



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, September 1, 2026**, 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
- Karin Van Droffelaar, Electoral Division #2
- Lina Chouinard, Electoral Division #3
- Kenneth Crockett, Electoral Division #4
- Cristian Espinosa-Fuentes, Electoral Division #5
- Anne-Marie Yelle, Electoral Division #6
- Dianne Eastwood, Electoral Division #7
- Peter Stuckey, Electoral Division #8
- Barbara Ednie, Electoral Division #9
- Brenda Bourdeau, Commissioner representing the Special Needs Advisory Committee
- Lorne Ferguson, Commissioner representing Parents, Elementary Level
- Kenneth Bernard, Commissioner representing Parents, Secondary Level
- Jennifer Largan, Commissioner representing Parents at Large

Absent:

- Connor Stacey, Electoral Division #10, with regrets

Also in attendance:

- Mike Helm, Director General
- Joyce Donohue, Assistant Director General and Secretary General
- Kara Johnstone, Director of Educational Services
- Chantal Martin, Director of Continuing Education
- Marie Bérard, Director of Human Resources
- Terence Savoie, Director of Finance & Material Resources
- Sabrina Letendre, Office Agent
- Bonnie Gilmour, SEPB Union President, via Teams
- Valerie Rachubinski, CVTA Union President, via Teams
- Carla Shaw, Hemmingford Elementary School Principal, Complaints and Ethics & Integrity Officer, and NFAA representative

Call to Order & Opening Remarks

The Chair opened this 371st meeting at 19:01 hours and welcomed members. He welcomed Ms. C. Shaw as the NFAA representative, and the new Director of Human Resources, Ms. M. Bérard, to her first meeting. He also acknowledged Ms. V. Rachubinski, representing CVTA, and Ms. B. Gilmour, representing SEPB, attending online. The Chair then gave a brief update on the provincial election campaign and noted a good startup to the year so far.

Recognition Statement by Commissioner Kenneth Bernard

I would like to begin by acknowledging that we are gathered on the traditional, ancestral, and unceded territory of the Kanien'kehá:ka (Mohawk) Nation. We continue to not only recognize, respect but are grateful to the Kanien'kehá:ka as the historic and present-day caretakers of the lands and waters of this region, which has long served as a site of meeting, exchange, and community among Indigenous peoples. We honour their enduring connection to this land and will continue to commit to listening, learning, and working in solidarity with our neighbours.

Declaration of Conflict

There were no declarations of conflict made relative to the agenda items.

Adoption of the Agenda

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

MOTION CARRIED unanimously.

Waiver – Reading of the Minutes of 2026-06-30

The reading of the minutes of the regular meeting of 2026-06-30 was waived on a motion by Commissioner J. Largan.
MOTION CARRIED unanimously.

Adoption of the Minutes of 2026-06-30

It was moved by Commissioner B. Ednie that the minutes of the regular meeting of 2026-06-30 be adopted as presented.
MOTION CARRIED unanimously.

Public Question Period

There were no questions from members of the public.

Co-opted Commissioners

In accordance with sections 143 and 143.1 of the Education Act, and following discussion, it was agreed there was no need to co-opt commissioners during the 2026–2027 school year.

Resolution #CC26-09-01-001

Formation of Audit Committee

Whereas, in accordance with article 193.1 of the Education Act, the Council of Commissioners must establish an Audit Committee; and whereas the Audit Committee is in place to establish internal financial controls and to see to the optimal use of School Board resources; and whereas the New Frontiers School Board Audit Committee includes one commissioner from each of the three standing committees; and whereas, at their meetings of August 18, 2026, each standing committee selected their member; and whereas two administrative representatives (one from the youth sector and one from the adult and vocational sector) will be named by the Director General as resource persons to this committee;

Therefore, it was moved by Commissioner K. Van Droffelaar that the following commissioners be appointed to the New Frontiers School Board Audit Committee: Cristian Espinosa-Fuentes, representing Educational Services Standing Committee; Kenneth Crockett, representing Human Resources Standing Committee; and Lina Chouinard, representing Operations Standing Committee.

MOTION CARRIED unanimously.

Resolution #CC26-09-01-002

Formation of Governance & Ethics Committee

Whereas, in accordance with article 193.1 of the Education Act, the Council of Commissioners must establish a Governance & Ethics Committee; and whereas the Governance & Ethics Committee is composed of five commissioners, selected annually, to include the Chair of the Council of Commissioners, one commissioner representing parents, and one commissioner representative from each of the three standing committees; and whereas, at their meetings of August 18, 2026, each standing committee selected their member; and whereas the member representing the Parents' Committee will be named by the Parents' Committee at a later date;

Therefore, it was moved by Vice-Chair R. Ledoux that the following commissioners be appointed to the New Frontiers School Board Governance & Ethics Committee for the 2026–2027 school year: John Ryan, Chair; Anne-Marie Yelle, representing Educational Services Standing Committee; Karin Van Droffelaar, representing Human Resources Standing Committee; Dianne Eastwood, representing Operations Standing Committee.

