

MINUTES OF THE 558th MEETING OF THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS OF DAWSON COLLEGE HELD ON WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 2026 AT 6:00 P.M. IN THE BOARDROOM 5B.13, 3040 SHERBROOKE STREET WEST, MONTREAL, QUÉBEC

PRESENT:	Toby Harper-Merrett	Karina D'Ermo	Gabriel Sperneac
	Sean Smith, Chair	Nacer Sadoun	Catherine Loiacono
	Pelagia Nickoletopoulos	Allison Kurz	Jean-Philippe Fournier
	Leanne Bennett	Danica Meredith	Rama Kosara
	Noah Brender	Richard Montreuil	Steve Puente
	Ilya Yevseienkov		

REGRETS:	Benoit Larose	Daniel Kocur	Julia Cohen-Levy
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College Officers:	Pascahl Scott	Samuel V. Saint-Hilaire	Glenys Ronnie
	François Paradis	Megan Ainscow	Maxwell Jones

Also Present: Gabrielle Gayrard and Wilson Wong

Recording Secretary to the Board: Elise Harding

Agenda

558.1 ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA OF THE 558TH MEETING

558.2 ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES OF THE 557TH MEETING

558.3 CORRESPONDENCE & PRESENTATIONS

558.4 REPORTS

- .1 Report of the Executive Committee
- .2 Report of the Chair of the Board
- .3 Report of the Director General
- .4 Report of the Academic Dean
- .5 Report of the Chair of Senate

558.5 BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

558.6 NEW BUSINESS

- .1 Winter 2026 Graduates
 - .1 Diplomas of College Studies
 - .2 Attestations of College Studies
- .2 Annual Management Plan 2026-2027
- .3 2025-26 Sustainability Report
- .4 Board Elections – Audit Committee and Governance Committee
- .5 Report on the Policy for a Smoke Free College
- .6 Repair of the Exterior Envelope Following an Inspection (Law 122 É2026)
- .7 Renovation of Multifunctional Space – Conrod's
- .8 Chartered Bus Transportation Services

558.7 VARIA

558.8 DATE OF NEXT MEETING – October 14, 2026

558.9 ADJOURNMENT

Sean Smith, Chair of the board, welcomed the new Board members:

- Toby Harper-Merrett, Director General
- Allison Kurz, Professional
- Rama Kosara, Pre-University Program Student
- Ilya Yevseienkov, Technical Program Student
- Noah Brender, Faculty
- Richard Montreuil, Faculty
- Steve Puente, Pre-University Program Graduate
- Nacer Sadoun, Labour Market Partner

He also welcomed Megan Ainscow, Director of Communications and Corporate Affairs, who recently returned from maternity leave.

He stated that Dawson College's mission is to educate, engage and enrich. He emphasized that all decisions must be made in the best interest of the college and in accordance with its mission. He encouraged Board members to attend meetings well prepared, review the documentation in advance, and to ask any questions they may have.

He reminded Board members that, according to Bylaw 1 section 2.01 d), any member who is absent for three consecutive Board meetings is automatically removed from the Board.

A new conflict of interest form will also be sent to all Board members, and he reminded members of their responsibility to declare any conflicts of interest that may arise.

558.9 ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA OF THE 558th MEETING

It was moved by Noah Brender, seconded by Allison Kurz, **THAT THE AGENDA OF THE 558TH MEETING BE ADOPTED.**

The motion was adopted unanimously.

558.10 ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES OF THE 557TH MEETING

It was moved by Pelagia Nickoletopoulos, seconded by Karina D'Ermo, **THAT THE MINUTES OF THE 557th MEETING BE ADOPTED.**

The motion was adopted unanimously.

558.11 CORRESPONDENCE & PRESENTATIONS

There was nothing to report.

558.12 REPORTS

.1 Report of the Executive Committee

The following information was included in the report:

At a special meeting of the Executive Committee on June 22, 2026 (EC 513), the following were approved:

- Wilson Wong was appointed Interim Dean of Academic Systems, ACSY-101, as of June 8, 2026.
- Selma Hamdani was appointed Associate Dean of Creative and Applied Arts (CAAA-103), as of August 3, 2026.
- The College was authorized to award, upon completion of the notice of intention process and provided that no compliant expression of interest is received, a three-year maintenance contract to GE Healthcare for the servicing of diagnostic imaging equipment, for a total amount of \$250,748, excluding taxes.

