

EASTERN TOWNSHIPS SCHOOL BOARD

SPECIAL COUNCIL OF COMMISSIONERS

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 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	Pam Gougeon	P
Claire Beaubien	P	Sarah Langlois	P
Sandra Finlay	P	Eliza McKnight	P
Richard Gosselin	P	Jody Murray	P
Gary Holliday	Z	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
Jonathan Murray	P	Director of Human Resources – Caroline Dufresne	P
Michael Murray, Chair	P	Director of Instructional Technology and Pedagogical Services – Eva Lettner	P
Megan Seline	P	Director of Complementary Services – Emmanuelle Gaudet	P
Helene Turgeon	P	Director of Material Resources – Éric Plante	P

ZOOM (Z) – MEMBERS PRESENT (P) – MEMBERS ABSENT (A)

1. **CALL THE MEETING TO ORDER**

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

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

QUORUM WAS ESTABLISHED AND IT WAS MOVED BY Commissioner M. Murray to adopt the Agenda of November 12, 2024 as deposited.

Carried unanimously

3. **COMPLIANCE WITH THE PROCEDURES FOR CALLING THE SPECIAL MEETING**

The Chairman ascertained with the Secretary General that the procedure for calling the meeting complied with Article 165 of the Education Act.

All the Commissioners present have received the convocation within the prescribed delays.

Carried unanimously

4. **NEW BUSINESS**

The Secretary General, S. Champigny presented the following:

4.1 **Oath of Office for Commissioners Representing Parents**

OATH OF OFFICE – PROVINCE OF QUEBEC
EASTERN TOWNSHIPS SCHOOL BOARD (ETSB)

I, _____
First name Last name

Domiciled at _____
Domiciliary address

Having been appointed as Commissioner representing parents of the Eastern Townships School Board

_____ for elementary schools

_____ for high schools

_____ at large

_____ for the handicapped students or students with social maladjustments or learning disabilities (SEAC)

make an oath that I will faithfully discharge the duties of my office according to the best of my judgment and ability.

SIGNATURE

Signature of the elected person

Sworn before me, the undersigned, this 12th day of November 2024 in Magog, Quebec.

Shawn Champigny, Secretary General

The four Commissioners representing parents, Pam Gougeon, Sarah Langlois, Eliza McKnight and Jody Murray have been sworn in. Their form will be sent back to the Secretary General to be signed.

The Council Chair, M. Murray explained that there are six committees with some mandated by law while the others are locally created. There was a proposal that the same person chair both the Communications and Transportation Committees and another proposal that the situation of five chairs be maintained for a year.

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

4.2 Resolution No. ETSB 24-11-10 Committees' Structure

WHEREAS section 193.1 of the *Education Act* (EA) requires that the Council of Commissioners must establish the following committees:

- ✓ a Governance and Ethics Committee;
- ✓ an Audit Committee; and
- ✓ a Human Resources Committee.

WHEREAS section 185 of the EA requires that every school board shall establish an Advisory Committee on services for handicapped students and students with social maladjustments or learning disabilities;

WHEREAS section 188 of the EA requires that every school board which provides student transportation shall establish an Advisory Committee on Transportation. The composition, operation and functions of which shall meet the norms established by government regulation;

WHEREAS section 193.1 of the EA stipulates that the Council of Commissioners may establish other committees to assist it in the exercise of its functions or the examination of specific matters;

WHEREAS following discussions, the Eastern Townships School Board wants some additional committees, such as Communications and Educational Services;

WHEREAS it was decided to have the same advisory chair for the transportation and communications advisory committees for a period of one year;

WHEREAS each of these committees will have to elect a Chairperson;

WHEREAS the Chairperson of the school board is already part of the Executive Committee (EA section 179);

WHEREAS at least one Commissioner representing parents must be part of the Executive Committee (EA section 179);

WHEREAS if no Commissioners representing parents have been elected as a Chair of an Advisory Committee, a Commissioner representing parents must be elected by their peers to be part of the Executive Committee (EA section 179);

WHEREAS the term of Office of Members of the Executive Committee and advisory chairs (other than transportation and communications) be of two (2) years (EA section 179);

IT WAS MOVED BY Commissioner J. Murray that the Executive Committee will be established with the elected Advisory Committee Chairs including the Chairperson of the school board and at least one Commissioner representing parents.

