

EASTERN TOWNSHIPS SCHOOL BOARD

COUNCIL OF COMMISSIONERS

TUESDAY, APRIL 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	Z	Eliza McKnight	Z
Richard Gagnon	Z	Dan Nagle	A
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	Z	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 7:04 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 April 23, 2024 as deposited.

Carried unanimously

3. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF MARCH 26, 2024

Resolution No. ETSB 24-04-55

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

WHEREAS a copy of the Minutes of the meeting of March 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 G. Barnett to excuse the Secretary General from reading the Minutes and to approve the Minutes of the meeting held on March 26, 2024 as deposited.

Carried unanimously

4. QUESTION PERIOD

No questions were asked at this time.

5. RECOGNITION OF EXCELLENCE

Chairman M. Murray invited the following Commissioners to present the April 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:

What a Spectacle!



Commissioner T. Pezzi-Bilodeau: March 28th 2024 was a serious spectacle so to speak, one of the best kind, a regional final celebrating the arts! Secondary students hailing from the *Estrie* region headed to the *Salésien* to participate in a competition involving multiple art forms, including performance, stage technology, journalism, poetry, song and musical creations and interpretations. Basically an opportunity for students to perfect and showcase their talents and passion for the performing arts.

Student teams from Mitchell-Montcalm High School, the Polyvalente Montignac, the Salésien, the Séminaire de Sherbrooke and our very own Richmond Regional High School participated, presenting their entries in French to the delight of audience members.

Not only did Richmond Regional students take part, but they also shone bringing home two prestigious awards with most competing in their second language; what an accomplishment and testament to our bilingualism here at the ETSB!

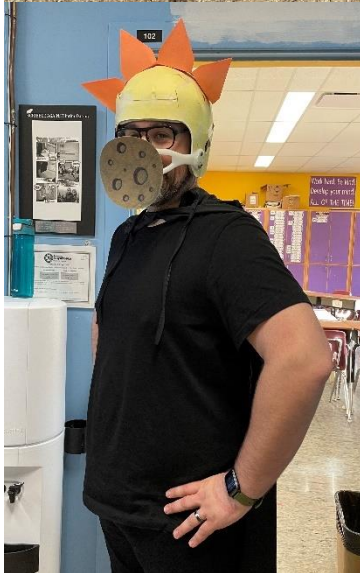
Musical competitors hit the stage with their interpretation of Alex Nevsky's *Les Coloriés* and earned 2nd place for their song. Band members included Félicia Fredette, Tristan Boisvert, Jérémy Brisson-Grenier, Lorenzo Corpuz, Lhea Forest Savannah Mace, Trinity Raymond and Linsday Maurice-Morin (picture #1).

In Action contestants, Benjamin Barrie, Rosalie Evans and Zoïk Huard wowed the judges and won 1st place for their performance (picture #2). This year was the first time that Richmond Regional students competed in this category. RRHS teams having secured the first and second place positions, and both will go on to compete in the provincial finals!

We congratulate all RRHS students and fellow participants, wishing them the best of luck in the province-wide competition *Rendez-vous panquébécois* to be held in Thetford Mines this May!

The ETSB Community Celebrates the ECLIPSE!





Commissioner E. McKnight: Throughout the ETSB community, students, staff and school families convened to celebrate the once-in-a-life-time phenomenon, the total solar eclipse of April 8th 2024! The open blue skies provided the perfect backdrop for this awe-inspiring occurrence that had people erupt in cheers, applause and total excitement. The lead up to the eclipse was incredible with science lessons, student presentations, physical modules and much exploration to help explain and prepare students for what they would witness.

Families gathered at schools to share in the experience and the mood was on high, with some making a day of the eclipse with special activities, festive snacks, games and even bouncy castles. Everyone found a way to safely observe with glasses and/or take in the celestial event via live stream for those who preferred to stay inside.

We thank everyone who shared in this experience and will never forget the awesomeness of such a rare happening! CBC captured the day's event at Lennoxville Elementary School; [have a listen](#) to our children's comments, they say it best!

Campus Brome-Missisquoi's Vocational Training Centre Benefits from a 5.1 Million Dollar Investment



(L to R – ETSB Chair Mr. Murray addressing the group, CBM's Voc. Ed Director Liette Béchard in the welding workshop, PERFORM's DG Carl Boily)

Commissioner R. Gagnon: A press conference was held on April 15th 2024 at the Campus Brome-Missisquoi's (CBM) Vocational Training Centre to announce an investment of over 5.1 Million dollars in support of programs feeding the metal fabrication industry, namely Welding, Machining and the Operation of Production Equipment (OEP).

