



Minutes of proceedings of a regular meeting of the Council of Commissioners of the New Frontiers School Board held in the Library at Howard S. Billings Regional High School, 210 McLeod, Chateauguy, Quebec, on **Tuesday, December 5, 2023**, at 19:00 hours and at which the following commissioners were present, representing quorum of the Council of Commissioners:

- John Ryan, Chair
- Raymond Ledoux, Vice-Chair, Electoral Division #1
- Lina Chouinard, Electoral Division #3
- Kenneth Crockett, Electoral Division #4, arrived at 19:03 hours
- Dianne McKell Eastwood, Electoral Division #7
- Barbara Ednie, Electoral Division #9
- Lorne Ferguson, Commissioner representing Parents, Elementary Level
- Jennifer Largin, Commissioner representing Parents at Large
- Abdul Pirani, Electoral Division #6
- Caleigh Saucier, Commissioner representing Parents, Secondary Level
- Connor Stacey, Electoral Division #10
- Peter Stuckey, Electoral Division #8
- Karin Van Droffelaar, Electoral Division #2
- Joy Thomas, Electoral Division #5

Absent with regrets:

- Brenda Bourdeau, Commissioner representing the Special Needs Advisory Committee

Also in attendance:

- Mike Helm, Director General
- Joyce Donohue, Assistant Director General & Secretary General
- Eric Colbert, Director of Material Resources, and New Frontiers Administrators' Association Representative
- Kara Johnstone, Director of Systems & Information Technology
- 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, Manager of Administrative Services & Communications

Call to Order & Opening Remarks

The Chair opened this 341st meeting at 19:03 hours and welcomed members, expressing appreciation to everyone for their attendance and participation, and to the administrative team for managing the various school closures due to power outages on Monday.

Recognition Statement

Commissioner A. Pirani 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. Eric Colbert was recognized as the NFAA representative.

Declaration of Conflict

There were no declarations made relative to tonight's agenda items.

Adoption of the Agenda

The agenda was adopted as presented on a motion by Commissioner B. Ednie.

MOTION CARRIED unanimously.

Waiver – Reading of the Minutes of 2023-11-07

The reading of the minutes of the regular meeting of 2023-11-07 was waived on a motion by Commissioner L. Chouinard.

MOTION CARRIED unanimously.

Adoption of the Minutes of 2023-11-07

It was moved by Commissioner K. Van Droffelaar that the minutes of the meeting of 2023-11-07 be adopted as presented.
MOTION CARRIED unanimously.

Public Question Period

There were no members of the public in attendance.

Change of Meeting Dates

At the Council of Commissioners' meeting of May 2, 2023, it was unanimously resolved that the regular standing committee meetings of December 19, 2023 be cancelled, and that the regular Council meeting of January 2, 2024 be cancelled, and that a special Council meeting be held on January 23, 2024. It was also noted that the School Board Offices, schools, centres, and the Tax Department will be closed from December 25, 2023 to January 5, 2024 inclusively. Public notices will be posted accordingly.

Chair's Report

The Chair presented his report, which will be available in the Governance folder.

Executive Committee

The next meeting of the Executive Committee will take place on December 12, 2023, at 16:30 hours on Teams; the meeting kit will be made available before the end of this week.

Strike Action – Update

The Director General provided an update on the legal strike action in which all schools, centres, daycares, and offices will be closed from December 8 to December 14, 2023, inclusively.

Departure from Meeting

Commissioner J. Thomas left the meeting at 19:25 hours.

Return to Meeting

Commissioner J. Thomas returned to the meeting at 19:29 hours.

Director General's Report

The Director General presented his report, which will be available in the Governance folder. His report included an update on the *Vérificateur Général du Québec* audit.

Departure from Meeting

Commissioner K. Crockett left the meeting at 19:59 hours.

Return to Meeting

Commissioner K. Crockett returned to the meeting at 20:05 hours.

