

EASTERN TOWNSHIPS SCHOOL BOARD

COUNCIL OF COMMISSIONERS

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2023 – 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	Richard Gosselin	Z
Claire Beaubien	Z	Helene Turgeon	Z
Shawn Jersey	Z	Daniel Zigby	Z
Richard Gagnon	Z	Eliza McKnight	Z
Gary Holliday	A	DIRECTORS' COMMITTEE (DC)	
Joy Humenuik, Vice-Chair	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	A	Director of Human Resources – Caroline Dufresne	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	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 F. MacGregor to adopt the Agenda of February 21, 2023 as deposited.

Carried unanimously

3. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF JANUARY 24, 2023

Resolution No. ETSB 23-02-51

Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting of the Council of Commissioners held on January 24, 2023

WHEREAS a copy of the Minutes of the meeting of January 24, 2023 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 January 24, 2023 with the following corrections.

7.6.3 Transportation Advisory Committee – It should have been written:

The President of Elections called for nominations for the Chair of the Transportation Advisory Committee.

G. Holliday accepted.

H. Turgeon **declined**.

G. Holliday is elected Chair of the Transportation Advisory Committee.

The President of Elections called for nominations for the second Commissioner Representative to the Transportation Advisory Committee.

<u>C. Beaubien</u>	nominated	<u>H. Turgeon</u>
<u>M. E. Kirby</u>	nominated	<u>S. Jersey</u>

It was moved by G. Holliday that nominations cease.

H. Turgeon accepted.

S. Jersey declined.

H. Turgeon is declared elected second Commissioner of the Transportation Advisory Committee.

17. Question Period:

M. Seline

ATA President:

Can I suggest that the Council look closely at the local agreement regarding the process and details of the calendar, particularly the joint nature of the responsibility between the ATA and the ETSB?

M. Murray

ETSB Chair:

The calendar is not an easy process to establish.

M. Seline

ATA President:

Did you know that the calendar committee met recently and we are optimistic that a calendar conducive to all stakeholders is upcoming?

M. Murray

ETSB Chair:

No, I was unaware, but that is good news.

Carried unanimously

4. QUESTION PERIOD

No questions were asked.

5. RECOGNITION OF EXCELLENCE

Chairman M. Murray invited the following commissioners to present the February 21, 2023 Recognition of Excellence:

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

Campus Brome Missisquoi Host the Olympiades Regional Competition



Commissioner J. Murray: Did you know that the ETSB will send four *Olympiades* to the trade regionals on Friday the 24th 2023?!! Campus Brome Missisquoi's Vocational Training Centre will proudly host the Welding and Fitting Competition that was originally planned for February 17th, but was rescheduled for this Friday! Eight competitors will display their talents, which included 2 participants from both the Lennoxville Vocational Training Centre & Campus Brome-Missisquoi, along with vocational students from Windsor and 24juin.

The candidates will have to complete four projects according to specific requirements in order to demonstrate various procedures used in the trade of welding and fitting. The winner of this event will head to Quebec City in May to represent the *Estrie* region in the provincial level competition! Find out more about this trade competition *Olympiades des métiers et des technologies* organized by *Compétance Québec* and all that's to come.

<https://olympiadesmetiers.quebec/visiter/edition2023>

An interview was featured on our local community radio stations CJMQ and CIDI which you can listen to [HERE!](#)

Galt Sets a Serious **TRAP!**



Commissioner M. E. Kirby: GALT's drama crew proudly presented the production **TRAP**, a docu-theatre play, the first of this genre presented by the school. Thriller themes and paranormal aspects set this play apart from previous drama projects mounted by the school. A mysterious event happens in a small town and from there, the story rolls out in this production directed by Lynsey Sylvester and assisted by Olivia Louise Grenier.

With some 36 students who took part both on stage and behind the scenes, including international students spoke to the amazingly strong relationships that were built with 3+ school rehearsals per week. Congratulations to all who contributed to this dramatical performance, it was well worth the wait!

An interview was featured on our local community radio stations CJMQ and CIDI, which you can listen to [HERE!](#)

6. **BUSINESS ARISING**

There was no business arising.

7. **NEW BUSINESS**

There was no new business.

8. **REPORTS**

8.1 **Director General's report**

The Director General, M. Soucy reported the following:

Good evening everyone,

We have just wrapped up the official registration period for the upcoming 2023-2024 school year.

