



**Approved minutes of the Special Meeting of the Council of Commissioners of the Central Québec School Board held on Wednesday, May 27<sup>th</sup>, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. at the Board Office, 2046 chemin Saint-Louis, Québec (Québec) G1T 1P4.**

Present:	Stephen Burke	Chairman (videoconference)
	Heather Clibbon	Commissioner (videoconference)
	Sara Downs	Commissioner (videoconference)
	Christian Falle	Parent Commissioner (videoconference)
	Debbie Ford-Caron	Commissioner (videoconference)
	Chantal Guay	Commissioner (videoconference)
	Cameron Lavallee	Commissioner (videoconference)
	Wyna Marois	Commissioner (videoconference)
	Stephen Pigeon	Director General (videoconference)
	Jean Robert	Vice-Chairman (videoconference)
	Joanne Rosenhek	Commissioner (videoconference)
	Jo-Anne Toulouse	Commissioner (videoconference)
Absent:	Isabel Béland	Parent Commissioner
	Debbie Cornforth	Parent Commissioner
	Jason Kilganan	Parent Commissioner
	Esther Paradis	Commissioner
	Aline Visser	Commissioner
In Attendance:	Yves Lambert	President, CQTA (videoconference)
	Jill Goldberg	Director of Naskapi Liaison (videoconference)

**20-05B.01 Call to Order**

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

**20-05B.02 Approval of the Agenda**

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

**20-05B.03 Public Question Period**

Yves Lambert, President, CQTA asked a question regarding schools being open during the heat wave. The Director General, S. Pigeon, answered that there were no plans to close CQSB schools on Thursday, May 28, 2020 due to weather forecast.

**20-05B.04 Becoming Co-Applicant on Bill 40 court case**

WHEREAS the National Assembly introduced a bill to reform the province's public education system entitled *An Act to amend mainly the Education Act with regard to school organization and governance* ("Bill 40") on October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2019;

WHEREAS the English-speaking community in Quebec has expressed grave concerns with the effects of Bill 40 on the English-language minority's power of management and control protected by s. 23 of the *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms*;

WHEREAS the National Assembly gave assent to Bill 40 on February 8<sup>th</sup>, 2020;

WHEREAS Bill 40 provides for the election of the members of the boards of directors of the new English-language school service centres on November 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020;

WHEREAS the Quebec English School Boards Association ("QESBA") has launched a constitutional challenge to Bill 40 on May 15, 2020 filed jointly with Lester B. Pearson School Board and Mr. Adam Gordon, Chairman of the Sir-Wilfrid Laurier School Board Parents' Committee, as co-applicants;

WHEREAS, until a judgment on the merits is rendered, the application of Bill 40 will have significant harmful effects on s. 23 rightsholders' management and control;

WHEREAS the QESBA and its co-applicants have also applied for an exemption for all English-language school boards from Bill 40 until a final judgment on its constitutionality is rendered;

WHEREAS the Central Québec School Board wishes to be exempt from Bill 40 before a final judgment on its constitutionality is rendered;

It was MOVED by D. Ford-Caron, SECONDED by J. Rosenhek, and unanimously RESOLVED; THAT the Central Québec School Board expresses its full support for the QESBA and its co-applicants' challenge to Bill 40's constitutionality and;

THAT the Central Québec School Board also expresses its full support for QESBA and its co-applicants' application to obtain an exemption from Bill 40 for all English-language school boards in Quebec before a final judgment on its constitutionality and;

THAT the Central Québec School Board wishes to benefit from any exemption from Bill 40 granted by the courts in order to protect the power of management and control for s. 23 rightsholders residing in its territory before a judgment on Bill 40's constitutionality is rendered and;

THAT the Central Québec School Board shall mandate external lawyers to file a declaration of intervention in order to become a co-applicant in the constitutional challenge to Bill 40 and benefit from any exemption granted by the court from Bill 40 before a final judgment on its constitutionality is rendered.

**20-05B.05      Public Question Period**

There were no questions.

**20-05B.06      Adjournment**

The meeting was ADJOURNED at 7:14 p.m. on a MOTION by J. Robert.

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Stephen Pigeon  
Director General

Stephen Burke  
Chairman

Approved June 17, 2020