

Province of Quebec
Western Quebec School Board

Minutes of the **Council of Commissioners** meeting held on May 26, 2026, in a hybrid format at 6:30 p.m.

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

PERSONNEL: Present at the meeting were also 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 Mr. S. Aitken; the Director of Complementary Services, Ms. L. Falasconi; the Director of Buildings & 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 Bélanger

Call to order: 6:30 p.m.

Agenda item 1

C-25/26-123. Adoption of Agenda
IT WAS MOVED by Commissioner Green and seconded by Commissioner Goldsbrough that the agenda be adopted as presented.
Carried unanimously

Public Participation

Ms. Letitia Taylor and her daughter addressed the Council.

Agenda item 3.1

C-25/26-124. Adoption of Minutes
IT WAS MOVED by Parent-Commissioner Fortier and seconded by Commissioner Cornforth that the minutes of the meeting held on April 28, 2026, be adopted as circulated.
Carried unanimously

Chair's Report

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

- Thank you to everyone who attended the Spring Conference in Quebec City.
- Next year's Spring Conference will be hosted by the Eastern Townships.
- Bill amendments regarding the application of Bill 101 to AEVT were discussed.

- QESBA surveys will be distributed to communities to gather feedback on the new bill.
- The transition from Mr. Singfield to Mr. Pascal Proulx was noted.
- A heartfelt thank you to George for his 40 years of dedication to education. Best wishes for a happy and well-deserved retirement.

DG Report

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

- The new allocation model for the 2026-2027 budget.
- ECQ project proposals / DG projects / DSREA projects
- Anglophone Network Job Fair
- Upcoming or current administrative job postings
- JEDI Framework for Equity
- Indigenous Voices Panel
- Gratitude...

Agenda item 5.2

C-25/26-125.

Resolution to Pursue a “Sport-études” Designation – Philemon Wright High School

WHEREAS recent legislative changes require that students be enrolled in an officially designated Sport-études school in order to participate in such programs, thereby restricting opportunities for students attending non-designated schools;

WHEREAS the Western Quebec School Board (WQSB) currently has no school with an official Sport-études designation;

WHEREAS there is an opportunity to obtain a Sport-études designation for Philemon Wright High School;

WHEREAS the Governing Board of Philemon Wright High School supports the application for designation of Philemon Wright High School as a Sport-études school;

WHEREAS a Sport-études designation directly aligns with the Western Quebec School Board’s Commitment to Success Plan, particularly in relation to the development of new specific educational projects (*projets pédagogiques particuliers*);

WHEREAS the Administration is seeking approval from Council to proceed with the application process for the Sport-études designation for Philemon Wright High School;

IT WAS MOVED by Commissioner Garner and seconded by Parent-Commissioner Bouchard that Council approve the Administration’s

request to move forward with the application for a Sport-études designation for Philemon Wright High School.

Carried unanimously

Agenda item 6.1

C-25/26-126.

Executive Committee Report – April 21, 2026

IT WAS MOVED by Commissioner Goldsbrough and seconded by Commissioner Green that Council acknowledge receipt of the Executive Committee minutes of April 21, 2026.

Carried unanimously

Agenda item 6.2

C-25/26-127.

Executive Committee Report – April 28, 2026 – Special

IT WAS MOVED by Commissioner Cornforth and seconded by Commissioner Goldsbrough that Council acknowledge receipt of the Executive Committee minutes of a Special meeting on April 28, 2026.

Carried unanimously

Agenda item 7.1

C-25/26-128.

Public Tender – Replacement of lockers at Lord Aylmer Junior, Greater Gatineau and Buckingham – Contract 25510B027

WHEREAS an amount of \$240,000.00 was reserved from the Furniture, Tool and Equipment budget and an additional amount of \$120,000.00 was reserved from the 2023-2024 measure 50624;

WHEREAS a public tender was completed;

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

- D.L.S. CONSTRUCTION INC.
- LALONDE CANTIN CONSTRUCTION & ASSOCIÉS CANADA INC.
- Groupe GMR Construction inc.
- ACQ Provinciale
- 9168516 CANADA INC. (Construction LT)
- DEFRAN INCORPORÉE

WHEREAS the following bids were received:

LOT A: Lord Aylmer Junior

LALONDE CANTIN CONSTRUCTION & ASSOCIÉS CANADA INC.	\$88,420.00
9168516 CANADA INC. (Construction LT)	\$100,279.26

DEFRAN INCORPORÉE	\$102,000.00
D.L.S. CONSTRUCTION INC.	\$102,400.00

LOT B: Buckingham Elementary School

D.L.S. CONSTRUCTION INC.	\$290,500.00
LALONDE CANTIN CONSTRUCTION & ASSOCIÉS CANADA INC.	\$295,800.00
9168516 CANADA INC. (Construction LT)	\$353,602.77
DEFRAN INCORPORÉE	\$370,422.00

