

**Approved minutes of the Special Meeting of the Council of Commissioners of the Central Québec School Board held on Wednesday, July 9, 2025, at 12:15 p.m. on TEAMS platform.**

<b>Present:</b>	Linda Bechtiger	Parent Commissioner
	David Eden	Commissioner
	Karine Gauthier	Commissioner
	André Gosselin	Commissioner
	Chantal Guay	Commissioner
	Stephane Lagacé	Director General
	Ian O’Gallagher	Vice-chairman
	Shirley Picknell	Commissioner
	Jean Robert	Chairman
Jo Visser	Commissioner	
<b>Absent:</b>	Debbie Cornforth	Commissioner
	Christian Falle	Parent Commissioner
	Debbie Ford-Caron	Commissioner
	Jason Kilganan	Parent Commissioner
	Cameron Lavallee	Commissioner
	KayLee Richardson	Parent Commissioner
	Jo-Ann Toulouse	Commissioner
<b>In Attendance:</b>	Leslie Dussault-Marcoux	Recording Secretary
	Vincent Laliberté	Secretary General
	Anissa Landry	Director of Financial Services
	Nancy L’Heureux	Assistant Director General
	Benoit Sévigny	Director of Buildings and Equipment, Information Technology and Purchasing

**25-07.01 Call to Order**

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 12:15 p.m.

**25-07.02 Native Land Recognition Statement**

We would like to begin by acknowledging, honouring, and paying respect to our First Nations Communities; the traditional owners and custodians of the land on which we gather for this event today.

**25-07.03 Approval of the Agenda**

It was MOVED by C. Guay, SECONDED by S. Picknell, and unanimously RESOLVED; THAT the agenda be approved as presented.

**25-07.04 Public Question Period**

No public was present.

**25-07.05 Resolution for QESBA Action regarding Budgetary Efforts 2025-2026**

WHEREAS the government, despite repeated promises and assurances that education is its top priority and that it would not cut services in education, has already demanded significant budget cuts from the Education network during the 2024–2025 school year, including:

- approx. \$400 million in building maintenance, in July 2024;
- a hiring freeze, in November 2024;
- approx. \$200 million in cuts in December 2024, on the eve of the December holiday break;
- approx. \$70 million cut from the catch-up plan, on the eve of March break;
- renovation, expansion, and school construction projects put on hold by the CAQ government;

WHEREAS the recent over \$570 million in cuts for 2025-2026 demanded just days before the end of the school year in June 2025 by the government, after staff assignments had been completed, will directly impact services to students;

WHEREAS the draft budgetary rules and parameters communicated by the government on June 12, 2025, would require the Central Québec School Board (CQSB) to cut \$ 4 847 671 for 2025-2026. Measure 16034 is limiting the number of employees we could hire with decentralized budgets which affect direct services to students;

WHEREAS the draft budgetary rules communicated by the government on June 12, 2025, would further forbid the board from accessing approx. \$ 3 150 000 from its own accumulated surplus, which has been acquired through the board's own initiatives and responsible management of the board's resources, for the benefit of its students;

WHEREAS the government only provided for a consultation period of one business day, from June 12, 2025, to June 13, 2025, and indicated in a presentation to staff that it expects to submit the final version of the budgetary rules to the Treasury Board at the end of June, likely for approval in July;

WHEREAS it is not possible to implement budgetary cuts of this scale without significant impacts on direct services to students;

WHEREAS the timing of these announcements, after significant staffing decisions have been made pursuant to deadlines under applicable collective agreements, severely constrains the school board's options to attempt to implement these cuts;

WHEREAS the Council of Commissioners is committed to providing the necessary support to students and protecting students' access to quality educational services;

25-07.05

**Resolution for QESBA Action regarding Budgetary Efforts 2025-2026 (continued)**

WHEREAS the Council of Commissioners is responsible for exercising the community's right to management and control of the allocation of funding for minority language education in its territory under s. 23 of the Charter of Rights and Freedoms, for the benefit of its students and community;

WHEREAS the Council of Commissioners is committed to protecting services and initiatives implemented to respond to the particular needs of its students and to protect community vitality, such as effective school transportation in its vast territory to ensure access to an English school, access to professional services and support for students with special needs in English, provide services to all of our schools equitably despite our very vast territory, treating English eligibility, cultural and community activities in English;

WHEREAS the proposed changes to the budgetary rules, developed without meaningful consultation of the school network as required by art. 472 of the Education Act, are unreasonable;

WHEREAS the proposed changes to the budgetary rules unjustifiably constrain the exercise of management and control over the allocation of funding in violation of s. 23 of the Charter;

WHEREAS s. 279 of the Education Act provides that a school board cannot submit a deficit budget without authorization from the Minister;

WHEREAS the Central Québec School Board has assessed its financial situation and concluded that it is neither feasible, nor responsible to fully implement the proposed cuts and prohibition on the use of accumulated surplus funds proposed on June 12, 2025, for 2025-2026 given their expected impact on services to students and in light of its particular circumstances;

It was MOVED by K. Gauthier, SECONDED by J. Visser, and unanimously RESOLVED; THAT the Central Québec School Board calls on the government to revise the draft budgetary rules to withdraw the budget cuts; and

THAT the government reinstate the rule allowing school boards to access their accumulated surplus; and

THAT, to be adequately prepared in the event that the government were to maintain these unjustified budgetary constraints, the Council of Commissioners mandates the Administration to request authorization to submit a deficit budget in accordance with the draft budget presented to Council.

25-07.06

**In-camera Session**

There was no in-camera session.

25-07.07

**Adjournment**

The meeting was ADJOURNED at 12:31 p.m., on a MOTION by S. Picknell.

---

Vincent Laliberté  
Secretary General

Jean Robert  
Chairman

Approved on September 5, 2025.