

Approved minutes of the regular meeting of the Council of Commissioners of the Central Québec School Board held on Friday, September 5, 2025, at 7 p.m. at the Board Office, 2046 chemin Saint-Louis, Québec (Québec) G1T 1P4 and on TEAMS platform.

| | | |
|-----------------|-------------------|---------------------|
| Present: | Linda Bechtiger | Parent Commissioner |
| | Debbie Cornforth | Commissioner |
| | David Eden | Commissioner |
| | Debbie Ford-Caron | Commissioner |
| | Karine Gauthier | Commissioner |
| | André Gosselin | Commissioner |
| | Chantal Guay | Commissioner |
| | Jason Kilganan | Parent Commissioner |
| | Stephane Lagacé | Director General |
| | Cameron Lavallee | Commissioner |
| | Ian O’Gallagher | Vice-chairman |
| | Shirley Picknell | Commissioner |
| | KayLee Richardson | Parent Commissioner |
| | Jean Robert | Chairman |
| | Jo-Ann Toulouse | Commissioner |
| | Jo Visser | Commissioner |

Absent:

| | | |
|-----------------------|-------------------------|--|
| In Attendance: | Julien Duchamp | Director of Educational Services (by TEAMS) |
| | Leslie Dussault-Marcoux | Recording Secretary (by TEAMS) |
| | Vincent Laliberté | Secretary General |
| | Yves Lambert | CQTA President (by TEAMS) |
| | Anissa Landry | Director of Financial Services |
| | Nancy L’Heureux | Assistant Director General |
| | Benoit Sévigny | Director of Buildings and Equipment, Information Technology and Purchasing |
| | Julie Simard | Director of Human Resources |

25-09.01 Call to Order

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

25-09.02 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.

25-09.03 Approval of the Agenda

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

25-09.04 **Public Question Period**

There were no questions.

25-09.05 **Question Period for Students**

No students were present.

25-09.06 **Correspondence from Students**

No correspondence was received.

25-09.07 **Complaints**

No complaints were received.

25-09.08 **Approval of the Minutes**

a) Regular Meeting Held on June 18, 2025

It was MOVED by D. Cornforth, SECONDED by D. Eden and unanimously RESOLVED; THAT the minutes of the regular meeting of the Council of Commissioners held on Wednesday, June 18, 2025, be accepted as presented.

Commissioner C. Lavallee abstained from voting.

b) Special Meeting Held on July 9, 2025

It was MOVED by A. Gosselin, SECONDED by C. Guay and unanimously RESOLVED; THAT the minutes of the special meeting of the Council of Commissioners held on Wednesday, July 9, 2025, be accepted as presented.

Parent Commissioner K. Richardson and Commissioners D. Cornforth, D. Ford-Caron and C. Lavallee abstained from voting.

25-09.09 **Business Arising from the Minutes**

No business arose from the minutes.

25-09.10 **Report from the Chairman**

The Chairman provided a report to the Commissioners prior to the meeting. Some of the topics involved the following:

- Budget Cuts from the *ministère de l'Éducation*
- Green Light for the New Québec City High School
- Media Announcements (QCT, CBC, Radio-Canada)

25-09.11

General Directorate's Report

The Director General formally addressed the Council and provided a report on the following items:

Y. Lambert
joined at
7:07 p.m.

a) Update from Educational Services

J. Duchamp reported on the Combined Educational Services Meeting for School Orientation Teams and the two online presentations to members of the personnel from all our schools.

Following the *ministère de l'Éducation's* new policy banning the use of cellphones and personal IT devices during class hours, a Guide of Best Practices was prepared, in collaboration with the *CIUSSS de la Capitale-Nationale*, to assist our schools during the implementation of these new guidelines in their codes of conduct.

J. Kilganan
joined at
7:14 p.m.

b) Update from Buildings & Equipment and IT

B. Sévigny reported that, since the project's approval by the *Conseil des ministres* back in July, many tenders showed interest in the construction of a new high school in Québec City.

The IT Department, as part of the migration to Windows 11, has prepared 400 new laptops to replace aging equipment that could not support the upgrade.

Back-to-school orders are progressing smoothly and the implementation of local purchasing, in accordance with the government's directives, is going well thanks to the excellent collaboration of our school teams and Purchasing Department.

c) Update from Human Resources

As of July 1st, and after 25 years of service as Principal of Ste-Foy Elementary School, Julie Simard was appointed Director of Human Resources.