LOT C: Greater Gatineau Elementary School

D.L.S. CONSTRUCTION INC.	\$247,100.00
LALONDE CANTIN CONSTRUCTION & ASSOCIÉS CANADA INC.	\$259,000.00
9168516 CANADA INC. (Construction LT)	\$372,402.73
DEFRAN INCORPORÉE	\$385,000.00

WHEREAS the analysis of the cost breakdown for Lot A, Lot B and Lot C, completed by the Buildings Department and the Procurement Officer, determined that Lot A is within the acceptable estimated budget, while Lot B and Lot C significantly exceed the initial estimated costs;

WHEREAS the lowest bid for Lot A conformed;

WHEREAS the Executive Committee recommends by resolution E-25/26-146 that Council award the contract for Lot A to Lalonde Cantin Construction & Associés Canada Inc. for the amount of \$88,420.00 and cancel the Lot B and Lot C contract due to the higher-than-anticipated costs, while recommending that the Buildings Department review the execution strategy for Lot B and Lot C;

IT WAS MOVED by Commissioner Goldsbrough and seconded by Commissioner Killeen that, as recommended by the Executive Committee, Council award the contract for Lot A to Lalonde Cantin Construction & Associés Canada Inc. for the amount of \$88,420.00 and cancel the Lot B and Lot C contract due to the higher-than-anticipated costs, while recommending that the Buildings Department review the execution strategy for Lot B and Lot C.

Carried unanimously

Agenda item 7.2

C-25/26-129.

Public Tender – Installation of Water Meters and Backflow Prevention Devices in Multiple Schools – Contract #25510B024

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

WHEREAS an amount from this budget was allocated to the contract awarded to Émile Séguin & Fils Ltée. for \$121,850.00 by resolution C-25/26-84 for the installation of water meters and backflow prevention devices at Lord Aylmer Junior, Lord Aylmer Senior, Hull Adult Education Centre, and Maniwaki Adult Education Center;

WHEREAS the remaining amount of the budget was allocated to complete the replacement of water meters and backflow prevention devices at Philemon Wright High School, Eardley Elementary School, Namur Intermediate School, and Maniwaki Woodland Elementary School;

WHEREAS a public tender was completed;

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

- D.L.S. CONSTRUCTION INC.
- ACQ Provinciale
- CODESPEC INC.
- D.L.S. CONSTRUCTION INC.
- Seguin Morris Inc.
- Call Fred Inc (Appelle Fred)
- C.A.M. 'EAU PLOMBERIE INC.

WHEREAS the following bids were received:

Émile Séguin & Fils Ltée.	\$197,000.00
Call Fred Inc (Appelle Fred)	\$207,463.00
Seguin Morris Inc.	\$221,279.20
D.L.S. CONSTRUCTION INC.	\$267,700.00

WHEREAS the lowest bid conformed;

WHEREAS the Executive Committee recommends by resolution E-25/26-146 that Council award the contract to Émile Séguin & Fils Ltée;

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

Carried unanimously

Agenda item 7.3

C-25/26-130.

Authorization to Award a Contract by Mutual Agreement with Cobalt Intelligence Inc. for Mass Communication Solution

WHEREAS the Administration analyzed the quality of mass communication services to its stakeholders;

WHEREAS the analysis identified areas for improvement in message notification that included speed of message transmission, restrictions to types of messages that can be sent and ability to send a message simultaneously to all stakeholders;

WHEREAS the Administration conducted a search for tools available to meet the communication needs of the school board;

WHEREAS Cobalt Intelligence Inc. has developed software solutions designed for mass communication and emergency management that meet the needs of the school board;

WHEREAS other school boards and school service centres in Québec use this tool for mass communication and feedback on the services from colleagues were positive;

WHEREAS the coordinator of Administrative Services, the Director of IT and the Secretary General conducted a privacy impact analysis for the project;

WHEREAS the above privacy impact analysis was approved by the school board's Committee on the Protection of Personal Information;

WHEREAS the Information Technology Department has analyzed the implementation plan and is prepared to support the implementation;

WHEREAS Cobalt Intelligence Inc. is a Quebec-based company;

WHEREAS the estimated cost for the services is as follows:

Year 1: **\$14,500** before applicable taxes

Year 2: **\$16,500** before applicable taxes

Year 3: **\$18,500** before applicable taxes

WHEREAS the awarding of this contract by mutual agreement constitutes a derogation from the WQSB's Purchasing Policy and therefore requires authorization from the Council of Commissioners;

WHEREAS the Director of Communication and Director of IT recommend the purchase of this service;

IT WAS MOVED by Commissioner Bélanger and seconded by Parent-Commissioner Fortier that Council authorize the awarding of a contract by mutual agreement to Cobalt Intelligence Inc. for the purchase and

implementation of the mass communication and emergency management services for 3 years, and that the Director of Communication be authorized to sign the contract and all associated documents.

