Commission scolaire Eastern Townships School Board

Moving ahead. Together. | Aller de l'avant. Ensemble.

EASTERN TOWNSHIPS SCHOOL BOARD

COUNCIL OF COMMISSIONERS

TUESDAY, JANUARY 27, 2026 – 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	A
Claire Beaubien	A	Sarah Langlois	A
Sandra Finlay	Z	Eliza McKnight	Z
Richard Gagnon	Z	Jody Murray	Z
Richard Gosselin	Z	**DIRECTORS' COMMITTEE (DC)**	
Gary Holliday	Z	Secretary General – Shawn Champigny	P
Joy Humenuik, Vice-chair	Z	Director General – Kandy Mackey	P
Shawn Jersey	Z	Assistant Director General & Director of Financial Services – Sophie Leduc	Z
Mary-Ellen Kirby	Z	Director of Human Resources – Caroline Dufresne	Z
Jonathan Murray (7:30 p.m.)	Z	Director of Instructional Technology and Pedagogical Services – Emmanuelle Gaudet	Z
Michael Murray, Chair	Z	Director of Complementary Services – Catherine Canzani	Z
Helene Turgeon	Z	Director of Material Resources – Éric Plante	Z

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

1. CALL THE MEETING TO ORDER

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 7:02 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 January 27, 2026 as deposited with the following modification:

7.1 Student Ombudsman 2024-2025 Annual Report – to be presented by Ms. Maia Aziz before item 3, which was **MOVED BY** Commissioner M. E. Kirby.

Carried unanimously

3. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF NOVEMBER 25, 2025

Resolution No. ETSB 26-01-32
Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting of the Council of Commissioners held on November 25, 2025

WHEREAS a copy of the Minutes of the meeting of November 25, 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 November 25, 2025 as deposited.

Carried unanimously

4. QUESTION PERIOD

No questions were asked from our guests.

5. RECOGNITION OF EXCELLENCE

Chairman M. Murray invited Commissioner J. Humenuik to present the January 27, 2026 Recognition of Excellence:

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

COMMUNITY COMES TOGETHER TO SUPPORT THE MVHS SCIENCE FAIR

This January, Massey-Vanier High School (MVHS) witnessed an inspiring display of community engagement through its annual Science Fair, coordinated by longtime organizer Ms. Dawn Singfield. When a call was put out for volunteer judges, the response was so overwhelming that Dawn quickly reached her goal of 35 volunteers and had to graciously decline additional offers.

The Science Fair brings together nearly 200 students from Massey-Vanier, local elementary schools and the homeschooling community, offering them the opportunity to showcase their curiosity, creativity and scientific thinking. The strong volunteer turnout ensured that each project could be thoughtfully evaluated, helping

students advance to regional and provincial competitions while feeling supported and encouraged. Together, we celebrate the power of community in creating meaningful learning experiences for our students.





6. BUSINESS ARISING

There was no business arising.

7. NEW BUSINESS

The Secretary General, S. Champigny presented the Regional Student Ombudsman (RSO), Ms. Maia Aziz, who presented the following annual report for the *Appalaches et des Cantons* region:
https://cdn-contenu.quebec.ca/cdn-contenu/adm/org/protecteur-national-eleve/Rapport_annuel_d_activite/RAA_regionaux_2024-2025/RAA_Region_05_VF.pdf

7.1 Student Ombudsman 2024-2025 Annual Report

Questions:

- Question from Commissioner M. E. Kirby: Cyberbullying is very common at the High School level. Are there any prevention activities in the works? In response, it was highlighted that the work was done in collaboration with the Director of Youth Protection (DYP) and that it is important to include this in prevention activities.
- Chairman M. Murray mentioned that the collaboration was excellent. The information is transferred to the Director General for internal complaints and wondered if there was communication between institutions? Are things done by the office? A bulletin was sent to the complaints officer and media.

For the complete complaint process, you can visit our ETSB website at: https://www.etsb.qc.ca/school-board/student-ombudsman/.

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

7.2 Presentation of the 2024-2025 Annual Report

Please click on the following link to access the 2024-2025 Annual Report.

8. REPORTS

8.1 Director General's report

The Director General, K. Mackey reported the following:

My report this evening highlights a few moments that reflect where we have been and where we are headed.

Since November, our schools and centres have been especially busy with pre-holiday activities. I would like to sincerely thank our staff and volunteers for creating meaningful experiences for students of all ages, reminding us that learning happens through connection, celebration and community.

As we begin 2026, I wish our commissioners, staff, students and families a healthy and hopeful new year. This year began with a significant challenge when the ETSB experienced its first ransomware cyberattack just before the holidays. While unfamiliar, this situation highlighted the dedication of our organization. I extend my sincere gratitude to our Information and Communication Technology team for their tireless work throughout the holidays. We are also thankful that, based on current information, no personal employee or student data were accessed.

Looking ahead, our focus remains firmly on learning. This week, Bus Safety Week was launched under the theme *"Did You See Me?"*, recognizing the essential role bus drivers play in ensuring students arrive safely at school each day. Next week, we will mark Teachers' Appreciation Week, acknowledging the commitment of our educators to student success. This same focus on learning extends to our newest employees, who will participate in the ETSB Trades Master, strengthening their ability to promote trade pathways within our communities.

