

Minutes of the proceedings of a regular meeting of the **Council of Commissioners** of the New Frontiers School Board held at Howick Elementary School, 5 Lambton, Howick, Québec, and using telecommunications given the current COVID19 rules on social distancing, on **Tuesday, June 2, 2020**, at 19:00 hours and at which the following commissioners were present on “Teams”, representing a quorum of the Council of Commissioners:

David D’Aoust, Chair
Lina Chouinard
Kenneth Crockett
Barbara Ednie
Howard (Buzz) Gibbs
Dana Hoshowatiuk, Commissioner representing the Parents’ Committee
Dianne McKell Eastwood
Raymond Ledoux
Abdul Pirani
John Ryan, Vice-Chair
Peter Stuckey
Karin Van Droffelaar
Debra Wright, Commissioner representing the Parents’ Committee
Anne-Marie Yelle, Commissioner representing the Parents’ Committee

Absent with Regrets:

Shannon Keyes, Commissioner representing the Special Needs Advisory Committee

Also in attendance in Howick:

Rob Buttars, Director General
Mike Helm, Assistant Director General & Secretary General

Also in attendance via Teams:

Eric Colbert, Director of Material Resources & NFAA Representative
Chantal Martin, Director of Continuing Education
Cuthbert McIntyre, Director of Human Resources
Terry Savoie, Director of Financial Services
James Walker, Director of Educational Services
Luisa Benvenuti, Administration Officer
Bonnie Gilmour, Interim President, SEPB

Call to Order & Opening Remarks

The Chair opened the 298th meeting at 19:01 hours and welcomed members.

Chair & Secretary

Chair D. D’Aoust presided the meeting; Mrs L. Benvenuti served as recorder.

Recognition Statement

Commissioner L. Chouinard acknowledged that the land on which we gather is the traditional and unceded territory of the Mohawk; a place which has long served as a site of meeting and exchange amongst Nations.

Adoption of the Agenda

The agenda was adopted as presented on a motion by Commissioner L. Chouinard.

MOTION CARRIED unanimously.

Waiver – Reading of Minutes of 2020-05-05 & 2020-05-26

It was moved by Commissioner A. Pirani to waive the reading of the minutes of the regular meeting of 2020-05-05 and the special meeting of 2020-05-26.

MOTION CARRIED unanimously.

Adoption of Minutes of 2020-05-05

It was moved by Commissioner D. Wright that the minutes of the regular meeting of 2020-05-05 be adopted as presented.

MOTION CARRIED unanimously.

Adoption of Minutes of 2020-05-26

It was moved by Commissioner D. McKell-Eastwood that the minutes of the special meeting of 2020-05-26 be adopted as presented.

MOTION CARRIED unanimously.

Public Question Period

There were no questions asked.

Court Challenge Update

The Chair reported that all eight school boards have now joined the Lester B. Pearson School Board in the court challenge on the constitutionality of Law 40.

School Elections – November 1, 2020

The November 1, 2020 school elections were discussed at the Executive Committee meeting of May 12, 2020; the timeline will be difficult to meet, and the cost will be high for the English school boards to absorb. Given current pandemic conditions, voting may also be difficult.

Commissioner Input – Director General’s Performance Review

The Chair informed Commissioners that they would be receiving a form to complete regarding the Director General’s Performance during the 2019-20 school year. They were asked to provide their feedback by June 15 to either himself, the Vice-Chair, or the Chair of the Human Resources Standing Committee.

Graduations

The Minister of Education has declared that schools may organize a day for grade 6 and grade 11 graduates to return to their school for one day to have their yearbooks signed and to say good-bye. The Chair encouraged commissioners to attend any graduation ceremonies that may be held.

COVID-19 Update

The Director General reviewed the major announcements that were made by the Government between Friday, May 29 and Monday, June 1. They included: offering services to our Work Oriented Training Path (skilled and semi-skilled) students and respite services to our students with high special needs, a list of whom would be sent to us by our CISSMO; that we would possibly be a training centre for the new program to train orderlies to work in the CHSLDs by the fall; that we must reach out to any student at risk of failing to attend academic camps in each of our schools, including those that were previously declared closed until the fall; that we support summer camps being organized by our municipalities; and that we plan a day for our grade six and eleven students to be able to have their yearbooks signed.

