

EASTERN TOWNSHIPS SCHOOL BOARD

COUNCIL OF COMMISSIONERS

TUESDAY, JUNE 27, 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	Dan Nagle	Z
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, 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
Richard Gosselin	Z	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	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 7:00 p.m.

2. QUORUM AND ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

QUORUM WAS ESTABLISHED AND IT WAS MOVED BY Commissioner G. Holliday to adopt the Agenda of June 27, 2023 as deposited.

Resolutions on the agenda will be presented in summary by the administrator or commissioner presenting them in the interest of saving time. If further details or clarifications are needed, any member can request them and the resolution will be read in full.

Carried unanimously

3. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF MAY 23, 2023

Resolution No. ETSB 23-06-90

Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting of the Council of Commissioners held on May 23, 2023

WHEREAS a copy of the Minutes of the meeting of May 23, 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 May 23, 2023 as deposited.

Carried unanimously

4. QUESTION PERIOD

A. Blampied

ATA President:

Would you agree that violence in the ETSB in schools is on the rise?

M. Murray

ETSB Chair:

I can attest to having heard from some teachers that students are less respectful. There may have been a phenomenon under which by making the definition of violence so broad, it has made it seem more prevalent. I have heard mixed interpretations of whether violence was on the rise, but no, I can't just agree to the blanket statement that violence has increased. I think there are many aspects that would need to be nuanced before we can have a serious discussion about it.

A. Blampied

ATA President:

The ATA conducted its own survey of teacher members with regards to violence in schools and noted a 16% increase in physical assault over the

past year. Would ETSB commissioners want to collaborate in a response to the report's findings?

M. Murray
ETSB Chair:

I am receptive to the proposal. We want everyone to feel safe in our schools and would want to address solutions to any violence, physical or otherwise.

5. RECOGNITION OF EXCELLENCE

Chairman M. Murray invited the following Commissioners to present the June 27, 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:

Parkview Elementary Students have a Voice at the Granby City Hall!



Photos courtesy of Ms. Ashley Newton



Commissioner R. Gosselin:

The students of Ms. Newton's grade 4 class from Parkview Elementary put their creativity to work for the benefit of the Granby community.

Last year, the mayor of Quebec City asked children to create a « Generational Chair », that would serve as a reminder for elected representatives to make decisions that consider the needs of future generations. The project was carried out in different cities around the province with the help of an organization called « Mères au Front ».

When a parent presented the opportunity to Ms. Newton, she gladly jumped on board. Her wonderfully creative students did a fabulous job decorating the chair to the theme of nature with special emphasis on species found in and around Granby in the Haute-Yamaska region. A local biologist even joined the class to educate them on the kinds of fauna and insects existing in the area. From there, the students chose what species they wanted to represent on the chair.

On Monday, June 5th, Ms. Newton and a few students attended the city Council meeting and personally presented the chair. The City of Granby elected representatives were very happy to receive the gift and made a special permanent place for it at the director's table in Granby's City Hall. Ms. Newton found the project to be an incredibly enriching experience for her students as it merged the disciplines of art, biology, politics and more importantly, it demonstrated to them that they are valued citizens of the society; a society that must strive to protect its natural surroundings.

The Community pours out Support for Massey-Vanier's Graduating Students!



Photo courtesy of Sue McLean

Commissioner R. Gagnon: Some 50 graduating students from Massey-Vanier High School were showered with support from the community at the annual scholarship and bursaries awards night held on May 31st 2023. The Massey-Vanier Scholarship, Bursary Fund (MVSBF) was first established back in 1975 to provide financial support to students going on to pursue a post-secondary education and continue to do so still today.

Over \$122,000 was awarded to graduating students from community donors including businesses, lodges, foundations, individuals, memorial scholarships, service clubs and other groups. The donors set the criteria for their particular scholarship and/or bursary with students required to maintain an overall average of 60% or higher to qualify for a bursary and an average of 80% or higher to be eligible for a scholarship. Recipients may be recognized for their determination and perseverance, creative writing skills, choice of a vocation, talent and even community service rendered among other criteria established by the donor. It is quite a process to coordinate these awards that are taken on by the MVSBF committee that boasts 13 volunteers who work throughout the year to make this awards night a true success, not to mention all the volunteers who contribute behind the scenes!

We congratulate all the recipients this year, including Dannica Davies & Noah Sparling seen in the bottom photo having each earned a scholarship from the ETSB's Commissioners who proudly applaud our graduating students. Thank you to the community at large for their continued generosity and out pouring of support!

Lennoxville Elementary Teacher Makes ETSB History!



Commissioner G. Barnett: Lennoxville Elementary School's outdoor education teacher, Isabelle Desbiens, is known for her proactive approach and made history as the first teacher of the Eastern Townships School Board (ETSB) to earn her bus driver's license! After passing her eye and medical exams, she started studying for the written test to obtain her class 2 driving license. The process was far from easy and Desbiens is the first to say how she gained a different understanding and respect for the world of heavy vehicles!

After completing the theoretical portion of the training, it was onto actually learning how to drive a bus. She enlisted the help of Darryl Harrison who is the driving instructor for the ETSB, and with his excellent coaching and mentoring, Desbiens was able to successfully pass her driving exam. Thanks to the many after-school hours and time spent on weekends, Isabelle Desbiens became the 1st ETSB teacher to earn her class 2 license on May 30th. We congratulate her on this accomplishment!

6. BUSINESS ARISING

There was no business arising.

7. NEW BUSINESS

The Secretary General, E. Campbell asked the new elected commissioner to swear in.

7.1 Oath of Office – Commissioner representing parents

I, DANIEL NAGLE having been appointed as Commissioner Representing Parents in Elementary Schools 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.

Commissioner signature

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

Eric Campbell, Secretary General

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

The next two resolutions were presented by the Director General M. Soucy:

7.2 Resolution No. ETSB 23-06-91 Confirmation of the Head Office Administrative Structure – 2023-2024

WHEREAS section 134 of the Regulation respecting *Certain Conditions of Employment of Senior Staff of School Boards* and of the *Comité de Gestion de la Taxe Scolaire de l'Île de Montréal* states that the School Board must confirm the Head Office Administrative Structure, as it has been amended;

WHEREAS the Commissioners have reviewed the proposed Administrative Structure for the Head Office for the 2023-2024 school year during the Governance & Ethics meeting on June 13, 2023;

WHEREAS following the nomination of the new Assistant Director General that will retain her mandate as Director of Financial Services, it was recommended to create the position of “Assistant Director” in the Finance Department to the existing structure;

WHEREAS the Eastern Townships Association of Administrators (ETAA) has been consulted on the structure;

WHEREAS this administrative structure is to take effect July 1st 2023, unless otherwise specified;

IT WAS MOVED BY Commissioner G. Holliday that the Council of Commissioners approve the Head Office Administrative Structure for the 2023-2024 school year, effective July 1st 2023.

