

EASTERN TOWNSHIPS SCHOOL BOARD

COUNCIL OF COMMISSIONERS

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 28, 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	Eliza McKnight	Z
Claire Beaubien	Z	Dan Nagle	A
Richard Gagnon	Z	Helene Turgeon	Z
Richard Gosselin	Z	Sarah Langlois	Z
Gary Holliday	Z	DIRECTORS' COMMITTEE (DC)	
Joy Humenuik, Vice-Chair	Z	Secretary General – Éric Campbell	P
Shawn Jersey	Z	Director General – Kandy Mackey	P
Mary-Ellen Kirby	Z	Assistant Director General & Director of Financial Services – Sophie Leduc	Z
Frank MacGregor	Z	Director of Human Resources – Caroline Dufresne	Z
Jonathan Murray	Z	Director of Instructional Technology and Pedagogical Services – Eva Lettner	Z
Michael Murray, Chair	Z	Director of Complementary Services – Emmanuelle Gaudet	Z
Tina Pezzi-Bilodeau	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 November 28, 2023 as modified, with the following additions:

- 7.3** Delegation of Powers to the Director General – Offensive Construction
- 7.4** Delegation of Powers to the Director General – Appointment of Administrators
- 9.2.2** 2023-2024 Confirmation of the Amended Head Office Administrative Structure

Carried unanimously

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

Resolution No. ETSB 23-11-26

Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting of the Council of commissioners held on October 24, 2023

WHEREAS a copy of the Minutes of the meeting of October 24, 2023 has been given to each Commissioner at least 6 hours before the opening of the meeting, the Secretary General is excused from reading the Minutes.

IT WAS MOVED BY Commissioner G. Barnett to excuse the Secretary General from reading the Minutes and to approve the Minutes of the meeting held on October 24, 2023 as deposited.

Carried unanimously

4. QUESTION PERIOD

None.

5. RECOGNITION OF EXCELLENCE

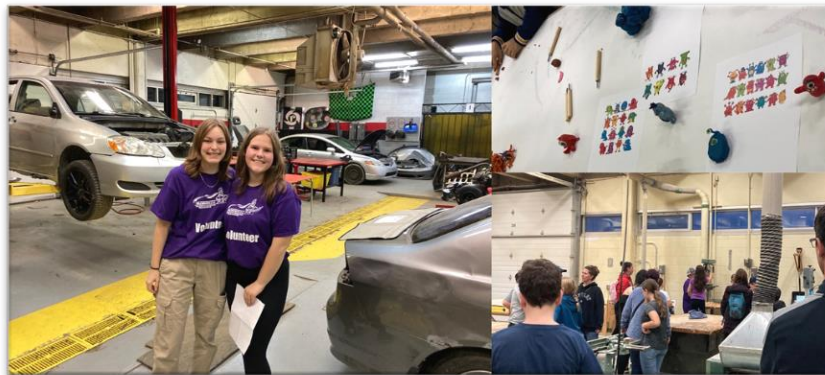
Chairman M. Murray invited Commissioners G. Holliday & C. Beaubien to present the November 28, 2023 Recognition of Excellence:

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

OPEN HOUSES 2023



Alexander Galt - October 19th 2023



Richmond Regional - October 26th 2023



Massey-Vanier - November 20th 2023

All three of our high schools were pleased to host in-person open house events this year! They were festive, informative and highlighted the very best the schools had to offer. We thank the organizing teams at Alexander Galt, Richmond Regional and Massey-Vanier High School for their collaborative efforts and spirit, as it is truly a team effort to showcase the programs, facilities and activities available for students. A warm shout out goes to the student leaders as well who gave personalized tours of the buildings pointing out all the little details important

to teenage life. Parents and their children showed up with smiles and great excitement as they visited their future schools. Congratulations to our high schools for representing the ETSB with such professionalism and flare!

Sunnyside Elementary Becomes a Santé Globale School!



Photos courtesy of Sunnyside's Facebook article and the Record

On October 27th 2023, Sunnyside Elementary officially became a Santé Globale school! The school gathered together in celebration to inaugurate this new affiliation which puts a focus on physical health and nutrition. Sunnyside students can look forward to exploring new outdoor activities, as a general school wide focus is placed on the global health of all.

