

Approved minutes of the regular meeting of the Council of Commissioners of the Central Québec School Board held on Wednesday, December 13, 2023, at 7 p.m. on TEAMS platform.

Present:	Stephen Burke	Chairman
	Heather Clibbon	Commissioner
	Debbie Cornforth	Parent Commissioner
	David Eden	Commissioner
	André Gosselin	Commissioner
	Chantal Guay	Commissioner
	Jason Kilganan	Parent Commissioner
	Cameron Lavallee	Commissioner
	Ian O'Gallagher	Commissioner
	France Pedneault	Commissioner
	Stephen Pigeon	Director General
	Jean Robert	Vice-chairman
	Jo Rosenhek	Commissioner
	Jo-Ann Toulouse	Commissioner
Absent:	Christian Falle	Parent Commissioner
	Debbie Ford-Caron	Commissioner
	Jessie Greene	Parent Commissioner
In Attendance:	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

23-12.01 Call to Order

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

23-12.02 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.

23-12.03 Approval of the Agenda

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

23-12.04 Public Question Period

There were no questions.

23-12.05 Question Period for Students

No students were present.

23-12.06 Correspondence from Students

No correspondence was received.

23-12.07 Complaints

No complaints were received.

23-12.08 Approval of the Minutes of the Regular Meeting Held on November 15, 2023

It was MOVED by J. Kilganan, SECONDED by C. Lavallee and unanimously RESOLVED; THAT the minutes of the regular meeting of the Council of Commissioners held on Wednesday, November 15, 2023, be accepted as presented.

23-12.09 Business Arising from the Minutes

No business arose from the minutes.

23-12.10 Report from the Chairman

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

- QESBA Executive Committee – November 16th
- CQSB Audit Committee – November 29th
- Agenda Meeting – November 29th
- QESBA Board of Directors – December 1st

23-12.11 Director General's Report

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

- a) Update from Educational Services
- b) Update from Buildings & Equipment and Information Technologies
- c) Negotiation Update
- d) Labour Relations Committees
 - i. Senior Staff of Service – Directors, Coordinators and Management Staff
 - ii. Senior Staff of Schools and Centre – Principals
 - iii. Teachers
 - iv. Professionals
 - v. Support Staff

23-12.12 Strategic Planning

The Assistant Director General, Nancy L'Heureux, reported on the progress of the action plans for the month of December.

23-12.13 New Business

a) Criteria for the Admission and Enrolment of Students 2024-2025 (adoption)

WHEREAS appropriate consultation on the draft Criteria for the Admission and Enrolment of students for the 2024-2025 school year has taken place,

WHEREAS Section 239 of the Education Act stipulates that the criteria must be adopted, put into force, and sent to each governing board at least 15 days before the beginning of the student enrolment period;

WHEREAS the enrolment period for the 2024-2025 school year will be from February 5, 2024, to February 16, 2024;

It was MOVED by I. O'Gallagher, SECONDED by F. Pedneault, and unanimously RESOLVED; THAT pursuant to Sections 4, 213, and 239 of the Education Act, the Central Québec School Board adopt the Criteria for the admission and enrolment of students for the 2024-2025 school year as presented.

b) Choice of Date of Annual Public Meeting to Present the Annual Report (adoption)

WHEREAS as per Section 220 of the Education Act, every school board must invite the public to an information meeting at least once a year;

WHEREAS public notice specifying the date, time and place of the meeting must be given not less than 15 days before it is held;

WHEREAS during the meeting, the commissioners must present the content of the annual report and answer any questions concerning the report;

It was MOVED by H. Clibbon, SECONDED by J.-A. Toulouse, and unanimously RESOLVED; THAT the Council of Commissioners sets the date of Annual Public Meeting to present the annual report to February 21, 2024.

c) Division of the Territories of the School Board for the Electoral Map (adoption)

WHEREAS the Act Respecting School Elections requires that the territory of school boards be divided into electoral divisions according to the number of electors;

WHEREAS at the November 15, 2023, meeting of the Council of Commissioners a resolution was adopted accepting the proposal for the division of the territory of the school board into eleven electoral divisions;

New Business (continued)c) Division of the Territories of the School Board for the Electoral Map (adoption) (continued)

WHEREAS a public notice was published giving electors 15 days to signify their disagreement with the proposal and no notices were received during the period;

WHEREAS the Act Respecting School Elections requires school boards to adopt the final electoral divisions no later than December 31 of the year preceding the election;

It was MOVED by C. Guay, SECONDED by D. Eden, and unanimously RESOLVED; THAT in accordance with the Act Respecting School Elections, the Central Québec School Board adopt the proposal for the division of its territory into eleven (11) electoral divisions as presented; and

