



EXTRACT OF THE MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF COMMISSIONERS FOR RIVERSIDE SCHOOL BOARD HELD AT 7525 CHEMIN DE CHAMBLY, SAINT-HUBERT (QUÉBEC) JANUARY 19, 2016 AT 7:30 P.M.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT :

A. Capobianco Skipworth
C. Craig
M. Gour
C. Horrell

D. Lamoureux
L. Llewelyn Cuffling
A. Mazur
D. Smith

Parent Commissioners
T. Aguiar
M. Rayes
L. Rodrigues

Resolution B558-20160119

RIVERSIDE SCHOOL BOARD RESOLUTION REGARDING BILL 86 ON SCHOOL BOARD GOVERNANCE

WHEREAS BILL 86 refers to *An Act to modify the organization and governance of school boards to give schools a greater say in decision-making and ensure parents' participation within each school board's decision-making body*, which was introduced at the National Assembly of Québec on December 4th, 2015;

WHEREAS Section 23 (1) of the Constitution Act, 1982 (Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms), confers minority language educational rights;

WHEREAS the court case 'Mahe v. Alberta (1990)' clearly defines minority language educational rights, including the right to manage and control minority language community educational facilities;

WHEREAS the English Parents' Committee Association (EPCA), the Quebec Community Groups Network (QCGN), the Quebec English School Board Association (QESBA) and the Quebec Federation of Home and Schools Association (QFHSA) have been working to ensure that our constitutional minority community language rights are protected as the provincial government moves ahead with plans to reform Quebec's Education system;

WHEREAS there is a fundamental link between Quebec's English schools and the Anglophone communities they serve;

WHEREAS Bill 86 would take away rights of the Quebec Anglophone community to manage

and control its school boards;

WHEREAS Riverside School Board supports the principles and recommendations contained in the Election System Study Panel 2015 (the 'Jennings Report'), which consulted widely throughout the English linguistic minority community, and included the recommendation giving Parent Commissioners the right to vote at the Council of Commissioners;

WHEREAS Bill 86 would remove powers from the democratically elected Council of Commissioners and confer them on the Minister, resulting in an encroachment on areas exclusive to minority language educational rights holders;

WHEREAS Bill 86 would dissolve the Riverside Council of Commissioners that was legally and legitimately elected by the Anglophone community on November 2, 2014;

WHEREAS the modifications proposed would have a significant impact on schools and school boards, including centralizing power at the Ministry and giving the Minister the power to veto decisions made by Anglophone School Councils, control the educational programming, and close Anglophone schools;

WHEREAS the modifications have no positive impact on student success, but will negatively affect students by causing uncertainty in the education system;

WHEREAS the Government of Quebec has offered no pressing or substantial reason why it needs to amend the current sound, efficient and successful system of school board governance

IT IS MOVED by Chairman Dan Lamoureux and seconded by Commissioner Lesley Cuffling that the Council of Commissioners of Riverside School Board

Rejects Bill 86, *An Act to modify the organization and governance of school boards to give schools a greater say in decision-making and ensure parents' presence within each school board's decision-making body*;

Demands that the Government of Quebec acknowledge its duty to support and respect Quebecers' minority language educational rights;

Demands that the Government of Quebec formally withdraw draft Bill 86.

Demands that the Government of Quebec formally recognize, and enter into a formal and

comprehensive consultation with the English linguistic minority community to identify and address our legitimate right to control and manage our institutions.

Demands that the Government of Quebec prioritize public education and student success, which is of the utmost importance to future generations of Quebec citizens.

Demands that the Government of Quebec address the long-standing concern of the Anglophone community, the inequality of school taxation between Anglophone and Francophone school boards.

FURTHERMORE, we encourage Riverside parents and community members to voice their concerns to their local Members of the National Assembly regarding Bill 86; and

THAT a copy of this resolution be sent to our partners in Education including the Riverside School Board Parents Committee, the Quebec English School Boards Association and its members, EPCA, Riverside Teachers' Union, Riverside Association of Administrators, Association Quebecoise des cadres scolaires, Syndicate of Montreal Area Services Professionals, Local 800, SEU, Local 576 SEPB, the Association of Directors General of English School Boards, as well as to Mr. Philippe Couillard, Premier of Quebec, Mr. François Blais, Minister of Education, Higher Education Research and Science, and all members of the National Assembly on our territory as well as fellow French School Boards, QCGN, QFHSA and Mrs. Marlene Jennings.

UNANIMOUS

Chairman Lamoureux and Commissioners Capobianco Skipworth, Craig, Gour, Horrell, Cuffling, Mazur, Morrison (by telephone) and Smith asked to have their votes recorded. Parent-commissioners Aguiar and Rodrigues also indicated that they supported this resolution.

Certified true copy given at Saint-Hubert (Québec) this January 20, 2016.



Denise Paulson,
Secretary General