

Minutes of the proceedings of a **regular** session of the Council of Commissioners for Riverside School Board held at the Administration Centre, 7525, chemin de Chambly, St. Hubert, Québec on November 17, 2015.

The Secretary General established that quorum was met and Chairman Dan Lamoureux, called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

P. Booth Morrison
D. Butler
A. Capobianco Skipworth
C. Craig
H. Dumont
M. Gour

C. Horrell
D. Lamoureux
A. Mazur
D. Smith
D. Smyth

Parent Commissioners

T. Aguiar
M. Rayes
L. Rodrigues

Regrets: L. Llewelyn Cuffling, P. Chouinard

Also present

Sylvain Racette, Director General
Pierre Farmer, Assistant 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
Lucie Roy, Director of Adult and Continuing Education

Presence noted: Alexandra Audet, Fadi Tawil, Gina Petrossa, Rita Maisonneuve

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA:

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

UNANIMOUS

AUDITOR'S REPORT

The auditor, Mr. Labranche, presented the financial statement for 2014-2015.

ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON OCTOBER 20, 2015:

IT IS MOVED by Commissioner Aguiar, seconded by Commissioner Gour, that the Minutes of the meeting held on October 20, 2015, be adopted.

UNANIMOUS

BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

The Director General

- Explained the process followed to arrive at a selection of a new Director of Human Resources
- The Policies deposited for consultation at the last Council meeting were sent out

Presentation by Parent Committee

The Chairman of the Parents' Committee, Alexandra Audet, presented a resolution adopted by the committee. Council agreed to distribute it to schools and the community at large by means of the Board e-mail, website, Facebook page and Twitter account. The resolution appears

herein as Annexe “B”.

Commissioner Dumont thanked the Parents’ Committee for bringing the resolution to the attention of Council.

PUBLIC QUESTIONS :

PUBLIC QUESTIONS

Mr. Fadi Tawil asked the Chair whether Council would revisit its resolution supporting public education. The response was no. He then asked how it was that the Chair or Director General did not know that class size and cuts to special needs would be put on the bargaining table. The Director General explained the lengthy process of negotiation and the wider mandate which includes the Province’s French school boards as well.

Mrs. G. Petrossa asked whether the Board plans to hold an information session for parents on the new sex education curriculum. The Director General indicated that the new program was not being piloted here at Riverside School Board. Mrs. Somerville, Director of Complementary Services, noted that she would be presenting an overview of the program at the January meeting of the Parents’ Committee.

Mrs. R. Maisonneuve also commented on the same topic indicating that some parents have important concerns with respect to privacy, parental rights and the age appropriateness of the curriculum.

Commissioner Dumont thanked Mrs. Petrossa and Mrs. Maisonneuve for bringing their concerns to Council and presenting them so eloquently.

CHAIRMAN AND DIRECTOR GENERAL

Chair’s report – D. Lamoureux

October 20	RSB Council of Commissioners
October 21	Court Case: RSB vs St Lambert
October 22	QESBA Executive Committee
October 26	Education Committee
October 27	Finance Committee
October 28	MRC Meeting
November 1	Represented RSB at Richard Tomalty's Celebration of Life
November 2	RSB Parents Committee
November 3	RSB Executive Committee
November 10	QESBA Executive Committee RSB Work Session
November 12	Conducted Human Resources Director Interviews

Director General's report – S. Racette

- › Since the last Council meeting there were 2 reinstatement meetings. In recognition of the students' hard work and dedication to their education, they were both reinstated.
- › The court case of the ACCESS parking lot situation on Queen Street has been heard. We hope for a decision before Christmas.
- › The October 28th, and November 12th and 13th strike days. December 1, 2 and 3rd were just voted a few hours ago as strike days. Please note that the provincial negotiations are presently in an intensification phase.

MEETINGS AND EVENTS

- › I met with all the directors to review their objectives for the year and discussed the modalities of their evaluations.
- › On November 11th, there was the annual meeting between the BSM and ADIGECS to give us the orientations and priorities for the school year. Unfortunately, we had very little new information on the modifications to come to the Education Act or about the MEESR's forthcoming new strategic plan.
- › I attended a PD session through PIDIGECS (masters' level in school board management) on strategic management especially in the context changes in governance.
- › On November 7th, I attended the Mayor's breakfast at Boucherville elementary. This event is always a good way to showcase our beautiful school to the community.

THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW

- › A complaint was filed at the Commission des droits de la personnes re services to a special needs student – After its investigation, the Commission supported the measures put in place by RSB.
- › HR visited all new employees in their schools to welcome them and present them with a letter, pin and pen.
- › CPNCA nomination: Joanne Simoneau-Polenz was appointed to succeed to Anne-Marie Lepage. Joanne, formerly from the LBPSB, is one of the spokespersons on CPNCA's negotiating team on the teacher's dossier.
- › A lot of provincial attention has been directed towards a national action where teachers were supposed to give handwritten report cards only to the principals instead of entering the grades in the system to produce the said report cards. After discussions with the union, the report card will be available in their appropriate format, but will not contain written comments from the teachers.
- › We were contacted by the MEESR in the preparation and organization of the arrival of some Syrian refugees.
- › Trucking: 75 people attended the information session in October. The first cohort in January is already full and the second one will be in August 2016. The location is in Boucherville.

- › The MEESR is open to considering new CLCs in the English school boards. Based on the interest already expressed by some communities, we are exploring possibilities of implementing new CLCs in the west end and St-Johns areas.

HATS OFF

- › Indigo Adopt a School Program final results: Thanks to amazing community support St. Jude School has been declared **Quebec's second place winner in the Adopt & Don't Stop Giveaway**. They also won the **Blog Bonus for the Province of Quebec** bringing in **\$1 000.00** to support our library. These contest prizes, Fundraising, Evening profits, in-store donations and online donations have brought in an **OUTSTANDING TOTAL of \$18 953.32** to put books into the hands of each student at St. Jude School. This partnership with Indigo Dix30 has united a community behind children and learning and I tip my hat to them for that.
- › Hats off to all of our administrators for a close to perfect score on our annual audit. It is quite an achievement!
- › To St-Lambert elementary who raised 2000\$ for the Syrian refugees.
- › To Centennial for placing in the top five best high schools in Montérégie according to the Fraser Institute report. Hats off also to St-Lambert International which rose in rank on the chart. This report raises some very interesting discussions. A more detailed presentation of these results will be presented at the Education committee
- › To the unionized staff members for remaining respectful and focused on the larger picture of the students' wellbeing even while vigorously voicing their concerns about provincial negotiations, These are not easy times, but everybody is playing their role to move the process forward while keeping in mind that we are all here for the same reason, our students
- › Hats off to Wendy Bernier who, after 20 years of good service to RSB is leaving us for what she describes as "a call from the soul" as she retires in PEI while taking on a new hobby: "DHR in their school board".

It is very telling that you will often hear about Wendy that she brought the "Human" back to "Human resources". She can leave us with a feeling of a job well done and knowing that she was a key contributor in making RSB the family that it is today. Thank you very much, Wendy, for everything you did for our community. You will be missed!

I will quote our Chair by saying "Bon voyage!"

Parents' Committee –

The Parent Committee was held on November 2nd 2015.

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|--|-----------|-------------------------------------|
| › Items | discussed | included: |
| 1) Consultation: draft language policy - accepted without changes | | 2) |
| Consultation: draft policy on the enrolment criteria for registration - accepted without changes | | 3) Internal Rules of Procedure were |
| reviewed to ensure that they were consistent with current practices. | | |

- 4) Position/actions regarding changes to public education - ideas discussed included:
- Revisiting RSB PC statement of September 14 (see C below)
 - Statement from EPCA (sample parent and GB letters were made available)
 - New RSB PC statement (sub-committee)
 - Letter-writing campaign to MNAs
 - Townhall meeting(s) – not decided yet

Special Needs Advisory Committee: L. Rodriguez

Next meeting: November 24, 2015 at 7 p.m.

REPORTS (non-voting items only)

Executive – D. Lamoureux

A meeting was held on November 3. Two resolutions regarding the Board's adherence to the RSEQ were adopted.

