

**Province of Quebec
Western Quebec School Board**

Minutes of the **Council of Commissioners** meeting held on January 27, 2026, in a hybrid format at 6:30 p.m.

PRESENT: Chair Labadie, Commissioners Bélanger, Brushey, Cornforth, Giannakoulis, Goldsbrough, Green, Garner, Killeen, Moore, McCrank, Richard, Parent-Commissioners Fortier, Bouchard, and Rheault

REGRETS: Parent-Commissioner James

PERSONNEL: Present at the meeting were the Director General, Mr. G. Singfield; the Secretary General, Mr. E. Keon; the Assistant Director General and Director of Human Resources, Mr. P. Proulx; the Director of Finance, Ms. M. Lupien; the Director of Education, Ms. J. Dubeau; the Director of Complementary Services, Ms. L. Falasconi; the Coordinator of Administrative Services, Mr. A. Gendron; and the Head of Administrative Management, Ms. R. Vincent.

Land acknowledgement by: Commissioner Bouchard

Call to Order 6:30 p.m.

C-25/26-64

Adoption of Agenda

IT WAS MOVED by Commissioner Cornforth and seconded by Parent-Commissioner Bouchard that the agenda be adopted as presented.

Carried unanimously

C-25/26-65

Adoption of Minutes

IT WAS MOVED by Commissioner Goldsbrough and seconded by Commissioner Moore that the Minutes of a meeting held on November 25, 2025, be adopted as circulated.

Carried unanimously

Chair's report:

Chair Labadie provided an update on several key issues, including the potential QESBA legal challenge to Bill 94 and the upcoming Supreme Court hearing for Bill 21 on March 23, 2026. She added that the outcome if Bill 40 will be heard by the Supreme Court is still pending. She referenced the Bill 1 petition launched by QESBA and the Quebec Liberal Party, as well the legal challenges related to budget cuts. She emphasized the need to determine how these legal challenges will be funded and informed Council that the upcoming QESBA executive meeting on February 9 will include an in-depth review of funding options.

Chair Labadie also reported on the visit of two senators to NOSH at Hadley PWHS, noting that one senator was so impressed by the program that she shared her experience with the Senate Agriculture Committee on which she serves. The committee expressed strong interest and subsequently requested a tour of NOSH, which has been scheduled for February 23, 2026.

C-25/26-66

Commissioner Reimbursement for Attendance at Spring Conference

WHEREAS the model approved at the September 2025 Council meeting (Res. #C-25/26-17) for the reimbursement of a Commissioner's travel and professional development expenses requires approval through Council resolution;

WHEREAS at the November Council meeting, Commissioners were requested to express their interest in attending this year's Spring Conference by notifying the General Directorate in writing via email;

WHEREAS 9 commissioners notified the General Directorate of their interest in attending the Spring Conference with a total estimated cost of \$24 700.00;

WHEREAS the balance in the Commissioner Travel and Professional Development Fund, factoring in the expenses for the January 30, 2026, training, will be \$34 905.00;

IT WAS MOVED BY Commissioner Killeen and Seconded by Parent-Commissioner Bouchard THAT the Council approve the reimbursement through the Commissioner and PD Fund for the Commissioners who have notified the General Directorate of their intention to attend the Spring Conference.

Carried unanimously

C-25/26-67

Commissioner Reimbursement for Attendance at the Canadian School Board Association Conference

WHEREAS the model approved at the September 2025 Council meeting (Res. #C-25/26-17) for the reimbursement of a Commissioner's travel and professional development expenses requires approval through Council resolution;

WHEREAS the Chair of the WQSB Council was invited to represent QESBA at the conference of the Canadian School Board Association in Whistler, British Columbia, from July 5-8, 2026;

WHEREAS the Chair of Council has expressed interest in attending the conference;

WHEREAS a link to the information on the conference was provided in the Council meeting kit;

WHEREAS QESBA will pay the fees for the registration and food for the conference;

WHEREAS the member is requesting approval for the reimbursement of the costs of the flight, a shuttle between the airport and conference venue and accommodations with an estimated total of \$3000;

WHEREAS the member has agreed to pay out-of-pocket for all costs exceeding this amount, should the request be approved;

WHEREAS the balance in the Commissioner Travel and Professional Development Fund, after factoring in the expenses for the January 30, 2026, training, will be \$34 905;

It was moved by Parent-Commissioner Bouchard and seconded by Commissioner Goldsbrough that the Council approve the request for reimbursement of expenses for the Chair's attendance at the Canadian School Board Association Conference, not to exceed \$3,000.00. This reimbursement will be funded through the Commissioner's Travel and Professional Development Fund.