THAT as provided for in the Act Respecting School Elections, a copy of this resolution and the description of the electoral divisions be submitted to the *Commission de la représentation électorale* at the *Directeur général des élections du Québec*.

d) Deposit of 2022–2023 Financial Statements

A. Landry, Director of Financial Services, made a detailed presentation on the CQSB's Financial Statements.

WHEREAS the audited financial statements for the 2022–2023 school year had been received by the Director General and presented to the Audit Committee on November 29, 2023;

WHEREAS the audited financial statements were submitted to the Council of Commissioners as required by the Education Act;

It was MOVED by J. Kilganan, SECONDED by J. Robert and unanimously RESOLVED; THAT the audited financial statements for the 2022–2023 school year be received.

e) Entente relative à la collaboration entre la commission scolaire et les corps de police à des fins de prévention et d'enquêtes ainsi qu'aux interventions de leurs membres en cas d'urgence ou de signalement d'un acte d'intimidation ou de violence

ATTENDU QUE la Commission scolaire a pour mission, en vertu de l'article 207.1 de la Loi sur l'instruction publique (RLRQ, chapitre I-13.3), d'organiser, au bénéfice des personnes relevant de sa compétence, les services éducatifs prévus par cette loi et par les régimes pédagogiques établis par le gouvernement ;

- e) Entente relative à la collaboration entre la commission scolaire et les corps de police à des fins de prévention et d'enquêtes ainsi qu'aux interventions de leurs membres en cas d'urgence ou de signalement d'un acte d'intimidation ou de violence (continued)

ATTENDU QUE la Commission scolaire a également pour mission, en vertu de l'article 207.1 de cette loi, de promouvoir et valoriser l'éducation publique sur son territoire, de veiller à la qualité des services éducatifs et à la réussite des élèves en vue de l'atteinte d'un plus haut niveau de scolarisation et de qualification de la population et de contribuer, dans la mesure prévue par la loi, au développement social, culturel et économique de sa région ;

ATTENDU QUE la Commission scolaire veille, en vertu de l'article 210.1 de cette loi, à ce que chacune de ses écoles offre un milieu d'apprentissage sain et sécuritaire de manière à ce que tout élève qui la fréquente puisse y développer son plein potentiel, à l'abri de toute forme d'intimidation ou de violence et qu'à cette fin, elle soutient les directeurs de ses écoles au regard de la lutte contre l'intimidation et la violence ;

ATTENDU QUE le Corps de police ainsi que chacun de ses membres ont pour mission, selon leur compétence respective énoncée notamment aux articles 48, 50 et 69 de la Loi sur la police (RLRQ, chapitre P-13.1), de maintenir la paix, l'ordre et la sécurité publique, de prévenir et de réprimer le crime et les infractions aux lois ou aux règlements pris par les autorités municipales sur le territoire de la municipalité à laquelle il est rattaché, dans le territoire pour lequel il est établi ainsi que sur tout autre territoire sur lequel il assure des services policiers et d'en rechercher les auteurs ;

ATTENDU QUE l'article 214.1 de la Loi sur l'instruction publique prévoit qu'une commission scolaire et l'autorité de qui relève chacun des Corps de police desservant son territoire doivent conclure une entente concernant les modalités d'intervention des membres du Corps de police en cas d'urgence ainsi que lorsqu'un acte d'intimidation ou de violence leur est signalé et visant à mettre en place un mode de collaboration aux fins de prévention et d'enquêtes ;

ATTENDU QUE le Règlement sur les ententes des commissions scolaires relatives à la collaboration à des fins de prévention et d'enquêtes avec les corps de police ainsi qu'aux interventions de leurs membres en cas d'urgence ou de signalement d'un acte d'intimidation ou de violence (RLRQ, chapitre I-13.3, r. 6.1, ci-après le « Règlement ») établit les éléments essentiels et les modalités particulières que doivent respecter de telles ententes ;

ATTENDU QUE cette entente tient compte des mandats, des directives et des procédures d'intervention propres à chacune des parties ;

EN CONSÉQUENCE, il est PROPOSÉ par I. O'Gallagher, APPUYÉ par F. Pedneault et RÉSOLU à l'unanimité ; QUE la Commission scolaire Central Québec, représentée par le Directeur général, M. Stephen Pigeon, soit autorisée à signer l'Entente relative à la collaboration entre la commission scolaire et les corps de police à des fins de prévention et d'enquêtes ainsi qu'aux interventions de leurs membres en cas d'urgence ou de signalement d'un acte d'intimidation ou de violence.