These monies from the *Ministère de l'Emploi et de la Solidarité sociale* and the Ministry of Education in large part will allow enterprises in *Estrie* to pay students during their work stages. This initiative is the collaborative result of the Campus Brome-Missisquoi Vocational Training Centre of the Eastern Townships School Board and the *Centre de services scolaire Val-des-Cerfs*, PERFORM as well as the numerous enterprises here in the *Estrie* Region.

We congratulate all involved in this promising collaboration and thank everyone who attended this event including a few students currently in the Welding and Machining programs.

The future looks PROMISING!

6. BUSINESS ARISING

None.

7. NEW BUSINESS

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

7.1 Resolution No. ETSB 24-04-56

Appointment of a Returning Officer – School Elections – November 3rd 2024

WHEREAS school elections will be held on November 3rd 2024;

WHEREAS section 22 of the *Act Respecting School Elections* stipulates that the Director General of the School Board is the Returning Officer Ex Officio, power delegated by the Director General of the Quebec elections;

WHEREAS the Director General will delegate this responsibility;

WHEREAS Ms. SuzAnne Tremblay was appointed for these elections (ETSB 23-04-67);

WHEREAS Ms. Tremblay resigned from the Returning Officer position for the November 2024 school elections;

WHEREAS the General Directorate of the Eastern Townships School Board recommends Ms. Marie-Andrée Lafrance to replace Ms. SuzAnne Tremblay;

IT WAS MOVED BY Commissioner C. Beaubien to appoint Ms. Marie-Andrée Lafrance to the position of Returning Officer for the November 3rd 2024 school elections.

Carried unanimously

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

7.2 Resolution No. ETSB 24-04-57
2024-2025 Confirmation of the Head Office Administrative Structure

WHEREAS section 134 of the Regulation respecting *Certain Conditions of Employment of Senior Staff of School Boards* and of the *Comité de Gestion de la Taxe Scolaire de l'Île de Montréal* states that the School Board must confirm the Head Office Administrative Structure, as it has been amended;

WHEREAS the Commissioners have reviewed the proposed Administrative Structure for the Head Office for the 2024-2025 school year during the Governance & Ethics meeting on April 16, 2024;

WHEREAS the Eastern Townships Association of Administrators (ETAA) has been consulted on the structure;

WHEREAS this administrative structure is to take effect July 1st 2024, unless otherwise specified;

IT WAS MOVED BY Commissioner G. Holliday that the Council of Commissioners approve the Head Office Administrative Structure for the 2024-2025 school year, effective July 1st 2024.

Carried unanimously

7.3 Resolution No. ETSB 24-04-58
2024-2025 Confirmation of the Schools and Centres Administrative Structure

WHEREAS section 134 of the Regulation respecting *Certain Conditions of Employment of Senior Staff of School Boards* and of the *Comité de Gestion de la Taxe Scolaire de l'Île de Montréal* states that the School Board must confirm the Schools and Centres Administrative Structure as it is amended;

WHEREAS the Commissioners have reviewed the proposed Administrative Structure for the Schools and Centres, during the Governance & Ethics Advisory Committee Meeting on April 16, 2024;

WHEREAS the Eastern Townships Association of Administrators (ETAA) has been duly consulted on the 2024-2025 structure;

WHEREAS this administrative structure is to take effect on July 1st 2024, unless otherwise specified;

IT WAS MOVED BY Commissioner H. Turgeon that the Council of Commissioners approve the Schools and Centres Administrative Structure for the 2024-2025 school year, effective July 1st 2024.

Carried unanimously

7.4 Resolution No. ETSB 24-04-59**Head Office – Appointment of Secretary General, Director of the General Secretariat, Communications & School Transportation Services**

WHEREAS the position of Secretary General, Director of the General Secretariat, Communications & School Transportation Services will become vacant with the retirement of Mr. Éric Campbell as of June 12, 2024;

WHEREAS the position has been advertised throughout the Eastern Townships School Board (ETSB) territory through the internal posting procedures for the Eastern Townships Association of Administrators (ETAA) and to Management members;

WHEREAS the position has been advertised externally;

WHEREAS the General Directorate unanimously recommends this person to the Council of Commissioners;

WHEREAS a Commissioner's Sub-Committee was formed to meet with the candidate in view to share their appreciation to the Governance & Ethics Advisory Committee on April 16, 2024;

WHEREAS the candidate selected retains the qualifications and experience that respond to the criteria designated by the General Directorate;

WHEREAS the approved candidate will be subject to up to one-year probationary period and performance appraisal process;

IT WAS MOVED BY Commissioner M. E. Kirby that the Council of Commissioners appoint Shawn Champigny, Secretary General, Director of the General Secretariat, Communications & School Transportation Services effective May 13, 2024.