Carried unanimously

7.3 Resolution No. ETSB 23-06-92

Confirmation of the Schools and Centres Administrative Structure – 2023-2024

WHEREAS section 134 of the Regulation respecting *Certain Conditions of Employment of Senior Staff of School Boards and of the Comité de Gestion de la Taxe Scolaire de l'Île de Montréal* states that the School Board must confirm the Schools and Centres Administrative Structure as it is amended;

WHEREAS the Commissioners have reviewed the proposed Administrative Structure for the Schools and Centres during the Governance & Ethics Advisory Committee Meeting on June 13, 2023;

WHEREAS the Eastern Townships Association of Administrators (ETAA) has been duly consulted on the 2023-2024 structure;

WHEREAS this administrative structure is to take effect on July 1st 2023, unless otherwise specified;

IT WAS MOVED BY Commissioner T. Pezzi-Bilodeau that the Council of Commissioners approve the Schools and Centres Administrative Structure for the 2023-2024 school year, effective July 1st 2023.

Carried unanimously

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

7.4 Resolution No. ETSB 23-06-93

By-Law 14 – Examination of complaints on matters other than services rendered to students

WHEREAS with the implementation of the new Act respecting the National Student Ombudsman, each school board needs to develop its own By-Law with regards to the examination of complaints on matters other than services rendered to students;

WHEREAS the School Board has developed a By-Law on *Examination of complaints on matters other than services rendered to students* (B014);

WHEREAS the proposed By-Law 14 on *Examination of complaints on matters other than services rendered to students* was developed with the participation of the Governance and Ethics Committee;

WHEREAS the By-Law on *Examination of complaints on matters other than services rendered to students* was sent for consultation to the Parents' Committee, all Governing Boards and Management;

WHEREAS all received comments have been taken into consideration;

WHEREAS the final version of the *By-Law 14* was presented to the Executive Committee;

WHEREAS this By-Law will come into effect on the day of publication of a public notice;

WHEREAS a true copy of the By-Law B014 will be sent to each Governing Board and to the parents' committee once adopted by the Council of Commissioners;

IT WAS MOVED BY Commissioner H. Turgeon that By-Law 14 – *Examination of complaints on matters other than services rendered to students* be adopted.

Carried unanimously

7.5 Resolution No. ETSB 23-06-94
2023-2024 Insurance Renewal

WHEREAS articles 178 and 270 of the *Education Act* stipulate that a School Board may take out liability insurance, professional insurance and property insurance (equipment and vehicles);

WHEREAS the Eastern Townships School Board's (ETSB) current insurance plan comes to term on June 30, 2023;

WHEREAS the Council of Commissioners agreed to adhere to the *Union réciproque d'assurance scolaire du Québec (URASQ)* by resolution (ETSB-23-03-56) in March 2023 for the liability insurance;

WHEREAS since 2012-2013, the Council of Commissioners has authorized the participation of the ETSB in the *Regroupement des commissions scolaires et des centres de services scolaires de la Montérégie* and in the *Etrie en matières d'assurances*;

WHEREAS *Regroupement des commissions scolaires et des centres de services scolaires de la Montérégie* and in the *Etrie* will continue to go with call for tender for insurance to cover crime, equipment and the vehicles;

WHEREAS *BFL Canada* and *Beneva* (previously named *La Capitale*) respectively bid on specific guarantees to cover all the proposed guarantees by the *Regroupement des commissions scolaires et des centres de services scolaires de la Montérégie* and in the *Etrie en matières d'assurances* for 2023-2024;

WHEREAS the consultant firm *Gestion Turcot & Associés Inc.* has recommended the *BFL Canada* and *Beneva* offers;

IT WAS MOVED BY Commissioner G. Holliday to accept the *BFL Canada* and *Beneva* offers for the renewal of the insurance contract for crime, equipment and for the vehicles for the 2023-2024 school year.

Carried unanimously

The next four resolutions were presented by the Director General, M. Soucy:

7.6 Resolution No. ETSB 23-06-95

Assessment report on the Risk Management Plan Concerning the Risks of Corruption and Collusion in Contract Management Process

WHEREAS The Eastern Townships School Board (ETSB) is responsible for acquiring, in the most transparent, effective and efficient manner possible with the ETSB's purchase policy and government requirements (laws, policies, rules, etc), the goods and services required to fulfil its mission;

WHEREAS on June 14, 2016, the *Conseil du trésor* adopted the *Directive Concernant la gestion des risques en matière de corruption et de collusion dans les processus de gestion contractuelle* (hereinafter, the "Directive");

WHEREAS the Directive came into effect on September 1, 2016 and was enacted under section 26 of the Act respecting contracting by public bodies (CQLR, c. C-65.1);

WHEREAS in accordance to the Directive, ETSB has adopted an organizational framework to manage the risks of corruption and collusion in the contract management process (hereinafter, the "Organizational Framework");

WHEREAS the ETSB is implementing a three-year plan risk management plan on corruption and collusion for public contracts. The plan includes the organizational context, appraisal of the current situation, the desired situation establishing a risk mitigation measures plan and a follow-up monitoring & reviewing the measures implemented;

WHEREAS the ETSB has assessed the three year action plan, reviewed the measures implemented and presented its results to the audit committee;

IT WAS MOVED BY Commissioner J. Humenuik that the Assessment report on Risk Management Plan Concerning the Risks of Corruption and Collusion in Contract Management Processes be received as tabled.