The Human Resources Department is closely monitoring the number of Equivalent Full-Time (EFT) positions across the school board, along with the corresponding budgets, with an emphasis placed on hiring qualified staff.

d) Update from Communications

The Communications' Department has many things in store for this new school year but one of its key projects will be the construction of the new high school. Although the school's naming process has not begun yet, the project itself will be called "Uni.T" as a symbol of the collective effort and engagement of all our CQSB employees involved in this historic endeavour.

25-09.11

General Directorate's Report (continued)

e) Update from Financial Services

A. Landry reported that this summer was marked by a great deal of uncertainty and stress across the education sector as the government announced major budget cuts before reinvesting most funds shortly after. Although adjustments will be made, the reinvestment will allow the CQSB to present a balanced budget without affecting student services.

f) Update from Secretariat General

V. Laliberté informed the Council that, on July 9th, the *Autorité des marchés publics* sent an official confirmation regarding the closure of the file related to the purchase of furniture for New Liverpool Elementary School.

As part of our ongoing record management efforts, many boxes of files were transferred from all our establishments to our Document Management Centre, with the help of our Director of Buildings and Equipment in coordinating the move.

g) Update from the General Directorate

The Director General mentioned an important milestone reached during the summer: the roles of Assistant Director General (ADG) and Director of Human Resources (DHR) could officially be separated with the appointment of the new DHR. This allowed our ADG, Nancy L'Heureux, who had been occupying both roles for the past three years, to better balance her workload and finally focus on her tasks as ADG.

It was noted that the 27th Annual CQSB Cross Country Run will be held on October 4, 2025, at the Base de plein air de Sainte-Foy. Details on registrations and archives of past events can be found on the Run's dedicated website:

<https://cqsbcrosscountry.weebly.com/> .

25-09.12

Strategic Planning

There was nothing to report.

25-09.13

New Business

a) 2025-2026 Commissioners Stipends

It was MOVED by K. Gauthier, SECONDED by S. Picknell, and unanimously RESOLVED; THAT effective July 1, 2025, the total remuneration available for the commissioners and the parent commissioners be established in accordance with the amount payable with Decree #965-2025 adopted on July 16, 2025; and

25-09.13

New Business (continued)

a) 2025-2026 Commissioners Stipends (continued)

THAT the total amount established be distributed as per the following:

| | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------|
| Chairman | (\$7,227 + \$1,030 + \$16,601) | \$24,858.00 |
| Vice-chairman | (\$7,227 + \$5,203) | \$12,430.00 |
| Commissioners | (14 x \$7,227) | \$101,178.00 |
| Professional Development | | \$5,939.00 |
| Constituency Expenses | | \$10,605.00 |
| TOTAL | | \$155,010.00 |

and;

THAT any unspent monies generated from the application of Decree #965-2025 be brought back to the attention of the Council of Commissioners; and

THAT Appendix A of the Policy on Remuneration and Constituency Expenses of the Council of Commissioners be updated with the above amounts.

b) One-Year Transportation Contracts

It was MOVED by C. Lavallee, SECONDED by A. Gosselin, and unanimously RESOLVED; THAT the Central Québec School Board accept the following one-year transportation contracts for the 2025-2026 school year;

| Transporter | Capacity | Territory | 2025-2026 (\$) Excluding Tax |
|--------------------------|----------------|---------------|------------------------------|
| Transport Nadia Lapointe | Berline 820 | Ile d'Orléans | 38,200 |
| Transport Nadia Lapointe | Berline 810 | Ile d'Orléans | 38,200 |
| Autobus Rowley | 421 5 row | Valcartier | 75,041.16 |

and;

THAT the Director General be authorized to sign the contracts on behalf of the School Board.

New Business (continued)c) Nomination of Commissioners to the 2025-2026 Committees

- a) It was MOVED by J. Kilganan, SECONDED by S. Picknell; and unanimously RESOLVED; THAT for the 2025–2026 school year, the Executive Committee be composed of the Director General, Stéphane Lagacé, the Chairman, Jean Robert, the Vice-chairman, I. O’Gallagher, Parent Commissioner J. Kilganan, and Commissioners A. Gosselin, C. Lavallee, D. Ford-Caron, D. Cornforth, J.-A. Toulouse, J. Visser.
- b) It was MOVED by K. Richardson, SECONDED by D. Ford-Caron; and unanimously RESOLVED; THAT for the 2025–2026 school year, the commissioner representatives for the Central Québec School Board committees be as follows:

