

Approved minutes of the regular meeting of the Council of Commissioners of the Central Québec School Board held on Wednesday, February 21, 2024, at 7 p.m. at the Board Office, 2046 chemin Saint-Louis, Québec (Québec) G1T 1P4 and on TEAMS platform.

Present:	Stephen Burke	Chairman
	Debbie Cornforth	Parent Commissioner (by TEAMS)
	David Eden	Commissioner
	Christian Falle	Parent Commissioner (by TEAMS)
	Debbie Ford-Caron	Commissioner (by TEAMS)
	André Gosselin	Commissioner
	Jessie Greene	Parent Commissioner (by TEAMS)
	Chantal Guay	Commissioner
	Jason Kilganan	Parent Commissioner
	Cameron Lavallee	Commissioner
	Ian O’Gallagher	Commissioner
	Stephen Pigeon	Director General
	Jean Robert	Vice-chairman
	Jo Rosenhek	Commissioner
	Jo-Ann Toulouse	Commissioner (by TEAMS)
Absent:	Heather Clibbon	Commissioner
	France Pedneault	Commissioner
In Attendance:	Jacob Dussault-Marcoux	Recording Secretary
	Stephane Lagace	Director of Educational Services
	Vincent Laliberté	Secretary General
	Anissa Landry	Director of Financial Services
	Nancy L’Heureux	Assistant Director General and Director of Human Resources
	Benoit Sévigny	Director of Buildings & Equipment, and Information Technologies

24-02.01 Call to Order

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

24-02.02 Native Land Recognition Statement

We would like to begin by acknowledging, honouring, and paying respect to our First Nations Communities; the traditional owners and custodians of the land on which we gather for this event today.

24-02.03 Approval of the Agenda

It was MOVED by C. Guay, SECONDED by J. Rosenhek and unanimously RESOLVED; THAT the agenda be approved as presented.

24-02.04 **Presentation of the Annual Report 2022-2023**

Since no public was present, there was no Presentation of the Annual Report for the year 2022-2023.

24-02.05 **Public Question Period**

There were no questions.

24-02.06 **Question Period for Students**

No students were present.

24-02.07 **Correspondence from Students**

No correspondence was received.

24-02.08 **Complaints**

No complaints were received.

24-02.09 **Approval of the Minutes of the Regular Meeting Held on January 24, 2024**

It was MOVED by J. Kilganan, SECONDED by I. O’Gallagher and unanimously RESOLVED; THAT the minutes of the regular meeting of the Council of Commissioners held on Wednesday, January 24, 2024, be accepted as presented.

24-02.10 **Business Arising from the Minutes**

No business arose from the minutes.

24-02.11 **Report from the Chairman**

The Chairman provided a report to the Commissioners on the following items:

- LRAC Presentation – January 26th
- QESBA Executive Committee Meeting – February 1st
- QESBA Board Meeting – February 2nd
- CBC Radio Interview and Breakaway with Alison Brunette – February 7th
- Agenda Meeting – February 12th
- Meeting with Citadel Foundation – February 14th

24-02.12 **Director General’s Report**

The Director General formally addressed the Council and provided a report on the following items:

- a) Update from Educational Services

24-02.12

Director General's Report (continued)

- b) Update from Buildings & Equipment and Information Technologies
Benoît Sévigny, director of Buildings & Equipment, did a report on the construction work progress. The roof was completed at the Riverside Regional Elementary School, leaving the exterior and interior walls next. As for the New Liverpool Elementary School, pictures of classrooms, music and art rooms were shown to give an idea of what the new facility would look like once finished.
- c) Update from Human Resources

N. L'Heureux, Assistant Director General and Director of Human Resources, did a report on the negotiations; all unions have agreed to the agreement in principle. The agreement won't be applied this year but at the beginning of the 2024–2025 school year. On another note, members of our HR Recruitment Team were sent to universities across the country to attend job fairs in various universities. The outcome was promising as some expressed interests in our job opportunities, even willing to move to Québec.
- d) Update from Financial Services
- e) Update from Secretariat General
Vincent Laliberté, Secretary General, informed the commissioners that membership of a new insurance group would have to be agreed through a motion passed by the council.

