

**Province of Quebec
Western Quebec School Board**

Minutes of the **Council of Commissioners** meeting held on April 28, 2026, in a hybrid format at 6:30 p.m.

PRESENT: Chair Labadie; commissioners Cornforth, Bélanger, Giannakoulis, Goldsbrough, Green, Garner, Killeen, Moore, McCrank, Richard; parent-commissioners Fortier, Bouchard, James and Rhéault

REGRETS: Commissioner Brushey

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

Land acknowledgement by: Commissioner Goldsbrough

Call to Order: 6:35 p.m.

C-25/26-108. Adoption of Agenda

IT WAS MOVED by Parent-Commissioner Fortier and seconded by Parent-Commissioner Bouchard that the agenda be adopted with a slight change in the order of agenda items. Agenda Item 6.2 will be placed between Agenda Item 4 and Agenda Item 5.

Carried Unanimously

C-25/26-109. Adoption of Minutes

IT WAS MOVED by Commissioner Cornforth and seconded by Parent-Commissioner Bouchard that the minutes of a meeting held on March 31, 2026, be adopted as circulated.

Carried Unanimously

Chair's Report

Chair Labadie addressed the Council regarding her report. Topics discussed were:

- Government continues to introduce unexpected policy changes, including a recent development related to Bill 101. Where the new Premier, Christine Fréchette, pledged to extend Bill 101 (Charter of the French Language) to adult vocational education. It remains unclear however, whether the government will act now or delay and use the issue during an election campaign.

- Indications of the potential impact of the changes to Bill 101 on English vocational and adult education centers across Québec could be significant.
- How the French school boards have reported limited capacity to absorb allophone and newcomer students currently in the English system.
- The ongoing uncertainty, but concern over further erosion of minority language rights.
- Positive update on Bill 1 (Quebec Constitution) – Section 5 will be withdrawn (would have prevented use of public funds for court challenges)
- Bill 40 / Bill 23 New amendment introduced – Mandatory 30-hour professional development requirement for teaching staff
- Budget: School boards cannot again use surplus funds to balance budgets
- Appreciation extended to the organizers of The Indigenous Voices Event, a powerful and meaningful event highlighting perspectives of indigenous educational leaders.

C-25/26-110. Appointment of New Director General

IT WAS MOVED by Commissioner Killeen and seconded by Parent-Commissioner Rhéault that, as recommended by the Executive Committee, the Council of Commissioners appoint Mr. Pascal Proulx as the new Director General of the Western Québec School Board, effective June 1, 2026, for an indeterminate term.

Carried Unanimously

Mr. Pascal Proulx addressed the Council

Mr. Proulx expressed gratitude for the opportunity and acknowledged the significant responsibilities associated with the role, noting it is a challenge he willingly accepted. He thanked the selection committee for a rigorous and professional interview process, as well as the Council of Commissioners for their trust and confidence. Appreciation was also extended to the entire team for their unwavering commitment to student success and for supporting collaborative and sometimes unconventional ideas to best serve students and communities, reflecting the organization's motto that people are at its core.

Special recognition was given to his mentor George Singfield, for his guidance and leadership over the past three years. Pascal outlined his belief that the organization's success depends on strong collaboration between pedagogical, administrative, and governance teams, working toward a shared strategic vision. He emphasized his commitment to translating this vision into concrete, aligned actions that support both student achievement and organizational effectiveness, and expressed his enthusiasm for beginning this new role alongside the entire WQSB team.

DG Report

The Director General gave an overview of the topics in his report sent to the Council before the meeting. Topics discussed were:

- Entente Canada-Québec
- CGTSIM (Taxes Pilot) – Plan for optimization – Reality is not the case

- DG Selection Committee
- Indigenous Voices Panel
- I2A JEDI Event May 1
- Management Postings and Recruitment
- New MEQ Regulations – Mandatory 30 hours of PD over 2 years
- Succession Plans
- Community Events and recognition – Autism Awareness at PWHS
- QESBA Award of Excellence – Winner NOSH program

C-25/26-111.

QESCREN Survey

IT WAS MOVED by Commissioner Cornforth and seconded by Parent-Commissioner Fortier that the administering of the QESCREN survey to Grade 11 students be approved as presented by the Director General.

Carried Unanimously

C-25/26-112.

Executive Committee Report – March 24, 2026

IT WAS MOVED by Commissioner Green and seconded by Commissioner Cornforth that the Council acknowledge receipt of the Executive Committee minutes of March 24, 2026.

Carried Unanimously

C-25/26-113.

