

Minutes of the proceedings of a **special** meeting of the **Council of Commissioners** of the New Frontiers School Board held at the School Board offices, 214 McLeod, Chateauguay, Québec on **Tuesday, June 30, 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
Howard (Buzz) Gibbs
Dianne McKell Eastwood
Abdul Pirani
John Ryan, Vice-Chair
Peter Stuckey
Karin Van Droffelaar
Anne-Marie Yelle, Commissioner representing the Parents’ Committee

Absent with Regrets:

Kenneth Crockett
Barbara Ednie
Dana Hoshowatiuk, Commissioner representing the Parents’ Committee
Shannon Keyes, Commissioner representing the Special Needs Advisory Committee
Raymond Ledoux
Debra Wright, Commissioner representing the Parents’ 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
Chantal Martin, Director of Continuing Education
Cuthbert McIntyre, Director of Human Resources
Terence Savoie, Director of Financial Services
James Walker, Director of Educational Services
Luisa Benvenuti, Administration Officer
Bonnie Gilmour, President, SEP576
Bonnie Mitchell, President, NFAA

Call to Order

The Chair opened the 300th meeting at 19:00 hours and welcomed members. It was confirmed by the Secretary General that this special meeting was called in compliance with Article 163 of the Education Act.

Chair & Secretary

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

Recognition Statement

Commissioner D. McKell-Eastwood 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.

Public Question Period

There were no questions asked.

2018-2019 Annual Report – Public Presentation

The Director General and the Secretary General, on behalf of Council, presented a “By the Numbers” look at the activities and results of the 2018-19 school year. It was noted that the complete 2018-19 annual report can be found on the school board’s website.

Resolution #CC20-06-30sp-001

Acceptance of 2018-19 NFSB Annual Report

It was moved by Commissioner A. Pirani that the Council of Commissioners of the New Frontiers School Board accept the deposit and presentation of the 2018-19 Annual Report of the New Frontiers School Board.

MOTION CARRIED unanimously.

Resolution #CC20-06-30sp-002

School Board Budget 2020-2021& Declaration of Uniform Property Valuations

Whereas, in conformity with the Education Act (R.S.Q., c. I-13.3), the New Frontiers School Board must adopt and forward to the Ministry of Education, its budget for operations, investments, and debt service costs for the 2020-2021 school year; and whereas the New Frontiers School Board foresees adopting a budget where the revenues will exceed expenditures (surplus) by an amount of \$300,000, in line with the Financial Recovery Plan; and whereas the budgeted revenues of \$64,091,498 exceed the budgeted expenses of \$ 63,791,498 by exactly the amount of \$300,000; and whereas the amount of the school tax of \$2,873,465, dated May 1, 2020, was established taking into consideration: an adjusted standardized valuation of taxable properties of \$ 25,000 and under of \$10,407,238; and a valuation of \$3,014,814,211 of taxable properties over \$ 25,000; and whereas the tax rate established in the budget is \$0.1054 per \$100 taxable valuation and this rate respects the rate established by Law;

Therefore, on the recommendation of the Operations Standing Committee, it was moved by Commissioner P. Stuckey that the New Frontiers School Board's 2020-2021 budget for operations, capital, and for debt service, providing for revenues of \$64,091,498 and expenses of \$63,791,498, be adopted and transmitted to the Minister of Education.

MOTION CARRIED unanimously.

Resolution #CC20-06-30sp-003

Service Fees & Interest on Overdue Accounts

Whereas the Council of Commissioners adopts the appropriate service fees for tax collections;

Therefore, on the recommendation of the Operations Standing Committee, it was moved by P. Stuckey Commissioner that the New Frontiers School Board, in conformity with common practices across the province and our territory, impose a collection fee of \$25 for all collection notices sent by registered or certified mail; and that the service charge on all returned items related to the payment of school taxes and fees remain unchanged at \$20; and that the administration fee imposed for tax statements issued to notaries remain unchanged at \$20; and that the service fee for a tax receipt or statement of account have a fee of \$3; and that these fees be effective as of July 1, 2020.

MOTION CARRIED unanimously.

Resolution #CC20-06-30sp-004

Recommendation for Permanence – L. Hatungimana

Whereas new administrators are appointed as “probationary” administrators with the New Frontiers School Board for a period not to exceed 24 months in accordance with the Regulation Respecting Certain Conditions of Employment of Senior Staff of School Boards; and whereas probationary administrators are evaluated during this probationary period; and whereas Mr. Leopold Hatungimana will be completing his second year as a probationary administrator in the position of Superintendent of Material Resources; and whereas Mr. Hatungimana has been evaluated during this period and has received a positive recommendation from the Director of Material Resources;

Therefore, on the recommendation of the Human Resources Committee, it was moved by Commissioner A. Pirani that Mr. Leopold Hatungimana become a permanent administrator with the New Frontiers School Board.

MOTION CARRIED unanimously.

Resolution #CC20-06-30sp-005

Appointment of Superintendent of Material Resources

Whereas the Administrative Structure for the 2020-21 school year, adopted as per Resolution #CC20-05-05-014, provides for the addition of a full-time Superintendent of Material Resources; and whereas the position was posted and advertised in accordance with the Local Administrators' Policy; and whereas a Selection Committee was formed in accordance with Board policy and interviews were held;

Therefore, on the recommendation of the Selection Committee, it was moved by Commissioner A. Pirani that Mr Stéphane Laliberté be appointed to the position of Superintendent of Material Resources effective July 6, 2020; and that Mr Laliberté be granted those benefits accorded the position as provided for in the “Regulation Respecting Certain Conditions of Employment of Senior Staff of School Boards” adopted by the Minister of Education, including all subsequent amendments, as well as, benefits provided for in the New Frontiers Local Administrators' Policy; and that the Director General be authorized to sign the letter of engagement for Mr Stéphane Laliberté as the Superintendent of Material Resources effective July 6, 2020.

MOTION CARRIED unanimously.

Chateauguay School Schedules

For the 2020-2021 school year, the youth sector schools in Chateauguay will be changing their schedules so that the elementary schools will start before the high school. This is the reverse structure of this and previous years. This change originated at the school level and will provide improved alignment of the school day and the sleep schedules of our elementary and high school students and benefitting student mental health and academic achievement. Consultation has taken place with the School Council of each affected school, and each Governing Board (as per Article 87 of the Education Act) has approved the modification. Once exact start and end times are confirmed (approximately 8:00 am for the elementary schools, and 9:00 am for Howard S. Billings), detailed information will be communicated to our school communities.

Departure from Meeting

Commission B. Gibbs left the meeting at 20:10 hours.

Resolution #CC20-06-30sp-005

Chateauguay School Schedules

It was moved by Commissioner K. Van Droffelaar that the Council of Commissioners of the New Frontiers School Board acknowledge that they have received information regarding a change to the youth sector school schedules in Chateauguay, effective for the 2020-21 school year, whereby the elementary schools will have a start time that is earlier than the high school.

MOTION CARRIED unanimously.

Second Public Question Period

There were no questions asked.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was closed at 20:14 hours on a motion by Commissioner A. Pirani.

MOTION CARRIED unanimously.

David D'Aoust
Chair

Mike Helm
Secretary General