

Approved minutes of the regular meeting of the Council of Commissioners of the Central Québec School Board held on Wednesday, February 25, 2026, at 7 p.m., at the Board Office, 2046, chemin Saint-Louis, Québec (Québec) G1T 1P4 and by videoconference on the TEAMS platform.

Present:	Linda Bechtiger	Parent Commissioner (by TEAMS)
	Debbie Cornforth	Commissioner
	David Eden	Commissioner (by TEAMS)
	Debbie Ford-Caron	Commissioner (by TEAMS)
	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
	Jean Robert	Chairman
	Jo-Ann Toulouse	Commissioner (by TEAMS)
	Alexandra Tremblay-Leclerc	Parent Commissioner (by TEAMS)
	Jo Visser	Commissioner (by TEAMS)
Absent:	KayLee Richardson	Parent Commissioner
In Attendance:	Julien Duchamp	Director of Educational Services
	Leslie Dussault-Marcoux	Recording Secretary (by TEAMS)
	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
	Julie Simard	Director of Human Resources

26-02.01 Call to Order

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

26-02.02 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.

26-02.03 **Approval of the Agenda**

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

26-02.04 **Presentation of the Annual Report 2024-2025**

Since no member of the public were present, it was determined that the Presentation of the Annual Report would not be necessary. Instead, the Commissioners were redirected to the CQSB website where the report is available for consultation. The PowerPoint, which would have been shown during the presentation, will be shared with the Council.

26-02.05 **Public Question Period**

There were no questions.

26-02.06 **Question Period for Students**

No students were present.

26-02.07 **Correspondence from Students**

No correspondence was received.

26-02.08 **Complaints**

No complaints were received.

26-02.09 **Approval of the Minutes of the Regular Meeting Held on January 21, 2026**

It was MOVED by A. Gosselin, SECONDED by K. Gauthier and RESOLVED; THAT the minutes of the regular meeting of the Council of Commissioners held on Wednesday, January 21, 2026, be accepted as presented.

Commissioner C. Guay abstained from voting.

26-02.10 **Business Arising from the Minutes**

On January 21, 2026, the Council of Commissioners approved a resolution announcing the Central Québec School Board's intervention in the English Montreal School Board's challenge to Bill 94. However, the EMSB has since retracted their intention to act as plaintiff and will no longer be needing the support of other English-language school boards in this matter. Since the CQSB's involvement was conditional to the participation of the EMSB, no further action will be required regarding resolution 26-01.13 a) Central Québec School Board Intervention in the English Montreal School Board Challenge to Bill 94.

26-02.11 **Report from the Chairman**

The Chairman provided a report to the Commissioners on the following items:

- Governance and Provincial Engagement
- Federal and Constitutional Advocacy
- Municipal Affairs – “*Frais de parc*” File
- New High School Project
- Strategic and Operational Coordination
- Academic and Professional Engagement – Vocational Education

26-02.12 **General Directorate’s Report**

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

a) Update from Educational Services

J. Duchamp reported on the following topics:

- Registration 2026–2027
- Induction Day
- LCEEQ Annual Conference 2026
- Learning for All Day

b) Update from Buildings & Equipment and IT

With the growth of the Jimmy Sandy Memorial School, new units must be built to meet the housing needs of our increasing personnel. The *ministère de l’Éducation* has approved the school board’s request for additional funding to cover the budget shortfall that followed the second call for tenders. A resolution will be presented during the meeting for the construction of three duplexes and one quadruplex.

c) Update from Human Resources

J. Simard provided a report on the following Labour Relations Committees’ meetings:

- Senior Staff of Schools and Centre (Principals and Vice-principals) – February 19th
- Teachers – January 29th
- Professionals – February 6th
- Support Staff – February 2nd

26-02.12

General Directorate's Report (continued)

d) Update from Communications

N. L'Heureux reported on the following topics:

- Development of the Intranet, in collaboration with the Information Technology Department
- Communications Guidelines
- Registration and admission period promotion
- Emergency Measures Committee (CMU) new Emergency Evacuation Posters

A question was raised about the policy in place should a school be "out of water." The following answer was provided: although there is no policy, per se, measures from the CMU are in place. Situations are managed on a case-by-case basis.

e) Update from Financial Services

The audit of the financial statements of the Naskapi School for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025, is being finalized with the accounting firm, Malette.

f) Update from the General Directorate

The Director General presented his report on the following topics:

- Board Office Staff Meeting – February 19th
- Mutualization
- Uni.T.

26-02.13

Strategic Planning

Reports on the Strategic Planning will now be shared every two months. The updates for the months of January and February will be presented at the next meeting of the Council of Commissioners to be held on March 25, 2026.