Summer Hours & Summer Shut-Down

Should the school board offices reopen to the public, hours from July 2 to August 21, 2020 would be from Monday to Thursday, 8:30 am to 4:00 pm; and on Fridays from 8:30 am to 12:00 noon. Also, the school board offices, including the Taxation Department, will be closed from July 20 - 31, 2020 inclusively. A Public Notice will be published accordingly.

Resolution #CC20-06-02-001

Council Meeting Dates & Exceptions - July – October 2020

On the recommendation of the Director General, it was moved by Commissioner K Crockett that the August 4, 2020 Council meeting be cancelled to allow for the summer holiday period.

MOTION CARRIED unanimously.

Resolution #CC20-06-02-002

Standing Committees Meeting Dates & Exceptions - July – October 2020

On the recommendation of the Director General, it was moved by Commissioner K. Crockett that the July 15, 2020 Standing Committee meetings be cancelled to allow for the summer holiday period.

MOTION CARRIED unanimously.

Resolution #CC20-06-02-003

2019-2020 Resource Allocation Committee Recommendations for the 2020-21 Budget Building Process

Whereas the 2019-2020 Resource Allocation Committee (RAC) has met during the year to consult on the objectives, principles, and procedures used in the preparation of the School Board's annual budget; and whereas the 2019-2020 RAC is making the following recommendations to the Council of Commissioners for the 2020-2021 school year:

Learning Centre

- Continue to use funding from Measure 15313 to provide an additional closed class at Howard S. Billings for the 2020-2021 school year.

Four-Year-Old Kindergarten

- Centralize funding from Measure 11023.
- Allow principals flexibility to decide what type of resource they would like (special education technician, daycare technician, or daycare educator).

Withholding 8% of Certain Funding

- Applies to Measures 15011, 15015, 15025, 15063, 15312.
- Financial Services would provide a detailed account to RAC in 2020-2021.
- Initial requests to be reviewed at RAC's first meeting of 2020-21.
- 50% replacement for sick leave with re-evaluation in December/January 20-21.
- Each school can replace a maximum of one person.
- No replacement funding for sick leaves after April 1.
- Review of remaining funds in April for possible re-distribution.

Transitory Funds to Support the New Model for Students with Handicaps

- Criteria for distribution determined by the Central Special Needs Committee.
- Funds to be allocated using Ministry guidelines of minimum support.
- A minimum amount established for learning centres.
- Transitory funding distributed proportionately based on schools most impacted between 2019-2020 and 2020-2021.

Therefore it was moved by Commissioner R. Ledoux that the Council of Commissioners accept these recommendations made by the 2019-2020 Resource Allocation Committee and applicable for the 2020-21 school year.

MOTION CARRIED unanimously.

Executive Committee – Decisions of 2020-05-12

The following decisions made by the Executive Committee at their meeting of 2020-05-12 were reviewed and accepted unanimously:

Working Committee Assignments 2020-21

It was moved by Commissioner B. Ednie that the current working committee assignments be maintained for the 2020-21 school year.

Elections of November 2020

It was moved by Commissioner B. Ednie that, due to timeline constraints, the Chair ask the Quebec English School Boards' Association (QESBA) to request that the Ministry of Education postpone the November 1, 2020 school elections.

Allocations for Parents' Committee, Governing Boards

It was moved by Commissioner B. Gibbs that for the 2020-21 school year, the Parents' Committee be allocated \$1,500, and each governing board be allocated \$250.

Governing Board Composition 2020-21

It was moved by L. Chouinard that governing board compositions be maintained for the 2020-21 school year with the understanding that should a need arise in a given school or centre, that the Executive Committee would act quickly to approve or refuse the request.

Delegation of Powers

It was moved by Commissioner D. Wright that the various sections of By-Law BLA "Delegation of Powers by the Council to the Director General" be reviewed by the appropriate Standing Committee; and that a working committee be formed to include one commissioner from each Standing Committee, the Chair, the Secretary General, and the Director General as a special guest, to review all the recommended changes; and that a presentation be made to all commissioners at the July Council meeting.

