

EASTERN TOWNSHIPS SCHOOL BOARD

COUNCIL OF COMMISSIONERS

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2025 – 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	Pam Gougeon	Z
Claire Beaubien	Z	Sarah Langlois	Z
Sandra Finlay	Z	Eliza McKnight	Z
Richard Gosselin	Z	Jody Murray	Z
Gary Holliday	Z	DIRECTORS' COMMITTEE (DC)	
Joy Humenuik	Z	Secretary General – Shawn Champigny	P
Shawn Jersey	Z	Director General – Kandy Mackey	P
Mary-Ellen Kirby	Z	Assistant Director General & Director of Financial Services – Sophie Leduc	Z
Jonathan Murray	Z	Director of Human Resources – Caroline Dufresne	P
Michael Murray, Chair	Z	Director of Instructional Technology and Pedagogical Services – Eva Lettner	Z
Megan Seline	Z	Director of Complementary Services – Emmanuelle Gaudet	Z
Helene Turgeon	A	Director of Material Resources – Éric Plante	P

ZOOM (Z) – MEMBERS PRESENT (P) – MEMBERS ABSENT (A)

1. CALL THE MEETING TO ORDER

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

2. QUORUM AND ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

QUORUM WAS ESTABLISHED AND IT WAS MOVED BY Commissioner M. E. Kirby to adopt the Agenda of February 25, 2025 as deposited, with the following addition/correction:

8.1 *Services aux Entreprises (SAE)* – removal of topic.

Carried unanimously

3. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF JANUARY 21, 2025

Resolution No. ETSB 25-02-37

Approval of the Amended Minutes of the Meeting of the Council of Commissioners held on November 26, 2024

WHEREAS a copy of the Amended Minutes of the meeting of November 26, 2024 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 J. Murray to excuse the Secretary General from reading the Amended Minutes and to approve the Amended Minutes of the meeting held on November 26, 2024 as deposited.

Carried unanimously

4. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF JANUARY 21, 2025

Resolution No. ETSB 25-02-38

Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting of the Council of Commissioners held on January 21, 2025

WHEREAS a copy of the Minutes of the meeting of January 21, 2025 has been given to each Commissioner at least 6 hours before the opening of the meeting, the Secretary General is excused from reading the Minutes.

IT WAS MOVED BY Commissioner G. Barnett to excuse the Secretary General from reading the Minutes and to approve the Minutes of the meeting held on January 21, 2025 as deposited.

Carried unanimously

5. QUESTION PERIOD

T. Croteau

ATA President:

Thank you for the Meet & Greet invitation. Apology accepted. The ATA would like a follow-up in regards to qualified substitute teachers vs non-qualified. Is it because it is cheaper to hire? Legally qualified teachers should be prioritized for the benefit of students and staff. Could you explain the Commissioner's stance on this, especially for special needs students?

M. Murray

Chair:

Salary conditions do not influence hiring decisions at the school level. The School Board pays the teachers' salaries, so there is no impact on centralized funds. The School Board aims to prioritize qualified teachers but continues to face challenges in meeting demand on a short-term basis.

T. Croteau

ATA President:

We need consistency in the schools. Teachers are frustrated.

M. Roberts

ATA representative:

As per our Health & Safety/Violence Survey, we would like the ETSB's collaboration in writing. We need to collect data in order to combat violence and bullying.

M. Murray

Chair:

We have input from our school surveys. We will get you your response in writing in the near future.

P. Maingot

ATA representative:

My question is in regards to violence against teachers and staff. We are concerned that teachers were told that being hit or kicked by students is a risk inherent to the profession. We disagree with this message from the senior administration. Why is the School Board normalizing it? Anything goes these days; teachers are afraid to discipline the students due to parents' blowback. What is your stance?

M. Murray

Chair:

Of course we do not agree. This whole issue requires context. We do not normalize it, nor encourage it. However, we do acknowledge it can happen for a multitude of reasons.

L. Mireault

ATA representative:

We often invite Commissioners to visit our schools for special events. Would Commissioners be interested in answering teacher questions in their respective schools so we can collaborate together?

M. Murray

Chair:

You can indeed invite us and we encourage it.