Carried unanimously

4.3 Executive Committee and Advisory Committees

4.3.1 Resolution No. ETSB 24-11-11 Adoption of Election Process

IT WAS MOVED BY Commissioner Jody Murray that the following procedure for the election of a member as Vice-Chairman and members of the Executive Committee.

A President of Elections and two Scrutineers shall be chosen by members of the Council of Commissioners.

If more than the required number of candidates is nominated, an election shall be held by secret ballot.

Nominations: Nominees can nominate themselves or be nominated by someone else.

Adoption of a proposal to end the nominations.

The President of Elections verifies with each nominee in reverse order of the nomination if they accept to run as a candidate.

If there is more than one candidate, an election shall be held by secret ballot.

The candidate with the most votes will be declared elected.

Immediately following the reading of the results, the ballots shall be destroyed.

Carried unanimously

4.3.2 Resolution No. ETSB 24-11-12

Appointment of the President of Elections and of two scrutineers

IT WAS MOVED BY Commissioner C. Beaubien that S. Champigny be appointed as President of Elections and that K. Mackey and S. Leduc be appointed as Scrutineers.

Carried unanimously

4.3.3 Council of Commissioners – Vice-chair election (section 155)

155.1 The Council of Commissioners shall appoint, from among its members, the vice-chair of the school board.

The term of office of the vice-chair, unless removed by a vote of not less than two-thirds of the members of the Council of Commissioners who are entitled to vote, expires at the same time as the vice-chair's term as commissioner.

Commissioner C. Beaubien _____ nominated _____ Commissioner J. Humenuik _____

IT WAS MOVED BY Commissioner J. Murray that nominations cease.

○ J. Humenuik accepted.

Joy Humenuik is declared elected vice-chair of the Eastern Townships School Board.

Carried unanimously

4.3.4 Establishment and Composition of the Executive Committee and the Advisory Committees

As stated in the resolution No. ETSB 24-11-10, the Executive Committee will be composed of the Chairs of all Advisory Committees plus the Chair of the Council of Commissioners.

Carried unanimously

4.3.5 Term of Office Members

As stated in the resolution No. ETSB 24-11-10, the term of Office of Members on the Executive Committee be of two (2) years.

4.3.6 Election of the Chairs to the Advisory Committees

The President of Elections called for nominations for Chair of the Governance and Ethics Committee.

Commissioner J. Humenuik nominated Commissioner G. Barnett

IT WAS MOVED BY Commissioner S. Jersey that nominations cease.

- G. Barnett accepted.

Gordon Barnett is declared Chair of the Governance and Ethics Committee.

Carried unanimously

The President of Elections called for nominations for Chair of the Audit Committee.

Commissioner C. Beaubien nominated Commissioner J. Humenuik
Commissioner Jody Murray nominated Commissioner Richard Gosselin

IT WAS MOVED BY Commissioner S. Langlois that nominations cease.

- R. Gosselin declined;
- J. Humenuik accepted.

Joy Humenuik is declared elected Chair of the Audit Committee.

Carried unanimously

The President of Elections called for nominations for Chair of the Educational Advisory Committee.

Commissioner J. Humenuik nominated Commissioner M.E. Kirby

IT WAS MOVED BY Commissioner H. Turgeon that nominations cease.

- M. E. Kirby accepted.

Mary Ellen Kirby is declared elected Chair of the Educational Advisory Committee.

Carried unanimously

The President of Elections called for nominations for Chair of the Communications Advisory Committee and the Transportation Advisory Committee.

<u>Commissioner M. E. Kirby</u>	nominated	<u>Commissioner H. Turgeon</u>
<u>Commissioner G. Holliday</u>	nominated	<u>Himself</u>

IT WAS MOVED BY Commissioner Jody Murray that nominations cease.