That being said, families can register at any time throughout the year for the youth sector, and the same goes for our Adult Education programs and courses.

So please do keep encouraging people to reach out to their closest school or establishment for information and/or to schedule an appointment to register, it's always the right time!

Last week was the launch of the Hooked on School Days 2023!

I am taking this opportunity to insist on the importance of continuously encouraging our young people to stay engaged in their education and to support their efforts throughout the year!

We must show interest in their paths and help them learn to use their strengths and talents to achieve their goals. Rarely is their journey a regular straight line, so we must be there for them and celebrate all their successes, whether big or small.

As you may know, the ETSB is recruiting and we are calling on your help to spread the word and invite great players to our team.

Thank you for sharing the employment opportunities within your networks. We are looking for professionals, support staff, general maintenance workers, bus drivers, administrative technicians, etc.

In closing, we are sending great vibes your way as we round the last corner until the much-deserved spring break!

8.2 **Chair's report**

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

Last Friday, we declared our third snow day of the current year for all schools and centres in the ETSB. I want to remind everyone to check the school calendar to take note that our movable pedagogical days have all been converted to student days. I enjoyed the latest snow day. It gave me quiet time to think in an unstructured way. It also allowed me to randomly explore online articles that I might not otherwise have read.

One item mentioned that this year is the 40th anniversary of « *La Semaine de Relache* » that we call Spring Break. I wasn't involved in education at the time so I don't recall whether it was controversial, but I suspect there were voices raised against it. Change is almost always seen as threatening by some. Lately, I have attended meetings where feedback was gathered in preparation for a school calendar for 2023. I heard some questions and criticism of the concept of a fall break similar to Spring Break. Objections ranged from the burden of childcare on families or the extra cost of daycare to a preference for more regularly spaced pedagogical planning days through the year. Nobody questioned spring break for any of those reasons. In one session, I asked whether the Board should reconsider spring break, and there was unanimous agreement that it is desirable. Would it have been the same forty years ago?

Change is hard. That seems to be a widely shared observation. We all have our habits and routines that allow us to cope with the stresses and challenges of our jobs and our lives. Anything that forces us out of our comfort zone means having to adjust other aspects of our professional or personal practices. There are plenty of challenges in our lives without someone else changing the structures within which we function. Yet it is also a common observation that change is happening around us whether we like it or not. Even more stressful, change seems to be accelerating whether it is the intrusion of technology into everything, greater fragility in mental health across the population or pandemics that upset every custom and routine we have. Even climate; that old reliable maker of our weather is changing at an incredible rate. Instability breeds more anxiety and stress, affecting health and happiness. Everywhere I look I find doomsayers predicting the end of something, from learning in schools to the collapse of civilization.

It is not easy to step back from the negativity to obtain a broader perspective. Our society is afflicted with an intellectual orientation that even has a new name; Presentism. Everything is regarded through the lens of what we have and do, rather than in context. Anything that clashes with our present values or concepts is regarded as negative, potentially threatening and needs to be eliminated. Welcome to "Cancel Culture."

It is vital, from time to time, to gain some perspective by understanding more of what used to be called normal and how we arrived at our present state. I am fortunate to have lived long enough to realize that most of what I described is merely noise and distraction. One of our great collective failings in education (in my not terribly humble opinion) is that we have abandoned teaching history. We have lost the sense of evolution in society and the comforting belief in progress.

Look back 100 years, to understand how things have changed. A century ago, the world was emerging from a devastating world war, the worst ever experienced, and a global pandemic that killed an estimated 100 million people among the survivors of the war. There were no guarantees that such devastation wouldn't be repeated. There was no social safety net anywhere; most people worked all their lives

without the prospect of retirement, disease and lack of sanitation killed nearly one in five children in Canada before they reached one year of age. The total child mortality was 24% before the age of 5. A significant share of homes lacked flush toilets and even running water. Women, who had just won the right to vote after long and bitter agitation still slaved in homes. There were no antibiotics, diseases like polio, measles, cholera, diphtheria and many others ran rampant and medical science was brutally primitive by today's standards. Labour was mostly physical and life expectancy for those who survived their first year was around 65 years. Would anyone alive today prefer to have lived then?