T. Croteau

ATA President:

The BLINK Newsletter: Distrust is felt by employees. The ATA was very happy with the message; Actions speak louder than words. Is there a Plan being worked on?

M. Murray

Chair:

Ongoing discussions are always being held. We endorse efforts to improve and we assure you, Commissioners are amateurs and part-timers. We can and do discuss in our regular meetings to put plans into effect.

6. RECOGNITION OF EXCELLENCE

Chairman M. Murray invited the following Commissioners to present the February 25, 2025 Recognition of Excellence:

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

HEROES is Staying Busy



Photo found on Heroes Memorial Elementary School PPO Facebook Page

Fresh Start for Heroes in 2025

Commissioner Jonathan Murray: Heroes Memorial Elementary School in Cowansville has had an exciting start to 2025! Their **Student of the Week Board** is back, celebrating students for good manners, citizenship and decision making – boosting school spirit.

The **Ski Program**, led by dedicated volunteer staff, was a great success and the **Winter Carnival** brought joy to all. Soon, a school-wide art project will transform bulletin boards with student creativity. Younger students are enjoying **K4 dance classes** and the **public speaking competition** saw 18 participants shine. Congratulations to **Violet Demeter, Maelie Perrott and Jacob Bergeron** for their outstanding performances! What an inspiring way to start the year!

Registration Dates: Radio Ad



Photos found on Sherbrooke Elementary School Facebook Page

2 Radio Stars from SES

Commissioner C. Beaubien: Two of our talented Grade 6 students, Logan and Zoé, had an incredible experience as the voices behind our ETSB radio ads for this year's registration campaign! Their enthusiasm and confidence truly shone as they helped promote our schools on *102.7 Rouge Estrie* and *Energie 106.1 Estrie* from January 27 to February 7, 2025.

A huge thank you to Ms. Blouin for supporting them on this journey and to *Bell Media Sherbrooke* for their warm hospitality. We are so proud of Logan and Zoé for representing our school board with such poise and excitement!

Asbestos-Shipton-Danville (A.D.S.) Elementary School

Commissioner S. Finlay: Students from Grades 4 to 6 had the opportunity to go to the **curling Club**. Grades 3 to 6 went **cross-country skiing** in Melbourne at not cost to parents.

Staff Appreciateon Week: An honourable mention to the Student Council. They created a video to show their appreciation to the staff.

Cooking Workshop: *Projet Agir et Alimenter*, whose mandate to promote access to healthy food and nutrition education for all students in the area, gave a workshop. They made Pasta salad with curry chickpeas.

Regional Trade Competition at LVTC



Photos found on Compétences Québec and LVTC Facebook Page

Regional Skills Competition at LVTC

Commissioner G. Barnett: Lennoxville Vocational Training Centre (LVTC) proudly hosted the *Olympiades Régionales from Compétences Québec*, welcoming Health Assistance and Nursing and Welding students from across the region to put their expertise to the test. This hands-on challenge showcased incredible talent, with top performers earning a chance to compete at the provincial, national and international levels.

A huge congratulations to all participants for their hard work and dedication. Special recognition goes to our winners – your journey continues, **and we look forward to seeing students qualified at the provincials**. A heartfelt thank you to the trainers and teachers whose commitment made this event a success.

Prix Fondation Desjardins Makes Students Happy



Photo found on Mansonville Elementary School Facebook Page

Ski Program in Mansonville Rewarded by Desjardins

Commissioner S. Jersey: During the 5th day of School Perseverance Week, we were proud to highlight the **Ski Program at Owl's Head**, which was offered by **Mansonville Elementary School**. This exceptional program provides students with a unique opportunity to ski and enjoy the iconic mountain of the region. Beyond physical activity, it fosters confidence and perseverance, helping students overcome academic and personal challenges. The relationships formed through **this program offers vital support and encouragement.**

A big thank you to everyone who helps make this experience possible and supports our young skiers on their journey.

Massey Vanier High School – One word: FUN!

Commissioner M. Seline: Lily is fully certified!



Carnival - Justin Forster aka Elvis



Sutton Elementary School – One word: SUPPORTIVE!

The ski program allows students the opportunity to ski. Collaboration of teachers and students to design and display dioramas based on the classic novels: Charlotte's Web and Le Petit Prince.