Ratification – Authorization to Award Contract (#25510B015) for Interior Renovations at 26 Leslie Street Prior to the April Council Meeting

WHEREAS the Investment Plan includes an allocation of \$1,300,000 under Measure 50622 (2022–2023) for the interior renovation project at 26 Leslie Street;

WHEREAS the engineering studies have been completed and the updated professional cost estimate for the project is \$2,500,000;

WHEREAS this estimate includes construction costs, professional fees, contingency allowances, and compensation related to remote location;

WHEREAS the project budget must therefore be revised, with an additional \$1,200,000 to be funded from next year's construction budget;

WHEREAS the planning of upcoming projects will remain unchanged pending the opening of all tenders, the completion of current contracts, and confirmation of future budgets, with any impacts to be reflected in the 2026–2027 Investment Plan;

WHEREAS the alignment of projected expenditures will be reviewed and any required adjustments will be reported to the MEQ in the next accountability report scheduled for April 2026;

WHEREAS this project is critical and must proceed immediately following the tender opening;

WHEREAS the Executive Committee at a meeting held March 24, 2026, approved a resolution (E-25/26-104) recommending that Council hold an electronic vote immediately following the tender opening, to authorize the awarding of the contract and the signing of all related documents;

WHEREAS at its March 31, 2026, meeting, the Council approved a motion (C-25/26-99) to hold an electronic vote following the tender opening, to authorize the awarding of the contract and the signing of all related documents, thereby allowing the project to proceed immediately;

WHEREAS the tender opening took place on April 7, 2026;

WHEREAS the following bids were received for this project:

LEXCO Construction Inc.	\$1,987,000.00
Les industries CAMA	\$2,248,763.00
DLS Construction Inc.	\$2,269,553.00
Defran Inc.	\$2,832,422.00
Les entreprises Géniam	\$2,999,930.00

WHEREAS LEXCO Construction Inc. submitted the lowest bid;

WHEREAS the lowest bid was deemed to conform following a detailed review by the professionals and the coordinator of administrative services responsible for procurement;

IT WAS MOVED by Commissioner McCrank and seconded by Commissioner Moore THAT Council approve:

THAT the project budget be revised to \$2,500 000,00; and

THAT the contract be awarded to LEXCO Construction Inc. for \$1,987,000.00; and

THAT the Director of Buildings and Information Technology, Soufiane El Ouezzani be authorized to sign the contract, along with all related documents, for the interior renovation project at 26 Leslie Street

IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED, moved by Commissioner McCrank and seconded by Commissioner Moore that the above motion be ratified.

Carried Unanimously

C-25/26-114.**Adoption of Policy F-19 – Policy on Recognition**

IT WAS MOVED by Commissioner Goldsbrough and seconded by Commissioner Garner that, as recommended by the Director of Human Resources Mr. Pascal Proulx and following the consultation process, Policy F-19 – Policy on recognition, be adopted as presented.

Carried Unanimously

C-25/26-115.**Mutual Agreements Grass Cutting Contracts for the 2026 Season (Gatineau and Pontiac Sectors)**

WHEREAS the grass cutting contracts for the Gatineau and Pontiac sectors covering the 2023, 2024, and 2025 summer seasons have now expired;

WHEREAS the cost of grass cutting services is significantly impacted by fuel prices, which remain volatile and subject to market fluctuations;

WHEREAS entering into a new long-term contract in the current unstable market context could result in higher overall costs to the School Board over the next three years;

WHEREAS maintaining service continuity is essential to ensure the proper upkeep of School Board properties;

WHEREAS the previous contractors were consulted to provide pricing for the 2026 summer season to defer procurement to a more stable market environment for a long-term contract;

WHEREAS the following prices were received:

- **GATINEAU Sector:**

Lot	School	Contractor	Cost for 2026 Summer
A	Eardley	Les Fermes Renaud	\$ 13,750.00
	WQCC		
	Lord Aylmer Junior		
	Lord Aylmer Senior		
B	South Hull	Les Fermes Renaud	\$ 12,400.00
	Board Office		
	Symmes/D'arcy		
C	Pierre Elliott Trudeau	Les Fermes Renaud	\$ 15,400.00
	Hull Adult Education Center		
	Philemon Wright		
D	Buckingham	Les Entreprises DJS	\$ 5,200.00
E	Greater Gatineau	Les Services d'Entretien Crêtes & Rémillard	\$ 3,856.00
F	Chelsea	Les Fermes Renaud	\$ 7,800.00
G	Wakefield	Les Fermes Renaud	\$ 8,000.00
			\$ 66,406.00

• **PONTIAC Sector:**

Lot	School	Contractor	Cost for 2026 Summer
A	Onslow	Les Services d'Entretien Crêtes & Rémillard	\$ 4,844.00
B	Pontiac High School	LaSalle	\$ 22,439.95
	Dr. SE. McDowell		
C	St-John	LaSalle	\$ 8,510.00
	26 Leslie		
D	Dr. Wilbert Keon	Les Services d'Entretien Crêtes & Rémillard	\$ 5,894.00
			\$ 41,687.95

WHEREAS the overall increase for these contracts represents a 6% increase over the previous year;

WHEREAS the proposed pricing and contract terms were reviewed by the Material Resources Department and the Procurement Officer and deemed acceptable;

IT WAS MOVED by Commissioner Goldsbrough and seconded by Commissioner Bélanger that, as recommended by the Director of Material Resources and Information Technology, Council award the grass cutting contracts for the Gatineau and Pontiac sectors by mutual agreement for the 2026 season to the contractors listed in the chart above.