In the coming weeks, Hooked on School Days will further reinforce our shared responsibility in supporting student perseverance and success.

As we move forward in 2026, the ETSB remains focused on its core mandate: student learning, staff support and the effective management of our services and resources. Recent events have underscored the importance of preparedness and collective leadership, and we remain committed to supporting our students, families and communities.

Your Director General,

Kandy Mackey

8.2 Chair's report

The Chair of the Council of Commissioners, M. Murray did not have a formal report.

9. ADVISORY COMMITTEES' REPORTS

9.1 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.

9.2 Governance and Ethics Committee

The Chair of the Governance and Ethics Committee, Commissioner G. Barnett mentioned the topics discussed at the January 20, 2026 meeting:

- Advisory Committee Reports:
  - ✓ Transportation;
  - ✓ Educational Services;
  - ✓ Human Resources.
- Working Committee Update:
  - ✓ Proposal for Committee of the Whole;
  - ✓ Working Committee on Mandates & Committee of the whole.
  - ✓ Timeline for Policies/By-Laws Consultations.
- ETSB Governance;
- Cyberattack;
- Administrative Update;
- 2024-2025 ETSB Annual Report;
- ETSB Master's Challenge.

The date of the next meeting is scheduled for February 17, 2026.

9.3 Audit Advisory Committee

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

9.3.1 Finance

None.

9.3.1.1 Resolution No. ETSB 26-01-33
Centre d'acquisitions gouvernementales (*CAG*) Mandates

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 for the following twenty-one (21) mandates:

- Administrative Chairs;
- Audiovisual Equipment and Interactive Digital;
- Car Rental;
- Cellular Mobility Services;
- Compatible Printer Cartridge;
- Digital Educational Equipment;
- Directory of Preferential Hotel Rates;
- Educational Equipment;
- Fire Prevention Inspection and Maintenance / Backflow Prevention;
- High-Capacity Printing Paper;
- IT Brokerage and Information Services;
- Microsoft licenses – Education – Resellers;
- Multiple Services Agreement for Parcel-mail Shipping;
- Network Equipment and Software;
- New Computer Station and Monitors;
- New tires, Retreads and Remolds;
- Office Supplies;
- Plumbing Supplies;
- Press Release Distribution;
- Residual Material Collection;
- Vertical Transportation Equipment Maintenance Program.

IT WAS MOVED BY Commissioner J. Humenuik to proceed in joining the *CAG* for the mandates stated above; **IT WAS FURTHER MOVED** that the Director General be authorized to sign all associated documentation for future *CAG* mandates and that in the absence of the Director General, the Director of Material Resources can also sign.

Carried unanimously

9.3.2 Material Resources

9.3.1.2 Resolution No. ETSB 26-01-34
List of Proposed Projects under the Program *« Maintien des bâtiments 2025-2026 (Mesure 50621)* MODIFIED & OFFICIAL»

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 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 2025-2026* (*Mesure 50621*);

WHEREAS this is an amendment to **Resolution ETSB25-10-16**. Here is the official list approved by the Ministry along with the corrected amounts;

WHEREAS the following table indicates the list of projects:

Establishment	Budget	Project
Knowlton Academy	$350,000	Masonry Repair – Phase 1
Pope Memorial Elementary School	$250,000	Ventilation – Replacement of Air Exchanger
St. Francis Elementary School	$1,250,000	Elevator and Handicap Accessibility Needs
Massey-Vanier High School	$200,000	Underground Electrical Service Replacement
Massey-Vanier High School	$200,000	Gym Ventilation & Heating System Upgrade
Marguerite Knapp	$245,463	Structural Renovation
Alexander Galt Regional High School	$250,000	Natural Gas Boiler Replacement

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

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

Carried unanimously

The date of the next Audit Advisory Committee meeting is scheduled for the first week of February 2026.

9.4 Educational Advisory Committee (ESAC)

The Chair of the Educational Advisory Committee, Commissioner M.E. Kirby mentioned the topics discussed at the January 6, 2026 meeting:

- Highlights presented by the Director of Pedagogical Services, E. Gaudet;
- Policy P-011 revision – Policy & Procedures governing the organization of educational services for students with special needs (youth sector);
- Policy P-035 revision – School Safety Policy.

The date of the next ESAC meeting is scheduled for February 3, 2026.

9.5 Communications Advisory Committee

The Chair of the Communications Advisory Committee, Commissioner Jody Murray mentioned that the date of the next CAC meeting is scheduled for February 3, 2026.

9.6 Human Resources Advisory Committee

In the absence of the Chair of the Human Resources Advisory Committee, Commissioner C. Beaubien, Commissioner Jonathan Murray mentioned the topics discussed at the January 6, 2026 meeting:

- School Calendar Consultation Update;
- Teacher Appreciation of Contribution;
- Protect Dignity of Employees in the Workplace by Preventing and Addressing Complaints of Harassment and Violence – Law 42 (Policy P-028).