To commemorate this new initiative, an afternoon photo scavenger hunt was held on the school grounds and on the Tomifobia Bike trail. What a great opportunity to get outside for some fresh air and fun.

You are invited to read the article featured in the Sherbrooke Record or check out the *Santé Globale* website for full details. Congratulations to Sunnyside Elementary for taking this healthy step forward!

[Record Article](#)

<https://www.fondationsanteglobale.com>

6. BUSINESS ARISING

None.

7. NEW BUSINESS

7.1 Oath of Office for a Commissioner representing parents

Ms. Sarah Langlois, the Commissioner representing parents (at-large) replacing Daniel Zigby, has been sworn in. Her oath form will be sent back to the Secretary General to be signed.

7.2 Resolution No. ETSB 23-11-27
3-year plan of allocation and destination of immovables – 2024-2025 Deeds of Establishment

The Secretary General, E. Campbell presented the 3-year plan of allocation and destination of immovable and the Deeds of Establishment.

IT WAS MOVED BY Commissioner G. Holliday to approve the 3-year plan of allocation and destination of immovables and the 2024-2025 Deeds of Establishment.

Carried unanimously

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

7.3 Resolution No. ETSB 23-11-28
Delegation of Powers to the Director General – Offensive Construction

WHEREAS the *Ministère de l'Éducation du Québec (MEQ)* offers accelerated training courses for construction trades;

WHEREAS should the opportunity arise, the Eastern Townships School Board (ETSB) will request new training programs;

WHEREAS the Eastern Townships School Board (ETSB) obtained the authorization to offer two (2) groups of Carpentry program 4766 and one (1) group of Tinsmithing program 4768;

WHEREAS courses for this special MEQ initiative must begin by January 31, 2024;

WHEREAS the next Council of Commissioners' meeting is on January 23, 2024;

WHEREAS building rental, leasehold improvement, and equipment rentals/purchases must be acquired before the January 23, 2024 Council of Commissioners Meeting;

WHEREAS expenditures will be reimbursed by the *MEQ* through grants as part of this special initiative;

WHEREAS all purchases and lease will be done in accordance with the Eastern Townships School Board *Purchase Policy* and the government requirements;

IT WAS MOVED BY Commissioner F. MacGregor to delegate the authority to rent all required spaces and to purchase the equipment and materials necessary for the Carpentry and Tinsmithing intensive programs to the Director General, effective from November 29, 2023 to January 23, 2024.

Carried unanimously

7.4 Resolution No. ETSB 23-11-29
Delegation of Powers to the Director General – Appointment of Administrators

WHEREAS the next Council of Commissioners' meeting is scheduled for January 23, 2024;

WHEREAS certain administrative positions must be filled prior to the upcoming Council of Commissioners' meeting held in January 2024 to ensure the smooth continuation of the school year and prevent any disruptions;

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

IT WAS MOVED BY Commissioner J. Humenuik to delegate the power of appointing administrators in conformity with the administrative structure for 2023-2024 to the Director General as to facilitate the continuation of the 2023-2024 school year effective November 29, 2023 until January 22, 2024.

Carried unanimously

8. REPORTS

8.1 Director General's report

The Director General, K. Mackey conveyed her best wishes for the Holiday Season.

8.2 Chair's report

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

The Good, The Bad and the Desperate

Allow me to begin by noting that this is our final public meeting of the calendar year. I am happy to have this opportunity to review recent developments of particular importance to the leadership of this school board, if only to set the stage for what is to follow. Amid all the furor and frustration of a common front strike, an unlimited strike, and a continuing assault by our provincial government on the language rights of minorities, I will try to organize recent developments in an understandable way. Before doing so let me say how happy I am to live in a country and province where rule of law prevails. That allows me to tell you that there is good news, less good news, and a sort of unfolding comic performance that may have serious repercussions.

The Good News comes first:

Locally, the vocational training department of ETSB has been awarded two cohorts of the accelerated courses in carpentry and one cohort in tinsmithing. These are the courses that come with a significant salary for students while they learn. I understand that in the carpentry courses the students will build a real house so it appears the instruction will be highly practical. The carpentry courses have been oversubscribed, but there are still spaces available in tinsmithing. These are trades desperately needed to address the current housing shortage. We are very happy that quick action by our administrators enabled us to obtain these authorizations.

