



Minutes of proceedings of a special meeting of the Council of Commissioners of the New Frontiers School Board

held in the Library at Howard S. Billings Regional High School, 210 McLeod, Chateauguy, Quebec, on **Tuesday, November 19, 2024**, at 18:15 hours and at which the following commissioners were present, representing quorum of the Council of Commissioners:

- John Ryan, Chair
- Raymond Ledoux, Vice-Chair, Electoral Division #1 (arrived at 18:26 hours)
- Karin Van Droffelaar, Electoral Division #2
- Lina Chouinard, Electoral Division #3
- Kenneth Crockett, Electoral Division #4
- Cristian Espinosa-Fuentes, Electoral Division #5
- Anne-Marie Yelle, Electoral Division #6
- Dianne Eastwood, Electoral Division #7, on Teams
- Peter Stuckey, Electoral Division #8
- Barbara Ednie, Electoral Division #9
- Connor Stacey, Electoral Division #10
- Lorne Ferguson, Commissioner representing Parents, Elementary Level
- Kenneth Bernard, Commissioner representing Parents, Secondary Level
- Brenda Bourdeau, Commissioner representing the Special Needs Advisory Committee
- Jennifer Largan, Commissioner representing Parents at Large

Also in attendance:

- Mike Helm, Director General
- Joyce Donohue, Assistant Director General & Secretary General
- Kara Johnstone, Director of Systems & Information Technology
- Joanne Malowany, Director of Educational Services
- Chantal Martin, Director of Continuing Education
- Melanie Primeau, NFAA Representative

Call to Order & Opening Remarks

The Director General opened this 350th meeting at 18:15 hours and welcomed members.

Confirmation of Compliance – Calling of a Special Meeting

The Director General confirmed that this special meeting was called in conformity with the requirements of the Education Act.

Departure from Meeting

Commissioner K. Crockett left the meeting room at 18:17 hours.

Recognition Statement

K. Johnstone delivered the following recognition statement: As we gather on this ancestral land, we acknowledge the wisdom and resilience of the Indigenous peoples who have stewarded these territories for countless generations. In the spirit of Thanksgiving, let us express gratitude for the land beneath our feet, the waters that sustain us, and the interconnected web of life that surrounds us. We give thanks for the traditions and knowledge passed down by our ancestors, grounding us in a deep understanding of the natural world. May we approach our time together with humility, recognizing the importance of listening to diverse perspectives and learning from the experiences of Indigenous communities. Let us commit to honouring the principles of respect, reciprocity, and harmony with the earth. May our discussions be guided by a shared commitment to justice, equity, and the well-being of all people.

Return to Meeting

Commissioner K. Crockett returned to the meeting room at 18:22 hours.

Declaration of Conflict

There were no declarations of conflict made relative to tonight's agenda items.

Report of the Returning Officer

On August 22, 2024, the notice of elections was published, indicating that open for nomination were the positions of chair and commissioners in all 10 electoral divisions of the New Frontiers School Board (NFSB); nomination papers were made available online.

Candidates were invited to deposit nomination papers with the Returning Officer and/or the Elections Secretary on the following dates and times:

- Tuesday, September 24, 2024 – 1:00 to 3:00 pm & 5:00 to 7:00 pm;
- Thursday, September 26, 2024 – 1:00 to 4:00 pm; and by the latest, on
- Sunday, September 29, 2024 – 2:00 to 5:00 pm.

At 5:00 pm on Sunday, September 29, 2024, at the official close of the nomination period, NFSB had the following results:

• Chair	John Ryan	Acclaimed
• Electoral Division # 1	Raymond Ledoux	Acclaimed
• Electoral Division # 2	Karin Van Droffelaar	Acclaimed
• Electoral Division # 3	Lina Chouinard	Acclaimed
• Electoral Division # 4	Kenneth Crockett	Acclaimed
• Electoral Division # 5	Cristian Espinosa-Fuentes	Acclaimed
• Electoral Division # 6	Corrine Kane, Anne-Marie Yelle	IN ELECTION
• Electoral Division # 7	Dianne Eastwood	Acclaimed
• Electoral Division # 8	Peter Stuckey	Acclaimed
• Electoral Division # 9	Barbara Ednie	Acclaimed
• Electoral Division # 10	Connor Stacey	Acclaimed

An election was organized in Electoral Division #6. “Notice of Election” cards were mailed to all registered voters in Division #6, and a public notice was issued on October 4, 2024, indicating that the electoral list for Division #6 would be revised, with electors provided with two opportunities to have their names added, removed, or corrected:

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| • October 10, 2024 | 2:30 to 6:00 pm | Mary Gardner School |
| • October 15, 2024 | 7:00 to 10:00 pm | Gault Institute |

A second public notice of polling was issued on October 18, 2024, and “Voting Reminder” cards were mailed to all registered voters, including those added following the revision process.

