Province of Quebec
Western Quebec School Board

Minutes of the **Council of Commissioners** meeting held on October 28, 2025, in a hybrid format at 6:30 p.m.

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

PERSONNEL: Present at the meeting were the Director General, Mr. G. Singfield; the Secretary General, Mr. E. Keon; the Assistant Director General and Director of Human Resources, Mr. P. Proulx; the Director of Finance, Ms. M. Lupien; the Director of Buildings and Information Technology, Mr. S. El Ouezzani; the Directors of Education, Mr. S. Aitken and Ms. J. Dubeau; the Director of Complementary Services, Ms. L. Falasconi; the Coordinator of Administrative Services, Mr. A. Gendron; and the Head of Administrative Management, Ms. R. Vincent.

Land acknowledgement by: Commissioner Bélanger

Call to Order: 6:31 p.m.

C-25/26-31 **Adoption of Agenda**

IT WAS MOVED by Commissioner Cornforth and seconded by Commissioner Green that the agenda be adopted as presented with the addition of item 7.5

Carried unanimously

C-25/26-32 **Adoption of Minutes**

IT WAS MOVED by Commissioner Garner and seconded by Commissioner Brushey that the Minutes of a meeting held on October 1, 2025, be adopted as circulated.

Carried unanimously

Chair's report:

Chair Labadie led the discussion on the following points:

- Status of the stay application
- Highlights from the CSBA Advocacy Week in Ottawa
- Scheduled visit by Senators Deacon and Sorensen on November 5 to Philemon Wright for the NOSH initiative

- Meeting with Yvan Baker Chair of the Official Languages Committee
- Bill 1 – The proposed Québec Constitution Act
- Sincere appreciation was extended to Commissioner Garner for coordinating the visit with Dr. Mandella

Commissioner Garner was given the floor by the Chair to speak to the Council about Dr Mandella's visit.

DG Report:

The Director General provided an overview of the following subjects in his oral report:

- Dr Mandella's visit at D'Arcy/Symmes and PWHS
- Dr Michael Ungar visit and presentation at the management Committee meeting
- Professor Mona Tolley, who will be presenting on Truth and Reconciliation
- Update on the progress of the DG's school visits
- School-Based Food Programs: Queen E. and NOSH at Philemon Wright
- Various school initiatives
- WQVC (Western Quebec Virtual Campus)
- Upcoming Instructional Coaching 2-day Institute with Jim Knight
- Leaning Bar and Compass surveys
- New Assistant Deputy Minister of Education: Nadine Peterson

Control Measures

The Director of Complementary Services provided an overview of the Control Measures (Mesures de contrôle) and their implementation in schools.

C-25/26-33 **Risk Management Monitoring Report 2022-2025**

WHEREAS *Policy D-12 Corruption and Collusion Risk Management Policy* requires that the board carry out an annual reassessment of risks as well as monitoring the effectiveness of the actions taken with respect to risks deemed important;

WHEREAS the *Directive on the Management of Risks Related to Corruption and Collusion in Contractual Management Processes* requires each public body to produce a monitoring report for risk management planning every three years;

WHEREAS the mandate of the Audit Committee includes the review of the effectiveness of controls throughout the school board;

WHEREAS the Risk Management Plans and their assessments fall under the mandate of the Audit Committee;

WHEREAS the Audit Committee reviewed the Risk Management Monitoring Report on the Risk Management Plans for Corruption and Collusion for 2022-2025;

WHEREAS the Audit Committee recommends that Council adopt the report;

IT WAS MOVED by Commissioner McCrank and seconded by Commissioner Cornforth that Council adopt the Risk Management Monitoring Report on the 2022-2025 Risk Management Plans for Corruption and Collusion as presented.

Carried unanimously

C-25/26-34 **Executive Committee Report – September 23, 2025**

IT WAS MOVED by Parent-Commissioner Fortier and Seconded by Commissioner Green that Council acknowledge receipt of the Executive Committee minutes of September 23, 2025.

Carried unanimously

C-25/26-35 **Extra – Greater Gatineau – Extension – Contract #23510B031**

WHEREAS the resolution C-24/25-13 awarded a contract to GROUPE GMR Construction inc. for $4,344,109.00 for the above-mentioned project;

WHEREAS several site conditions related to the structural integrity of the building had to be addressed, along with the addition of ventilation and air conditioning units to cover the remaining non-ventilated rooms in the old section of the school;

WHEREAS the cost of the potential extras is under analysis, but is expected to bring the total extras for this project above the 10% threshold;

WHEREAS this additional expense can be covered by the budget and within the expense target of the 25-26 financial year;

WHEREAS the Executive Committee recommends with its resolution E-25/26-29 that Council amend the Director General's delegated authority to approve amendments to this contract that may incur additional costs of up to 20%;

IT WAS MOVED by Commissioner Richard and seconded by Commissioner Goldsbrough that as recommended by the Executive committee, 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-25/26-36 **Photocopy Paper by the Skid – Purchase by Mutual Agreement Authorization – Centre d'acquisitions gouvernementales du Québec (CAG) – 2026-8092-50**

WHEREAS the school board has the opportunity to participate in the new group purchasing plan offered by the Centre d'acquisitions gouvernementales for photocopy paper;

WHEREAS there is a specific need for the purchase of photocopy paper by the skid for our schools;

WHEREAS this type of contract requires the authorization of the chief executive officer of the public body before the notice of a call for tenders is published;

WHEREAS the contract will cover 3 years from April 1, 2026, to March 31, 2029, with no possibility of extending the contract;

WHEREAS the estimated financial commitment for this contract is approximately $60,000.00 per year, for a total of $180,000.00 for the contract period;

WHEREAS the Executive Committee recommends with its resolution E-25/26-31 that Council authorize the WQSB to participate in the group purchasing plan and mandate the Centre d'acquisitions gouvernementales (CAG) to represent the Western Québec School Board in its tender process and subsequent contract for the acquisition of photocopy paper by the skid, and that the Director General be authorized to sign all documents necessary.