Resolution #CC20-06-02-004

Per Diem Rates for Travel

Whereas the New Frontiers School Board’s Policy DJD (Procedures for Reimbursement of Expenses) addresses the terms and conditions for the reimbursement of per diems for meals by commissioners and employees in the performance of their duties; and whereas this policy requires the per diem rates of reimbursement be set periodically by Council; and whereas, at their meeting of February 11, 2020, the Audit Committee proposed to align more closely with rates offered across the province of Quebec for other school boards; and whereas the proposal accepted by the Audit Committee was as follows and to be effective on July 1, 2020:

	ON Board Territory Maximum Amounts/Receipts mandatory	OFF Board Territory Flat Rates/Receipts not needed	OFF Board Territory Maximum Amounts/Receipts mandatory
Breakfast	\$12	\$15	\$21
Lunch	\$18	\$18	\$28
Supper	\$25	\$33	\$50
Daily Max	\$55	\$66	\$99

Therefore, on the recommendation of the Operations Standing Committee, it was moved by Commissioner P. Stuckey that the per diem rates as expressed here be accepted and put into place effective July 1, 2020.

MOTION CARRIED unanimously.

2020-2021 Rules of Conduct & Safety

In accordance with the Organizational Guide JICD, “Each school year the principal/centre director will develop, in collaboration with the school staff, the Rules of Conduct & Safety governing the school/centre”. As stated in article 76 of the Education Act, the approval of the Rules of Conduct and Safety is the responsibility of the governing board following the proposal by the principal/centre director. Commissioners were provided with a copy of the youth and adult sectors’ Rules of Conduct & Safety for the upcoming school year.

2020-2021 Projected Enrolments

Commissioners were provided with enrolment figures to date for the 2020-2021 school year. The numbers are quite steady given current restrictions for Covid-19 and that parents have had to mostly register electronically.

Resolution #CC20-06-02-005

Valley Internet Infrastructure

Whereas there is a good possibility that online learning will continue in the fall in some manner or another; and whereas there are concerns that the infrastructure in the “valley” cannot accommodate the demands of our students;

Therefore, it was moved by Vice-Chair J. Ryan that a letter be sent to the Government requesting that improvements be made to the internet infrastructure in the Chateauguay Valley; and that a copy of said letter be sent to the Member for Huntingdon, Mme Claire Isabelle.

Valley School Reopening

On May 11, 2020, our “valley” elementary schools reopened to students on an optional basis. On May 14, Premier Legault announced that schools in the Montreal Metropolitan Community (which includes Chateauguay) would remain closed for the remainder of the 2019-2020 school year. Commissioners were provided with the following information as at June 1, 2020:

School	Returning	Enrollment	% Returning
Franklin	8	60	13%
Gault	72	229	31%
Hemmingford	11	117	9%
Heritage	40	208	19%
Howick	46	171	27%
Ormstown	42	190	22%
Total/Average	219	975	22%

Retirement

Commissioners were informed of the following upcoming retirement:

- Sara Engelhardt, employee #0657, daycare educator at Gault Institute, employed since August 30, 2006 (14 years), will retire as of July 1, 2020.

Disclosure by Senior Officers

Annually, senior officers, including commissioners, must sign disclosure forms, the purpose of which is to demonstrate transparency and promote the integrity of the financial statements by identifying and declaring transactions that were not at fair market value (i.e. that conferred a benefit) and were material in nature. Given current Covid-19 restrictions, senior officers were asked to sign the disclosure form electronically.

New Business

There was no new business to discuss.

Parents' Committee

The Parents' Committee has a meeting scheduled for June 11, 2020.

Special Needs Advisory Committee

Commissioner S. Keyes was absent; a meeting has not taken place, but one is being planned before June 30.

Quebec English School Boards' Association

Vice-Chair J. Ryan reported on recent activities, which included: the legal challenge of Law 40, a postponement of the Canadian School Boards' Association conference for 2021, the non-increase in QESBA member board fees, and the activities of the Student Advisory Committee, which includes a student from Howard S. Billings High School – Miss DaVyda Robinson.

Ad Hoc Committee Reports

Audit Committee

The Audit Committee met on May 12, 2020 where they reviewed new per diem travel rates, the RISQ Plan, and recommendations from the Resource Allocation Committee.