Closer to the present, fifty years ago, in the early 1970s, a lot had improved. Most of the epidemic diseases had been eradicated by vaccination. Child mortality under the age of five was down to 2.5%. Life expectancy of one-year-olds was still around 65, but the quality of that lifespan had improved enormously. Women no longer slaved in homes thanks to many labour-saving devices, and many were entering the workforce, gaining independence and self-esteem. However, people lived under a cloud of latent fear that the cold war would result in nuclear Armageddon, real wars dominated the news, scandals regularly rocked western governments. Aboriginal children were dying in residential schools devastating their communities without any public disclosure. We look back with amusement at the fashions and expectations of that time, but would any of us really prefer to have lived then?

I was a young adult in the 1970s. It wasn't terrible and we believed we were at the cutting edge of modernity. Some might even claim things were better than today. Mothers sent their children out to play "until the street lights come on" without fear of predators. Newspapers and Television were the principal, one might say the only sources of news. Reading meant holding physical books. There were no personal computers, no internet, no smart phones, no social media, no ATMs. People didn't worry much despite the geopolitical risks, focusing on the positive and expecting an even better future. Change was frequently celebrated as positive but there were still grumbles about the pace of change and wistful allusions to the Good Old Days. Those grumbles ignored the good elements like reduced disease and greater prosperity to focus on how new things forced us to abandon established practices.

There is always something new and often it is perceived at first as negative. Educators as a class seem to be particularly resistant to change, perhaps because the role of education is to transmit the accumulated knowledge of society to the next generation. It isn't always easy to separate the essential from the trivial. Teachers, when I attended elementary school, resisted the introduction of fountain pens and we were systematically taught to fill in bank deposit slips with nib pens dipped into inkwells so we would be able to do our banking. Later, teachers predicted dire consequences from ball point pens that would ruin handwriting and pocket calculators that would undermine mathematical education. In the 2010s, some lobbied against personal computers and today some worry that ChatGPT may enable students to create natural language essays. I was delighted to attend a briefing recently by our Technology Integration Coordinator that described in exciting terms the marvellous potential of the same Artificial Intelligence tools. Despite all the angst over the decades, students have continued to learn and apparently quite effectively based on the improving results across the entire spectrum of education.

In conclusion, I want to return to our experiment with the fall break week. It was presented to commissioners as a means of reducing stress and fatigue of both teachers and students about halfway through the fall semester. No teaching days were eliminated by simply grouping Pedagogical Days

together. Students would have a significant period of relaxation and reduced stress, ideally without homework or other assignments. Teachers and other personnel would use the opportunity for more effective professional development and have an opportunity to plan for the rest of the semester. We agreed to experiment, and understood that a single year might not be enough to evaluate its benefits and challenges. So far, we have heard a great deal about the challenges, but not the benefits. We didn't anticipate that some schools would decide to hold open house events or distribute report cards. The message about no homework was not universally understood. The impact of a one-day week on learning remains a matter for discussion and we may choose to structure the break differently. However, I expect we will continue until we get it right, or decide it isn't beneficial. That means making every effort to address challenges and incorporate positive suggestions while evaluating the benefits. Perhaps in another 38 years we will celebrate the 40th anniversary of a fall break week that nobody can imagine wanting to abolish.

I want to particularly thank the working committee that is currently holding consultations on the fall break. I know they listen carefully to feedback from all sources and want only to improve outcomes for our students.

Thanks and have a great spring break that starts this Friday.

9. ADVISORY COMMITTEES' REPORTS

9.1 Executive Committee

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

- A review and adoption of the staffing plan and some other issues to be discussed later in the Council meeting.

9.2 Governance and Ethics Committee

The Chair of the Governance and Ethics Committee, Commissioner D. Zigby mentioned the following:

- The last meeting mostly discussed the calendar consultation process and agreements with the *Centre de services Val-des-Cerfs*.

The date of the next meeting is scheduled for March 14, 2023.

9.3 Audit Advisory Committee

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

9.3.1 Finance:

None.