Carried unanimously

DG Report:

The DG provided a brief overview of his written report and responded to questions from the Council, particularly those related to the alternative school research and the Bill 101 awareness campaign launched by QESBA.

C-25/26-68

Derogation Request to the WQSB Purchasing Policy No. D-11 to Enter into a Mutual Agreement with the Instructional Coaching Group

WHEREAS the director general presented an opportunity to contract services with the Instructional Coaching Group for the 2025-2026 school year;

WHEREAS the Instructional Coaching Group will provide specialized professional development services in the form of dialogical coaching methods and Impact Cycle Approach for our employees and is the only firm that can provide this service to the WQSB;

WHEREAS Dr. Jim Knight, who will be facilitating the session, has over 25 years of research and collaboration with more than 150,000 educators worldwide;

WHEREAS the Western Quebec School Board has entered into a mutual agreement contract with the Instructional Coaching Group for this service;

WHEREAS *s. 6.4 Mutual Agreement Contract*, the WQSB Purchasing Policy states that:

- a) The School Board may use a mutual agreement process for contracts of an estimated value below \$5,000;
- b) The School Board communicates directly with at least one supplier, indicating the good(s), service(s) or construction work(s) required and any other relevant information;
- c) Before entering into a contract by mutual agreement, the School Board must ensure that fair prices and conditions are obtained;

WHEREAS the value of this contract to be entered into by mutual agreement is above the threshold of \$5,000.00 for a mutual agreement contract;

WHEREAS the tendering process for a contract above \$5,000.00 requires 3 written quotes;

WHEREAS Policy D-11, s. 7 provides an exception to the tendering process:

Except for contracts where the estimated expenditure is equal to or above the thresholds established by the Act Respecting Contracting by Public Bodies, the Council of Commissioners may authorize the School Board, in exceptional circumstances and for legitimate reasons, to enter into a contract without following the tendering processes described herein.

WHEREAS the fees per participant are set at \$954.29, \$400.00 of which will be assumed by the school board and the remainder by the participant's Personal Professional Development funds;

WHEREAS the fee structure taken individually would comply with our tendering process mandated by our Purchasing Policy D-11;

WHEREAS the board's offer to provide payment through one invoice for the sake of efficiency could create the appearance of non-compliance to the tendering process;

WHEREAS the number of registrations as of January 23, 2026, is 59 participants with an overall cost of \$50,582.37;

IT WAS MOVED by Parent-Commissioner Fortier and seconded by Commissioner Garner that Council approve a derogation request to enter into a mutual agreement contract with Instructional Coaching Group for the services described above.

Carried unanimously

C-25/26-69

Executive Committee Report – November 18, 2025

IT WAS MOVED by Commissioner Green and seconded by Commissioner Cornforth that the Council acknowledge receipt of the Executive Committee minutes of November 18, 2025.

Carried unanimously

C-25/26-70

Public Tender - Dr. S. E. McDowell – Award of A Contract -- Roof Renovations – 24510B026

WHEREAS the MEQ has allocated \$1,000,000 from the 2024-2025 Mesure 50627; WHEREAS this project is part of the 2024-2025 WQSB's investment plan;

WHEREAS Council approved the 2024-2025 investment plans by resolution C-24/25-24;

WHEREAS a call No. 24510B026 for public tenders was completed on January 13, 2026;

WHEREAS the following persons and/or businesses retrieved the tender documents;

- COUVREUR VERDUN INC.
- ACQ - Région de l'Outaouais
- Toitures PME
- 2413-2276 Québec Inc. (Couvreur Rolland Boudreault)
- Morin Isolation et Toitures Ltée.
- 9427-8264 Québec Inc. (Groupe Pentagone)
- LES TOITURES RAYMOND ET ASSOCIÉS INC.

WHEREAS the following bids were received;

LES TOITURES RAYMOND ET ASSOCIÉS INC.	\$ 628,329.00
2413-2276 Québec Inc. (Couvreur Rolland Boudreault)	\$ 642,900.00
Morin Isolation et Toitures Ltée.	\$ 646,200.00
9427-8264 Québec Inc. (Groupe Pentagone)	\$ 870,215.00
Toitures PME	\$ 892,790.25

WHEREAS the Executive Committee recommends, by its resolution # E-25/26-64, that Council award the contract to LES TOITURES RAYMOND ET ASSOCIÉS INC. for \$ 628,329.00, and that signing authority for this contract be given to the Assistant Director General;

IT WAS MOVED by Commissioner Moore and seconded by Commissioner Goldsbrough That, as recommended by the Executive Committee, Council award the contract to LES TOITURES RAYMOND ET ASSOCIÉS INC. for \$ 628,329.00, and that signing authority for this contract be given to the Assistant Director General.