26-02.14

New Business

a) **Budget Management Process – Youth Sector for 2026–2027 (adoption in principle)**

WHEREAS section 96.25 of the Education Act stipulates that school principals shall participate in defining school board policies;

WHEREAS sections 78 and 193 of the Education Act provide for consultation of school governing boards and the Parents' Committee on various matters concerning the organization of services provided by the School Board;

New Business (continued)a) Budget Management Process – Youth Sector for 2026–2027 (adoption in principle)
(continued)

WHEREAS section 275 of the Education Act stipulates that “the school board shall establish objectives and principles governing the allocation of subsidies, school-tax proceeds and its other revenues”;

WHEREAS the Central Québec School Board determines these objectives and principles annually in the Budget Management Process;

WHEREAS the draft Budget Management Process – Youth Sector for the 2026–2027 school year was deposited for consultation to the Council of Commissioners on December 10, 2025;

WHEREAS the official version of the Budget Management Process – Youth Sector shall be formally approved at the beginning of the 2026–2027 school year;

WHEREAS appropriate consultation has taken place;

It was MOVED by A. Gosselin, SECONDED by S. Picknell, and unanimously RESOLVED; THAT the Council of Commissioners accept, in principle, the Budget Management Process – Youth Sector for the 2026–2027 school year as presented.

b) Budget Management Process – Adult Education and Vocational Training for 2026–2027 (adoption in principle)

WHEREAS section 96.25 of the Education Act stipulates that school principals shall participate in defining school board policies;

WHEREAS sections 78 and 193 of the Education Act provide for consultation of school governing boards and the Parents’ Committee on various matters concerning the organization of services provided by the School Board;

WHEREAS section 275 of the Education Act stipulates that “the school board shall establish objectives and principles governing the allocation of subsidies, school-tax proceeds and its other revenues”;

WHEREAS the Central Québec School Board determines these objectives and principles annually in the Budget Management Process;

26-02.14

New Business (continued)

- b) Budget Management Process – Adult Education and Vocational Training for 2026–2027 (adoption in principle) (continued)

WHEREAS the draft Budget Management Process – Adult Education and Vocational Training for the 2026–2027 school year was deposited for consultation to the Council of Commissioners on December 10, 2025;

WHEREAS the official version of the Budget Management Process – Adult Education and Vocational Training shall be formally approved at the beginning of the 2026–2027 school year;

WHEREAS appropriate consultation has taken place;

It was MOVED by I. O’Gallagher, SECONDED by J.-A. Toulouse, and unanimously RESOLVED; THAT the Council of Commissioners accept, in principle, the Budget Management Process – Adult Education and Vocational Training for the 2026–2027 school year as presented.

- c) Adhésion au Regroupement d’achat pour les assurances de dommages de la CSCQ

CONSIDÉRANT l’expérience financièrement avantageuse, vécue les années passées, par les regroupements de certains centres de services scolaires et commissions scolaires pour l’obtention d’un portefeuille d’assurances de dommages ;

CONSIDÉRANT QU’il est avantageux d’être regroupé dans un seul regroupement, le regroupement de l’Est-du-Québec, d’Estrie-Montérégie et celui des centres de services scolaires des Mille-Îles et de Laval ;

CONSIDÉRANT QU’il serait dans l’intérêt de la Commission scolaire Central Québec de renouveler son adhésion à ce regroupement d’achats d’assurances générales ;

CONSIDÉRANT QUE l’article 42.0.2 du Règlement sur les contrats de services des organismes publics prévoit la possibilité d’options de renouvellement pour les contrats de services d’assurances de dommages ;

CONSIDÉRANT QUE l’article 46 du Règlement sur les contrats de services des organismes publics stipule que l’autorisation du dirigeant de l’organisme public est requise pour tout contrat de nature répétitive dont la durée prévue, incluant tout renouvellement, est supérieur à 3 ans ;

New Business (continued)c) Adhésion au Regroupement d'achat pour les assurances de dommages de la CSCQ (continued)

Il est PROPOSÉ par K. Gauthier, APPUYÉ par C. Guay, et RÉSOLU à l'unanimité ; DE RENOUVELER l'adhésion au regroupement composé de l'Est-du-Québec, d'Estrie-Montérégie et celui des centres de services scolaires des Mille-Îles et de Laval pour le renouvellement de ses assurances de dommages pour l'année 2026-2027, pour les portefeuilles d'assurances véhicules, biens, crimes et bris de machines.

