

## EASTERN TOWNSHIPS SCHOOL BOARD

### COUNCIL OF COMMISSIONERS

TUESDAY, MAY 23, 2023 – 7:00 P.M.

ETSB BOARD ROOM

340, SAINT-JEAN-BOSCO

MAGOG, QC. J1X 1K9

### MINUTES

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*Enhanced Literacy and Numeracy – Dropout Prevention – Physical and Mental Health*

COMMISSIONERS		PARENT COMMISSIONERS	
Gordon Barnett	Z	<b>VACANT</b>	–
Claire Beaubien	Z	Helene Turgeon	Z
Shawn Jersey	Z	Daniel Zigby	Z
Richard Gagnon	Z	Eliza McKnight	Z
Gary Holliday	Z	DIRECTORS' COMMITTEE (DC)	
Joy Humenuik, <b>Vice-Chair</b>	Z	Secretary General – Éric Campbell	P
Mary-Ellen Kirby	Z	Assistant Director General – Kandy Mackey	Z
Frank MacGregor	Z	Director General – Michel Soucy	P
Richard Gosselin	Z	Director of Human Resources – Caroline Dufresne	Z
Jonathan Murray	Z	Director of Financial Services – Sophie Leduc	Z
Michael Murray, <b>Chair</b>	Z	Director of Instructional Technology and Pedagogical Services – Eva Lettner	A
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 7:01 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 May 23, 2023 as deposited, with the following addition:

7.4 Lennoxville Elementary School – Appointment of Principal.

Carried unanimously

**3. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF APRIL 25, 2023**

**Resolution No. ETSB 23-05-79**

**Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting of the Council of Commissioners held on April 25, 2023**

**WHEREAS** a copy of the Minutes of the meeting of April 25, 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. Holliday to excuse the Secretary General from reading the Minutes and to approve the Minutes of the meeting held on April 25, 2023 as deposited.

Carried unanimously

**4. QUESTION PERIOD**

A. Blampied

ATA president: ATA will survey teachers on witnessing violence in their schools. Would Commissioners be interested in seeing the results (3 parts to bullying: student to student, student to teacher/staff, staff to staff)?

M. Murray: Yes, we are very interested in having access to the results of your survey. We are always wanting to know what is going on in our schools with regards to this. Thank you.

**5. RECOGNITION OF EXCELLENCE**

Chairman M. Murray presented the May 23, 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:**

## Farnham Elementary Sends a Spring of Joy!



**Commissioner J. Humenuik:** When Farnham Elementary's students and staff heard of the serious water needs at their "sister" school in Kenya, it didn't take long for them to take action. The Sokoro Primary School which serves over 600 students reached out to their ETSB friends, as they had no running water and couldn't afford a pump or tanks. With remaining monies from last year's fundraisers, Farnham Elementary offered to cover the \$1,500 cost for their new water pump. Imagine how many smiles and cooling cups this generous gift will provide. Farnham Elementary, you are changing lives near and far!

## Alexander Galt Student gets a Hand!





**Commissioner M. E. Kirby:** Grade 10 GALT student, Mateo Jarquin, is on the move with his dynamic invention of a robotic hand! His creation has already won him numerous awards and more opportunity is on the horizon. Having entered his project entitled “Need a Hand With That?!” at the Technoscience provincial competition in April, he earned a bronze medal in the “*Jeune Innovateur*” category, and was 1 of 10 students chosen to go on and compete nationally. This pan-Canadian event, namely the Canada-Wide Science Fair (CWSF), was held in Edmonton earlier this month. At the time this Recognition of Excellence was written, the results were still to be made public...check the link below for results! We congratulate Mateo on his ingenuity and wish him much more success with his innovative inventions!

Final results will be posted here: <https://youthscience.ca/science-fairs/cwsf/edmonton-2023/>

Meanwhile you need to see it to believe it, have a look at what went into the making of this robotic hand!  
<https://youtu.be/xfW-r8qHRyI>

It was further noted that Mateo Jarquin won a silver medal as well as scholarships at the University of Alberta and the University of Western Ontario.

