



EXTRACT OF THE MINUTES OF A SPECIAL MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF COMMISSIONERS OF RIVERSIDE SCHOOL BOARD HELD AT 7525 CHEMIN DE CHAMBLY, SAINT-HUBERT (QUÉBEC) ON SEPTEMBER 14, 2020.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

By videoconference:

D. Lamoureux

L. Llewelyn Cuffling

H. Dumont

A. Capobianco Skipworth

D. Smith

M. Gour

C. Horrell

G. Giummarra

C. Craig

Parents Commissioners:

T. Aguiar

C. Courtney

P. Dionne

Regrets:

P. Booth Morrison

D. Butler

A. Mazur

P. Michaud

Resolution B761-20200914

REQUEST TO THE *MINISTÈRE DE L'ÉDUCATION - QUÉBEC* (MEQ) TO RECONSIDER ITS DECISION TO NOT HAVE SELECTED THE PROJECT FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF AN EXPANSION FOR REACH SCHOOL IN ST. LAMBERT

WHEREAS Riverside School Board has identified REACH School, a school which supports students aged 4 to 21 with moderate to severe intellectual deficiencies, as one needing additional space;

WHEREAS students currently do not benefit from all the space required for an optimal environment allowing for the educational development of the students;

WHEREAS, according to MEES (now MEQ) standards for coded students, the capacity of REACH School has been exceeded since the 2016-2017 school year and that classes had to be opened at Centennial Regional High School and then at Saint-Lambert International High School;

WHEREAS Riverside School Board made a first request for additional space for REACH in May 2017 (Resolution MR343-20170523);

WHEREAS this request was not chosen by the *Ministère de l'Éducation et de l'Enseignement supérieur* (MEES) within the framework of the "*Plan québécois des infrastructures*" (PQI) 2018-2028;

WHEREAS the REACH student population increased and Riverside School Board made a second request for additional space for REACH School in 2018 (Resolution MR367-20180918);

WHEREAS this request was also not chosen by the MEES within the framework of the “*Plan québécois des infrastructures*” (PQI) 2019-2029;

WHEREAS the REACH student population continued to grow and Riverside School Board, on October 31, 2019, made a third request for additional space for REACH School. According to the new MEES applicable rules as of 2019-2020, a resolution from the Council of Commissioners is no longer needed for the addition of space;

WHEREAS this request has still not been chosen by the MEQ within the framework of the “*Plan québécois des infrastructures*” (PQI) 2020-2030;

WHEREAS this represents the third time the Riverside School Board has been denied its vital request in this file ;

WHEREAS the student population at REACH School, as projected, has more than doubled in the last five (5) years;

WHEREAS based on the current trend, enrolment of students with moderate to severe intellectual deficits will likely continue to increase for at least the next five (5) years;

WHEREAS this sharp increase has resulted in the students being spread out in five (5) different schools none of which were originally designed to address the needs of the REACH School students;

WHEREAS the School Board has maximized the use of the two REACH buildings and has already brought about important modifications to alleviate the constraints of said buildings;

WHEREAS the Staff and Administration of REACH School are doing extraordinary work under these circumstances;

WHEREAS the following shortcomings have been identified :

- the room sizes (classrooms, intervention rooms, etc.)
- the hallways are not compatible for multiple wheelchairs;
- the absence of elevators
- the lack of diaper-changing stations for students of all ages
- the lack of adapted playgrounds
- the absence of a gymnasium
- the lack of a library

WHEREAS as a result of these shortcomings, some of our most vulnerable students have to attend schools on the Island of Montréal, which significantly extends their school day by adding long transportation times and at great incurring additional costs to the school board;

WHEREAS it is in the best interest of the students at REACH School to be under one roof and in facilities that are adapted to their needs;

WHEREAS the management of a school located on multiple sites represents administrative challenges and additional costs;

WHEREAS since 2019, Riverside School Board is the only English-Language School Board to have obtained the mandate for Regional Classes for students with special needs from the ages of 4 to 21;

WHEREAS, in May 2016, Riverside School Board applied and later obtained the authorization to add a gymnasium for REACH School ;

WHEREAS, on January 30th, 2019, the Ministry asked us to wait on the building of the gymnasium until a decision on the expansion was rendered;

IT IS MOVED by Commissioner Lamoureux, seconded by Commissioner Llewelyn Cuffling, that the *ministère de l'Éducation* reconsider its decision with regards to the construction of an expansion at REACH School (Realistic Educational Alternatives for Children with Handicaps), which educates students from ages 4 to 21 with moderate to severe intellectual deficiencies and physical handicaps; AND

THAT the *ministère de l'Éducation* select the project for the expansion of REACH School within the framework of the "*Plan québécois des infrastructures*" (PQI) 2020-2030 namely a new centre dedicated solely to REACH.

UNANIMOUS

Copie conforme donnée à Saint-Hubert (Québec) ce 21 septembre 2020.



John McLaren
Secrétaire général

CETTE RÉOLUTION FAIT PARTIE DU PROCÈS-VERBAL QUI SERA ADOPTÉ LORS DE LA
PROCHAINE SÉANCE ORDINAIRE DU CONSEIL DES COMMISSAIRES.