Resolution #CC23-12-05-001

Deposit of 2022-2023 Financial Statements

Whereas the audit firm BCGO S.E.N.C.R.L. was appointed as the auditors for the New Frontiers School Board (NFSB) for the 2022-2023 fiscal school year; and whereas on revenues of \$92,153,726 and expenses of \$83,900,304 the New Frontiers School Board recorded a surplus of \$8,253,422 for the year ended June 30, 2023; and whereas under the accounting policy of the Ministry of Education, the excess of revenues over expenses is allocated to the accumulated deficit, if any; and whereas commissioners will be provided with extracts of the comparative financial statements including the School Board's Balance Sheet, Income Statement, and Statement of Accumulated Surplus; and whereas the schedules below summarize the results of operations and the effect upon the School Board's accumulated deficit.

	2022-2023	(Restated) 2021-2022
Financial Results		
Revenues	\$ 92,153,726	\$ 79,709,946
Expenditures	83,900,304	75,516,439
Net Surplus/(Deficit)	\$8,253,422	\$4,193,507
Accumulated Surplus/(Deficit)		
Opening Balance	\$ (5,559,556)	\$ (9,753,064)
Operational Surplus/(Deficit)	8,253,422	4,193,507
Ending Balance	\$ 2,693,865	\$ (5,559,556)

Therefore, on the recommendation of the Audit Committee, it is moved by Commissioner L. Chouinard that the Council of Commissioners accept the deposit of the 2022-2023 Financial Statements, bearing the electronic signature 4302390436.

MOTION CARRIED unanimously.

Resolution #CC23-12-05-002

Approval of the List for Non-Payment of School Tax

Appointment of New Frontiers School Board Representative

Whereas, notwithstanding the New Frontiers School Board's (NFSB) protocols for sending repeated notices and reminders to property owners of taxable immovable property for payment of school tax to NFSB, there are still owners each year that remain in default of payment of school taxes; and whereas, according to article 339 of the Education Act of Quebec, we must prepare, before the beginning of November each year, the list of owners with taxes due on buildings which may be put up for sale for non-payment of school taxes; and whereas provisions within the Education Act, the Cities & Towns Act, and the Municipal Code of Quebec, provide that these statements of unpaid school taxes be approved by the Council of Commissioners; and whereas it is in the interest of the NFSB, when deemed necessary, to ask the municipalities of our territory, to register NFSB as a creditor in the sale for non-payment of taxes, on the taxable immovables described in the approved statement of unpaid school taxes; and whereas it is necessary to appoint a representative of the NFSB in connection with any sale of buildings for non-payment of school taxes to the Regional County Municipalities of our territory;

Therefore, on the recommendation of the Operations Standing Committee, it was moved by Commissioner D. McKell Eastwood that the Council of Commissioners of the New Frontiers School Board approve the statement of unpaid taxes; and that Terence Savoie, Director of Financial Resources, be appointed as the representative of the New Frontiers School Board in connection with any sale of buildings for non-payment of school taxes.

MOTION CARRIED unanimously.

Resolution # CC23-12-05-003

Motion to Intervene Against Bill 96

Whereas Bill 96, An Act respecting French, the official and common language of Québec, was assented to on June 1, 2022; and whereas the same day the English Montreal School Board brought an application to challenge the constitutionality of numerous provisions of Bill 96 and the Charter of the French Language; and whereas the English Montreal School Board's constitutional challenge to Bill 96 has been joined with the constitutional challenges of other parties and is progressing through the court system though, like all constitutional challenges, it is expected to be a lengthy process; and whereas amendments to the Charter of the French Language that came into force on June 1, 2023 would require that English language school boards communicate with key institutions of the English-speaking community, such as the Quebec English School Boards Association, in French exclusively; and whereas on September 29, 2023, the Office québécois de la langue française provided the English Montreal School Board with an interpretation of provisions of Bill 96 and the Charter of the French Language, which would effectively require that most internal written communications at the English Montreal School Board be conducted in French; and whereas such an interpretation would also require that most written communications between commissioners of English-language school boards be conducted in French; and whereas such an interpretation would also require that most written communications between English-language school boards be conducted in French; and whereas the Québec Court of Appeal in its decision on the stay of Bill 40 recently reaffirmed that section 23 of the Canadian Charter prevents the province from interfering "with the linguistic and cultural concerns of the minority"; and whereas implementing provisions of Bill 96 and the Charter of the French Language, as interpreted by the *Office québécois de la langue française*, would fundamentally alter the linguistic culture; and whereas implementing provisions of Bill 96 and the Charter of the