Minister of Education Drainville has proactively introduced an amendment to Bill 23, currently making its way through committee study in the national assembly. You will recall that Bill 23 is an act to amend the Education Act that gives the power to the minister to appoint directors general to School Service Centres, to dismiss those directors general without explanation or recourse, and to reverse any decisions of the said

directors general or their boards of governance that in the minister's judgement are incompatible with the government's objectives. In plain language, this bill completely politicizes education in Quebec.

The minister was warned in a letter from QESBA, followed by a press release, that if the bill were to be adopted as initially presented, the English School Boards would have no alternative but to seek legal recourse. The minister's advisors probably told him pretty much what our counsel was telling us: namely that the bill stood no chance of resisting a legal challenge. In a rare demonstration of common sense by the current government the minister has announced an amendment that would suspend application of the law to the nine English School Boards. In a private meeting with the minister's staff, it was made clear that this gesture was conditional on the minority language school boards not immediately challenging the law. As a result, we are spared the stress and the cost of taking one additional bill to the courts.

The Bad:

Of course, there are items that are less favorable or laudable as well. The most recent and most egregious is the announcement by Jean-Francois Roberge, Minister, among other things, of the French Language, Minister Responsible for Canadian Relations and Minister Responsible for Democratic Institutions (just reading the full list of his responsibilities is a hilarious joke) that henceforth immigrants will no longer be permitted to access adult education or vocational training in English whether at school boards or CEGEPs. This is widely regarded as another instinctive knee-jerk reaction to a single recent public opinion poll showing CAQ popularity in such free fall that the Parti Quebecois has passed it in voter intentions. That poll followed closely on the heels of another that indicated more Quebecers think Paul St-Pierre Plamondon (familarly known in media as PSPP) would make a better premier than Francois Legault.

Prior to that boondoggle, there was the attack on English Universities through raising fees. There is, as far as I have been able to determine, no demonstrable link between those universities educating students from outside Quebec and the need to protect the French language. My personal belief, likewise based on absolutely no facts, is that the government leaders became irritated that the two best-ranked universities in Quebec were English ones, that those excellent institutions attracted a disproportionate share of students from elsewhere, and that despite the best efforts of other universities, there seemed to be no challenge to their superior performance. Rather than suffer continuing humiliation from this perverse situation, rather than work to improve the performance of Quebec's best French language universities, the government leadership prefers any method of dragging the English institutions down to mediocrity. It is like their approach to English CEGEPs where they have restricted access and limited growth. The evident fact that this deprives Francophone Quebecers of opportunities and advantages seems to be perfectly acceptable as long as the English institutions do not excel in an embarrassing way. Sadly, our local English university, Bishop's, is collateral damage in this folly.

The Desperate or ridiculous, depending on how you see it:

Early last week we witnessed the pitiful performance of Sonia Lebel, Minister of the Treasury Board attempting to justify depriving small Quebec communities of funds intended to help build and maintain public activity facilities like hockey arenas, curling rinks, parks and playgrounds for the purpose of bribing the multi-millionaire owners of the Los Angeles Kings to the tune of seven million dollars to have their team play two exhibition games in the Quebec City Videotron Centre this fall. Her explanations among others were that this facility, built with more public money, was underutilized. Her defense was mocked by both

media and striking public employees who had heard the government plead poverty in the face of salary demands for the past several months. None of the unions and few of the media will stop reminding the government and the public that only last spring it increased the pay of each of the 125 members of the national assembly by Thirty Thousand Dollars per year with extra increases for various other posts and perks.

Following M^{me} Lebel's performance, we were able to enjoy the spectacle of Eric Girard, Minister of Finance for Quebec being sacrificed in the same manner, sent to face the media storm over the same ridiculous justifications. Minister Girard, usually one of the more coherent and sensible ministers was reduced to estimating that the chances of a return of the Quebec Nordiques was as little as ten percent but that he had to do something to keep that remote possibility alive. He too was roasted in the flames of ridicule and mockery.

Toward the end of last week, Premier Legault took to the stage in a further attempt to restore a little dignity to the farce. Facing strikes by tens of thousands of public service he began musing that he could find more money for salary increases if the unions could be more flexible on working conditions. Apparently, he had just discovered that inflexibility was the central issue, notwithstanding months of negotiations. Unions were quick to invite him back to the bargaining table where they have been waiting for weeks for the government to return with an improved offer. They reminded Premier Legault, who should have needed no reminder since he served as education minister in a Pequiste government some 20 or so years ago, that working conditions always are part of the collective negotiations and have been discussed extensively in the current round.