## 6. BUSINESS ARISING

There was no business arising.

## 7. NEW BUSINESS

The President of elections, S. G. Tremblay asked the new elected Commissioner, R. Gosselin to swear in.

### 7.1 Oath of Office – Province of Quebec (ETSB)

I, RICHARD GOSELIN having been appointed as Commissioner for Ward 4 of the Eastern Townships School Board, make oath that I will faithfully discharge the duties of my office according to the best of my judgment and ability.

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Commissioner signature

Sworn before me, the undersigned, this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ 2023 in Magog, Quebec.

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Eric Campbell, Secretary General

Commissioner R. Gosselin has been sworn in. The form will be sent back to the Secretary General to be signed.

The next two resolutions were presented and explained by the Secretary General, E. Campbell:

**7.2 Resolution No. ETSB 23-05-80**  
**Schedule of Council of Commissioners meetings – 2023-2024**

August 22, 2023  
September 26, 2023  
October 24, 2023  
November 28, 2023  
January 23, 2024  
February 27, 2024  
March 26, 2024  
April 23, 2024  
May 28, 2024  
June 25, 2024

**IT WAS MOVED BY** Commissioner D. Zigby to adopt the schedule of Council of Commissioners meetings for the 2023-2024 school year.

Carried unanimously

**7.3 Resolution No. ETSB 23-05-81**  
**Proposed division of the Eastern Townships School Board territory into electoral districts**

**IT WAS MOVED BY** Commissioner M. E. Kirby to approve the division of the Eastern Townships School Board territory into 11 electoral divisions as submitted and that it also be submitted to the public consultation procedure in accordance with the provisions of the Act respect school elections (R.S.Q., c. E-2.3).

A Commissioner pointed out a minor correction to be made (change in Ward 9 from 'Town of Asbestos' to 'Val-des-Sources'). There was also a brief discussion on the procedure that would occur should a ward be contested. Commissioners also inquired whether it would be possible to see voter lists even if no election is called.

The Assistant Director General, K. Mackey presented the following resolution for information only. This resolution will be adopted at tonight's Council of Commissioners meeting. Two commissioners had the chance to meet with and interview the candidate as well as share their experience.

Carried unanimously

The next resolution was presented by the Director General, M. Soucy:

**7.4 Resolution No. ETSB 23-05-82**  
**Lennoxville Elementary School – Appointment of Principal**

**WHEREAS** the position of Principal of Lennoxville Elementary School will become vacant with the retirement of Ms. Dawn Irving, as of June 30, 2023;

**WHEREAS** the General Directorate unanimously recommends this person to the Council of Commissioners;

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

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

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

**IT WAS MOVED BY** Commissioner G. Barnett that the Council of Commissioners appoint Ms. Tara McCully, Principal of Lennoxville Elementary School effective July 1<sup>st</sup> 2023.

Carried unanimously

**8. REPORTS**

**8.1 Director General's report**

The Director General, M. Soucy had nothing new to report.

**8.2 Chair's report**

The Chair of the Council of Commissioners, M. Murray had nothing new to report.

**9. ADVISORY COMMITTEES' REPORTS**

**9.1 Executive Committee**

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

- The committee received a report from the subcommittee for the Lennoxville Elementary School (LES) principal appointment, and otherwise handled routine and ongoing matters.

**9.2 Governance and Ethics Committee**

The Chair of the Governance and Ethics Committee, Commissioner D. Zigby mentioned that the date of the next meeting is **to be determined**.

