

Province of Quebec
Western Quebec School Board

Minutes of the **Council of Commissioners** meeting held on February 24, 2026, in a hybrid format at 6:30 p.m.

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

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, 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 Cornforth

Call to Order 6:31 p.m.

C-25/26-79 **Adoption of Agenda**
IT WAS MOVED by Commissioner Cornforth and seconded by
Commissioner Green THAT the agenda be adopted as presented.

Carried unanimously

C-25/26-80 **Adoption of Minutes**
IT WAS MOVED by Commissioner Goldsbrough and seconded by Parent-Commissioner Bouchard THAT the minutes of a meeting held on January 27, 2026, be adopted as circulated.

Carried unanimously

Chair's Report

Chair Labadie announced that the Director General is set to retire on approximately July 24, 2026. In light of this announcement, the Executive Committee has established a committee to oversee the recruitment and hiring of a new Director General. Chair Labadie expressed her best wishes to the Director General.

During her report, Chair Labadie also discussed the NOSH program at Philemon Wright High School and suggested that it would be wonderful for the Commissioners to visit NOSH.

Regarding Bill 94, QESBA has chosen to pause its legal action. Additionally, on February 9th, the Board of Directors voted to adopt a new funding model aimed at supporting current and potential future legal challenges that may require financial backing. The new model will involve an increase of \$3 per student, allowing QESBA to grow its legal fund without being tied to a specific bill. Chair Labadie will present a motion about this funding model at the March meeting.

DG Report

The Director General reported on several key initiatives and developments within the WQSB, including the launch of the Jim Knight Instructional Coaching Institute with strong participation, and a request from a Pontiac High student seeking support to attend the prestigious Shad Canada STEAM enrichment program.

Updates were provided on the WQSB Foundation, the MEQ's new guide on preventing violence against school staff and the related upcoming management training, and the recent notice of an application for a class action lawsuit involving multiple school boards. The DG also highlighted progress on the I2A Alternative Education project, upcoming presentation of its formal proposal, and recent community and professional events—including the Black Culture Festival at Hadley-Philemon Wright, the LCEEQ Conference focusing on belonging and mattering, and the reopening of the Chelsea Elementary School library—underscoring ongoing efforts to enhance learning environments, staff well-being, and student engagement across the board.

C-25/26-81

Executive Committee Report – January 20, 2026

IT WAS MOVED by Commissioner Cornforth and seconded by Commissioner Goldsbrough that Council acknowledge receipt of the Executive Committee minutes of January 20, 2026.

Carried unanimously

C-25/26-82

Extra – Pontiac High School – Elevator Replacement – Contract #24510B027

WHEREAS Resolution C-24/25-123 awarded a contract to Lalonde Cantin Construction & Associés Canada Inc. in the amount of \$919,000.00 for the above-mentioned project;

WHEREAS Resolution C-25/26-38 authorized the Director General's delegated authority to approve amendments to this contract that may incur additional costs of up to 30%;

WHEREAS the cumulative value of approved extras to date is approaching the authorized threshold, currently representing approximately 29% of the original contract value;

WHEREAS all main approved extras to date are directly related to the structural integrity of the elevator shaft and were required to address major structural deficiencies discovered during construction that could not reasonably have been identified prior to the call for tender;

WHEREAS these corrective works could not be separated from the existing contract without causing significant project delays, jeopardizing applicable warranties, and creating technical and logistical constraints associated with demobilizing and remobilizing contractors;

WHEREAS an additional increase of 10% above the 30% previously authorized is being requested to cover potential additional costs;

WHEREAS the initial project budget of \$1,500,000.00 must be increased by \$150,000.00 to address potential extra costs;

WHEREAS the additional amount of \$150,000.00 will be allocated from Measure 50621 (2021–2022), with no impact anticipated on the 2025–2026 fiscal year expenditure target;

WHEREAS the Executive Committee recommends, by its resolution # E-25/26-73, that Council revise the project budget to \$1,650,000.00; and that the Director General's delegated authority be amended to authorize approval of amendments to Contract #24510B027 that may result in additional costs of up to 40% of the original contract value;

IT WAS MOVED by Commissioner Moore and seconded by Commissioner McCrank THAT, as recommended by the Executive Committee, Council:

- Revise the project budget to \$1,650,000.00; and
- THAT the Director General's delegated authority be amended to authorize approval of amendments to Contract #24510B027 that may result in additional costs of up to 40% of the original contract value.