Before we enjoy too much Schadenfreude at the sight of the government demolishing itself before our eyes, let's remember that they still have three years in their present mandate, and that their current chief rival has as its ultimate objective the separation of Quebec from Canada. A cornered animal, we are taught, is at its most dangerous. Our cat, Dickens, an inveterate hunter of small rodents in our garden, is currently limping, we suspect because of an encounter with a large and particularly aggressive mole. He prevailed in the end and presented us with his trophy, but he is still limping. The CAQ, made desperate by their fall in popularity, is likely to pull out all the stops to recover. Their utter lack of imagination means this will probably take the form of continuing assaults on English as a language, the boogie man they have raised and nourished. Of course, the main target is and will remain English on the streets and in homes in Montreal, but we in the regions, or as I prefer to call it, the Quebec mainland, all suffer the fallout.

Stay strong, enjoy the elements of humor in the ongoing spectacle, and have a great Christmas season.

9. ADVISORY COMMITTEES' REPORTS

9.1 Executive Committee

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

9.2 Governance and Ethics Committee

The Chairman M. Murray acted as the Chair of the last Governance & Ethics meeting, and he presented the following resolution:

9.2.1 Resolution No. ETSB 23-11-30 Contestation of Bill 96 (Stay)

WHEREAS Bill 96, An Act respecting French, the official and common language of Québec, was assented to on June 1, 2022;

WHEREAS the same day the English Montreal School Board brought an application to challenge the constitutionality of numerous provisions of Bill 96 and the Charter of the French Language;

WHEREAS the English Montreal School Board's constitutional challenge to Bill 96 has been joined with the constitutional challenges of other parties and is progressing through the court system though, like all constitutional challenges, it is expected to be a lengthy process;

WHEREAS amendments to the Charter of the French Language that came into force on June 1, 2023 would require that English language school boards communicate with key institutions of the English-speaking community, such as the Quebec English School Boards Association, in French exclusively;

WHEREAS on September 29, 2023, the *Office québécois de la langue française* provided the English Montreal School Board with an interpretation of provisions of Bill 96 and the Charter of the French Language, which would effectively require that most internal written communications at the English Montreal School Board be conducted in French;

WHEREAS such an interpretation would also require that most written communications between commissioners of English-language school boards be conducted in French;

WHEREAS such an interpretation would also require that most written communications between English-language school boards be conducted in French;

WHEREAS the Eastern Townships School Board makes substantial efforts to promote the French language and commits to the offer of quality French-language classes in its schools, while being an English school board and a key institution of the English-speaking community;

WHEREAS the Québec Court of Appeal in its decision on the stay of Bill 40 recently reaffirmed that section 23 of the Canadian Charter prevents the province from interfering "with the linguistic and cultural concerns of the minority";

WHEREAS implementing provisions of Bill 96 and the Charter of the French Language, as interpreted by the *Office québécois de la langue française*, would fundamentally alter the linguistic culture at the Eastern Townships School Board;

WHEREAS implementing provisions of Bill 96 and the Charter of the French Language, as interpreted by the *Office québécois de la langue française*, would detract from the needs and priorities of the Eastern Townships School Board, their students, parents and the broader community it serves;

WHEREAS implementing provisions of Bill 96 and the Charter of the French Language, as interpreted by the *Office québécois de la langue française*, would lead to long-term alterations to the Eastern Townships' staffing composition, in a manner inconsistent with the linguistic community's actual needs and priorities;

WHEREAS all of these effects would lead to irreparable harm for the English-language community and the specific community served by the Eastern Townships School Board;

WHEREAS the Quebec English School Boards Association and all nine English school boards obtained a stay of Bill 40 in 2020, which was confirmed by the Québec Court of Appeal, based on the irreparable harm that implementing Bill 40 would cause to the English-speaking community, while waiting for a decision on the merits of the challenge;

IT WAS MOVED BY Commissioner M. E. Kirby that the Eastern Townships School Board become an intervenor in the constitutional challenge put forward by the English Montreal School Board.

