



Extract from the fourth (4th) meeting of the 2015-2016 Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) held on Tuesday, January 26, 2016 in the Board Room at the SWLSB Administrative Centre, 235 Montée Lesage, Rosemère, Québec

WHEREAS draft BILL 86: An Act to modify the organization and governance of School Boards, was introduced at the National Assembly of Québec on December 4th, 2015;

WHEREAS Section 23 of the Canadian Constitution confers minority language education rights;

WHEREAS Mahe v. Alberta 1990 clearly defines that minority language groups have the right to manage and control their education system and facilities;

WHEREAS the English schools are the fundamental hub of the English speaking communities they serve;

WHEREAS the Jennings Report: the Election System Study Panel 2015, makes excellent recommendations to the Minister including allowing parent Commissioners the right to vote;

WHEREAS Bill 86 would confer all powers over English School Boards to the Minister of Education – which is unconstitutional;

WHEREAS English School Boards across the province boast some of the best success rates in the province;

WHEREAS the English community takes its responsibility to control and manage its schools very seriously;

WHEREAS the Government of Quebec has offered no reason to validate the changes proposed in draft Bill 86;

It was moved by Brian Benoit and resolved that the SWLSB Special Education Advisory Committee and seconded by Yolanta Wiktorczyk to:

1. Reject Bill 86: An Act to modify the organization and governance of school boards;
2. Demand that the Government of Quebec acknowledge its duty to support and respect the constitutional rights of Anglophone Quebecers;
3. Demand that the Government of Quebec formally withdraw draft Bill 86.

Carried UNANIMOUSLY