Transportation Advisory – L. Cuffling by e-mail

The TAC is meeting on November 27. This will be the first meeting of this school year.

Education – D. Smith

Meeting held on October 26, 2015

- › Dawn Smith was elected Chair
- › Dates for meetings decided
- › Mandate was reviewed and updated
- › Suggested topics for discussion are : Alternate Program update, new integration model for students at ACCESS
- › Mary Williams and Lisa Rae presented on the graduation rates
- › Mary Williams gave an update on the Draft Partnership Agreement
- › Mary Williams and Lisa Rae presented on the Long-Term Planning in Educational Services
- › Next meeting: November 23 at 6:30 p.m.

Audit (Finance/Material Resources) P. Morrison

- › Meeting held on October 27.
- › Auditor presented; no major findings
- › 49 more students
- › CPI phase 2 completed
- › Resolution before Council tonight regarding the designated representative
- › Next meeting at the Call of the Chair

Governance and Ethics – T. Aguiar

The committee met on November 3.

- › The meeting calendar was confirmed for the 2015-16 school year. We have agreed to meet after each of the Executive Committees.
- › PD development for Commissioners was also reviewed. The Committee has tabled this until we know what will occur with the government's pending legislation.

The next meeting will be on December 1, 2015

Human Resources – H. Dumont

- › Meeting was held earlier tonight
- › Reviewed recommendation for Director of Human Resources
- › Next meeting is at the Call of the Chair
- › Thank you to Wendy Bernier for everything, for always being available, for her openness,

for being genuine. Wendy has always gone out of her way to ensure people have an understanding of topics under discussion. She has worked tirelessly in her position as DHR and has kept the “human” in Human Resources. Commissioner Dumont ended by saying that she will enjoy fond memories of working with Wendy.

Marketing and Communications –

No report

QESBA – D. Lamoureux

› PD held in October in Sherbrooke. Jennifer Maccarone, the new President of QESBA, has been busy meeting with the media.

NEW BUSINESS

Resolution HR437-20151117

APPOINTMENT OF A DIRECTOR OF HUMAN RESOURCES

Whereas this resolution has been reviewed and is supported by the Human Resources Committee;

IT IS MOVED by Commissioner Dumont, seconded by Commissioner Gour, that H el ene Coupal be appointed to the position of Director of Human Resources effective on November 30, 2015.

UNANIMOUS

Resolution F177-20151117

DEPOSIT OF THE RIVERSIDE SCHOOL BOARD FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR 2014-2015

WHEREAS the 2014-2015 financial statement was prepared in accordance with the regulations of the Ministry of Education;

WHEREAS the financial statement was verified by an external auditor and the report of said auditor was presented to the Audit Committee and the Council of Commissioners;

IT IS MOVED by Commissioner Morrison, seconded by Commissioner Mazur, that the deposit of the 2014-2015 financial statement for Riverside School Board be accepted.

UNANIMOUS

Resolution MR315-20151117

DESIGNATED REPRESENTATIVE OF THE PUBLIC ORGANIZATION – SELECTION COMMITTEE – CALLS FOR TENDER BASED ON QUALITY

WHEREAS Riverside School Board must respect the “Act respecting contracting for public bodies” and its related directives;

WHEREAS the « Directive concernant la gestion des contrats d’approvisionnement, de services et de travaux de construction des organismes publics » (hereinafter called the Directive) came into effect on August 1, 2015;

WHEREAS the Directive introduces new obligations for organizations in the education sector, particularly when establishing selection committees for the evaluation of bids received following a call for tender based on a demonstration of quality;

WHEREAS the Directive provides the opportunity to have a designated representative of the public body for the appointment of the members of the selection committees (article 8, paragraph 7);

WHEREAS the designated representative must ensure that there is a rotation of individuals appointed to sit as members of the selection committee (article 8, paragraph 9);

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 Mazur, that the Director General, Mr. Sylvain Racette, be authorized to act as the designated representative of Riverside School Board in accordance with the pertinent terms and conditions of article 8 of the « Directive concernant la gestion des contrats d'approvisionnement, de services et de travaux de construction des organismes publics ».

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Correspondence – Copies of the list are available.