### **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 23-05-83**

##### **Objectives and Principles Governing the Allocation of Resources pursuant to Section 275 Education Act (EA) and allocation of surpluses Section 193.4 (EA) – Budget Year 2023-2024**

**WHEREAS** Section 275 of the EA states that after consulting with the governing boards and the parents' committee, and taking into account the recommendations of the resource allocation committee under the fourth paragraph of section 193.3, the School Board shall establish objectives and principles governing the allocation of subsidies, school-tax proceeds and its other revenues;

**WHEREAS** under Section 193.4 (EA), the resource allocation committee must annually make a recommendation to the Council of Commissioners regarding the allocation of the surpluses of the School Board's educational institutions in accordance with section 96.24 (EA);

**WHEREAS** in accordance with Section 193.3 (EA), the resource allocation committee has set up a consultation process with a view to establishing objectives and principles governing the annual allocation of revenues in accordance with section 275, determining how those revenues are to be allocated in accordance with Section 275.1, including by setting out the criteria to be used to determine the amounts allocated, and determining how student services are to be distributed in accordance with Section 261;

**WHEREAS** under Section 193(9) (EA), the Central Parents' Committee was consulted on the objectives and principles governing the allocation of subsidies, school-tax proceeds and other revenues among educational institutions as well as the criteria pertaining thereto, and the objectives, principles and criteria used to determine the amount to be withheld by the School Board for its needs and those of its committees;

**IT WAS MOVED BY** Commissioner J. Humenuik that the Council of Commissioners approve the Objectives and Principles Governing the Allocation of Subsidies, School Tax proceeds and other Revenues, as well as the objectives, principles and criteria used to determine the amount reserved for its own needs and the needs of its committees, as it pertains to the School Board's budget for the 2023-2024 school year;

**IT WAS FURTHER MOVED** to accept that Schools and Vocational Centres surplus will be limited to whichever is greater, \$10,000 or 5% of the operating budget, excluding decentralized grants. Until Schools or Vocational Centres surpluses are within the predetermined range a School/Vocational Centre cannot increase its surplus and must in fact decrease the amount of its

surplus to the predetermined range (\$10,000 or 5% of its original budget excluding the decentralized grants). Deficits are to be reimbursed at a maximum of 2% to 5% per year of the operating budget excluding decentralized grants for the school year 2023-2024. Exceptionally, because financing of the Adult Sector is based on ETP's from two years ago, the ETAGE Centre can keep a maximum cumulated surplus of \$600,000. Any cumulated deficit by the ETAGE Centre will be treated the same as schools and the Vocational Centres.

Carried unanimously

### 9.3.2 **Material Resources:**

#### 9.3.2.1 **Resolution No. ETSB 23-05-84**

#### **Richmond Regional High School – Heating System Replacement and Roofing Renovation**

**WHEREAS** the purpose of this resolution is to combine all previous resolutions concerning this project: 20-06-105, 21-02-64 and 22-10-22 and to correct amounts;

**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 2019-2020* *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 2019-2020* *Mesure: 50622*;

**WHEREAS** the *Ministère de l'Éducation (MEQ)* approved a budget of \$434,287 for the project 18-024-MDB-24 stated above, under the program *MDB – Maintien des bâtiments 2018-2029* *Mesure: 50626*;

**WHEREAS** the *Ministère de l'Éducation (MEQ)* approved a budget of \$100,000 for the project 17-003-MDB-14 stated above, under the program *MDB – Maintien des bâtiments 2017-2018* *Mesure: 50621*;

**WHEREAS** the *Ministère de l'Éducation (MEQ)* approved a budget of \$225,000 for the project 17-008-MDB-16 stated above, under the program *MDB – Maintien des bâtiments 2017-2018* *Mesure: 50621*;

**WHEREAS** the projects 17-033-MDB-14 and 17-008-MDB-16 were done through the ventilation project;

**WHEREAS** monies for projects 17-033-MDB-14 and 17-008-MDB-16 will then be taken for the project stated above;

**WHEREAS** seven (7) 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 \$2,631,833 (excluding taxes), was received from the company *Construction Alain Morin Inc.*;

**WHEREAS** a performance grant of \$882,033 has been accepted by *Transition Énergétique Québec (TEQ)* and will be available to the ETSB at the completion of the project;