Knowlton Academy – One Word: POSITIVITY!

Students from KA attended the science fair at MVHS. Their projects and presentations were outstanding and they came home with the elementary level championship trophy.

Enormous thanks to the volunteers who support the many school programs: prepare breakfast, help in class, reading, help with sewing and cooking. Also, the Garden Project and Beehive Project.

Shelley Mizener and Cash



Social Services Evening

On January 22, 2025 KA held a Social Services Evening. A small but passionate group of KA parents participated in the first Local Services Evening. Thank you to the presenters: Brome Lake Cultural, Community, Recreational and Leisure team, *Action Communautaire Lac-Brome*, CLSC Cowansville, Yamaska Literacy Council and Heather from the Nature & Support Center at Knowlton Academy. Lots of information was shared after a great meal and a big thanks to the team of Grade 6 babysitters who made it 'the biggest night ever' according to one participant.

7. BUSINESS ARISING

There was no business arising.

8. NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business.

9. REPORTS

9.1 Director General's report

The Director General, K. Mackey reported the following:

February may be the shortest month, but it was packed with activities that highlight our commitment to student success and well-being.

We welcomed new employees through the **Masters Challenge**, where they discovered the many pathways available to our students, celebrated **Hooked on Schools Day** to support student perseverance and inaugurated our **Heating & Plumbing program**, expanding hands-on learning opportunities for our adult students. **Staff Appreciation Week** was a reminder of the dedication that makes our schools & centres more than just places of learning—they are thriving communities.

With **2025-2026 registrations** underway, we continue to show that ETSB is more than a school board—it's a **family** that prioritizes **well-being, inclusion and growth**. We welcome every student with open arms, ensuring they find a place to learn, belong and thrive.

Winter brought **carnivals, ski days and basketball tournaments**, reinforcing the joy of learning beyond the classroom. Meanwhile, **Parent-Teacher Interviews** strengthened home-school collaboration, a key factor in student success.

As March begins, let's embrace the energy and opportunities ahead. Wishing everyone a well-deserved **March Break**—or a productive one for those working!

9.2 Chair's report

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

10. ADVISORY COMMITTEES' REPORTS

10.1 Executive Committee

The Chair of the Executive Committee, Commissioner M. Murray mentioned that the topics discussed at the Executive meeting will also be addressed at tonight's Council of Commissioners.

10.2 Governance and Ethics Committee

The Chair of the Governance and Ethics Committee, Commissioner G. Barnett mentioned the topics discussed at the February 4, 2025 meeting:

- Adult Sector Update;
- Governance Alignment Professional Development (PD) Debrief;
- Administrative appointments;
- Legal court challenges;
- Ad hoc committee for new commissioners.

The date of the next meeting is scheduled for April 15, 2025.

10.3 Audit Advisory Committee

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

10.3.1 Finance:

10.3.1.1 Resolution No ETSB 25-02-39

External Auditing Services from 2024-2025 to 2026-2027

WHEREAS section 284 of the Education Act mandates that the financial activities of school boards be audited annually;

WHEREAS the requirement includes one (1) audited financial statement for March every three (3) years, and one (1) audited financial statement for June every year;

WHEREAS the mandate of the current external auditors for the Eastern Townships School Board (ETSB), Raymond Chabot Grant Thornton LLP (RCGT), expired on June 30, 2024;

WHEREAS Financial Services, in collaboration with the *Centre de service scolaire des Sommets*, the *Centre de service scolaire de la Région de Sherbrooke* and the *Centre de service scolaire des Hauts-Cantons*, issued a joint public call for tenders for external auditing services for a term of three (3) years, with the possibility of extending the contract for two (2) additional years on a yearly basis;

WHEREAS two (2) bids were submitted for the auditing services required by the ETSB;

WHEREAS the lowest bid was submitted by Raymond Chabot Grant Thornton LLP (RCGT) in the amount of:

June	2024-2025	\$49,000 + taxes
	2025-2026	\$51,000 + taxes
	2026-2027	\$53,000 + taxes
	2027-2028	\$56,000 + taxes
	2028-2029	\$60,000 + taxes
March		\$26,000 + taxes

WHEREAS Raymond Chabot Grant Thornton LLP (RCGT) has the required experience in auditing the education sector;

WHEREAS the Audit Committee has reviewed the supporting documentation;

IT WAS MOVED BY Commissioner J. Humenuik, as recommended by the Audit Committee, to appoint Raymond Chabot Grant Thornton LLP (RCGT) as external auditors for the 2024-2025, 2025-2026 and 2026-2027 school years.