Resolution # CC23-12-05-003 / Motion to Intervene Against Bill 96 - cont'd

French Language, as interpreted by the *Office québécois de la langue française*, would detract from the needs and priorities of the nine English language school boards, their students, parents and the broader community it serves; and whereas all of these effects would lead to irreparable harm for the English-language community; and whereas the Quebec English School Boards Association and all nine English school boards obtained a stay of Bill 40 in 2020, which was confirmed by the Québec Court of Appeal, based on the irreparable harm that implementing Bill 40 would cause to the English-speaking community, while waiting for a decision on the merits of the challenge;

Therefore, it was moved by Commissioner J. Largan that the New Frontiers School Board become an intervenor in the constitutional challenge put forward by the English Montreal School Board; and that the New Frontiers School Board Council of Commissioners mandate the legal firm, Power Law, to institute on its behalf the appropriate legal proceeding.

MOTION CARRIED unanimously.

Authorization of the Sale of Ro-Bus Inc.

Whereas Mr Robert L. Auger, President of Ro-bus Inc., has informed the New Frontiers School Board that Ro-Bus Inc. intends to transfer the ownership of its shares (via sale) to Transdev Canada Inc. and/or one of its wholly-owned subsidiaries; and whereas no contracts will be assigned or transferred as part of the transaction; and whereas our transportation contracts require the New Frontiers School Board to consent to the transaction; and whereas consent form(s) has been submitted by Ro-Bus Inc. for signature; and whereas a sale requires a motion approved by the Council of Commissioners; and whereas Ro-Bus Inc. has contracts for 11 regular and seven mini-buses which are used for transportation services with the New Frontiers School Board; and whereas no additional cost will be incurred by the New Frontiers School Board with respect to this transfer of ownership of shares of Ro-Bus Inc.;

Therefore, on the recommendation of the Educational Services Standing Committee, it was moved by Commissioner C. Stacey that the Council of Commissioners approve the transfer through sale of shares of Ro-Bus Inc. to Transdev Canada Inc. and/or one of its wholly-owned subsidiaries; and that the Director of Educational Services of the New Frontiers School Board be authorized to sign the consent form(s) and any other relevant documentation to authorize this transaction.

Resolution # CC23-12-05-004

Motion to Amend

On a motion by Commissioner L. Chouinard, it was moved that the motion “Authorization of the Sale of Ro-Bus Inc.” be amended by changing the signing authority from the Director of Educational Services to the Director General.

MOTION CARRIED unanimously.

Resolution # CC23-12-05-005

Authorization of the Sale of Ro-Bus Inc.

Whereas Mr Robert L. Auger, President of Ro-bus Inc., has informed the New Frontiers School Board that Ro-Bus Inc. intends to transfer the ownership of its shares (via sale) to Transdev Canada Inc. and/or one of its wholly-owned subsidiaries; and whereas no contracts will be assigned or transferred as part of the transaction; and whereas our transportation contracts require the New Frontiers School Board to consent to the transaction; and whereas consent form(s) has been submitted by Ro-Bus Inc. for signature; and whereas a sale requires a motion approved by the Council of Commissioners; and whereas Ro-Bus Inc. has contracts for 11 regular and seven mini-buses which are used for transportation services with the New Frontiers School Board; and whereas no additional cost will be incurred by the New Frontiers School Board with respect to this transfer of ownership of shares of Ro-Bus Inc.;

Therefore, on the recommendation of the Educational Services Standing Committee, it was moved by Commissioner C. Stacey that the Council of Commissioners approve the transfer through sale of shares of Ro-Bus Inc. to Transdev Canada Inc. and/or one of its wholly-owned subsidiaries; and that the Director General of the New Frontiers School Board be authorized to sign the consent form(s) and any other relevant documentation to authorize this transaction.

MOTION CARRIED unanimously.