List of Disbursements

Commissioners were provided with the following list of disbursements for the month of May 2020:

Chq Nbr	Chq Date	Paid To	Amount
193642	5/1/2020	BEST BUY CANADA LTD.	1,625.30
193648	5/14/2020	REVENU QUEBEC	467,926.72
193649	5/14/2020	REVENU CANADA	186,455.14
193650	5/14/2020	ACIERS H & H INC (LES)	2,879.43
193651	5/14/2020	ASCENSEURS THYSSEN KRUPP	1,010.15
193658	5/14/2020	CAPITALE GESTION FINANCIERE,LA INC.	16,138.04
193661	5/14/2020	CHATEAUGUAY ACADEMY OF IRISH	3,732.00
193682	5/14/2020	GLOBAL INDUSTRIAL CANADA	4,049.68
193688	5/14/2020	IDENTIFIX INC	1,824.00
193690	5/14/2020	INDUSTRIAL ALLIANCE	30,403.73
193694	5/14/2020	JOHNSTON, RANDY	6,120.00
193714	5/14/2020	PROVINCIAL HEALTH SERVICES AUTHORITY	1,894.23
193718	5/14/2020	ROGERS	1,814.95
193724	5/14/2020	SSQ, SOCIETE D'ASSURANCE-VIE INC.	10,236.68
193734	5/14/2020	WM QUEBEC INC.	1,454.89
193736	5/14/2020	XEROX CANADA LTEE	12,303.83
193738	5/14/2020	NOVEXCO/ HAMSTER	1,360.14
193739	5/14/2020	ASSOCIATION PROVINCIAL ENSEIGNANTS DU QUEBEC	5,931.72
193740	5/14/2020	C.V.T.A.	4,944.57
193741	5/14/2020	CAPITALE GESTION FINANCIERE,LA	1,167.07
193747	5/14/2020	S.E.P.B. QUEBEC	6,973.41
193748	5/14/2020	S.P.P.O.Q.A.	1,195.42

193749	5/14/2020	UNION DES EMPLOYEES ET EMPLOYES DE SERVICE LOCAL 800	1,149.45
193751	5/14/2020	BOUCHARD, JEAN	1,776.30
193753	5/14/2020	C. S. DES GRANDES-SEIGNEURIES	15,819.91
193758	5/14/2020	FONDS DE SOLIDARITE DES TRAVAILLEURS DU QUEBEC (FTQ)	2,447.16
193763	5/14/2020	INSO - MONTREAL	5,139.39
193765	5/14/2020	NSW CONTROLE INC.	13,897.61
193766	5/14/2020	PIECES D'AUTO HAP INC. (LES)	2,136.07
193768	5/14/2020	SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIRS	1,473.95
193776	5/14/2020	WOOD WYANT CANADA INC.	2,266.54
193777	5/14/2020	9072-0103 QUEBEC INC.	11,463.39
193778	5/14/2020	AUTOBUS DUFRESNE INC.	9,846.28
193779	5/14/2020	AUTOBUS RACINE LTEE	6,823.98
193780	5/14/2020	AUTOBUS ROLAND LEDUC INC.	73,251.84
193781	5/14/2020	AUTOBUS VENISE LTEE	6,078.95
193782	5/14/2020	CIE TRANSBUS (1986) INC.	4,778.27
193783	5/14/2020	MOR TRANSPORT INC.	2,011.76
193784	5/14/2020	RO-BUS INC.	39,203.53
193785	5/14/2020	TRANSPORT P.M.D. BRAULT INC.	10,775.28
193786	5/21/2020	CHISHOLM, DONALD J.	5,058.90
193787	5/21/2020	DUTEAU, GERALD JR	1,324.22
193789	5/21/2020	GARAGE GLENN FORGET	4,599.00
193790	5/21/2020	GARY CLUFF	3,771.16
193792	5/21/2020	9397-3550 QUEBEC INC	10,041.17
193794	5/21/2020	GAZONS FAIRWAY INC. (LES)	1,341.37
193795	5/21/2020	PAVAGES J.M. BEAULIEU, LES	13,388.84
193796	5/21/2020	PAVAGES ULTRA INC.(LES)	14,103.60
193797	5/28/2020	REVENU QUEBEC	480,086.44
193798	5/28/2020	REVENU CANADA	191,950.25
193799	5/28/2020	ANIPAK	2,788.14
193803	5/28/2020	COLOSIMO, SCOTT	2,500.00
193804	5/28/2020	DYNAMIX ADVENTURES INC.	1,414.19
193805	5/28/2020	ENVIRO CONNEXIONS	3,423.12
193806	5/28/2020	FDMT	1,902.11
193813	5/28/2020	MONTEREGIE WEST COMMUNITY	1,980.85
193814	5/28/2020	MORNEAU SHEPELL LTD	1,537.95
193815	5/28/2020	NATHALIE MALO	2,030.00
193820	5/28/2020	RICOVA SERVICES INC.	2,045.45
193822	5/28/2020	SOLUTIONS SHERBY	10,737.34
193824	5/28/2020	SUPERMARCHE BERGERON INC.	3,144.73
193827	5/28/2020	WOOD WYANT CANADA INC.	18,816.25
193833	5/28/2020	INDUSTRIAL ALLIANCE	29,503.73
193835	5/28/2020	K.E.N. DISTRIBUTING	1,296.00
193838	5/28/2020	MANULIFE FINANCIAL	1,473.45
193839	5/28/2020	NATURAL POD SERVICES INC.	1,438.50
193849	5/28/2020	SPORT MASKA INC.	1,690.13
193851	5/28/2020	THE LEARNING PARTNERSHIP	5,560.00
193852	5/28/2020	THERESA SYLVESTER	1,900.00
193856	5/28/2020	NOVEXCO/ HAMSTER	1,436.29
193857	5/28/2020	RONA INC.	1,194.00
193860	5/28/2020	MCLEAN, DIANE M.A.	1,760.00
193861	5/28/2020	READING GYM	1,422.60
193864	5/28/2020	ECOLE PETER HALL SCHOOL INC.	51,018.89
193865	5/28/2020	MATERIAUX PONT MASSON INC.	1,693.02
193866	5/28/2020	SUMMIT SCHOOL	45,506.89
193867	5/28/2020	ASSOCIATION PROVINCIAL ENSEIGNANTS DU QUEBEC	5,890.27
193868	5/28/2020	C.V.T.A.	5,073.79
193869	5/28/2020	CAPITALE GESTION FINANCIERE,LA	1,171.44
193875	5/28/2020	S.E.P.B. QUEBEC	6,806.39
193876	5/28/2020	S.P.P.O.Q.A.	1,194.06
193877	5/28/2020	UNION DES EMPLOYEES ET EMPLOYES DE SERVICE LOCAL 800	1,117.66
193878	5/28/2020	RETRAITE QUEBEC	247,279.12