IT WAS FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Eastern Townships School Board Council of Commissioners mandate the legal firm, Power Law, to institute on its behalf the appropriate legal proceeding.

Carried unanimously

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

9.2.2 Resolution No. ETSB 23-11-31

2023-2024 Confirmation of the Amended Head Office Administrative Structure

WHEREAS section 134 of the Regulation respecting the document *Certaines conditions de travail des cadres des centres de services scolaires et du comité de gestion de la taxe scolaire de l'Île de Montréal* (hereby referred as the "Regulations") states that the School Board must confirm amendments to the Head Office Administrative Structure,

WHEREAS there is a need for revision to the administrative structure confirmed in June 2023;

WHEREAS the proposed change to the administrative structure for the 2023-2024 Head Office was discussed with Commissioners during the Governance & Ethics Advisory Committee meeting on October 10, 2023;

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

WHEREAS this amended administrative structure is to take effect November 28, 2023, unless otherwise specified by the *Regulations*;

IT WAS MOVED BY Commissioner J. Murray that the Council of Commissioners approve the Amended Head Office Administrative Structure for the 2023-2024 school year, effective November 28, 2023.

Carried unanimously

The date of the next meeting is scheduled for February 13, 2024.

9.3 Audit Advisory Committee

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

9.3.1 Finance:

No discussion occurred.

9.3.2 Material Resources:

9.3.2.1 Resolution No. ETSB 23-11-32

Butler Elementary School – Renovation of Sanitary Facilities and Replacement of Water Fountains

WHEREAS the *Ministère de l'Éducation (MEQ)* approved a budget of \$371,861 for the project stated above, under the program *MDB - Maintien des bâtiments 2021-2022 Mesure: 50621*;

WHEREAS bathrooms targeted in the project are in desperate need to be renovated;

WHEREAS three (3) 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 (ETSB) by the date and time specified;

WHEREAS the lowest bid in the amount of \$358,300 (excluding taxes), was received from the company *Comco entrepreneurs en bâtiment / 9192-6444 Québec inc.*;

WHEREAS after reviewing the bids, the assigned professional firm of *ADSP inc.* has recommended the company *Comco entrepreneurs en bâtiment / 9192-6444 Québec Inc.* the lowest bidder in conformity, to do the work for the amount of \$531,398 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

9.3.2.2 Resolution No. ETSB 23-11-33

Parkview Elementary School – Replacement of the Water Distribution Network

WHEREAS the *Ministère de l'éducation (MEQ)* approved a budget of \$418,343 for the project stated above, under the program *MDB - Maintien des bâtiments 2021-2022 Mesure: 50621*;

WHEREAS three (3) companies retrieved the project specifications after a public invitation to bid on the project;

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

WHEREAS the project will allow to renovate the water system in the building;

WHEREAS the lowest bid in the amount of \$32,670 (excluding taxes), was received from the company *Plomberie Goyer inc.*;

WHEREAS after reviewing the bids, the assigned professional firm of *IME Experts-Conseils inc.* has recommended the company *Plomberie Goyer Inc.* the lowest bidder in conformity, to do the work for the amount of \$180,545, including taxes, professional and emergency fees;

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 23-11-34

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 the first phase of the project stated above was completed in compliance with resolution ETSB 23-06-112 for the amount of \$118,367 under the program *MDB - Maintien des bâtiments 2021-2022 Mesure: 50621*;

WHEREAS a fire burned the storage shed in 2020 and another tiny shed was rendered unusable and dangerous following a branch that fell on it in 2021. As part of the schoolyard project, we have decided to conduct a second call for tenders within the Ministry's budget for the construction of a shed/outdoor storage unit on the school grounds;

WHEREAS two (2) companies were invited to submit a bid for the project;

WHEREAS two (2) bids were received by the Eastern Townships School Board (ETSB);

WHEREAS after reviewing the bids, the company *Les Constructions J. Quinn et Fils Inc.* were the lowest bidder in conformity, for the amount of \$29,236, including taxes;

WHEREAS the price for the replacement shed came up to the amount of \$6,290, including taxes;

WHEREAS the overall amount of \$153,893 including taxes and professional fees were needed to complete the project;

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 23-11-35
Annual Playground Improvement Project

