

CANADA

PROVINCE OF QUEBEC

EASTERN SHORES SCHOOL BOARD

The regular meeting of the Council of Commissioners of Eastern Shores School Board was held Hotel Francis, situated at 210, chemin Pardiac, New Richmond, Quebec, on Tuesday, March 26, 2024 at the hour of 9:15 a.m. The following persons were present:

COMMISSIONERS: W. Gifford, Chair
R. Mundle, Vice-Chair
M. E. Beaulieu
M. O'Brien
J. McWhirter (online)
Ward 4, Vacant
K. Ward
G. Hayes
D. Hunt
D. Bourgouin
K. Dickson

PARENT COMMISSIONER: K. Mackenzie
R. Di Tanna (online)
R. Steward

DIRECTOR GENERAL: D. Simoneau
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR GENERAL: J. Bradbury; Director of Adult and Vocational Education
SECRETARY GENERAL: D. Gauthier

OTHERS: M. Hayes-Dow; Director of Information Technology, School Organization and Transportation
D. Foltin; Director of Education Services
A. Dupuis; Director of Human Resources
S. Ward; Director of Finance and Material Resources

ABSENT: J. Bizeau

Mr. Gifford, Chair, called this regular meeting of the Council of Commissioners to order and welcomed everyone present.

1. **CONFLICT OF INTEREST**

No conflicts were declared at this time.

2. **APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

C24-03-106

It was moved by M. O'Brien that the agenda for this regular meeting of the Council of Commissioners of Eastern Shores School Board be approved.

CARRIED

3. **NOMINATION OF WARD 4 COMMISSIONER**

C24-03-107

It was moved by M. O'Brien that Sarah Thomas-Jerome be nominated as the new commissioner for Ward 4 for the remainder of the current Council's mandate.

CARRIED

4. READING AND APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

4.1 Reading of the Minutes

4.1.1 February 13, 2024

C24-03-108 It was moved by K. Mackenzie that whereas the minutes of the regular meeting of the Council of Commissioners of Eastern Shores School Board held on February 13, 2024, were circulated six hours prior to the meeting in accordance with article 170 of the Education Act, the Secretary General be excused from the reading of same.

CARRIED

4.1.2 February 27, 2024

C24-03-109 It was moved by K. Dickson that whereas the minutes of the special meeting of the Council of Commissioners of Eastern Shores School Board held on February 27, 2024, were circulated six hours prior to the meeting in accordance with article 170 of the Education Act, the Secretary General be excused from the reading of same.

CARRIED

4.2 Approval of the Minutes

4.2.1 February 13, 2024

C24-03-110 It was moved by M. E. Beaulieu that the minutes of the regular meeting of the Council of Commissioners of Eastern Shores School Board held on February 13, 2024, be approved.

CARRIED

4.2.2 February 27, 2024

C24-03-111 It was moved by K. Ward that the minutes of the special meeting of the Council of Commissioners of Eastern Shores School Board held on February 27, 2024, be approved.

CARRIED

5. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

5.1 Municipality of New Carlisle – Land

Mr. Gifford gave a brief summary of the situation.

5.2 Nomination of a Returning Officer

WHEREAS, in accordance with section 22 of the Act respecting school elections, the Director General may decline to act as Returning Officer;

WHEREAS, in accordance with resolution C24-01-087 adopted on January 8, 2024, whereby the Council of Commissioners accepted the request of the Director General, Denise Simoneau, to abstain from acting as Returning Officer;

C24-03-112 **IT WAS MOVED** by M. O'Brien to appoint Mrs. June Main-Denis as returning officer for the upcoming elections on November 3, 2024.

CARRIED

6. CORRESPONDENCE

No items

7. **CHAIR'S REPORT**

Mr. Gifford gave a verbal summary of his activities since the last meeting of the Council.

8. **DIRECTOR GENERAL'S REPORT**

The Director General's report was received and placed on file.

9. **SPECIAL NEEDS ADVISORY COMMITTEE / CENTRAL PARENTS COMMITTEE**

9.1 **Special Needs Advisory Committee**

No items

9.2 **Central Parents Committee**

No items

10 **RESOLUTION ITEMS**

10.1 **Resolution: St. Patrick's School Long-Term Solution**

The Director General, Assistant Director General, and the Secretary General inform the Council about the discussions and progress between ESSB and CSSRL with regards to this dossier.

