

**PROVINCE OF QUÉBEC**  
**Western Québec School Board**

Minutes of the **Council of Commissioners** meeting held on January 26, 2016 at the Western Québec School Board, 15 rue Katimavik, Gatineau, Québec, at 7:00 p.m.

**PRESENT:** Chair Shea, Commissioners Brunke, Daly, Dionne, Egan, Garbutt, Guy, Labadie, Larventz, McCrank, and Schaler, and Parent Commissioners Boucher, Davis, and Komm

**Personnel:**

Director of Buildings, Equipment, and Technology, P. Proulx

The Director General, P. Lamoureux, and the Secretary General / Director of Programs and Evaluation, Terry Kharyati were also present.

**REGRETS:** Commissioner Young, and Parent Commissioner Fenton

**Call to Order**

The Chair J. Shea called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m.

**C-15/16-68**

**Adoption of Agenda**

IT WAS MOVED by Commissioner Brunke that the agenda be adopted with the addition of a draft motion on Bill 86.

Carried unanimously

**C-15/16-69**

**Approval of Minutes – December 8, 2015**

IT WAS MOVED by Commissioner Brunke that the minutes of a meeting held on December 8, 2015 be approved as circulated.

Carried unanimously

**C-15/16-70**

**Approval of Minutes – January 13, 2016**

IT WAS MOVED by Commissioner Larventz that the minutes of a special meeting held on January 13, 2016 be approved as circulated.

Carried unanimously

**Chair's Report**

The Chair presented his written report. In addition to his written report, topics mentioned included:

-His visit at WQCC

-The tragedy that occurred in a Saskatchewan school. He will draft a letter of condolences

-PETES students will be attending a function at parliament hill on February 10, 2016.

**Director General's Report**

The Director General presented his written report. In addition, he presented information on the following topics:

-Recognition of the talents of PETES students, as well as all WQSB students and staff

-2014-2015 Annual Report

- The Canadian Welding Association's support, both pedagogical and financial, of our WQCC students
- Success of the International Students Program. We have 40 students to date.
- Parent Open House at G. Théberge
- Onslow partnership with the municipality
- Planning and Review Committee meeting is set for February 9, at 6 p.m.

**C-15/16-71**

**Appointment – Coordinator of Human Resources**

IT WAS MOVED by Commissioner Daly that Philippe Bazinet be appointed to the position of Coordinator of Human Resources effective February 8, 2016.

Carried unanimously

**Annual Report 2014-2015**

The Director General, P. Lamoureux, presented the Annual Report 2014-2015. The document will be posted on the WQSB website and sent for translation. A press release will also be issued.

**C-15/16-72**

**Annual Report 2014-2015**

IT WAS MOVED by Commissioner Guy that the Annual Report 2014-2015 be received as presented.

Carried unanimously

**C-15/16-73**

**Executive Committee Report – January 19, 2016**

IT WAS MOVED by Commissioner Guy that the Council acknowledge receipt of the draft Executive Committee minutes of January 19, 2016.

Carried unanimously

**C-15/16-74**

**Revised Deeds of Establishment for Namur School – School Year 2015-2016**

WHEREAS the WQSB received a letter from the Municipality of Namur, dated December 4, 2015, indicating that the street on which Namur School is located has had its name changed to l'Hôtel de Ville;

WHEREAS any changes made to the Deeds of Establishment must be approved by the Council of Commissioners and then forwarded to the Ministry for modifications;

IT WAS MOVED by Commissioner Brunke that the revised Deeds of Establishment for Namur School indicating the school's new address be approved for the 2015-2016 school year.

Carried unanimously

**C-15/16-75**

**Group Buying Program – Centre Collegial des Services Regroupés (CCSR)**

WHEREAS the CCSR's mission is to promote the sharing of services, including group buying programs, in order to obtain competitive pricing;

WHEREAS the CCSR is a leading purchasing group for education in the negotiation of technology-based files;

WHEREAS the *Public Bodies Contracts Act (LQ C65.1)* requires public bodies to indicate their interest in being part of a negotiation mandate by entrusting to the grouping before the completion of the tender;

WHEREAS the requirement for all school boards in the province of Québec is to prioritize the purchasing groups for computer equipment;

WHEREAS the WQSB, as stipulated in Article 18 of the “*Règlement sur les contrats d’approvisionnement des organismes publics*”, may accept any bid that does not exceed 10% of the lowest bid, provided that the awarding rule is authorized by the Council of Commissioners before the release of the notice of tender;

IT WAS MOVED by Commissioner Schaler that for every contract with the CCSR, the WQSB may accept all bids within 10% of the lowest bid, and that Pascal Proulx, Director of Buildings, Equipment and Technology, be authorize to sign all related documents.