Carried unanimously

7.7 Resolution No. ETSB 23-06-96**Organizational Framework for Managing Risks of Corruption and Collusion in the Contract Management Process**

WHEREAS The Eastern Townships School Board (ETSB) is responsible for acquiring, in the most transparent, effective and efficient manner possible, the goods and services required to fulfil its mission;

WHEREAS the ETSB is committed to applying best practices in compliance to its internal Purchasing Policy and to governmental laws and policies applicable to the contract management process for public bodies;

WHEREAS on June 14, 2016, the *Conseil du trésor* adopted the *Directive Concernant la gestion des risques en matière de corruption et de collusion dans les processus de gestion contractuelle* (hereinafter, the “Directive”);

WHEREAS the Directive came into effect on September 1, 2016, and was enacted under section 26 of the Act respecting contracting by public bodies (CQLR, c. C-65.1);

WHEREAS in accordance to the Directive, ETSB is required to adopt an organizational framework to manage the risks of corruption and collusion in the contract management process (hereinafter, the “*Organizational Framework*”);

WHEREAS the ETSB must implement a corruption and collusion risk management plan for public contracts. The plan must include the organizational context, appraisal of the current situation, the desired situation establishing a risk mitigation measures plan, a follow-up monitoring & reviewing the measures implemented;

WHEREAS the Organizational Framework document is intended for all employees involved in the contract management process at the ETSB and applies to the contract management process for the purchase of goods and services and for construction projects, regardless of the nature and source of their funding;

IT WAS MOVED BY Commissioner J. Murray that the Assessment report on Risk Management Plan Concerning the Risks of Corruption and Collusion in Contract Management Processes be received as tabled.

Carried unanimously

7.8 Resolution No. ETSB 23-06-97**Contracts to Public Bodies – Annual Rendering of Accounts**

WHEREAS on December 7, 2012, the National Assembly adopted Bill 1 – *Integrity in Public Contracts Act*;

WHEREAS in accordance with this law, the Treasury Board decreed the *Directive concernant la reddition de comptes en gestion contractuelle des organismes publics* (hereinafter referred to as the « Directive »), which came into force on April 1, 2013 and applies particularly to school boards;

WHEREAS the Directive outlines all cases of rendering of accounts and standardizes the content and the type of information to be transmitted to the Secretariat of the Treasury Board;

WHEREAS the requirements provided under this directive are from the *Loi sur les contrats des organismes publics (LCOP)*, which aims to promote the rendering of accounts based on the accountability of chief executive officers of public bodies and on the appropriate use of public funds;

WHEREAS according to the requirements outlined in the Directive, the School Board is required to render an account of its contractual activities during the period from April 1, 2022 to March 31, 2023;

WHEREAS the Directive stipulates that the chief executive officer of the public body must attest, on an annual basis, to the reliability of the data and controls related to contracts by using the form presented at the Audit Advisory Committee on June 20, 2023;

WHEREAS at Eastern Townships School Board, the duties of the executive officer of the public body for which an account must be rendered rest with the Council of Commissioners;

WHEREAS the Council of Commissioners must render account for the authorizations it gave during the period from April 1, 2022 to March 31, 2023;

WHEREAS all contracting activities have been performed by the appropriate school board administrators and respecting the *LCOP* to the best of their judgment and abilities within the resources available;

IT IS MOVED BY Commissioner F. MacGregor, seconded by Commissioner T. Pezzi-Bilodeau that Eastern Townships School Board: **ADOPT** the declaration of the executive officer of the public body attesting to the reliability of the data and management controls as appended to this resolution, in accordance with the template proposed by the Secretariat of the Treasury Board:

1. "This declaration is made by the executive officer of the public body in a context where all contracting activities have been performed by the appropriate administrators while respecting the *LCOP* to the best of their judgment and abilities and within the limits of the resources available."
2. **AUTHORIZE** the Chairman of the School Board to sign the declaration of the executive officer of the public body (appendix 3) and any other document required to respect the requirements of the rendering of accounts as provided for in the Directive;
3. **TRANSMIT**, no later than June 30, 2023 all the required documents to the Secretariat of the Treasury Board so as to respect the requirement to render account as stipulated in the Directive.

Carried unanimously

7.9 Resolution No. ETSB 23-06-98**Nomination of the contract rules compliance monitor – Act Respecting Contracting by Public Bodies**

WHEREAS the school board is a public body, covered by section 4 of the Act respecting contracting by public bodies (LCOP), using public funds to purchase goods, obtain services and have construction work carried out;

WHEREAS the government has therefore put in place a legislative and regulatory framework designed to establish standards for important aspects of the contract management process, as well as an administrative framework to determine internal rules in this area;

WHEREAS this framework consists of a law and regulations on public procurement;

WHEREAS the **Act Respecting Contracting by Public Bodies** is to determine the conditions applicable with regard to public contracts between a public body and a contractor who is a legal person established for a private interest, a general, limited or undeclared partnership or a natural person who operates a sole proprietorship;

WHEREAS the chief executive officer of a public body must designate a *contract rules compliance monitor*;

WHEREAS the functions of the contract rules compliance monitor include (1) seeing that measures are put in place within the public body to comply with the contract rules prescribed by this Act and the regulations, policies and directives under this Act; (2) advising, and making recommendations or providing advisory opinions to, the chief executive officer on compliance with contract rules; (3) seeing that measures are put in place within the public body to ensure the integrity of internal processes; (4) seeing to the professional fitness of the personnel involved in contractual activities; and (5) exercising any other function the chief executive officer may require to ensure that contract rules are complied with;

WHEREAS the position of *contract rules compliance monitor* of the Eastern Townships School Board will become vacant with the departure of Mr. Michel Soucy on June 30th 2023;

WHEREAS the candidate selected retains the qualifications and experience required for this responsibility;

IT WAS MOVED BY Commissioner J. Humenuik that the Council of Commissioners appoint Ms. Sophie Leduc as the *contract rules compliance monitor* of the Eastern Townships School Board, effective July 1st 2023.

Carried unanimously

The following three resolutions were presented by the Chair of the Audit Committee, Commissioner J. Humenuik:

7.10 Resolution No. ETSB 23-06-99**Approval of the Schools/Centres Budgets – 2023-2024**

WHEREAS Section 276 of the *Education Act* states that every school board is responsible for approving the budgets of their schools, vocational training centres and adult education centre;

WHEREAS it is necessary to ratify the budgets;

WHEREAS the governing boards of all Schools and Centres have adopted their school/centre budgets for 2023-2024;

WHEREAS the schools/centres budgets for 2023-2024 have been presented and analyzed at the June 20, 2023 Audit Advisory Committee meeting;

WHEREAS the Audit committee recommends the ratification of the schools/centres budgets for 2023-2024;

IT WAS MOVED BY Commissioner J. Humenuik that the Council of Commissioners ratify the budget of each school/centre for 2023-2024.

