

Minutes of the **Council of Commissioners** meeting held on February 23, 2021 via Zoom videoconferencing at 7:00 p.m.

PRESENT: Chair Guy, Commissioners Boucher, Cornforth, Daly, Garbutt, Giannakoulis, Graham, Lyrette-Brennan, McCrank, Schaler, Young, and Parent-Commissioners Brennan, Connell, Coutlée and Taylor.

REGRETS: Commissioner Labadie

Personnel:

Director of Buildings, Technology & Transportation P. Proulx

Director of Complementary Services L. Falasconi

Director of Education S. Aitken

Director of Finance M. Lupien

Director of Human Resources T. Kharyati

Administrative Officer R. Vincent

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: 7:07 pm

C-20/21-128 Adoption of Agenda

IT WAS MOVED by Parent-Commissioner Coutlée that the agenda be adopted as presented, with the following modifications/additions:

- Move agenda items 12.1 and 12.2 Request for Reconsideration to item 1.2 and 1.3 on the agenda.
- Addition of agenda item 14.1 Commissioners' focus – Technology Addiction

Carried unanimously

C-20/21-129 Motion to move into Camera

IT WAS MOVED by Commissioner Daly that the Council move into Camera at 7:11p.m.

Carried unanimously

C-20/21-130 Motion to move out of Camera

IT WAS MOVED by Parent-Commissioner Coutlée that the Council move out of Camera at 9:42p.m.

Carried Unanimously

C-20/21-131 Request for Reconsideration

CONSIDERING that a decision was made on December 16, 2020 to expel student #0047563 from all schools and services of the WQSB for the remainder of the 2020-2021 school year;

CONSIDERING that on December 22, 2020 a request for reconsideration was presented by the parent of student #0047563;

CONSIDERING the representations made by the parent of student #0047563 before the Council of Commissioners;

CONSIDERING the recommendations made by the Chair and the Director General of the WQSB;

IT WAS MOVED by Parent-Commissioner Brennan that the decision rendered on December 16, 2020 is upheld and that student #0047563 be expelled from all schools and services of the WQSB for the remainder of the 2020-2021 school year.

For: 5
Against: 8
Abstention: 1
Motion defeated

C-20/21-132 Request for Reconsideration

CONSIDERING that a decision was made on December 3, 2020 to expel student #0085001 from all schools and services of the WQSB for the remainder of the 2020-2021 school year;

CONSIDERING that on January 22, 2021 a request for reconsideration was presented by the parent of student #0085001;

CONSIDERING the representations made by the parent of student #0085001 before the Council of Commissioners;

CONSIDERING the recommendations made by the Chair and the Director General of the WQSB;

IT WAS MOVED by Commissioner Cornforth that the decision rendered on December 3, 2020 be overturned and that student #0085001 be provided educational services from the WQSB for the remainder of the 2020-2021 school year.

Carried Unanimously

C-20/21-133 Approval of Minutes – January 26, 2021

IT WAS MOVED by Parent-Commissioner Connell that the minutes of a meeting held on January 26, 2021 be approved as circulated.

Carried Unanimously

Chair's Report

Chair Guy presented his report. Topics discussed included:

- WQSB Teacher appreciation week
- Black History Month
- COVID-19 vaccine support for Teachers and staff as frontline workers
- Hooked on school days
- QESBA news release
- Upcoming events
- Bill 40 Webinar and court challenge

Director General's Report

The Director General highlighted a few topics including:

- His weekly written updates
- A synopsis of the work undertaken by the ARC Building Group
- The blog posts by the WQSB TIP team

- The procurement and cost of technology equipment and services during the Pandemic
- A review of the Resource Allocation Committee (RAC) activities

C-20/21-134 Derogation request 20500G002 - G. Berwick's Agreement

WHEREAS the Western Quebec School Board wishes to enter into a Mutual Agreement Contract with George Berwick & Associates for a period of 12 months. This is a professional services contract – Coaching for the WQSB Senior Team.

The annual value of the contract is \$15,000 CDN. The contract start date is: July 1, 2020 and the contract end date is: June 30, 2021.

WHEREAS s. 6.4 Mutual Agreement Contract, the WQSB Purchasing Policy states that:

- a) The School Board may use a mutual agreement process for contracts of an estimated value below \$5,000;
- b) The School Board communicates directly with at least one supplier, indicating the good(s), service(s) or construction work(s) required and any other relevant information;
- c) Before entering into a contract by mutual agreement, the School Board must ensure that fair prices and conditions are obtained.

