

Minutes of the **Council of Commissioners** meeting held on May 26, 2020 via Zoom videoconferencing at 7:00 p.m.

**PRESENT:** Chair Guy, Commissioners Brunke, Daly, Labadie, Dionne, Schaler, Egan, Graham, McCrank, Garbutt, Parent-Commissioners Boucher, Davis, Brennan, and Cornforth.

**Personnel:**

Director of Buildings, Technology, and Transportation P. Proulx  
Director of Complementary Services L. Falasconi  
Director of Education S. Aitken  
Director of Human Resources T. Kharyati

**REGRETS:** Commissioners Larventz and Young

The Director General, M. Dubeau, the Secretary General – Director of Corporate Services, G. Singfield, and the Assistant Director General / Director of Education, Adult Education/Vocational Training, R. Ahern were also present.

**Call to Order:**

Chair Guy called the meeting to order at 7:09 pm

**C-19/20-123 Adoption of Agenda**

IT WAS MOVED by Commissioner Egan that the agenda be adopted as presented with the following additions:

- Agenda Item 3.2: Resolution seeking to intervene to obtain an exemption from bill 40
- Agenda Item 13.1: Resolution to Postpone Indefinitely Resolution C-19/20-120
- Agenda Item 14.2: Discussions on the relationship with QESBA

Carried unanimously

**C-19/20-124 Approval of Minutes – April 28, 2020**

IT WAS MOVED by Parent-Commissioner Boucher that the minutes of a meeting held on April 28, 2020 be approved as circulated.

Carried unanimously

**C-19/20-125 Approval of Minutes – May 7, 2020**

IT WAS MOVED by Commissioner Garbutt that the minutes of a special meeting held on May 7, 2020 be approved as circulated.

Carried unanimously

## Chair's Report

Chair Guy presented his verbal report. Topics discussed included:

- How well the WQSB has managed to meet government directives during the pandemic
- Recognized the Administration, and all Teaching, Support, and Professional staff
- Thanked everyone who contributed to the success in the reopening of elementary schools

### **C-19/20-126 Resolution Seeking to Intervene to Obtain an Exemption from Bill 40**

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

IT WAS MOVED BY Parent-Commissioner Boucher AND RESOLVED THAT the Western Québec School Board expresses its full support for the QESBA and its co-applicants' challenge to Bill 40's constitutionality;

IT WAS FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Western 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 Québec before a final judgment on its constitutionality;

IT WAS FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Western 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

rights holders residing in its territory before a judgment on Bill 40's constitutionality is rendered;

IT WAS STILL FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Western 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.

For: 12

Against: 1

Motion carried

### **Director General's Report**

The Director General, M. Dubeau presented his verbal report. Topics discussed included:

- Thanked Council for their unwavering support
- Reiterated that the reopening of schools was/is a government decision
- That the #1 priority of the WQSB remains the safety and security of our students
- The current attendance is approximately 13% of WQSB's student population
- He highlighted Santé publique's incredible support and great cooperation with the school board.
- Conveyed his thanks to the Administration, and all Teaching, Support, and Professional staff who have risen to the challenge with great determination
- The challenge ahead: August start-up
- The Ministry's scenarios for the August start-up
- The Graduation Challenge!
- The hiring of new personnel for the 2020-2021 school year
- K-4 registrations

#### **C-19/20-127 Executive Committee Report – May 19, 2020**

IT WAS MOVED by Commissioner Dionne that the Council acknowledge receipt of the draft Executive Committee minutes of May 19, 2020.

Carried unanimously

#### **C-19/20-128 2020-2021 School Trips Outside of Canada**

WHEREAS due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Canadian Government has issued a global travel advisory;

WHEREAS this travel advisory is for an indefinite amount of time;

WHEREAS the safety and security of students and staff is of primary concern to the Western Québec School Board;

IT WAS MOVED by Commissioner Egan that the Western Québec School Board prohibit all international trips involving students and staff for the school year 2020-2021.