OTHER BUSINESS

Correspondence - As listed in Appendix "A" to these Minutes. Copies available to the public.

PUBLIC QUESTIONS : None

OTHER BUSINESS

Commissioner D. Smyth read a letter aloud, which was addressed to the Chairman. The letter is attached to these minutes as Annexe "C".

A lengthy discussion followed.

BRAVOS

Chairman Lamoureux thanked Wendy Bernier for her service. He hoped that she would enjoy life on the Island and wished her Bon Voyage.

In her capacity as a parent, commissioner and former military brat, Commissioner Rodriguez commended all Riverside schools that went ahead and celebrated Remembrance Day on November 11th. It meant a lot to her.

Commissioner Aguiar noted that Saint-Lambert International had a ceremony to dedicate their new gym to war veteran Walter Charron on November 11th. Mr. Charron's family was very proud.

ADG, Pierre Farmer noted that he was very proud that Riverside School Board had an Education Committee. Most if not all French school boards do not.

Commissioner Smith agreed with Commissioner Aguiar's comments and thanked her for all the work she did to help make the event happen. She also commended all of the students of SLI for their respectful attentiveness during the ceremonies.

Commissioner Gour offered kudos to members of our schools' Governing Boards and PPOs who are continuing to do fundraising without offending school staff.

Commissioner Butler reported proudly that St. Johns School had raised almost \$20,000 from the sale of cookie dough.

CLOSING

IT WAS MOVED by Commissioner Gour, seconded by Commissioner Rayes, at 9:10, that the meeting be closed.

UNANIMOUS

Dan Lamoureux, Chairman

Denise Paulson, Secretary General

CORRESPONDENCE - RIVERSIDE SCHOOL BOARD
 2015.11.17

<i>FROM</i>	<i>TYPE</i>	<i>SUBJECT</i>
François Blais, MEESR	Letter to the Chairman	Special project GPI
Commission scolaire de la Rivière du Nord	Copy of resolution to Council of Commissioners	Support for public education
François Blais, MEESR	Letter to the Chairman	Special project HRHS

WHEREAS the Council of Commissioners of Riverside School Board adopted Resolution B549-20150922, voicing its support of Public Education;

WHEREAS the Ministry of Education, Higher Education, Research and Science has cut more than \$9 million from Riverside School Board's budget since 2011;

WHEREAS the Parents' Committee is being informed that additional cuts are to be expected from the Ministry again this year;

WHEREAS a new governance model for school boards is expected to be announced by the Ministry;

WHEREAS public sector negotiations will have caused our children to lose 6 teaching days by December 3, 2015;

WHEREAS the Government has left families scrambling to find alternate care for their children before and after school on those 6 strike days;

WHEREAS our children are not enjoying the same school life experience as they would be without the "work-to-rule" mandate in effect;

WHEREAS the Government seems to have forgotten about our children when it comes to budget cuts that affect students in the classroom, when it comes to focusing time and money on developing a new governance model for school boards and when it comes to ensuring a full and enriching school experience for our children;

IT IS MOVED by Alexandra Audet, seconded by David Fournier that the members of the Parents' Committee of Riverside School Board advise the Council of Commissioners of their concerns about the Government's lack of attention to providing a fully rounded education to Riverside students; and

THAT the Council of Commissioners duly inform the Government and Riverside community of these concerns; and

THAT the Government be urged to finalize negotiations by the end of November; and

FURTHERMORE, that the anticipated legislation regarding a new governance model for school boards be deposited before Christmas so that appropriate feedback can be given to the Ministry within the required consultation period.

CARRIED

Dan Lamoureux
Chairman, Riverside School Board
7525, chemin de Chambly
Saint-Hubert, QC J3Y 0N7

November 17, 2015

Dear Mr. Chairman,

The current state of education in the province of Quebec is indeed in a state of crisis and change. In the past few years we have been faced with threat of mergers, wholesale changes to the system of school governance, and massive budget cuts to Riverside School Board (RSB) and our schools. Finally, we are presently caught in the middle of provincial collective agreement negotiations.

