

## EASTERN TOWNSHIPS SCHOOL BOARD

### COUNCIL OF COMMISSIONERS

TUESDAY, JANUARY 23, 2024 – 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	Sarah Langlois	Z
Claire Beaubien	A	Eliza McKnight	Z
Richard Gagnon	Z	Dan Nagle	Z
Richard Gosselin	Z	Helene Turgeon	Z
Gary Holliday	Z	<b>DIRECTORS' COMMITTEE (DC)</b>	
Joy Humenuik, <b>Vice-Chair</b>	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	P
Jonathan Murray	Z	Director of Instructional Technology and Pedagogical Services – Eva Lettner	Z
Michael Murray, <b>Chair</b>	Z	Director of Complementary Services – Emmanuelle Gaudet	Z
Tina Pezzi-Bilodeau	Z	Director of Material Resources – Éric Plante	P

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 January 23, 2024 as deposited.

Carried unanimously

**3. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF NOVEMBER 28, 2023**

Resolution No. ETSB 24-01-38

Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting of the Council of Commissioners held on November 28, 2023

**WHEREAS** a copy of the Minutes of the meeting of November 28, 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 November 28, 2023 as deposited.

Carried unanimously

**4. QUESTION PERIOD**

No questions were asked.

**5. RECOGNITION OF EXCELLENCE**

Chairman M. Murray invited Commissioner F. MacGregor to present the January 23, 2024 Recognition of Excellence:

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

**Sherbrooke Elementary Students Hit the Sound Studio!**





As the Eastern Townships School Board ramps up for the annual registration campaign, grade 6 students from Sherbrooke Elementary hit the mics! Nelly Cannon and Adam Bourgault along with Vice-Principal Tia Rousseau headed to the Rouge FM studios in Sherbrooke to lend their voices and energy. The students recorded several radio ads that will soon be heard on the airwaves of Rouge and Energie across the Townships and beyond. They brought their A game and nailed the session in no time – what stars! Everyone was taken on a VIP tour of the radio studios to meet the hosts and producers, check out the control room and NOOVO TV studio and they even headed home with some radio swag. It was a rich experience all around and we thank Nelly and Adam for being up for the challenge along with Ms. Rousseau...stay tuned everyone!

## 6. BUSINESS ARISING

There was no business arising.

## 7. NEW BUSINESS

The Director General, K. Mackey presented the following:

### 7.1 2022-2023 Annual Report

Please click on the following link to access the [2022-2023 Annual Report](#).

## 8. REPORTS

### 8.1 Director General's report

The Director General, K. Mackey reported that last year our former Director General, M. Soucy, ended his five-year tenure. We express our deepest appreciation for his commitment and his unwavering support of our school board.

We also continued a lot of investments, one being Farnham Elementary School that had a remarkable addition. Commissioner J. Humenuik added that the expansion has integrated the community more than ever. Since we've done the renovations and upgraded the school, the town of Farnham has approached the school to use it for activities that are overflowing in other places.

I wish everyone the best for 2024.

## 8.2 Chair's report

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

## 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 also be addressed at the Council meeting:

- The new form of staffing updates was very much appreciated.

### 9.2 Governance and Ethics Committee

The Chair of the ETSB Council of Commissioners, M. Murray, announced that Commissioner G. Barnett was the new Chair of the Governance and Ethics Committee and thanked him for assuming this role.

The Chair of Governance and Ethics, Commissioner G. Barnett mentioned the following:

He had accepted to fill the vacant position.

The dates of the next meetings are scheduled for January 30<sup>th</sup> and February 13, 2024.