Standing Committee Reports from the Meetings of November 21, 2023

Educational Services

The Vice-Chair, Commissioner C. Stacey, provided updates on: professional development activities, a Mentor-Mentee training, Complementary Services supports, CPR certification of students in our health care program, the PROCEDE conference of last October, and many CLC highlights.

Human Resources

The Chair, Commissioner B. Ednie indicated the committee had reviewed enrolment figures, the switch from LifeWorks to Telus Medicine, staff appreciation plans for the first week of February 2024, banquets, and Policy IJOC “Volunteers”.

Operations

The Vice-Chair, Commissioner D. McKell Eastwood reported that the information from the meeting is available in the meeting folder.

Special Needs Advisory Committee Report

Commissioner B. Bourdeau was not in attendance.

Parents’ Committee Report

Commissioner J. Largan reported on the meeting of November 8, 2023, which took place online. Items discussed, included: the archives policy, Artsfest event, governing board training and the updated manual, for which a summary is being prepared. For an update on communication tools, the Director of Systems & IT, Mrs K. Johnstone will be invited to the next Parents’ Committee meeting.

Transportation Advisory Committee

Commissioner P. Stuckey reported that the committee had reviewed the situation with the closure of the Pont Larocque, the granting of 160 out of 185 special accommodation requests, and that the bus drivers’ class action lawsuit against the government was won.

New Business

There was no new business to discuss.

List of Disbursements

Commissioners were provided with the list of disbursements for the month of November 2023:

Chq Nbr	Chq Date	PaidTo	Amount
231487	11/9/2023	CROISIERES AML	22,809.80
231563	11/9/2023	CONSTRUCTIONS VALRIVE	818,623.51
231569	11/9/2023	EDITIONS CEC INC., LES	25,817.47
231580	11/9/2023	GROUPE ICLASS CANADA	10,356.03
231581	11/9/2023	GROUPE LABERGE INC.	10,621.90
231586	11/9/2023	IT2GO SOLUTIONS	14,503.89
231593	11/9/2023	LUCIEN DESJARDINS INC.	19,997.60
231594	11/9/2023	MANOIR D'YOUVILLE	12,875.49
231596	11/9/2023	MASSICOTTE DIGNARD TAILLEFER PATENAUDE	30,196.09
231600	11/9/2023	MONTREAL ORAL SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF INC.	26,616.00
231611	11/9/2023	ROMCOBAT BATIMENTS INC	200,240.86
231616	11/9/2023	SERRURIER HAVELOCK ENR.	11,016.07
231627	11/9/2023	UNION RECIPROQUE D'ASSURANCE SCOLAIRE DU QUEBEC	59,274.70
231652	11/9/2023	COUVERTURE MONTREAL NORD LTEE	143,833.73
231653	11/9/2023	ECOLE PETER HALL SCHOOL INC.	186,773.40
231654	11/9/2023	PLOMBERIE NOEL FREDETTE INC	156,077.18
231655	11/14/2023	SERVICES DE CARTES DESJARDINS	21,364.06
231684	11/23/2023	ERPI-EDITIONS DU RENOUVEAU PEDAGOGIQUE INC	21,108.51
231715	11/23/2023	TEACHING SOLUTIONS SOFTWARE	17,607.27
231733	11/23/2023	BCGO S.E.N.C.R.L.	42,540.75
231750	11/23/2023	CONSTRUCTIONS B. MARTEL INC.	42,370.38
231782	11/23/2023	OUTILS PIERRE BERGER INC.	16,332.76
231786	11/23/2023	PLANEKO INC	20,247.10
231802	11/23/2023	SERRURIER HAVELOCK ENR.	11,088.75
231807	11/23/2023	TC. MEDIA LIVRES INC.	20,077.0

Correspondence

There was no correspondence received.

Unfinished Business / Business Arising / General Order:

There was no unfinished business or business arising to discuss.

Second Public Question Period

There were no members of the public present.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was closed at 20:38 hours on a motion by Commissioner L. Ferguson.

MOTION CARRIED unanimously.

John Ryan
Chair

Joyce Donohue
Secretary General