

Minutes of the proceedings of a **reconvened** session of the Council of Commissioners for Riverside School Board held at the Administration Centre, 7525, chemin de Chambly, St. Hubert, Québec on June 30, 2015.

The Secretary General established that quorum was met and Chairman Dan Lamoureux, called the meeting to order at 7:32 p.m.

### **COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:**

P. Booth Morrison

D. Butler

A. Capobianco Skipworth

C. Craig

H. Dumont

D. Lamoureux

L. Llewelyn Cuffling

A. Mazur

D. Smyth

### **Parent Commissioners**

T. Aguiar

P. Chouinard

L. Rodrigues

**Regrets:** C. Horrell, M. Rayes, M. Gour, D. Smith

### **Also present**

Sylvain Racette, Director General

Denise Paulson, Secretary General

Michel Bergeron, Director of Financial Resources

Wendy Bernier, Director of Human Resources

Mary Williams, Director of Educational Services

Gail Somerville, Director of Complementary Services

### **ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA:**

IT IS MOVED by Commissioner Chouinard, and seconded by Commissioner Aguiar that the agenda be adopted and that a copy be appended to the Minutes of this meeting.

UNANIMOUS

### **NEW BUSINESS cont'd**

Resolution F171-20150630

#### **ADOPTION OF THE RIVERSIDE SCHOOL BOARD 2015-2016 BUDGET**

WHEREAS, in accordance with the Education Act, Riverside School Board must adopt and transmit to the Minister its Operating expenses, Capital expenditures and Debt Service budget for the 2015-2016 school year;

WHEREAS, the Ministry is allowing school boards to adopt their budgets on the condition that its budgetary rules are adopted in early July 2015;

WHEREAS in consideration of the significant government cuts, Riverside School Board must accompany the application for authorization for the adoption of a deficit budget according to the requirements from the Ministry:

- 1- An attestation to the effect that the School Board has taken into consideration the validation and control questionnaire for 2015-2016. This attestation must be co-signed by the Director General and the Director of Finance;
- 2- Describe the Budget guidelines concerning its expenditures and its revenues;
- 3- The MEESR Budget file must be sent within a period of 10 days following its adoption by the Council of Commissioners;

WHEREAS the 2015-2016 Budget is presented with a deficit of \$719,499.00 and this in accordance with the Budgetary Rules and the authorization of the Minister;

WHEREAS the MEESR will require an update of the Recovery Plan specifying the measures that will be implemented to have a balanced Budget for the year 2016-2017;

WHEREAS the Budget includes a fixed tax rate established at .31109 cents per \$100 of equalized valuation for all Riverside School Board taxpayers;

WHEREAS the established rate respects the parameters of the Education Act;

WHEREAS this resolution was reviewed and is supported by the Audit (Finance and Material Resources) Committee;

IT IS MOVED by Commissioner Morrison, seconded by Commissioner Cuffling, that the Operating expenses, Capital expenditures and Debt Service budget, for the 2015-2016 school year be adopted; and

THAT the school tax rate be set at .31109 cents per \$100 of equalized valuation for all Riverside School Board taxpayers.

UNANIMOUS

Resolution F172-20150630

**PAYMENT OF SCHOOL TAXES BY INSTALLMENTS**

WHEREAS pursuant to article 315 of the Education Act, the school tax may be paid in two instalments if it is equal to or greater than \$300;

WHEREAS if the first payment is not made by the thirty-first day following the sending of the tax bill, article 315 of the Education Act stipulates that the balance becomes payable immediately, except if Riverside School Board provides that only the outstanding instalment is payable;

WHEREAS Riverside School Board wishes to exert the discretion granted to it by article 315 of the Education Act;

WHEREAS this resolution was reviewed and is supported by the Audit (Finance and Material Resources) Committee;

IT IS MOVED by Commissioner Mazur, seconded by Commissioner Smyth, in accordance with article 315 of the Education Act, that Riverside School Board provides that the failure of a taxpayer to carry out payment of the first instalment within the prescribed timeframe does not result in the entire amount becoming due and that only the amount of the first outstanding instalment remains payable.

UNANIMOUS

Resolution F173-20150630

**INTEREST RATE TO BE ASSESSED ON ARREARS**

WHEREAS Article 316 of the Education Act, stipulates that the interest rate on arrears be fixed at the rate determined by the School Board;

WHEREAS this resolution was reviewed and is supported by the Audit (Finance and Material Resources) Committee;

IT IS MOVED by Commissioner Capobianco seconded by Commissioner Butler that the interest rate on arrears be maintained at fifteen percent (15 %).

