

Highlights

Council of Commissioners' meeting of
Tuesday, June 25th 2024



Recognition of Excellence

This month the Council of Commissioners and Head Office Administrators of the Eastern Townships School Board were pleased to announce the appointment of Mr. Stephen (Steve) Walker as Assistant Centre Director of the Eastern Townships Adult General Education (ETAGE), for the temporary one-year position.

The Council also approved the 2024-2025 budgets for Schools and Centres along with the adoption of the Eastern Townships School Board's 2024-2025 budget.

Dates to Remember...

June 26 th & 27 th	Pedagogical Days / Planning Days
July 1 st	Holiday - Canada Day
July 22 nd – Aug. 2 nd	Board closed for summer holiday
Aug. 23 rd , 26 th & 27 th	Pedagogical Days / Planning Days
Aug. 27 th	Council of Commissioners' Meeting

Resolutions

- *Adhésion à l'Union réciproque d'assurance scolaire du Québec (URASQ);*
- 2024-2025 Insurance Renewal – Damage Insurance;
- QESBA Membership Fees – 2024-2025;
- Yearly Action Plan for Managing the Risks of Corruption and Collusion in the Contract Management Process;
- Assessment report on the Risk Management Plan Concerning the Risks of Corruption and Collusion in Contract Management Process;
- Contracts to Public Bodies – Annual Rendering of Accounts;
- Approval of the 2024-2025 Schools and Centres Budgets;
- Adoption of the Eastern Townships School Board Budget – 2024-2025;
- Interest Rate on Overdue Taxes and Other Overdue Receivables;
- Delegation of Powers to the Director General, Appointment of Administrators;
- Signing Officers for Schools and Centres – National Bank;
- Sawyerville Elementary School – Signing Officers;
- Richmond Regional High School – Signing Officers;
- Knowlton Academy – Signing Officers;
- Farnham Elementary School – Renovation of Foundations and Renovation of Perimeter Drainage and Insulation;
- Parkview Elementary School – Hallway Ceilings Demolition Phase 2;



Resolutions cont'd

- Sunnyside Elementary School – Replacement of the 10 Tons Unit (HVAC CLSC));
- All School – Yearly Inspection of Fire Alarm Systems and Emergency Lights;
- Alexander Galt Regional High School – Underground Drainage, Parking and Drop-Off Renovation;
- Student Promotion Policy;
- Establishment and Composition of the Special Education Advisory Committee.

See attached report from the Chair,
Mr. Murray and the Director General,
Ms. Mackey.

J U N E 2 5 , 2 0 2 4

Reflections

From Michael Murray, Chairman

It is with a touch of wistfulness that I draft this comment on the ending of another school year. Our students are celebrating the beginning of their summer vacation, personnel are cleaning out classrooms and gathering personal belongings to take home and our facilities management team is hitting their high season to improve and upgrade our buildings and grounds. In barely 8 weeks we will begin the cycle again, fresh faces in classrooms and offices, fresh initiatives and projects for improvement and a looming election for commissioners that will take place next November 3rd.


With the sunshine and humidity of high summer it seems as if November is a long way ahead, but it will be upon us before we realize the summer is gone. I want to emphasize that these elections are extremely important, not only for commissioners but for everyone. School Boards are the last level of local governance answering to the English community of Quebec. We have successfully fought attempts by successive governments to abolish us, under successive education ministers in the former Liberal government prior to arrival of the CAQ and before the courts since then. We have won repeated judgements upholding our rights under the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms, otherwise known as the Canadian constitution. In collaboration with eight other English school boards, we continue to function with rights of management and control of our educational system. Commissioners respond to local communities. They are accessible to parents and to non-parent citizens. We oversee a budget that we adopted a few moments ago of 133 million dollars which, I feel confident, makes us the largest English language employer in the Townships. We take care of your children from morning to night, nurturing and

supporting them in many ways well beyond the essentials of basic education. The upcoming elections are an opportunity for our community to select the individuals who will set policy and oversee operations for the next four years.

