

EASTERN TOWNSHIPS SCHOOL BOARD

COUNCIL OF COMMISSIONERS

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 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	Z	Eliza McKnight	Z
Richard Gagnon	Z	Dan Nagle	Z
Richard Gosselin	Z	Helene Turgeon	Z
Gary Holliday	Z	DIRECTORS' COMMITTEE (DC)	
Joy Humenuik, Vice-Chair	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	A	Director of Human Resources – Caroline Dufresne	P
Jonathan Murray	Z	Director of Instructional Technology and Pedagogical Services – Eva Lettner	Z
Michael Murray, Chair	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 7:03 p.m.

2. **QUORUM AND ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**

QUORUM WAS ESTABLISHED AND IT WAS MOVED BY Commissioner H. Turgeon to adopt the Agenda of February 27, 2024 as deposited.

Carried unanimously

3. **APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF JANUARY 23, 2024**

Resolution No. ETSB 24-02-43

Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting of the Council of Commissioners held on January 23, 2024

WHEREAS a copy of the Minutes of the meeting of January 23, 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 G. Barnett to excuse the Secretary General from reading the Minutes and to approve the Minutes of the meeting held on January 23, 2024 as deposited.

Carried unanimously

4. **QUESTION PERIOD**

Adam Brody

Parkview Elementary Teacher:

When will the School Board announce and unveil the plan for the April 8, 2024 solar eclipse?

Kandy Mackey

Director General:

We are working out the details. We will reveal the plan after March break.

5. **RECOGNITION OF EXCELLENCE**

Chairman M. Murray invited the following Commissioners to present the February 27, 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:

ETSB School Perseverance Celebrated during the HOOKED on SCHOOL Days!



Commissioner R. Gagnon: Every year in February, we dedicate a week to recognizing school perseverance and applaud our students for their committed efforts! This year marked the 15th anniversary of HOOKED ON SCHOOL in Estrie led by the *RÉUSSIR* team. At every level, elementary, secondary and adult, students took part in amazing projects and activities to highlight the importance of investing in our learning. There were career fairs and time capsules, a perseverance mural, displays and encouraging postcards exchanged, a field trip to discover the vocational trades and even a karaoke competition to name but a few of the activities that students and staff took part in.

A special soirée in the form of a 5 à 7 brought community partners and educational leaders together to commemorate the 15-year achievement in support of school perseverance. Ten “*Coup de Coeur*” projects were selected and showcased at the event, including the 2-4-U / Concomitence program offered at Campus Brome-Missisquoi which helps bridge the gap and keep students in school and on their path. Eligible secondary students are able to finish their high school studies all the while learning a professional trade. This program is the collaborative result of 4 Estrie school service centres (*CSS – Centre de services scolaire*) and the Eastern Townships School Board, what a testament to “When there’s a will, there’s a way!” Congratulations to all and in great part to our students!

