

Last month, the Quebec Government tabled Bill 86, presented as:

"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." In effect, the government is attempting to remove control from school boards and putting it in the hands of the government. It is very important that everyone fill out the form letter and mail it to their member of the National Assembly. There are a lot of powers that will be given back to the government if this bill passes.

The response to this restructuring of the School Boards has been met with strong opposition from both the Francophone and Anglophone Communities. While it appears to address certain issues such as increasing the role of parents at the School Board level, there are other elements of the Bill that in actuality may have the opposite effect.

The English Parents Committee will have an opportunity to present a brief at the National Assembly on February 18th, 2016 and has solicited the input from the members of the parent committees.

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 4<sup>th</sup>, 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;

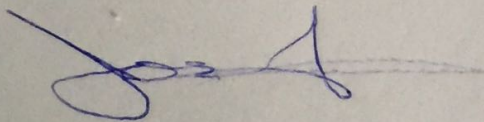
WHEREAS the English community takes its responsibility to control and manage its schools very seriously;

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

**GB20160128-05** It was moved by Jossie Tortorici and resolved that the McCaig Elementary School Governing Board.

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.

Seconded by Kristin Crowdis



Chair 2015-2016