Audit Committee: Ian O’Gallagher, Jo-Ann Toulouse, Shirley Picknell

Board Parity Committee: Jason Kilganan

Ethics and Governance Committee: Jean Robert, KayLee Richardson, David Eden, Linda Bechtiger

Evaluation of the Director General: Jean Robert, D. Ford-Caron, Ian O’Gallagher, Debbie Cornforth

Expulsion Committees:

Chibougamau: Jo-Ann Toulouse

Jonquière: Debbie Ford-Caron

La Tuque : Chantal Guay

Québec City: André Gosselin

Thetford Mines: Jo Visser

Trois-Rivières: Karine Gauthier

Shawinigan: Linda Bechtiger

Human Resources Committee: Jean Robert, Debbie Cornforth, Jason Kilganan, André Gosselin, Karine Gauthier and Johana Visser.

Labour Relations Committees:

School and Centre Administrators: André Gosselin and Shirley Picknell

Senior Staff of Service: Jean Robert and Ian O’Gallagher

Revision of Decision Committees:

Chibougamau/Jonquière: Debbie Ford-Caron, Chantal Guay and Jo-Ann Toulouse

Québec City: David Eden, Debbie Cornforth

Thetford Mines: Jean Robert, Johana Visser

Trois-Rivières/Shawinigan/La Tuque: Chantal Guay, Karine Gauthier, Linda Bechtiger

c) Nomination of Commissioners to the 2025-2026 Committees (continued)**Transport Advisory Committees*:**

COSB (Québec City): Cameron Lavallee and Shirley Picknell

C.s. s. de la Beauce-Etchemin: Johana Visser

C.s. s. de l'Énergie: Linda Bechtiger

C.s. s. de la Jonquière: Debbie Ford-Caron

C.s. s. de Portneuf: Debbie Cornforth

C.s. s. du Chemin-du-Roy: Karine Gauthier

C.s. s. du Lac-Saint-Jean: Debbie Ford-Caron

**It was noted that, over the past few years, the Commissioners elected to the Transport Advisory Committee have not been a part of meetings held by the Centres de services scolaires (CSS). An email will be sent to provide these CSS with the nominated Commissioners' information so that may be reached and invited to their meetings.*

d) Challenge to the Validity of the Budgetary Rules

WHEREAS, in addition to various budgetary cuts in 2024-2025, the government announced on June 12, 2025 budgetary cuts that would require the Central Québec School Board to cut over \$2 367 483 million for 2025-2026 (measure 16032), potentially expose it to a penalty of about \$2 480 188 million if it cannot bring its staffing below the new target set by the Minister (measure 16034), and prohibit the board from accessing \$3 150 000 million from its accumulated surplus, which would have substantial impacts on direct services to students;

WHEREAS on July 9, 2025, the Council of commissioners adopted a resolution calling on the government to withdraw the budgetary cuts and to reinstate the former rules on access to accumulated surplus funds;

WHEREAS on July 16, 2025, the board received the provisional budgetary rules approved by the *Conseil du trésor*, which maintain the above-noted budgetary cuts, but introduce a new measure that would make about \$2 154 237 million available to the board to partially offset the cuts (measure 16036), but only if the board complies with restrictive conditions that restrain its management and control, including:

- (a) complying with a new staffing target set the Ministry,
- (b) requiring that the board maintain spending on certain government priorities, specifically in funding envelopes called "dedicated and protected measures" that can only be used for highly specific purposes, that may not correspond to the community's priorities, and
- (c) participating in regional and national mutualisation projects.

New Business (continued)d) Challenge to the Validity of the Budgetary Rules (continued)

WHEREAS dedicated and protected measures have already been declared unconstitutional by the Court of Appeal of Québec in its ruling of April 2025 in the Bill 40 case (*Quebec English School Boards Association v Procureur general du Québec*, 2023 QCCS 2965 at paras 294-295, 299, 439, confirmed 2025 QCCA 282 at paras 195-208, 277);

WHEREAS the conditions attached to the new measures restrict management and control guaranteed by section 23 of the *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms* and would prevent the board from managing its staffing and allocating its funding in a manner that responds to the needs of its students and community;

WHEREAS the Council of Commissioners is committed to protecting services and initiatives that respond to the particular needs of its students and its community;

WHEREAS the Ministry has required that all school bodies submit their budgets for 2025-2026 by no later than September 26, 2025;