Lennoxville Elementary Celebrates Its NEW Gymnasium



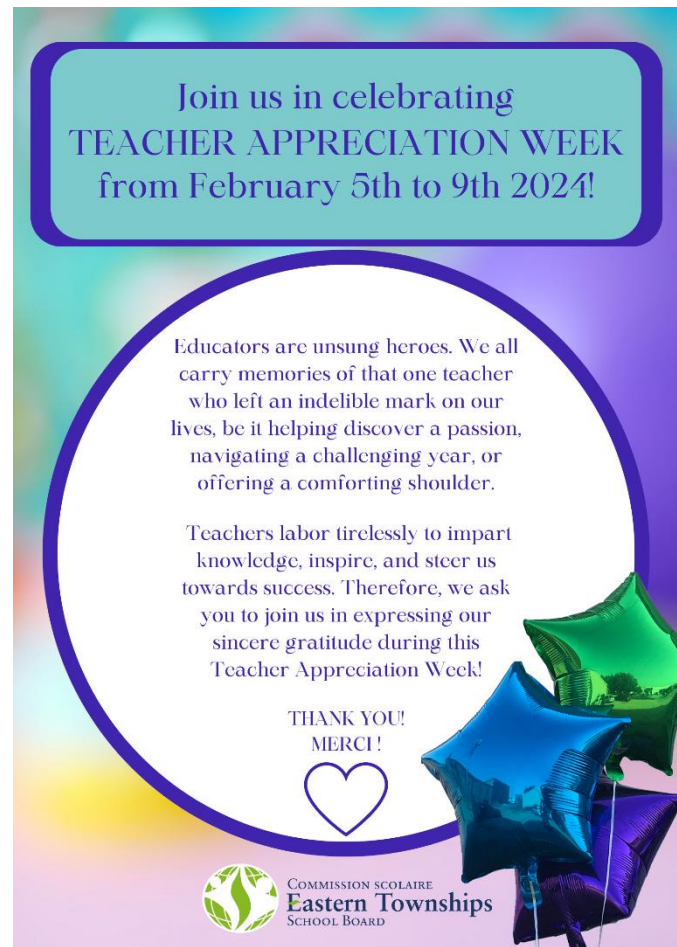
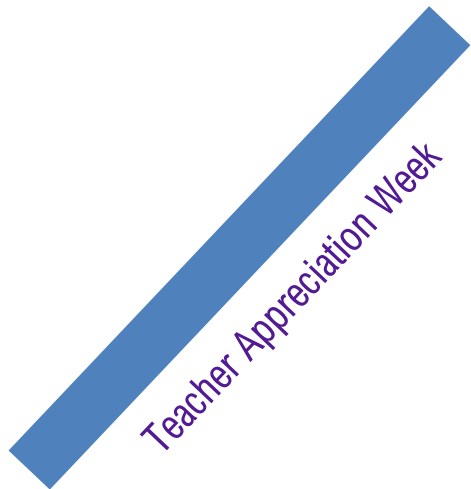
Commissioner G. Barnett: The excitement was on high Monday, February 12th, when LES students were finally able to enter their new gym!! Since last August, students and staff have had to tough it out and run every physical education class outside, rain or shine. To say that everyone was pleased to have a brand new shiny gym is a total understatement. The “soft opening” was celebrated in fine form, with the children’s pleasure at the top of the list. The whole school gathered in the gym for a short ceremony and a surprise visit from neighbouring Bishop’s athletes who were accompanied by their mascot, the Gaiter, much to the student’s delight! A scavenger hunt by class was had to allow for the fun discovery of new things in the gymnasium. Lennoxville Elementary plans to hold a community opening later in the spring once the muddy boot season wraps up...stay tuned for more!



Massey-Vanier High School Hosts Science Fair



Commissioner J. Humenuik: On Thursday, February 15th Massey-Vanier High School (MVHS) hosted its regional science fair after a 3-year hiatus. With over 85 exhibits and 6 schools represented, it was a showcase of our ETSB students' ingenuity, curiosity and inquiry. The elementary level competition was strong with Butler, Waterloo, Mansonville, Farnham and Knowlton Academy all sending contingents. Butler Elementary had the highest average overall score and in result, won the elementary trophy this year for the 4th year running. The MVHS winners were Alycia Hebert and Jaida Eland from Secondary 4 with their project entitled "Dreams". It was a creative and thought-provoking event that wowed the judges and all who attended. BRAVO to our student scientists and experimentalists; your enthusiasm for discovery learning is most inspiring! Check out the video to see all the budding scientists [HERE](#).



Commissioner H. Turgeon: This month we recognized our ETSB teachers during February's Teacher Appreciation Week. Our teachers are an invaluable resource and bring so much talent and dedication to our learning community. We could not thank them enough for all that they do, but here are a few comments that were publicly posted expressing gratitude: "You are the best!", "I hope you realize how much you are appreciated.", "Thank you for your dedication and passion for our students.", "Great job, thanks for all your hard work." and so many more! The ETSB team salutes all of our teachers and sends out a sincere thank you for their vital contribution.

6. BUSINESS ARISING

There was no business arising.