24-02.13

Strategic Planning

N. L'Heureux presented the update on the Action Plans and Commitment-to-success plan for the month of February. S. Lagacé, director of Educational Services, highlighted the full participation of the principals in the school survey, showing their dedication to the Commitment-to-Success Plan.

24-02.14

New Business

- a) Budget Management Process 2024–2025 – Youth Sector (adoption)

WHEREAS section 96.25 of the Education Act stipulates that school principals shall participate in defining school board policies;

WHEREAS sections 78 and 193 of the Education Act provide for consultation of school governing boards and the Parents' Committee on various matters concerning the organization of services provided by the School Board;

New Business (continued)

a) Budget Management Process 2024–2025 – Youth Sector (adoption) (continued)

WHEREAS section 275 of the Education Act stipulates that “the school board shall establish objectives and principles governing the allocation of subsidies, school tax proceeds and its other revenues”;

WHEREAS the Central Québec School Board determines these objectives and principles annually in the Budget Management Process;

WHEREAS the draft Budget Management Process – Youth Sector for the 2024–2025 school year was deposited for consultation to the Council of Commissioners on January 24, 2024;

WHEREAS appropriate consultation has taken place;

It was MOVED by A. Gosselin, SECONDED by D. Eden and unanimously RESOLVED; THAT the Council of Commissioners accept the Budget Management Process – Youth Sector for the 2024–2025 school year as presented.

b) Budget Management Process 2024–2025 – Adult Education and Vocational Training (adoption)

WHEREAS section 110.14 of the Education Act stipulates that centre principals shall participate in defining school board policies;

WHEREAS section 110.14 of the Education Act provides for consultation of centre governing boards on various matters concerning the organization of services provided by the School Board;

WHEREAS section 275 of the Education Act stipulates that “the school board shall establish objectives and principles governing the allocation of subsidies, school tax proceeds and its other revenues”;

WHEREAS the Central Québec School Board determines these principles and objectives annually in the Budget Management Process;

WHEREAS the draft Budget Management Process for the 2024–2025 school year was deposited for consultation to the Council of Commissioners on January 24, 2024;

WHEREAS appropriate consultation has taken place;

It was MOVED by C. Guay, SECONDED D. Ford-Caron by and unanimously RESOLVED; THAT the Council of Commissioners accept the Budget Management Process – Adult and Vocational Training Sector for the 2024–2025 school year as presented.

New Business (continued)c) **Modification to the School Calendar for the Québec City Area 2023–2024**

WHEREAS section 238 of the Education Act stipulates that every school board shall establish the school calendar of its schools, taking into account the provisions of the basic school regulation;

WHEREAS the teachers' collective agreement provides for a committee that is consulted on the school calendar;

WHEREAS the timing of the April 8th solar eclipse, which will be visible between 2:13 p.m. and 5:44 p.m. in the great Québec City Region, will make it impossible to ensure the supervision of students as they are walking home, taking the bus or commuting, etc;

WHEREAS, according to the *Directeur national de la santé publique*, there are serious risks to eyesight if proper precautions are not taken;

WHEREAS the Administrative Council has decided that Monday, April 8, 2024, be a pedagogical day to guarantee the safety of students after dismissal at the end of the day;

WHEREAS the Council of Commissioners has preliminarily discussed that the April 12th pedagogical day be moved to April 8th;

WHEREAS the Calendar Committee has been consulted on this amendment, voted unanimously in favour, and therefore recommends the adoption of the Revised Québec City School Calendar (Youth Sector) for the 2023–2024 school year;