We get little help from the government as you can imagine. Our electoral lists need to be updated and corrected, but we must ask you as individuals, to ensure your names are on the electoral lists. We hope that if you are interested you will stand for election. Every individual who has done so reports that it is a rewarding and fulfilling experience, yielding far more benefits in personal growth and satisfaction than it costs in time and effort. I hope that if you choose not to stand for election you will at least vote, and encourage your families, your friends and your neighbours to do so as well. Democracy takes only a little effort. Please feel free to call the school board or consult our website for information if you are curious. Information will be forthcoming throughout the summer and fall.

I have personally committed to running again for office. There are so many ways to contribute to improving our performance. One of the most important roles of commissioners is choosing or approving the nomination of our leadership team. We have an outstanding group of senior administrators, several recent additions as well as some veterans, who will I am sure take us further and better in the years ahead.

With that I wish you a restful summer and I look forward to welcoming you back in late August. Enjoy!

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Michael Murray". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Michael" and last name "Murray" clearly distinguishable.

Michael Murray, Chairman



June 2024

Director General's Report...

As we hold our final Council meeting of the school year, I invite us to reflect on the significant milestones and achievements we have accomplished together. Here are a few to highlight:

This year began with the adoption of our 2023-2027 Commitment to Success Plan, guiding us to focus on specific actions for each of our four orientations: bilingualism, the vulnerability of preschoolers, valorization of transitions and alternative pathways, and wellbeing. This plan is shaping our reflections and actions, ensuring we address the needs and goals of our organization.

The Central Student Advisory Committee has been active, providing valuable insights on relevant topics such as bilingualism, cell phone use in class, and the environment. Their perspectives have been instrumental in shaping our initiatives and approaches.

In this negotiation year, we are pleased to announce that all provincial collective agreements have been signed. Although students missed school days, the "plan de rattrapage" provided much-needed support under the guidance of dedicated ETSB personnel, ensuring our students had the opportunity to catch up effectively.

We adjusted to having a Regional Student Ombudsman. Within the spirit of the law, this process aimed to enhance our ability to address student concerns and improve their educational experience.

We have navigated numerous political distractions this year. I appreciate our Council's leadership in managing these challenges, allowing us to focus on our core mission: providing our communities with a learning environment that promotes academic and personal development, leading to the attainment of graduation or certification and opportunities to flourish and succeed.

One of the most fascinating experiences this year was the April 8th total solar eclipse. It was uplifting to see some enjoying this rare event with their families while others shared the moment with their ETSB family.

Our adult sector centres have flourished this year, offering new and existing programs that provide valuable opportunities to our anglophone clientele. Programs such as carpentry, tinsmithing, Recognition of Acquired Competencies (RAC), and francisation have seen great success. We are also excited about the upcoming plumbing and heating program. These initiatives demonstrate our commitment to expanding educational opportunities and meeting the diverse needs of our community.

The most wonderful highlight of the 2023-2024 school year has been witnessing the revival of real school and centre life after the pandemic years we lived. Students have engaged fully in authentic activities, trips, extra-curricular programs, enrichment opportunities, and targeted interventions. This resulted in the recent graduations and celebrations at our schools and centres. Congratulations to ALL our students for their perseverance, effort, and achievements.

I cannot express enough gratitude to our staff members who prioritized our students day in and day out, from the bus drivers who greeted them with a smile each morning, to the secretaries who were always there to take care of a student's needs, to the caretakers who diligently kept our buildings clean and safe, to the paraprofessionals who worked tirelessly with our most vulnerable students, to the teachers who inspired young (and not so young) minds to ignite and be curious every day, to the professionals who provided us with their insight and expertise to better understand our students, to the administrators who led with dedication and passion, and to our head office staff who worked diligently behind the scenes to ensure that all the essential operations in our schools and centres ran smoothly and effectively. Our school community thrived because of the collective effort and commitment of each and every one of them.