Carried unanimously

8. REPORTS**8.1 Director General's report**

The Director General, K. Mackey had nothing new to report, however, she did highlight the Secretary General's retirement and expressed her appreciation for what he has brought to our community.

8.2 Chair's report

The Chair of the Council of Commissioners, M. Murray, reported the following:

Quebec Superior Court issued a judgement in April on the motion brought by the English Montreal School Board (EMSB) for a stay of certain provisions of Bill 96 pending hearing the challenge to the bill on merits. Seven other English school boards supported the motion in the status of intervenors. The judgement, although not an unequivocal victory, confirmed that communications both written and oral

between English School Boards, their personnel and their officials may continue our practices that existed prior to the adoption of Bill 96. We are pleased that our right to communicate orally and in writing solely in English, solely in French or both has been confirmed. This applies both to internal communications, communications with other institutions and with individuals such as parents and interested members of our community. The Eastern Townships School Board has long established a practice of communicating in the official language preferred by our interlocutors. We will continue to defend our right to do so with recourse to the courts as required.

9. ADVISORY COMMITTEES' REPORTS

9.1 Executive Committee

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

9.2 Governance and Ethics Committee

The Chair of the Governance and Ethics Committee, Commissioner G. Barnett mentioned the topics discussed at the April 16, 2024 meeting:

- Spring Conference;
- In-Depth Topic – Bilingualism;
- April 8th Eclipse;
- Administrative Structures;
- Administrative Positions;
- CAQ Bills;
- Adult Sector Updates;
- *Directive sur les contrats de services (LGCE)*;
- *Services Québec* Agreement with the ETSB;
- Administrator Growth.

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

9.2.1 Resolution No. ETSB 24-04-60

Services Québec Agreement with the Eastern Townships School Board

WHEREAS *Services Québec* is the government body that funds employability services and purchases services from the Eastern Townships School Board (ETSB);

WHEREAS *Services Québec Estrie*, which is responsible for public employment services on its territory, is seeking the expertise of the Eastern Townships Adult General Education (ETAGE) of the ETSB to diversify and complete its offer of services to respond to the English-speaking population of the Eastern Townships;

WHEREAS the ETAGE is committed to offering educational and complementary services to English-speaking people aged 16 and over living on its territory;

WHEREAS orientation and employability services are important parts of the complementary services offered by ETAGE throughout the Eastern Townships, in both rural and urban areas;

WHEREAS the ETSB through its Adult General Education service, has been offering the employability services to the English-speaking population, since 1997;

WHEREAS the ETAGE will receive an amount of approximately \$137,377,00 as compensation for all the services offered in orientation and employability to the English-speaking population of its territory;

WHEREAS this agreement will be effective for a period of one (1) year from July 1st 2024 to June 30th 2025;

IT WAS MOVED BY Commissioner G. Barnett that the Centre Director, Mr. Steve Dunn or the Director General is authorized to sign all associated documentation with *Services Québec* to continue offering the employability services to the English-speaking population.

Carried unanimously

9.2.2 Resolution No. ETSB 24-04-61

Parkview Elementary School – Appointment of Principal

WHEREAS the position of Principal of Parkview Elementary School became vacant with the departure of Ms. Barbra Plouffe as of June 30, 2024;

WHEREAS the General Directorate unanimously recommends this person to the Council of Commissioners;

WHEREAS a Commissioner's Sub-Committee was formed to meet with the candidate in view to share their appreciation to the Executive of the Council of Commissioners;

WHEREAS the candidate selected retains the qualifications and experience that respond to the criteria designated by the General Directorate;

IT WAS MOVED BY Commissioner R. Gosselin that the Council of Commissioners appoint Julie Edwards, Principal of Parkview Elementary School effective July 1st 2024.

Carried unanimously

The date of the next meeting is scheduled for May 7, 2024.

9.3 Audit Advisory Committee

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

9.3.1 Finance:

None.