**WHEREAS** after reviewing the bids, the assigned professional firm of *Un à Un Architecture* has recommended the company *Construction Alain Morin Inc.* the lowest bidder in conformity, to do the work for the amount of \$3,373,174, including taxes and professional fees;

**WHEREAS** the amount of \$349,481 to pay for 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 mesure 50621*;

**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

#### **9.3.2.2 Resolution No. ETSB 23-05-85**

##### **Waterloo Elementary School – Upgrading of Electrical Network**

**WHEREAS** the *Ministère de l'Éducation (MEQ)* approved a budget of \$92,965 for the project stated above, under the program *MDB - Maintien des bâtiments 2020-2021 Mesure: 50621*;

**WHEREAS** three (3) companies received the project specifications after an 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 \$67,217 (excluding taxes) was received from the company *Damélec Inc.*;

**WHEREAS** after reviewing the bids, the assigned professional firm of *IME Experts Conseil Inc.* has recommended the company *Damélec Inc.* the lowest bidder in conformity, to do the work for the amount of \$95,416, including taxes and professional fees;

**WHEREAS** all additional funds required to complete the project, will be taken from *MDB - Maintien des bâtiments 2022-23* program;

**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

**9.3.2.3 Resolution No. ETSB 23-05-86**

**Sawyerville Elementary School – Wall Structure Renovation of Bathrooms and Cafeteria**

**WHEREAS** the *Ministère de l'Éducation (MEQ)* approved a budget of \$371,861 for the project 21-016-MDB-08 stated above, under the program *MDB - Maintien des bâtiments 2021-22* *Mesure: 50621*;

**WHEREAS** the *Ministère de l'Éducation (MEQ)* approved a budget of \$464,826 for the project 21-016-MDB-09 stated above, under the program *MDB - Maintien des bâtiments 2021-22* *Mesure: 50621*;

**WHEREAS** five (5) companies retrieved the project specifications after a public invitation to bid on the project;

**WHEREAS** one (1) bid was received by the Eastern Townships School Board by the date and time specified;

**WHEREAS** the lowest bid in the amount of \$459,700 (excluding taxes) was received from the company *Construction Turco Inc.*;

**WHEREAS** after reviewing the bids, the assigned professional firm of *Archi Tech Design Inc.* has recommended the company *Construction Turco Inc.* the lowest bidder in conformity, to do the work for the amount of \$576,589, including taxes and professional fees;

**IT WAS MOVED BY** Commissioner M. E. Kirby 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 23-05-87**

**Marguerite Knapp Building – School Bus Charging Stations**

**WHEREAS** the *Ministère de l'Éducation (MEQ)* approved a budget of \$1,917,933 for the project stated above, under the program *Autobus scolaires des règles budgétaires pour les investissements pour les années 2021-2022 à 2023-2024* *Mesure: 50540*;

**WHEREAS** the *MEQ* demands our bus fleet to be electric;

**WHEREAS** the Marguerite Knapp Building grounds would benefit from having fourteen (14) charging stations installed considering the proximity of the current bus garage;

**WHEREAS** after reviewing the plans, the assigned professional firms *St-Georges Structure & Civil*, *IME Experts-Conseils Inc.*, *Ecce Terra arpenteurs-géomètres* and *Solmatech* have mandated \$65,145 for the site improvement;

**WHEREAS** due to the constraints within the timeline to implement the project stated above, this resolution must be presented on a budgetary basis in the amount of \$1,917,933;

**WHEREAS** the contract will be granted as soon as the results of the call for tenders will be known;

**WHEREAS** the contract will be granted in respects of authorization by the *MEQ* for this project (contract, professional fees & taxes included) and the Eastern Townships School Board's purchase policy and government requirements (laws, policies, rules, etc.);