7. NEW BUSINESS

The Secretary General, E. Campbell presented the following resolution:

7.1 Resolution No. ETSB 24-02-44

Eastern Townships School Board – Membership of the purchasing group for damage insurance (vehicles, property, crime and machinery breakdown)

WHEREAS the grouping of certain school service centres and school boards in obtaining damage insurance has been financially advantageous in previous years;

WHEREAS it would be advantageous to combine the *Est-du-Québec, Estrie-Montérégie, Mille-Îles* and Laval school service centres into a single group;

WHEREAS the *Centre de services scolaires de la Région-de-Sherbrooke* has agreed to represent the school service centres and school boards that are members of the group via the risk management consulting firm *Gestion Turcot & Associés Inc.*;

WHEREAS it would be in the best interest of the Eastern Townships School Board to join this new purchasing group for damage insurance;

WHEREAS the Quebec insurance market has evolved in recent years;

WHEREAS the grouping's advisor recommends the potential financial benefits of a 3-year general insurance service contract, i.e. 1 firm year and 2 option years;

WHEREAS section 42.0.2 of the *Règlement sur les contrats de services des organismes publics* provides for the possibility of renewal options for this type of service contract;

WHEREAS section 46 of the *Règlement sur les contrats de services des organismes publics* stipulates that the authorization of the head of the public body is required for any contract of a repetitive nature whose expected term, including any renewal, is greater than 3 years;

IT IS MOVED BY Commissioner J. Murray:

TO JOIN the new group composed of *Est-du-Québec, Estrie-Montérégie, Mille-Îles* and Laval school service centres for the renewal of its damage insurance for the year 2024-2025, for insurance of vehicles, property, crime and machinery breakdown.

TO MANDATE the firm *Gestion Turcot & Associés Inc.* to proceed with a call for public tenders for the renewal of damage insurance coverage for vehicles, property, crime and machinery breakdown.

TO MANDATE the *Centre de services scolaire de la Région-de-Sherbrooke* to carry out the call for public tenders in accordance with the policies and procedures in effect at said school service centre, and to agree to be held jointly responsible with them for this mandate.

TO AGREE to accept, upon presentation of the analysis report by *Gestion Turcot & Associés Inc.*,

- to award a damage insurance service contract for a period of 3 years, i.e. 1 year firm and 2 option years, with the firm(s) determined following the public call for tenders of all school service centres and school boards participating in the grouping.

TO AUTHORIZE the Director General, K. Mackey and, in her absence, the Secretary General, E. Campbell, Director of Transportation and Community Development, to sign all documents ratifying the present resolution.

Adopted unanimously

8. REPORTS

8.1 Director General's report

The Director General, K. Mackey had nothing new to report.

8.2 Chair's report

The Chair of the Council of Commissioners, M. Murray had nothing new to report. He did, however, comment on an evacuation situation that recently happened at Massey-Vanier High School (MVHS):

- A letter was sent anonymously to the police indicating that there was a bomb threat at the *Centre de services scolaire Val-des-Cerfs*;
- Students and staff were promptly evacuated from both schools and were safely sequestered at the nearest rally point;
- The interruption of learning and routine caused distress to everyone. It is unfortunate that people perceive mischief as humorous;
- Police recommended that no one re-enter the schools;
- Students and staff were unable to access the schools for the rest of the day;
- Transportation resumed normally as parents were discouraged to come and collect their children in order to not interfere with the police investigation;
- A letter was sent to parents explaining the situation reassuring them that all was done according to protocol and that their children were safe and well taken care of.

9. ADVISORY COMMITTEES' REPORTS

9.1 Executive Committee

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

9.2 Governance and Ethics Committee

The Director General, K. Mackey presented the following resolution:

9.2.1 Resolution No. ETSB 24-02-45

Delegation of Powers to the Director General – Join mandates with the *Centre d'acquisitions gouvernementales (CAG)*

WHEREAS the *Centre d'acquisitions gouvernementales (CAG)* has been created on September 1st 2020;

WHEREAS the CAG's mission is 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 is continuously into a new call for tenders for the various items and services and, as a result, time is an issue;

WHEREAS the Eastern Townships School Board (ETSB) finds it advantageous to benefit from the CAG mandates and wishes to continue this process;

WHEREAS the approval to proceed in joining the CAG for all mandates was given by the Council of Commissioners;

IT WAS MOVED BY Commissioner G. Barnett to delegate the powers to join and to sign all associated documentation related to the CAG joining mandates to the Director General in conformity with the regulations requested by the *Secrétariat du Conseil du trésor*.