Carried unanimously

**C-15/16-76**

**Régime d’emprunts à long terme**

ATTENDU QUE, conformément à l’article 78 de la Loi sur l’administration financière (RLRQ, chapitre A-6.001), la Commission scolaire Western Québec (l’« *Emprunteur* ») désire instituer un régime d’emprunts lui permettant d’effectuer, de temps à autre d’ici le 30 septembre 2016, des emprunts à long terme auprès du ministre des Finances, à titre de responsable du Fonds de financement, pour un montant n’excédant pas 11 574 000 \$;

ATTENDU QUE, conformément à l’article 83 de cette Loi, l’Emprunteur désire prévoir, dans le cadre de ce régime d’emprunts, que le pouvoir d’emprunter et celui d’en approuver les conditions et modalités soient exercés par au moins deux de ses dirigeants;

ATTENDU QU’il y a lieu d’autoriser un régime d’emprunts visant les emprunts à long terme à être contractés par l’Emprunteur, d’établir le montant maximum des emprunts qui pourront être effectués en vertu de celui-ci, d’établir les caractéristiques et limites relativement aux emprunts à y être effectués et d’autoriser des dirigeants de l’Emprunteur à conclure tout emprunt en vertu de ce régime, à en établir les montants et les autres caractéristiques et à accepter les modalités et conditions relatives à chacun de ces emprunts;

ATTENDU QUE le ministre de l’Éducation, de l’Enseignement supérieur et de la Recherche (le « *Ministre* ») a autorisé l’institution par l’Emprunteur du présent régime d’emprunts, selon les conditions auxquelles réfère sa lettre du 11 décembre 2015;

**SUR LA PROPOSITION DU COMMISSAIRE DIONNE IL EST RÉSOLU :**

QU’un régime d’emprunts, en vertu duquel l’Emprunteur peut, sous réserve des caractéristiques et limites énoncées ci-après, effectuer de

temps à autre, d'ici le 30 septembre 2016, des emprunts à long terme auprès du ministre des Finances, à titre de responsable du Fonds de financement, pour un montant n'excédant pas 11 574 000 \$, soit institué;

QUE les emprunts à long terme effectués par l'Emprunteur en vertu du Régime d'emprunts soient sujets aux caractéristiques et limites suivantes :

malgré les dispositions du paragraphe 1 ci-dessus, l'Emprunteur ne pourra, au cours de chacune des périodes de **quinze mois** s'étendant du 1<sup>er</sup> juillet au 30 septembre et comprises dans la période visée au paragraphe 1, effectuer des emprunts qui auraient pour effet que le montant total approuvé pour l'Emprunteur, pour telle période, par le Conseil du trésor au titre de la programmation des emprunts à long terme des commissions scolaires, soit dépassé;

l'Emprunteur ne pourra effectuer un emprunt à moins de bénéficier d'une subvention du gouvernement du Québec conforme aux normes établies par le Conseil du trésor, au titre de l'octroi ou de la promesse de subventions aux commissions scolaires ainsi qu'aux termes et conditions déterminés par le Ministre et pourvoyant au paiement en capital et intérêt de l'emprunt concerné même si, par ailleurs, le paiement de cette subvention est sujet à ce que les sommes requises à cette fin soient votées annuellement par le Parlement;

chaque emprunt ne pourra être effectué qu'en monnaie légale du Canada auprès du ministre des Finances, à titre de responsable du Fonds de financement;

le produit de chaque emprunt ne pourra servir, outre le paiement des frais inhérents à l'emprunt concerné que pour financer les dépenses d'investissements et les dépenses inhérentes aux investissements de l'Emprunteur subventionnées par le Ministre;

QU'aux fins de déterminer le montant total auquel réfère le paragraphe 1 ci-dessus, on ne tienne compte que de la valeur nominale des emprunts effectués par l'Emprunteur;

QU'en plus des caractéristiques et limites énoncées précédemment, les emprunts comportent les caractéristiques suivantes :

l'Emprunteur pourra contracter un ou plusieurs emprunts pendant toute la durée du Régime d'emprunts jusqu'à concurrence du montant qui y est prévu, en tenant compte du montant qui pourrait être alloué à un ou des emprunts effectués par l'émission d'Obligations, et ce, aux termes d'une seule et unique convention de prêt à être conclue entre l'Emprunteur et le ministre des Finances, à titre de responsable du Fonds de financement;

chaque emprunt sera constaté par un billet fait à l'ordre du ministre des Finances, à titre de responsable du Fonds de financement;

le taux d'intérêt payable sur les emprunts sera établi selon les critères déterminés par le gouvernement en vertu du décret numéro 1267-