Carried unanimously

C-25/26-83

Tender by Invitation – Philemon Wright High School – Replacement of Gym Lights – Contract #25510B009

WHEREAS an amount of \$110,000.00 was set aside from the 2022-2023 Measure 50624 related to capital projects;

WHEREAS a tender by invitation was completed;

WHEREAS the following persons and/or businesses were invited:

- INNOVELEC INC.
- Seguin Morris Inc.

WHEREAS the following bids were received:

Seguin Morris Inc.	\$85,107.75
INNOVELEC INC.	\$85,675.00

WHEREAS the lowest bid conformed;

WHEREAS the Executive Committee recommends, by its resolution # E-25/26-74, that Council award the contract to Seguin Morris Inc;

IT WAS MOVED by Commissioner Bélanger and seconded by Parent-Commissioner Fortier THAT, as recommended by the Executive Committee, Council award the contract to Seguin Morris Inc.

Carried unanimously

C-25/26-84

Public Tender – Installation of Water Meters and Backflow Prevention Devices in Several Schools – Contract #25510B007

WHEREAS an amount of \$500,000.00 was set aside from the 2024-2025 Measure 50627;

WHEREAS a public tender was completed;

WHEREAS the tender included the following schools: Lord Aylmer Junior, Lord Aylmer Senior, Hull Adult Education Center, and Maniwaki Woodland School;

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

- D.L.S. CONSTRUCTION INC.
- Émile Séguin & Fils Ltée
- LES ENTREPRISES S.A.F. COMBUSTION CHAUFFAGE CLIMATISATION INC.
- ACQ – Région de l'Outaouais
- Call Fred Inc. (Appelle Fred)
- 3863573 CANADA INC. (MÉCANIQUE PCI)

WHEREAS the following bids were received:

Émile Séguin & Fils Ltée.	\$121,850.00
Call Fred Inc (Appelle Fred)	\$125,455.00
D.L.S. CONSTRUCTION INC.	\$145,700.00

WHEREAS the lowest bid conformed;

WHEREAS the Executive Committee recommends, by its resolution # E-25/26-75, that Council award the contract to Émile Séguin & Fils Ltée.

IT WAS MOVED by Commissioner Goldsbrough and seconded by Commissioner Green THAT, as recommended by the Executive Committee, Council award the contract to Émile Séguin & Fils Ltée.

Carried unanimously

C-25/26-85

CAG Group Purchase – Milk Program – 2026-2027, 2027-2028 and 2028-2029

WHEREAS the WQSB can participate in the CAG's group purchase of milk cartons No. 2026-75551-501 Milk Program for the 2026-2027, 2027-2028 and 2028-2029 school years;

WHEREAS this provincial group tender is for an initial contract of two (2) years, with an option to renew for a period of twelve (12) months;

WHEREAS the total value of the contract is estimated at \$145,000.00;

IT WAS MOVED by Parent-Commissioner Bouchard and seconded by Commissioner Richard to approve the *Centre d'acquisitions gouvernementales* (CAG) to proceed with tender 2026-7551-50 - Milk Program on behalf of the WQSB.

Carried unanimously

C-25/26-86

Delegation of Powers to the Director General for Decisions Following Discipline Hearings

WHEREAS a school principal or centre director may request a hearing when there is just and sufficient cause to consider the expulsion of a student or the student's transfer to another educational institution due to their conduct, in accordance with section 242 of the Education Act;

WHEREAS the school board holds the authority to render such decisions under section 242 of the Act;

WHEREAS the Council of Commissioners may delegate this decision-making authority to the Executive Committee (s. 181, Education Act), or to the director general, an assistant director general, a school principal, a centre director, or any member of the executive staff (s. 174);

WHEREAS the decision regarding expulsion or transfer must be rendered within ten days of the referral by the principal or centre director;