Adopted unanimously

The Chair of the Governance and Ethics Committee, Commissioner G. Barnett addressed the topics discussed at the February 13, 2024 meeting:

- Collaborative Board Leadership – Governance Professional Development Proposed Plan and Resolution;
- In-Depth Continuing Education follow-up;
- Spring Conference update;
- School Board elections – All potential voters are asked to verify if they are on the voter's list;
- Overview of the information regarding union agreements given to the Labour Relations Committee;
- Delegation of Powers to the Director General – participation in the CAG (*Centre d'acquisitions gouvernementales*).

The date of the next meeting is scheduled for April 16, 2024.

9.3 Audit Advisory Committee

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

9.3.1 Finance:

9.3.1.1 Resolution No. ETSB 24-02-46

Delegation of Powers to the Executive Committee – MEQ Special Initiative – Vocational Training Programs

WHEREAS the *ministère de l'Éducation du Québec (MEQ)* establishes various workforce development strategies;

WHEREAS the Eastern Townships School Board (ETSB) through their Vocational Training Centres take part in those initiatives;

WHEREAS courses for special *MEQ* initiative must begin by specific dates;

WHEREAS Council of Commissioners' meetings take place once a month;

WHEREAS building rentals, leasehold improvement and equipment rentals/purchases must be acquired in a short time frame to meet the Ministry initiatives deadlines;

WHEREAS all purchases and leases will be done in accordance with the Eastern Townships School Board's *Purchase Policy* and the government's requirements.

IT WAS MOVED BY Commissioner R. Gagnon to delegate the authority to authorize building rentals, make leasehold improvements and purchase/lease the equipment and materials necessary for the *MEQ* special initiatives to the Executive Committee, effective as of February 27, 2024; **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 the topics discussed at the February 20, 2024 meeting:

- Sherbrooke Elementary School – South staircase up to code and administrative sector;
- Revised Budget;
- Budget Follow-up.

9.3.2 Material Resources:

9.3.2.1 Resolution No. ETSB 24-02-47

Sherbrooke Elementary School – South staircase up to code and administrative sector

WHEREAS the *Ministère de l'Éducation (MEQ)* approved a budget of \$600,000 + \$1,022,617 for the project stated above, under the program *MDB - Maintien des bâtiments 2021-2022 Mesure: 50621* and the program *MDB - Maintien des bâtiments 2023-2024 Mesure: 50621*;

WHEREAS the *Régie de bâtiment du Québec (RBQ)* requires all staircases to be up to code for fire safety purposes;

WHEREAS Sherbrooke Elementary School has staircases in the south sector that need to be renovated in order to be in conformity with the laws for fire safety;

WHEREAS after reviewing the plans, the assigned professional firm *Cimaise Inc.* has estimated \$1,306,274 for the renovation of the south staircase and administrative renovation;

WHEREAS due to the constraints within the timeline to implement the project stated above, this resolution must be presented on a budgetary basis in the amount of \$1,306,274;

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 respects of authorization by the *MEQ* for this project (contract, professional fees & taxes included) and the ETSB's purchase policy and government requirements (laws, policies, rules, etc.);

IT WAS MOVED BY Commissioner H. Turgeon 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 24-02-48

Sunnyside Elementary School – Emergency repair (Flood)

WHEREAS the Eastern Townships School Board (ETSB) has dedicated a budget of \$45,000 for the project stated above where monies are planned to be taken under the *RTB – Réfection et Transformation des Bâtiments 2023-24*;

WHEREAS the ETSB passed a resolution of \$60,000 based on an estimate under the resolution #ETSB-23-08-07;

WHEREAS the ETSB believes this repair is vital for the Sunnyside Elementary School's building;

