

EASTERN TOWNSHIPS SCHOOL BOARD

COUNCIL OF COMMISSIONERS

TUESDAY, AUGUST 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	P	Sarah Langlois	P
Claire Beaubien	P	Eliza McKnight	Z
Richard Gagnon	A	Dan Nagle	P
Richard Gosselin	P	Helene Turgeon	P
Gary Holliday	P	DIRECTORS' COMMITTEE (DC)	
Joy Humenuik, Vice-Chair	P	Secretary General – Shawn Champigny	P
Shawn Jersey	P	Director General – Kandy Mackey	P
Mary-Ellen Kirby	P	Assistant Director General & Director of Financial Services – Sophie Leduc	P
Frank MacGregor	Z	Director of Human Resources – Caroline Dufresne	P
Jonathan Murray	P	Director of Instructional Technology and Pedagogical Services – Eva Lettner	P
Michael Murray, Chair	P	Director of Complementary Services – Emmanuelle Gaudet	P
Tina Pezzi-Bilodeau	P	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 7:05 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 August 27, 2024 as deposited with the following addition:

10.3.2.3 List of Proposed Projects under the Programs « *Maintien des bâtiments, Résorption du déficit de maintien et Travaux de Maintien d'Actif 2024-2025 (Mesure 50621, 50622 & 50627)* »

Carried unanimously

3. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF JUNE 25, 2024

Resolution No. ETSB 24-08-01

Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting of the Council of Commissioners held on June 25, 2024

WHEREAS a copy of the Minutes of the meeting of June 25, 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 June 25, 2024 as deposited.

Carried unanimously

4. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF JULY 2ND 2024

Resolution No. ETSB 24-08-02

Approval of the Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Council of Commissioners held on July 2nd 2024

WHEREAS a copy of the Minutes of the special meeting of July 2nd 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 T. Pezzi-Bildoeau to excuse the Secretary General from reading the Minutes and to approve the Minutes of the special meeting held on July 2nd 2024 as deposited.

Carried unanimously

5. QUESTION PERIOD

No questions were asked.

6. RECOGNITION OF EXCELLENCE

There was no Recognition of Excellence this month.

7. BUSINESS ARISING

There was no business arising.

8. NEW BUSINESS

The Secretary General, S. Champigny presented the following resolutions:

**8.1 Resolution No. ETSB 24-08-03
Continuity of Operations during Electoral Period 2024**

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

WHEREAS under section 160.1 of the *Act Respecting School Elections*, the Council of Commissioners or the Executive Committee shall not make decisions after September 20, 2024, unless a fortuitous event necessitating their intervention occurs, or to comply with an obligation imposed by law;

WHEREAS in compliance with section 154 of the *Education Act*, a meeting of the Council of Commissioners must be convened within 15 days following the date of the election;

WHEREAS it is necessary to ensure the continuity of the operations of the school board for the period between September 20, 2024, and the first meeting of the Council of Commissioners after the school board elections, scheduled for November 12, 2024;

WHEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY Commissioner G. Holliday:

THAT the Director General be authorized to take all necessary decisions and all necessary measures required to ensure the continuity of operations for the period between September 20 and November 12, 2024, and for this purpose, including, but not limited to, issue orders and contracts, in accordance with the applicable laws and the school board policies in force as well as the available budget;

THAT the Director General report to the Council of Commissioners on decisions and measures taken to ensure continuity of operations for this period.

Carried unanimously

8.2 **Resolution No. ETSB 24-08-04**
Remuneration rates for election personnel for school elections 2024

WHEREAS article 30 of the *Act Respecting school Elections* stipulates that the School Board shall fix the tariff of remuneration and expenses of election personnel and that said tariffs cannot exceed the tariffs fixed under said Election Act;

IT WAS MOVED BY Commissioner J. Murray, seconded by Commissioner S. Jersey that the tariffs specified in the attached tables of rates for the remuneration of election personnel and rates for travel and accommodation fees provided by *Elections Québec* be paid to the election personnel required, upon presentation of supporting documents.

