

Minutes of the **Special Council of Commissioners** meeting held on August 25, 2020 via Zoom videoconferencing at 7:00 p.m.

PRESENT: Chair Guy, Commissioners Brunke, Daly, Garbutt, Dionne, Schaler, Egan, Graham, McCrank, Larventz and Young; 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 Finance S. Cox

Director of Human Resources T. Kharyati

REGRETS: Commissioner Labadie

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: 7:04 pm

C-20/21-1 Adoption of Agenda

IT WAS MOVED by Commissioner Dionne that the agenda be adopted as presented.

Carried unanimously

C-20/21-2 Approval of Minutes – June 30, 2020

IT WAS MOVED by Parent-Commissioner Cornforth that the minutes of a meeting held on June 30, 2020 be approved as circulated.

Carried unanimously

Chair's Report

Chair Guy presented his written report. Topics discussed included:

- A new school year like we have never seen before
- Thanks to staff and our DG who have done an amazing job to meet the constant changing demands and directives by the Government and Public Health
- The outstanding communication to keep everyone abreast of developments
- Bill 40 and the Court Challenge
- CPNCA & possible pressure tactics
- The Lab-École video
- The granted funding for Greater Gatineau's Pre-Kindergarten Extension

DG's Report

The Director General presented the 2020-2021 Directions.

C-20/21-3 Setting the 2020-2021 Directions

IT WAS MOVED by Parent-Commissioner Boucher that the Council of Commissioners adopt the Western Québec School Board 2020-2021 Directions as presented by the Director General.

Carried unanimously

Report on Return to School

The Director General reported on the Minister's updated Covid-19 Back to School Plan and how the WQSB has prepared. Topics discussed included:

- Student and staff exemptions for medical reasons and their impacts
- Staffing shortage, including the province-wide teacher shortage
- WQSB's Virtual School
- Increased requests for homeschooling
- Transportation
- Various protocols to keep students and staff safe
- Possible budgetary impacts

Revised Staffing Plan

The Director General presented the revised 2020-2021 staffing plan.

C-20/21-4 Revised Staffing Plan

IT WAS MOVED by Parent-Commissioner Davis that the Council of Commissioners approve the revised staffing plan as presented by the Director General.

Carried unanimously

C-20/21-5 Call for Tenders — 19510B0240 – Task Order Contract (Standing orders) for Electrician Services

WHEREAS by its resolution C-19/20-94, the WQSB approved the model of tender for the above-mentioned contract;

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

WHEREAS the following contract specifications:

this contract amount is for a maximum of \$200,000;

the task order will not exceed \$25,000;

the contract ends after 3 years or when the maximum amount is reached;

the contractors will be ranked based on the cost submitted in the bid;

the task order will be offered based on the contractor's rank; if the contractor ranked #1 cannot accomplish the task order, the others will be solicited according to their respective rank;

the school board will use this bank of electricians for its tenders by invitation for every contract over \$25,000 and below \$100,000;

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

Av-Tech Inc.
Innovélec Inc.
Meglab Construction Inc.
Nord-Ouest Électrique
SEGUIN MORRIS
Les Entreprises Maisonneuve Électrique

WHEREAS the following bids were received and recorded:

Contractor	Scenario's Total Cost (for adjudication only)	Rank
Innovélec Inc.	\$4,413.97	1
Meglab Construction Inc.	\$6,571.34	2
Les Entreprises Maisonneuve Électrique	\$7,857.72	3
SEGUIN MORRIS	\$10,087.40	4

WHEREAS all bids conformed, all businesses can be part of the bank of Electricians;

WHEREAS a straw vote was held by email and a majority response from 11 Commissioners was communicated to the Chair;

WHEREAS authorization was given to proceed immediately with the project;

IT WAS MOVED by Parent-Commissioner Cornforth that the above contractors be added to the bank of Electricians.

Carried unanimously

C-20/21-6 Call for Tenders — 19510B260 – Rental Agreement for 2 Portable Classrooms at St. Michael's High School for a Period of 60 Months

WHEREAS a need for an additional 2 classrooms has been identified at St. Michael's;

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

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

2856751 Canada Inc. Entrepôt du couvre-plancher
AMB Modulaire
SMS-Dion

WHEREAS the following tenders were received and recorded:

Business	Monthly Rental	Annual Cost	5 years
AMB Modulaire	\$10,825	\$129,900	\$649,500
SMS-Dion	\$14,333	\$172,000	\$860,000

WHEREAS the lowest bid conformed;

WHEREAS a straw vote was held by email and a majority response from 12 Commissioners was communicated to the Chair;

WHEREAS authorization was given to proceed immediately with the project;

IT WAS MOVED by Commissioner Dionne that the bid submitted by AMB Modulaire 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

**** Commissioner Brennan left the meeting at 8:09pm.**

**** Commissioners Davis and Larventz left the meeting at 9:00pm.**

**** Commissioner Young left the meeting at 9:26pm.**

C-20/21-7 Extension Request St. Michael's High School

WHEREAS the status of St. Michael's High School;

WHEREAS the population is increasing significantly and there is a need to have 10 more classrooms;

WHEREAS the discussions on the project have been mandated between the MEES and the Director of Buildings, Technology and Transportation;

WHEREAS the analysis done by our professionals comparing the cost of renovation/extension with the cost of demolition/reconstruction/extension;

IT WAS MOVED by Commissioner Dionne to authorize the Director of Buildings, Technology and Transportation to explore with the MEES the possibilities and options for an extension at St. Michael's High School.

