Highlights

Council of Commissioner's Meeting
September 22, 2026

Commission scolaire Eastern Townships School Board

Recognition of Excellence

- **ETSB Celebrates a Fantastic Back-to-School Season**
- **Fun and Community at the Brome Fair for Many Schools of the Region**
  - Farnham Elementary School
  - Heroes' Memorial Elementary School
  - Knowlton Academy
  - Waterloo Elementary School
- **A Well-Deserved Honor: Anthony Gariépy Recognized for Excellence in Hockey and Academics**
  - Alexander Galt Regional High School

Dates to Remember

- September 25th: Pedagogical Day
- September 30th: National Day for Truth and Reconciliation
- October 5th: Pedagogical Day
- October 5th: World Teachers' Day
- October 12th: Thanksgiving Holiday
- October 16th: Pedagogical Day
- October 19th to 23th: Administrator Week
- October 26th: Canadian School Library Day
- **October 27th: Next Council of Commissioners**

Resolutions

- Eastern Township School Board (ETSB) Adoption of By-Laws
- Alexander Galt Regional High School (AGRHS) - Outside Lights Replacement
- Sutton Elementary School - Parking Lot Enlargement
- Agreement CSSRS/ETSB - Invoicing of Material Resources for the Plumbing and Heating Program (5833)

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REFLECTION FROM OUR CHAIRMAN



Michael Murray

Good evening,

We are on the eve of a provincial election. It is beginning to feel like 1995 all over again, with so much talk of a Quebec referendum and the related challenges. Both leading parties are promising more constraints on English language and speakers in the name of protecting French. They promise to address education with intentions to apply Bill 101 to adults and tighten immigration. Not only does our community share the general challenges of soaring inflation, high taxes and geopolitical uncertainty, but we are subjected to further pressure in an attempt to make us invisible. It has long been practice in Quebec to deny the contribution of the Anglophone community, erasing place names, revising history and treating the use of English as a privilege rather than normal. The spate of destructive legislation Anglophones have endured over the past several years is simply the most obvious of the tactics used to diminish us.

I was delighted to attend the Townshippers' Festival in Bury last Saturday. It is a tradition that has endured locally for over 40 years, paused but not extinguished by Covid. I noted with interest the presence of political aspirants. When it comes to elections, many candidates would like our votes. What I saw at the Festival, instead of politics was the evidence that we still have a vibrant community in the Townships. There were booths offering many services to Anglophones, whether for legal advice, support for the battered or homeless, and products ranging from baking and handcrafts to books and educational support. Some of the visitors and many of the exhibitors were Francophone, simply reinforcing the reality that in the townships we are part of an inclusive community.

REFLECTION FROM OUR CHAIRMAN (CONTINUED)

The Eastern Townships School Board (ETSB) is entering a critical academic year. In the coming months we will be preparing the strategic plan for the next five years, setting goals, prioritizing services to the most needy and identifying opportunities for growth. There is no doubt in my mind that we are at a transformative stage in education. The arrival of artificial intelligence (AI), not as an abstract, but as a tool that people actually use daily is upon us. The challenge will be to adapt and adjust to our new environment. Educators and formal education as we know it, face a choice, whether to lead and guide the transformation or be swept aside by new and better alternatives. Right now, not in some hazy future, any student can have an AI tutor guiding them through the curriculum, adjusting to their individual rate of learning, interests and strengths. All instruction will be individualized.

Public education needs to not merely evolve but to transform itself. We already acknowledge that the role of lecturer is dead and have been enhancing the role of educators as coaches, motivators, and guides. This can only accelerate as we embrace the potential of artificial intelligence. Teachers and students will journey together through the human aspects of education, focusing on such essentials as helping young people find their purpose in life, developing curiosity, understanding abundance and engaging the mind and will.

Already we see home schooling on the rise, and the availability of personal tutors will only accelerate the trend. Academic standards will be easily met and surpassed when every student has a personal artificial intelligence tutor, whether at home or in class. Muse, Meta's new personal IA agent launched on September 8, has been downloaded 2.5 million times in ten days. It can research, plan, remember context, work across apps and carry out multi-step tasks, and it is not even optimized for education. It can act as a personal tutor, plan study, create summaries, assist in writing and coordinate group projects. Meta claims that for teachers, it can prepare lesson materials, develop differentiated exercises, research resources and manage administrative responsibilities on its own. Again, let me emphasize that this is now, not in the future. The capacity of these agents can only become greater with time. Does anyone believe that people will not use these tools and discover even more ways for them to be effective?

We will need to embrace these technological marvels to ensure that schools are places where students experience the joy of learning and the excitement of personal growth, while engaging in projects that inspire them personally. I look forward to being part of that process. I genuinely believe that in five years, looking back, we will not recognize what we are today, and will be amazed at how far we have come. I invite all our ETSB personnel to embrace the challenge of making school not merely relevant but exciting for students and reassuring for their parents.



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REPORT FROM OUR DIRECTOR GENERAL



Kandy Mackey

The 2026–2027 school year is well underway, and there is already a great deal happening across our schools, centres, and services. From professional learning and workplace safety to new opportunities for adult learners, AI and digital competency, and welcoming students from around the world, these are just a few examples of the work underway across the Eastern Townships School Board (ETSB). Let me expand on these five concrete examples...

1. From Managing Behaviour to Understanding It

On August 28, it was a first to have all our daycare educators and technicians come together in person and participate in professional learning led by the Centre of Excellence for Behaviour Management. The session invited our staff to look beyond the behaviour and ask a more meaningful question: What is this child trying to communicate, and how can I help?

Grounded in a developmental approach, the learning emphasized connection, co-regulation, and the importance of a calm, supportive adult response when children are dysregulated. This developmental approach was also introduced to all our new ETSB employees as part of their onboarding.

2. A Stronger Focus on Workplace Safety

On August 27, ETSB Health and Safety Representatives came together for a full day of training as they begin their new roles. Beyond building knowledge, the day launched a network of representatives who will work collaboratively across our schools/centres/services to identify prevention priorities and strengthen workplace health and safety.

3. Digital Competency Meets AI

The Ministry of Education has released an updated Digital Competency Framework, building on the 2019 framework. The timing is particularly relevant as, this fall, the ETSB Pedagogical team has begun developing our ETSB AI Framework. The updated Digital Competencies provide an important reference point as we consider how digital and AI competencies can support learning while keeping people at the centre.

REPORT FROM OUR DIRECTOR GENERAL (CONTINUED)

4. Supporting Adults, Strengthening Communities

Our Community Learning Centre Development Agents are currently finalizing their action plans, identifying priority needs in each community and connecting schools/centres with local organizations, municipalities, and community partners to develop concrete initiatives in areas such as student engagement, family support, recreation, and access to community services.

The new upSKILLS program has also been launched, providing short, in-demand training in English to help workers and job seekers upgrade their skills. Developed in collaboration with the Townshippers' Association, the initiative will continue through March 2029.

5. Welcoming the World to Magog

On September 12, our International Students Program brought students and host families together for a picnic at La Plage des Cantons in Magog. More than a social gathering, the event created an opportunity for international students and their host families to build connections and a sense of belonging in their new community.

A heartfelt thank you goes out to our host families for opening their homes and lives to our international students, and to our ISP team who organized this memorable gathering.

Looking Ahead

These are only a few snapshots of the work underway at the ETSB, and they reflect what happens across our organization every day. I know there is much more to come, and I look forward to sharing more of these exciting moments with you throughout the year.

Your Director General,

Kandy Mackey