

# Highlights

Council of Commissioners' meeting of  
Tuesday, August 27th 2024



## Recognition of Excellence

This month the Council of Commissioners and Head Office Administrators highlighted the upcoming school board elections to be held on November 3<sup>rd</sup> 2024, encouraging people to vote and run for candidacy. Returning commissioners were welcomed back to a new school year and those finishing their term thanked for their committed service and involvement over the years.

The Director General, Ms. Kandy Mackey, will maintain the continuity of operations during the electoral period and shared a welcome back message with all.

### Dates to Remember...

Aug. 28 <sup>th</sup>	Pedagogical Day / Planning Day
Aug. 29 <sup>th</sup>	1 <sup>st</sup> Day of School – Youth Sector
Sept. 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Labour Day – Holiday
Sept. 20 <sup>th</sup>	Pedagogical Day / Planning Day
Nov. 3 <sup>rd</sup>	School Board Elections

## Resolutions

- Continuity of Operations during the Electoral Period 2024;
- Remuneration rates for election personnel for school elections 2024;
- Partnership Agreement – International Student Program;
- Cookshire Elementary School – Signing Officers;
- Asbestos-Danville-Shipton (ADS) Elementary School – Brick Pointing;
- List of Proposed Projects under the Programs “*Maintien des bâtiments, Résorption du déficit de maintien et Travaux de Maintien d’Actif 2024-2025*”;
- All Schools – Snow Removal Contracts.

See attached report from the Chair,  
Mr. Murray and the Director General,  
Ms. Mackey.

A U G U S T 2 7 , 2 0 2 4

# Reflections

## From Michael Murray, Chairman

Not a formal report per se, but a commentary ...

- 1) Welcome back: Looking forward to a great new year – improved performance, freedom of movement and activity – believing the Covid hangover is past.
- 2) Positive indicators – As our Director General has just finished detailing enrollment increases to 6,200 continuing the series of eleven consecutive years of growth, staffing of key positions is proceeding very well, improvements to schools and properties continue, international student program growth.
- 3) Challenges – With the exception of a large reduction in capital budgets, most of our challenges are external. For example, controversy over eligibility certificates for adults (over 18 years old) – rupture of implied agreement that Bill 101 would not be applied to adults in fields of post-secondary education, health, public services. We have conveyed our viewpoint directly to ministers without success; hands-off approach of federal government to overt assimilation ambitions by Quebec Government – one MP told me she believes they are doing their duty by waiting until cases reach supreme court forcing private groups to fund appeals up to that level – so far Anglophone school boards have spent in excess of a million dollars collectively and are not yet there – disgusting! Happily, most of the spending so far has been funded by donations from citizens.
- 4) Litigation: We are expecting hearings on Bill 40 at the Quebec Court this fall and hoping for a quick judgement that will permit the case to move to the Supreme Court. A variety of other cases re Bills 21, 57 and 96 are in process.
- 5) Elections: Commissioners are elected in 2 categories. Parent commissioners are elected by parents beginning in school governing boards, then central parent committee to reach board seat – mandates 2 years – we have 4. Eleven more are elected by wards under universal suffrage similar to the way provincial and federal governments are elected. The chair is elected over the whole territory of the Board by universal suffrage. This is an important exercise in democracy. These commissioners and the chair are elected for 4-year mandates. 2024 is an election year. We are in the nomination period now, with candidates required to obtain nominations from electors to be eligible to run. We urge interested individuals to contact the Board for more information.

- 6) A conference on the future of English Education in Quebec is planned for late September in Montreal. Called the "Care Conference," it will extend over two days (25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>) with numerous speakers. Space is limited but admission is without cost, subject to prior registration.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael Murray". The signature is written in a cursive style with a prominent initial "M".

Michael Murray, Chairman



August 27, 2024

# Director General's Report...

*The ETSB's mission is to provide its communities with a learning environment that promotes academic and personal development leading to the attainment of graduation or certification and opportunities to flourish and succeed.*

## *Our Four Pillars:*

- *Attachment-Based Developmental Approach*
- *Pedagogical Leadership*
- *Professional Learning Community*
- *Student Engagement*

I hope you all had a restful summer. We are happy to be back and have spent the past few days visiting our schools and centres to personally welcome everyone, including our professionals, head office and transportation staff. I would like to share the same Welcome Back message with you this evening, as you are an integral part of our team.

As we embark on the 2024-2025 school year, our Commitment-to-Success Plan remains central, guiding us towards our goal of increasing the graduation and certification rate to 82.5%. Achieving this goal will require collective effort across all sectors, and our strength lies in our shared belief in our ability to make a difference in our students' lives.

I'm also pleased to share that our student enrollment continues to consistently increase, a trend that has persisted over the past decade, reaching nearly 6,200 students when including the adult sector. This steady growth is a testament to the quality of education we strive to offer and the human approach we provide, and it fuels our motivation as we move forward.

This year, we'll continue to build on our progress and strengths. Our Pedagogical Services team is focused on fostering student intellectual engagement through critical thinking and real-world learning tasks. Complementary Services remains committed to supporting students with an attachment-based developmental approach, continuously collaborating with the Centre of Excellence for Behavior Management.

As for updates from our other departments:

Our General Secretariat & Communications Department is busy preparing for the November 3<sup>rd</sup> School Board Elections and are pleased to welcome a new communications consultant who will support the adult sector, as well as looking forward to launching a new ETSB website this winter. Our Transportation Services continue with its electrification efforts, while Material Resources focus on improving air quality and reducing noise levels in spaces such as gymnasiums and cafeterias. Our Human Resources team is preparing to implement changes from the new collective agreements to foster a positive work environment.

Finally, our International Student Program is welcoming 50 high school students, along with others in ETAGE and Vocational Education. We are very excited to have these students join our community.

As this is the last meeting for some of our commissioners, I want to express my gratitude for your valuable contributions to the ETSB. Your dedication has made a lasting impact, and we wish you all the best. For those continuing with us, I look forward to working together in November.

Here's to a productive 2024-2025 school year!

Your Director General,

*Kandy Mackey*