible avec les dispositions des présentes et à poser tous les actes et à signer tous les documents nécessaires ou utiles pour donner plein effet aux emprunts par marge de crédit;
8. QU'en plus des dirigeants identifiés au paragraphe 7, la directrice des finances, l'agent de gestion financières, de l'Emprunteur, soient autorisés, pour et au nom de l'Emprunteur, à signer en vertu du présent régime d'emprunts toute confirmation de transaction nécessaire pour conclure un emprunt par marge de crédit ou effectuer un remboursement sur cette marge;
9. QUE la présente résolution remplace toutes les résolutions antérieurement adoptées pour les mêmes fins.

IT WAS MOVED BY Commissioner D. Zigby to adopt this resolution.

Carried unanimously

9.3.1.2 Resolution No. ETSB 22-10-19

Certificat d'attestation de fonctions et de signatures

Relatif à la résolution numéro ETSB 22-10-18, adoptée par le conseil des commissaires de la Commission scolaire Eastern Townships (l'« Emprunteur ») en date du 25 octobre 2022, lui permettant notamment d'emprunter auprès du ministre des Finances, à titre de responsable du Fonds de financement.

Le soussigné, Michel Soucy, Directeur Général de l'Emprunteur, atteste que les personnes ci-après mentionnées sont, à la date des présentes, titulaires de l'emploi indiqué auprès de l'Emprunteur et que la signature apposée est une représentation exacte de celle-ci :

Nom	Titre	Signature
Sophie Leduc	Directrice des finances	
Richard Benoit	Agent de gestion financière	
Elizabeth D. Hamel	Agent de gestion financière	

IT WAS MOVED BY Commissioner M. Mercure to adopt this resolution.

Carried unanimously

9.3.1.3 Resolution No. ETSB 22-10-20
Financial Statements for the year ending June 30, 2022

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

WHEREAS the Secretary General gave a public notice of the date, time and place of the presentation of the financial statements on October 7 and 8, 2022;

WHEREAS the Director General published a summary of the annual financial statements of the School Board in three local newspapers on October 7 and 8, 2022;

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, 2022 be received as tabled.

Carried unanimously

9.3.1.4 Resolution No. ETSB 22-10-21
2022-2023 Statement of taxes remaining – Due and Owing

WHEREAS the Director of Financial Services presented the following summary regarding the statement of the school taxes remaining due and owing by owners;

WHEREAS the payment of the 2nd installment does not come due until November and consequently these amounts are included in the total school taxes not yet collected;

<u>Annual Invoices Issued – June</u>	<u>2022-2023</u>	<u>2021-2022</u>
Total school taxes invoices issued:	14,000	14,267
Total school taxes to be collected:	\$3,438,269.48	\$3,395,068.87
<u>Outstanding Invoices – October</u>	<u>2022-2023</u>	<u>2021-2022</u>
Total school taxes invoices outstanding:	4,284	5,274
Total school taxes not yet collected:	\$984,114.44	\$763,028.72

IT WAS MOVED BY Commissioner J. Humenuik to approve the statement of the school taxes remaining due and owing by owners.

Carried unanimously

9.3.2 Material Resources:**9.3.2.1 Resolution No. ETSB 22-10-22****Richmond Regional High School – Heating system replacement and roofing renovation**

WHEREAS the *ministère de l'Éducation (MEQ)* approved a budget of \$1,673,374 for the project 19-024-MDB-40 stated above, under the program *RDE – Résorption du déficit d'entretien 2019-20 Mesure: 50622*;

WHEREAS the *ministère de l'Éducation (MEQ)* approved a budget of \$371,861 for the project 19-024-MDB-41 stated above, under the program *RDE – Résorption du déficit d'entretien 2019-20 Mesure: 50622*;

WHEREAS a company known today as *Construction Alain Morin Inc.* was awarded a contract in the amount of \$3,373,174 including professional fees and taxes, for the project stated above;

WHEREAS during the project some modifications for additional work needed to be done;

