

**Province of Quebec**  
**Western Quebec School Board**

Minutes of the **extraordinary Council of Commissioners** meeting held on August 26, 2025, on TEAMS, at 6:30 p.m.

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

**PERSONNEL:** Director of Finance M. Lupien, Director of Buildings and Information Technology S. El Ouezzani, Director of Education S. Aitken, Director of Complementary Services L. Falasconi, 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 Human Resources, Mr. P. Proulx, were also present.

- Land acknowledgement by: Commissioner Green
- Swearing-in ceremony for Commissioner Isabelle Richard, Ward 7 Commissioner

**C-25/26-3**

**Adoption of Agenda**

IT WAS MOVED by Commissioner Cornforth and seconded by Commissioner Green that the agenda be adopted as presented.

Carried unanimously

**Budget 2025-2026**

Chair Labadie addressed the Council before handing the floor to the Director of Finance for the budget presentation.

Director of Finance M. Lupien provided a detailed overview of the WQSB Budget for 2025-2026 and addressed all questions regarding the budget.

**C-25/26-4**

**Adoption of WQSB Budget 2025-2026**

WHEREAS on July 16, 2025, the board received the final budgetary rules approved by the *Conseil du trésor*, which maintain cuts of \$3,666,040 for the Western Québec School Board for the 2025-2026 school year, but introduce a new measure that would make approximately \$3,335,829 available to the board to partially offset the cuts, but only if the board complies with restrictive conditions that restrain its management and control, including:

- (a) complying with a new staffing target set by Ministry,
- (b) requiring that the board maintain spending on certain government priorities, specifically in funding envelopes referred to as “dedicated and protected measures” that can only be used for highly specific purposes, that may not correspond to the community’s priorities, and
- (c) participating in regional and national mutualization projects;

WHEREAS the government’s assignment of funds as dedicated and protected measures has already been declared unconstitutional by the Court of Appeal of Québec in its ruling of April 2025 in the Bill 40 case (*Quebec English School Boards Association v. Procureur général du Québec*, 2023 QCCS 2965 at paras 294-295, 299, 439, confirmed 2025 QCCA 282 at paras 195-208, 277);

WHEREAS the conditions attached to the new measures restrict management and control guaranteed by section 23 of the *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms* and would prevent the board from managing its staffing and allocating its funding in a manner that responds to the needs of its students and community;

WHEREAS the government has prohibited the use of the accumulated surplus to balance budgets;

WHEREAS 10% of the ministry measures for schools were used to balance the budget instead of the accumulated surplus;

WHEREAS the Western Québec School Board is committed to protecting services and initiatives that respond to the particular needs of its students and its community;

WHEREAS the Québec English School Board Association has put forward a court application to challenge the validity of the restrictions to school board management of budgetary rules, and to seek a stay of their application;

WHEREAS Council adopted a motion (res. # C-25/26-2) to have the Western Québec School Board join the QESBA application;

WHEREAS a court decision on the application for a stay is expected on September 15, 2025;

WHEREAS the Ministry has required that all school bodies submit their budgets for 2025-2026 by no later than September 26, 2025;

WHEREAS the next regular meeting of Council will take place on October 1, 2025;

IT WAS MOVED by Commissioner Bélanger and seconded by Commissioner Killeen THAT the adoption of the 2025-2026 WQSB budget

be postponed definitely to a SPECIAL MEETING of Council on September 23, 2025, at 6:30 PM.

Carried unanimously

**C-25/26-5**

**Extra – Vacant Building in Campbell's Bay – Replacement of the Oil Boiler By An Electric Boiler – Contract #23510B021**

WHEREAS resolution C-23/24-166 awarded a contract to DEFRAN INCORPORÉE in the amount of \$254,422.00 for the above-mentioned project;

WHEREAS the addition of temporary heating during the 2025 winter season was required due to delays in completing the new Hydro-Québec service connection;

WHEREAS the cost of the extra work is currently under analysis; however, it will push the total for this project above the 10% threshold;

WHEREAS this additional expense can be covered by the budget;

IT WAS MOVED by Commissioner McCrank and seconded by Parent-Commissioner Bouchard that Council amend the Director General's delegated authority to approve amendments to this contract that may incur additional costs of up to 20%;

Carried unanimously

**C-25/26-6**

**Public Tender – McDowell School – Replacement of the Control Panel - Contract #24510B039**

WHEREAS an amount of \$950,000.00 was allocated from Measure 50622 (2023-2024);