Carried unanimously

7.11 Resolution No. ETSB 23-06-100**Adoption of the Eastern Townships School Board Budget – 2023-2024**

WHEREAS in accordance with the *Education Act* (chapter I-13.3), the Eastern Townships School Board must adopt and transmit the operating budget, the investment and the debt service to the Minister of Education for the school year 2023-2024;

WHEREAS this budget provides for a balanced budget;

WHEREAS the school tax proceeds in the amount of \$4,900,168 was determined taking into consideration:

- an adjusted standardized assessment of taxable real property of \$25,000 or less in the amount of \$16,563,082
- a number of 16,499 taxable properties over \$25,000, and:
- The assessment rate of 0.09730 per \$100 set by the Minister for the 2023-2024 school tax.

IT WAS MOVED BY Commissioner J. Humenuik that the operating budget, the investment and the debt service providing revenues of \$116,519,670 and expenditures of \$116,519,670 be approved and forwarded to the Minister of Education.

Carried unanimously

7.12 Resolution No. ETSB 23-06-101**Interest Rate on Overdue Taxes and Other Overdue Receivables**

WHEREAS Section 316 of the *Education Act* requires that school boards establish an interest rate on overdue school taxes;

WHEREAS school boards should also establish the interest rate for other overdue receivables;

WHEREAS the interest rate per annum will be clearly identified on the tax bills and other invoices;

WHEREAS according to Section 42 of the Act to establish a single school tax rate adopted in April of 2019, the Minister must mention in the *Gazette Officielle*, the applicable interest rate;

WHEREAS the 2023-2024 interest rate of 10% was published in the *Gazette Officielle* on June 14th 2023;

IT WAS MOVED BY Commissioner J. Humenuik that the Eastern Townships School Board adopts the prescribed rate on overdue tax accounts and other overdue receivables as per the rates published annually in the *Gazette Officielle*.

Carried unanimously

8. REPORTS**8.1 Director General's report**

The Director General, M. Soucy, redacted a goodbye letter, seeing as this is his last Council meeting:

Since the day we were born, time has always been our most precious asset. Now is the time for me to take some for myself and my loved ones.

Considering the amazing management team of leaders here at the ETSB, this is a great time for me to leave.

The English-speaking communities of the ETSB are blessed to have individuals who are so dedicated to the success of each of our students, who represent the future of our society.

Even after 5 years, I still have a certain impression of being an impostor, and I have recently figured out why.

It is because of the tremendous admiration and respect that I have for all ETSB personnel, especially for those who are close to the day-to-day lives of our students and directly connected to their success stories; big or small.

You work hard and don't always get the credit you deserve, with the sole objective to provide our young people with the tools they need to succeed on their journey; one that will continue after graduation.

To each of the Commissioners, thank you for your cooperation and for being there for fundamentally good reasons. I have been blessed to work closely with some of you and I have grown from it.

Mr. Murray, at no time would I have thought of trading you. When the going gets tough, the tough get going!

I would like to thank the entire team of Directors as well as their teams at the Board Office, without whom the last 5 years would not have been such a good experience. The challenges have been many and yet, we have overcome them.

Major thanks goes out to my executive secretary Angela Vaillancourt, who was there to guide me, especially at the beginning of my mandate.

Special thanks to my assistant director general, Kandy for what you have done for me and for what you are doing for the ETSB family.

To all colleagues, the community entrusts us every day with their most precious treasures by choice, be aware and keep up the good work...despite all the noise around you. You are making a difference.

Education creates value in our society and I have been very fortunate to have been involved in it for a chapter of my life... Thank you for the last 11 years.

8.2 Chair's report

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

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 conversations and in work contexts. I have to believe, seeing the numbers of our graduates who function effectively in jobs requiring French that we teach an effective command 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.

Another clear indication of how students feel is to observe their choices. Last Friday, I attended the graduation ceremony at Alexander Galt Regional High School, I was struck by the number of students who proudly indicated their intention to further their education and enter a career path taking courses at *Le Centre de formation professionnelle Quatre Saisons*. As the name indicates, instruction is entirely in French, yet many graduates felt confident enough in their mastery of French to embark on career training in that language. Similarly, graduates in our other secondary schools indicated they would study or train in French language CEGEPS or Professional Training Centres. It underlines not only the excellent quality of instruction in French being given but the high confidence by students that they will have no extraordinary difficulty succeeding in that language. I want to express congratulations on behalf of this Council to all the teachers and staff who contributed and continue to contribute to this highly satisfactory outcome for students placed in our care.

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 15%; that is about one in every 6 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. It is with enormous gratitude that I thank the students who served on that committee this year generously paying forward by proposing changes and improvements that are likely to impact future cohorts far more than themselves. It is truly selfless and indicates that our efforts to teach citizenship and social responsibility are also succeeding.

This year has been turbulent and challenging at times, with demonstrations, complaints dissected publicly in the media, bus driver strikes and other stressful incidents. It is very easy to focus on the negatives and lose sight of the overwhelming preponderance of positive outcomes for our students, which are, after all, the purpose of everything we do. As my final note to this academic year, I want to congratulate everyone in our organization for a job well done. I wish you a restful rejuvenating summer and for those retiring, I wish you a sincere thank you for all you contributed.

I would be remiss if I failed to make particular mention of the departure for retirement of our Director General, Michel Soucy. Michel has been at the helm of our board through five very exceptional years.

Despite a worldwide pandemic that imposed huge burdens on students, staff and leaders, he was a rock of stability and reassurance. Even the wildly impulsive, contradictory and irrational orders from a government that had no idea what to do failed to faze him. Despite having to carry a double burden during the absence of Kandy Mackey, his close colleague, he piloted us through the turbulence; always appearing to be calm and confident. Thank you, Michel, from the bottom of my heart. I wish you a long, satisfying retirement and hope you will continue to consider yourself a member of our ETSB family.

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:

Many resolutions were discussed and the annual Director General assessment took place verbally in a private (in-camera) meeting.

9.1.1 Director General Evaluation

The Chair, M. Murray confirmed that the Director General, M. Soucy's evaluation was a positive one and that he met the required expectations for the 2022-2023 school year.