Carried unanimously

**C-19/20-129 Public Call for Tenders — 19510B006 - Renovation of the Student Toilet Blocks – Boys and Girls - Greater Gatineau School**

WHEREAS by its resolution C-17/18-201, the WQSB approved the request to the MEES for the above-mentioned project in the amount of \$357,021 including taxes and professional fees;

WHEREAS the MEES approved the project in October 2018 and its budget;

WHEREAS by its resolution C-18/19-167, the WQSB postponed the project to the summer 2020;

WHEREAS during the development of the plan and specifications, the scope of the project has been changed to add some asbestos removal, lead removal, and local heating system replacement;

WHEREAS a public call for tenders was made for the above-mentioned contract;

WHEREAS the following persons and/or businesses retrieved the tender documents;

Defran Inc.

Les Entrepreneurs Généraux Raymond & Associés Inc.

Gestion DMJ Entrepreneur Général

DMA Construction

DLS Construction Inc.

Industries CAMA

Construction Fred Trottier (Québec) Ltée

WHEREAS the following seven tenders were received and recorded:

Defran Inc	\$383,222
Les Entrepreneurs Généraux Raymond & Associés Inc.	\$383,300
Gestion DMJ Entrepreneur Général	\$398,810
DMA Construction	\$418,000
DLS Construction Inc.	\$419,000
Industries CAMA	\$427,634
Construction Fred Trottier (Québec) Ltee.	\$485,720

WHEREAS the lowest bid conformed;

WHEREAS there is the possibility to use a portion of the budget from the Geothermal and Land leveling project in Wakefield since the tender was lower than the authorized budget (reference resolution C-19/20-83);

IT WAS MOVED by Commissioner Graham that the bid submitted by Defran Inc. be approved, and that the Director of Buildings, Technology and Transportation be mandated to sign any and all documents necessary to give full effect to this resolution.

Carried unanimously

**C-19/20-130 Public Call for Tenders — 19510B160 – Roof Repair – Poltimore Elementary**

WHEREAS by its resolution C-19/20-9, the WQSB approved the request to the MEES for the above-mentioned project in the amount of \$234,353 including taxes and professional fees;

WHEREAS the MEES approved the project in November 2019 and its budget;

WHEREAS a public call for tenders was made for the above-mentioned contract;

WHEREAS the following persons and/or businesses retrieved the tender documents;

Couvreur Rolland Boudreault  
Morin Isolation & Toitures Ltée  
TMR3 Couvreur Inc.

WHEREAS the following three tenders were received and recorded:

Morin Isolation & Toitures Ltée	\$129,750
Couvreur Rolland Boudreault	\$161,616
TMR3 Couvreur Inc.	\$189,900

WHEREAS the lowest bid conformed;

IT WAS MOVED by Parent-Commissioner Cornforth that the bid submitted by Morin Isolation & Toitures Ltée be approved, and that the Director of Buildings, Technology and Transportation be mandated to sign any and all documents necessary to give full effect to this resolution.

Carried unanimously

**C-19/20-131 Public Call for Tenders — 19510B120 – Interior Renovation – Pontiac High School**

WHEREAS by its resolution C-19/20-8, the WQSB approved the request to the MEES for the above-mentioned project in the amount of \$400,000 including taxes and professional fees;

WHEREAS the MEES approved the project in November 2019 and its budget;

WHEREAS the scope of the project changed by adding the replacement of the lockers within the project;

WHEREAS a public call for tenders was made for the above-mentioned contract;

WHEREAS the following persons and/or businesses retrieved the tender documents;

Defran Inc.  
DLS Construction Inc.  
DMA Construction  
Gestion DMJ Entrepreneur Général  
Industries CAMA  
Les Entrepreneurs Généraux Raymond & Associés Inc.  
Seguin Morris

WHEREAS the following 5 tenders were received and recorded:

Gestion DMJ Entrepreneur Général	\$356,809
DLS Construction Inc.	\$365,000
DMA Construction	\$384,000
Industries CAMA	\$413,900
Defran Inc.	\$538,222

WHEREAS the lowest bid conformed;

IT WAS MOVED by Commissioner Egan that the bid submitted by Gestion DMJ Entrepreneur Général be approved, and that the Director of Buildings, Technology and Transportation be mandated to sign any and all documents necessary to give full effect to this resolution.

