

Approved minutes of the regular meeting of the Council of Commissioners of the Central Québec School Board held on Wednesday, March 26, 2025, at 7 p.m. at the Board Office, 2046 chemin Saint-Louis, Québec (Québec) G1T 1P4 and on TEAMS platform.

Present:	Debbie Cornforth	Commissioner (by TEAMS)
	David Eden	Commissioner
	Christian Falle	Parent Commissioner (by TEAMS)
	Debbie Ford-Caron	Commissioner (by TEAMS)
	Karine Gauthier	Commissioner (by TEAMS)
	André Gosselin	Commissioner
	Chantal Guay	Commissioner
	Jason Kilganan	Parent Commissioner
	Stephane Lagacé	Director General
	Cameron Lavallee	Commissioner
	Ian O’Gallagher	Vice-chairman
	Shirley Picknell	Commissioner (by TEAMS)
	KayLee Richardson	Parent Commissioner
	Jean Robert	Chairman
	Jo-Ann Toulouse	Commissioner (by TEAMS)
	Jo Visser	Commissioner (by TEAMS)
Absent:	Linda Bechtiger	Parent Commissioner
In Attendance:	Julie Ann Bown	CQTA Vice-president (by TEAMS)
	Julien Duchamp	Director of Educational Services
	Leslie Dussault-Marcoux	Recording Secretary
	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 and Equipment, Information Technology and Purchasing

25-03.01 Call to Order

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

25-03.02 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.

25-03.03 Approval of the Agenda

It was MOVED by A. Gosselin, SECONDED by J. Kilganan and unanimously RESOLVED; THAT the agenda be approved as presented.

25-03.04 Public Question Period

CQTA Vice-president J. Bown asked if there were policies in place within our schools for staff protection, considering the rise in cases of bullying and violence across the province. Director General S. Lagacé answered that although there is no specific policy for our staff, the Health and Safety Committee will be reviewing the CNESST laws, identifying risks and coming up with an action plan for next Fall.

25-03.05 Question Period for Students

No students were present.

25-03.06 Correspondence from Students

No correspondence was received.

25-03.07 Complaints

The Secretary General made a report on a complaint regarding Student Services.

This complaint concerned a boarding point in a bus route and the review of a decision made by our School Transportation Services. The ombudsman's report agreed with the school board's measures, acknowledging that bussing practices were respected and that criteria in our Transportation Policy were met. The report ended with the recommendation of a few points to improve.

25-03.08 Approval of the Minutes Regular Meeting Held on February 26, 2025

It was MOVED by C. Guay, SECONDED by A. Gosselin and unanimously RESOLVED; THAT the minutes of the regular meeting of the Council of Commissioners held on Wednesday, February 26, 2025, be accepted as presented.

25-03.09 Business Arising from the Minutes

No business arose from the minutes.

25-03.10 Report from the Chairman

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

- Fraser Recovery Program request – February 19th
- Meeting with the Québec City English-speaking Community Foundation – March 10th
- Executive Committee Meeting – March 10th
- Meeting with the Secretary General – March 12th
- QESBA Professional Development Activity – March 15th

General Directorate's Report

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

a) Update from Educational Services

It was brought to the attention of the Council that registrations could be impacted by the government's change in their policy for eligibility certificates, no longer extending them by default, and that not every parent across our school board may be aware of this.

b) Update from Buildings & Equipment and IT

Construction of the 4 portable classrooms for the Jimmy Sandy Memorial School is well underway, and the delivery is scheduled for the start of the next school year. The teacher residences tendering process was postponed to April, since more time was needed to settle land aspects with the town of Shefferville. A resolution will be brought to the Council of Commissioners in the near future.

The Purchasing Department's efforts were acknowledged as they work hard to abide by the new government directives, facing the challenge of acquiring products in English that are locally made.

c) Update from Human Resources

Staff Appreciation Day was celebrated earlier this month, sending a small gift to all employees of the school board as well as the members of the Council of Commissioners.

In an effort to help with the retention of teachers in remote areas, an interview day was held at Jimmy Sandy Memorial School, giving candidates a chance to meet the students, visit the residences and familiarize themselves with their future work environment.

Interviews will be conducted in the next month to replace the head of the Human Resources Department and meetings with principals for staffing needs are scheduled within the next weeks.

d) Update from Communications

A guide to the Communications Policy, which was adopted last year, is in the works and should be completed before the end of April.

e) Update from Financial Services

The CQSB was selected by the government for an extra audit on March 31st, as this may be requested from any school board once every three years.

25-03.11 General Directorate's Report (continued)

f) Update from Secretariat General

The Executive Committee met to discuss the recommendations from the *Autorité des marchés publics* and a letter signed by the Chairman was sent in response. A revised policy will soon be presented for adoption to the Council and an internal guideline to consult the changes made will be provided as well.

g) Update from the General Directorate

On March 13th and 14th, Principals' Meetings were held in Québec City, gathering our Principals and Vice-principals for Educational Services and Human Resources centred sessions.

25-03.12 Strategic Planning

N. L'Heureux presented the updates on the Action Plans and Commitment-to-success plan for the month of March. The following topics were discussed:

- Partnership between the EQLC and the Jeffery Hale regarding the Social Integration Program for 2025–2026;
- Transfer of information (i.e., IEPs) from the Youth Sector to the Adult Education or Vocational Training;
- Collaboration of CQSB with *Centres de service scolaires* for internships/DEP;
- Reaching out to First Nations communities and the offers for Adult Education and Vocational Training;
- More advertisements is needed for programs in Adult Education and Vocational Training.