2001 du 24 octobre 2001 concernant les critères de fixation des taux d'intérêt qui peuvent être exigés sur ces emprunts ainsi que la nature des coûts imputables dans le calcul de ces taux ou dans le calcul du remboursement des emprunts, modifié par le décret numéro 1057-2013 du 23 octobre 2013, adopté en vertu de l'article 24 de la Loi sur le ministère des Finances (RLRQ, chapitre M-24.01), tel que ce décret pourra être modifié ou remplacé de temps à autre; et

aux fins d'assurer le paiement à l'échéance du capital de chaque emprunt et des intérêts dus sur celui-ci, la créance que représente pour l'Emprunteur la subvention qui lui sera accordée par le Ministre, au nom du gouvernement du Québec, sera affectée d'une hypothèque mobilière sans dépossession en faveur du ministre des Finances, à titre de responsable du Fonds de financement.

QUE l'Emprunteur soit autorisé à payer, à même le produit de chaque emprunt contracté auprès du ministre des Finances, à titre de responsable du Fonds de financement aux termes du Régime d'emprunts, les frais d'émission et les frais de gestion qui auront été convenus;

QUE l'un ou l'autre des dirigeants suivants :

le Président

ou le Directeur général

ou le Vice-président

ou la Directrice générale adjointe

de l'Emprunteur, **pourvu qu'ils soient deux agissant**

**conjointement**, soit autorisé, au nom de l'Emprunteur, à signer la convention de prêt, la convention d'hypothèque mobilière, le billet; à consentir à toutes les clauses et garanties non substantiellement incompatibles avec les dispositions des présentes; à recevoir le produit net des emprunts et à en donner bonne et valable quittance; à livrer le billet; à apporter toutes les modifications à ces documents non substantiellement incompatibles avec les présentes; à poser tous les actes et à signer tous les documents, nécessaires ou utiles, pour donner plein effet aux présentes;

QUE, dans la mesure où l'Emprunteur a déjà adopté une résolution instituant un régime d'emprunts, pour les mêmes fins, la présente résolution remplace la résolution antérieure, sans pour autant affecter la validité des emprunts conclus sous son autorité avant la date du présent régime d'emprunts.

Carried unanimously

C-15/16-77

**Parents' Committee Report – November 23, 2015**

IT WAS MOVED by Commissioner Daly that the Council acknowledge receipt of the Parents' Committee minutes of November 23, 2015.

Carried unanimously

- C-15/16-78 Professional Improvement Committee Report – December 10, 2015**  
 IT WAS MOVED by Commissioner Dionne that the Council acknowledge receipt of the draft Professional Improvement Committee minutes of December 10, 2015.  
 Carried unanimously
- C-15/16-79 Complementary Services Committee Report – January 13, 2016**  
 IT WAS MOVED by Commissioner Brunke that the Council acknowledge receipt of the draft Complementary Services Committee minutes of January 13, 2016.  
 Carried unanimously
- C-15/16-80 Policy on Student Representation on Council**  
 WHEREAS the Student Representation Committee has been mandated by the Council of Commissioners to bring forward and study a model, as per section 211.1 of the Education Act, that “the school board must adopt a policy on introducing students to democracy in schools, providing, in particular, for a form of student representation with the council of commissioners.”;  
 WHEREAS the Student Representation Committee has studied policies and models from school boards across the province of Québec;  
 WHEREAS the committee is of the belief that a policy should be put forth that demonstrates that the WQSB encourages civic education in its schools and communities;  
 IT WAS MOVED by Commissioner Larventz that the “Policy on Introducing Student to Democracy and Encouraging Civic Education in our schools” be sent out to the Governance and Ethics Committee for review.  
 Carried unanimously

### **Planning and Review**

A meeting of the Planning and Review Committee will be held on February 9, at 6 p.m.

### **Bill 86**

The WQSB has held three Town Hall meetings to present to the community the salient points of Bill 86. Commissioner Guy presented to Council a draft motion concerning Bill 86. The motion was discussed at length.

