

Province of Quebec
Western Quebec School Board

Minutes of the **Council of Commissioners** meeting held on March 25, 2025, at the Western Quebec School Board office, 15, rue Katimavik at 6:30 p.m.

PRESENT: Chair Labadie, Commissioners Bélanger, Brushey, Cornforth, Giannakoulis, Green, Goldsbrough, Garner, McCrank, Moore, Killeen, Parent-Commissioners Fortier, Bouchard, Rhéault and James.

PERSONNEL: Director of Complementary Services L. Falasconi, Director of Human Resources A. Paquin, Director of Finance M. Lupien, Contract Compliance Officer A. Gendron, and Head of Administrative Management R. Vincent.

The Director General, Mr. G. Singfield, the Secretary General, Mr. E. Keon, and the Assistant Director General / Director of Buildings and Technology, Mr. P. Proulx, were also present.

Land acknowledgment by Parent-Commissioner Bouchard

Call to Order: 6:31 p.m.

Public Participation

L. Taylor and H. Karubara address Council

C-24/25-118

Adoption of Agenda

IT WAS MOVED by Commissioner Goldsbrough and seconded by Parent-Commissioner Bouchard that the agenda be adopted as outlined with the following amendment:

- Removal of agenda Item 7.3 Code of Ethics

Carried unanimously

C-24/25-119

Motion to Move into Camera

IT WAS MOVED by Commissioner Green and seconded by Commissioner Cornforth that Council move into camera at 6:48 p.m.

Carried unanimously

C-24/25-120

Motion to Move out of Camera

IT WAS MOVED by Parent-Commissioner Bouchard and seconded by Commissioner Killeen that Council move out of camera at 7:51 p.m.

Carried unanimously

C-24/25-121

Adoption of Minutes

IT WAS MOVED by Commissioner Brushey and seconded by Commissioner Cornforth that the minutes of a meeting held on February 25, 2025, be approved as circulated.

Carried Unanimously

Chair's Report

In her report, Chair Labadie addressed the following points:

- QESBA Executive Committee Meeting
- Bill 94
- Upcoming Fall Supreme Court Ruling on Bill 21
- Social Media Communications
- Spring Conference Registrations

Director General's Report

The Director General delivered his report, outlining the topics addressed as follows:

- Update on déboulage
- Destination Imagination – Congratulations to Steve Greig & Lisa Diner
- Meetings with principals
- Planned DEI training & workshop for Commissioners
- I2A Leadership initiative
- Spring Conference list of speakers
- The concept of Foundation
- The Concordia program
- MEQ Directive – Bill 94

Assistant Director General

The Assistant Director General briefed the Commissioners about the meeting he attended this evening at 6:45 regarding the provincial budget that was deposited today. The details shared were as follows:

- Total budget of \$461 million over 4 years, with an estimated allocation of 1% for WQSB.
 - o Focused on:
 - Measures to facilitate the obtention of teachers' qualifications, brevets, DESS
 - Increase the enrollment in the trades programs

- The overall budget increase is approximately 2% below inflation
- Overall increase in the provincial PQI (Investment)
 - For the Education sector, reduction from \$3.7 billion to \$3.1 billion
 - Projects that were on hold will remain on hold
 - Gel d'embauche (Hiring freeze) maintained until the 2029-2030 school year

C-24/25-122**Executive Committee Report – February 18, 2025**

IT WAS MOVED by Commissioner Cornforth and seconded by Commissioner Goldsbrough that Council acknowledge receipt of the Executive Committee Minutes of February 18, 2025.

Carried unanimously

C-24/25-123**Public Tender – Pontiac High School – Elevator Replacement – Contract #24510B027**

WHEREAS an amount of \$700,000.00 was set aside from the 2022-2023 measure 50621 and an amount of \$600,000.00 was set aside from 2021-2022 measure 50621 for the elevator replacement;

WHEREAS a public tender was completed;

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

- LEXCO CONSTRUCTION INC.
- D.L.S. CONSTRUCTION INC.
- ACQ – Région de l'Outaouais
- Seguin Morris Inc.
- 6739741 CANADA INC.
- LES INDUSTRIES CAMA
- LALONDE CANTIN CONSTRUCTION & ASSOCIÉS CANADA INC.
- DEFRAN INCORPORÉE

WHEREAS the following bids were received:

LALONDE CANTIN CONSTRUCTION & ASSOCIÉS CANADA INC.	\$919,000.00
D.L.S. CONSTRUCTION INC.	\$927,000.00
6739741 CANADA INC.	\$934,880.00
LEXCO CONSTRUCTION INC.	\$1,015,900.00
DEFRAN INCORPORÉE	\$1,067,422.00

WHEREAS the lowest bid conformed;

WHEREAS the Executive Committee, by its resolution # E-24/25-61, recommends that Council award the contract to Lalonde Cantin Construction & Associés Canada Inc.