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

Carried unanimously

#### **9.3.2.5 Resolution No. ETSB 23-05-88**

##### **Butler Elementary School – Drop-off and Parking Renovation**

**WHEREAS** the *Ministère de l'Éducation (MEQ)* approved a budget of \$781,837 for the project stated above, under the program *MDB - Maintien des bâtiments 2021-2022 Mesure: 50621*;

**WHEREAS** five (5) 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 \$839,090 (excluding taxes), was received from the company *Huard Excavation Inc.*;

**WHEREAS** after reviewing the bids, the assigned professional firm of *St. Georges Structures et Civil* has recommended the company *Huard Excavation Inc.* the lowest bidder in conformity, to do the work for the amount of \$1,060,058, including taxes and professional fees;

**WHEREAS** all additional funds required to complete the project, will be taken from *MDB – Maintien des bâtiments 2021-22 Mesure: 50621*;

**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

The date of the next Audit Advisory Committee is scheduled for June 20, 2023.

#### **9.4 Educational Advisory Committee (ESAC)**

The Assistant Director General, K. Mackey presented the following resolution:

##### **9.4.1 Resolution No. ETSB 23-05-89 Service Contract, Professional Development in Mathematics**

**WHEREAS** in partnership with Leadership Committee for English Education in Quebec (LCEEQ), the Eastern Townships School Board (ETSB) has been promoting professional development in Mathematics over the past 9 years led by the Math DNA team;

**WHEREAS** the professional development offered promotes students' intellectual engagement through a shift in teaching practices to consider conceptual-based learning;

**WHEREAS** teachers from each of the 9 English school boards were invited to participate in this professional development through a 3-year commitment to a Math Summer Learning Institute;

**WHEREAS** participation in the Summer Learning Institute was only available to a select number of participants during the month of August;

**WHEREAS** only elementary schools were targeted during the first years in the offer of professional development;

**WHEREAS** the ETSB wishes to ensure that our high school Mathematics teachers are exposed to this training to ensure continuity in teaching practices and an increase in student success rates;

**WHEREAS** Dr. Farshid Safi has been working with our high school teachers for the past year to further investigate a shift in teaching practices towards increased student engagement;

**WHEREAS** our high school teachers would continue to benefit from the expertise of Dr. Farshid Safi and Dr. George J. Roy on making sense of mathematics for teaching and creating shared visions of classroom instruction that advance student achievement;

**WHEREAS** Dr. Fashid Safi and Dr. George J. Roy were approached to support a professional development plan over 8 days for the ETSB for a total cost of \$47,500 USD, including travel.

**IT WAS MOVED BY** Commissioner M. E. Kirby to authorize the Director General to sign a project contract with Mr. Farshid Safi and to the amount of \$47,500 USD for the 2023-2024 school year, effective immediately;

**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 Instructional Technology and Pedagogical Services can also sign.

Carried unanimously

The Chair, M. E. Kirby also mentioned that the date of the next Advisory Committee meeting is scheduled for June 6, 2023.

#### **9.5 Communications Advisory Committee**

The Chair of the Communications Advisory Committee, H. Turgeon mentioned that the date of the next meeting is **to be determined**.

#### **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 **to be determined**.

#### **9.7 Transportation Advisory Committee**

The Chair of the Transportation Advisory Committee, Commissioner G. Holliday discussed the ongoing strike with *Autobus Yamaska* and parent concerns. Chairman M. Murray noted that the ETSB has no active role in the negotiations.

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

#### **9.8 Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC)**

The SEAC Commissioner, E. McKnight mentioned the following:

- SEAC's last meeting was May 10, 2023 – Assistant Director General K. Mackey was a guest speaker introducing the Commitment to Success Plan;
- SEAC brainstormed parent workshop ideas for 2023-2024;
- Recommendations to the Director General were finalized and will be presented at their next and final meeting of the year.