Carried unanimously

10.3.2 Material Resources:**10.3.2.1 Resolution No. ETSB 25-02-40****Asbestos-Danville-Shipton (A.D.S.) Elementary School – Schoolyard Drainage**

WHEREAS the *ministère de l'Éducation (MEQ)* approved a budget of \$385,765 for the project stated above, under the program *RDE – Résorption du déficit 2023-2024 Mesure: 50622*;

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

WHEREAS eight (8) bids were received by the Eastern Townships School Board (ETSB) by the date and time specified;

WHEREAS the lowest bid in the amount of \$329,495 (excluding taxes), was received from the company *Construction Groupe Prévost Inc.*;

WHEREAS after reviewing the bids, the assigned professional firm of *St. Georges Structures et Civil Inc.* has recommended the company *Construction Groupe Prévost Inc.* the lowest bidder in conformity, to do the work for the amount of \$438,869 including taxes and professional fees;

WHEREAS all additional funds required to complete the project, will be taken from *RDE – Résorption du déficit 2023-2024 Mesure: 50622*;

IT WAS MOVED BY Commissioner S. Finlay 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

10.3.2.2 Resolution No. ETSB 25-02-41**Sherbrooke Elementary School – Demolition of the small gymnasium ceiling**

WHEREAS the Eastern Townships School Board (ETSB) has dedicated a budget of \$85,000 for the project stated above where monies are planned to be taken under the *RTB – Réfection et Transformation des Bâtiments 2024-25*;

WHEREAS following an inspection, we noticed that ceiling tiles were deformed, and that the suspended ceiling attachment system was not safe. The ceiling tiles were removed and partially salvaged. Demolition work and securing the ceiling were urgently required;

WHEREAS an indemnity and investigation from the insurance company will be done;

WHEREAS a budget of \$91,967 is required to complete the repairs;

IT WAS MOVED BY Commissioner Jody Murray 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

10.3.2.3 Resolution No. ETSB 25-02-42

List of Proposed Projects under the Programs « *Maintien des bâtiments, Résorption du déficit et maintien et Travaux de Maintien d'Actif 2024-2025 (Mesure 50621, 50622 & 50627)* » MODIFIED and ORIGINAL

WHEREAS with these measures, 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 previous resolution ETSB 24-11-27, was missing two projects and this resolution would replace the previous one and become the official resolution;

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 2024-2025 (Mesure 50621)*, to the program *Résorption du déficit de maintien 2024-2025 (Mesure 50622)* and the program *Travaux de maintien d'actif (Mesure 50627)*;

WHEREAS the following table indicates the list of projects:

Establishment	Budget	Project
ADS Elementary School	\$1,100,000	Repairs to the Roof (Right Wing)
Ayer's Cliff Elementary School	\$350,000	Renovation of Exterior Cladding
Cookshire Elementary School	\$180,000	Roofing wing 1956
Heroes' Memorial Elementary School	\$2,160,542	Exterior Walls Repairs
Knowlton Academy	\$700,000	Gym soundproofing and renovation
Knowlton Academy	\$500,000	Masonry Repair – Phase 1
Knowlton Academy	\$50,000	Emergency exit (exterior staircase)
North Hatley Elementary School	\$215,000	Exterior stairs, exterior cladding, fencing and fire doors
Parkview Elementary School	\$253,263	Security lighting
Sherbrooke Elementary School	\$80,000	Network, communications, corridor lightings and fire alarm system
St-Francis Elementary School	\$440,000	Roofing basins
Sutton Elementary School	\$400,000	Library Roofing
Sutton Elementary School	\$200,000	Exterior doors replacement