I have the utmost respect for the process of Council where each individual commissioners can be heard contributing to what is finally resolved into a final common direction for all. I feel I have always respected Council's resolutions in the past, however during these trying times of the Fall 2015 session, I had a great deal of difficulty reconciling my role as a Commissioner's and as an "employer" at the CPNCA table. In particular there has been a nagging doubt in mind that something was missing in the process by which we arrived at that decision by Council on our position in provincial negotiations.

In a November 24, 2014 communique to school boards by the QESBA, a Labour Relations Advisory Committee (LRAC) meeting was announced. This communique states the following, "There will be a meeting of the Labour Relations Advisory Committee held on Wednesday November 26, 2014 to **review and approve** the orientations of the CPNCA leading into this round of negotiations" (see Appendix A). The communique goes on to point out that the voting members of LRAC are the Chairs and Director Generals of all nine-member school boards with HR directors sitting as observers. In my subsequent review of the minutes of the December 16 RSB Council of Commissioners meeting, a summary of the Chairman's report at that time indicated that, "The chair reported that he attended a number of meetings in the past weeks related to the matter of potential school board mergers." (see Appendix B). These minutes did not mention the LRAC meeting nor is there a statement as to the position taken in this matter on behalf of Council.

Therefore, I must point out that there has been a grievous error in the due process of Council. Prior to the LRAC meeting, Council was never consulted to come to a democratic consensus as a Board and as a voice at the CPNCA table. Following the LRAC meeting, no report was given to Council as to our position at this meeting. As per clause 155 of the education act, "The chair shall convey all relevant information to the Council and shall submit to the council any matter brought to the Chair's attention with regard to the improvement of educational services". Having never consulted Council as to our position on labor negotiations and, in addition, having never reported back to Council, I am asking the following questions:

- 1) What position was taken in the Wednesday November 26, 2014 LRAC meeting?
- 2) How do you intend, as Chairman of the board, to rectify the grievous error in due process with regards to this matter?

Make no mistake, the current provincial labor negotiations between the Liberal Couillard Government, and the public sector, in particular teachers, is a portrait of the of educational values within Quebec's priorities for the next five years and beyond. The province's offer currently at the negotiations table (related to class sizes, student weighting) will, if passed, dismantle our already weakened educational system. This goes far beyond Council resolutions to repair a roof or pave a driveway. This is about Council's obligation and opportunity to pronounce itself on the future of public education in Quebec.

As it stands, the matter of sovereignty of Council has been violated, the voice of individual commissioners has not been heard and the common democratic voice of Council has been silenced.

Respectfully,

Douglas Smyth
Riverside School Board Commissioner
Roussillon

Cc: RSB Council of Commissioners
Sylvain Racette, Director General Riverside School Board

Appendix A: Extract from the November 24, 2014 Communique to school boards by the QESBA

Appendix B: Extract from the minutes of the December 16, 2014 RSB Council of Commissioners meeting

Members are hereby convened to a **regular** meeting on
Tuesday, November 17, 2015 at the Administration Centre
7525 chemin de Chambly, St. Hubert, QC

AGENDA – REGULAR MEETING

1. Call to Order and Quorum
2. Adoption of the Agenda
3. Auditor's Report
4. Approval of Minutes
 - Adoption of the Minutes of the meeting of October 20, 2015
 - Business arising from the Minutes of the meeting of October 20, 2015
5. Presentation by Parents' Committee
6. Questions from the Public – 30 minutes
7. Chairman's Remarks
8. Director General's Remarks
9. Parent Committee Report
10. Special Needs Advisory Report
11. Committee Reports
 - Executive
 - Transportation
 - Education
 - Audit (Finance/Mat. Resources)
 - Governance and Ethics
 - Human Resources
 - Communications
 - Q.E.S.B.A.
12. Resolutions
 - Appointment of a Director of Human Resources
 - Deposit of the Riverside School Board Financial Statement for 2014-2015
 - Designated representative of the public organization – selection committee
13. Correspondence
14. Questions from the Public – 20 minutes
15. Bravos (2 minutes per member)
16. Other Business
17. Close of Meeting
18. Date of Next Regular Meeting: **Tuesday, December 15, 2015**

Given at Saint-Hubert, Québec, on November 13, 2015

Denise Paulson, Secretary General