IT WAS MOVED by Commissioner Killeen and seconded by Commissioner Cornforth that, as recommended by the Executive committee, Council award the contract to LALONDE CANTIN CONSTRUCTION & ASSOCIÉS CANADA INC. and authorize the ADG, Pascal Proulx, to sign the contract.

Carried unanimously

C-24/25-124

Update to Internal Guidelines for the Management of Supply, Service, and Construction Contracts of Public Bodies

WHEREAS the Treasury Board adopted the *Directive concernant la gestion des contrats d'approvisionnement, de services et de travaux de construction des organismes publics* (Directive), effective August 1, 2015;

WHEREAS section 24 of the Directive specifies that public bodies must adopt their own "Internal Guidelines for the Management of Supply, Service, and Construction Contracts of Public Bodies";

WHEREAS the Treasury Board, given the current market climate, has directed public bodies to update their Internal Guidelines for the Management of Supply, Service, and Construction Contracts of Public Bodies, to reflect the changes in the requirements for purchases of goods online (NEW: section 5.1);

WHEREAS the Executive Committee, by its resolution # E-24/25-63, recommends that Council approve the updated "Internal Guidelines for the Management of Supply, Service, and Construction Contracts of Public Bodies" as presented.

IT WAS MOVED by Commissioner Goldsbrough and seconded by Parent-Commissioner Fortier that, as recommended by the Executive Committee, Council adopt the updated "Internal Guidelines for the Management of Supply, Service, and Construction Contracts of Public Bodies" as presented.

Carried Unanimously

C-24/25-125

Derogation Request to the WQSB Purchasing Policy No. D-11 to Enter into a Mutual Agreement with Continuum for the Printing and Distribution of the School Tax invoices for 2025-2026 School Year – Contract #24530G001

WHEREAS the Western Quebec School Board wishes to enter into a mutual agreement contract with Continuum for the 2025-2026 school tax invoice printing and distribution;

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 \$5,000.00;
- 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 \$5,000.00 for a mutual agreement contract;

WHEREAS the tendering process for a contract above \$5,000.00 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 our current pilot project with *the Comité de gestion de la taxe scolaire de l'Île de Montréal* (CGTSIM) is in progress;

WHEREAS the CGTSIM is currently using Continuum for the printing and distribution of the school tax invoices;

WHEREAS the WQSB Finance Department had a contract with Continuum for last year's tax invoice printing;

WHEREAS for the 2025-2026 taxation cycle, the WQSB's Finance Department wishes to award the contract by mutual agreement to Continuum;

WHEREAS the estimated value of the contract is less than \$30,000.00;

IT WAS MOVED by Commissioner Killeen and seconded by Parent-Commissioner Fortier that Council approve the derogation request to enter into a mutual agreement contract with Continuum for the printing and distribution of the school tax invoices for the 2025-2026 school year.

Carried unanimously

C-24/25-126

Parents' Committee Report – January 20, 2025

IT WAS MOVED by Parent-Commissioner Bouchard and seconded by Parent-Commissioner James that Council acknowledge receipt of the Parents' Committee Minutes of January 20, 2025.

Carried unanimously

Agenda item 9.5

C-24/25-127

Special Education Advisory Committee Report – October 28, 2024

IT WAS MOVED by Parent-Commissioner Fortier and seconded by Commissioner Brushey that Council acknowledge receipt of the Special Education Advisory Committee Minutes of October 28, 2024.

Carried unanimously

C-24/25-128

Special Education Advisory Committee Report – November 5, 2024

IT WAS MOVED by Parent-Commissioner Fortier and seconded by Commissioner Brushey that Council acknowledge receipt of the Special Education Advisory Committee Minutes of November 5, 2024.

Carried unanimously

C-24/25-129

Special Education Advisory Committee Report – January 8, 2025

IT WAS MOVED by Parent-Commissioner Fortier and seconded by Commissioner Brushey that Council acknowledge receipt of the Special Education Advisory Committee Minutes of January 8, 2025.

Carried unanimously

C-24/25-130

Adoption of 2025-2026 School Calendar

IT WAS MOVED by Parent-Commissioner Rhéault and seconded by Commissioner Green that the 2025-2026 school calendar be adopted as presented by the Director of Human Resources.

Carried unanimously

Adjournment

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 9:28 p.m.