WHEREAS this project will provide mechanical ventilation, aerothermy over oil, air conditioning and sufficient electrical power for electrification (support heating & charging stations);

WHEREAS the amount of \$349,481 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 \$3,722,655;

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

IT WAS MOVED BY Commissioner T. Pezzi-Bilodeau 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 22-10-23**Knowlton Academy – Renovation of Interior Finishes**

WHEREAS the *ministère de l'Éducation (MEQ)* approved a budget of \$371,861 for the project stated above, under the program *MDB - Maintien des bâtiments 2020-2021 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 project will allow to renovate the main entrance's stairs & first level corridors (floorings, lockers, walls & ceilings);

WHEREAS the lowest bid in the amount of \$399,979 (excluding taxes) was received from the company *Athena Construction inc.*;

WHEREAS after reviewing the bids, the assigned professional firm of *Chantal Brodeur* has recommended the company *Athena Construction inc.* the lowest bidder in conformity to do the work for the amount of \$478,336, including taxes and professional fees;

WHEREAS all additional funds required to complete the project, will be taken from *MDB – - Maintien des bâtiments 2020-21 program*;

IT WAS MOVED BY Commissioner J. Murray 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 22-10-24
Sutton Elementary School – Sanitary bloc renovation

WHEREAS the *ministère de l'Éducation (MEQ)* approved a budget of \$348,620 for the project stated above, under the program *MDB - Maintien des bâtiments 2020-2021 Mesure: 50621*;

WHEREAS two (2) companies retrieved the project specifications after a public invitation to bid on the project;

WHEREAS two (2) bids were received by the Eastern Townships School Board by the date and time specified;

WHEREAS the project will provide completely renovated gymnasium locker rooms;

WHEREAS the lowest bid in the amount of \$284,500 (excluding taxes) was received from the company *Comco Entrepreneurs en Bâtiment*;

WHEREAS after reviewing the bids, the company *Comco Entrepreneurs en Bâtiment* was the lowest bidder in conformity to do the work for the amount of \$370,910, including taxes and professional fees;

WHEREAS all additional funds required to complete the project will be taken from *MDB – - Maintien des bâtiments 2020-21 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 22-10-25

Clarenceville Elementary School – Asbestos decontamination

WHEREAS the *Eastern Townships School Board (ETSB)* approved a budget of \$220,000 for the project stated above, under the program *RTB - Réfection et transformation des bâtiments 2022-2023*;

WHEREAS four (4) 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 of \$170,440 (excluding taxes) was received from the company *Demospec Décontamination inc.*;

WHEREAS after reviewing the bids, the assigned professional firm of *Chantal Brodeur* has recommended the company *Demospec Décontamination inc.* the lowest bidder in conformity to do the work for the amount of \$217,126, 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

9.3.2.5 Resolution No. ETSB 22-10-26

Old Drummondville Elementary School – Building handover

WHEREAS Drummondville Elementary School moved into their new school in March 2022;

WHEREAS the building located on 1050, rue Chabanel in Drummondville, QC, known as the old Drummondville Elementary School is no longer being used nor needed by the Eastern Townships School Board (ETSB);

WHEREAS the *ministère de l'Éducation (MEQ)* has requested the school to be handed over to *Centre de Service Scolaire Des Chênes (CSSDC)* being in desperate need of space;

WHEREAS the ETSB has agreed to handover the school to the *CSSDC*;

WHEREAS the date for the handover was supposed to be before the beginning of the school year;

WHEREAS the handover is being delayed due to the process with the *MEQ* having started in September 2022;

WHEREAS the new date for the handover has not yet been determined;

WHEREAS the selling price will be set at book value based on the date of the transfer;

WHEREAS we plan on handing it over as soon as possible, with all the given circumstances;

IT WAS MOVED BY Commissioner G. Holliday to proceed with the handover; **IT WAS FURTHER MOVED** that the Director General be authorized to sign all associated documentation and that in the absence of the Director General, the Director of Material Resources can also sign.