Carried unanimously

C-25/26-71

Distribution of the Reliquat

WHEREAS the Reliquat fund represents money remaining from the class action lawsuit against school boards for fees charged to parents;

WHEREAS using the funds toward the payment of unpaid school fees is one of the recommended examples contained in the instructions to school boards for the distribution of the funds;

WHEREAS the outstanding school fees for the 2022-2023 school year total \$185 462;

WHEREAS the amount of the Reliquat distributed to the Western Quebec School Board is \$187 587.00;

WHEREAS the Management Advisory Committee has reviewed and agreed to a proposal to use the Reliquat to cover unpaid school fees for the 2022-2023 academic year;

WHEREAS the Resource Allocation Committee unanimously adopted a resolution at its December 18, 2025, meeting recommending that Council approve the distribution of the Reliquat funds to cover the unpaid school fees for the academic year 2022–2023 in the amount of \$185,462.00;

IT WAS MOVED BY Commissioner Killeen and seconded by Commissioner Goldsbrough that Council approve the use of the Reliquat fund to cover the unpaid school fees for the academic year 2022-2023 as presented.

Carried unanimously

C-25/26-72

Onslow Renovation Strategy and Relocation of Pontiac Continuing Education Centre

WHEREAS Onslow Elementary School requires major renovations throughout different sections of the building;

WHEREAS previous major renovation projects throughout the school board have created disruptions in educational services;

WHEREAS administration presented the renovation plan and proposed the exploration of relocating staff and students of the school during the 2026-2027 school year while renovations take place;

WHEREAS Council approved resolution C-25/26-18 to strike a Planning and Review Committee to study the Onslow renovation strategy and to report back to Council with its recommendations;

WHEREAS the Planning and Review Committee held a meeting on November 10, 2025, at which plans for major renovations at Onslow Elementary School were presented;

WHEREAS the plans developed consist of a temporary relocation of the staff and students of Onslow Elementary to the McDowell Elementary School building during 2026-2027 school year during the renovation project as well as a long-term relocation of the staff and students of the Pontiac Continuing Education Centre from the Dr. S.E. McDowell Elementary School building to the vacant building at 26 rue Leslie in Campbell's Bay;

WHEREAS meetings were held at which the proposed plans were presented to employees and the governing boards at Onslow Elementary School, Dr. S.E. McDowell Elementary School and the Pontiac Continuing Education Centre as well as with the board's central Parent Committee;

WHEREAS resolutions supporting the proposed plans were adopted by the governing boards of Onslow Elementary School, Dr. S.E. McDowell Elementary School the Pontiac Continuing Education Centre and the WQSB's central Parent Committee;

WHEREAS the Planning and Review Committee, at its last meeting held January 20, 2026, adopted a motion to recommend that Council approve the recommended actions as described above;

IT WAS MOVED by Commissioner McCrank and seconded by Commissioner Moore that the Council approve the temporary relocation of the staff and students of Onslow Elementary School to the McDowell Elementary School facility for the 2026–2027 academic year during the renovation project; and approve the long-term relocation of the staff and students of the Pontiac Continuing Education Centre from the Dr. S.E. McDowell Elementary School building to the vacant facility located at 26 rue Leslie in Campbell's Bay.

Carried unanimously

C-25/26-73

Tender by invitation – Motion to Award a Contract - Purchase of 5 Welding Power Sources GMAW-P – WQCC Contract No. 25621A001

WHEREAS a public tender was published for the purchase of 5 welding power sources and accessories;

WHEREAS the replacement of this equipment is required for the Welding Program;

WHEREAS \$100,000.00 is available for this purchase;

WHEREAS the following businesses were invited:

- Core Gaz Industriels Outaouais Inc.,
- Oxygène Regional,
- Oxygène 640,
- Produits de soudage des Laurentides,
- Carrefour Industriel LDG Inc. (TRACTION).

WHEREAS the following bids were received:

Produits de soudage des Laurentides,	\$ 101,975.00
Carrefour Industriel LDG Inc. (TRACTION)	\$ 108,318.96
Oxygène Regional	\$ 124,048.35
Core Gaz Industriels Outaouais Inc	\$ 148,041.10

IT WAS MOVED by Parent-Commissioner Bouchard and seconded by Commissioner Killeen to award the contract to les Produits de soudage des Laurentides for \$ 101,975.00, and that signing authority for this contract be given to Ms. Jennifer Dubeau, Director of Education.