DE MANDATER la firme Gestion Guy Turcot & Associés Inc. pour entamer une négociation de gré à gré, en application de la clause d'option de renouvellement ou pour procéder à un appel d'offres public pour le renouvellement de la couverture d'assurances pour l'ensemble des centres de services scolaires et des commissions scolaires du regroupement concerné.

DE MANDATER, s'il y a lieu, le Centre de services scolaire de la Région-de-Sherbrooke à réaliser l'appel d'offres public selon les politiques et procédures en vigueur à ce centre de services scolaire et d'accepter d'être responsable au même titre que celui-ci pour le présent mandat.

DE S'ENGAGER à accepter la recommandation du regroupement pour l'obtention d'un portefeuille d'assurances, soit de renouveler avec Beneva ou avec la firme déterminée à la suite d'un appel d'offres.

D'AUTORISER Vincent Laliberté, secrétaire général, à signer tout document découlant de la présente résolution.

d) Hiring of a General Contractor: Housing in Kawawachikamach

WHEREAS the Central Québec School Board has been granted permission to build 10 new housing units for the teaching staff;

WHEREAS plans and specifications were prepared and a public call for tenders for general contractors was published on SEAO on October 7, 2025, and the envelopes were opened on November 18, 2025;

WHEREAS, due to the bids exceeding the budgeted amount, the school board applied for additional funding, which was approved by the MEQ and allowed the contract to be awarded;

WHEREAS the professionals have recommended that the lowest tender be accepted as it met the requirements and specifications of the project;

26-02.14 **New Business (continued)**

d) Hiring of a General Contractor: Housing in Kawawachikamach (continued)

It was MOVED by A. Gosselin, SECONDED by J. Visser, and unanimously RESOLVED; THAT the Central Québec School Board's Council of Commissioners accept the lowest tender that met the specifications for the construction of 10 housing units for teaching staff in Kawawachikamach as submitted by FDF Construction (145, rue des Turquoises, Boischatel, Qc G0A 1H0), in the amount of \$14,757,210.00 (taxes not included); and

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

26-02.15 **Committee Reports**

a) Executive Committee

No meeting was held.

b) Parents' Committee

A meeting was held on January 26, 2026. Parent Commissioner L. Bechtiger reported on the main topic: the attendance issues and the proposal to have the meetings' schedule be presented at the beginning of the school year. With parents already aware of the dates, the Parents' Committee is hoping to reduce the absenteeism and prevent a lack of quorum from hindering the committee's decisions.

c) Special Needs Advisory Committee

A meeting was held on February 3, 2026. Parent Commissioner J. Kilganan made a report on the topics discussed: specific points were chosen for the committee's attention to be focusing on, namely ETCs, inclusion, a better use of resources inside the schools.

d) Transport Advisory Committee

No meeting was held.

e) Audit Committee

No meeting was held.

26-02.15

Committee Reports (continued)

f) Evaluation of the Director General

The Chairman met with the Director General and shared the recommendations from the committee following the evaluation of his first year. The committee is pleased with his work so far and proudly congratulates Mr. Lagacé on behalf of the school board.

g) Ethics and Governance Committee

No meeting was held.

h) Human Resources Committee

No meeting was held.

i) Resource Allocation Committee

No meeting was held.

26-02.16

Québec English School Boards Association

a) Report from the Board of Directors

Commissioner D. Ford-Caron presented a report on the following topics:

- Bill 1
- Bill 21
- QESBA Funding Proposal
- QESBA Spring Conference 2026
- QESBA Excellence in Education Awards
- Community Engagement Award
- Professional Development
- Eligibility Campaign
- Eligibility Mapping Tool
- Governance Program
- QESBA Student Advisory Committee

The next meeting will be held on March 20, 2026.

b) Report from Committees

No report was made.

26-02.17 **Next meeting**

The next regular meeting will be held on March 25, 2026.

26-02.18 **Question period**

a) Public

There were no questions.

b) Commissioners

The subject of the immigration reform was brought up, as concerns were raised about the effects this would have on CQSB's international students. S. Lagacé answered that immigration has changed the student population over the past few years and it would be regrettable to lose students or staff, although the precise effects cannot be measured yet.

26-02.19 **In-camera session**

An in-camera session was held from 8:20 p.m. to 8:32 p.m.

It was MOVED by C. Lavallee, SECONDED by J. Kilganan, and unanimously RESOLVED; to go in-camera.

It was MOVED by I. O'Gallagher, SECONDED by S. Picknell, and unanimously RESOLVED; to go out of camera.

26-02.20 **Adjournment**

The meeting was ADJOURNED at 8:33 p.m. on a motion by J. Kilganan.

Vincent Laliberté
Secretary General

Jean Robert
Chairman