### 9.3 Audit Advisory Committee

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

#### 9.3.2 Material Resources:

##### 9.3.2.1 Resolution No. ETSB 24-01-39

##### Board Office – Renovation of the Superstructure and Shell – Phase 1 & 2

**WHEREAS** the *Ministère de l'Éducation (MEQ)* approved a budget of \$441,585 for the project stated above, under the program *MDB - Maintien des bâtiments 2021-2022 Mesure: 50621*;

**WHEREAS** the *Ministère de l'Éducation (MEQ)* approved a budget of \$600,000 for the project stated above, under the program *MDB - Maintien des bâtiments 2023-2024 Mesure: 50621*;

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

**WHEREAS** five (5) bids were received by the Eastern Townships School Board by the date and time specified;

**WHEREAS** the project will allow to renovate the heating system and wall of the unused section of the board office for adult education purpose;

**WHEREAS** the lowest bid in the amount of \$772,789 (excluding taxes), was received from the company *Construction Sylvatech inc.*;

**WHEREAS** after reviewing the bids, the assigned professional firm of *Boum Architecture Inc.* has recommended the company *Construction Sylvatech inc.* the lowest bidder in conformity, to do the work for the amount of \$997,437, including taxes and professional fees;

**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 24-01-40

*Centre d'acquisitions gouvernementales (CAG) Mandate – Natural Gas*

**WHEREAS** the *Centre d'acquisitions gouvernementales (CAG)* has been created on September 1<sup>st</sup> 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 of natural gas;

**WHEREAS** the Eastern Townships School Board (ETSB) finds it advantageous to benefit from this mandate;

**IT WAS MOVED BY** Commissioner J. Murray to proceed in joining the CAG for the mandate 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 24-01-41

List of Proposed Projects under the Programs « *Maintien des bâtiments et Résorption du déficit de maintien 2023-2024 (Mesure 50621 & 50622)* »

**WHEREAS** with this measure, 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 2023-2024 (Mesure 50621)*, to the program *Résorption du déficit de maintien 2023-2024 (Mesure 50622)*;

**WHEREAS** the following table indicates the list of projects;

Establishment	Budget	Project
ADS Elementary School	\$385,765	Left Wing Renovation & Sidewalk
ADS Elementary School	\$564,235	Old section renovation – Windows
Cookshire Elementary School	\$500,000	Interior finishings Renovation
Farnham Elementary School	\$400,000	Interior finishings Renovation - Divisions
Farnham Elementary School	\$523,137	Rainwater management
Lennoxville Elementary School	\$489,217	Cafeteria renovation – Phase 2
Pope Memorial Elementary School	\$200,000	Gutter Replacement, Brick and Foundation Wall Repair
Princess Elizabeth Elementary School	\$400,000	Kitchen Renovation
Sawyerville Elementary School	\$500,000	Structure Renovation
Sherbrooke Elementary School	\$2,000,000	K4 Renovation
St. Francis Elementary School	\$2,000,000	Interior finishings renovation & Staffroom
Sunnyside Elementary School	\$750,000	Interior finishings Renovation
Sutton Elementary School	\$120,591	Parking Renovation
Sutton Elementary School	\$250,000	Library Renovation
Sutton Elementary School	\$200,000	Exterior Walls Reparation – Brick Pointing
Waterloo Elementary School	\$200,000	Staffroom Renovation
Alexander Galt Regional High School	\$800,000	Water Distribution Repair
Alexander Galt Regional High School	\$318,718	Parking and Drop-off Renovation
Alexander Galt Regional High School	\$550,000	Auditorium Renovation
Massey-Vanier High School	\$500,000	Asbestos Removal – phase 3
Richmond Regional High School	\$150,000	Renovation of Gymnasium Mezzanine
Richmond Regional High School	\$250,000	Upgrading Fire Exits
Richmond Regional High School	\$106,356	Electrical Panels Replacement
Marguerite Knapp	\$985,931	Structure Renovation
Board Office	\$600,000	Adult Education – Renovation Phase 2
New Horizons	\$310,000	Basement Renovation

**WHEREAS** each project's budget could be slightly adjusted for balancing purposes;

**WHEREAS** the said list of the proposed priorities presented at the Audit Committee on June 20<sup>th</sup> 2023 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 T. Pezzi-Bilodeau 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 date of the next Audit Advisory Committee is scheduled for February 20, 2024.