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

### **10. PARENTS' COMMITTEE**

The Commissioner representing parents, D. Zigby mentioned the following:

- The committee met on May 3<sup>rd</sup> 2023 for a special announcement: the resignation of a parent commissioner due to his being elected as an official Commissioner for Ward 4 – Mr. Richard Gosselin;
- The next Parent's Committee meeting will elect a new parent representative;
- The committee also received a presentation by Buildings & Grounds describing their investment project.

The date of the next Parents' Committee meeting is scheduled for June 7, 2023.

## 11. STUDENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

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

The Student Advisory Committee's last meeting was May 11, 2023, where members discussed recruitment for next year, 2024 meeting topics and structure (mixed in-person/virtual meetings), CJMQ interviews as well as the upcoming June 19, 2023 meeting with Commissioners.

Commissioners were encouraged to send questions to J. Humenuik ahead of time so that students could come prepared.

The date of the next Student Advisory Committee meeting is scheduled for 2023 (to be determined).

## 12. QESBA

Judge Lussier will render a judgment on the challenge to Bill 40 before the end of June 2023. ETSB has been waiting over 2-3 years, depending on how you count when the process started. It's likely we will have to appeal if some parts of the judgment are found unacceptable; same for the Government. We are also in court challenging Bill 21 (secularism bill), but we cannot uphold this under the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms. The language minority rights are protected in the charter. Power Law (legal firm) is working to define what management and control means. CAC's efforts to totally control education should make us very angry, according to them. There is no option other than to contest the Bill due to many violations.

In response to Bill 23, QESBA told the province it would see no option except to contest the Bill, should it be adopted in present form. The Bill would give Quebec more control over school boards, including the ability to hire and fire your Director General, which M. Murray and QESBA charge is a violation of English School Board's right to self-govern. The Supreme Court has defined appointing a director general as one of the most fundamental rights of a minority education system.

The most recent census in 2021, the question of language/orientation wasn't asked previously, astonishingly the English population in Quebec has increased and the English-speaking community constitutes about 15% of the total population. There are a number of implications that the English-speaking population is growing, the government is obliged to open schools where the numbers are sufficient, and the English system gets to decide where those numbers are warranted. We now have access to the numbers of eligible students in each basin from the census.

We are encouraged to obtain the census data and look where we may need to promote our schools and open new schools where students are under served. We have opportunities to drive the system in the other direction.

Commissioner F. MacGregor – we are encouraged to challenge anything that comes down from the government and steps on our rights. We will probably be in court for a long time due to all of this.

The QESBA conference itself “Moving from Collective Pain to Collective Healing. The Power of Reflective Practice” workshop – 2 important statements: “Your response to a child’s behaviour is as important as the child’s behaviour.” “We observe our students a lot but rarely observe our own as much.” I found these poignant.

Document to possibly be shared by Noel Burke – How are things going at your school?

Chairman M. Murray – accepted to host the 2024 Spring Conference at ETSB.

### **13. COMMISSIONER’S COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS**

Commissioner G. Barnett:

#### **Eastern Townships General Adult Education (ETAGE)**

- Students have a few stand-up desks, which they appreciate;
- Educational Project: All groups have been consulted and have given feedback regarding the merger. This feedback will be solicited from the external partners;
- Exams: Stats are above last year – Francization (96), which is expanding fast ahead of other boards;
- The calendars cover 224 days with 7 pedagogical days plus 3 floating pedagogical days. The CBM calendars differ due to CBM’s association with Centre de services Val-des-Cerfs and the transportation issue;
- The Social Integration students are fundraising to finance a trip to Cuba;
- ETAGE is looking at future competencies. Technology is changing fast; Excel today is very different from the past versions. ETAGE and managers expect students with lower competencies, students being more and more behind and ETAGE will try to bridge the gap;
- Students at S3 high school have not really mastered S1 and S2, there being a gap between where students are and should be thereby needing more support. Students say that will all the employment opportunities, why does education matter? Since they do not need it for jobs, this changes what classes look like as well as the needs.