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

WHEREAS a budget of \$95,000 is required to complete the repairs;

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

9.3.2.3 Resolution No. ETSB 24-02-49
Board Office – Purchasing of Flying-Crew Vans

WHEREAS the Eastern Townships School Board (ETSB) has been trying to purchase vans for the flying-crew since March 2022 through the *Centre d'acquisitions gouvernementales (CAG)*;

WHEREAS the ETSB has been unsuccessful in obtaining a vehicle due to the delays with the CAG being long and unpredictable as well as the shortage of vehicles;

WHEREAS the ETSB was also put on a waiting list for a new van with *Val Estrie Ford* as the wait time is between 3 months to 2 years as per resolution ETSB 22-11-38;

WHEREAS the ETSB has an increasingly urgent need for three (3) flying-crew vans;

WHEREAS the estimated cost for the purchase of 3 vans is approximately \$270,000 including the extra fees for the modification of the interior to have safety rails and shelving;

IT WAS MOVED BY Commissioner J. Humenuik to proceed with the ordering and purchasing of the vehicles 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 May 21, 2024.

9.4 Educational Advisory Committee (ESAC)

The Chair of the Educational Advisory Committee, M.E. Kirby mentioned the topics discussed at the February 6, 2024 meeting:

- National student ombudsman;
- 2022-2023 school survey results;
- Student intellectual engagement;
- Student promotion policy.

The Chair also mentioned that the date of the next ESAC meeting is scheduled for May 14, 2024.

9.5 Communications Advisory Committee

The Chair of the Communications Advisory Committee, H. Turgeon mentioned that the date of the next meeting is scheduled for April 2, 2024.

9.6 Human Resources Advisory Committee

The Chair of the Human Resources Advisory Committee, C. Beaubien mentioned that the date of the next meeting is scheduled for April 9, 2024.

9.7 Transportation Advisory Committee

The Chair of the Transportation Advisory Committee, Commissioner G. Holliday presented the following resolution:

9.7.1 Resolution No ETSB 24-02-50 2023-2024 School Bus Bids – Phase 2

WHEREAS the Eastern Townships School Board 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 *ministère de l'Éducation du Québec (MEQ)* has established parameters for the exchange of buses and has monies set aside for this purpose;

WHEREAS on December 12, 2023, the *MEQ* authorized the Eastern Townships School Board (ETSB) to proceed with a call for tenders for the purchase of new vehicles in accordance with the terms of the management measure "School bus";

WHEREAS the ETSB requested bids for the purchase of school buses for the 2023-2024 school year;

WHEREAS bids were received from one (1) supplier and opened on February 5, 2024;

WHEREAS the bids conformed to the requirements set out in the call for tenders;

WHEREAS the amount of the lowest bid from *La Compagnie Lion Électrique* was \$4,818,567.41 including taxes;

WHEREAS The amount does not include the grant from the *MTQ* financial aid program for the electrification of school transportation by the province of Quebec;

WHEREAS the *MEQ* must conduct an analysis of the bids received and will confirm their authorization of the allocated amount based on the methods of management of the additional and specific allowances and other activities for 2023-2024;

IT WAS MOVED BY Commissioner G. Holliday that the ETSB accepts the bid received from *La Compagnie Lion Electrique* for ten (10) 72-passenger school buses conditional to the authorization from the *MEQ*; **IT WAS FURTHER MOVED** that the Director General or the Director of Transportation be authorized to sign all associated documentation.

Carried unanimously

The date of the next Transportation Advisory Committee meeting is scheduled for March 19, 2024.

9.8 Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC)

The commissioner representing parents for the SEAC, E. McKnight mentioned that the date of the next SEAC meeting is scheduled for March 20, 2024.