The date of the next HR meeting is scheduled for April 7, 2026.

9.7 Transportation Advisory Committee

The Chair of the Transportation Advisory Committee, Commissioner H. Turgeon invited the Secretary General, S. Champigny to present the following resolution:

9.7.1 Resolution No. ETSB26-01-35
School Bus Bids

WHEREAS the Eastern Townships School Board (ETSB) 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 **Resolution ETSB25-10-19** approved the purchase of fourteen (14) buses;

WHEREAS the *ministère de l'Éducation* (*MEQ*) approved a budget for the purchase of the fourteen (14) buses;

WHEREAS the decision has been made to purchase ten (10) diesel buses and four (4) electric buses;

WHEREAS the ongoing call for tender for the purchase of ten (10) diesel buses will end on February 16, 2026;

WHEREAS due to the constraints within the timeline to purchase the buses, this resolution must be presented on a budgetary basis;

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

WHEREAS the contract will be granted in respect of authorization by the (*MEQ*) for this project and the ETSB's purchase policy and government requirements (laws, **policies**, rules, etc.);

IT WAS MOVED BY Commissioner H. Turgeon to proceed with the purchase of the ten (10) diesel buses stated above; **IT WAS FURTHER MOVED** that the Director General be authorized to sign all associated documentation and in the absence of the Director General, Director of Transportation be authorized to sign all associated documentation.

Adopted unanimously

The Chair of the Transportration Committee, H. Turgeon mentioned the topics discussed at the January 6, 2026 meeting:

- Bus staffing report and cancellations report;
- Bus Purchasing;
- Bus Safety Week;
- COBALT for Transportation;
- Overview of the Lion situation recall payment.

The date of the next TAC meeting is scheduled for March 17, 2026.

9.8 Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC)

The SEAC Chair and Parent Commissioner, E. McKnight mentioned that the date of the next SEAC meeting is scheduled for February 11, 2026.

10. PARENTS' COMMITTEE

In the absence of the Chair of the Central Parents' Advisory Committee, Commissioner S. Langlois, Commissioner Jody Murray mentioned the topics discussed at the January 7, 2026 meeting:

- School calendar presented by the Director of HR, C. Dufresne;
- Parent session ideas – promotion of the session held on January 14, 2026 for preschool introduction;
- GB information & capsules;
- Homework over holiday periods.

The date of the next CPC meeting is scheduled for February 4, 2026.

11. STUDENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Commissioner J. Humenuik, representing the Student Advisory Committee reported the following.

The committee met last Wednesday. Alumni were invited to participate in the discussions. Students asked pertinent questions and shared their fears for their future. The alumni encouraged them and helped put their worries to rest. It was wonderful that the students shared with others and they mentioned they find it enriching.

Commissioner J. Humenuik has been asked to be part of a CSAC Committee at QESBA. The theme of the meeting was to get the student's perspective on different pathways. The students that participated said they enjoyed being part of this committee and want to continue this enriching experience.

The Director General, K. Mackey mentioned that the last elementary CSAC was before the holidays. The topics ranged from uniforms to class composition. The meetings occurred in different elementary schools. Many things are happening board-wide also region-wide. The students were also asked what topics they would like to hear about.

12. QESBA

Certificate of eligibility Campaign

A major ongoing campaign to urge people to get their eligibility certificates, especially for students that are in French schools at the moment to make sure they do not run into issues if they would like to attend an English CEGEP for example.

Legal matters: Bill 21 – we are currently waiting for the court's judgment at this point. We have chosen not to contest Bill 94.

There will be a Spring Conference in May 2026. This is a time for Commissionbers to meet each other and work together and with administrators.

13. COMMISSIONER'S COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS

Commissioner G. Barnett mentioned having attended the Alexander Galt Regional High School (AGRHS) Governing Board held on December 1st 2025, the Eastern Townships School Board General Adult Education (ETAGE) Governing Board held on December 10th 2025 and the Lennoxville Elementary School (LES) Governing Board on December 15th 2025 and that he would forward his meeting notes to the Secretary General's office.

14. UPCOMING EVENTS

None.

15. CORRESPONDENCE

None.

16. QUESTION PERIOD

W. Crooks
The Record : Would it be possible to get a 10-minute interview with the Chair or the Director of Transportation regarding diesel buses tomorrow morning?

S. Champigny
Secretary General: The Director of Transportation will be made available.

W. Crooks
The Record : Is there more information regarding the budget?

M. Murray
ETSB Chair: No, not at this point.

W. Crooks
The Record: Can I have the Student Ombudsman Report as well as the 2024-2025 Annual Report?

S. Champigny
Secretary General: They will be available on the website, but I can also send them to you.

W. Crooks
The Record : Is there a wrap-up to the Cyberattack? Is everything OK or back to normal?

M. Murray
ETSB Chair: No. It is still an ongoing issue.

17. GOVERNANCE AND COMMUNICATION

There was no governance and communication.

18. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned on a motion by Commissioner Jonathan Murray at 8:30 p.m.

Shawn Champigny
Secretary General

Michael Murray
Chairman

SC/gm
01.27.2026