



**MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON March 21, 2024
VIA ZOOM**

Member Organization	Name	
School Board Representatives	Stewart Aitken – WQSB Mat Canavan– LBPSB Lynda da Silveira – SWLSB Deborah Foltin – ESSB Stéphane Lagacé - CQSB Eva Lettner - ETSB Colleen Lauzier – RSB Anna Sanalidro – EMSB James Walker – NFSB	Partial Partial Regrets
Complementary services:	Lisa Falasconi - WQSB Marylène Perron - CQSB	Partial
Adult Education and Vocational Training	Mario Argiropoulos – EMSB Angela Spagnolo – EMSB	Regrets
ADGESBQ - School Board Directors General	Cindy Finn	
CEGEPS	Terry Kharyati	Partial
A.A.E.S.Q.	Christie Brown Anna Villalta	
I.S.A.T.	Sydney Benudiz Antonia Zannis	
QPAT	Andrew Adams Jennifer Baltuonis Brian Benoit Mike Di Raddo	Regrets
PROFESSIONALS’ ASSOCIATIONS	Caroline Erdos Paul Kettner	
Special-status Boards Educational Services Representatives	Cree S.B. – Edith Sam Kativik S.B. – Warren Thomson Littoral S.B. – Marie Hamel	
English-sector Universities	Bishops - Avril Aitken Concordia – Nathalie Rothschild McGill - Hannah Chestnutt	Partial Partial

Non-voting members		
Assistant Deputy Ministers	Marie-Josée Blais	Regrets
DSREA	Raphaël Charrier Cheryl Cantin	Regrets
LEARN	Christine Truesdale	
LCEEQ Coordinator	John Ryan	
GUESTS Julie Desjardins Geoff Hipps John McMahon Bonnie Mitchell		

1. WORDS OF WELCOME

Cindy Finn welcomed everyone to the meeting. She followed her welcome by a land acknowledgement. She explained how in preparation for the upcoming solar eclipse that schools in the Board were making connections to how indigenous communities respect natural phenomena.

2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Resolution #117-2024-03-21

It was moved by **Caroline Erdos** and seconded by **Lisa Falasconi** and unanimously resolved that the Minutes of the January 25, 2024, meeting be approved as circulated.

3. A Panel Presentation Regarding French Instruction

Cindy Finn welcomed the members and guests, Julie Desjardins, Dean Bishop’s University, and John McMahon, Director General of Vanier, who represented various aspects of French instruction from the youth sector through teacher training and the Adult and Vocational level.

Eva Lettner, representing the DEEN Languages Subcommittee, provided a review of the different types of French programmes that can be found across the system (e.g. Core, Bilingual, Immersion...). She stated that “biliteracy” is a DEEN focus - looking at language transfer, how mastery of one language can support transfer into the second language. She stated that efforts are made to develop a greater cultural awareness of the second language. A challenge is for the learners to feel confident to use the newly acquired language in meaningful and purposeful ways. (see Appendix A for copy of presentation)

Caroline Erdos stated that there are numerous advantages for all students, particularly those with learning challenges, in learning a second language. Research does not support the common misunderstanding that a second language confuses such students. Bilingual individuals have a significant advantage. It is important to recognize that given that many services are only available in French in many regions (e.g. social services) so students need to have as much exposure to French as possible.

If the language is too simple, students lose interest quickly. She added that students in immersion perform better than those in non-immersion programs. (See Appendix B for copy of presentation)

Julie Desjardins provided insight on issues related to teacher preparation. There is a wide diversity of students who come to the program – some thirty percent of Bishop’s students come from outside the province, with a wide range of ability in French. One major concern is that more and more documentation is not available in English – constantly requesting access to programme materials is frustrating. She further expressed that when some translated documents are available that there is no Ministry logo attached so one cannot be sure that such documents are an authentic translation.

She finished her presentation by stating that it was essential to have representation at various tables to ensure that the English voice was being heard.

John McMahon gave an update on the implementation of Bill 96/Law 14 at the CEGEP level. All English CEGEPS are committed to admit all qualified certificate holders into a regular program. He specified the various changes within the different French programme offerings. There was concern expressed for indigenous students – he stated that there were some exceptions, but they were still awaiting final decisions from the Ministry. (see Appendix C for copy of presentation)

Mario Argiropoulos presented on behalf of PROCEDE. Given that the PROCEDE meeting was occurring at the same time he said that the key issues were being discussed by the group in more depth but he would be able to provide an overall picture. He stated that there was an impact on the International Student Dossier because of Immigration policies. He further stated that the recent comments in the media related to the Government considering applying Bill 101 certificate requirements to the Adult/Vocational Sector are troubling, but at present this seems to be speculative. (see Appendix D for copy of presentation)

4. LCEEQ BUSINESS ITEMS

Report of the ADM - DSREA

As part of a joint ADM and DSREA Report Cheryl Cantin informed the Committee that Peter Fequet had been appointed Director of DSREA replacing Boyd Lavallée.

Conference 2024 Report

John Ryan circulated the Annual Conference 2024 Report. Several members stated that they felt that the Conference was a grand success.

Conference 2025

John Ryan reported that the Steering Committee resolved that Conference 2025 take place in person as a result of an overwhelming response from those who responded to the Evaluation of the 2024 edition.

The dates of Conference are February 10-11, 2025 and will be an extension on the theme of “belonging”. Members were encouraged to suggest potential keynote speakers.

He reported that there will be a webinar offered on May 1 by Gretchen Marsh-Moran to mark the beginning of Mental Health Month, as well as a session offered for parents by John Tyler Binfet on May 28, 2024.

Funding Document

John Ryan reported that the Funding Document 2024-2025 was ready for circulation. He noted that even though the final budgets for PDIG and John Killingbeck had not been set by DSREA that we would begin the application and selection process so that approved projects could start with the beginning of the new academic year.

Annual Seminar – April 25-26, 2024

Cindy Finn reminded the members of the importance of this annual event and hoped that as many members as possible would be able to attend in person.

5. Adjournment

On a motion by Mario Argiropoulos the meeting was adjourned at 11:57.

Appendix A