

QESBA Annual Report

2017-2018

QESBA is the voice of English public education in Québec and represents 100,000 students in 340 elementary, high schools, and adult and vocational centres across Québec.

Our History

Since 1929, the Quebec English School Boards Association (QESBA) and its predecessors have served as a vehicle through which its school board members, elected commissioners, and parents have shared ideas and worked together to achieve the common goal of ensuring quality educational services focused on student success. In fulfilling this key role, the QESBA and its predecessors have contributed to modern public education policy in Québec, including the creation of linguistic school boards, the management of ever increasing demands on teachers and school administrators, understanding and promoting the diversity of school communities, and preparing students to effectively contribute to a predominantly French-speaking Québec society. The QESBA has consistently advocated for the acknowledgement and protection of the education rights of the Official Language Minority in Québec, specifically Section 23 of the Charter of Rights and

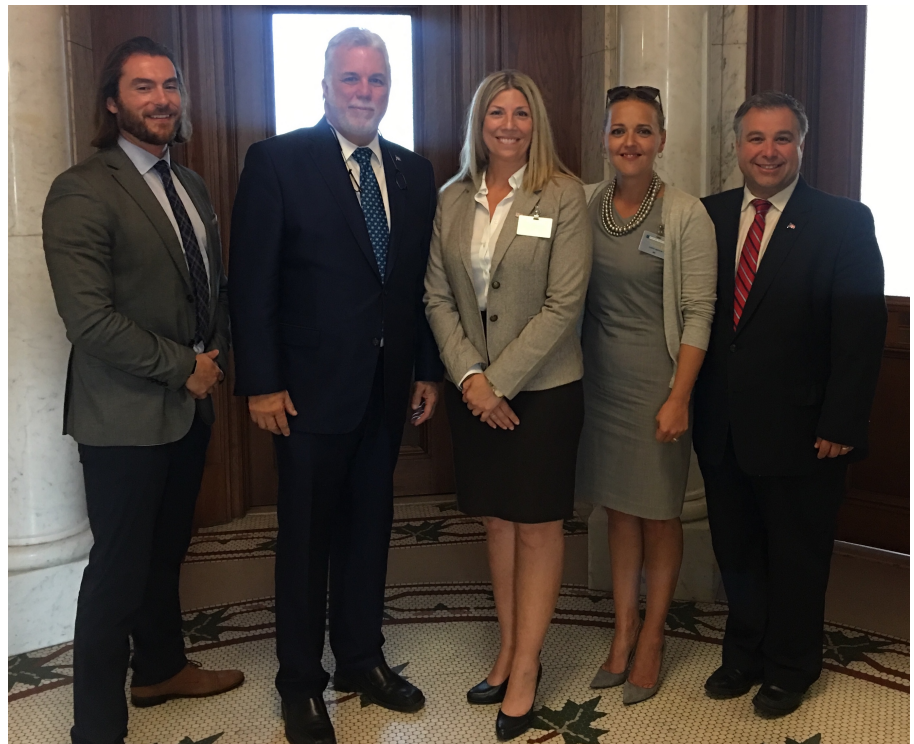
Our Mission

The purpose of the Quebec English School Boards Association (QESBA) is to advocate appropriate education for students in both the youth and adult sectors and to enhance the effectiveness of school commissioners and member school boards in the areas of education, finance, administration and labour relations.

Because school commissioners and boards are valued clients, the prime focus of the Association is to fulfill the needs of school boards. In this perspective, we communicate, collaborate and cooperate with other educational organizations including the Ministry of Education.

Freedoms, and most notably the Official Language Minority Community's right to manage and control its school boards and schools.

In 2017, the QESBA represents the nine English-language school boards in the province and one special status school board, Littoral. The QESBA network is comprised of 340 schools and approximately 100,000 students. Each Board is unique in terms of territory covered, demography of the population it serves, board orientations, and history. All share a "made-in-English-Quebec" sensibility to delivering public education services, with equal regard for all creeds, religions, or cultures. Because school commissioners and boards are our valued clients, the prime focus of the Association is to respond to the needs of our school board members. Given this orientation, the QESBA collaborates with a wide network of educational partners to fulfill this mandate.



QESBA Meeting with the Premier the first in eight years.