10. PARENTS' COMMITTEE

The Commissioner representing parents, H. Turgeon mentioned the topics discussed at the February 7, 2024 meeting:

- Human Resources Calendar – presented by C. Dufresne;
- Adult Education and Vocational Education changes – presented by J. Bisson;
- Campus Brome-Missisquoi teachers showing great flexibility in accommodating special needs students;
- Hooked on School from February 12th to 16th – CPC and GB to be involved;
- *Plan de Rattrapage*;
- Eclipse consultation;
- School Survey shared with Commissioners – presented by D. Nagle;
- Lennoxville Elementary School – *Camp Beauséjour* was a wonderful experience with great weather;
- Ayer's Cliff Elementary School – very successful wellness day (cooking, yoga and more);
- January 23, 2024 Council of Commissioners highlights;
- 2022-2023 ETSB Annual Report;
- New Student Ombudsman, Caroline Audette introduced a new process to Commissioners.

The date of the next Parents' Committee meeting is scheduled for March 13, 2024.

11. STUDENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Commissioner J. Humenuik, representing the Student Advisory Committee, mentioned that the date of the next meeting is scheduled for March 2024 at Alexander Galt Regional High School (AGRHS).

12. QESBA

The Chairman, M. Murray mentioned the following:

- New Executive Director in function;
- Follow-up on negotiations and ongoing litigations from the January 2024 meeting;
- Collectively contesting legislations, notably Bill 40 and Bill 96, fighting the OQLF's (*Office québécois de la Langue Française*) interpretation, which a stay was received;
- Internal communication for the School Board must be in French – teachers must speak exemplary French to parents or amongst each other;
- Bill 21 Secularism Law – judgment by the courts on its constitutional correctness within the next two weeks;
- Memorandum issued congratulating McGill & Concordia universities for opposing tuition hikes. Premier François Legault complained that judges must be prejudiced against the Province of Quebec.

13. COMMISSIONER'S COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS

Commissioner M. E. Kirby:

Eaton Valley CLC

- Cooking Workshops had a large number of participants.
- The community is busy and enjoys listening to feedback on social media for the CLC's work.

Cookshire Elementary School Governing Board

- A discussion led to a tour of the school. Parents were left upset to what still needs to be done in regards to construction. A suggestion to make contractors accountable for subpar work was made. This has been a long ongoing process. We commend the school as they are working in less-than-ideal conditions.

Educational Services Meeting – Student Ombudsman

- Some were left disturbed and irked because the Ombudsman refused to speak English. When the Ombudsman attended the meeting, the Ombudsman would not respond in kind, only in French. Some people thought that maybe she didn't dare speak English for fear of reprisal due to the pressures of the *OQLF*.
- Compelled speech belongs nowhere in a democratic society. It is worrisome, believing that it opens a door to tyranny. We see a lot of problems when someone is purportedly serving English parents and students, but could not/would not address the Board in English. It is a strange way of respecting English education.
- Most are irritated by the fact that the School Boards are no longer considered competent to hire their Ombudsman; they have no choice in the matter.

Éric Plante

Director of Material Resources:

In regards to Cookshire Elementary, it was a last second project. A modified project is already in place even though the school would be occupied while dealing with the ventilation project that was underway. Electrical will be done internally. Unfortunately, we didn't have the time to hire an electrical engineer.

Commissioner J. Humenuik:

I agree with M. E. Kirby; we are concerned for students. You are most comfortable in your maternal language. She understood as she answered our English questions. The Student

Ombudsman is hired for students and we are concerned the students won't get what they need when they need it.

Spring Conference: we are looking for videos or pictures for the Spring Conference to showcase students from across the Board. We hope principals can share some, even if they are from past years.

Chairman M. Murray:

Suggested that the Council issue an official letter of complaint in regards to the Ombudsman's lack of respect; even though the meeting was clearly in English, the Ombudsman only spoke in French.

Commissioner M. E. Kirby:

Wholeheartedly second's the suggestion to issue a letter.

Chairman M. Murray:

We will do this in the upcoming days.