At a regular meeting of the Executive Committee on September 2, 2026 (EC 514), the following were approved:

- A payment of \$277,039, excluding taxes, to the Fédération des cégeps for the 2026-27 regular membership fees, special projects and legal affairs.
- The proposed list of signing authorities, effective September 2, 2026.
- The vacant position of Administrative Support Agent, Class 1 (CECS-417) was abolished effective September 3, 2026.
- The position of Administrative Support Agent, Class 1 (CECS-430) was created effective September 3, 2026.
- Julien Montpetit was appointed Interim Associate Director, Financial Services (FNSV-103) as of September 3, 2026.

At a special meeting of the Executive Committee on September 10, 2026 (EC 515), the following was approved:

- Tonia DeBellis was appointed Interim Associate Dean of Science, Medical Studies and Engineering (SMSE-103) as of September 14, 2026.

.2 Report of the Chair of the Board

Sean Smith, Chair of the Board, noted that the 20th anniversary of the Dawson tragedy was on Sunday, September 13. A commemorative ceremony was held on Friday, September 11.

He also reported that he has established regular meetings with Toby Harper-Merrett, Director General and he will be attending a governance training offered by the Fédération des cégeps on September 17.

He concluded by once again welcoming the new Board members.

.3 Report of the Director General

Toby Harper-Merrett, Director General, reported that this was his first Board meeting as Director General. He stated that it is a great honour to lead Dawson College and that he is beginning his mandate with both momentum and a commitment to learning.

He expressed his appreciation for the warm welcome and strong support he has received from the Directors and extended a special thanks to Leanne Bennett for her assistance during the transition.

To date, much of his work has focused on the implementation of Law 9 and matters related to religious accommodations, the LaSalle College situation and external representation. He has also prioritized relationship building and has met with unions, students, members of the College community and other Director Generals.

.4 Report of the Academic Dean

Leanne Bennett, Academic Dean, reported that Maeve Muldowney, Dean of Continuing Education and Community Services has retired. Tommy Diamantakos, Dean of Social Sciences has assumed the role.

An update on Generative AI at the college was also shared. The College requirements are under the responsibility of François Paradis, Director of Information Systems & Technology. On the academic side, the community was consulted on the development of a value statement. It was recognized that a one-size-fits-all approach is not appropriate across all programs. Work is underway to develop clear departmental guidelines defining when and how Generative AI may or may not be used. A task force composed of pedagogical counsellors and faculty members has been created to support this work. In addition, surveys were conducted with faculty and students to gather perspectives on Generative AI and identify knowledge gaps. Training modules are currently being developed to address those gaps.

.5 Report of the Chair of Senate

In the absence of Ben Seamone, Chair of Senate, Leanne Bennett, President of Senate and Academic Dean, reported that Senate had met once since the last Board meeting. Senate discussed the revision of Bylaw 6, which will be brought to the next Board meeting. The results of the *Épreuve uniforme de français* and student success rates were also reviewed. Senate also received a presentation on student recruitment, as applications have experienced a slight decline.

558.13 BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

There was none.

558.14 NEW BUSINESS

.1 Winter 2026 Graduates

.1 Diplomas of College Studies

Leanne Bennett, Academic Dean, presented this item and stated that the Ministry awards the Diplomas of College Studies and the College awards the Attestations of College Studies.

Il est proposé par Allison Kurz, appuyé par Gabriel Sperneac, QU'IL EST RÉSOLU DE RECOMMANDER À LA MINISTRE DE L'ENSEIGNEMENT SUPÉRIEUR D'ACCORDER UN DIPLÔME D'ÉTUDES COLLÉGIALES À

CHACUN DES 1596 ÉTUDIANTS DONT LE NOM APPARAÎT SUR LA DEMANDE DE CERTIFICATION.

La résolution a été adoptée à l'unanimité.