WHEREAS the Eastern Townships School Board (ETSB) offers a financial aid of \$10,000 per schools in playground improvement for a maximum of five (5) schools every year. The equal amount of \$10,000 is distributed to each school's project;

WHEREAS for every playground improvement project, the ETSB will match what the school will have raised through their community up to \$10,000 each;

WHEREAS the school contribution is infinite and strongly recommended to be \$10,000 and above to maximize matching contributions;

WHEREAS the *Ministère de l'Éducation du Québec (MEQ)* will contribute 90% of the project, up to \$100,000;

WHEREAS the ETSB will offer this recurring financial participation annually;

WHEREAS the ETSB will use the monies from its global envelope of the *RTB - Réfection et transformation des Bâtiments* program to assume its share of the project;

IT WAS MOVED BY Commissioner J. Humenuik to proceed annually with this contribution; **IT WAS FURTHER MOVED** that the Director General and/or the Director of Material Resources be authorized to sign all associated documentation.

Carried unanimously

The date of the next Audit Advisory Committee is scheduled for February 20, 2024.

9.4 Educational Advisory Committee (ESAC)

The Director of Educational services, E. Lettner, presented the following:

9.4.1 Resolution No. ETSB 23-11-36 2024-2025 Criteria for Enrolment

WHEREAS the Eastern Townships School Board did not make modifications to its Criteria for the enrolment of students for the 2024-2025 school year;

WHEREAS the Central Parents' Committee, the Educational Services Advisory Committee and the Management table have been consulted on this criteria;

IT WAS MOVED BY Commissioner M-E. Kirby that the Eastern Townships School Board approves the criteria for enrolment of students in school of the Eastern Townships School Board for the 2024-2025 school year (section 239 of the *Education Act*).



CRITERIA FOR THE ENROLMENT OF STUDENTS

IN SCHOOLS OF THE EASTERN TOWNSHIPS SCHOOL BOARD

FOR THE SCHOOL YEAR 2024-25

LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

4. Every student, or the student's parents if the student is not of full age, shall have the right to choose, every year, the school that best reflects their preferences from among the schools of the school board whose jurisdiction the student comes under that provide services to which the student is entitled.

The exercise of the right to choose a school is subordinate to the enrollment criteria established pursuant to section 239 where the number of applications for enrollment in a school exceeds the school's capacity, and, in the case of a school with a special project or a school having a regional or provincial role, subordinate to the enrollment criteria established by the school board pursuant to section 240 or 468.

The exercise of the right does not entail the right to require transportation services where the transportation services required for the student concerned exceed the limits established by the school board.

239. Each year, every school board shall enroll students in its schools in keeping with the choice of each student's parents or the choice of the student, if of full age. However, if the number of applications for enrollment in a school exceeds the capacity of the school, enrollment shall be affected according to the criteria established by the school board after consultation with the parents' committee.

The enrollment criteria must give priority to students coming under the jurisdiction of the school board and, as far as possible, to students whose place of residence is nearest to the school premises. They must be adopted, put into force and sent to each governing board at least 15 days before the beginning of the student enrollment period.

The conditions or criteria for participation in a special project may not serve as criteria for enrollment in a school; nor may they operate to exclude a student from the school of the student's choice if the student has a right to enroll in that school pursuant to the criteria referred to in the first paragraph.

The Eastern Townships School Board welcomes students who have attained four (4) years of age (Kindergarten for 4-year olds), five (5) years of age (Kindergarten for 5-year olds) or six (6) years of age before October 1st 2024, or have received a derogation¹ prior to their first day of school.

All students must have a certificate of eligibility for English instruction or be entitled to a certificate for which they have applied. Priority will be given to students that reside on the territory of the Eastern Townships School Board.

The Eastern Townships School Board strives to enroll students in its schools in keeping with the choice of each of the student's parents or the choice of the student, if 18 years of age or older.

However, if the number of applications for enrolment in a given school will likely exceed the capacity of that school², that school will register students in the following order of priority:

1. Students living within the school's basin;
(<http://geobus.etsb.qc.ca/Pages/Anonyme/parents/page.fr.aspx>)
2. Students currently registered in the school.
3. Students with siblings³ currently registered in the school.

¹ Students registering in 4-year-old Kindergarten are not eligible to receive a derogation.