9.2 Governance and Ethics Committee

The Chair of the Governance and Ethics Committee, Commissioner D. Zigby reported that at the June 13 meeting, the following topics were discussed:

- Advisory committees;
- Symposium;
- Schools & Centres Administrative Structure;
- Board Office Administrative Structure;
- Service Quebec Agreement.

The Chair then noted that the Committee had one resolution to present:

The Secretary General, E. Campbell presented the following resolution:

9.2.1 Resolution No. ETSB 23-06-102 Delegation of Powers to the Director General

WHEREAS all Management positions will not be assigned by June 27, 2023;

WHEREAS the last Council of Commissioners meeting for the 2022-2023 school year will be held on June 27, 2023;

WHEREAS some administrative positions will need to be appointed before the next Council of Commissioners' meeting held in August so that they may prepare for the start of the new school year;

WHEREAS the appointment of administrators is usually done by the Council of Commissioners;

IT WAS MOVED BY Commissioner D. Zigby to delegate the power of appointing administrators in conformity with the administrative structure for 2023-2024 to the Director General as to facilitate the start-up for the 2023-2024 school year effective June 28, 2023 until August 22, 2023.

Carried unanimously

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 23-06-103 Board Office – Appointment of signing officers

WHEREAS school board elections have changed the names of representatives authorized to sign banking documents on behalf of the Eastern Townships School Board;

IT WAS MOVED BY Commissioner D. Nagle that, effective July 1st 2023, only the individuals listed below be authorized to sign, on behalf of the Eastern Townships School Board, all banking documents required by the National Bank of Canada; **IT WAS FURTHER MOVED** that the previous resolution appointing signing officers, be rendered null and void.

The Chair of the Council of Commissioners		Michael Murray
	or	
The Vice-Chair of the Council of Commissioners		Joy Humenuik
	and	
The Director General		Kandy Mackey
	or	
The Assistant Director General		Sophie Leduc

Carried unanimously

9.3.1.2 Resolution No. ETSB 23-06-104 Alexander Galt Regional High School – Appointment of signing officers for schools/centres

WHEREAS the Eastern Townships School Board (ETSB) appointed the National Bank to provide banking services;

WHEREAS the accepted bid received from the National Bank also includes banking services for ETSB schools and centres;

WHEREAS the National Bank requires the names of representatives authorized to sign banking documents on behalf of ETSB schools and centres;

WHEREAS new principal and secretary assignments have changed the names of the representatives at Alexander Galt Regional High School;

WHEREAS only those individuals listed below are authorized to sign for their respective school;

IT WAS MOVED BY Commissioner H. Turgeon that the following individuals be authorized to sign banking documents on behalf of their respective schools:

Alexander Galt Regional High School	Peggy McCourt	
	Drew Pollock	
	Christina Rousseau	Carried unanimously

9.3.1.3 Resolution No. ETSB 23-06-105
Lennoxville Elementary School – Appointment of signing officers

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

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

WHEREAS only those individuals listed below are authorized to sign;

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

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

Lennoxville Elementary School	Tara McCully	
	Brenda Marrotte	
	Christine Ransom	Carried unanimously

9.3.2 Material Resources:

9.3.2.1 Resolution No. ETSB 23-06-106

Asbestos-Danville-Elementary School (A.D.S.) – Asbestos removal and left-wing bathroom renovation – Phase 2

WHEREAS the *Ministère de l'Éducation (MEQ)* approved a budget of \$488,067 for the project stated above, under the program *MDB - Maintien des bâtiments 2020-2021 Mesure: 50621*;

WHEREAS in reference to the previous resolution ETSB 22-04-64, the total cost for phase one of the project was \$124,987;

WHEREAS three (3) companies retrieved the project specifications after an 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 \$90,257 (excluding taxes) was received from the company *Construction Gouin inc.*;

WHEREAS after reviewing the bids, the company *Construction Gouin inc.* was deemed the lowest bidder in conformity, to do the work for the amount of \$103,773, 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 23-06-107

Centre d'acquisitions gouvernementales (CAG) Mandate – Electrical Supplies

WHEREAS the *Centre d'acquisitions gouvernementales (CAG)* has been created on September 1st 2020;

WHEREAS the CAG has for mission to acquire quality goods and services, at the right time, at the right price to the benefit of public organizations;

WHEREAS public organizations will have to acquire from the CAG exclusively unless an exception is accepted from them;

WHEREAS the CAG has started a new call for tender for the acquisition of electrical supplies;

WHEREAS the Eastern Townships School Board finds it advantageous to benefit from this mandate;

IT WAS MOVED BY Commissioner G. Holliday to proceed in joining the CAG for the mandate 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 23-06-108
Cookshire Elementary School – Kitchen and Inside Renovation

WHEREAS the *Ministère de l'Éducation (MEQ)* approved a budget of \$325,378 for the project stated above, under the program *MDB - Maintien des bâtiments 2019-2020 Mesure: 50621*;

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

WHEREAS three (3) bids were received by the Eastern Townships School Board by the date and time specified;

WHEREAS the lowest bid in the amount of \$233,756 (excluding taxes) was received from the company *Construction Sylvatech Inc.*;

WHEREAS after reviewing the bids, the assigned professional firm of *David Leslie Architect* has recommended the company *Construction Sylvatech Inc.* the lowest bidder in conformity to do the work for the amount of \$309,003, 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 23-06-109
Lennoxville Elementary School – Gym Renovation

WHEREAS the *Ministère de l'Éducation (MEQ)* approved a budget of \$900,000 for the project stated above, under the program *MDB - Maintien des bâtiments 2022-2023 Mesure: 50621*;

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 \$1,025,994 (excluding taxes), was received from the company *Conception Desrosiers Inc.*

WHEREAS after reviewing the bids, the assigned professional firm of *Atelier Architecture* has recommended the company *Conception Desrosiers Inc.* the lowest bidder in conformity, to do the work for the amount of \$1,261,269, including taxes and professional fees;

WHEREAS all additional funds required to complete the project, will be taken from *MDB – Maintien des bâtiments 2022-23 Mesure: 50621*;

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 23-06-110

List of Proposed Projects under the Programs « *Maintien des bâtiments et Résorption du déficit de maintien 2023-2024 (Mesure 50621 & 50622)* »