Commissioner G. Barnett:

Eastern Townships Adult General Education (ETAGE) GB

- Service requests are running at about 35 ETPs per month, but the strike will hurt this. Of course, ETAGE is financed based on the number of hours given.
- Exam services are all up but online is sliding a bit.
- Francization is at 419 up from 98 last year and ETAGE is about at the maximum. They have hired 20-25 teachers. Because of the financing formula, ETAGE is currently out of pocket but will increase ETPs for the future. ETAGE is requesting more financing but can also finance through SAE or Distance Education. Requests for English courses have increased by over 5 times compared to last year. ETAGE could serve 800 students but is concerned about future demand.
- Job Links at 135 students has reached 50% of their quota at halfway through the year.
- Because the strike affected CBM more, some classes were given at a Fire Hall.
- Because of the huge demand, ETAGE is now approaching 90 employees. ETAGE now needs the offices at New Horizons used by other groups.

Alexander Galt Regional High School (AGRHS)

- *Plan de Rattrapage*: There is \$108K for extra help, meaning a second teacher where needed. Galt will also have 100 extra blocks for a second teacher. This will last until the end of the year.
- Regarding courses, there are no massive changes except for Culture & Citizenship Quebec, which replaces Ethics & Religion. Woodworking is back on the roster.
- Course selections for the Grade 6 are complete, which will require a long line of transition meetings.
- There is concern about the students on the day of the eclipse and it was said that there might be no bussing in the afternoon of April 8th 2024.

Commissioner C. Beaubien:

Ayer's Cliff, North Hatley and Sunnyside Elementary Schools

Many activities such as a Carnival, Winter camp, Skiing and Skating were cancelled due to the weather announced this week. Hopefully, they will be able to hold them after the March Break.

Sunnyside Elementary School

Ms. Marie-Andrée Lafrance, the CLC Coordinator for Sunnyside has shared some information on her activities at the school. I must admit she is a very busy and dedicated lady.

Sunnyseed Garden:

- A new garden coordinator: Mr. Greg Gryniwicz. He is a biologist with a vegetable growing farming experience. His contribution has been invaluable in integrating garden activities into the classroom. By working closely with the teachers, many more workshops were carried out.
- Also, activities for the community; the harvest was also shared with them. The main goals are to develop food literacy, provide hands-on learning activities, strengthen local food security, promote healthy lifestyles, mobilize the community and combat social isolation, with a particular focus on vulnerable populations.
- Their greenhouse Dome will allow them to extend their gardening season and offer more healthy snacks to the students, including the outdoor class and kitchen that will bring more opportunities for the students and the entire

community to learn and to connect in a relaxing outdoor environment.

- During March Break, the Buildings & Grounds team will coordinate with the plumbing company to work for the inside of the downstairs bathroom and to connect the outdoor kitchen water pipes to the school water drainage.

Musée Colby-Curtis Collaboration

The children learned about the importance of flower gardens in Victorian society. They also discussed plants, trees and flowers in general. The students produced a magnificent collective herbarium, in which they each collected a plant specimen and researched the relevant information.

Ateliers Cinq Épices – Cooking workshops

The goal is to offer a learning experience in nutrition and the culinary arts based on pleasure, discovery, sensory awakening and experimentation, all aimed at promoting health: (www.cingepices.org).

Mental health music workshops – Centre l'Élan, Magog

The goal is to help develop knowledge on what are healthy relationships and create a favourable environment. Discussions and practice of concepts through music and song composition.

Intergenerational Activity

Grade 5 & 6 students are interviewing seniors in March and will be writing stories and illustrate them with the help of the art teacher. All stories will be put together in a book and will be offered as a gift to all participants.

14. UPCOMING EVENTS

None.

15. CORRESPONDENCE

None.

16. QUESTION PERIOD

Megan Seline

Knowlton resident:

Are Commissioners aware that people from St. Paul's Anglican Church in Knowlton will be going into Knowlton Academy (KA) weekly to offer support to students with reading, etc. Volunteers intend to begin after March break. Training and background checks will be done. They will be going to KA once a week until the end of the school year.

M. Murray

ETSB Chairman:

That's great! We thank the members of the community for supporting our students.

17. GOVERNANCE AND COMMUNICATION

None.

18. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned on a motion by Commissioner G. Holliday at 8:15 p.m.

Eric Campbell
Secretary General

Michael Murray
Chairman

EC/gm
02.27.2024