WHEREAS a contract was awarded to D.L.S. CONSTRUCTION INC. for the replacement of the oil boiler with an amount of \$522,000.00 authorized by resolution C-24/25-23;

WHEREAS the replacement of the existing control panel is necessary to conform to electrical and building codes;

WHEREAS, by its resolution C-24/25-182, Council authorized the signing of a contract for the above-mentioned project, in an amount of up to \$120,000.00, as part of the projects with a bid opening scheduled for the 2025 summer period;

WHEREAS a public tender was completed;

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

- D.L.S. CONSTRUCTION INC.
- ACQ – Région de l'Outaouais
- Seguin Morris Inc.
- LALONDE CANTIN CONSTRUCTION & ASSOCIÉS CANADA INC.

WHEREAS the following bids were received:

Seguin Morris Inc.	\$194,381.11
D.L.S. CONSTRUCTION INC.	\$222,970.00

WHEREAS the lowest bid conformed;

WHEREAS the lowest bid is higher than the amount authorized by resolution C-24/25-182;

IT WAS MOVED by Commissioner Richard and seconded by Commissioner Brushey that Council award the contract to Seguin Morris Inc.

Carried unanimously

**C-25/26-7**

**Public Tender – Replacement of the Ventilation Units at St-John's – Contract #24510B019**

WHEREAS a budget totaling \$1,350,000.00, consisting of \$800,000.00 allocated from Measure 50622 (2023-2024) and \$550,000.00 allocated from Measure 50627 (2024–2025);

WHEREAS a public tender was completed;

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

- ACQ – Région de l'Outaouais
- Call Fred Inc (Appelle Fred)
- Ventilation MFC
- Émile Séguin & Fils Ltée
- DEFRAN INCORPORÉE
- LES ENTREPRISES MA-MI INC.
- Réfrigération Yvan Allison/9076-6759-QUÉBEC INC.
- D.L.S. CONSTRUCTION INC.
- Seguin Morris Inc.

WHEREAS the following bids were received:

Réfrigération Yvan Allison/9076-6759-QUÉBEC INC	\$1,738,534.64
Ventilation MFC	\$1,796,000.00
Seguin Morris Inc.	\$1,925,775.16
D.L.S. Construction Inc.	\$2,091,400.00
Call Fred Inc (Appelle Fred)	\$2,418,666.00
DEFRAN INCORPORÉE	\$2,743,422.00

WHEREAS the lowest bid conformed;

WHEREAS the difference between the initial estimate and the lowest bid is explained by the inclusion of additional necessary work in plumbing and structural components during the call-for-bid period, as well as by increased costs for control equipment and materials;

WHEREAS the budget was revised to a total of \$2,250,000.00, comprising \$800,000.00 set aside from Measure 50622 (2023–2024) and \$1,450,000.00 set aside from Measure 50621 (2023–2024);

IT WAS MOVED by Commissioner Brushey and seconded by Parent-Commissioner Bouchard that Council approve the revised project budget and award the contract to Réfrigération Yvan Allison/9076-6759-QUÉBEC INC.

Carried unanimously

**C-25/26-8**

**Ratification of Decision - 5-Year Contract – Berline Contract – Transport Écoliers Outaouais**

WHEREAS a new contract for Berline services has been negotiated and presented to the Transportation Committee;

WHEREAS the Transportation Committee recommends the new contract with Transport Écoliers Outaouais;

WHEREAS resolution C-24/25-190 authorized the Director of Transportation, Mr. Pascal Proulx, to sign the negotiated Berline service contracts as soon as negotiations were finalized;

IT WAS MOVED by Parent-Commissioner Bouchard and seconded by Commissioner Moore to ratify the decision for the 5-year contract with Transport Écoliers Outaouais.

Carried unanimously

**C-25/26-9**

**Ratification of Decision – 5-Year Contract – Berline Contract – Transport L. Martel**

WHEREAS a new contract for Berline services has been negotiated and presented to the Transportation Committee;

WHEREAS the Transportation Committee recommends the new contract with Transport L. Martel;

WHEREAS resolution C-24/25-190 authorized the Director of Transportation, Mr. Pascal Proulx, to sign the negotiated Berline service contracts as soon as negotiations were finalized;

IT WAS MOVED by Commissioner Goldsbrough and seconded by Parent-Commissioner Fortier to ratify the decision for the 5-year contract with Transport L. Martel.

Carried unanimously

**Adjournment**

The Chairperson adjourned the meeting at 8:14 p.m.