WHEREAS with this measure, the *Ministère de l'Éducation (MEQ)* aims at financing work in order to maintain and/or renovate all of the School Board's buildings dedicated to educational and administrative purposes;

WHEREAS the Eastern Townships School Board (ETSB) has prepared a priority list of investment projects to be proposed to the *MEQ* for authorization according to the program *Maintien des bâtiments 2023-2024 (Mesure: 50621)*, to the program *Résorption du déficit de maintien 2023-2024 (Mesure 50622)*;

WHEREAS the following table indicates the list of projects;

Establishment	Budget	Project
ADS Elementary School	\$950,000	Left-Wing Roof and Awning + Windows Replacement and Brick Pointing – Phase 2
Alexander Galt Regional High School	\$200,000	Drop Off – new configuration & Parking
Alexander Galt Regional High School	\$400,000	Auditorium Renovation
Alexander Galt Regional High School	\$800,000	Interior Systems Water Ducts
Cookshire Elementary School	\$500,000	Finishing of Common Areas, Classrooms, Staff Room and Secure Entrance
Farnham Elementary School	\$400,000	Finishing of Interior Classrooms
Farnham Elementary School	\$500,000	Parking Lot Paving and Drainage
Lennoxville Elementary School	\$450,000	Cafeteria Renovation – Phase 2, Lockers, Soundproofing, and Staff Room
Marguerite Knapp Building	\$2,262,675	Structure Renovation
Massey-Vanier High School	\$348,000	Locker rooms Renovation
Massey-Vanier High School	\$175,000	Fire Alarm System Update

New Horizons	\$400,000	Basement Reorganization
Princess Elizabeth Elementary School	\$400,000	Kitchen Renovation
Pope Memorial Elementary School	\$200,000	Brick Pointing + Adding Gutters + Foundation Cracks
Richmond Regional High School	\$106,356	Electrical Panel
Richmond Regional High School	\$150,000	Lower Balcony
Richmond Regional High School	\$250,000	Interior and Exterior Doors
Sawyerville Elementary School	\$500,000	Repairing of Roof Basins, Ceilings and Lighting + Roof Access
Sherbrooke Elementary School	\$2,000,000	K4 Renovation and Parking
St-Francis Elementary School	\$2,000,000	Kitchen, Cafeteria, Hallways, Administration Offices and Staff Room Renovation
Sunnyside Elementary School	\$750,000	Hallways, Classrooms, Flooring, Interior Doors, Engine Room, and Daycare Renovation
Sutton Elementary School	\$200,000	Brick Pointing/Weep Holes/Cracks
Waterloo Elementary School	\$200,000	Staff Room Renovation

WHEREAS each project's budget could be slightly adjusted for balancing purposes;

WHEREAS the said list of the proposed priorities presented at the Audit Committee on June 20th 2023 could be subject to adjustments following possible events;

WHEREAS Commissioners will be informed of all changes that could occur before going forward with the projects in question;

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

9.3.2.6 Resolution No. ETSB 23-06-111

Parkview Elementary School – Winter Overnight Parking

WHEREAS the Eastern Townships School Board (ETSB) must adopt a resolution allowing M. Eric Plante the right to sign the adoption of winter overnight parking and all other material resources matter with the town of Granby;

IT WAS MOVED BY Commissioner R. Gosselin that M. Eric Plante be awarded the right to sign the adoption of winter overnight parking and all other material resources matter with the town of Granby; **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

9.3.2.7 Resolution No. ETSB 23-06-112**Pope Memorial Elementary School – Soccer Field Drainage and Fence Replacement**

WHEREAS the *Ministère de l'Éducation (MEQ)* approved a budget of \$209,172 for the project stated above, under the program *MDB - Maintien des bâtiments 2021-2022 Mesure: 50621*;

WHEREAS six (6) companies retrieved the project specifications after a public invitation to bid on the project;

WHEREAS five (5) bids were received by the Eastern Townships School Board by the date and time specified;

WHEREAS the lowest bid in the amount of \$89,950 (excluding taxes) was received from the company *Excavation Dany Prévost Inc.*;

WHEREAS after reviewing the bids, the assigned professional firm of *Les Services EXP Inc.* has recommended the company *Excavation Dany Prévost Inc.* the lowest bidder in conformity to do the work for the amount of \$118,367, 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

9.3.2.8 Resolution No. ETSB 23-06-113**Richmond Regional High School – Auditorium Renovation**

WHEREAS the *Ministère de l'Éducation (MEQ)* approved a budget of \$243,253 for the project stated above, under the program *MDB - Maintien des bâtiments 2020-2021 Mesure: 50621*;

WHEREAS eight (8) 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 \$378,911 (excluding taxes) was received from the company *Construction Labrie Merlos*;

WHEREAS after reviewing the bids, the assigned professional firm of *IME Experts Conseils Inc.* has recommended the company *Construction Labrie Merlos* the lowest bidder in conformity, to do the work for the amount of \$456,004, including taxes and professional fees;

WHEREAS all additional funds required to complete the project will be taken from *MDB – Maintien des bâtiments 2020-21 Mesure: 50621*;

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

9.3.2.9 Resolution No. ETSB 23-06-114
Richmond Regional High School – Soccer Field Repositioning and Drainage

WHEREAS the *Ministère de l'Éducation (MEQ)* approved a budget of \$232,413 for the project stated above, under the program *MDB - Maintien des bâtiments 2020-2021 Mesure: 50621*;

WHEREAS ten (10) 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 \$363,776 (excluding taxes) was received from the company *Excavation A.R Valois Inc.*;

WHEREAS after reviewing the bids, the assigned professional firm of *Les Services EXP Inc.* has recommended the company *Excavation A.R. Valois Inc.* the lowest bidder in conformity to do the work for the amount of \$446,421, including taxes and professional fees;

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

9.4 Educational Advisory Committee (ESAC)

The Chair of the Educational Advisory Committee, M.E. Kirby reported that the ESAC met on June 6, 2023 and discussed ongoing professional development for secondary school mathematics, the mentoring & coaching programs.