New Business (continued)f) Hiring of a General Contractor: Board Office Renovation Work

WHEREAS considering that the needs of certain departments have increased, and that the need for workspace is also on the rise;

WHEREAS considering that an extension of the premises is not feasible;

WHEREAS considering that the only way to enable efficient organization of work is to reorganize interior spaces to create the necessary space for workers;

WHEREAS plans and specifications were prepared and a public call for tenders for general contractors was published on SEAO on October 19, 2023, and the envelopes were opened on November 16, 2023;

WHEREAS the architect has recommended that the lowest tender be accepted as it met the requirements and specifications of the project;

It was MOVED by D. Cornforth, SECONDED by A. Gosselin and unanimously RESOLVED; THAT the Central Québec School Board's Council of Commissioners accept the lowest tender that met the specifications for the renovation works at the Board Office (2046, Chemin Saint-Louis, Québec, QC G1T 1P4) as submitted by Construction Bruno Blanchette/9048-6473 Québec Inc. (743, Rue des Chaînon, Québec, QC G1C 7V4), in the amount of \$261,163.00 (*taxes not included*); and

THAT the Director General be authorized to sign the contract on behalf of the School Board.

g) Motion to Become an Intervenor in the Constitutional Challenge to Bill 96

WHEREAS Bill 96, An Act respecting French, the official and common language of Québec, was assented to on June 1, 2022;

WHEREAS the same day the English Montreal School Board brought an application to challenge the constitutionality of numerous provisions of Bill 96 and the Charter of the French Language;

WHEREAS the English Montreal School Board's constitutional challenge to Bill 96 has been joined with the constitutional challenges of other parties and is progressing through the court system though, like all constitutional challenges, it is expected to be a lengthy process;

WHEREAS amendments to the Charter of the French Language that came into force on June 1, 2023, would require that English language school boards communicate with key institutions of the English-speaking community, such as the Quebec English School Boards Association, in French exclusively;

g) Motion to Become an Intervenor in the Constitutional Challenge to Bill 96 (continued)

WHEREAS on September 29, 2023, the *Office québécois de la langue française* provided the English Montreal School Board with an interpretation of provisions of Bill 96 and the Charter of the French Language, which would effectively require that most internal written communications at the English Montreal School Board be conducted in French;

WHEREAS such an interpretation would also require that most written communications between commissioners of English-language school boards be conducted in French;

WHEREAS such an interpretation would also require that most written communications between English-language school boards be conducted in French;

WHEREAS the Québec Court of Appeal in its decision on the stay of Bill 40 recently reaffirmed that section 23 of the Canadian Charter prevents the province from interfering “with the linguistic and cultural concerns of the minority”;

WHEREAS implementing provisions of Bill 96 and the Charter of the French Language, as interpreted by the *Office québécois de la langue française*, would fundamentally alter the linguistic culture;

WHEREAS implementing provisions of Bill 96 and the Charter of the French Language, as interpreted by the *Office québécois de la langue française*, would detract from the needs and priorities of the nine English language school boards, their students, parents and the broader community it serves;

WHEREAS all of these effects would lead to irreparable harm for the English-language community;

WHEREAS the Quebec English School Boards Association and all nine English school boards obtained a stay of Bill 40 in 2020, which was confirmed by the Québec Court of Appeal, based on the irreparable harm that implementing Bill 40 would cause to the English-speaking community, while waiting for a decision on the merits of the challenge;

It was MOVED by F. Pedneault, SECONDED by C. Lavallee and unanimously RESOLVED; THAT the Central Québec School Board become an intervenor in the constitutional challenge put forward by the English Montreal School Board; and

THAT the Central Québec School Board Council of Commissioners mandate the legal firm, Power Law, to institute on its behalf the appropriate legal proceeding.

23-12.14

Committee Reports

a) Executive Committee

No meeting was held.

b) Parents' Committee

A meeting was held on December 5, 2023.

c) Special Needs Advisory Committee

A meeting was held on November 27, 2023. J. Kilganan did a report and commented on the strike affecting the students with special needs. A presentation was also done by Stéphane Lagacé, Director of Educational Services.

d) Transport Advisory Committee

No meeting was held.

e) Audit Committee

A meeting was held on November 29, 2023.

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.

23-12.15

Quebec English School Boards Association

a) Report from the Board of Directors

S. Burke did a report on the following topics:

Bill 40, Bill 23, Bill 96, Conference on English Public Education (April 2024), Executive Director Search, Executive Director's Report.

23-12.15 **Quebec English School Boards Association (continued)**

b) Report from Committees

No report was made.

23-12.16 **Next meeting**

The next regular meeting will be held on January 24, 2024.

23-12.17 **Question period**

a) Public

There were no questions.

b) Commissioners

There were no questions.

23-12.18 **In-camera session**

No in-camera session was held.

23-12.19 **Adjournment**

The meeting was ADJOURNED at 8:40 p.m. on a motion by C. Guay.

Vincent Laliberté
Secretary General

Stephen Burke
Chairman