9.3.2 Material Resources:

9.3.2.1 Resolution No. ETSB 23-02-52

St. Francis Elementary School – Drop Off Buses and Parking Lot Renovation

WHEREAS the *Ministère de l'Éducation (MEQ)* approved a budget of \$650,756 for the project stated above, under the program *MDB - Maintien des bâtiments 2020-2021 Mesure: 50621*;

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 2021-2022 Mesure: 50621*;

WHEREAS eleven (11) companies retrieved the project specifications after a public invitation to bid on the project;

WHEREAS seven (7) bids were received by the Eastern Townships School Board by the date and time specified;

WHEREAS the lowest bid in the amount of \$795,467 (excluding taxes), was received from the company *Entreprise Richard Brisson inc.*;

WHEREAS after reviewing the bids, the assigned professional firm of *St-Georges Structures et Civil* has recommended the company *Entreprise Richard Brisson inc.* the lowest bidder in conformity, to do the work for the amount of \$972,391, including taxes and professional fees;

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 23-02-53

Sunnyside Elementary School – K4 Renovation

WHEREAS the *Ministère de l'Éducation (MEQ)* approved a budget of \$278,896 for the project stated above, under the program *RDE – Résorption du déficit d'entretien 2020-21 Mesure: 50621*;

WHEREAS a company known today as *Construction Encore Ltée* was awarded a contract in the amount of \$213,337 including professional fees and taxes, for the project stated above;

WHEREAS the Eastern Townships School Board (ETSB) approved an additional amount of \$285,827 for the project stated above, under the program *MDB – Maintien des bâtiments 2020-21 Mesure: 50621*;

WHEREAS this amount includes furniture costs, additional cleaning fees, and Buildings and Grounds extra hours dedicated to completing the project;

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

WHEREAS the amount of \$7,418 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 \$293,245;

WHEREAS all additional funds required to complete the project will be taken from *MDB - Maintien des bâtiments 2012-13* program;

IT WAS MOVED BY Commissioner C. Beaubien that the modification and/or additional work be awarded in order to complete the work for the project stated above; **IT WAS FURTHER MOVED** that the Director General and/or the Director of Material Resources be authorized to sign all associated documentation.

Carried unanimously

9.3.2.3 Resolution No. ETSB 23-02-54

Waterloo Elementary School – Renovation of the Main Entrance & Secretarial Sector

WHEREAS the *Ministère de l'Éducation (MEQ)* approved a budget of \$608,475 for the project stated above, under the program *MDB - Maintien des bâtiments 2020-2021 Mesure: 50621*;

WHEREAS a direct access to anyone accessing the school will be possible without a camera;

WHEREAS ventilation, a vestibule and a bathroom will also be created;

WHEREAS four (4) 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 lowest bid in the amount of \$611,733 (excluding taxes), was received from the company *Groupe Ultra Inc.*;

WHEREAS after reviewing the bids, the assigned professional firm of *ADSP* has recommended the company *Groupe Ultra Inc.* the lowest bidder in conformity, to do the work for the amount of \$783,256, including taxes and professional fees;

WHEREAS \$121,575.85 will be taken from *MDB - Maintien des bâtiments 2012-13* program *Mesure: 50621*;

WHEREAS \$53,205.15 will be taken from *MDB - Maintien des bâtiments 2020-21* program *Mesure: 50621*;

IT WAS MOVED BY Commissioner R. Gosselin 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 23-02-55
Sutton Elementary School – Kitchen Renovation

WHEREAS the *Ministère de l'Éducation (MEQ)* approved a budget of \$278,896 for the project stated above, under the program *MDB - Maintien des bâtiments 2021-2022 Mesure: 50621*;

WHEREAS plumbing, ventilation, flooring, ceiling and surface tables will be renovated or replaced;

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 lowest bid in the amount of \$229,389 (excluding taxes), was received from the company *Alain Lizotte Construction Inc.*

WHEREAS after reviewing the bids, the assigned professional firm of *Pierre Dignard Architecte* has recommended the company *Alain Lizotte Construction Inc.* the lowest bidder in conformity, to do the work for the amount of \$302,519, including taxes and professional fees;

WHEREAS all additional funds required to complete the project will be taken from *MDB - Maintien des bâtiments 2012-13* program;

IT WAS MOVED BY Commissioner R. Gagnon 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 May 16, 2023.

9.4 Educational Advisory Committee (ESAC)

The Chair of the Educational Advisory Committee, M.E. Kirby summarized the February 7, 2023 meeting:

- Nurturing Support Centres in schools;
- ChatGPT presentation;
- Update from CSAC;
- Digital security information presentation.