#### 9.4 Educational Services Advisory Committee (ESAC)

The Chair of the Educational Services Advisory Committee, M.E. Kirby asked the Director of Instructional Technology and Pedagogical Services, E. Lettner to present the following resolution:

##### 9.4.1 Resolution No. ETSB 24-01-42

##### Centre d'acquisitions gouvernementales (CAG) Mandate – Audiovisual Equipment and Interactive Digital Solutions

**WHEREAS** the *Centre d'acquisitions gouvernementales (CAG)* has been created on September 1<sup>st</sup> 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 has been granted by them;

**WHEREAS** the CAG has started a new call for tender for the acquisition of audiovisual equipment and interactive digital solutions;

**WHEREAS** the Eastern Townships School Board (ETSB) finds it advantageous to benefit from this mandate and wishes to acquire assets covered by this mandate for a maximum amount of 150,000\$;

**IT WAS MOVED BY** Commissioner M. E. Kirby to proceed in joining the CAG for the mandate 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 Instructional Technology and Pedagogical services can also sign.

Carried unanimously

The Chair 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 the topics discussed at the December 5, 2023 meeting:

- 2023-2024 Student Population;
- 2023-2024 Governing Board Workshops;
- 2023-2024 Open Houses;
- Connections and Blink Newsletters;
- Data for eligibility requests for the 2023-2024 school year;
- Communication Plan – Registration Period;
- Civility Sensitization;
- Commitment-to-Success Plan – Personal Campaign;
- Media requests.

The date of the next Communications Advisory Committee meeting is scheduled for April 2, 2024.

#### 9.6 Human Resources Advisory Committee

The Director of Human Resources, C. Dufresne mentioned the topics discussed at the September 19, 2023 meeting:

- Staffing Plan;
- Grievances and Negotiations;
- Recap of updated positions;
- 2023-2024 Priorities;
- Overview of the beginning of the school year;
- First aid training for Secretaries, HSA's and SET's;
- Two-year School Calendar;
- Appreciation of Contribution Dossier and Probation.

The date of the next Human Resources Advisory Committee meeting is scheduled for April 9, 2024.

#### 9.7 Transportation Advisory Committee

The Chair of the Transportation Advisory Committee, Commissioner G. Holliday mentioned that Bus Safety Week is to take place from January 29 to February 9, 2024.

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, E. McKnight mentioned the topics discussed at the January 17, 2024 meeting:



Mr. Éric Plante, ETSB Director of Material Resources, presented to SEAC members information on projects that the Buildings and Grounds team have completed and plan to undertake in the future in order to make our schools, playgrounds and playground equipment accessible for all students.

SEAC committee members began to plan potential topics for the parent information sessions that will be offered throughout the 2024-2025 school year.

A reminder was mentioned that two parent information sessions remain for the current school year and they will be held on February 21 and April 17, 2024 at 7pm. The session on February 21 will be about the different pathways available at ETSB secondary schools and the adult sector centres. The session on April 17 will be about the modified Quebec Education Program Outcomes. More information about these sessions can be found in the September 2023 issue of ETSB's Newsletter, Connections which is emailed to all ETSB parents. Of special note: the December 2023 issue of the Connections Newsletter includes a link to view the recording of the very informative and very well-attended parent information session held last November 8, 2023 by Mrs. Kymberley Morin on the topic of Individualized Education Plans (IEPs). Along with the recording of her session, Kymberley has also kindly made available a few examples of IEPs for different student profiles.

Plans to further update the Special Education portion of the ETSB Website were also discussed at the January SEAC meeting.

The date of the next SEAC meeting is scheduled for March 20, 2024.

#### 10. PARENTS' COMMITTEE

The Commissioner representing parents, H. Turgeon mentioned that the date of the next meeting is scheduled for February 7, 2024.

#### 11. STUDENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Commissioner J. Humenuik, representing the Student Advisory Committee, mentioned the topics discussed at the January 15, 2024 meeting:

- Different services offered;
- Student feedback;
- School survey;
- The need for more members.

The date of the next Student Advisory Committee meeting is scheduled for February 5, 2024.

#### 12. QESBA

As of January 9, 2024, there is a new executive director of QESBA, David Meloche, who is also a member of the *Comité patronal de négociation pour les commissions scolaires anglophones (CPNCA)* / Management Negotiating Committee for English-language School Boards. Mr. Meloche has good leadership and knows the educational system well.

Bill 96: QESBA will deposit a contestation of the Bill. The Board believes that the Office québécois de la langue française is looking at the Bill very narrowly; they are taking an exceedingly narrow interpretation of the law that excludes English education from the application of the Bill 96 provisions. M. Murray mentioned that we are forced to once again apply to the courts for a more liberal interpretation of the law.