Alexander Galt Regional High School	\$750,000	Aqueduc backyard drainage and paving - Phase 2 of 3
Massey-Vanier High School	\$385,000	Roof repair
Massey-Vanier High School	\$179,000	Load distribution in electrical panels
Massey-Vanier High School	\$175,000	Replacement of fire detection and alarm systems
Massey-Vanier High School	\$348,000	Replacement sanitary blocks
Richmond Regional High School	\$900,683	Replacement of lighting Phase 1
Board Office	\$575,000	Adult Ed – Final Renovation Phase
New Horizons	\$278,053	ESE (Lightings)
Waterloo Elementary School	\$625,000	Gym and staff room renovation

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

WHEREAS the said list of the proposed priorities presented at the Executive Committee on August 27th 2024 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 C. Beaubien to proceed with the work for the project stated above;

IT WAS FURTHER MOVED that the Director General be authorized to sign all associated documentation and that in the absence of the Director General, the Director of Material Resources can also sign.

Carried unanimously

The Chair of the Audit Advisory Committee, Commissioner J. Humenuik mentioned that the date of the next Audit Advisory Committee is scheduled for May 20, 2025.

10.4 Educational Services Advisory Committee (ESAC)

The Director of Instructional Technology and Pedagogical Services, E. Lettner presented the following resolutions:

10.4.1. Resolution No. ETSB 25-02-43 Fibre Optic Convention

WHEREAS an agreement for the construction and operation of a fibre optic link has been reached between the Eastern Township School Board (ETSB), the *Centre de services scolaires du Val-des-Cerfs (CSSVDC)*, the *MRC Haute-Yamaska*, the *Réseau d'informations scientifiques du Québec inc. (RISQ)* and *Groupe Maskatel Québec S.E.C.* (formerly *Télécommunications Xittel inc.*) and took effect retroactively on April 23, 2002 - hereinafter referred to as the "Phase I Network";

WHEREAS *Groupe Maskatel Québec S.E.C.* informed the parties that it intended to exercise its right to withdraw as carrier as of June 13, 2024, pursuant to Section 9.2 of the Phase I Network Agreement;

WHEREAS the Parties have designated *Infrastructel inc.* as the Replacement Carrier for the Phase I Network on September 11, 2024;

WHEREAS a second agreement for the construction and operation of a Phase II fibre optic link was signed on September 28, 2004 between the ETSB, the CSSVDC, the MRC, the *Ville de Cowansville* and *Infrastructel inc.*, this fibre optic network being interconnected to the Phase I network;

WHEREAS the agreement for the construction and operation of a Phase II fibre optic link expired on September 27, 2024;

WHEREAS the Parties to both the Phase I Network Agreement and the Phase II Network Agreement agree to group all fibre optic sections under a single network and agreement;

WHEREAS *Infrastructel inc.* has agreed to act as Carrier for the grouped network;

WHEREAS the Parties wish to determine their respective rights and obligations through a fibre optic link operating agreement;

WHEREAS it is in the interest of the parties to enter into a new agreement for this purpose for a period of five (5) years (with the possibility of renewal for successive five (5) year terms) starting September 28, 2024;

IT WAS MOVED BY Commissioner J. Humenuik to authorize the Director General or the Director of Instructional Technology and Pedagogical Service to sign, for and on behalf of the Eastern Townships School Board, the agreement submitted effective immediately.

Carried unanimously

10.4.2. Resolution No. ETSB 25-02-44
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 some of this equipment is at the end of its life and must be renewed;

WHEREAS a grant of \$100,000 has been pre-approved by the Ministry of Education to cover the acquisition of this equipment;

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 all purchases will be done according to the *ETSB Purchase policy* and government requirements;

IT WAS MOVED BY Commissioner G. Holliday 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 2025-2026 effective immediately.

Carried unanimously

The Chair also mentioned that the date of the next ESAC meeting is scheduled for March 11, 2025.

10.5 Communications Advisory Committee

The date of the next Communications Advisory Committee meeting is scheduled for April 1st 2025.

10.6 Human Resources Advisory Committee

The Chair of the Human Resources Advisory Committee, C. Beaubien mentioned the topics discussed at the February 18, 2025 meeting:

- Local negotiations;
- Recruitment process;
- Wellbeing orientation in Commitment-to-Success Plan;
- Revision of the Dignity in the workplace policy (P028) and Bill 42;
- Bill 47
- Bill 68;
- DPR: Focus on prevention;
- Other policies to be revised over the next couple of years: Employment practices (P014), Leave of absences (P022), Health and Safety on school board premises (P039) and Code of ethics for all employees (P042).