(It was moved by Allison Kurz, seconded by Gabriel Sperneac, **THAT IT IS RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND TO THE MINISTER OF HIGHER EDUCATION TO AWARD A DIPLOMA OF COLLEGE STUDIES TO EACH OF THE 1596 STUDENTS WHOSE NAMES APPEAR ON THE REQUEST FOR CERTIFICATION.**)

(The motion was adopted unanimously.)

.2 Attestations of College Studies

Leanne Bennett, Academic Dean, presented this item and stated that the Ministry awards the Diplomas of College Studies and the College awards the Attestations of College Studies. A Board member raised a question regarding trends in AEC student enrolment, which has declined largely because of Law 14 and budgetary restrictions.

*Il est proposé par Ilya Yevseienkov, appuyé par Rama Kosara, **QU'IL EST RÉSOLU QUE LES 37 ÉTUDIANTS DONT LES NOMS APPARAISSENT SUR LA DEMANDE DE CERTIFICATION SE VOIENT ACCORDER UNE ATTESTATION D'ÉTUDES COLLÉGIALES.***

La résolution a été adoptée à l'unanimité.

(It was moved by Ilya Yevseienkov, seconded by Rama Kosara, **THAT IT IS RESOLVED THAT THE 37 STUDENTS WHOSE NAMES APPEAR ON THE REQUEST FOR CERTIFICATION BE AWARDED AN ATTESTATION OF COLLEGE STUDIES.**)

(The motion was adopted unanimously.)

.2 Annual Management Plan 2026-2027

Toby Harper-Merrett, Director General, presented the 2026-2027 Annual Management Plan. Board members raised questions regarding the new rental space, particularly with respect to the consultation process and whether the new space would meet accessibility needs. Samuel Vallery Saint-Hilaire, Director of Facilities Management, stated that Dawson follows all applicable accessibility regulations.

*Il est proposé par Pelagia Nickoletopoulos, appuyé par Danica Meredith, **QUE LE PLAN DE GESTION ANNUEL 2026-2027 SOIT ADOPTÉ.***

La résolution a été adoptée à l'unanimité.

(It was moved by Pelagia Nickoletopoulos, seconded by Danica Meredith, **THAT THE ANNUAL MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR 2026-2027 BE ADOPTED.**)

(The motion was adopted unanimously.)

.3 Sustainability Report 2025-2026

Samuel Vallery Saint-Hilaire, Director of Facilities Management, presented a PowerPoint summarizing the Sustainability department's major accomplishments of the 2025-2026 academic year.

A Board member praised the Sustainability team for its achievements and asked questions about the evolution of the Sustainability Plan, which extends until 2029. Discussion also took place regarding the Sustainability Advisory Committee and the impact that the reduced number of Sustainability staff may have on course offerings.

This was presented for information only.

.4 Board Elections: Audit Committee and Governance Committee

Megan Ainscow, Director of Communications and Corporate Affairs, stated that at the Board meeting on June 10, 2026, it was decided to elect the final member of both the Audit Committee and Governance committee at the September 16, 2026 meeting (BOG 557.6.7).

Audit Committee

Danica Meredith volunteered to be on the Audit Committee.

Governance Committee

Rama Kosara volunteered to be on the Governance Committee.

*i) Il est proposé par Pelagia Nickoletopoulos, appuyé par Jean-Philippe Fournier, **D'ÉLIRE DANICA MEREDITH À TITRE DE MEMBRE DU COMITÉ D'AUDIT POUR L'ANNÉE 2026-2027.***

La résolution a été adoptée à l'unanimité.

*ii) Il est proposé par Noah Brender, appuyé par Ilya Yevseienkov, **D'ÉLIRE RAMA KOSARA À TITRE DE MEMBRE DU COMITÉ DE GOUVERNANCE POUR L'ANNÉE 2026-2027.***

La résolution a été adoptée à l'unanimité.

i) (It was moved by Pelagia Nickoletopoulos, seconded by Jean-Philippe Fournier, **TO ELECT DANICA MEREDITH AS A MEMBER OF THE AUDIT COMMITTEE FOR THE YEAR 2026-2027.**)

(The motion was adopted unanimously.)

ii) (It was moved by Noah Brender, seconded by Ilya Yevseienkov, **TO ELECT RAMA KOSARA AS A MEMBER OF THE GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE FOR THE YEAR 2026-2027.**)

(The motion was adopted unanimously.)