10.2 **External Audit Professional Services**

10.2.1 **Awarding of contract**

WHEREAS a public call for tenders was published on SEAO March 1, 2024;

- Number: FIN2023-2026-002
- Title: *Mandat d'audit externe*
- Reference number: 1819452

WHEREAS, the bids were open on March 21, 2024, at 14h00 and only one conform offer of services was received from Raymond Chabot Grant Thornton S.E.N.C.R.L. in the amount of 385 495.00\$;

WHEREAS this call for tenders is for the acquisition of external audit professional services for the school years 2023-2024 to 2025-2026 with the possibility of 2 additional years;

C24-03-113

IT WAS MOVE BY K. Mackenzie to retain the services of Raymond Chabot Grant Thornton S.E.N.C.R.L. for a period of 3 years covering the financial period of 2023-2024 to 2025-2026 in the amount of 210 375.00\$ plus applicable taxes; and

THAT, the Director General be authorized to sign all documents related to the service contract.

IT WAS FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Council of Commissioners express their surprise and concern at the increase in the amount of the contract.

CARRIED

10.2.2 Resolution – Appointment of the external auditor

WHEREAS article 284 of the *Loi sur l'instruction publique* stipulates that a school board must appoint an external auditor for each fiscal year;

WHEREAS the Eastern Shores School Board was selected for the *Mission d'audit de postes spécifiques des états financiers pour la période de neuf mois se terminant le 31 mars 2024*;

C24-03-114

IT WAS MOVED BY D. Bourgouin to appoint the external auditor Raymond Chabot Grant Thornton S.E.N.C.L. for the audit of the financial statement of Eastern Shores School Board, for the 9-month period ending on March 31, 2024 and that the fees for this mandate for fixed at 12 660.00\$ plus applicable taxes;

IT WAS FURTHER RESOLVED to appoint the external auditor Raymond Chabot Grant Thornton S.E.N.C.L. for the audit of the financial statement of Eastern Shores School Board, for the 2023-2024 school year, and that the fees for this mandate be fixed at 63 970.00\$ plus applicable taxes.

CARRIED

10.3 Resolution for transportation entente with CSS de l'Estuaire.

C24-03-115

It was moved by G. Hayes to enter into a three-year student transportation agreement with the Centre de services scolaire de l'Estuaire for the transportation of Baie Comeau High School students from July 1, 2023, to June 30, 2026, in the amount of \$ 48,033.00 plus tax and dependant on student enrollment each year.

It was further resolved to authorise the Director General, Denise Simoneau to sign said agreement for and in the name of Eastern Shores School Board.

CARRIED

10.4 Rescind Resolution C24-02-098)

C24-03-116

It was moved to D. Hunt to rescind resolution C24-02-098 which reads as follows:

... the council of commissioners adopted resolution C23-11-070 to add their support to QESBA's court action challenge pertaining to the various aspects of Bill 96.

WHEREAS a financial contribution was pending, and an amount not determined at that time.

IT WAS MOVED BY D. Hunt to financially contribute an amount of \$7, 500 to QESBA to support the court challenge of various aspects of Bill 96....

CARRIED

10.5 Contribution to EMSB

WHEREAS the council of commissioners adopted resolution C23-11-070 to add their support to the court action challenge pertaining to the various aspects of Bill 96.

WHEREAS a financial contribution was pending, and an amount not determined at that time.

C24-03-117

IT WAS MOVED BY D. Hunt to financially contribute an amount of \$7, 500 to English Montreal School Board (EMSB) to support the court challenge of various aspects of Bill 96.

CARRIED

11. **QUESTION PERIOD**

No items

12. **DATES OF THE NEXT MEETING**

May 7, 2024 - Hybrid

- Executive: 6:15 p.m.
- Council 6:30 p.m.

13. **VARIA**

13.1 **Policy ES-247- Integrated Records Management**

WHEREAS Policy ES-247 Integrated Records Management was sent for consultation on January 23-01-2024;

WHEREAS the consultations resulted with no comments

C24-03-118

IT WAS MOVED BY M. O'Brien to approve Policy ES-247 Integrated Records Management. The document was received and placed on file.

CARRIED

14. **ADJOURNMENT AT 10:05 A.M.**

C24-03-119

It was moved by M.E. Beaulieu that, there being no further business, the meeting adjourns.

CARRIED

Secretary General

Chairperson