Carried unanimously

9.3.2.6 Resolution No. ETSB 22-10-27

Waterloo Elementary School, Knowlton Academy, Parkview Elementary School and Mansonville Elementary School – Annual playground projects

WHEREAS the Eastern Townships School Board (ETSB) offers a financial aid of \$100,000 in playground improvement for four schools. 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 \$100,000 per school playground project;

WHEREAS the ETSB will continue to offer financial participation of \$75,000 annually to help three schools;

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 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

The date of the next Audit Advisory Committee is scheduled for November 15, 2022.

9.4 Educational Advisory Committee

The Director of Instructional Technology and Pedagogical Services, E. Lettner presented the following resolution:

9.4.1 **Resolution No. ETSB 22-10-28** **Renewal of WIFI system**

WHEREAS due to timing constraints in joining the *Centre d'acquisitions gouvernementales* (CAG) public call for tender process (SEAO 1618832), this resolution must be presented to the Council on a budgetary projection to the amount of \$400,000;

WHEREAS the Eastern Townships School Board (ETSB) needs to renew the Wi-Fi system for all its schools for the 2022-2023 school year;

WHEREAS our current Wi-Fi controllers and access points are not compatible with modern communication protocols and have reached their end of life;

WHEREAS improved connection speeds, reduced congestion, interoperability with modern devices, and the availability of reliable LAN and Internet connectivity are critical to achieving the organization's educational objectives;

WHEREAS ETSB is participating in a public tender with the CAG according to the ministry requirements;

WHEREAS all purchases will be done according to the *ETSB Purchase policy* and government requirements;

IT WAS MOVED BY Commissioner M. E. Kirby to authorize the Director General to sign any documentation related to the acquisition of equipment and related items (Licenses, installation kits, etc.), up to an amount of \$400,000.00 for 2022-2023 effective immediately; **IT WAS FURTHER MOVED** that the Director General or the Director of Instructional Technology and Pedagogical Services be authorized to sign all associated documentation.

Carried unanimously

The Director of Complementary Services, E. Gaudet presented the following resolution:

9.4.2 **Resolution No. ETSB 22-10-29** **Agreement for Integrated Educational Services from the Montreal Oral School for the Deaf**

WHEREAS certain students within the Eastern Townships School Board have hearing loss or impairments;

WHEREAS the Montreal Oral School for the Deaf (MOSD) has been mandated by the Ministry of Education to organize and implement a supraregional service to provide guidance and support to all English school boards who are educating students with hearing loss;

WHEREAS the agreement for integrated educational services from the MOSD for the 2022-2023 school year includes services to a total of 21 students and their school team;

WHEREAS the total cost for these services for the 2022-2023 school year is \$73,747.50;

IT WAS MOVED BY Commissioner E. McKnight to proceed with the agreement 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 Complementary Educational Services can also sign.

Carried unanimously

The Commissioner mentioned that the date of the next Advisory Committee meeting is scheduled for November 29, 2022.

9.5 Communications Advisory Committee

The Chair of the Communications Advisory Committee, M. Mercure mentioned the topics addressed at the October 11, 2022 meeting:

- Student population;
- Governing Board Workshops;
- Open houses in High Schools;
- Connections/Blink newsletters sent to parents and staff.

The date of the next Communications Advisory Committee meeting is scheduled for December 13, 2022.

9.6 Human Resources Advisory Committee

The Chair of the Human Resources Advisory Committee, C. Beaubien mentioned the topics discussed at the October 4, 2022 meeting:

- Staffing plan;
- Vacant positions within the ETSB;
- Human Resources priorities for 2022-2023;
- School calendar committee will be put in place for the 2023-2024 school year.

The date of the next Human Resources Advisory Committee meeting is scheduled for December 1st 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, but will be rescheduled on Wednesday, November 16, 2022.

9.8 Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC)

The SEAC Commissioner, E. McKnight mentioned that the meeting was very busy.

The date of the next online SEAC meeting is scheduled for January 18, 2023.