**Distance Education** (Student numbers)

- There are currently 226 students from ETSB, 346 from other boards, which is down;
- There are 32 in Home study;
- Women of Steel: 15 in SVI (Social Vocational Instruction).

**New Horizons (NH) & Campus Brome-Misissquoi (CBM)**

- Both NH and CBM Adult Education students will send soccer teams to a regional tournament;
- NH has developed a partnership with Probox in Sherbrooke to give Social Development Instruction to their at-risk adults. This organization is similar to *Pleins Rayons*;
- CBM is running a series of workshops in elementary schools to reach adults that are struggling and seeking other services;
- The nature of the student population is changing. The clientele is very different and observable, students needing a shift in services with more attention paid to wellness, breaks, etc.

**Lennoxville Elementary School (LES) Governing Board**

- There are currently 329 students for 18 groups: 2 for K4, 3 for Kindergarten, one G1, one G1-2 split, 2 each for Grades 2, 3 and 4 as well as 2 for Grade 6;
- There was a detailed presentation on Sexual Education touching on various aspects: identity, relationships, development, well-being, knowledge, stereotypes, assault, respect as well as other aspects. This topic is organized into themes for each level, for example 4 for Grade 6, 2 for Kindergarten, etc.;
- The supply lists have not changed due to the Class Action Lawsuit;
- The new Ethics, Religion and Culture program is not ready.

Commissioner C. Beaubien:

**Lennoxville Vocational Training Centre (LVTC)**

- I attended the Success Plan workshop. Very different approach that could lead to positive change as it is seen by various stakeholders and at different levels of our School Board staff. In the coming weeks, I will attend the ones from the 3 elementary schools in my ward.



- There was an Open House on May 18, 2023. It was quite a different tour, lots of kids toured with their parents. Chris did a great presentation for the 24U programs or students for the day. He was encouraging students to not give up because they had one course mission (options: summer school, New Horizons, etc.).

#### **Sunnyseed Garden at Sunnyside Elementary**

- It was great to see all of what is happening at Sunnyside with their garden expansion. A new Geodesic dome will be constructed with an outdoor kitchen area thanks to a \$100,000 grant announced by the Honourable *Marie-Claude Bibeau, Députée de Compton-Stanstead* and the *Ministre de l'Agriculture et de l'Agroalimentaire*. Sunnyseed is a project so close to her heart.

Commissioner G. Holliday

#### **Sunnyside Elementary School – Spring Conference**

- The Spring Conference was very interesting. “Imagining the schools of tomorrow today” workshop. Through the Ministry “lab-ecole” idea for schools, the Sunnyside project could be considered in line with this. It was wonderful to see what’s being done at Sunnyside. This is exactly what we are promoting in our schools.
- Another “Improving Accesibility in our schools” we go over the limit to make things beautiful, but it’s best to keep things simple (not poster like) to catch people’s eye, add a QR code, etc.
- 3<sup>rd</sup> workshop, “Improving photography on your iphone”, can do miracles with this! This could be beneficial for a lot of people. Also, I looked around to see what worked and what didn’t work for the conference as notes for when the ETSB will host. The keynote speaker was top-notch; easy to understand to the point!

Commissioner M. E. Kirby

#### **Commitment To Success Plan**

- I attended the Commitment To Success plan consultation at one school in my ward – congratulations to Kandy and her team responsible for arranging and facilitating them. The idea was very much appreciated by staff and parents in attendance.

**14. UPCOMING EVENTS**

The Chairman, M. Murray noted that the major upcoming events are the various graduation ceremonies taking place throughout the ETSB schools.

**15. CORRESPONDENCE**

None.

**16. QUESTION PERIOD**

The second question period was opened and closed without volunteers.

**17. GOVERNANCE AND COMMUNICATION**

None.

**18. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned on a motion by Commissioner R. Gagnon at 8:16 p.m.

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Éric Campbell  
Secretary General

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Michael Murray  
Chairman

EC/gm  
05.23.2023