Carried unanimously

9. **REPORTS**

9.1 **Director General's report**

The Director General, K. Mackey reported the following:

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 Behaviour Management**.

As for updates from our other departments:

Our General Secretariat & Communications Department is busy preparing for the November 3rd 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

9.2 Chair's report

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

Welcome back: looking forward to a great new year – improved performance, freedom of movement and activity – believing the COVID hangover is past.

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.

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) – rupture of implied agreement that Bill 101 would not be applied to adults in fields of post-secondary education, health and public services. We have conveyed our viewpoint directly to ministers without success; hands-off approach of federal government to overt assimilation ambitions by the 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 an 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.

Litigation: We are expecting hearings on Bill 40 at the Quebec Court of this fall and hoping for a quick judgment that will permit the case to move to Supreme Court. A variety of other cases re Bills 21, 57 and 96 are in process.

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.

A conference on the future of English Education in Quebec is planned for late September in Montreal. I called the Care Conference; it will extend over two days with numerous speakers. Space is limited but admission is without cost, subject to prior registration.

10. ADVISORY COMMITTEES' REPORTS

10.1 Executive Committee

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

10.2 Governance and Ethics Committee

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

10.2.1 Resolution No. ETSB 24-08-05 Partnership Agreement – International Student Program

WHEREAS the Eastern Townships School Board has been working in partnership with the New Frontiers School Board to accommodate international students from the youth sector;

WHEREAS both parties are committed to work collaboratively to see it grow;

WHEREAS it would be in the best interest of both boards to have a signed and formalized agreement;

WHEREAS the Governance and Ethics Committee has reviewed the proposed Agreement and supports it;

IT WAS MOVED BY Commissioner G. Barnett that the Eastern Townships School Board sign a Partnership Agreement for International Students (youth sector) with the New Frontiers School Board.

Carried unanimously

10.3.2 Material Resources:

10.3.2.1 Resolution No. ETSB 24-08-07

Asbestos-Danville-Shipton (A.D.S) Elementary School – Brick Pointing

WHEREAS the *ministère de l'Éducation (MEQ)* approved a budget of \$400,000 for the project stated above, under the program *MDB – Maintien des bâtiments 2022-23* *Mesure: 50621*;

WHEREAS a company known today as *Lussier et Fils Inc.* was awarded a contract in the amount of \$128,100 including professional fees and taxes, for the project stated above;

WHEREAS during the project, some modifications for additional work needed to be done;

WHEREAS the amount of \$45,350 (35%) 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 \$173,450;

WHEREAS all additional funds required to complete the project will be taken from *MDB - Maintien des bâtiments 2022-23* program;

IT WAS MOVED BY Commissioner T. Pezzi-Bildoeau 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

10.3.2.2 Resolution No. ETSB 24-08-08

All Schools – Snow Removal Contracts

WHEREAS all contracts above three (3) years need to be approved by the Council of Commissioners;

WHEREAS having one (1) optional year provides a flexibility on using them or not, if needed and/or if advantageous;

WHEREAS the Eastern Townships School Board has conducted a call for tender for snow removal;

WHEREAS the Board Office and Princess Elizabeth Elementary School are still in the process;

WHEREAS below is a table to demonstrate the winners per school:

School(s)	Company	Contract Total
A.D.S.	Hémond Excavation Inc.	\$30,900
Ayer's Cliff	David Boily (9218-6329 Québec Inc.)	\$18,000
Butler	Groupe Manu Inc.	\$27,000
Cookshire	Excavation Blouin et fils (9057-4872 Québec Inc.)	\$12,300
Drummondville	D.M. Pétrin Inc.	\$36,000
Farnham	Groupe Manu Inc.	\$22,500
Knowlton Academy	DMS Sutton Inc.	\$29,250
Lennoxville	Les Entreprises Richard Brisson Inc.	\$25,325
Mansonville	Service Déneigement T.C. Inc.	\$31,354
North Hatley	Thomas Price	\$15,900
Parkview	Ferme Roxton Pond ENR	\$35,070
Pope Memorial	Randy Chapman	\$13,798
Sawyerville	R.I.C. Entreprise	\$8,775
Sherbrooke	Les Entreprises Richard Brisson Inc.	\$12,854
St-Francis	Travaux à Forfait Maka	\$46,473
Sunnyside	Entreprise D.A.C.	\$10,500
Sutton	DMS Sutton Inc.	\$40,500
Waterloo	Russell Paysagement Inc.	\$24,000
Alexander Galt Regional High	Excavation Blouin et fils (9057-4872 Québec Inc.)	\$153,000
Richmond Regional High	Travaux à Forfait Maka	\$86,036
Knapp Building	Excavation Alexandre Goulet Inc.	\$14,400
Bus Garage (Sherbrooke)	Excavation Alexandre Goulet Inc.	\$10,200

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

10.3.2.3 Resolution No. ETSB 24-08-09

List of Proposed Projects under the Programs « *Maintien des bâtiments, Résorption du déficit de maintien et Travaux de Maintien d'Actif 2024-2025 (Mesure 50621, 50622 & 50627)* »

WHEREAS with these measures, 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 2024-2025 (Mesure 50621)*, to the program *Résorption du déficit de maintien 2024-2025 (Mesure 50622)* and the program *Travaux de maintien d'actif (Mesure 50627)*;

WHEREAS the following table indicates the list of projects:

Establishment	Budget	Project
A.D.S. Elementary School	\$600,000	Exterior walls (masonry, windows, exterior doors and gymnasium windows)
A.D.S. Elementary School	\$100,000	Network, communications, corridor lightings and fire alarm system
Ayer's Cliff Elementary School	\$300,000	Brick Pointing
Ayer's Cliff Elementary School	\$47,737	Emergency exit and roof access
Cookshire Elementary School	\$152,040	Roofing wing 1956
Heroes' Memorial Elementary School	\$2,172,796	Spandrels, brick pointing, balcony, classroom ceiling, foundation sealing
Knowlton Academy	\$800,000	Gym soundproofing and renovation
Knowlton Academy	\$500,000	Brick anchor restoration – Phase 2 of 4
Knowlton Academy	\$42,668	Emergency exit (exterior staircase)
North Hatley Elementary School	\$100,000	Roof Access
North Hatley Elementary School	\$130,099	Exterior stairs, exterior cladding, fencing and fire doors
Parkview Elementary School	\$237,820	Security lighting
Pope Memorial Elementary School	\$4,473	Replacement of the mechanical room door
Sherbrooke Elementary School	\$78,689	Network, communications, corridor lightings and fire alarm system
St-Francis Elementary School	\$500,000	Roofing basins
Sunnyside Elementary School	\$400,000	Secretariat Renovation
Sutton Elementary School	\$400,000	Library Roofing
Sutton Elementary School	\$200,000	Exterior doors replacement
Alexander Galt Regional High School	\$750,000	Aqueduc backyard drainage and paving - Phase 2 of 3
Massey-Vanier High School	\$385,000	Repair of roof
Massey-Vanier High School	\$179,000	Load distribution in electrical panels
Massey-Vanier High School	\$175,000	Replacement of fire detection and alarm systems
Massey-Vanier High School	\$348,000	Replacement sanitary blocks
Richmond Regional High School	\$1,416,222	Replacement of lighting, fire doors
Board Office	\$525,000	Adult Ed – Final Renovation Phase
New Horizons	\$300,000	ESE (Lightings)

WHEREAS each project and/or project's budget could be slightly adjusted for balancing purposes;

WHEREAS the said list of the proposed priorities presented at the Executive Committee on August 27th 2024 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 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

The date of the next Audit Advisory Committee is scheduled for November 19, 2024.