Itinerant voting was offered to 19 registered long-term health care facilities; no requests for itinerant voting were received.

Polling stations were set up at Gault Institute for electors living in Salaberry-de-Valleyfield, and at Mary Gardner School for electors living in Beauharnois and St-Etienne-de Beauharnois. An advance poll was held on Sunday, October 27, 2024. 17 electors voted in the advance poll at Gault Institute; nobody voted at Mary Gardner School on that day. Polling day took place on November 3, 2024, in these same locations. 30 electors voted at Gault Institute and 14 electors voted at Mary Gardner School. With a total of 61 voters, out of 1430 registered voters, the voter turnout rate for New Frontiers is 4.3%.

Following the closing of the polls on Sunday, November 3, 2024, ballots were counted at the offices of the New Frontiers School Board. Results were 22 votes in favour of Corrine Kane and 39 votes in favour of Anne-Marie Yelle. Therefore, Anne-Marie Yelle was declared elected by majority vote in Electoral Division #6.

As there was no request for a judicial recount within the four days following the Election, I declare that the November 3, 2024 elections for the New Frontiers School Board are hereby closed, with the following results:

• Chair	John Ryan	Elected
• Electoral Division # 1	Raymond Ledoux	Elected
• Electoral Division # 2	Karin Van Droffelaar	Elected
• Electoral Division # 3	Lina Chouinard	Elected
• Electoral Division # 4	Kenneth Crockett	Elected
• Electoral Division # 5	Cristian Espinosa-Fuentes	Elected
• Electoral Division # 6	Anne-Marie Yelle	Elected
• Electoral Division # 7	Dianne Eastwood	Elected
• Electoral Division # 8	Peter Stuckey	Elected
• Electoral Division # 9	Barbara Ednie	Elected
• Electoral Division # 10	Connor Stacey	Elected

Swearing in of Chair and Commissioners

The following oaths of office were made before the Secretary General:

“I, John Ryan, declare under oath that I will faithfully perform the duties under my responsibility to the best of my judgement and capacity as Chair.”;

“I, Raymond Ledoux, declare under oath that I will faithfully perform the duties under my responsibility to the best of my judgement and capacity as Commissioner for the electoral division #1.”;

“I, Karin Van Droffelaar, declare under oath that I will faithfully perform the duties under my responsibility to the best of my judgement and capacity as Commissioner for the electoral division #2.”;

“I, Lina Chouinard, declare under oath that I will faithfully perform the duties under my responsibility to the best of my judgement and capacity as Commissioner for the electoral division #3.”;

“I, Kenneth Crockett, declare under oath that I will faithfully perform the duties under my responsibility to the best of my judgement and capacity as Commissioner for the electoral division #4.”;

“I, Cristian Espinosa-Fuentes, declare under oath that I will faithfully perform the duties under my responsibility to the best of my judgement and capacity as Commissioner for the electoral division #5.”;

“I, Anne-Marie Yelle, declare under oath that I will faithfully perform the duties under my responsibility to the best of my judgement and capacity as Commissioner for the electoral division #6.”;

“I, Dianne Eastwood, declare under oath that I will faithfully perform the duties under my responsibility to the best of my judgement and capacity as Commissioner for the electoral division #7.”;

“I, Peter Stuckey, declare under oath that I will faithfully perform the duties under my responsibility to the best of my judgement and capacity as Commissioner for the electoral division #8.”;

“I, Barbara Ednie, declare under oath that I will faithfully perform the duties under my responsibility to the best of my judgement and capacity as Commissioner for the electoral division #9.”;

“I, Connor Stacey, declare under oath that I will faithfully perform the duties under my responsibility to the best of my judgement and capacity as Commissioner for the electoral division #10.”;

“I, Jennifer Largan, declare under oath that I will faithfully perform the duties under my responsibility to the best of my judgement and capacity as Commissioner representing parents at large”;

“I, Lorne Ferguson, declare under oath that I will faithfully perform the duties under my responsibility to the best of my judgement and capacity as Commissioner representing parents of elementary students”;

“I, Kenneth Bernard, declare under oath that I will faithfully perform the duties under my responsibility to the best of my judgement and capacity as Commissioner representing parents of secondary students.”;

“I, Brenda Bourdeau, declare under oath that I will faithfully perform the duties under my responsibility to the best of my judgement and capacity as Commissioner representing the Special Needs Advisory Committee.”