The date of the next Human Resources Advisory Committee meeting is scheduled for April 29, 2025.

10.7 Transportation Advisory Committee

In the absence of the Chair of the Transportation Advisory Committee, Commissioner H. Turgeon, the Secretary General, S. Champigny mentioned the following:

Revival of Lion Electric. Nothing official; they might leave trucking and only continue with school buses.

The date of the next Transportation Advisory Committee meeting is scheduled for March 18, 2025.

10.8 Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC)

The SEAC Chair and Parent Commissioner, E. McKnight mentioned the topics discussed at the February 12, 2025 meeting:

- Report on Financing for Students with Special Needs;
- 2024-2025 & 2025-2026 Parent Information Sessions presented by Hannah Beach;
- Highlighting ETSB's Strengths;
- ETSB Special Education Website;
- Professionals in schools – new members;
- Canadian Adaptive Snowsports (CADS) Ski.

The date of the next SEAC meeting is scheduled for April 28, 2025.

11. PARENTS' COMMITTEE

The Commissioner representing parents, S. Langlois mentioned the topics discussed at the February 5, 2025 meeting:

- Transport and Communications Highlights – presented by the Secretary General, S. Champigny and the Coordinator of Transportation, B. Banfill;
- Bus route cancellations due to bus drivers, not mechanical issues;
- Snowday procedures;
- Is French a priority? – Graduating with the appropriate level of French: Marketing immersion and interesting courses in French;
- GB Workshop Feedback;
- Parent Participation Brainstorm – GB knowledge.

The date of the next meeting is scheduled for March 12, 2025.

12. STUDENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Commissioner J. Humenuik, representing the Student Advisory Committee, mentioned the topics discussed at the February 19, 2025 meeting:

- Alumni were invited to answer questions from students – they shared their experiences after leaving high school;
- Alumni also answered questions that CSAC students had on their different pathways;
- Alumni feedback: it is ok to change your mind about the pathway you have chosen and to not be afraid of failing. Enjoy the time you spend learning new things and meeting new people;
- Discussion about AI;
- School surveys.

The date of the next Student Advisory Committee meeting is scheduled for March 2025..

13. QESBA

Chair M. Murray mentioned the following topics discussed:

- Spring Conference;
- Court cases moving forward;
- Solicitation of candidates for awards will be presented in May 2025;
- Professional Development (PD) program for Commissioners and Administrators.

14. COMMISSIONER'S COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS

Commissioner G. Barnett:

Eastern Townships General Adult Education (ETAGE) GB

- SVI: When the Francization program terminated, ETAGE immediately expanded the Socio-Vocational Instruction program to be bilingual to integrate eligible students. ETAGE has developed contacts with various companies to offer soft skills services.
- Programs: Of the two dozen programs, the 24-25 statistics are very comparable to those of 23-24 at halfway through the year. For instance, the 23-24 vs 24-25 comparisons are: Exam FSL stats are 25:32, Sec. Studies 8:6, Online Fall 25:36, Spheres of Prior Learning 88:52, SVI French (new): 43, English 113:160, CBM SPP 22:25, DE/LVTC 94:220, DES 20:9. Distance Ed. is declining as other school boards develop their own programs.
- Job Links: At half the year, Orientation, Job Search and Specialized Services are at high levels, but School Retention at 17% and *Accompagnement en emploi* at 0%.
- Continuous entry procedure: Rather than open this up once a week, it will be done once every 2 weeks for better time use. The other Monday will be used for schedule changes. No new files will be opened after May 5 except for the fall because *MEQ* requires file closure by June.
- Budget: A request was made for the *Francisation* deficit compensation but of 56 ETPs, *MEQ* will only accept 6. *Mésure* 1564 may help address the deficit in part.

Lennoxville Elementary School (LES) GB

- Inclement weather: LES has responded to some concerns about sending students outside in inclement weather. The weather is closely monitored, teachers of outside classes consulted, standards are respected such as those of the School Climate Tool Kit, the French classes in the outdoor program are fully bilingual, inclusivity is the abiding principle and the staff is fully trained to manage the outside situations.