Carried unanimously

Agenda item 7.4

C-25/26-131. Review of By-law 15: Code of Ethics and Professional Conduct for the Commissioners of the Western Quebec School Board (WQSB)

WHEREAS Mtre Guida, acting as the designated person, advised that a comprehensive review of By-law 15 be carried out;

WHEREAS the legal responsibility for the review of the Code of Ethics belongs to the Governance and Ethics Committee;

IT WAS MOVED by Commissioner Goldsbrough and seconded by Commissioner Green that Council mandate the Governance and Ethics Committee to undertake a detailed and comprehensive review of By-law 15 and that the completed revised version of By-Law 15 be submitted to Council for adoption at its June 30, 2026, meeting.

Carried unanimously

Agenda item 7.5

C-25/26-132. Tender by Invitation – Cleaning of ventilation systems – South Hull School and Buckingham School – Contract #25510A006

WHEREAS an amount of \$125,000.00 was set aside from the 2025-2026 building operational budget;

WHEREAS a tender by invitation was completed;

WHEREAS the following businesses were invited:

- 1 Clean Air Inc. (2858-2666 QUEBEC INC.)
- Solution d’Air (143516 CANADA INC.)
- SANIAIR Inc. (7550073 CANADA INC.)

WHEREAS the following bids were received:

1 Clean Air Inc. (2858-2666 QUEBEC INC.)	\$73,295.00
Solution d’Air (143516 CANADA INC.)	\$74,246.00

WHEREAS a conformity analysis of the bids received was conducted by the Procurement Officer and the Director of Buildings & Information Technology;

WHEREAS the lowest bidder, 1 Clean Air Inc., submitted an invalid Revenue Quebec Certificate (“Attestation de Revenu Québec”), rendering 1 Clean Air Inc. ineligible for this contract;

WHEREAS the bid submitted by the second lowest bidder, Solution d’Air (143516 CANADA INC.), was determined to be compliant;

WHEREAS the Director of Buildings & Information Technology recommends that the contract be awarded to Solution d’Air (143516 CANADA INC.);

IT WAS MOVED by Parent-Commissioner Bouchard and seconded by Commissioner Garner that, as recommended by the Director of Buildings & Information Technology, Council award the contract to Solution d’Air (143516 CANADA INC.)

Carried unanimously

Agenda item 7.6

C-25/26-133.

Group Buying Program – COLLECTO – PS520-2026 – *Services de vérification des antécédents judiciaires* – Background checks

WHEREAS the Western Quebec School Board has the opportunity to participate in the group purchasing plan offered by Collecto for services related to background checks;

WHEREAS this type of contract requires the authorization of the Council of Commissioners, as it is a standing order contract with multiple suppliers;

WHEREAS criminal background checks must be conducted in accordance with the Education Act (RLRQ c. I-13.3) and the Private Education Act (RLRQ c. E-9.1), and in compliance with the requirements set forth in the Ministry of Education’s Guide for School Service Centers and Private Educational Institutions;

WHEREAS our current contract with the Sureté du Québec and the Police de Gatineau will end in December 2026;

WHEREAS the contract will cover a maximum period of 60 months: from July 1, 2026 to June 30, 2028, with 3 renewal options of 12 months each;

WHEREAS the estimated financial commitment for this contract with the options is approximately \$100,000, with an estimated expenditure of \$20,000 per year;

WHEREAS the Director of Human Resources recommends that the Western Quebec School Board participate in the group purchasing plan

P520-2026 – *Services de vérification des antécédents judiciaires* –
Background checks

IT WAS MOVED by Parent-Commissioner Fortier and seconded by Commissioner Brushey that, as recommended by the Director of Human Resources, Council authorize the Western Quebec School Board to participate in this group purchasing plan and mandate COLLECTO to represent the Western Quebec School Board in its tender process and subsequent contract for the background checks and that the Director of Human Resources be authorized to sign all necessary documents.

Carried unanimously

Agenda item 10.1

C-25/26-134.

Commitment to Truth and Reconciliation in the Strategic Vision

WHEREAS the Western Quebec School Board (WQSB) is committed to fostering safe, inclusive, equitable and respectful environments for all students, employees, families it serves, as well as members of the wider community;

WHEREAS the Western Quebec School Board recognizes the importance of meaningful action toward Truth and Reconciliation;

WHEREAS three reports, the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada: Calls to Action; the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples; and the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls Final Report call on education systems to implement concrete actions to promote Truth and Reconciliation and to address current systemic inequities;

WHEREAS the development and implementation of the Board's Strategic Vision provides an opportunity to formally incorporate commitments aligned with the above-mentioned reports;

IT IS MOVED by Commissioner Bélanger and seconded by Parent-Commissioner Rhéault that the Council of the Western Quebec School Board formally commit to the core principles and recommendations contained in the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada's Calls to Action, the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, and the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls.

For: 15
Abstention: 0
Against: 1
Motion carried

Adjournment

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