Fiscal year-in-review

Your Leadership

Jennifer Maccarone, SWLSB
President
Dan Lamoureux, RSB
Vice-President

Member-At-Large

Noel Burke, LBPSB
Stephen Burke, CQSB
David D'Aoust, NFSB
Wade Gifford, ESSB
Sylvia Lo Bianco, EMSB
Michael Murray, ETSB
James Shea, WQSB

Board of Directors

Josh Arless, LBPSB
Eric Bender, LBPSB
Anna Capobianco-Skipworth,
RSB
Joanne Charron, EMSB
Keith Eldridge, ESSB
Debbie Ford-Caron, CQSB
Alain Guy, WQSB
Frank MacGregor, ETSB
Peter MacLaurin, SWLSB
Bernie Praw, EMSB
John Ryan, NFSB

The last year was, once again, a very busy year for your Association. When we last reported to the Annual General meeting, we had just successfully beat the impending Bill 86, which called for the abolition of elected school boards.

ADVOCACY

Bill 105

This year we faced the adoption of Bill 105, which left elected councils intact but still removed certain powers from the people elected to represent their communities. Decentralized budgets meaning certain allocations direct to schools are now a common annual occurrence, one in which led QESBA to seek a legal opinion and subsequently officially underlined issues surrounding Section 23 of the constitution to the Minister of Education, Recreation and Sports. The introduction of the new Resource Allocation Committee, which is comprised of mostly Principals and chaired by the Director General, there are no seats allocated to elected commissioners. Councils adopted the proposed budgets but have no real say in the development.

Positive aspects of the Bill offer parent commissioners the right to vote at council and during any sub-committee meetings of the Boards. This is a right that QESBA has been lobbying for actively for a number of years.

Bill 166

An issue of paramount concern to QESBA and member boards for over a decade, the inequitable school tax dossier has been a source of great difficulty for the English-language education sector, for our parents, and for our communities. Until now school boards have been given limited powers to collect taxes from property owners to supplement government allocations. With eroding tax bases, and the abolition of equalization grants by the previous government, the inequity between tax revenues meant in large part it cost more for an English education, thereby penalizing our community.

The plan will provide a long-awaited reprieve to our minority community in maintaining financing levels to school boards, and



respects the role of school board Councils to manage and control taxation.

Bill 62

On October 18th 2017, Bill n° 62, An Act to foster adherence to State religious neutrality and, in particular, to provide a framework for requests for accommodations on religious grounds in certain bodies, passed into law.

The Quebec English School Boards Association (QESBA) adheres to the principles of religious neutrality and accommodation for religious differences.

Bill 62 will not affect our existing policies and practices. All members of our education community – administrators, teachers, staff and students – should continue to carry out their functions and activities in the same manner as they did before the new Law.

Inclusion is fundamental for the English-speaking community in Quebec. As public institutions in Quebec, we support the broadest possible access to education and to employment in our institutions.

The diversity of our community contributes to the richness of daily life in our institutions for both students and employees. We are collectively committed to promoting a climate of inclusiveness and tolerance that will allow all our students, teachers and staff to flourish in their pursuits.

Educational Success Policy

As you know, Quebec has introduced a new Educational Success Policy that is a result of a province-wide consultation. QESBA is particularly proud of its content, our English system in Quebec boasts a healthy 86% success rate and many of the elements introduced in the new policy directly reflects how our system already functions. The policy is divided into seven objectives to be reached by 2030 as the cohort of students starting Kindergarten for four-year olds this coming fall will be graduating that year.

Objective 1, by 2030, have 85% of students under the age of 20 obtain a first diploma (SSD or DVS), and 90% obtain a first diploma or qualification.



Objective 2, by 2030, reduce the gap in success rates between various groups of students by 50%.

Objective 3, by 2025, increase to 80% the proportion of children starting school who do not present a vulnerability factor related to their development

Objective 4 by 2030, increase to 90% the success rate on the composition component of the Elementary 4 language of instruction ministerial examination in the public system

Objective 5 increase by 5 percentage points the proportion of the adult population of Québec who demonstrate high-level literacy skills according to PIAAC 2022

Objective 6 by 2030, reduce to 10% the proportion of students starting public secondary school at age 13 or older

Objective 7 by 2030, ensure that all school buildings are in good condition.

Heritage Canada

After almost a year of discussions, the QESBA has been recognized by Heritage Canada as being an active participant in the pre-consultations with Heritage Canada as they prepare for negotiations on the renewal of the Canada-Provinces ententes, including the Canada-Quebec Entente. The wrap-up consultation took place in Ottawa on December 8th and QESBA participated along with many minority language community groups from across Canada. QESBA also held meetings in the spring with representatives from Heritage Canada on the Entente including the a meeting with Melanie Joly, Minister of Canadian Heritage. The Federal government is now preparing for bilateral discussions and negotiations with each of the provinces.