It was MOVED by I O'Gallagher, SECONDED by D. Eden and unanimously RESOLVED; THAT the Central Québec School Board accept the school calendar (Québec City – Youth Sector) for the 2023–2024 school year as presented in its amended version.

d) **Membership to the Insurance Purchasing Group**

CONSIDÉRANT l'expérience financièrement avantageuse, vécue les années passées, par les regroupements de certains centres de services scolaires pour l'obtention d'un portefeuille d'assurances de dommages ;

CONSIDÉRANT QU'il serait avantageux de regrouper dans un seul regroupement, le regroupement de l'Est-du-Québec, d'Estrie-Montérégie et celui des centres de services scolaires des Mille-Îles et de Laval ;

d) Membership to the Insurance Purchasing Group (continued)

CONSIDÉRANT QUE le Centre de services scolaire de la Région-de-Sherbrooke a accepté de représenter les centres de services scolaires membres du regroupement auprès de la firme de conseillers en gestion de risques Gestion Turcot & Associés Inc. ;

CONSIDÉRANT QU'il serait dans l'intérêt de la Commission scolaire Central Québec d'adhérer à ce nouveau regroupement d'achat d'assurances de dommages ;

CONSIDÉRANT l'évolution du marché de l'assurance au Québec au cours des dernières années ;

CONSIDÉRANT la recommandation du conseiller du regroupement quant aux avantages financiers potentiels de prévoir la durée du contrat de service d'assurances de dommages d'une durée de 3 ans, soit 1 an ferme et 2 années d'option ;

CONSIDÉRANT QUE l'article 42.0.2 du Règlement sur les contrats de services des organismes publics prévoit la possibilité d'options de renouvellement pour ce type de contrat de services ;

CONSIDÉRANT QUE l'article 46 du Règlement sur les contrats de services des organismes publics stipule que l'autorisation du dirigeant de l'organisme public est requise pour tout contrat de nature répétitive dont la durée prévue, incluant tout renouvellement, est supérieur à 3 ans ;

Il est PROPOSÉ par J. Rosenhek, APPUYÉ par C. Lavallee, et RÉSOLU à l'unanimité :

D'ADHÉRER au nouveau regroupement composé de l'Est-du-Québec, d'Estrie-Montérégie et celui des centres de services scolaires des Mille-Îles et de Laval pour le renouvellement de ses assurances de dommages pour l'année 2024-2025, pour les portefeuilles d'assurance véhicules, biens, crimes et bris de machines ; et

DE MANDATER la firme Gestion Turcot & Associés Inc. pour procéder à un appel d'offres public pour le renouvellement de la couverture d'assurances de dommages pour les portefeuilles d'assurances véhicules, biens, crimes et bris de machines ; et

DE MANDATER le Centre de services scolaire de la Région-de-Sherbrooke pour réaliser l'appel d'offres public selon les politiques et procédures en vigueur à ce centre de services scolaire et d'accepter d'être responsable au même titre que celui-ci pour le présent mandat ; et

DE S'ENGAGER à accepter, après présentation du rapport d'analyse de la firme Gestion Turcot & Associés Inc., soit d'octroyer un contrat de services d'assurances de dommages d'une durée de 3 ans, soit 1 an ferme et 2 années d'option avec la ou les firme(s) déterminée(s) à la suite d'un appel d'offres public pour l'ensemble des centres de services scolaires participant au regroupement ; et

24-02.14

New Business (continued)

d) Membership to the Insurance Purchasing Group (continued)

D'AUTORISER Vincent Laliberté, secrétaire général de la Commission scolaire Central Québec, à signer tout document découlant de la présente résolution.

e) Communications Policy (for consultation)

The Communications Policy was received for consultation purposes. The final document will be presented for adoption at an upcoming Council of Commissioners Meeting to be held on April 17, 2024.

24-02.15

Committee Reports

a) Executive Committee

No meeting was held.

b) Parents' Committee

A meeting was held on February 13, 2024.