- C-15/16-81 Bill 86, an Act to modify the governance of school boards**  
 WHEREAS Bill 86 introduced in the Québec National Assembly on December 4, 2015 refers to an Act to modify the organization and governance of school boards to give schools a greater say in decision-making and ensure parents’ presence within each school board’s decision-making body;  
 WHEREAS Article 23 (1) of the 1982 Constitution Act (Charter of Rights and Freedoms) confers the right to education in the minority language;

WHEREAS the English Parents' Committee Association (EPCA), the Québec Community Groups Network (QCGN), the Association of Québec English School Boards (QESBA), the Québec Federation of Home and School Associations (QFHSA) and the Regional Association of West Quebecers (RAWQ) are diligently working together to ensure that the constitutional language rights of our minority community are protected should the provincial government go ahead with its proposed changes to the Québec education system;

WHEREAS the WQSB proactively held consultation sessions with its English-speaking communities in Shawville, Gatineau Sector (live streaming), La Pêche and Buckingham, and received feedback and suggestions;

WHEREAS there is a fundamental link between English schools and the English-speaking communities that English school boards serve;

WHEREAS Bill 86 will diminish the English-speaking minority's rights to manage and control its school boards;

WHEREAS the WQSB supports in principle (by resolution) the recommendations of the Election System Study Panel 2015 (aka The Jennings Report), which consulted on a vast scale the English-speaking minority community – including endorsement of the Panel's recommendation to give voting rights to Parent Commissioners at meetings of the Council of Commissioners;

WHEREAS Bill 86 terminates the powers granted to the democratically elected WQSB Council of Commissioners, and assigns powers to the Minister of Education, which violates the exclusive domain of taxpayers with the right to education in the language of the minority;

WHEREAS Bill 86 eliminates the Council of Commissioners of the WQSB that was legitimately elected by the English-speaking community on November 2, 2014, under the Act Respecting School Elections (RSQ, c. E-2.3);

WHEREAS the proposed changes will have a significant impact on schools and school boards, such as the centralization of power within the Ministry and the allocation of power to the Minister, who would have the power to veto the decisions made by English-speaking school councils, control over educational programs, the closure of English schools, and other directives directly affecting English school boards;

WHEREAS the changes have no positive impact on student achievement, which are among the best success rates in Québec in English-speaking communities; in reality, Bill 86 has not demonstrated that it would have a positive impact on student success as a result of this unnecessary major structural upheaval and uncertainty in the education system;

WHEREAS the Québec government presented this bill with no urgency or substantial reason for changing the current system of school board governance which is strong, effective and successful;

IT WAS MOVED by Commissioner Guy and supported by Commissioner Dionne that the Council of Commissioners of the WQSB:

- denounce Bill 86, an act to modify the organization and governance of school boards to give schools a greater say in decision-making and ensure parents' presence within each school board's decision-making body;
- request that the Government of Québec recognize its duty to uphold and respect the rights of Quebecers regarding education in the minority language;
- request that the Government of Québec formally withdraw Bill 86;
- request that the Government of Québec recognize and conduct comprehensive and formal consultations with the English-speaking minority community to identify and address the issues on its legitimate rights regarding the management and control of its institutions;
- request that the Government of Québec give priority to public education and student success, given its paramount importance for future generations of Quebecers.

Furthermore;

- we invite parents and members of the Western Québec community to share their concerns regarding Bill 86 with their local Members of the National Assembly (MNA); and
- that a copy of this resolution be sent to all our partners in the educational system including the WQSB Parents' Committee, the Quebec English School Boards Association (QESBA) and all its members, English Parents' Committee Association (EPCA), the Western Quebec Teachers' Association (WQTA), the Quebec Provincial Association of Teachers (QPAT), the Association of Administrators of English Schools of Quebec (AAESQ), the Association of Directors General of English School Boards of Quebec (ADGESBQ), as well as Mr. Philippe Couillard, Québec Premier, Mr. François Blais, Minister of Education, Higher Education and Research and all Members of the National Assembly (MNA) on the WQSB territory and our Francophone partners' school boards, and to Québec Community Groups Network (QCGN), the Québec Fédération of Home and Schools Association (QFHSA) and the Regional Association of West Quebecers (RAWQ), and Mrs. Marlene Jennings Chair for the School Boards Election Systems Student Panel Report 2015.



For: 8 (Brunke, Daly, Dionne, Egan, Garbutt, Guy, Labadie,  
McCrank)  
Abstention: 2

Motion carried

**Date of next meeting**

The next meeting of the Council of Commissioners will be held on February 23, 2016.

**C-15/16-82**

**Adjournment**

IT WAS MOVED by Commissioner McCrank that the meeting be  
adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

Carried unanimously

TK/nb