MOTION CARRIED unanimously.

Chair's Report

The Chair presented his report, which will be emailed to all employees and made available in the Governance folder. The following topics were included: CSBA Congress 2026; news articles from The Gleaner; an interview with the Chair and Director General featured in The Gleaner; QESBA updates; membership of the standing committees; and upcoming meetings and events.

Executive Committee Report

The next meeting of the Executive Committee will be held on October 13, 2026.

Resolution #CC26-09-01-003

Identification for Review of By-Law BEC "Executive Committee"

Whereas School Board By-Law BEC "Executive Committee" has not been reviewed since 2023; and whereas it would be important to ensure this by-law is in line with current practices and processes; and whereas, in accordance with Policy

Resolution #CC26-09-01-003 – Identification for Review of By-Law BEC “Executive Committee” – cont’d

BG “By-Law, Policy & Organizational Guide Development”, the Council of Commissioners or the Executive Committee can identify a by-law for review;

Therefore, on the recommendation of the Director General, it was moved by Commissioner B. Ednie that School Board By-Law BEC “Executive Committee” be identified for review; and that By-Law BEC be referred to the Executive Committee to undertake said review.

MOTION CARRIED unanimously.

Director General’s Report

The Director General presented his report, which will be emailed to all employees and made available in the Governance folder. The following topics were included: focus on positivity; CVCEC’s 30th anniversary on September 25, 2026; NovaFest on September 11, 2026; HSB golf tournament thank-you; policies under review; enrolment figures; administrative staffing 2026–2027; Continuing Education three-centre ped day; DG’s Priorities 2026–2027; summer projects; new SIT security capsules to be completed; and the annual NFSB symposium.

Resolution #CC26-09-01-004

Appointment of Commissioners on NFAA/PRC

Whereas the New Frontiers School Board’s Local Administrators’ Policy states, at Section 1.2 a), that the Professional Relations Committee is a parity committee that includes the Chair of the Council of Commissioners and two commissioners; and whereas, in accordance with Policy BDE “Committees of the Council of Commissioners”, the Human Resources Standing Committee is responsible for professional relations with administrators, which includes recommending membership on the Professional Relations Committee; and whereas the Human Resources Standing Committee has sought interest amongst Commissioners to serve on this Committee;

Therefore, it was moved by Commissioner P. Stuckey that the Human Resources Standing Committee recommend to the Council of Commissioners that Lina Chouinard and Barbara Ednie be appointed to the Professional Relations Committee, in addition to Jennifer Largan as an alternate.

MOTION CARRIED unanimously.

Resolution #CC26-09-01-005

Exception to Policy GBCB “Extracurricular Activities – Recognition” for 2026–2027 School Year

Whereas Policy GBCB was reviewed in 2025; and whereas this review embedded a change in practice for the recognition of teachers in supporting extracurricular activities; and whereas the Chateauguay Valley Teachers’ Association (CVTA), via a letter sent to the Chair, expressed concern with this change and requested that the Council of Commissioners consider further amendments to Policy GBCB in order to restore previous practice; and whereas at its meeting of May 5, 2026, the Council of Commissioners agreed to review Policy GBCB by assigning the review to the Human Resources Standing Committee; and whereas the review will take place this school year and in accordance with the requirements of Policy BG “By-Law, Policy & Organizational Guide Development”; and whereas it is appropriate that the exception to Policy GBCB granted in 2025–2026 to allow for teachers to claim ECA credits for the 2025–2026 school year be extended during the 2026–2027 school year while the review of the policy is undertaken;

Therefore, it was moved by Commissioner P. Stuckey that an exception to Policy GBCB be granted to allow for teachers to claim ECA credits for the 2026–2027 school year, while the review of Policy GBCB is underway.

MOTION CARRIED unanimously.

Resolution #CC26-09-01-006

Adoption of School Board Budget 2026–2027 and Declaration of Uniform Property Valuations

As required by the Ministry of Education, the Council of Commissioners must pass a motion to adopt the New Frontiers School Board’s budget and declare the uniform property valuations for the 2026–2027 school year.

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 2026–2027 school year; and whereas the New Frontiers School Board foresees adopting a budget where the revenues will exceed expenditures (surplus) by an amount of \$42,861; and whereas the budgeted revenues of \$97,195,902 exceed the budgeted expenses of \$97,153,041 by exactly this amount of \$42,861; and whereas the amount of the school tax of \$3,937,731 dated June 15, 2026, was established, taking into consideration taxable property of \$4,249,177,413; and whereas the tax rate established in the budget is 0.07899 per \$100 taxable valuation, and this rate respects the rate established by law;

Resolution #CC26-09-01-006 – Adoption of School Board Budget 2026–2027 and Declaration of Uniform Property Valuations – cont'd

Therefore, on the recommendation of the Operations Standing Committee, it was moved by Vice-Chair R. Ledoux that the New Frontiers School Board's 2026–2027 budget for operations, investments, and debt service, providing for revenues of \$97,195,902 and expenses of \$97,153,041, be adopted and transmitted to the Ministry of Education.