I also extend my heartfelt appreciation to our parents who entrusted us with their most precious beings - their children. Together, we aim to create a nurturing and supportive environment where every child can thrive and succeed.

To our ETSB graduates, we wish them the very best and encourage them to continue embracing learning throughout their lives. Their journey of growth and discovery does not end here, and we are confident that they will achieve great things.

As we look forward to the summer, I wish everyone a safe, family-connected break filled with laughter and sunshine. It is a blessing to work with all of you and I thank you for your dedication and hard work throughout this past year. I look forward to seeing you in August.

Your Director General,
Kandy Mackey



Recognition of Excellence

June 25th 2024

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

Making a Bee Line to Knowlton Academy



Students at Knowlton Academy Elementary School are learning all about bee combs, honey, queens and drones along with the expression of making a bee line and how it came about. This school-wide project cultivating beehives has been a year in the works, led by science teachers Mr. Quesnelle and Ms. Neil. Through grants and loads of community support, this hands-on living experiment came to *bee* to the thrill of students. The hives are hosted at a neighbouring property within a short walk from the school, and the local gardens are thriving with the help of these new bee colonies that are as busy as you know what (; Plans for a honey sale are in the works and the school is hoping to expand on the project adding more hives over time. KA students seen above, namely

Owen Patch (Grade 3), Isabella Funderberg (Grade 5) and Anton Zeitlinger Fontana (Secondary 1) were interviewed by CBC and the Sherbrooke Record also covered the story. Have a [listen](#) and [read](#) all about this fascinating science project that has everyone buzzing with interest and excitement!

Heroes' Memorial Celebrates 100 Years!!



Click to enlarge! (Pictures and write up provided by the school)

On Saturday, June 8th 2024, Heroes' Memorial Elementary School opened their doors to the community, including former students and staff, to celebrate its 100 years.

School-wide, the students worked on displays for everyone to enjoy. The 4 and 5 year olds displayed collections of 100 objects and used an app to age themselves to appear 100 years old. A giant birthday card was created by STRIVE and decorative posters were made by the grade 1's. Grade 2 created a "Then and Now" book telling the story of school in the 1920s compared to school today. Grade 3 wrote letters of gratitude to a hero of the past, and to a hero of the present. The grade 4's took a historical walking tour and created art to represent the buildings they viewed. Cycle 3 recreated photos from the archives of Cowansville High School and displayed the plethora of sports awards that the school has won over the years. There were also slide shows and photographs on display of the theatre productions, sports, activities, staff and Heroes' alumni.

Representatives of different community partners were also on hand to share memories and provide information about current events and opportunities. Students from the Heroes' Memorial Spirit Squad were on site sharing lemonade and cookies with the visitors. It was a festive and happy event in celebration of Heroes' Memorial Elementary School and the community it has served for the past 100 years. Congratulations and we look ahead brightly to the future!

Field Games Day 2024



On Friday, June 14th 2024, students from 9 elementary schools of the ETSB gathered together at Alexander Galt Regional High School (GALT) for a day of sports and fun. The 200 elementary school students hailing from Ayer's Cliff Elementary, Cookshire Elementary, Lennoxville Elementary, North Hatley Elementary, Pope Memorial Elementary, Princess Elizabeth Elementary, Sawyerville Elementary, Sherbrooke Elementary and Sunnyside Elementary were all mixed together on 14 different teams. They played four sports throughout the day; Soccer, Quattro, Terra Gold and Kickball with the goal of meeting their future classmates before starting at GALT next year.

A huge thank you to the Clinton Munkittrick Memorial Fund for the T-shirts and the BBQ lunch. Another huge thank you goes out to Alexander Galt's sports concentration students who were helpers for the day.

Good luck to all students graduating this year who are heading to high school in the fall. We wish you the best of times!

