



Extract from the minutes of a regular meeting of the Council of Commissioners of the New Frontiers School Board held at Howick Elementary School, 5 Lambton Street, Howick, Quebec, on December 1st, 2015 at 19h30, under the chairmanship of Mr David D'Aoust, Chair, and at which there was quorum.

---

**Resolution #CC15-12-01-001**  
**Maintaining School Board Democracy in Quebec**

---

Whereas democracy is a fundamental value to all Quebec residents; and

Whereas our educational system is key to economic and social success in this province; and

Whereas Quebec's educational system is one of the best around the world; and

Whereas elected school boards have contributed largely to the success of our educational system and the nine English school Boards have an average school success rate of 86.4%; and

Whereas the Minister of the *Ministère de l'Éducation, de l'Enseignement supérieur et de la Recherche* intends to present draft legislation in the National Assembly to terminate school board elections; and

Whereas the Minister, Mr. Francois Blais, has received and read the report of the Elections Study Panel as chaired by the Honourable Marlene Jennings representing the English-speaking community in Quebec; and

Whereas Minister Blais rejected in total the Jennings Panel recommendations which covered ways and means to improve voter turnout at school board elections and most importantly the maintaining of democratically elected school boards in Quebec; and

Whereas the New Frontiers School Board Council of Commissioners has the responsibility to taxpayers, parents, students and all citizens who identify with this School Board to maintain the present system of democratically elected school boards; and

Whereas at a recent symposium on New Ideas for Education the Minister and Premier heard Michael Fullan, a world-renowned educational leader state that structural changes to a school system will not produce better student success rates; and

Whereas the unilateral termination of democratic voting rights for commissioners and school board chairs to control and manage Anglophone schools and centers is, in the considered opinion of legal experts; to be a violation of the English-speaking minority's rights as per the Canadian Constitution and most likely to be subjected to a Supreme Court challenge; and

Whereas Minister Blais has failed time and again to sit at a common table with the Quebec English School Boards Association and the Fédération des commissions scolaires to discuss his proposals and intentions and seek solutions together instead of dismissing arbitrarily a system that performs well; and

Whereas Minister Blais has never shown proof that eliminating democratically-elected school boards will improve or even maintain present day student success rates in Quebec; and

Whereas Minister Blais has refused to acknowledge a plea by the first Minister of Education in Quebec, Mr. Paul Gérin-Lajoie to maintain school board democracy in Quebec;

Therefore it was moved by Commissioner B. Gibbs that the Council of Commissioners of the New Frontiers School Board write to the Premier, Mr. Phillippe Couillard, to express outrage with the manner by which the Minister of Education has chosen to ignore the comments and recommendations brought to his attention by the English-speaking community to improve voter turnout at school board elections and maintain democratically elected school boards in Quebec; and

That the Council of Commissioners encourage the Premier Couillard, and all Cabinet members, to not proceed with the Minister of Education's plan to end school board elections and centralize decision-making in education at the Government level.

MOTION CARRIED unanimously.

True Certified Copy



Luisa Berivenuti  
Interim Secretary General

December 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2015