UNANIMOUS

Resolution F174-20150630

**AUTHORIZATION FOR SCHOOL EXPENDITURES**

WHEREAS the budgetary rules and consultation parameters for 2015-2016 were sent to school boards by the MEESR late, namely on May 20, 2015;

WHEREAS this situation has resulted in governing boards being unable to adopt their schools' budgets for the 2015-2016 school year before July 1, 2015;

WHEREAS article 276 of the Education Act allows a school board to authorize an institution to incur expenses that have not been approved;

WHEREAS it is necessary to give such authorization so that school administrators may procure the goods and services required for the beginning of the school year;

WHEREAS this resolution was reviewed and is supported by the Audit (Finance and Material Resources) Committee;

IT IS MOVED by Commissioner Chouinard, seconded by Commissioner Aguiar, that the Council of Commissioners of Riverside School Board authorize school administrators :

1. To incur expenses as of July 1, 2015, up to a maximum of 50% of the total budget allocated for the 2014-2015 school year; and

THAT such authorization end automatically with the adoption of the 2015-2016 budget by the governing board.

UNANIMOUS

Resolution B537-20150630

**COUNCIL OF COMMISSIONERS DEPLORES ONGOING BUDGETARY CUTS IN SCHOOL BOARDS**

WHEREAS Riverside School Board (RSB) has more than 8,000 students in its 19 elementary and 4 secondary schools, as well as more than 1,000 students attending adult educational and vocational training classes;

WHEREAS RSB's student success rate exceeds the goals set by the Ministry of Education, Higher Education, Research and Science (MEESR);

WHEREAS these results are directly related to the mobilization and dedication of all the RSB members of staff;

WHEREAS RSB is a shining example with respect to student success and perseverance;

WHEREAS budget cuts to Quebec school boards have exceeded 1 billion dollars since 2011;

WHEREAS these cuts are without precedent and have been imposed on school boards without consultation and timely notification from the Ministry;

WHEREAS since 2011, RSB has been cut by \$7.7 million and expects a further cut of \$1.7 million in 2015-2016;

WHEREAS a recent report issued by Raymond Chabot Grant Thornton indicated that the quality of RSB's management practices was excellent;

WHEREAS RSB has consistently strived to maintain low administration costs, currently 4.75%;

WHEREAS the budget cuts made by the Government of Quebec are done despite concern for student results and RSB's efficiency;

WHEREAS these cuts have an impact on direct services to students;

WHEREAS these cuts will cause an increased financial obligation to parents with respect to daycare services;

WHEREAS additional cuts will have consequences on student success and perseverance as well as on the day-to-day performance of employees despite RSB's exemplary management;

IT IS MOVED BY Chairman Dan Lamoureux, seconded by Commissioner Lesley Cuffling that the Council of Commissioners of Riverside School Board

- a) Voice its strong opposition to the budget cuts experienced by RSB;
- b) Advise the Government of Quebec that additional budget cuts will have negative effects on student services, on student success and perseverance as well as on the entire personnel of RSB; and

FURTHERMORE that a copy of this resolution be sent to our partners in Education including the RSB Parent Committee, Riverside Teachers' Union, Riverside Association of Administrators, Association québécoise des cadres scolaires, Syndicate of Montreal Area Services Professionals, Local 800, SEU, Local 576 SEP, the Association of Directors General of English School Boards, the Quebec English School Boards Association and its members, as well as to M. François Blais, Minister of Education, Higher Education, Research and Science, Mme. Francine Charbonneau, Minister of Families, and members of the National Assembly as well as fellow French school boards on Riverside territory.

UNANIMOUS

Resolution B538-20150630

**DIRECTOR GENERAL EVALUATION 2014-2015**

IT IS MOVED by Chairman Dan Lamoureux and seconded by Commissioner Lesley Cuffling that Council accept the Director General Evaluation Report 2014-2015, as prepared and presented to Council by the Director General Liaison Committee.

UNANIMOUS

**OTHER BUSINESS**

The Director General thanked Commissioners Anna Capobianco, Lesley Cuffling, Doug Smyth, Chris Craig and Pierre Chouinard for helping out at the Board BBQ lunch. The Board Office staff enjoyed meeting the commissioners and were particularly entertained to see Chairman Lamoureux and Commissioner Capobianco undergo the ice bucket challenge. Funds raised will be shared between the ALS foundation and RSB's breakfast programs.

**CLOSING:**

IT WAS MOVED by Commissioner Morrison, and seconded by Commissioner Butler, at 8:05 p.m. that the meeting be closed.

---

Dan Lamoureux, Chairman

---

Denise Paulson, Secretary General



**CONSEIL DES COMMISSAIRES  
COUNCIL OF COMMISSIONERS**

Members are hereby convened to a **RECONVENED** meeting on  
**Tuesday, June 30, 2015 at 7:30 p.m.** at the Administration Centre  
7525 chemin de Chambly, St. Hubert, QC

**REVISED AGENDA – RECONVENED MEETING**

1. Call to Order and Quorum
2. Adoption of the Agenda
3. Business
  - 3.1 Adoption of 2015-2016 Budget
  - 3.2 Payment of School Taxes by Installments
  - 3.3 Interest Rate to be Assessed on Arrears
  - 3.4 Authorization for School Expenditures
  - 3.5 Council of Commissioners Deplores ongoing Budget Cuts in School Boards
  - 3.6 Director General Evaluation
4. Closing

Given at St. Hubert, Québec, on June 30, 2015.

Denise Paulson, Secretary General