10.4 Educational Advisory Committee (ESAC)

The Chair of the Educational Advisory Committee, M.E. Kirby mentioned that the date of the next meeting is scheduled for December 10, 2024.

10.5 Communications Advisory Committee

The Chair of the Communications Advisory Committee, H. Turgeon mentioned that the date of the next meeting is scheduled for December 3, 2024.

10.6 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 December 17, 2024.

10.7 Transportation Advisory Committee

The Chair of the Transportation Advisory Committee, Commissioner G. Holliday mentioned that he is thrilled to have enough bus drivers, meaning there are no vacancies. Also, the Marguerite Knapp building will soon be able to have chargers. The date of the next meeting is scheduled for November 19, 2024.

10.8 Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC)

The SEAC Chair and Parent Commissioner, E. McKnight mentioned that the date of the next meeting is **to be determined**.

11. PARENTS' COMMITTEE

The Commissioner representing parents, H. Turgeon mentioned that the date of the next meeting is scheduled for the 2nd week of October 2024.

12. STUDENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Commissioner J. Humenuik, representing the Student Advisory Committee, mentioned that we are looking for elementary school students, which will be challenging for the next few weeks. The date of the next meeting is **to be determined**.

13. QESBA

Chairman M. Murray reported the following:

Ongoing litigation: QESBA anticipates a judgment on Bill 40 this fall. We are relaunching a legal fundraising campaign for the next phase. We have raised over 500K for a court of appeal. Fundraising will export the relaunch at an event in late October. Tickets cost \$175.

QESBA with partners and English parent committee association are holding a Care Conference this fall (September 25-26, 2024). The conference will discuss the priorities of the English education.

Commissioner C. Beaubien mentioned that Commissioner F. MacGregor was on the QESBA committee with Chairman M. Murray. What happens now?

Chairman M. Murray replied that after the elections, we will have a list of positions to fill.

Commissioner J. Humenuik asked how much money is left for the legal challenge and if there is still a website to deposit money. Small donations are also welcomed.

Chairman M. Murray replied there is a broad indication. There is approximately 400K left after expenses, which is available for immediate use. Plus, there's an uncommitted reserve of QESBA of approximately 500K; not officially designated for legal support.

Go Fund Me: Has expired but people can donate through foundations like the Townshippers' Association. Donations will be tagged for the legal cause. Deep pocket funders supported the legal battles to date, but a 'Go Fund Me' will be relaunched and all of us (friends and neighbours) are encouraged to donate.

Commissioner Dan Nagle replied that he believes the 'Go Fund Me' is back up and accepting donations.

14. COMMISSIONER'S COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS

Commissioner G. Holliday: School yards, safety, buildings and grounds have improved for most of our schools and it shows! A big thank you to Buildings & Grounds. It is a safer environment for our students.

Commissioner T. Pezzi-Bilodeau: As this is her last meeting, she mentioned that she very much appreciated her time on the Council and would like to pass the torch to someone else. She wished us all the best for the next four years.

15. UPCOMING EVENTS

None.

16. CORRESPONDENCE**16.1 Letter to Commissioners from student Maélie Groulx**

The Commissioners received a letter from Maélie Groulx expressing her gratitude as the recipient of the Eastern Townships School Board Commissioners' Scholarship. She is honoured to have received the recognition of her efforts that she has made throughout her education. With this scholarship, she will be attending the Liberal Arts Program at Champlain Lennoxville and is motivated to keep excelling in her studies and will also make the most of this opportunity to continue working hard.

17. QUESTION PERIOD

No questions were asked.

18. GOVERNANCE AND COMMUNICATION

None.

19. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned on a motion by Commissioner T. Pezzi-Bilodeau at 8:07 p.m.

Shawn Champigny
Secretary General

Michael Murray
Chairman

SC/gm
08.27.2024