- H. Turgeon and G. Holliday accepted.

Helene Turgeon is declared elected Chair of the Communications Advisory Committee and the Transportation Advisory Committee.

Carried unanimously

The President of Elections called for nominations for Chair of the Human Resources Advisory Committee.

<u>Commissioner J. Humenuik</u>	nominated	<u>Commissioner C. Beaubien</u>
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IT WAS MOVED BY Commissioner E. McKnight that nominations cease.

- C. Beaubien accepted.

Claire Beaubien is declared elected Chair of the Human Resources Advisory Committee.

Carried unanimously

4.3.7 Election of one Commissioner Representing Parents to the Executive Committee

If no commissioners representing parents have been elected as a Chair of an Advisory Committee, a Commissioner representing parents must be elected by their peers to be part of the Executive Committee.

<u>Commissioner P. Gougeon</u>	nominated	<u>Herself</u>
<u>Commissioner Jody Murray</u>	nominated	<u>Commissioner E. McKnight</u>
<u>Commissioner S. Langlois</u>	nominated	<u>Herself</u>

IT WAS MOVED BY Commissioner S. Finlay that nominations cease.

- S. Langlois, E. McKnight and P. Gougeon accepted.

Eliza McKnight is declared elected Commissioner Representing Parents to the Executive Committee.

Carried unanimously

To summarize, the Executive Committee will be comprised of the following seven (7) Commissioners:

Chairman	Michael Murray
Chair of the Governance and Ethics Committee	Gordon Barnett
Vice-Chairman and Chair of the Audit Committee	Joy Humenuik
Chair of the Educational Services Committee	Mary Ellen Kirby
Chair of the Human Resources Committee	Claire Beaubien
Chair of the Transportation and Communications Committees	Helene Turgeon
Parent Commissioner to the Executive Committee	Eliza McKnight

4.4 Appeal committee (as per ETSB Policy P023-1)

By virtue of section 11 of the *Education Act*, the Council establishes an Appeal Committee composed of five members and substitutes it appoints annually.

4.4.1 Establishment and Composition of the Appeal Committee

As per the ETSB Policy P023-1, the establishment and composition of the Appeal Committee is the following:

- Three Commissioners elected or appointed pursuant to the *Act respecting school elections* (R.S.Q., c. E-2.3);
- One Commissioner representing Parents;
- One Administrator of the Board (school, centre or central office Administrator), not affiliated with the school/centre concerned.

4.4.2 Term of Office Members

According to the *Education Act*, the Term of Office of Members on the Appeal Committee will be one (2) years.

4.4.3 Appointment of Members

The President of Elections called for the nomination of commissioners as members to the Appeal Committee.

Commissioner G. Barnett	nominated	Himself
Commissioner S. Jersey	nominated	Himself
Commissioner J. Murray	nominated	Himself

Commissioner H. Turgeon	nominated	Herself
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IT WAS MOVED BY Commissioner E. McKnight that nominations for members on the Appeal Committee cease.

- S. Jersey declined.
- G. Barnett, J. Murray and H. Turgeon accepted.

Gordon Barnett, Jonathan Murray and Helene Turgeon are declared elected Commissioners as members to the Appeal Committee.

Carried unanimously

The President of Elections then called for nominations for a Commissioner representing the Parents on the Appeal Committee.

Commissioner P. Gougeon	nominated	Herself
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IT WAS MOVED BY Commissioner J. Humenuik that nominations for a Commissioner representing Parents on the Appeal Committee cease.

- P. Gougeon accepted.

Pam Gougeon is declared elected Commissioner representing the Parents on the Appeal Committee.

Carried unanimously

4.4.4 Appointment of Alternate Members

The President of Elections then called for nominations for the two Alternate Commissioner members on the Appeal Committee.

Commissioner J. Humenuik	nominated	Commissioner S. Jersey
Commissioner M. Murray	nominated	Commissioner R. Gosselin

IT WAS MOVED BY Commissioner R. Gosselin that nominations for Commissioners as alternate members of the Appeal Committee cease.

