

Highlights from the Council of Commissioners

March 27-31, 2017, Kangiqsujaq

Two new Commissioners were sworn in

- On February 28, Peter Papyarluk passed away. Peter dedicated an important part of his life to the development of education in Nunavik and the Kativik School Board Commissioners are honored to have worked with him for the advancement of children in Nunavik.
- The community of Kuujjuaraapik elected Anthony Ittoshat as their Commissioner. Anthony was sworn in on March 30.
- Following the resignation of Willis Tagoona, the community of Kuujjuaq elected Robert Watt as their Commissioner. Robert was sworn in on March 28. On March 30, the Commissioners also elected him Vice-President of the Kativik School Board Executive Committee, in replacement of Peter Papyarluk.
- Mary Pilurtuut also resigned as KRG representative on the Council of Commissioners. The appointment of her replacement is expected shortly.

Major renovation projects approved

- The Commissioners approved major renovation projects for the 2017-2018 school year.
- The approved projects total more than \$5.5 million and include:
 - Renovations of duplexes in Kuujjuaq;
 - Construction of 4 new housing units in Umiujaq;
 - Upgrading of Arsaniq School in Kangiqsujaq (phase 1);
 - Upgrading of Iguarsivik School in Puvirnituaq (phase 1);
 - Structural work on a housing unit in Akulivik.
- It is important to stress that these buildings have been prioritized according to their level of deterioration.
- The list of KSB schools and housing requiring upgrading and repairs is long and priorities are reviewed on a regular basis to ensure that the most urgent needs are met.

Provincial Science Fair in Inukjuak 2018

- The Council of Commissioners approved that the 2018 edition of the Quebec Aboriginal Science Fair be hosted in Inukjuak, on March 20, 21 and 22, 2018.
- This important event was successfully hosted by the Kativik School Board in 2013, in Kuujjuaq.

School buses

- Irregular school bus service is a recurring issue on the Council of Commissioners' agenda.
- This issue is a serious concern for both the school board and parents.

- The discussion of possible solutions clearly highlighted the important role of the bus driver in ensuring regular bus services.
- It was also noted that some communities have been using recent models of buses without experiencing service interruptions.
- The department of Material Resources and School Operations will seek to build on the positive experiences of some communities to explore how bus drivers could be provided with additional support to ensure the continuity of services.
- Finally, the school board would like to encourage local contractors to respond to the call for tender we issue regularly to identify suitable buildings that could be used as heated garages for our school buses.

School Calendar

- During the Council of Commissioners held on December 6 to 9, it was decided that the pilot project on Culture and Land Survival would not continue in 2017-2018.
- The pilot project was implemented in Quaqtaq, Akulivik, Umiujaq and Kangiqsujuaq, and it included a shorter school calendar.
- In December 2016, it was decided that these four communities would go back to the regular school calendar as of August 2017.
- In response to this decision, the four communities have been advocating for a shorter school calendar, arguing that it would have a positive impact on school attendance.
- The commissioners acknowledged the need for a thorough discussion on the school calendar. They requested that data on school attendance be produced by School Operations and used as a basis for their discussion at the June 2017 meeting.

Data on class closure

- The issue of class closure remains a serious concern for both the school board and parents.
- School Operations identified a way to gather data on class closure.
- Data gathering will be tested in three communities between April and June 2017, and adapted as required.
- In June 2017, an overview of class closure in the three selected communities will be presented to the Commissioners.
- The objectives would be to:
 - identify initial trends;
 - identify solutions based on a clear picture of the situation;
 - gather data on class closure in all our schools as of August 2017.

Adoption of the Strategic Plan

- The commissioners reviewed the school board's strategic plan.

- The plan now incorporates new objectives and goals based on comments made by KSB employees during school visits in October 2016 and February 2017.
- The final documents will be distributed to all our employees by the end of the school year, and released to the public at the beginning of the next school year.