WHEREAS the value of this contract to be entered into by mutual agreement is above the threshold of \$5,000 for a mutual agreement contract;

WHEREAS the tendering process for a contract above \$5,000 requires 3 written quotes;

WHEREAS Policy D-11, s. 7 provides an exception to the tendering process:

Except for contracts where the estimated expenditure is equal to or above the thresholds established by the *Act Respecting Contracting by Public Bodies*, the Council of Commissioners may authorize the School Board, in exceptional circumstances and for legitimate reasons, to enter into a contract without following the tendering processes described herein.

WHEREAS George Berwick & Associates is the only one firm who can provide this service as we have been using their intellectual work previously as a major contributor to our vision and success planning;

IT WAS MOVED by Parent-Commissioner Coutlée to authorize the derogation request to enter into a mutual agreement with George Berwick & Associates, for a period of 12 months, at a maximum amount of \$15,000 and that the Director General be authorized to sign any and all documents necessary to give full effect to this derogation.

Carried Unanimously

IT WAS MOVED by Commissioner Cornforth that Council acknowledge receipt of the draft Executive Committee minutes from February 16, 2021.

Carried Unanimously

C-20/21-136

Proposal to add Business Items to Audit or Executive

IT WAS MOVED by Commissioner Young that Executive Committee be mandated to review all business matters in excess of \$100,000 with a view to making recommendations to the Council of Commissioners for final approval.

Carried Unanimously

C-20/21-137

Public Tender – 20510B180 – Gestion des matières résiduelles – Secteurs Pontiac, Abitibi et Maniwaki

WHEREAS by resolution C-19/20-84 the Council of Commissioners authorized Collecto to represent the WQSB in the group purchasing for garbage removal for all the schools;

WHEREAS a contract was awarded to GFL Environmental and Enviro Connexions for the Gatineau Schools only;

WHEREAS no bids were received for the Pontiac, Abitibi, Maniwaki and Low regions;

WHEREAS the Director of Buildings and the Procurement Officer have conveyed their dissatisfactions to Collecto regarding the process;

WHEREAS the School Board was forced to go out by public tender no. 20510B180 in December 2020 for the garbage removal services at schools in the Pontiac region, the Abitibi region, Maniwaki and Low;

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

- GFL Environmental Inc.
- Enviro Connexions
- WM Quebec Inc.;

WHEREAS only GFL Environmental Inc. presented a conformed bid valued at \$270,289.48;

WHEREAS the bid presented by GFL Environmental Inc. represents an increase in excess of 200% from the previous contract;

WHEREAS the Director of Buildings does not recommend awarding the contract to GFL Environmental inc.;

IT WAS MOVED by Commissioner Daly to cancel tender no. 20510B180.

Carried Unanimously

C-20/21-138

Derogation Request – Mutual Agreement Contracts for the Garbage Removal Services: Dr. Wilbert Keon, Dr. S.E. McDowell, Noranda, Onslow, Pontiac High School, St-John’s, Wakefield, St-Michael’s and Maniwaki

WHEREAS no bids were received through the Collecto Tender;

WHEREAS the WQSB went out by public tender for the garbage removal for the following schools: Dr. Wilbert Keon, Dr. S.E. McDowell, Noranda, Onslow, Pontiac High School, St-John’s, Wakefield, St-Michael’s and Maniwaki, and the tender was cancelled by resolution No. C-20/21-138;

WHEREAS the Western Quebec School Board wishes to enter into several Mutual Agreement Contracts with regional suppliers for the garbage removal services for the following schools: Dr. Wilbert Keon, Dr. S.E. McDowell, Noranda, Onslow, Pontiac High School, St-John’s, Wakefield, St-Michael’s and Maniwaki;

WHEREAS some inquiries were carried out with potential suppliers regarding their availability and costs;

WHEREAS the value of these contracts to be entered into by mutual agreement may be above the threshold of \$5,000 for a mutual agreement contract;

IT WAS MOVED by Parent-Commissioner Brennan to authorize this derogation request to enter into a mutual agreement for the garbage removal services for the following schools: Dr. Wilbert Keon, Dr. S.E. McDowell, Noranda, Onslow, Pontiac High School, St-John’s, Wakefield, St-Michael’s and Maniwaki and to share the resulting contract information at the next Council meeting.

Carried Unanimously

C-20/21-139

Exchange of Services and Land Between the Diocese of Pembroke and the Western Quebec School Board

WHEREAS resolution C-15/16-57 authorized the director of buildings and the principal of Dr. Wilbert Keon School to negotiate with the Diocese of Pembroke;

WHEREAS resolution C-17/18-14 authorized the exchange of land and agreement for the right of way;

WHEREAS the exchange of land was not feasible since the Western Quebec School Board was not legally the owner of Dr. Wilbert Keon School;

WHEREAS resolution C-19/20-40 authorized the signature of the Notice based on article 121 of the Education Act to notarize the properties ownership;

WHEREAS updated agreements are ready to be signed (to be deposited on Friday, February 19, 2021);

IT WAS MOVED by Parent-Commissioner Taylor to authorize the Director of Buildings, Technology and Transportation, Mr. Pascal Proulx, to sign the two agreements.