Carried unanimously

C-25/26-74

Group purchase – CAG: Authorization Request to Join an Ongoing Contract – Office Chairs (Regular and Ergonomic) - 2025-8125-50: FAUTEUILS ADMINISTRATIFS

WHEREAS the CAG, through a group purchase tender, has awarded the contract 2025-8125-50 to several suppliers for a period of 3 years, to end on September 30, 2028;

WHEREAS the WQSB will be able to choose from the supplier list the ones that suit its specific needs;

WHEREAS the regulation respecting certain supply contracts of public bodies, RLRQ C-65.1, r 5.1, joining a contract after it is awarded requires the authorization of the Chief Executive Officer;

WHEREAS the administrators recommend joining this group buying program;

IT WAS MOVED by Parent-Commissioner Rheault and seconded by Commissioner Richard that Council authorize the WQSB to join the contract for the office chairs through the CAG program and authorizes ADG, Mr. Pascal Proulx, to sign all necessary documents.

Carried unanimously

C-25/26-75

25621B001 – Welding Robot - Authorization to award a contract for the Purchase of a Welding Robot for WQCC (Opening Early February)

WHEREAS a public tender is ongoing for the purchase of a welding robot for the new welding program to begin in September 2026;

WHEREAS there is a funding amount of \$160,000.00 through the Entente Canada-Québec for the purchase of a welding robot;

WHEREAS the following persons and/or businesses retrieved the tender documents:

- Construction thermicanique inc.
- Centre de services scolaire de la Rivière-du-Nord
- Iridium CNC Inc

WHEREAS the tender opening date needed to be rescheduled to February 2nd, 2026;

IT WAS MOVED by Commissioner Goldsbrough and seconded by Parent-Commissioner Fortier to authorize the ADG P. Proulx to award the contract to the lowest conformed bidder and to report the name of the supplier and the amount of the contract at the February 2026 Council meeting.

Carried unanimously

C-25/26-76

2026-8229-50: SERVEURS ET SOLUTIONS DE STOCKAGE - MANDAT – CAG : Authorization to Mandate the CAG for the Acquisition of Network Servers.

WHEREAS the WQSB has the opportunity to participate in the group buying program through the Centre d'acquisition Gouvernemental (CAG) for the purchasing of network servers and backup servers;

WHEREAS the contract will cover a period of 5 years, from July 1, 2026, to June 30, 2031;

WHEREAS the budget allocated for this contract is estimated at \$ 120,000.00;

IT WAS MOVED by Commissioner Cornforth and Seconded by Commissioner Moore that the WQSB proceed with joining the contract for the purchasing of network and backup servers through the CAG, and that the Assistant Director General, Mr. P. Proulx be authorized to sign all documents necessary.

Carried unanimously

C-25/26-77

Participation à l'appel d'offres du CGTSIM pour les services d'impression et d'expédition des comptes de taxes scolaires

ATTENDU QUE le Conseil de gestion de la taxe scolaire de l'île de Montréal (CGTSIM) a lancé un appel d'offres visant l'obtention de services d'impression, d'expédition des comptes de taxe scolaire ainsi que de toute autre fonction connexe;

ATTENDU QUE la Commission scolaire Western Québec souhaite assurer une gestion efficace, uniforme et économique de l'ensemble des activités liées à la production et à l'envoi des comptes de taxe scolaire;

ATTENDU QUE la participation à cet appel d'offres permettrait à la CSWQ de bénéficier d'économies d'échelle, d'une expertise centralisée et d'un processus harmonisé entre les organismes participants;

ATTENDU QUE pour l'année 2025 2026, les coûts liés aux services d'impression et d'expédition se sont élevés à 101 000 \$, et qu'un montant similaire, ou légèrement inférieur, est anticipé pour l'exercice à venir, sous réserve du coût des timbres;

ATTENDU QUE la résolution C 23/24 121 autorisait la haute direction à réaliser une étude de faisabilité concernant l'impartition du Service de la taxe scolaire;

ATTENDU QUE la résolution C 24/25 96 autorisait la CSWQ à signer le contrat du projet pilote avec le CGTSIM;

LE COMMISSAIRE Killeen PROPOSE ET LE COMMISSAIRE Rheault SECONDE QUE :

1. Le conseil des commissaires autorise la participation de la CSWQ à l'appel d'offres lancé par le CGTSIM pour les services d'impression, d'expédition des comptes de taxe scolaire, ainsi que toute autre fonction connexe;
2. Que la direction générale soit autorisée à entreprendre toutes les démarches nécessaires à cet effet, incluant la signature de toute documentation requise;
3. Que la Direction des finances assure le suivi administratif et opérationnel du dossier, en collaboration avec les représentants du CGTSIM.

Carried unanimously

C-25/26-78

Transportation Committee Reports of October 30, December 3, and December 11, 2025

IT WAS MOVED by Commissioner Moore and seconded by Parent-Commissioner Bouchard that the Council acknowledge receipt of the Transportation Committee minutes dated October 30, December 3, and December 11, 2025.

Carried unanimously

Adjournment

The Chairperson adjourned the meeting at 8:07 p.m.