SECTION 23

QESBA worked very closely with Power Law over the last fiscal year to ensure that our minority Section 23 rights were being respected within the legislation adopted at the National Assembly. QESBA sent three official letters to the Minister of Education, Recreation and Sports detailing issues surrounding minority rights in Bill 105, Bill 62, and Bill 166.



LONG TERM PLANNING

Strategic Plan

QESBA embarked upon an extensive strategic planning process in the 2017-2018 Fiscal year in which all of our education partners were consulted. The results of this Québec/Canada-wide consultation has set the direction of QESBA over the next three years.

The purpose of QESBA's strategic planning process is to renew its future vision, direction, and priorities and to align its day-to-day operations with these. In so doing, the QESBA's strategic plan positions the association to produce meaningful value for its members on an ongoing basis.

Moving forward, the QESBA will continue to respond to the needs of its school board members. It will collaborate with a wide network of educational partners, including the Ministry of Education, to fulfill its mandate.

FNMI Committee

The QESBA Board of Directors has appointed an ad-hoc Committee to study the role that we can play in the issue of First Nations, Métis and Inuit matters related to the Report on Truth and Reconciliation. The Quebec Minister of Native Affairs has expressed his interest and willingness to work with QESBA to help with guidance and opening the lines of contact between Native communities and our Association. QESBA will also be looking to our Provincial partners through CSBA for support and direction, as they you have established goals and programs in place.

QUEBEC ENGLISH SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION
ASSOCIATION DES COMMISSIONS SCOLAIRES ANGLOPHONES DU QUÉBEC
SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION
COMPARISON OF ACTUAL REVENUES AND EXPENSES TO BUDGET
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2018

	Actual 2018 \$	Budget (Unaudited) 2018 \$	Actual 2017 \$	Budget (Unaudited) 2017 \$
Revenues				
Membership fees	830,357	830,400	813,607	813,600
Reimbursement of salaries	79,939	78,800	78,490	78,400
MEES School Board grant revenue	75,000	-	-	-
Reimbursement of professional fees - grievances	53,917	-	120,513	-
Sales taxes recovery	16,793	-	-	-
Reimbursement of expenses - other associations	12,000	12,000	11,000	9,800
Other revenues	10,883	-	13,641	2,000
Spring conference	8,000	8,000	5,000	5,000
Commissioner development reimbursements	7,650	4,500	2,375	7,500
Interest	6,753	2,000	4,184	2,000
Arbitration administration fees - CPNCA	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000
Miscellaneous	2,250	-	220	-
School Board reform reimbursements	-	-	3,000	-
MEESR School Board grant administration fees	-	-	-	9,300
	1,108,542	940,700	1,057,030	932,600

APPENDIX A

QUEBEC ENGLISH SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION
ASSOCIATION DES COMMISSIONS SCOLAIRES ANGLOPHONES DU QUÉBEC
SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION (CONTINUED)
COMPARISON OF ACTUAL REVENUES AND EXPENSES TO BUDGET
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2018

	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget
	2018	(Unaudited)	2017	(Unaudited)
	\$	\$	\$	\$
Expenses				
Salaries	418,915	532,600	526,419	532,300
Strategic planning and branding	74,580	-	-	-
Rent	72,361	74,300	71,744	72,600
Professional fees – grievances	53,917	-	120,513	-
Fringe benefits	48,553	61,500	58,214	56,800
Honorariums – officers	45,468	30,500	27,785	24,400
Memberships, subscriptions and registration fees	25,936	30,600	28,027	29,600
Travel – directors	23,231	22,900	15,261	23,900
Service agreement – FCSQ	20,000	20,000	20,000	20,000
Commissioner development	19,774	13,500	4,648	10,500
Office and moving expenses	16,805	21,800	21,424	14,700
Professional fees	13,702	9,000	11,598	3,500
Accounting and audit fees	11,782	12,000	11,923	12,000
Communications/promotions	11,448	18,000	9,086	14,000
Association conference and general meetings	10,853	15,000	11,290	14,000
Postage, telephone and telecommunication	8,795	13,700	10,076	19,100
Amortization of capital assets	7,164	8,600	10,945	9,000
Arbitration and negotiation	7,071	10,000	7,963	9,900
Travel – staff	6,784	28,800	20,816	29,800
Insurance	6,669	7,000	6,540	7,000
Legal fees – regular	5,267	6,500	1,821	6,000
Professional/staff development	2,264	2,300	2,082	2,000
Representation expenses	1,239	2,100	1,576	1,500
	912,578	940,700	999,751	912,600
School Board reform	4,750	-	4,055	20,000
	917,328	940,700	1,003,806	932,600