² The school capacity is determined as follows:

- a) The available space, the architectural configuration and the areas allocated by le *Ministère de l'éducation et de l'enseignement supérieur (MEES)*;
- b) The maximum number of students that can be admitted and enrolled at the school;
- c) The number of teaching positions allocated to each school;
- d) The rules for the student weightings in regular classes as defined in the teachers' collective agreement;
- e) The maximum number of students per group as defined in the teachers' collective agreement and the rules for groupings;
- f) The integration of predictable needs in regular classes, during the year, for students with handicaps, social maladjustments or learning difficulties (SHSMLD)

4. Students living outside of the school's basin, but living on the Eastern Townships School Board territory, for a school choice application submitted **before May 1st** of the next school year, on the principle of first come, first serve basis.
5. Students living outside of the School Board territory.

SCHOOL CHOICE

The school choice application must be transmitted to the relevant school **before May 1st** for the next school year.

In order to be granted, the request for a school choice must respect the capacity of the school, the school organization in place and the educational services provided. The places allocated must allow for the completion of the groups already formed and must not cause an excess of students in a group.

The school choice is made on an annual basis and must be renewed each year; therefore, each year, parents must make a request for a change of school at the time of registration, and this change is final except for a change caused by a move.

If, for a school, the number of school choice applications from other schools in the school board exceeds the number of places available, the school's principal allows the available places in the following order of precedence:

1. The student was registered in the school during the previous year;
2. The student already has siblings currently registered in the school;
3. First come, first served.

The decision to grant or refuse an application for school choice is communicated to the parents by the school's principal no later than ten (10) working days before the beginning of the school year.

The acceptance of the request for school choice does not engage the school transportation.

REQUEST FOR ENROLMENT FOR OUT OF BASIN STUDENTS

The requests of students living in the basin of the concerned school will be treated first and foremost followed by the requests of students on the school board's territory. The requests for enrolment for out of basin will be handled afterward.

The application for an out of basin school board must be submitted to the relevant school **prior to May 1st** for the next school year.

Each out of basin school board application is valid for one year. The application process must therefore be repeated on an annual basis.

The same principles of acceptance as for the school choice apply.

October 2023

Carried unanimously

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

9.4.2 Resolution No. ETSB 23-11-37

Agreement for Integrated Educational Services from the Montreal Oral School for the Deaf

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

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

WHEREAS the agreement for integrated educational services from the MOSD for the 2023-2024 school year includes services to a total of 25 students and their school team;

WHEREAS the total cost for these services for the 2023-2024 school year is \$103 127;

IT WAS MOVED BY Commissioner E. McKnight to proceed with the agreement stated above; **IT WAS FURTHER MOVED** that the Director General be authorized to sign all associated documentation and that in the absence of the Director General, the Director of Complementary Educational Services can also sign.

Carried unanimously

The Chair, M-E. Kirby also mentioned that the date of the next ESAC meeting is scheduled for February 6, 2024.

9.5 Communications Advisory Committee

The Chair of the Communications Advisory Committee, H. Turgeon, mentioned that the date of the next Communications Advisory Committee meeting is scheduled for December 5, 2023.

9.6 Human Resources Advisory Committee

The Chair of the Human Resources Advisory Committee, C. Beaubien, mentioned that the date of the next Human Resources Advisory Committee meeting is scheduled for January 16, 2024.

The following was presented by the Chair of the Transportation Committee, Commissioner G. Holliday:

9.7 Transportation Advisory Committee

9.7.1 Resolution No. ETSB 23-11-38

School Bus Bids 2023-2024 (Phase I)

WHEREAS the Eastern Townships School Board owns and operates a fleet of school buses;

WHEREAS to maintain a dependable fleet and keep repair costs down, it is necessary to replace buses on a regular basis;

WHEREAS the *ministère de l'Éducation du Québec (MEQ)* has established parameters for the exchange of buses and has monies for this purpose;

WHEREAS the Eastern Townships School Board has ten (10) buses which will meet these parameters by June 30th 2024, and therefore will need to be replaced;

IT WAS MOVED BY Commissioner G. Holliday that the Eastern Townships School Board make a request to the MEQ to purchase ten (10) new Electric buses.

Carried unanimously

The Chair of the Transportation Advisory Committee, Commissioner G. Holliday, mentioned that the date of the next Transportation Advisory Committee meeting is scheduled for January 30, 2024.