MOTION CARRIED unanimously.

Resolution #CC26-09-01-007

Amendments to Extend Leases of Land at CVR

Whereas the New Frontiers School Board (NFSB) owns and rents land adjacent to Chateauguay Valley Regional High School to the McClintock Farm and to the Caverhill Farm; and whereas this land has been leased to the farms since the inauguration of NFSB; and whereas the leased land is used only for the purposes of farming activities; and whereas it is proposed that amendments to the leases be entered into in order to extend the leases by an additional five-year period from July 1, 2026, to June 30, 2031, as well as to revise the lease rates; and whereas it is proposed that the rates be revised to \$300 per tiled acre of land and \$200 per non-tiled acre of land during this lease extension; and whereas the total acreage under lease is approximately 84 acres;

Therefore, on the recommendation of the Operations Standing Committee, it was moved by Vice-Chair R. Ledoux that the Council of Commissioners set these lease rates for the land adjacent to CVR at \$300 per tiled acre of land and \$200 per non-tiled acre of land; and that the Council of Commissioners authorizes the Director General or, in his absence, the Assistant Director General to sign amendments to the memorandums of agreements with the McClintock Farm and the Caverhill Farm for the extension of the leases of land at Chateauguay Valley Regional High School for the period of July 1, 2026, to June 30, 2031.

MOTION CARRIED unanimously.

Resolution #CC26-09-01-008

Exchange of Services Agreement with Municipality of Ormstown

Whereas the New Frontiers School Board (NFSB) and the municipality of Ormstown wish to facilitate accessibility to sports and cultural infrastructure for the community's benefit; and whereas the parties wish to enter into an agreement for the exchange of services whereby the municipality provides some maintenance services for NFSB property and NFSB provides the municipality with some access to its facilities; and whereas the parties agree to enter into this agreement for the period of July 1, 2026, to June 30, 2029;

Therefore, on the recommendation of the Operations Standing Committee, it was moved by Vice-Chair R. Ledoux that the Council of Commissioners enter into an agreement for the exchange of services with the municipality of Ormstown for the period of July 1, 2026, to June 30, 2029; and that the Council of Commissioners authorizes the Director General or, in his absence, the Assistant Director General to sign the agreement for the exchange of services with the municipality of Ormstown.

MOTION CARRIED unanimously.

Standing Committee Reports from the Meetings of August 18, 2026

Educational Services: The Chair, Commissioner A.-M. Yelle, reported on the following items discussed at the meeting: policies under review; elections positions; committee priority to be set; selection of member for Audit Committee and Governance & Ethics Committee; commissioner tours; and director reports.

Human Resources: The Chair, Commissioner P. Stuckey, reported on the following items discussed at the meeting: policies under review; election of the chair and vice-chair; selection of members for Audit and Governance & Ethics committees; enrolment figures; and various staffing updates.

Operations: The Chair, Vice-Chair R. Ledoux, reported on the following items discussed at the regular meeting of August 18 and at the special meeting of September 1: committee priority; policies under review; enrolment figures; selection of representatives to Audit and Governance & Ethics committees; summer MMB projects update; Ormstown Liaison Committee; and update on CVCEC mega shed.

Parents' Committee Report

The next meeting of the Parents' Committee will be held on October 14, 2026.

Special Needs Advisory Committee Report

The next SNAC meeting will be held on October 7, 2026.

Ormstown Liaison Committee Report

Commissioner A.-M. Yelle reported on the meeting of July 7, 2026, which included the following topics: review of the counter-proposed changes to the entente; and recommendations.

New Business

There was no new business to discuss.

List of Disbursements

Commissioners were provided with the list of disbursements for the period of June 19 to August 27, 2026:

Chq Nbr	Chq Date	Paid To	Amount
254601	2026-06-30	SERVICES DE CARTES DESJARDINS	31 529,66
254612	2026-06-30	INSO - MONTREAL	10 347,75
254613	2026-06-30	INSO – MONTREAL	10 347,75
260024	2026-07-31	GULLCO INTERNATIONAL LIMITED	10 727,39
260027	2026-07-31	LEARN QC	71 399,48
260046	2026-07-31	AVOCATS LE CORRE & ASSOCIES, S.E.N.C.R.L. (LES)	84 513,31
260057	2026-07-31	ECOLE PETER HALL SCHOOL INC.	79 236,90
260089	2026-07-31	SUMMIT SCHOOL	64 051,40
260096	2026-07-31	DXP POSTEXPERTS INC	14 329,05
260133	2026-07-31	BENEVA INC.	10 145,29
260168	2026-07-31	SAMIRA KARIM	32 060,00
260192	2026-07-31	ALPHA VICO INC.	22 370,12
260201	2026-07-31	C. S. RIVERSIDE	163 568,91
260209	2026-07-31	CONSTRUCTIONS GMP INC (LES)	121 201,13
260210	2026-07-31	CONSTRUCTIONS J. BOULAIS INC.	159 442,72
260211	2026-07-31	COPICOM INC	29 111,89
260212	2026-07-31	CSSDGS	24 616,49
260218	2026-07-31	G.M.A.A.	10 526,57
260229	2026-07-31	INSO - MONTREAL	56 785,02
260231	2026-07-31	JEAN RIOUX	12 647,25
260258	2026-07-31	PLANCHERS J.P. EVOLUTION INC.	75 883,50
260263	2026-07-31	QUEBEC ENGLISH SCHOOL BOARD ASSOCIATION	54 185,92
260266	2026-07-31	RISQ INC.	39 318,02
260274	2026-07-31	SHELLEX GROUPE CONSEIL INC.	14 965,78
260286	2026-07-31	VITOR ATSUSHI NOZAKI YANO	99 845,00
260325	2026-07-30	ACIER TAG RIVE-NORD	25 405,65
260329	2026-07-30	AVOCATS LE CORRE & ASSOCIES, S.E.N.C.R.L. (LES)	13 423,10
260337	2026-07-30	CHATO SERIGRAPHIE BRODERIE	24 118,20
260339	2026-07-30	CONSTRUCTION JACQUES THEORET INC.	47 566,85
260342	2026-07-30	COUVERTURES WEST-ISLAND INC.	446 526,51
260347	2026-07-30	DRYCO GROUP INC.	12 735,17
260350	2026-07-30	ENTREPRISES JSR (LES)	11 497,50
260360	2026-07-30	GROUPE GESFOR POIRIER PINCHIN INC., LE	15 922,09
260372	2026-07-30	LES COUVRE-PLANCHER PAUL A.LOISELLE ET FILS INC.	48 561,94
260373	2026-07-30	LES ISOLATIONS CARON INC.	16 786,35
260386	2026-07-30	PIERRE DIGNARD, ARCHTECTE 9361-1945 QUEBEC INC	15 215,56
260387	2026-07-30	PLOMBERIE ML 2017 INC.	51 141,94
260389	2026-07-30	PROGAZ D.M.N. INC	13 823,87
260394	2026-07-30	R.S. D'AMOUR & FILS INC.	15 083,63
260403	2026-07-30	SERRURIER HAVELOCK ENR.	19 430,78
260414	2026-07-30	TELUS HEALTH (CANADA) LTD.	10 840,03
260450	2026-07-30	SPECTRUM NASCO QUEBEC	17 428,16
260528	2026-08-13	C. S. LESTER B. PEARSON	30 250,00
260534	2026-08-13	COUVERTURES WEST-ISLAND INC.	41 078,09
260537	2026-08-13	ENTRETIEN PLANEX INC.	11 733,16
260552	2026-08-13	PROGAZ D.M.N. INC	10 097,15
260567	2026-07-31	SERVICES DE CARTES DESJARDINS	32 244,06
260571	2026-08-20	CONSTRUCTIONS GMP INC (LES)	121 201,13
260608	2026-08-27	ERPI-EDITIONS DU RENOUVEAU PEDAGOGIQUE INC	13 504,17
260611	2026-08-27	9544-6688 QUEBEC INC.	37 552,79
260612	2026-08-27	A. GIRARDIN INC.	223 463,54

260630	2026-08-27	CONSTRUCTION LEGER ET FILS INC	14 440,86
260639	2026-08-27	GRICS	103 411,24
260642	2026-08-27	LABOSPORT INC.	15 521,63
260643	2026-08-27	LAGACE ELECTRIQUE INC.	23 585,73
260648	2026-08-27	LIGNES PLUS	10 525,97
260660	2026-08-27	PLANCHERS J.P. EVOLUTION INC.	13 797,00
260662	2026-08-27	PROGAZ D.M.N. INC	22 104,74
260676	2026-08-27	SECURITE QUENNEVILLE INC.	15 852,21
260690	2026-08-26	SHELLEX GROUPE CONSEIL INC.	26 232,95

Correspondence

There was no correspondence received.

Unfinished Business / Business Arising / General Order

There were no items to discuss.

Second Public Question Period

There were no questions from members of the public.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was closed at 19:58 hours on a motion by Commissioner K. Van Droffelaar.
MOTION CARRIED unanimously.

John Ryan
Chair

Joyce Donohue
Secretary General