.5 Report on the Policy for a Smoke-Free College

Toby Harper-Merrett, Director General, stated that in accordance with section 8.2 of the Policy for a Smoke-Free College and the Tobacco Control Act, the Director General shall report to the Board of Governors every two years on the application of the policy. The College shall send the report to the Minister of Health and Social Services within 60 days of submitting it to the Board.

This item was presented for information only.

.6 Repair of the Exterior Envelope Following an Inspection (Law 122 É2026)

Samuel Vallery Saint-Hilaire, Director of Facilities Management, reported that in accordance with the requirements of the *Bâtiment du Code de sécurité du Québec* (commonly referred to as “Loi 122”), a periodic inspection of the College’s exterior building envelope is required. EGIS Canada Limited was retained to conduct a comprehensive inspection of all exterior façades and to prepare the plans and specifications required to implement the necessary corrective measures.

The inspection report, dated June 11, 2026, identified numerous deficiencies affecting the building envelope, many of which have developed and progressed over several years. The report concluded that corrective measures are required urgently to prevent further deterioration, preserve the building’s structural integrity, and protect occupant safety.

Despite relying on the emergency procurement exception, the College sought to obtain competitive pricing and value for the required construction services. EGIS Canada Limited solicited bids from two experienced contractors with the qualifications and expertise required to perform this type of work. Both contractors attended a site visit and were required to submit their bids within a short timeframe due to the urgency of the work.

It is recommended that the contract be awarded to the lowest compliant bidder.

The project was included in the Capital Budget approved by the Board in February 2026 (BOG 555.6.11). Although the lowest compliant bid exceeds the amount initially allocated specifically to this project, the additional costs will be included in a Capital Budget Revision to be submitted to the Executive Committee on September 30, 2026.

Il est proposé par Gabriel Sperneac, appuyé par Pelagia Nickoletopoulos, QUE LE CONSEIL D'ADMINISTRATION AUTORISE LE COLLÈGE À ADJUGER À L'ENTREPRISE « MFC SERVICES GÉNÉRAUX INC. » UN CONTRAT DE TRAVAUX DE CONSTRUCTION POUR LES TRAVAUX DE RÉPARATION DE L'ENVELOPPE EXTÉRIEURE DU BÂTIMENT IDENTIFIÉS À LA SUITE DE L'INSPECTION RÉALISÉE CONFORMÉMENT AUX EXIGENCES DE LA LOI 122, POUR UN MONTANT TOTAL DE 480 067,50 \$, EXCLUANT LES TAXES.

La résolution a été adoptée à l'unanimité.

(It was moved by Gabriel Sperneac, seconded by Pelagia Nickoletopoulos, **THAT THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS AUTHORIZE THE COLLEGE TO AWARD A CONSTRUCTION CONTRACT TO “MFC SERVICES GÉNÉRAUX INC.” FOR THE REPAIR WORK TO THE EXTERIOR BUILDING ENVELOPE, IDENTIFIED FOLLOWING THE INSPECTION CONDUCTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE REQUIREMENTS OF LOI 122, FOR A TOTAL AMOUNT OF \$480,067.50, EXCLUDING TAXES.**)

(The motion was adopted unanimously.)

.7 Renovation of the Multifunctional Space – Conrod’s

Samuel Vallery Saint-Hilaire, Director of Facilities Management, reported that the project will modernize approximately 5,000 square feet of Conrod’s multifunctional

space, including the kitchen, stage and event area, ceilings, lighting and related building systems. The work is intended to address existing health and safety requirements while improving the functionality and usability of the space for student and community activities.

At the June 2026 Board meeting, the College was authorized to award a construction contract of up to \$910,000, excluding taxes, for the renovation of Conrod's multifunctional space (BOG 557.6.8).