- R. Gosselin declined;
- S. Jersey accepted.

Shawn Jersey is declared elected as an Alternate Commissioner Member on the Appeal Committee.

Carried unanimously

The President of Elections then called for nominations for one Commissioner representing the Parents as an alternate member on the Appeal Committee.

Commissioner Jody Murray nominated Herself

IT WAS MOVED BY Commissioner J. Humenuik that the nominations for a Commissioner representing the Parents as an alternate member of the Appeal Committee cease.

- Jody Murray accepted.

Jody Murray is declared elected Commissioner representing the Parents as an alternate member on the Appeal Committee.

Carried unanimously

To summarize, the members of the Appeal Committee are as follows:

Commissioners: Gordon Barnett Jonathan Murray Helene Turgeon	Commissioner representing parents: Pam Gougeon
Alternate Commissioner: Shawn Jersey	Alternate Commissioner representing parents: Jody Murray

4.5 Resolution No. ETSB 20-11-13

Release of the President of Elections and of the two scrutineers and Destruction of Ballots

IT WAS MOVED BY Commissioner M. E. Kirby to release the President of Elections and the two Scrutineers from their duties and to destroy the ballots.

Carried unanimously

5. QUESTION PERIOD

Maude Fauteux

Teacher:

My question is about francization cut-off: It has been mentioned by the Minister of Immigration that there were no cuts, but that the CSS and School Boards have mismanaged their budget. Why didn't the DG's defend themselves?

M. Murray

Chairman: We are fundamentally aware that the *ministère de l'Éducation du Québec (MEQ)* pretends that there are no cuts to the francization budget. They brought back the funding to the level of the beginning of the pandemic, which was much lower than today. According to the *MEQ* directives, we cannot reallocate funds, therefore we cannot take funds away from other programs.

Maude Fauteux
Teacher:

Students are willing to give contributions. Is this possible?

M. Murray
Chairman:

We want to offer alternatives, but this one has not been looked into at the time being.

Maude Fauteux
Teacher:

July 1st 2024, teachers received a one (1) year contract. In September, we received a letter mentioning that the contract will come to an end in November 2024. Was the School Board aware of this when the letters were sent out and why didn't they say anything before?

M. Murray
Chairman:

The preliminary budgets were only received July 7, 2024 after the letters had been sent. Considering it was the summer period, it was difficult to get additional information from the government. The information was sent out as soon as we were able to obtain more precise information.

Maude Fauteux
Teacher:

A petition was sent to the National Assembly. We would like to add the ETSB to the petition.

M. Murray
Chairman:

We will look into it.

Timothy Croteau
Teacher & ATA Union President:

ATA congratulates all new Commissioners and asks if sub-committee notes can be made public?

M. Murray

Chairman:

Not really decisional. Sub-committees' notes are not made public. However, they make recommendations that could be brought to the Council of Commissioners, which is public.

Martin Roberts

ATA Representative:

Is there a Code of conduct in our schools that align with the School Board? Do you have any interest?

M. Murray

Chairman:

This is an interesting proposition. We will look into it.

Peter Maingot

MVHS Teacher & ATA Representative:

Are you considering in hiring an educational coach? Former Director of HR, Jeff Pauw would be ideal, since he has experience in schools as a teacher and in HR.

M. Murray

Chairman:

Thank you for your suggestion. We will take it into consideration.

Linda Mireault

Sutton Teacher & ATA Representative:

Quebec Educational Careers: The wellbeing of students and staff is posted on the ETSB Website. The staff feels the opposite of what is being projected on the Website. Budgets seem to have dissipated.

M. Murray

Chairman:

That is an interesting comment. Thank you for expressing your concern. We were not aware of reducing the budgets of our staff. It is concerning to hear these impressions. We have heard you and will inquire further to improve the situation.

6. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned on a motion by Commissioner M. E. Kirby at 8:19 p.m.

Shawn Champigny
Secretary General

Michael Murray
Chairman