9.3.2 Material Resources:

9.3.2.1 Resolution No. ETSB 24-04-62

Heroes' Memorial Elementary School – Replacement of Water Distribution Network
– AMENDED

WHEREAS in order to correct an error where a portion of the professional fees were left out in resolution 24-03-52, the total amount of the contract including taxes and professional fees needs to be corrected;

WHEREAS the *Ministère de l'Éducation (MEQ)* approved a budget of \$371,861 for the project stated above, under the program *MDB - Maintien des bâtiments 2021-2022 Mesure: 50621*;

WHEREAS the water intake systems are in great need of replacement;

WHEREAS two (2) companies retrieved the project specifications after a public invitation to bid on the project;

WHEREAS two (2) bids were received by the Eastern Townships School Board by the date and time specified;

WHEREAS the lowest bid in the amount of \$307,000 (excluding taxes), was received from the company *Construction Michel Dufresne et fils (9116-0093 Québec Inc.)*;

WHEREAS all additional funds required to complete the project, will be taken from *MDB - Maintien des bâtiments 2021-22 program*;

WHEREAS after reviewing the bids, the assigned professional firm of *DWB Consultants* has recommended the company *Michel Dufresne et fils (9116-0093 Québec Inc.)* the lowest bidder in conformity, to do the work for the amount of \$458,531, including taxes and professional fees;

IT WAS MOVED BY Commissioner J. 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

9.3.2.2 Resolution No. ETSB 24-04-63

Alexander Galt Regional High School – Handicap Ramp Access

WHEREAS the *Eastern Townships School Board (ETSB)* approved a budget of \$85,000 for the project stated above, under the program *RHA – Amélioration de l'Accessibilité des Immeubles, Mesure: 30850*;

WHEREAS four (4) companies retrieved the project specifications after a public invitation to bid on the project;

WHEREAS two (2) bids were received by the Eastern Townships School Board by the date and time specified;

WHEREAS the lowest bid in the amount of \$56,925 (excluding taxes), was received from the company *Construction Sylvatech Inc.*;

WHEREAS after reviewing the bids, the assigned professional firm of *Archi Tech Design Inc.* has recommended the company *Construction Sylvatech Inc.* the lowest bidder in conformity, to do the work for the amount of \$82,137, including taxes and professional fees;

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

9.3.2.3 Resolution No. ETSB 24-04-64

St. Francis Elementary School – Drop-off Buses and Parking Lot Renovation

WHEREAS the *Ministère de l'Éducation (MEQ)* approved a budget of \$650,756 for the project stated above, under the program *MDB – Maintien des bâtiments 2020-21 Mesure: 50621*;

WHEREAS a company known today as *Entreprise Richard Brisson Inc.* was awarded a contract in the amount of \$972,391 including professional fees and taxes, for the project stated above;

WHEREAS during the project, some modifications for additional work needed to be done like waterproofing the foundations and the replacement of the Kindergarten fencing and paving;

WHEREAS the amount of \$318,325 to pay for all modification orders, additional work and professional fees (including taxes), is required to finish the project;

WHEREAS the total amount for the contract including all modification orders, additional work, and professional fees (including taxes), adds up to \$1,290,716;

WHEREAS all additional funds required to complete the project, will be taken from *MDB - Maintien des bâtiments 2020-21 program*;

IT WAS MOVED BY Commissioner T. Pezzi-Bilodeau that the modification and/or additional work be awarded in order to complete the work for the project stated above; **IT WAS FURTHER MOVED** that the Director General and/or the Director of Material Resources be authorized to sign all associated documentation.

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 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 the topics discussed at the April 2, 2024 meeting:

- Civility and Respect Campaign;
- Promotional Campaign – *Bilan*;
- Re-registration 2024-2025;
- 2024-2025 Student Population Update;
- Media requests;
- Cobalt – Communication Tool.

The date of the next meeting is **to be determined**.

9.6 Human Resources Advisory Committee

The Chair of the Human Resources Advisory Committee, C. Beaubien mentioned the topics discussed at the April 9, 2024 meeting:

- ATLAS Plateforme – Recruitment process and new website – presented by A. Thériault;
- Allocation of teaching and other resources;
- HR Intranet section for employees;
- Bilan – things to do until June 2024;
- Mental Health and well-being of employees: DPR (Dispute prevention resolution) training;
- Request that first meeting in September is on the week before the Council (September 17, 2024).

The date of the next meeting is **to be determined**.

9.7 Transportation Advisory Committee

The Chair of the Transportation Advisory Committee, Commissioner G. Holliday mentioned that they received confirmation of acceptance from the MEQ of ten new buses. There will also be twenty charging stations at the Marguerite Knapp building for the upcoming year.

The date of the next meeting is **to be determined**.

9.8 Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC)

The Chair of the SEAC, E. McKnight mentioned that the last parent information session, presented by Kymberley Morin, was very well attended.

The date of the next SEAC meeting is scheduled for May 22, 2024.