The Chair also mentioned that the date of the next Advisory Committee meeting is scheduled for April 4, 2023.

9.5 Communications Advisory Committee

The Chair of the Communications Advisory Committee, H. Turgeon mentioned that the date of the next meeting is scheduled for March 21, 2023.

9.6 Human Resources Advisory Committee

The Chair of the Human Resources Advisory Committee, C. Beaubien mentioned the following:

- Will be meeting to discuss upcoming agendas with the new Director of HR – C. Dufresne;
- Thanked Communications Consultant H. Bailey for her work on the BLINK newsletters.

The date of the next Human Resources Advisory Committee meeting is scheduled for April 11, 2023.

9.7 Transportation Advisory Committee

The Chair of the Transportation Advisory Committee, Commissioner G. Holliday was absent and in his stead, the Secretary General, E. Campbell mentioned that the date of the next meeting is scheduled for March 15, 2023.

9.8 Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC)

The SEAC Commissioner, E. McKnight mentioned the date of the next meeting is scheduled for March 15, 2023.

10. PARENTS' COMMITTEE

The Commissioner representing parents, D. Zigby mentioned the topics that were discussed at the February 1st 2023 meeting:

- Rationale and planning regarding the calendar process.

The date of the next Parents' Committee meeting is scheduled for March 8, 2023.

11. STUDENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

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

On February 9, 2023, the Student Advisory Committee met with the following agenda:

- Four tenets of conservation and nature nerding – presented by the Massawippi Foundation;
- CJMQ radio interviews discussion;
- Community building and ways to get involved (service opportunities);
- Possibility of a promotional video for CSAC to get the message out among students (even in primary).

The date of the next Student Advisory Committee meeting is scheduled for March 9, 2023.

12. QESBA

ETSB Chair M. Murray confirmed that there was no news on challenge to Bill 40.

The dates for the Spring Conference are the 17th & 18th of May, 2023. The award ceremony is planned for long-term commissioners serving since 1998. They will have 25 years of service and are up for an award.

Nominations for the *Protecteur nationale des élèves* have been published but do not seem to include any requirement for competency in English, for which QESBA has intervened.

QESBA is proposing a broad community consultation on the future of English education in Quebec. To be held probably in the spring of 2024, we hope to have some strong recommendations for English education going forward.

The newest round of labour negotiations seem to have been stalled.

QESBA is protesting the reduction of LEARN's budget for English online tutoring and is in the process of fighting this funding cut.

Commissioner F. MacGregor also pointed out that, out of the monies destined for minorities in Quebec, only approximately 20% was received. It is unclear where the remainder goes.

13. COMMISSIONER'S COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS

Commissioner G. Barnett:

Alexander Galt Regional High School (AGRHS)

- The recycling program is ready to go.
- The breakfast program is going well.
- Students have a support program, remediation, enrichment and a home base group.
- The Performing Arts program presented TRAP; a play about fear and anxiety and how it affects individuals in a dialogue format. The students did an exceptional job in presenting a 90-Minute complex play.

Lennoxville Elementary School (LES)

- Kitchen renovation will be during March Break. The problem will be to provide the service and with no revenue to pay the cook.
- Mural project is fully paid. A plaque will be made to indicate the sponsors plus a history of the school and the Mural.
- The parking lot could benefit from better lighting and to highlight the Mural but without being a nuisance to the neighbours.

- An Educational Project is in the beginning stages with an accent of French and Technology so far. LES is consulting with all those involved with the school regarding priorities such as a safe and healthy school, success for all students and numerous others.
- Daycare guidelines have been modified.
- Library finances – questions were asked. A committee will examine Library operation.
- Principal Criteria – some time on this was spent since the school will have a new one next year. Some added items are: *Santé Globale*, French, Knowledge and Understanding special needs students, Technology and Commitment to the community.