Carried Unanimously

C-20/21-140

Tender by Invitation — 20510A011 – Dr. Wilbert Keon School - Bat Control and Decontamination

WHEREAS by its resolution C-20/21-107, the WQSB approved the request to the MEQ for the above-mentioned project for a budget of \$330,000 including taxes and professional fees;

WHEREAS the project is divided into 2 phases:

- Removal of the bats and blocking all accesses and entries
- Ceiling Decontamination

WHEREAS a tender by invitation was done for the phase 1;

WHEREAS the following persons and/or businesses were invited;

Regionnex Extermination Inc.

Gauthier Gestion Parasitaire Enr.

Pro-Tech Inc.

WHEREAS the following tenders were received and recorded:

Regionnex Extermination Inc.	\$ 57,442.50
Gauthier Gestion Parasitaire Enr.	\$ 67,400.00

WHEREAS the lowest bid is conformed;

IT WAS MOVED by Parent-Commissioner Brennan that the bid submitted by Regionnex Extermination Inc. be approved, and that the Director of Buildings, Technology and Transport be mandated to sign any and all documents necessary to give full effect to this resolution.

Carried Unanimously

C-20/21-141

Rescind Resolution # C-20/21-104 – Group Buying Program – Centre d’acquisitions gouvernementales – Microsoft Licenses – 2021-7520-01

WHEREAS the resolution C-20/21-104 requested a budget commitment of \$80,000/year;

WHEREAS the new requirement from the MEQ increased the needed budget commitment;

WHEREAS the cost of the Servers Licenses was not considered;

IT WAS MOVED by Commissioner Young to rescind resolution #C-20/21-104.

Carried Unanimously

C-20/21-142

Group Buying Program – Centre d’acquisitions gouvernementales – Microsoft Licenses –2021-7520-01

WHEREAS resolution C-18/19-109 Group Buying Program – Collecto – Microsoft licenses authorized the contract to purchase the Microsoft licenses for the WQSB;

WHEREAS the current authorized contract’s period started June 2019 and ended June, 2020 with an option of renewal for 2 additional years;

WHEREAS the parties will not exercise the last contract renewal options, therefore, the current contract will expire March 31, 2021;

WHEREAS the WQSB is requesting to participate in the group buying program – Microsoft licenses 2021-7520-01” through the CAG;

WHEREAS the new contract – Microsoft licenses 2021-7520-01 will be for a period of 3 years, starting April 1, 2021 and ending March 31, 2024;

WHEREAS the MEQ is requesting that School Boards increase security levels by adding EDR Antivirus;

WHEREAS the WQSB Microsoft licenses cost is estimated at \$250,000/year;

WHEREAS the advantages of this group buying are:

Leverage the buying power of the group

Pedagogical licenses covered by the licensing of the user with a dedicated working station (Except for the EDR Antivirus)

WHEREAS a plan of action has been sent to the MEQ indicating the budgetary impact of the requirement;

WHEREAS a modification of the distribution model of the Digital Action Plan Grants will have to be done to cover the cost;

IT WAS MOVED by Parent-Commissioner Connell that the WQSB proceed with participating in the group buying program through CAG and that the Director of Buildings, Technology, and Transportation, Mr. Pascal Proulx, be authorized to sign all documents necessary to give full effect to this resolution.

Carried Unanimously

C-20/21-143

Special Education Advisory Committee Report – November 23, 2020

IT WAS MOVED by Parent-Commissioner Taylor that council acknowledge receipt of the approved Special Education Advisory Committee minutes of November 23, 2020

Carried Unanimously

C-20/21-144

Special Education Advisory Committee Report – January 11, 2021

IT WAS MOVED by Parent-Commissioner Taylor that council acknowledge receipt of the approved Special Education Advisory Committee minutes of January 11, 2021

Carried Unanimously

C-20/21-145

Parents' Committee Report – January 18, 2021

IT WAS MOVED by Parent-Commissioner Coutlée that the Council acknowledge receipt of the Parents' Committee minutes of January 18, 2021

Carried Unanimously

C-20/21-146

Complementary Services Committee Report – November 16, 2020

IT WAS MOVED by Commissioner Boucher that the council acknowledge receipt of the approved Complementary Services Committee minutes of November 16, 2020

Carried Unanimously

C-20/21-147

Adjournment

IT WAS MOVED by Commissioner Graham that the meeting be adjourned at 11:07p.m.