

Minutes of the **Council of Commissioners** meeting held on March 30, 2021 via Zoom videoconferencing at 7:00 p.m.

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

REGRETS: Commissioner Young

Personnel:

Director of Buildings, Technology & Transportation P. Proulx
Director of Complementary Services L. Falasconi
Director of Education S. Aitken
Director of Finance M. Lupien
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.

Public Participation

Commissioner Daly read a dedication letter to the late Dr. Marian Jean Lothian.

Call to Order: 7:08 pm

C-20/21-148 Adoption of Agenda

IT WAS MOVED by Parent-Commissioner Taylor that the agenda be adopted as presented with the removal of:

- Agenda item 10.4: Governance & Ethics Ctee draft March 18, 2021 minutes.

Carried Unanimously

C-20/21-149 Approval of Minutes – February 23, 2021

IT WAS MOVED by Commissioner Garbutt that the minutes of a meeting held on February 23, 2021 be approved as circulated.

Carried Unanimously

Chair's Report

Chair Guy presented his report. Topics discussed included:

- The pandemic and education: one-year anniversary review
- His meeting with MNA Maryse Gaudreault
- A newly formed QESBA working group on Internet connectivity
- QESBA's news releases on vaccination for in-school staff
- QESBA professional development session – March 13, 2021
- CASSA-CSBA Indigenous Education Gatherings – July 7-9
- School board elections / Bill 40 court challenge hearings – April 14-27, 2021

Director General's Report

The Director General presented his report. Topics discussed included:

- A recent surge in COVID-19 cases in schools, mostly all in the Aylmer sector
- A word of appreciation to staff: Lisa Falasconi, Principal Tara Laine and Eldon Keon for their professionalism and compassion in dealing with the surge in cases
- The outstanding support Public Health has provided the board during this Covid surge
- The recalled mask situation and the accountability piece that must ensue
- The pressure and impacts on the schools and staff with this surge of cases
- A report on the revised 2020-2021 budget including the associated costs of COVID-19

C-20/21-150 Executive Committee Report – March 23, 2021

IT WAS MOVED by Parent-Commissioner Coutlée that Council acknowledge receipt of the draft Executive Committee minutes of March 23, 2021.

Carried Unanimously

C-20/21-151 Group Buying Program 2021-7530-60 – Centre d'acquisitions gouvernementales (CAG) – Elevator Service Program

WHEREAS the contract for servicing and maintenance of all elevators for the Western Québec School Board (WQSB) schools and board office will expire on June 30, 2021;

WHEREAS the WQSB has the opportunity to participate in the Group Buying Program through the CAG for the elevator service program;

WHEREAS the contract will cover the period of 5 years from July 1, 2021 until June 30, 2026, including two renewal options for 12 months each;

WHEREAS our estimated budget for this contract is \$40,000 per year, representing \$200,000 over the five-year contract period;

WHEREAS it was recommended by the executive committee, following its review, that the WQSB join the contract for its elevator service program through the CAG Group Buying Program;

IT WAS MOVED by Commissioner Labadie that, as recommended by the executive committee, the WQSB join the contract for its elevator service program through the CAG Group Buying Program, 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-20/21-152 Rescind Resolution C-20/21-18 - Autobus Outaouais – Approval of Contract Sale

WHEREAS Autobus Outaouais had informed the WQSB of its interest to sell the balance of their contract representing 15 bus routes and vehicles to Autobus Campeau Inc. in September 2020;

WHEREAS the agreement between Autobus Outaouais and Autobus Campeau Inc. did not come to fruition;

IT WAS MOVED by Commissioner Cornforth that resolution C-20/21-18 be rescinded.