The Director of Instructional Technology and Pedagogical Services – Eva Lettner, presented the following resolutions:

9.4.1 Resolution No. ETSB 23-06-115**Centre d'acquisitions gouvernementales (CAG) Mandate – Cellular phones**

WHEREAS the *Centre d'acquisitions gouvernementales (CAG)* has undertaken a new call for tenders for the acquisition of cellular services and devices;

WHEREAS public organizations will have to acquire goods from the CAG exclusively unless other purchases are authorized by them;

WHEREAS this CAG mandate spans over a period of 5 years (October 2023 to October 2028);

WHEREAS the Eastern Townships School Board must acquire 197 cellular phones with service plans in order to renew the current fleet;

WHEREAS the financial commitment amounts to approximately \$190,000 (\$38,000 annually) for the duration of the mandate;

IT WAS MOVED BY Commissioner T. Pezzi-Bilodeau to proceed in joining the CAG for the mandate 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 Instructional Technology and Pedagogical Services can also sign.

Carried unanimously

9.4.2 Resolution No. ETSB 23-06-116**Purchase for Multimedia Equipment for Schools**

WHEREAS multimedia equipment (Interactive screens) has been acquired over the years by schools with their own budgets, resulting in inequalities in the availability of equipment within the School Board;

WHEREAS many of these equipment are at the end of their life and must be renewed;

WHEREAS the RAC committee voted that the acquisition of multimedia equipment with the allocated budget for youth sector be done centrally;

WHEREAS ETSB is part of a call for tender with the CAG according to the ministry requirements;

WHEREAS all purchases will be done according to the Eastern Townships School Board (ETSB) *Purchase policy* and government requirements;

IT WAS MOVED BY Commissioner E. McKnight to authorize the Director General or the Director of Instructional Technology and Pedagogical Service to sign any documentation related to the acquisition of equipment and related items (Cables, Carts, etc.), up to an amount of \$100,000 for 2023-2024 effective immediately.

Carried unanimously

9.4.3 Resolution No. ETSB 23-06-117
WI-FI System Renewal Modification

WHEREAS a resolution to renew the WI-FI System was presented to the Council and approved in October of 2022 to the amount of \$400,000;

WHEREAS the Eastern Townships School Board (ETSB) is part of a call for tender with the *Centre d'acquisitions gouvernementales (CAG)* according to the ministry requirements;

WHEREAS the CAG was behind schedule for the acquisition mandate and was not made available until spring 2023;

WHEREAS equipment prices have risen substantially since the project was presented last autumn;

WHEREAS the total amount for the renewal project adds up to \$419,000, an increase of approximately 4.75%;

WHEREAS all additional funds required for the completion of the project will be sourced through government measures aimed at maintaining technological infrastructure (Measures 50793 and 50750);

IT WAS MOVED BY Commissioner E. McKnight that the modification be awarded in order to complete the project stated above; **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

9.5 Communications Advisory Committee

The Chair of the Communications Advisory Committee, H. Turgeon had nothing new to report.

9.6 Human Resources Advisory Committee

The Director of Human Resources, C. Dufresne presented the following:

9.6.1 Resolution No. ETSB 23-06-118
Engagement of Megan Webster for Phase 2 of Coaching – Mentoring Program

WHEREAS the Eastern Townships School Board (ETSB) has completed its second year of a new mentoring program as a means of establishing a system of teacher learning;

WHEREAS the ETSB engaged a consultant, Megan Webster, PhD, who specializes in how to improve PD for teachers, to build capacity in nine instructional Coaches that were selected for this purpose;

WHEREAS the ETSB wishes to pursue to build capacity in the nine Instructional Coaches in September 2023;

WHEREAS the coaches will work with 20 novice teachers during the year with the goal to improve instructional quality in the classroom;

WHEREAS the Ministry of Education has dedicated funds for this purpose through *Mesures*: 15151 and 15153;

WHEREAS Megan Webster will also work jointly with the Human Resources and Pedagogical Services teams to build the ETSB's internal capacity to run its own preparation program for the ETSB Master Instructional Coaches;

WHEREAS the cost of Megan Webster's services amounts to \$35,880 + applicable taxes for 17 days of professional development for Master Teacher Coaches, Pedagogical Services Consultants and Principals;

IT WAS MOVED BY Commissioner C. Beaubien to authorize the Director General or the Director of Human Resources to sign any documentation related to the engagement of Megan Webster to support the ETSB for the 2023-2024 school year.

Carried unanimously

9.7 Transportation Advisory Committee

The Chair of the Transportation Advisory Committee, Commissioner G. Holliday mentioned the following:

- The *Autobus Yamaska* strike in the western sector, affecting 278 students, has come to an end. ETSB has put together a compensation plan of roughly \$13/day per student for each day that transportation was unavailable. Cheques will be mailed to each student as a gesture of good faith and appreciation for parents making the sacrifices necessary to ensure education continued;
- A cheque will be issued in mid-July.

9.8 Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC)

The SEAC Commissioner, E. McKnight mentioned the following:

- Recommendations have been given tot the Director General;
- A special thanks to Mr. Michel Soucy for his dedicated years of service.

10. PARENTS' COMMITTEE

The Commissioner representing parents, D. Zigby mentioned the topics discussed at the June 7, 2023 meeting:

- Wrap-up of the year;
- New elected commissioner representing parents;
- By-Law 14 presented by the Secretary General;

- Commitment to Success Plan presentation – J. Humenuik participated in the consultation sessions and found it very rewarding to see primary school students participate and give feedback.

11. STUDENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Commissioner J. Humenuik, representing the Student Advisory Committee had nothing new to report. However, M. Murray complemented the ETSB Student Advisory Committee. He mentioned that the discussions were serious and thought-provoking. The students were interested in building confidence and abilities in French. The Commissioners agreed on the need to move past rote learning of irregular verbs to provide real-world experience in conversation and in word contents.

12. QESBA

12.1 Resolution No. ETSB 23-06-119 Nomination to the Board of Directors

WHEREAS the Quebec English School Boards Association (QESBA) is requiring Nominations to the Board of Directors;

WHEREAS QESBA must receive nominations to the QESBA Board of Directors by September 1st 2023 at 4:00 p.m.;

WHEREAS one of the nominations to the Board of Directors must be either the Chair or the Vice-Chair of our member board;

WHEREAS the Board of Directors and the Executive Committee are completed by member board nomination for a 2-year term (2023-2025);

IT WAS MOVED BY Commissioner J. Humenuik to nominate M. Murray and F. MacGregor to the QESBA Board of Directors for a 2-year term (2023-2025).