IT WAS MOVED by Commissioner Bélanger and seconded by Commissioner Goldsbrough that as recommended by the Executive committee, Council authorize the WQSB to participate in the group purchasing plan and mandate the Centre d'acquisitions gouvernementales (CAG) to represent the Western Québec School Board in its tender process and subsequent contract for the acquisition of photocopy paper by the skid, and that the Director General be authorized to sign all documents necessary.

Carried unanimously

C-25/26-37 **Exemption to Award The Contract for The Installation of a Play Structure and Sun Shelter Before November Council – Contract #25510A003**

WHEREAS a call for tender by invitation was published on October 16, 2025, with a tender opening on October 28, 2025;

WHEREAS the intention was to present the tender opening results at Council on October 28, 2025;

WHEREAS several questions about the tender documents were received late in the process delaying the tender opening beyond October 28, 2025;

WHEREAS delaying the approval to the November council could result in the work being postponed until after the winter season due to low temperatures preventing the pouring of concrete;

WHEREAS this project is part of the financial expense target for the 2025–2026 fiscal year, and any delay would affect the financial expense target of the 2026–2027 fiscal year;

WHEREAS the project estimate is $80,000.00;

WHEREAS the Director of Buildings and Information Technology is recommending that an exemption be granted to allow the contract to be awarded immediately following the tender opening;

WHEREAS, acknowledging the exceptional circumstances, the Council of Commissioners authorizes the Director of Buildings and Information Technology, Mr. Soufiane El Ouezzani, to sign all tender documents and to report the results of these projects at the next Executive Committee and Council of Commissioners' meetings in November 2025;

IT WAS MOVED by Commissioner Brushey and seconded by Commissioner Killeen to authorize the Director of Buildings and Information Technology, Mr. Soufiane El Ouezzani, to sign all tender documents and to report the results of these projects at the next Executive Committee and Council of Commissioners' meetings in November 2025.

Carried unanimously

C-25/26-38 **Extra – Pontiac High School – Elevator Replacement – Contract #24510B027**

WHEREAS the resolution C-24/25-123 awarded a contract to LALONDE CANTIN CONSTRUCTION & ASSOCIÉS CANADA INC. for $919,000.00 for the above-mentioned project;

WHEREAS a structural issue was discovered during demolition and must be addressed to ensure the structural integrity of the building and the new elevator;

WHEREAS the cost of the potential extras is under analysis, but is expected to bring the total extras for this project above the 10% threshold;

WHEREAS this additional expense can be covered by the budget and within the expense target of the 25-26 financial year;

IT WAS MOVED by Commissioner Moore and seconded by Parent-Commissioner Fortier that Council amend the Director General's delegated authority to approve amendments to this contract that may incur additional costs of up to 30%.

Carried unanimously

C-25/26-39 **Withdrawal from Stay Application of Legal Challenge Regarding Budgetary Rules**

WHEREAS on August 13, 2025, the Council of Commissioners adopted a resolution that mandated Power Law to take the necessary steps for the Western Québec School Board to join the Québec English School Board Association (QESBA)'s application to challenge the validity of the budgetary rules and seek a stay of their application;

WHEREAS the Ministry of Education has since taken measures to alleviate certain immediate financial pressures imposed by the 2025-2026 budgetary rules;

WHEREAS it is recommended by the Québec English School Board Association (QESBA) and Power Law to withdraw the stay application challenging the budgetary rules;

IT WAS MOVED by Commissioner Killeen and seconded by Commissioner Goldsbrough that the Western Québec School Board withdraw from the Québec English School Board Association (QESBA)'s stay application challenging the budgetary rules, while maintaining its participation in the challenge on the merits.

Carried unanimously

C-25/26-40 **Adoption du budget de la commission scolaire Western Québec**

ATTENDU QUE conformément à la Loi sur l'instruction publique (chapitre I-13.3), « la commission scolaire Western Québec » doit adopter et transmettre au ministre de l'Éducation son budget de fonctionnement, d'investissement et de service de la dette pour l'année scolaire 2025-2026;

ATTENDU QUE ce budget prévoit un déficit d'exercice de 380 267 $ et que ce montant est inférieur aux allègements prévus pour les obligations découlant des conventions collectives;

ATTENDU QUE le produit de la taxe scolaire au montant de 18 809 457 $ a été établi en prenant en considération :

- une évaluation uniformisée ajustée des immeubles imposables de 25 000 $ et moins au montant de 64 433 305 $;
- un nombre de 67 642 immeubles imposables de plus de 25 000 $, et :
- le taux de 0,08423 $ du 100 $ d'évaluation fixé par le ministre pour la taxe scolaire 2025-2026.

LE COMMISSAIRE CORNFORTH PROPOSE QUE le budget de fonctionnement, d'investissement et de service de la dette prévoyant des revenus de 153 596 907 $ et des dépenses de 153 977 174 $ soit adopté et transmis au ministre de l'Éducation. La proposition est appuyée par la commissaire Richard.

Adoptée à l'unanimité

Director of Finance M. Lupien explained the Commissioners’ Expenditure report.

Adjournment
The Chairperson adjourned the meeting at 9:06 p.m.