It was MOVED by I. O’Gallagher, SECONDED by D. Eden, and unanimously RESOLVED; THAT the Central Québec School Board mandates Power Law to take the necessary steps for the CQSB to join the QESBA’s application to challenge the validity of the budgetary rules and seek a stay of their application.

e) Request for Building Replacement: MEES

WHEREAS the Mauricie English Elementary School building is aging;

WHEREAS important renovation work must be carried out and that this kind of renovation would require the relocation of the students;

WHEREAS it is unfeasible for the Central Québec School Board (CQSB) to move the students to another establishment;

WHEREAS for distance and transportation reasons it is not possible to reorganise any of our schools in the Mauricie region in any other way;

WHEREAS the professionals’ report carried out in 2018 and in 2024 mentions that a minimum of renovation work would cost several million dollars;

WHEREAS CQSB owns a piece of land (lot #1 211 884) that would allow for the construction of a new school;

25-09.13

New Business (continued)

e) Request for Building Replacement: MEES (continued)

WHEREAS this new school would make it possible to offer a vibrant learning community that would allow the Trois-Rivière elementary student population to receive the best possible education;

It was MOVED by K. Gauthier, SECONDED C. Guay, and unanimously RESOLVED; THAT the Central Québec School Board (CQSB) submit a request to the *Ministère de l'Éducation* for the construction of a new school on lot #1 211 884 to replace the Mauricie English Elementary School (1275 rue Nicolas-Perrot, Trois-Rivières, QC G9A 1C2).

f) Request for Building Replacement: New North Shore Elementary School (Charlesbourg)

WHEREAS the beginning of the four-year-old kindergarten programs in most elementary schools will cause schools to have limited capacity;

WHEREAS the relocation of students from the North Shore of Québec previously attending St. Vincent School has increased capacity issues in the existing schools in the Québec City region;

WHEREAS no school is physically located in the northeastern territory of Québec City where the Central Québec School Board (CQSB) has the biggest student population;

WHEREAS the lack of a school in this part of the city entitles very long transportation time in the morning and after school for the students to access the current schools;

WHEREAS time spent in school transportation does not contribute to the CQSB mission of supporting vibrant learning communities in its schools that empower students to receive the best possible education and to prepare them to achieve their fullest potential;

It was MOVED by A. Gosselin, SECONDED by C. Lavallee, and RESOLVED with thirteen (13) in favour, zero (0) opposed, and one (1) abstention (Ian O'Gallagher); THAT the Central Québec School Board submit a request to the *Ministère de l'Éducation* for a new elementary school in the *Arrondissement Charlesbourg* to better serve the student population in the northeastern sector of Québec City.

g) Request for Building Replacement: Portneuf Elementary School – Gymnasium and K4 Classroom

WHEREAS Portneuf Elementary School does not have a gymnasium;

25-09.13

New Business (continued)

- g) Request for Building Replacement: Portneuf Elementary School – Gymnasium and K4 Classroom (continued)

WHEREAS there is a need for a K4 classroom;

WHEREAS it is important for Portneuf Elementary School to have their own adapted gymnasium in their building;

WHEREAS regular physical activity promotes concentration, which is a key factor in educational success;

It was MOVED by D. Cornforth, SECONDED by A. Gosselin, and unanimously RESOLVED; THAT the Central Québec School Board submit a request to the *Ministère de l'Éducation* for additional permanent space for a gymnasium and a K4 classroom at Portneuf Elementary School (35, rue Richard, Cap-Santé, QC G0A 1L0).

- h) Request for Building Replacement: Riverside Regional High School – Gymnasium

WHEREAS, since 2016-2017, the Riverside Regional Elementary School has been occupying the premises adjacent to the Riverside Regional High School;

WHEREAS the increase in enrolment at both schools has led to an even direr need for bigger sports facilities;

WHEREAS Riverside Regional Elementary School has reached the limit of its capacity and can no longer share the gymnasium with the high school students;

WHEREAS it is important for Riverside Regional High School to have their own adapted gymnasium in their building --- to meet the basics requirements of the cursus regarding the number of minutes per week;

WHEREAS there is no other English secondary school within a 200-kilometre radius of Riverside Regional High School and the demographic statistics from the *Ministère de l'Éducation* indicate increased enrolment for this school over the next five years;

WHEREAS the demographic statistics do not take into consideration the increase in the student population that has been observed in recent years of the elementary students in Riverside Regional Elementary School continuing to Riverside Regional High School;

WHEREAS the increase in student population will also imply a need for additional classrooms and a collaborative room;