Carried unanimously

**C-19/20-132 Public Call for Tenders - 19510B200 – Lawn Mowing for Gatineau, Chelsea, and Wakefield**

WHEREAS a public call for tenders was made for the above-mentioned contract for a period of 3 years with the possibility of 2 additional years;

WHEREAS the tender is divided into 5 lots:

Lot A: Lord Aylmer Junior, Lord Aylmer Senior, WQCC, Eardley  
Lot B: South Hull, Symmes/D'Arcy McGee, Board Office  
Lot C: PETES, Hull Adult Education Centre, Hadley/Philemon Wright  
Lot D: Greater Gatineau, Buckingham  
Lot E: Chelsea, Wakefield

WHEREAS the following persons and/or businesses retrieved the tender documents;

8698805 Canada Inc.  
BG Entretien Saisonnier  
Les Fermes Renaud / 3916383 Canada Inc.  
Paysagiste Envert & Fils

Pha9 Excavation  
 Pro 4 Saisons  
 Pro-Vert  
 Services Récréatifs Demsis Inc.

WHEREAS the following tenders were received and recorded:

Lot A – Eardley, WQCC, Lord Aylmer Junior, Lord Aylmer Senior:

	1 year	5 years
Les Fermes Renaud / 3916383 Canada Inc.	\$10,600	\$53,000

Lot B – Symmes/D’Arcy McGee, South Hull, Board Office:

	1 year	5 years
Les Fermes Renaud / 3916383 Canada Inc.	\$9,750	\$48,750
8698805 Canada Inc.	\$16,000	\$80,000

Lot C – Hull Adult Education Centre, Hadley/Philemon Wright,  
 PETES:

	1 year	5 years
Les Fermes Renaud / 3916383 Canada Inc.	\$10,900	\$54,500
8698805 Canada Inc.	\$16,100	\$80,500

Lot D – Buckingham, Greater Gatineau:

	1 year	5 years
8698805 Canada Inc.	\$6,550.00	\$32,750.00
Pro 4 Saisons	\$6,935.00	\$34,675.00
Pha9 Excavation	\$7,244.61	\$36,223.05
Les Fermes Renaud / 3916383 Canada Inc.	\$10,600.00	\$53,000.00

Lot E – Chelsea, Wakefield:

	1 year	5 years
Les Fermes Renaud / 3916383 Canada Inc.	\$6,700	\$33,500

WHEREAS the lowest bids conformed;

IT WAS MOVED by Parent-Commissioner Davis that:

- the bid submitted by Les Fermes Renaud / 3916383 Canada Inc. for lot A be approved;
- the bid submitted by Les Fermes Renaud / 3916383 Canada Inc. for lot B be approved;

- the bid submitted by Les Fermes Renaud / 3916383 Canada Inc. for lot C be approved;
- the bid submitted by 8698805 Canada Inc. for lot D be approved;
- the bid submitted by Les Fermes Renaud / 3916383 Canada Inc. for lot E be approved;

and that the Director of Buildings, Technology and Transportation be mandated to sign any and all documents necessary to give full effect to this resolution.

Carried unanimously

**C-19/20-133**

**Public Call for Tenders – 19510A013 – Lawn Mowing for Pontiac**

WHEREAS a call for tenders by invitation was made for the above-mentioned contract for a period of 3 years;

WHEREAS the tender is divided into 4 lots:

Lot 1: Onslow

Lot 2: Dr. S.E. McDowell, Pontiac Adult Ed Centre, Pontiac High School

Lot 3: St-John’s, 26 Leslie

Lot 4: Dr. Wilbert Keon

WHEREAS the following persons and/or businesses were invited;

Lasalle maintenance de propriété et déneigement

Richard Martin

Derek Fleming

Entreprises Crêtes 2006

Les Fermes Renaud / 3916383 Canada Inc.

WHEREAS the following 5 tenders were received and recorded:

Lot 1 – Onslow School:

	<b>1 year</b>	<b>3 years</b>
Les Fermes Renaud / 3916383 Canada Inc.	\$3,950	\$11,850
Entreprises Crêtes 2006	\$6,780	\$20,340

Lot 2 – Pontiac High School, Dr. S.E. McDowell, Pontiac Adult and Vocational Education Centre:

	<b>1 year</b>	<b>3 years</b>
Lasalle maintenance de propriété et déneigement	\$15,968	\$47,904

Lot 3 – St-John’s, 26 Leslie:

	<b>1 year</b>	<b>3 years</b>
Lasalle maintenance de propriété et déneigement	\$5,433.34	\$16,300



Lot 4 – Dr. Wilbert Keon:

	<b>1 year</b>	<b>3 years</b>
Entreprises Crêtes 2006	\$4,455	\$13,365

WHEREAS the lowest bids conformed;

IT WAS MOVED by Commissioner Daly that:

- the bid submitted by Les Fermes Renaud / 3916383 Canada Inc. for lot 1 be approved;
- the bid submitted by Lasalle maintenance de propriété et déneigement for lot 2 be approved;
- the bid submitted by Lasalle maintenance de propriété et déneigement for lot 3 be approved;
- the bid submitted by Entreprises Crêtes 2006 for lot 4 be approved;

and that the Director of Buildings, Technology and Transportation be mandated to sign any and all documents necessary to give full effect to this resolution.

Carried unanimously

**C-19/20-134 Public Call for Tenders – 19510A014 - Lawn Mowing for Val D’Or and Noranda**

WHEREAS a call for tenders by invitation was made for the above-mentioned contract for a period of 3 years;

WHEREAS the tender is divided into 2 lots:

Lot 1: Golden Valley, Val D’Or Adult Ed

Lot 2: Noranda

WHEREAS the following persons and/or businesses were invited;

Aménagement Paysager E. Mercier  
Les Pelouses Racette  
Entretien Lozier  
Aménagement Abitibi Inc.  
Paysage Boréal  
Caroline Drapeau Construction Val D’or

WHEREAS the following 2 tenders were received and recorded:

Lot 1 – Golden Valley:

	<b>1 year</b>	<b>3 years</b>
Aménagement Abitibi Inc.	\$7,760	\$23,280

Lot 2 - Noranda:

	<b>1 year</b>	<b>3 years</b>
Les Pelouses Racette	\$3,450	\$10,350

WHEREAS the lowest bids conformed;

IT WAS MOVED by Commissioner McCrank that:

- the bid submitted by Aménagement Abitibi Inc. for lot 1 be approved;
- the bid submitted by Les Pelouses Racette for lot 2 be approved;

and that the Director of Buildings, Technology and Transportation be mandated to sign any and all documents necessary to give full effect to this resolution.

Carried unanimously

**C-19/20-135 Public Call for Tenders – 19510A015 – Lawn Mowing Maniwaki Woodland and Maniwaki Adult Ed. Centre**

WHEREAS a call for tenders by invitation was made for the above-mentioned contract for a period of 3 years;

WHEREAS the following persons and/or businesses were invited;

Entreprises Crêtes 2006  
Benoit Vaillancourt  
Leonard Morin

WHEREAS the following 2 tenders were received and recorded:

	<b>1 year</b>	<b>3 years</b>
Benoit Vaillancourt	\$3,400	\$10,200
Entreprises Crêtes 2006	\$4,455	\$13,365

WHEREAS the lowest bid conformed;

IT WAS MOVED by Commissioner Dionne that the bid submitted by Benoit Vaillancourt be approved and that the Director of Buildings, Technology and Transportation be mandated to sign any and all documents necessary to give full effect to this resolution.

Carried unanimously

**C-19/20-136 Parents' Committee Report – February 17, 2020**

IT WAS MOVED by Parent-Commissioner Boucher that the council acknowledge receipt of the approved parents' committee minutes of February 17, 2020

Carried unanimously

**C-19/20-137 Parents' Committee Report – April 30, 2020**

IT WAS MOVED by Parent-Commissioner Boucher that the council acknowledge receipt of the draft parents' committee minutes of April 30, 2020

Carried unanimously

**C-19/20-138 Resolution to Postpone Indefinitely Resolution C-19/20-120**

WHEREAS resolution C-19/20-120 passed at the May 7 Special Council of Commissioners meeting, effectively postponed definitely, to the May 26 Council of Commissioners meeting, the proposed resolution regarding WQSB Elementary Schools Reopening During Covid-19 Pandemic;

IT WAS MOVED by Commissioner Dionne to postpone indefinitely the proposed motion regarding WQSB Elementary Schools Reopening During Covid-19 Pandemic.

Carried unanimously

**QESBA Report**

Chair Guy spoke on the QESBA Report: Topics included:

- The court challenge on Bill 40
- Covid-19 measures and school openings
- Cancelled Spring conference

**C-19/20-139 Adjournment**

IT WAS MOVED by Commissioner Daly that the meeting be adjourned at 8:47 p.m.