10. PARENTS' COMMITTEE

The Commissioner representing parents, H. Turgeon mentioned the topics discussed at the April 3rd 2024 meeting:

- Student Promotion Policy Consultation – presented by the Assistant Director of Pedagogical Services, N. Carrière;
- Buildings and Grounds Investment projects – presented by the Director of Material Resources, E. Plante;
- *Regroupement des comités de parents autonomes du Québec (RCPAQ)* – presented by François Paquette.

The date of the next Parents' Committee meeting is scheduled for May 1st 2024.

11. STUDENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

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

- Spring Conference videos/photos;
- CSAC Committees;
- Positives about our schools;
- Will meet with Commissioners in the near future.

The date of the next Student Advisory Committee meeting is scheduled for May 6, 2022.

12. QESBA

The ETSB Chairman, M. Murray mentioned a few highlights:

- QESBA and the executive committee of QESBA had a one-1-hour meeting with MEQ last week. M. Bernard Drainville and issued a public apology for the team only speaking French to special needs families and English speakers. M. Drainville confirmed that the Ministry personnel had been misguided

or misinterpreted the law, that communications could indeed be in English when dealing with English groups and those who attended English schools and belong to the English community. Common sense should prevail, but had not according to Drainville;

- Sources of irritation were discussed – barriers faced by adult rights holders in obtaining certificates of eligibility necessary for CEGEP applications; Drainville recognized these as unjustified planned to discuss these issues with the Minister of Superior Education. Technically, the Ministry should not hold up certificates of eligibility for those applying to English CEGEPS, which block their educational path;
- Youth eligibility – issuance of certification on humanitarian grounds: Drainville believed the process was expedited, though QESBA contested this view and agreed to provide examples showing delays and unjustified obstructions. The students should not be held up;
- In all, it was an excellent meeting;
- Bill 96 – finally a victory, which is the highlight of our meeting;
- The Spring Conference will be hosted by the ETSB in Bromont on May 8-10, 2024. This is a great event where commissioners and school administration can take part together.

13. COMMISSIONER'S COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS

Commissioner M. E. Kirby:

Alexander Galt Regional High School (AGRHS) Play

Attended the play on Saturday. It was excellently executed. Both plays at Christmas and in the Spring were based on literary themes. There were good choices on play selection. Hats off to all performers; it was very well done!

Commissioner G. Barnett:

Alexander Galt Regional High School (AGRHS) Play

The Galt play **Murder at the Renaissance Faire or...Shakespeare Kills Me** was well presented by the students. There was a huge amount of convoluted dialogue for which no students missed a beat. And the costumes were quite spectacular! GALT was very lucky to receive these costumes from Louise Chenard & *Les Costumes Shou-Lou* when this shop closed. The play is about an entertainment company or group called Renaissance Faire which presented Shakespearean plays but was losing money because of the competition. The company hired a new director who proposed a new program called **Great Death Scenes from Shakespeare** to attract a younger audience. However, the main player in Romeo ends up missing and is found murdered. The play continues in a convoluted fashion with a search for the murderer as a severe storm approaches.

Commissioner J. Humenuik:

Eclipse Event

Would it possible to put together a collage of activities that went on at the schools? It would be wonderful to show the community of what we do here at the ETSB.

Chairman M. Murray:

Great idea! Holly, is this something we can take on?

Communications Consultant Holly Bailey: We can look into that. It may involve other services that dealt with the schools directly for this event.

14. **UPCOMING EVENTS**

None.

15. **CORRESPONDENCE**

None.

16. **QUESTION PERIOD**

No questions were asked.

17. **GOVERNANCE AND COMMUNICATION**

Chairman M. Murray thanked the Secretary General, E. Campbell for all he has done for the School Board as well as his contribution in his last twelve years: "It's quite a career, quite a history, but much more than that, for those of us who have worked with you, Eric, it has been a great experience. We really appreciate your commitment to the ETSB, and I want to personally thank you for all you have done for me and the Board during your tenure here." Happy Retirement Mr. Campbell!

The Secretary General, E. Campbell responded "I highly appreciate what you have said about my little contribution in the last twelve years with the ETSB. As I have always said, I think I'm a better administrator now than I was twelve years ago. It's because of all of you, so thank you very much. Now it's time for me to leave and hopefully, my successor will raise the bar again and bring the ETSB to another level. It was a pleasure for me to serve all of you for all these years".

18. **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned on a motion by Commissioner G. Holliday at 8:02 p.m.

Eric Campbell
Secretary General

Michael Murray
Chairman

EC/gm
04.23.2024