WHEREAS senior administration recommends that the power to render decisions under section 242 of the Act be delegated to the director general, in consultation with a committee composed of the director of education responsible for the school or centre the student attends, the director of complementary services, the student's principal or centre director, and two (2) commissioners, after the student and their parent(s) / guardian(s) have been given the opportunity to be heard at a discipline hearing;

IT WAS MOVED by Parent-Commissioner Bouchard and seconded by Commissioner McCrank THAT Council delegate to the director general the authority to render decisions pursuant to section 242 of the Education Act, and THAT the By-law Establishing Delegations of Powers

and Functions of the Western Québec School Board (By-law 30) **be amended accordingly. – As amended.**

For: 9

Abstentions: - Fortier, Richard,
Giannakoulis, Richard, Killeen, James

Motion Carried

C-25/26-87

Motion to Amend the Main Motion

WHEREAS an amendment was proposed to revise the **5th “Whereas” clause** and to **add** the following:

- That the number of commissioners be increased from one (1) to two (2), and that the Governance & Ethics Committee be given the mandate to review and amend any policies and by-laws related to this resolution.

IT WAS MOVED by Parent-Commissioner Fortier and seconded by Commissioner Killeen THAT an amendment be made to revise the 5th WHEREAS clause of the main motion to increase the number of commissioners from one (1) to two (2), and that the Governance & Ethics Committee be given the mandate to review and amend any policies and bylaws related to this resolution.

Carried unanimously

C-25/26-88

Policy F19 – Recognition – Send for Consultation

IT WAS MOVED by Commissioner Killeen and seconded by Commissioner Goldsbrough THAT the Policy on Recognition F19 be sent for a 60-calendar day consultation.

Carried unanimously

C-25/26-89

Rescission of Policy F10 (Interview Committees)

WHEREAS Policy F10 concerning Interview Committees, established in 1997, has been reviewed and found to be outdated;

WHEREAS the procedures described in Policy F10, developed in 1997, are no longer aligned with the current delegation framework established by By-law 30;

WHEREAS the Council of Commissioners, through the adoption of the By-law Establishing Delegations of Powers and Functions of the Western Québec School Board (By-law 30), has delegated to the Executive Committee the authority and responsibilities related to hiring;

WHEREAS senior administration recommends the rescission of Policy F10;

IT WAS MOVED by Commissioner McCrank and seconded by Commissioner Rhéault THAT Policy F10 – Interview Committees – be rescinded in its entirety.

Carried unanimously

C-25/26-90

Derogation Request to the WQSB Purchasing Policy No. D-11 to Enter into a Mutual Agreement with Dr. Sarah Quirke for 12 Months

WHEREAS the Western Quebec School Board wishes to enter into a mutual agreement contract with Psychologists for the 2026-2027 and 2027-2028 school years;

WHEREAS the Human Resources Department published several postings for the above-mentioned positions;

WHEREAS no applications were received for these positions;

WHEREAS the contract start date will be February 1, 2026, and the contract end date will be January 30, 2027;

WHEREAS section 6.4 of the WQSB Purchasing Policy, “Mutual Agreement Contract” 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 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;

WHEREAS the tendering process for a contract above \$5,000.00 requires three 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 Dr. Sarah Quirke has provided integrated services for the psycho-educational assessments for our students in the past and is available to meet the WQSB needs for the year;

WHEREAS the annual value of the contract is set at a maximum of \$100,000.00;

IT WAS MOVED by Parent-Commissioner Fortier and seconded by Commissioner Richard THAT Council approve the derogation request to enter into a mutual agreement contract with Dr. Sarah Quirke for 12 months, and that the Director of Complementary Services be authorized to sign all the documents necessary for this contract.

Carried unanimously

C-25/26-91

HR Committee Reports of November 18, 2025 and January 13, 2026

IT WAS MOVED by Commissioner Goldsbrough and seconded by Commissioner Garner THAT Council acknowledge receipt of the HR Committee minutes dated November 18, 2025 and January 13, 2026.

Carried unanimously

Adjournment

The Chairperson adjourned the meeting at 8:48 p.m.