A meeting will be held this Friday with the labour relations committee. The Chairman and Director General of each English school board will be hearing a presentation from the negotiating team. They will be required to vote on and either accept or reject the proposed settlement that is currently being presented to various union groups.

### 13. COMMISSIONER'S COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS

Commissioner J. Humenuik:

#### Farnham Elementary School Governing Board

Since the renovations and upgrades, the Town of Farnham is happy to use the school for an exchange of services.

Commissioner G. Barnett:

#### Alexander Galt Regional High School (AGRHS)

- I attended the Galt play “An Enchanted Bookshop Christma” on Thursday, December 21<sup>st</sup> presented by the Performing Arts group. The play was very well done and the students didn’t miss a beat! It was quite a convoluted complex story about Margie who opens a bookshop, her sister Ellen, a university professor, loses her job, and Margie manages to get her a job with a rich tycoon, Brantley. The tycoon’s phone number was written on a bookmark which Ebenezer Scrooge tore up because it had the initials E.S. written on it. Then all the characters in all those childhood books we knew came alive to search for the bookmark, characters such as: Nutcracker Prince, Cinderella, Velveteen Rabbit, Dorothy, Pollyanna, Tom Sawyer, Scrooge, Amy March, Little Match Girl, Dr. Doolittle, Bombalurina (the cat) and others for a total of 19 characters. Ebenezer Scrooge was played by Bryan Laprise.
- The spring drama will be “Murder at the Renaissance Fair”.

### 14. UPCOMING EVENTS

2024-2025 Registration period.

### 15. CORRESPONDENCE

None.

## 16. QUESTION PERIOD

M. Seline

Knowlton resident:

There was an article by Diane Cohen in *The Record* on January 23, 2024. What are your thoughts regarding the impact of Artificial Intelligence (A.I.) on jobs?

M. Murray

ETSB Chair:

At the board here, we have been working to introduce A.I. for more than a year now, since it began to show promise as a powerful educational tool. There are no specific curriculum changes being discussed at the moment, but the technology is promising. I've seen some demonstrations that are both dramatic and very promising in terms of how much teachers and students can benefit from introducing elements of A.I. like chat bots and search engines.

M. Seline

Knowlton resident:

Are you looking for the use of A.I. for curriculums?

M. Murray

ETSB Chair:

We are looking at its use in schools to enhance their ability, which may benefit students and teachers.

M. Seline

Knowlton resident:

Who is responsible for passing this information on?

M. Murray

ETSB Chair:

Under the umbrella of the Educational Advisory, positively orientated towards it, doing training at the advisory and consultative level.

M. Seline

Knowlton resident:

Tech and renewable energy-related jobs were highlighted in the article.

M. Murray

ETSB Chair:

At the ETSB we're in the 20<sup>th</sup> year of our own tech initiative, well positioned to introduce further tech advances.

A. Brody

PES teacher:

My question is in regards to the structure of power lines. The village is having difficulty to provide electrical power to the community. I am concerned that students had to attend school during a power outage. There seems to be some confusion from a lot of teachers in the area in regards to what the procedures are when the power goes out for an undetermined period of time. What are your protocols regarding this type of situation?

M. Murray

ETSB Chair:

Safety first is our priority in keeping students safe and ensure adequate resources. Each situation is contextual. Hydro restored power before noon and the largest problem was students having cold lunches. A decision was made on an individual basis. Everyone was warm, so we kept the schools open in the interest of education, given recent absences due to strikes. We felt it was important to do whatever we could to minimize any further loss of time. The procedures are in place and were implemented properly. In a recent outage in Sutton, we chose to keep the school open because the school building itself was warm. There is adequate natural lighting through the windows and the city supplied running water.

A. Brody

PES teacher:

To clarify, the power was restored at noon the following day.

M. Murray

ETSB Chair:

Thank you.

#### 17. GOVERNANCE AND COMMUNICATION

None.

#### 18. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned on a motion by Commissioner R. Gagnon at 7:53 p.m.

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Eric Campbell  
Secretary General

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Michael Murray  
Chairman

EC/gm  
01.23.2024