9.8 Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC)

The commissioner representing parents for the SEAC, E. McKnight mentioned that the date of the next SEAC meeting is scheduled for December 13th 2023.

10. PARENTS' COMMITTEE

The Chair of the Central Parents Committee (CPC), H. Turgeon, listed the topics that were addressed at the last CPC meeting on November 1, 2023:

- Election of a new commissioner representing parents.
- Secretary General, E. Campbell – DEEDS of Establishment.
- Eva Lettner – Criteria of Enrolment.
- Kandy Mackey – Strike.

The date of the next Parents' Committee meeting is scheduled for December 6, 2023.

11. STUDENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

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

A meeting took place in person on November 14th at Richmond Regional High School. Other meetings, will take place in other High Schools during the school year. They have discussed about the use of cell phones in class, and the November pedagogical days. E. Lettner informed the students about the international student program. F. MacGregor, G. Holliday, J. Humenuik, K. Mackey, E. Lettner & E. Gaudet are also participants of this committee.

The date of the next Student Advisory Committee meeting is scheduled for December 11, 2023.

12. QESBA

The Chairman mentioned that the political topics discussed at the QESBA have been addressed in his report. A new Executive Director will be appointed soon replacing Mr. Russell Copeman. The fundraising will be relaunched in order to make sure to have enough money for all the challenges.

13. COMMISSIONER'S COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS

Commissioner G. Barnett:

Lennoxville Vocational Training Centre (LVTC) Governing Board

- Now that the Commitment-to-Success Plan (CSP) has been adopted; LVTC will begin consultation in order to develop their Educational Project.
- Circulation on campus has been reviewed, exit being by the upper gate. The speed limit on route 108 in the school zone is now 50 km/h.
- LVTC is looking into establishing an account for fundraising. There was also a need to help some students in financial need.

ETAGE Governing Board

- Now that the Commitment to Success Plan (CSP) has been approved, ETAGE will begin the consultation and feedback process to develop their action plan in alignment to the CSP. Campus Brome-Missisquoi (CBM) and New Horizons (NH) objectives will be kept.
- The two locations present a challenge for meetings.
- In most categories (Exam Services, Online, With Schedule, DE/LVTC, and Home Study), there are substantial increases. For example, there are 227 in Francization compared to 98 last year and in English, 66 vs 14 last year. NH Fall has 105 vs 69 last year. CBM is stable. Distance Education (DE) in ETSB is down to 59 vs 132 last year. DE outside the ETSB is 192 this year vs 150 last year but this is expected to decrease because other boards are developing their own DE.
- ETAGE offers Francization part-time in Granby and full-time in Sherbrooke.
- The Job Links 5 services (Orientation, Job Search Assistance, Specialized Services, the 2 School Retentions, *Accompagnement en Formation* 05 & 06) are on target at 33% of the year.
- The ETAGE Deed of Establishment includes all ETSB sites where they can present courses. ETAGE does this in concert with the CLC's and Elementary Schools.
- The Director and staff are very busy with the large number of students.

Commissioner M-E. Kirby:

Presented several activities that were taking place in the Eaton Valley Community Learning Centre (CLC). She also attended the Remembrance Day ceremony at Cookshire Elementary School.

Commissioner C. Beaubien:

Attended the Remembrance Day ceremony at Sunnyside Elementary School. It was very successful with the students and their questions were more targeted about a day in the life of a soldier. One of the guests was over 100 years old and very funny. Another one was the grandfather of one of the students who was a Canadian peacekeeper at various missions. Ms. Beaubien was also present at school activities for wellness day with students and staff of Ayer's Cliff Elementary School and North Hatley Elementary School in December.

Commissioner G. Holliday:

Informed everyone that Richmond Regional High School will present their Remembrance Day ceremony on Thursday night of this week.

Chairman M. Murray: Attended a very entertaining play presented by the Knowlton Players. Many parent volunteers and Knowlton Academy students participated.

14. UPCOMING EVENTS

None.

15. CORRESPONDENCE

None.

16. QUESTION PERIOD

None.

17. GOVERNANCE AND COMMUNICATION

None.

18. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned on a motion by Commissioner R. Gagnon at 8:14 p.m.

Eric Campbell
Secretary General

Michael Murray
Chairman

11.28.2023