10. PARENTS' COMMITTEE

The Commissioner representing parents, D. Zigby addressed the following topics:

- The first meeting occurred on October 12, 2022;
- D. Zigby was reelected as Chair of the Central Parents' Committee (CPC) for 2022-2023;
- Elections of Commissioners representing parents;
- Election of Mr. Richard Gosselin as Commissioner for elementary schools (Parkview).

The date of the next Parents' Committee meeting is scheduled for November 2, 2022.

11. STUDENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

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

New students will join the committee: two from the 24U program and 1 from Campus Brome-Missisquoi (CBM). During the meeting, the committee members were pleased to visit the library at Alexander Galt Regional High School (AGRHS).

Meetings will be hybrid, meaning online and in-person.

The date of the next Student Advisory Committee meeting is **to be determined**.

12. QESBA

The Board of Directors will meet up this Friday, followed by the Professional Development (PD) session on Saturday. The Annual General Assembly will take place on Saturday at 11 a.m.

In regards to Bill 40 – the decision is still pending, but is expected soon.

13. COMMISSIONER'S COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS

Commissioner C. Beaubien: The Sunnyside CLC Coordinator, Ms. Julie Corriveau-Wilson introduced the project of what the Sunnyside Garden Committee had in mind in March 2022. Their vision was sustainability, productivity and availability to

all. This project mainly teaches the students the ABC's of gardening and afterwards, the spirit of sharing. They also involved everyone in choosing the name: **Jardin Sunnyseed Garden**, which has a U-shaped area that is easily accessible to students in a wheelchair, is a perfect match!

On September 30th, I attended their inauguration and volunteer recognition ceremony. With the help of PHELPS HELPS, the volunteers, the staff and the students of Sunnyside as well as Julie, brought the community together with this great project.

To follow what T. Pezzi-Bilodeau reported in the Recognition of Excellence in regards to the Christian Vachon Foundation, they will be at Sunnyside Elementary School tomorrow (October 26, 2022), which I will also attend the ceremony for the plaque they will receive.

On October 17, 2022, I attended The Trade Challenge and was part of the group that won – the Orange team! We were invited as a partner of one of the five Vocational Training Centres in the region. It was a good start for their multifaceted plan.

Commissioner G. Barnett:

Lennoxville Elementary School (LES) – Governing Board

- Nuts: With the decrease in nut allergies and desensitization, the rules regarding bringing any nut or nut product to school were relaxed. However, because of the presence of sensitive students, LES has reinstated the nut prohibition.
- The Mural is underway and being deemed impressive. Also, the stairwell construction is nearly complete.
- Currently, there are four classrooms rented to St. Antoine, but with the recent student population increase of 60 students, LES itself may need more space if the numbers continue to increase.
- The cafeteria will be closed for a couple of months, but the cook will still have to be paid with no revenue.
- Daycare users have to pay, whether they use it or not. There are a total of 93 children using this service and 68 in the 3-5 day category.

14. UPCOMING EVENTS

The Secretary General reminded the dates for the GB Workshops; October 26 and November 7, 2022.

15. CORRESPONDENCE

The Standing Ovation Award recipient thanked the Council of Commissioners for the bursary given at the New Horizons Gala.

16. QUESTION PERIODM. Seline

ATA President:

What is the name of the new Human Resources (HR) Director? Was he the previous assistant director of HR?

M. Murray

ETSB Chair:

The name of the new HR Director is Pierre-André Arel and yes, he is the previous assistant director of HR.

M. McCully

The Record, journalist:

Could the Board clarify what's happening with Clarenceville Elementary's decontamination? Is this in preparation for the sale of the building?

M. Murray

ETSB Chair:

The school has not been used for a decade. It should have been disposed of because it has not been maintained. We sought permission from the Ministry to demolish the building. The decontamination is underway in preparation for the sale of the building to the town, the Municipality of Clarenceville.

17. GOVERNANCE AND COMMUNICATION

None.

18. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned on a motion by Commissioner M. Mercure at 8:20 p.m.

Éric Campbell
Secretary General

Michael Murray
Chairman

EC/gm
10.25.2022