- Our school survey: This will occur in March for Grades 4 to 6. Besides the Survey questions, there are 4 local ones: 3 about the Future in French (Agree/Disagree response) and 1 on Technology (Select all that apply). LES may include Response to Intervention and Wellness questions.
- Response to intervention: This begins in C1 and C2 but really applies to C3. This initiative is composed of different teams working together to reach every student where they are, targets essential subjects, keeps everyone stimulated and encourages study independence.
- Torograpix: This company offered Canada pride T-shirts & sweatshirts with a choice of background colors, the Canada flag and a school logo or school name stamped on it. The GB saw no advantage to the school.

Commissioner M. E. Kirby:

Eaton Valley Community Learning Centre (CLC)

- I found the outreach to involve the community in our school admirable. Last summer, they presented a reading program. Students received a care package that included books.
- Library visits were scheduled with schools to expose students to literacy outside of school.
- Pope Memorial Elementary School collaborated with the Municipality of Bury to fund the 'Space Closet'. The donated funds were used to purchase new outdoor gear for students who forget their forget them.
- School garden is very successful. There will be a harvest workshop in the fall. Students had a grand time making food and soup to distribute to seniors.

Commissioner M. Seline:

Eastern Townships General Adult Education (ETAGE)

One word: ENTHUSIASM!

- SVI students are the original cohort of Francization. The assistant director is reaching out to businesses to determine their needs. Student needs are bilingualism, soft skills and conversational French.
- Etage update: Distance Education is not a priority. Other school boards are doing their own distance education. There will be no school in the summer.
- Focus to register students in June for the fall session. Job Links has hired two 75% teachers. Continuous entry procedure has been modified. Not every week. Instead, every second Monday. Result is larger groups. Nine students have received their high school leaving certificate. 400 exams have been given. Teachers prepare students for the exam. A pre-test

requires permission of students' teachers and ensures students are ready to write the exam.

- Regarding the budget, there are further challenges from the government. The community representative is leaving the Townshippers' Association. A replacement is anticipated at the next meeting.
- Students at CBM organized wellness activities and New Year's bingo. Teachers at CBM and NH planned perseverance week activities and an income tax workshop. They are also supporting student teachers and organizing professional development opportunities.
- Professionals at CBM have planned a budgeting workshop, a sports block, bowling, free Valentine's cards, growth mindset and cooking workshops. The Director has been busy with Radio interviews with Townshippers' Association, coffee meet-ups and French conversation sessions. He thanks all staff and students for their support. A true TEAM!

Which advisory committees propose and promote therapy dogs in schools?

Chair M. Murray:

We do not have those types of committees. You should ask the schools.

Commissioner M. Seline:

Do I need to contact the schools individually?

Chair M. Murray:

I will refer you to Emmanuelle Gaudet or Eva Lettner; they will be able to help you with that.

Commissioner C. Beaubien:

North Hatley Elementary School (NHES) – Girls Basketball Team

The NHES girls' basketball team celebrates their championship victory after their stunning underdog win. It is the smallest school in the competition, with not enough Grade 6 students to form a full team, younger players from Grade 5 and even Grade 4 had to step up. Despite the age gap, everyone contributed and teamwork to claim victory. Congrats NHES!

Ayer's Cliff (ACES) Elementary School

The school celebrated Friendly February. As students continue to develop their social skills, friendships play a huge role in their emotional regulation, communication and overall well-being. Tya McKelvey, in charge of the OASIS room, will reflect on the friendships that help shape the student's daily lives.

Commissioner G. Holliday:

I asked what students get out of advisory meetings. The chance to see what the School Board looks like. These meetings help the students broaden their vision to the future.

15. UPCOMING EVENTS

Meet & Greet for Commissioners, Professionals, ETAA, ATA & TRUSS scheduled for Thursday, March 13, 2025.

16. CORRESPONDENCE

None.

17. QUESTION PERIOD

No questions were asked.

18. GOVERNANCE AND COMMUNICATION

None.

19. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned on a motion by Commissioner Jody Murray at 8:25 p.m.

Shawn Champigny
Secretary General

Michael Murray
Chairman

SC/gm
02.25.2025