25-03.13 New Business

a) Update to the Goods and Services – Accounting Procedures

The Update to the Goods and Services – Accounting Procedures was received for consultation purposes.

b) Update to the Policy on Supply, Services and Construction Contracts

WHEREAS, on January 31, 2025, we received a public recommendation report from *l'Autorité des marchés publics* (AMP), which highlighted areas for improvement within our Purchasing Policy and Internal Guideline;

New Business (continued)b) Update to the Policy on Supply, Services and Construction Contracts (continued)

WHEREAS, on March 10, 2025, the Executive Committee reviewed the current policies in light of the recommendations from the AMP and identified the need for an amendment to the Policy on Supply, Service and Construction Contracts and to the Goods and Services – Accounting Procedures and Internal Control;

WHEREAS, following its review, the Executive Committee is now proposing the amendment to the documents, as presented in the Appendixes, for approval by the Council of Commissioners;

WHEREAS the proposed amendment aims to respect the recommendations from the AMP and better equip the CQSB staff in respecting its legal contracting obligations;

WHEREAS the Executive Committee has presented the proposed amendment to the Council of Commissioners for final approval, having ensured that all necessary consultations and reviews have been carried out;

It was MOVED by I. O’Gallagher, SECONDED by A. Gosselin, and unanimously RESOLVED; THAT the Council of Commissioners approves the amendment to the Policy on Supply, Service and Construction Contracts as presented in the Appendixes and in accordance with the recommendations of the *Autorité des marchés publics*.

c) Code of Ethics

The deposit of the Code of Ethics was tabled for the next meeting, as the school board is awaiting additional information from the Ministry of Education.

d) Auditor General of Québec (VGQ) Action Plan

An informal consultation assisted the framing of this resolution, allowing for the Commissioners to get answers to some questions, notably on the *protocole d’accueil*, the *agent de liaison* assigned to the transfer of information of Indigenous students, the job description for the *agent de liaison* to be posted, if they will be from the local community, and the potential help from government-funded francophone “Friendship Centres”. The Director General, the Assistant Director General and the Director of Educational Services provided explanations to each point, after which the resolution was approved as follows:

25-03.13

New Business (continued)

d) Auditor General of Québec (VGQ) Action Plan (continued)

WHEREAS the Auditor General of Québec conducted an audit to assess the effectiveness of measures taken by the Ministry of Education (MEQ) and the school bodies to improve the educational success of Indigenous students in the Québec public elementary and secondary school system, specifically focusing on student perseverance and closing the success gap;

WHEREAS the Auditor General's report identifies a need for a comprehensive strategy to improve educational outcomes for Indigenous students, as well as for specific, measurable indicators to guide school system actions and ensure culturally relevant learning environments;

WHEREAS the Auditor General has made several key recommendations, including the development of tools and solutions for Indigenous students, integrating Indigenous realities into curricula, providing safe and culturally relevant learning environments, ensuring adequate funding allocation, and offering ongoing training for school staff on Indigenous perspectives;

WHEREAS the Central Québec School Board is committed to upholding principles of equity, inclusion, and respect for Indigenous cultures and ensuring that all students, including Indigenous students, receive the support they need to succeed in their educational journeys;

It was MOVED by J-A Toulouse, SECONDED by C. Guay, and unanimously RESOLVED; THAT the Council of Commissioners adopts the *Plan d'action pour l'application des recommandations du Vérificateur général, Chapitre 4 - Réussite éducative des élèves autochtones* to improve the educational success of Indigenous students, in accordance with the recommendations of the Auditor General of Québec.

25-03.14

Committee Reports

a) Executive Committee

A meeting was held on March 10, 2025.

b) Parents' Committee

A meeting was held on March 12, 2025.

Parent Commissioner K. Richardson did a report on the last meeting: representatives from the English Parents' Committee Association (EPCA) joined the session and introduced their association through a presentation. The decision whether the CQSB Parents' Committee will join the EPCA or not was tabled to the next meeting, as the committee wishes to discuss this matter further.

25-03.14

Committee Reports (continued)

c) Special Needs Advisory Committee

No meeting was held.

d) Transport Advisory Committee

A meeting was held on March 11, 2025.

Commissioner C. Lavallee did a report on the last meeting; it was the first time the Transport Advisory Committee met this school year; a dossier sent to the Student Ombudsman was discussed; a meeting with the bus drivers took place recently and it was worth mentioning that fewer complaints about Transportation Services were being received this year.

d) Audit Committee

No meeting was held.

e) Evaluation of the Director General

No meeting was held.

f) Ethics and Governance Committee

No meeting was held.

g) Human Resources Committee

No meeting was held.

h) Resource Allocation Committee

No meeting was held.

25-03.15

Québec English School Boards Association

a) Report from the Board of Directors

Commissioner D. Ford-Caron reminded the Council of a few upcoming events such as some awards ceremonies for students as well as for the English community. Mrs. Ford-Caron also announced that she will be attending the Performing Arts Festival (PAF!) in Arvida, Saguenay.

The next meeting will be held Friday, March 28, 2025.

25-03.15 Québec English School Boards Association (continued)

b) Report from Committees

The Chairman mentioned the court cases' fundraising and his intention to bring more information back to the Council, once he gets a chance to speak with Kimberley Hamilton, Director of Communications and Special Projects.

25-03.16 Next meeting

The next regular meeting will be held on April 23, 2025.

25-03.17 Question period

a) Public

There were no questions.

b) Commissioners

There were no questions.

25-03.18 In-camera session

No in-camera session was held.

25-03.19 Adjournment

The meeting was ADJOURNED at 9:16 p.m. on a motion by D. Eden.

Vincent Laliberté
Secretary General

Jean Robert
Chairman

Approved on April 23, 2025.