Carried Unanimously

C-25/26-116.

25510B023 – Renovation of the Water Filtration System in Poltimore, Wakefield, Queen Elizabeth, and Namur

WHEREAS an amount of \$600,000.00 was set aside from the 2021-2022 measure 50621;

WHEREAS a public tender was completed;

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

- Consult'EAU
- TURCOTTE (1989) INC.
- Call Fred Inc (Appelle Fred)
- D.L.S. CONSTRUCTION INC.
- Brébeuf mécanique de procédé Inc.
- Seguin Morris Inc.
- ACQ Provinciale

WHEREAS the following bids were received:

Brébeuf mécanique de procédé Inc.	\$203,200.00
Call Fred Inc (Appelle Fred)	\$239,325.00
Seguin Morris Inc.	\$254,088.72

WHEREAS the lowest bid conformed;

IT WAS MOVED by Commissioner Cornforth and seconded by Parent-Commissioner Fortier that, as recommended by the Director of Material Resources & Information Technology, Council award the contract to Brébeuf mécanique de procédé Inc. and grant the Director of Material Resources & Information Technology, the authority to sign this contract.

Carried Unanimously

C-25/26-117.

Reliquat – Use of Remaining Balance

WHEREAS Resolution C-25/26-71 authorized the coverage of outstanding school fees from the 2022–2023 school year;

WHEREAS the amount initially estimated under Resolution C-25/26-71 was not final, and the final amount applied totaled \$179,930.23, leaving a remaining balance of \$7,652.15;

WHEREAS there are additional unpaid school fees for the 2023–2024 and 2024-2025 school years in excess of the remaining funds;

WHEREAS the finance department has identified families experiencing difficulty in paying school fees;

WHEREAS the rules for the distribution of the Reliquat funds require they be spent by the end of the upcoming school year;

WHEREAS the administration recommends that Council approve that the remaining \$7,652.15 be applied toward unpaid school fees for the families identified in the amount of \$5,388.69 for 2023-2024 and \$2,263.46 for the 2024-2025 school year;

IT WAS MOVED by Commissioner McCrank and seconded by Commissioner Moore to authorize the use of \$5,388.69 from the remaining balance of the Reliquat funds to cover unpaid school fees amounts related to the 2023–2024 school year and the remaining balance of \$2,263.46 to cover unpaid school fees from the 2024-2025 school year.

Carried Unanimously

C-25/26-118.

Special Education Advisory Committee Report – January 7, 2026

IT WAS MOVED by Parent-Commissioner Fortier and seconded by Commissioner Garner that the Council acknowledge receipt of the Special Education Advisory Committee Minutes of January 7, 2026.

Carried Unanimously

C-25/26-119. Special Education Advisory Committee Report – February 2, 2026
IT WAS MOVED by Parent-Commissioner Fortier and seconded by Commissioner Garner that the Council acknowledge receipt of the Special Education Advisory Committee Minutes of February 2, 2026.

Carried Unanimously

C-25/26-120. Special Education Advisory Committee Report – March 11, 2026
IT WAS MOVED by Parent-Commissioner Fortier and seconded by Commissioner Garner that the Council acknowledge receipt of the Special Education Advisory Committee Minutes of March 11, 2026.

Carried Unanimously

C-25/26-121. Proposed Calendar of Meetings 2026-2027 – Council of Commissioners
IT WAS MOVED by Commissioner Green and seconded by Commissioner Killeen that the 2026-2027 calendar of meetings of the Council of Commissioners of the Western Québec School Board, as proposed by the Director General, be sent for public notice as required by section 392 of the Education Act.

Carried Unanimously

C-25/26-122. Proposed Calendar of Meetings 2026-2027 – Executive Committee
IT WAS MOVED by Commissioner Cornforth and seconded by Parent-Commissioner Fortier that the 2026-2027 calendar of meetings of the Executive Committee of the Western Québec School Board, as proposed by the Director General, be sent for public notice as required by section 392 of the Education Act.

Carried Unanimously

Adjournment

The Chairperson adjourned the meeting at 8:23 p.m.