Adoption of the Agenda

The Chair began to chair the meeting.

The agenda was adopted as presented on a motion by Commissioner L. Chouinard.

MOTION CARRIED unanimously.

Resolution #CC24-11-19-001

Election of the Vice-Chair

There was a call for nominations for the Vice-Chair of the Council of Commissioners: Commissioner B. Ednie nominated Commissioner R. Ledoux. The nomination was accepted. There was a second call and a third call for nominations. It was therefore moved by Commissioner C. Stacey that nominations be closed.

MOTION CARRIED unanimously.

Commissioner R. Ledoux was declared Vice-Chair of the Council of Commissioners by acclamation.

Public Question Period

There were no questions from members of the public.

Chair's Remarks

The following topics were discussed: welcome back; importance of the School Board elections and its success; CARE Conference; fundraising event for Bill 40 and upcoming hearings at the Court of Appeals; hiring freeze.

Director General's Remarks & Items

The following topics were discussed: welcome back; FYIs; hiring freeze and derogation process; upcoming meeting with MEQ.

Resolution #CC24-11-19-002

Naming of Complaints Officer

Whereas By-Law JCEA identifies a "Complaints Officer" who is designated by the School Board; and whereas Article 24 of Bill 9 "An Act Respecting the National Student Ombudsman", also identifies that an employee be designated by the Council of Commissioners as the "*Responsable du traitement des plaintes*" (RTP); and whereas Me Linda Julien has been serving in this capacity since July 1, 2024; and whereas it is proposed that another employee be named in this capacity effective November 30, 2024;

Into Committee

On a motion by Vice-Chair R. Ledoux, the meeting was moved into committee at 18:51 hours.

Out of committee

On a motion by Commissioner L. Chouinard, the meeting was moved out of committee at 19:01 hours.

Therefore, on the recommendation of the Director General, it was moved by Commissioner L. Chouinard that the Council of Commissioners designate Sabrina De Castris as the "Complaints Officer" (*Responsable du traitement des plaintes*) for the New Frontiers School Board, effective November 30, 2024.

MOTION CARRIED unanimously.

Resolution #CC24-11-19-003

Naming of Officer Responsible for the Management of Ethics and Integrity

Whereas all of the provisions of Bill 53 (the Act to enact the Act respecting protection against reprisals related to the disclosure of wrongdoings and to amend other legislative provisions (SQ 2024, c.21)) will come into effect on November 30, 2024; and whereas public organizations must take certain actions by November 30, 2024, including repealing existing internal procedures with respect to the disclosure of wrongdoings and the abolishment of the position of Disclosure Officer and naming an Officer Responsible for the Management of Ethics and Integrity;

Therefore, on the recommendation of the Director General, it was moved by Commissioner L. Ferguson that the Council of Commissioners designate Sabrina De Castris as the "Officer Responsible for the Management of Ethics and Integrity" (*Responsable de la gestion de l'éthique et de l'intégrité*) for the New Frontiers School Board, effective November 30, 2024.

MOTION CARRIED unanimously.

Resolution #CC24-11-19-004

Association Fees – "Association Réseau du Sport Étudiant du Québec (RSEQ)"

Whereas the Réseau du Sport Étudiant du Québec (RSEQ) is the governing body of primary and secondary school, collegiate and university sport in Quebec; and whereas the New Frontiers School Board has been affiliated with RSEQ Montérégie for many years; and whereas the New Frontiers School Board would like to renew the affiliation for the upcoming year; and whereas the Council of Commissioners is required to adopt a motion confirming our sports affiliation with RSEQ Montérégie for the 2024-2025 school year;

Therefore, on the recommendation of the Educational Services Standing Committee, it was moved by Commissioner K. Van Droffelaar that the New Frontiers School Board pay to *l'Association RSEQ Montérégie*:

- A base affiliation fee of \$405.08; and
- A per capita membership rate of twenty-eight cents per student (\$0.28) at the elementary level; and
- A per capita membership rate of twenty-nine cents per student (\$0.29) at the secondary level; and

That these fees be based on the September 30, 2024, enrolments in all our schools; and that Terri Marino (secondary level) and Christopher Blouin (elementary level) be designated as the School Board's representatives to the RSEQ.

MOTION CARRIED unanimously.

Second Public Question Period

There were no questions from members of the public.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was closed at 19:06 hours on a motion by Commissioner L. Ferguson.

MOTION CARRIED unanimously.

John Ryan
Chair

Joyce Donohue
Secretary General