193879	5/28/2020	9072-0103 QUEBEC INC.	11,934.82
193881	5/28/2020	AUTOBUS DUFRESNE INC.	10,868.57
193882	5/28/2020	AUTOBUS RACINE LTEE	6,796.53
193883	5/28/2020	AUTOBUS ROLAND LEDUC INC.	73,649.80
193884	5/28/2020	AUTOBUS VENISE LTEE	6,838.82
193885	5/28/2020	CIE TRANSBUS (1986) INC.	6,022.75
193886	5/28/2020	MOR TRANSPORT INC.	1,645.99
193887	5/28/2020	RO-BUS INC.	32,075.62
193888	5/28/2020	TRANSPORT P.M.D. BRAULT INC.	8,837.73
193889	5/28/2020	HYDRO QUEBEC	2,262.96
193895	5/28/2020	HYDRO QUEBEC	3,410.17
193896	5/28/2020	HYDRO QUEBEC	4,064.47
193897	5/28/2020	HYDRO QUEBEC	3,624.03
193898	5/28/2020	HYDRO QUEBEC	1,388.77
193899	5/28/2020	HYDRO QUEBEC	4,285.27
193900	5/28/2020	HYDRO QUEBEC	3,622.27
193901	5/28/2020	HYDRO QUEBEC	3,599.48
193902	5/28/2020	HYDRO QUEBEC	2,996.25
193903	5/28/2020	HYDRO QUEBEC	1,300.04
193904	5/28/2020	HYDRO QUEBEC	2,998.03
193905	5/28/2020	HYDRO QUEBEC	8,549.63
193906	5/28/2020	GAZ METRO	1,132.07
193907	5/28/2020	GAZ METRO	2,436.80
193908	5/28/2020	GAZ METRO	8,528.68
193909	5/28/2020	GAZ METRO	2,417.71
193910	5/28/2020	GAZ METRO	2,799.51

Correspondence

The Chair indicated that, while not received by New Frontiers, QESBA has received on behalf of all boards, communication from the Government's lawyers to acknowledge receipt of the court challenge.

Second Question Period

There were no questions asked.

Unfinished Business / Business Arising

Commission D. Hoshowatiuk informed council that the Howard S. Billings Governing Board and administration have agreed to not offer the "Alternative Program" for the 2020-21 school year.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was closed at 20:27 hours on a motion by Commissioner K. Van Droffelaar.

MOTION CARRIED unanimously.

David D'Aoust
Chair

Mike Helm
Secretary General