Against: 2

For: 8

Motion Carried

C-20/21-8 Extra - 19510B130 – Renovation of the Roof – Centre l'Envol

WHEREAS resolution C-19/20-8 assigned a budget of \$200,000, including professional fees and taxes, for the renovation project of the roof, gutters, and chimney at Centre l'Envol;

WHEREAS resolution C-19/20-150 authorized a contract with GUS Témiscamingue for an amount of \$93,600, excluding professional fees and taxes;

WHEREAS the project progression is as follows:

- Roof: Completed at 15%
- Chimney: Completed at 95%
- Gutters: Completed at 0%

WHEREAS at the edge of the slopes of the 4 sides of the roof, there are 3 existing rows of self-adhesive membranes under the shingles to be removed. The membranes cannot be removed without damaging the structural wood decking. Also, the removal of the shingles over the membranes is impossible as they are now fused to the membranes due to heat exposure over several years;

WHEREAS it is impossible to install the new membranes and shingles over the existing ones without affecting the roof warranty;

WHEREAS the solution would be to remove and replace the structural wood decking for an amount of \$16,669.25 plus taxes;

WHEREAS this change order is over the 10% threshold;

WHEREAS the assigned budget can cover the cost of this change order;

IT WAS MOVED by Commissioner Daly to authorize that change order and to modify the Director General's delegation of power to authorize amendments to this contract that incur additional costs of up to 20% of \$93,600.

Carried unanimously

**** Commissioner Young returned to the meeting at 9:43pm.**

C-20/21-9 Extra - 19510B006 - Renovation of the Student Toilet Blocks – Boys and Girls - Greater Gatineau School

WHEREAS resolution C-17/18-201 assigned a budget of \$357,021, including professional fees and taxes, for the above-mentioned project;

WHEREAS resolution C-19/20-129 authorized a contract with Defran Inc. for an amount of \$383,222, excluding professional fees and taxes;

WHEREAS resolution C-18/19-167 postponed the project because of several delays that were expected;

WHEREAS the project is completed at 50%;

WHEREAS during the demolition of the washrooms, we discovered that the heating system water pipes, the air conditioning condensation water pipes for the server room, and the rain drain under the cement slab were rusted and needed to be replaced;

WHEREAS demolition of the cement slab and reconfiguration of the piping system was necessary;

WHEREAS the reconfiguration of the piping system will be done considering future needed renovation in this section of the school;

WHEREAS the connection of the new pipes to the actual heating system was only possible by demolishing a portion of a small individual washroom;

WHEREAS the individual washroom renovation was included into the project as a change order;

WHEREAS the change order is at \$64,725 plus taxes;

WHEREAS this change order is over the 10% threshold;

WHEREAS budget portions from other MB projects will have to be transferred to cover the cost of this change order;

IT WAS MOVED by Commissioner Graham to authorize the change order and to modify the Director General's delegation of power to authorize amendments to this contract that incur additional costs of up to 20% of \$383,222.

Carried unanimously

C-20/21-10

QESBA Membership Fees 2020-2021

WHEREAS the membership fees are based on the approved May 22, 2019 QESBA budget;

WHEREAS the billing represents 100% of the WQSB 2020-2021 membership fee and is based on 2019-2020 actual student enrolment @ \$8.33 per student;

WHEREAS the WQSB 2019-2020 enrolment was 8,253 students;

WHEREAS the WQSB 2020-2021 membership fee is \$68,747.49;

WHEREAS the 2020-2021 QESBA membership fee invoice was sent to all member boards in July, including the WQSB;

WHEREAS the membership to QESBA normally begins in July and ends in June – in line with each school calendar year;

WHEREAS to ensure our full participation to the QESBA Board of Directors, various committees, CPNCA, and other representations that are essential as partners and in the good functioning of the WQSB;

WHEREAS the WQSB's membership will continue past the November 2020 scheduled elections, no matter the outcome of the legal court challenge judgement;

WHEREAS Council did not approve the full payment of our membership fees by end of July 2020;

WHEREAS the WQSB's membership to QESBA was never questioned to move forward to 2020-2021;

WHEREAS the QESBA membership fees used to be paid in two installments, divided as follows: one payment of 75% and another of 25%;

WHEREAS it is recommended to remit the 2020-2021 membership fees in two installments to QESBA;

WHEREAS the first installment of 75% by the end of August 2020;

WHEREAS the second installment of 25% by the end of January 2021;

IT WAS MOVED by Commissioner Dionne that the QESBA membership fee in the amount of \$68,747.49 be paid in two installments divided into 75% and 25%.

Carried unanimously

C-20/21-11 Special Assessment – Court Challenge on Bill 40

WHEREAS the Quebec English School Boards Association (QESBA) and its member boards have embarked upon a court challenge to Bill 40: An Act to amend mainly the Education Act with regard to school organization and governance;

WHEREAS the QESBA had a budget set aside for a portion of the total cost of a court challenge that could last up to five years;

WHEREAS the QESBA was granted the initial challenge for a stay;

WHEREAS the Government of Québec has decided to challenge and appeal this ruling;

WHEREAS it is our responsibility to protect and promote English public education in Québec;

WHEREAS the QESBA Board of Directors is asking member boards to approve a special assessment of \$2.00 per pupil to help offset the growing legal fees to the Association;

WHEREAS the \$2.00 per pupil represents an amount of \$16,506 for the WQSB;

WHEREAS the \$16,506 will be deducted from the Commissioners' PD and travel budgets;

IT WAS MOVED by Parent-Commissioner Boucher that the WQSB agree to pay the special assessment of \$2.00 per pupil to help offset the growing legal fees to the Association for 2020-2021.

Carried unanimously

C-20/21-12 Adjournment

IT WAS MOVED by Commissioner McCrank that the meeting be adjourned at 9:58 p.m.