Carried Unanimously

C-20/21-153 Autobus Outaouais – Approval of Contract Sale

WHEREAS by its resolution number C-16/17-218 adopted June 27, 2017, the WQSB awarded Autobus Outaouais a five-year school transportation contract;

WHEREAS Autobus Outaouais sold 46 of their bus routes and vehicles on October 1, 2018 after having received the WQSB approval;

WHEREAS Autobus Outaouais sold another 4 of their bus routes and vehicles on July 1, 2019 after having received the WQSB approval;

WHEREAS Autobus Outaouais informed the WQSB on March 23, 2021 of its interest to now sell the balance of their contract representing 15 bus routes and vehicles to ***Autobus la Petite Nation Inc.***;

WHEREAS under the terms set out in its contract, Autobus Outaouais must obtain the WQSB's approval before proceeding with this final sale;

IT WAS MOVED by Commissioner Labadie that Autobus Outaouais' request to sell their 15 remaining bus routes to ***Autobus la Petite Nation Inc.*** be approved.

Carried Unanimously

C-20/21-154 Autobus LaSalle – Approval of Contract Sale

WHEREAS by its resolution number C-16/17-218 adopted June 27, 2017, the WQSB awarded Autobus LaSalle a five-year school transportation contract;

WHEREAS Autobus LaSalle informed the WQSB on March 22, 2021 of its interest to sell a portion of its contract representing 1 bus route servicing the Notre-Dame-du-Nord sector in Abitibi to ***Autobus Maheux***;

WHEREAS under the terms set out in its contract, Autobus LaSalle must obtain the WQSB's approval before proceeding with the final sale;

IT WAS MOVED by Parent-Commissioner Coutlée that Autobus LaSalle's request to sell 1 bus route to Autobus Maheux be approved.

Carried Unanimously

C-20/21-155 Parents' Committee Report – February 15, 2021

IT WAS MOVED by Parent-Commissioner Coutlée that Council acknowledge receipt of the Parents' Committee minutes of February 15, 2021.

Carried Unanimously

C-20/21-156 Educational Policies Committee Report – January 15, 2021

IT WAS MOVED by Commissioner Graham that Council acknowledge receipt of the Educational Policies Committee minutes of January 15, 2021.

Carried Unanimously

C-20/21-157 Governance & Ethics Committee Report – February 4, 2021
IT WAS MOVED by Commissioner Garbutt that Council acknowledge receipt of the Governance & Ethics Committee minutes of February 4, 2021.

Carried Unanimously

C-20/21-158 Review of Policies
IT WAS MOVED by Commissioner Garbutt that, as requested by the Governance and Ethics Committee, Council approve the review of the following:

1. Code of Ethics and Professional Conduct for the Commissioners of the Western Quebec School Board
2. C-5: Policy Outlining the Discipline Committee Process
3. C-23: Educational Partnerships/Sponsorships

Carried Unanimously

C-20/21-159 Assigned Committees for the Review Process
Whereas the Council of Commissioners has approved the request from the Governance and Ethics Committee to have the following policies (as listed below) reviewed;

1. Code of Ethics and Professional Conduct for the Commissioners of the Western Quebec School Board
2. C-5: Policy Outlining the Discipline Committee Process
3. C-23: Educational Partnerships/Sponsorships

IT WAS MOVED by Commissioner Garbutt to have the said policies reviewed by the following committees:

- a) Code of Ethics and Professional Conduct for the Commissioners of the Western Quebec School Board: reviewed by: The Governance & Ethics Committee;
- b) C-5: Policy Outlining the Discipline Committee Process: reviewed by: a sub-committee;
- c) C-23: Educational Partnerships/Sponsorships: reviewed by: The Governance & Ethics Committee.

Carried Unanimously

C-20/21-160 Formation of a Review Sub-Committee
IT WAS MOVED by Commissioner Daly to have the following commissioners sit on a sub-committee to review Policy C-5: Policy outlining the Discipline Committee process.

Commissioners Daly, Connell, Garbutt, Schaler, Taylor and Brennan

Carried Unanimously

C-20/21-161 Human Resources Committee Report – February 8, 2021
IT WAS MOVED by Commissioner Boucher that Council acknowledge receipt of the Human Resources Committee minutes of February 8, 2021.

Carried Unanimously

C-20/21-162

Adoption of 2021-2022 School Calendar

IT WAS MOVED by Parent-Commissioner Coutlée that the 2021-2022 school calendar be adopted as presented by the Director General.

Carried Unanimously

C-20/21-163

Adjournment

IT WAS MOVED by Parent-Commissioner Connell that the meeting be adjourned at 8:52 p.m.