D. Cornforth did a report on the last Parents' Committee meeting: the integration process was discussed, and members shared how new families are welcomed at their schools, for children joining at the kindergarten level.

Anissa Landry, director of financial services, presented the Budget Management Process for the Youth Sector.

c) Special Needs Advisory Committee

No meeting was held.

d) Transport Advisory Committee

A meeting was held on January 31, 2024.

The M Transport application, which informs parents of the whereabouts of their children as they get on and off the bus and if there are any delays in the bus route, is currently serving 216 students, including six buses in the Québec City Area. This system, which is on a voluntary basis, has also been implemented outside the CQSB; in cities like Montreal, and other provinces such as Ontario and British Columbia.

24-02.15

Committee Reports (continued)

d) Transport Advisory Committee (continued)

C. Lavallee, Chair of the Transport Advisory Committee, shared with the council that a new Transportation Policy would be deposited in the near future. Commissioner J. Kilganan asked about the use of “harnesses” in our school buses. Commissioner C. Lavallee answered that more information would come at the time of the deposit.

e) Audit Committee

No meeting was held.

f) Evaluation of the Director General

No meeting was held.

g) Ethics and Governance Committee

No meeting was held.

h) Human Resources Committee

No meeting was held.

i) Resource Allocation Committee

No meeting was held.

24-02.16

Quebec English School Boards Association

a) Report from the Board of Directors

D. Ford-Caron and S. Burke did a report on the following topics:

For the Spring Conference, since most rooms are taken at the nearest hotels, commissioners interested in attending should book as soon as possible, lest they end up far away from the venue.

There is a new Executive Director at QESBA but nothing particular to report from them so far.

The next meeting will be held on April 5th.

24-02.16 **Quebec English School Boards Association (continued)**

b) Report from Committees

No report was made.

24-02.17 **Next meeting**

The next regular meeting will be held on March 20, 2024.

24-02.18 **Question period**

a) Public

There were no questions.

b) Commissioners

La Tuque Achievements

Commissioner C. Guay highlighted some achievements made by the La Tuque High School and its community. Among them are the Appreciation Week for Teachers and Support Staff, the Vernissage where art pieces were shown and sold by students, the *Brigade culinaire* from LTHS, the Soap Box Race organized by two students from LTHS and financed by the *Budget Jeunesse*, a Talent Show in which francophone students also participated, *Journée de l'entrepreneur*, the planting of 7, 500 trees by students of both French and English schools of the region, and many more. Commissioner C. Guay is proud of her community that has come a long way and become more involved over the years. The Chairman thanked Ms. Guay and deemed it important to recognize the work of the teachers and staff that participated. Mr Burke was pleased to hear that the francophone and anglophone communities mingled and worked alongside in these various projects.

Bullying and Violence

Commissioner D. Ford-Caron brought the subject of bullying and violence since the media has been covering situations happening in some French schools. An update of our policy might be in order, regarding technologies used by the students to bring about an awareness of the harm that can be done with the use of; cellphones, tablets and the use of social medias, to name a few.

24-02.18 **Question period (continued)**

b) Commissioners (continued)

Stephen Pigeon, Director General, assured the commissioners that the CQSB is going above and beyond in regard to the application of Anti-bullying and Anti-violence Plan (ABAV). For instance, kindergarten students are taught about bullying and how to respond to it through roleplay sessions; students that come up with anti-bullying plans are supported by their school and a student committee is also created for the purpose of ABAV awareness; each of our 19 establishments have a policy and action plan that must be submitted to their governing boards every year; a copy of that action plan is also sent to the Student Ombudsman; the school board collaborates with our establishments through School Climate Consultants, etc.

24-02.19 **In-camera session**

No in-camera session was held.

24-02.20 **Adjournment**

The meeting was ADJOURNED at 8:36 p.m. on a motion by C. Guay.

Vincent Laliberté
Secretary General

Stephen Burke
Chairman

Approved on March 20, 2024.