25-09.13

New Business (continued)

h) Request for Building Replacement: Riverside Regional High School – Gymnasium (continued)

WHEREAS the principals of both schools predict an increase in student population beyond 200, at approximately 225 within the next five years;

WHEREAS the capacity calculated by the *Ministère de l'Éducation* is of 175 students for Riverside Regional High School;

It was MOVED by D. Ford-Caron, SECONDED by J.-A. Toulouse, and unanimously RESOLVED; THAT the Central Québec School Board submit a request to the *Ministère de l'Éducation* for additional space for three classrooms, a collaborative room and for the construction of a gymnasium at Riverside Regional High School (1770, rue Joule, Jonquière, QC G7S 3B1).

i) Request for Building Replacement: Valcartier Elementary School

WHEREAS the Valcartier Elementary School building is aging;

WHEREAS the enrolment at Valcartier Elementary School has been steadily increasing;

WHEREAS we have surpassed the capacity at Valcartier Elementary School as a portable classroom is being used since 2015 to accommodate the community;

WHEREAS the increase in enrolment has required the installation of a second portable classroom during the summer of 2024;

WHEREAS the increase has also required a group of students to start occupying a room at the Community Centre, located in a neighbouring building;

WHEREAS the geographic situation does not allow the possibility to transfer students to another school;

WHEREAS the school cannot be extended because of the building's condition and how it no longer meets the standards;

It was MOVED by C. Lavalée, SECONDED by K. Richardson, and unanimously RESOLVED; THAT the Central Québec School Board submit a request to the *Ministère de l'Éducation* for a new building for Valcartier Elementary School.

25-09.13

New Business (continued)

j) Cession de lots pour la construction d'une nouvelle école secondaire pour la CSCQ

ATTENDU QUE la Commission scolaire Central Québec (CSCQ) a pour projet la démolition de l'École Saint-Vincent et la reconstruction d'une nouvelle école secondaire sur le même site;

ATTENDU QUE la CSCQ a demandé à la VILLE la cession d'un immeuble pour répondre à ses besoins;

ATTENDU QUE la CSCQ a besoin d'un terrain situé dans le secteur Sainte-Foy-Sillery-Cap-Rouge de la VILLE pour la construction d'une nouvelle école;

ATTENDU QUE la CSCQ a reçu l'autorisation du ministre de l'Éducation pour procéder au Projet;

ATTENDU QUE les parties ont convenu des grands principes d'utilisation des locaux de l'école et des plateaux sportifs extérieurs par la Ville;

ATTENDU QUE la Ville cédera un immeuble connu et désigné comme étant composé du lot 2 171 963 et d'une partie du lot 2 012 265 du cadastre du Québec, circonscription foncière de Québec, d'une superficie totale combinée approximative de 12 183,5 mètres carrés;

Il est PROPOSÉ par K. Gauthier, APPUYÉ par S. Picknell et RÉSOLU à l'unanimité;

D'AUTORISER le directeur général de la Commission scolaire Central Québec à signer les documents nommés « offre de cession » d'un immeuble connu et désigné comme étant composé du lot 2 171 963 et d'une partie du lot 2 012 265 du cadastre du Québec, ses annexes ainsi que tous les documents afférents, substantiellement conformes aux documents déposés en annexe.

25-09.14

Committee Reports

a) Executive Committee

No meeting was held.

b) Parents' Committee

No meeting was held.

c) Special Needs Advisory Committee

No meeting was held.

d) Transport Advisory Committee

No meeting was held.

25-09.14 **Committee Reports (continued)**

e) Audit Committee

No meeting was held.

f) Evaluation of the Director General

No meeting was held.

g) Ethics and Governance Committee

No meeting was held.

h) Human Resources Committee

No meeting was held.

i) Resource Allocation Committee

A meeting was held on June 25, 2025. N. L'Heureux made a summary of the topics of discussion.

25-09.15 **Québec English School Boards Association**

a) Report from the Board of Directors

No report was made.

Next meeting will be held on September 12, 2025.

b) Report from Committees

No report was made.

25-09.16 **Next meeting**

The next regular meeting will be held on October 1, 2025.

25-09.17 **Question period**

a) Public

There were no questions.

b) Commissioners

There were no questions.

25-09.18 **In-camera session**

No in-camera session was held.

25-09.19 **Adjournment**

The meeting was ADJOURNED at 9:00 p.m. on a motion by J. Visser.

Vincent Laliberté
Secretary General

Jean Robert
Chairman

Approved on October 1, 2025.