Carried unanimously

It was also mentioned that the Search committee is searching for the Executive Director Russell Copeman's replacement, who is to retire in December of 2023. Interviews are taking place in August 2023.

13. COMMISSIONER'S COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS

Commissioner G. Barnett:

Lennoxville Elementary School Governing Board

The new Principal, Tara McCully was present and introduced to the Governing Board members. I briefly described the Commissioner interview as well as the nomination process with her and the two lines of questions, one being more Board oriented by Joy Humenuik and the other addressing the Governing Board criteria by myself.

Since this was the last Governing Board meeting for Dawn Irving, it was an event of mixed emotions for her.

The Governing Board dealt mostly with housekeeping items, such as the budget, 2023 Annual Report, the 2023-2024 Guidelines, Student Services and the Code of Conduct.

Commissioner J. Humenuik:

Alexander Galt Regional High School (AGRHS)

Commissioners Claire Beaubien and Joy Humenuik participated in the AGRHS' Piper tournament over the weekend. There were over 145 players at golf Dufferin Heights. Camaraderie was amazing; some alumni were there. They raised an amount of approximately \$33,000 for sports activities and athletics. They were sold out within 12 hours. A really good program!

Commissioner G. Holliday:

Richmond Regional High School (RRHS)

There was a great involvement in the end of year activities and thanks to everyone for the energy put into this. Kids really appreciate it, which surely has an impact on students and parents.

I also attended the RRHS Awards and Bursaries ceremony. It's a smaller bunch, but was much appreciated by the community.

The Commitment to Success Plan consultation was a success. I was blown away by the students' comments. I hope we will continue to do this.

Massey-Vanier High School (MVHS)

The Awards and Bursaries ceremony was very touching.

Commissioner M. E. Kirby:

I want to underline Joy's comment on students taking part in the Commitment to Success Plan consultation meetings. I was amazed at their intelligent grasp of issues. The kids were well spoken and articulate. I also attended St. Francis Elementary School graduation ceremony; all the kids were made to feel special. They were glowing when receiving their wooden certificates. I was happy to attend Alexander Galt Regional High School's prom, which took place in the Sherbrooke Cathedral. It was quite an impressive setting. It was a good end to the school year and folks are ready for a break and to get back in September 2023.

14. UPCOMING EVENTS

None.

15. CORRESPONDENCE

Chairman M. Murray noted a number of letters from students expressing gratitude for bursaries. He read some excerpts from these letters and noted that the monies are directly from commissioner contributions and not the ETSB as an organization.

The following scholarship was given out at Graduation last Thursday at Richmond Regional High School. ETSB Commissioners' Scholarship was awarded to **Malyha Paul B  chard**.

The Athletic Committee at Alexander Galt Regional High School thanked all the sponsors for their donations of this year's Piper Classic Golf Tournament in honor of John Haller. As a result of their support, they were able to raise \$38,956 for Galt Athletics to go towards uniforms, scholarships, equipment, transportation, facility rentals and upgrading their own facilities and player costs.

The Secretary General, E. Campbell noted that it was the Communications Consultant, Holly Bailey's birthday and wished her well.

16. QUESTION PERIOD

A. Blampied

ATA President:

Why has the ETSB 2021-2022 Annual Report listed just two violent incidents when, from our ATA survey, we have nine teachers reported being directly part of a violent incident where police intervention was needed, not to mention other incidents. How do you explain the discrepancy?

M. Murray

ETSB Chair:

Those two incidents were the acts that were reported to us. We rely on our schools to report acts to us and if we do not hear of them, then we are unaware of them. We also received an annual report from the student ombudsman that said all of their complaints were dealt with appropriately. That is our primary source for insight into these complaints.

A. Blampied

ATA President:

How does the report work? Schools directly reach out to administration or human resources?

M. Murray

ETSB Chair:

I can only speak about those reported directly to the administration, as the report was signed by the Director General, M. Soucy and myself.

M. Roberts

ATA representative:

Next year, with the goal of improving the working environment and working conditions, would the Board be interested in collaborating with the ATA in developing a yearly survey on violence in order to collect data?

M. Murray

ETSB Chair:

I am sure that there are a number of different ways that we can collect data and that might be an excellent one. I will defer the question to our incoming Director General, K. Mackey to make the choice on how to report and address these things.

17. GOVERNANCE AND COMMUNICATION

None.

18. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned on a motion by Commissioner T. Pezzi-Bilodeau at 8:38 p.m.

Éric Campbell
Secretary General

Michael Murray
Chairman

EC/gm
06.27.2023



QUEBEC ENGLISH SCHOOL
BOARDS ASSOCIATION

To: **Board of Directors, Board Chairs and Secretaries General**

From: Wade Gifford, Chair of the Nominations Committee

Date: June 16, 2023

Re: **Nominations to the Board of Directors, Officers (Executive Committee),
Recognition of service award (12 years), Recognition of long-service award
(25 years) and Award of Merit**

Director and Officer (Executive Committee) Elections

The Quebec English School Boards Association (QESBA) must *receive nominations* to the **QESBA Board of Directors by September 1, 2023 at 4:00 p.m.** One of your nominations to the Board of Directors must be either the Chair or the Vice-Chair of your member board. The Chair or Vice-Chair of your board will be by virtue of the QESBA Constitution the appointed your Executive Committee member representing your board. From among the nine members of the Executive, Nominations to the positions of President and Vice-President are *due no later* than **October 6, 2023 at 4:00 p.m.** The 2023 electoral cycle includes the following:

President	(2023-2025)	2-year term
Vice-President	(2023-2025)	2-year term

The Board of Directors and Executive Committee are completed by member board nomination, all for a 2-year term (2023-2025).

Thank you,
Nominations Committee

August 8, 2023

Dear Council of Commissioners,

I would like to thank you for choosing me as the winner of the **EASTERN TOWNSHIP SCHOOL BOARD COMMISSIONERS' SCHOLARSHIP**. This school year has been challenging due to difficult events happening in my personal life. I have missed a lot of school due to a car accident and needing to take physiotherapy. Having people recognize perseverance and academic achievement is important to me as most people do not know what is actually happening to students outside of school. I will use this money to pay for my school books and other expenses related to my program.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Malyha Paul Béchard', written in a cursive style.

Malyha Paul Béchard