Lennoxville Vocational Training Centre (LVTC) – GB

- MEQ Strategic Plan – Although this plan has not been received, work has commenced on the Commitment to Success plan at the School Board level. LVTC has not been able to accomplish everything in their current Educational Project plan so will keep the same orientation but change the action plan; one of the objectives is to increase the level of retention. Sometimes students are unable to get a stage and so they quit or get hired after a stage and also quit.
- Students prefer online learning, but LVTC prefers their students in class.
- The budget needed to be revised because of an apparent deficit, but examination showed that some *ETPs (Étudiants temps plein)* were not calculated correctly and a lot from Welding and Health were not counted plus some teachers were double booked. A few administrative cuts plus the above resulted in a \$300K surplus.
- The *PAB (Préposés aux bénéficiaires)* program has reached an agreement with Grace Village (Huntingville) and other English institutions, as the CIUSSS has decided to not hire any more English students in the area. No agreement has been reached with the Wales Home.

Commissioner M-E Kirby:

Wonderful drama program at GALT. Pride for her niece was expressed who was the school's play director. Lyndsey Sylvester, play director is a graduate of GALT and got her start in drama at the school. There was also a great appreciation for the many elementary schools in the region that have been able to take kids outside for winter sports like skating and downhill skiing.

Commissioner Jonathan Murray:

Happy to hear that CBM opened its doors to grade 6 students from 2 feeder schools to explore their programs. My daughter attended...saw the welding, computers, a lot of kids were happy to be there and kudos to CBM to spike interest in the trades.

14. UPCOMING EVENTS

None.

15. CORRESPONDENCE

None.

16. QUESTION PERIOD

M. Seline

ATA president:

AI (Artificial Intelligence) was mentioned in your chair's report, listening to VPR (Vermont Public Radio) regarding use of AI for hiring purposes. Will HR consider using AI in hiring procedure here at the ETSB?

M. Murray

ETSB Chair:

That's an interesting question. I won't ask Director Caroline Dufrense to answer just now, but thinking AI will be high on the list. Unless you'd like to add something?

Caroline Dufrense

HR Director:

At this time we are not using AI.

Adam Brody

BES union representative:

Regarding the decision to continue with a block of 4 pedagogical days in November, I recently polled the Butler Elementary staff and found a unanimous preference for the redistribution of the days, given the opportunity. Since the decision has already been made, will the ETSB be including teachers in an official capacity in future decisions of the creation of the calendar given its impact on students? If so, will this be done in full transparency?

M. Murray

ETSB Chair:

The fall break was experimental. We made clear that it might be maintained for more than one year to get a clear evaluation. It is not yet a final decision. This was done in full knowledge that there would be a necessary adjustment period, perhaps several years, before its success or failure could be properly evaluated. A committee composed of teachers and administrators, commissioners and other categories had been appointed to oversee the consultation process that had just begun, confirming that teachers are represented in the calendar consultation.

M. Seline

ATA president:

Based on Mr. Brody's question, may I make a correction? Were you aware that there is no commissioner represented, although the others (teachers, administrators and human resources personnel) are, and furthermore, they are representative of the ETSB's different regions.

M. Murray

ETSB Chair:

Acknowledged clarification.

Barbra Plouffe

Parkview Elementary Principal:

Would it be possible to include daycare and support staff personnel in the consultation process? They are most affected by these sorts of decisions.

M. Murray

ETSB Chair:

I'm sure Kandy Mackey, Assistant Director General, who organizes and hosts the committee will take that into consideration.

M. Seline

ATA president:

Has the relationship with *Val-des-Cerfs* been modified? If not, is the ETSB still pursuing modifying the agreement between the two organizations?

M. Murray

ETSB Chair:

There is no simple agreement with our sister board, but rather many and that some have been finalized and some are in current negotiations.

M. Seline

ATA president:

The annual report indicates two acts of violence within the ETSB however, the speaker was aware of more during the year. What explains this discrepancy?

M. Murray

ETSB Chair:

The annual report's mentions of violence refer to those which escalated to the point of involvement by the Director General or other high-ranking officials. It is understood that more minor acts occur throughout the year, but they are most effectively dealt with by protocols already in place at the school level. Violence as per the annual report refers to those instances involving senior administration.

M. Seline

ATA president:

Should the ETSB perhaps review or re-assess the responsibilities of the Director General when it comes to reporting acts of violence?

M. Murray

ETSB Chair:

It would be possible to investigate it, but the current process works very effectively.

17. GOVERNANCE AND COMMUNICATION

There was nothing of note to declare.

18. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned on a motion by Commissioner D. Zigby at 8:00 p.m.

Éric Campbell
Secretary General

Michael Murray
Chairman

EC/gm
02.21.2023