On June 17, 2026, a public call for tenders (DAW-2627-001) was issued through SÉAO (Electronic Tendering Service) with a closing date of August 14, 2026.

A total of six bids were received. Groupe PLEXA Inc. submitted the lowest compliant bid, in the amount of \$1,199,825.78, excluding applicable taxes.

The College's Procurement department also completed its administrative review and confirmed that the lowest bidder's submission was administratively compliant.

The detailed professional estimate for the construction work was \$782,111.91. Groupe PLEXA Inc.'s bid is therefore \$417,713.87, or 53.4% above the professional estimate. Furthermore, the three lowest bids are within approximately 4.8% of one another, indicating that the variance is not the result of an isolated or anomalous bid, but rather reflects current market conditions and the specific characteristics of the project.

The professionals analysis identified several factors contributing to the difference between the original estimate and the tendered process: the period, the occupied building, underestimations and increases in construction costs.

It should be noted that this project was included in the Capital Budget approved by the Board of Governors in February 2026 (BOG 555.6.11) using the original estimated expenditures. This project was also submitted under the *Entente Canada Québec* (ECQ) program, which provides funding for projects benefiting the community and post-secondary learning environments of anglophones. Under the program, eligible projects may receive funding on a cost-sharing basis, with up to 50% of eligible expenses funded by the federal government. For 2025-2026, the eligible expenses of which 50% is covered by the federal government is totaling \$35,890. The College also received confirmation of an additional ECQ allocation of \$315,000 for 2026-2027. The *Ministère de l'Éducation et de l'Enseignement supérieur* (MES) has advised the College that an increase to the 2026-2027 allocation may be possible. The College is currently preparing a request to increase the funding allocation for 2026-2027 based on the updated project costs.

The project's financial plan has been structured without relying on any potential increase to the 2026-2027 ECQ funding allocation. Accordingly, the project remains financially viable regardless of the outcome of the additional funding request.

*Il est proposé par Jean-Philippe Fournier, appuyé par Karina D'Ermo, **QUE LE CONSEIL D'ADMINISTRATION AUTORISE LE COLLÈGE À OCTROYER À GROUPE PLEXA INC. UN CONTRAT DE TRAVAUX DE CONSTRUCTION POUR LA RÉNOVATION DE L'ESPACE MULTIFONCTIONNEL CONROD'S, AU MONTANT DE 1 199 825,78\$, EXCLUANT LES TAXES.***

La résolution a été adoptée à l'unanimité.

(It was moved by Jean-Philippe Fournier, seconded by Karina D'Ermo, **THAT THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS AUTHORIZE THE COLLEGE TO AWARD A CONSTRUCTION CONTRACT TO GROUPE PLEXA INC. FOR THE RENOVATION OF THE CONROD'S MULTIFUNCTIONAL SPACE FOR AN AMOUNT OF \$1,199,825.78, EXCLUDING TAXES.**)

(The motion was adopted unanimously.)

.8 Chartered Bus Transportation Services

Samuel Vallery Saint-Hilaire, Director of Facilities Management, stated that to meet the College's athletics team transportation requirements, both within and outside Quebec, the College issued a public call for tenders through SÉAO (Electronic Tendering Service) for the provision of on-demand transportation and charter services. The contract is to be awarded on the basis of the lowest compliant bid. The objective of the tender was to identify the service provider offering the lowest prices for each type of transportation service required.

The public tender was issued on July 13, 2026. The bids were opened on August 24, 2026. The contract provides for an initial term of three (3) years, with two (2) optional one-year renewal periods.

Lot	Description
1	Autocar de luxe
2	Minibus / Autobus intermédiaire / Autobus scolaire

Four (4) submissions were received before the closing deadline. One additional submission was deemed non-receivable as it was received after the deadline. Three (3) companies submitted a price for lot 1 and two (2) companies submitted a price for lot 2.

The bid results and rankings for the compliant submissions are presented in the table below, based on the total value of the initial three-year term and the two optional one-year renewal periods.

Lot	Rank	Bidder	Annual Cost	Total cost for 5 years (3 years + 2 optional years)
1	1	Autocar Chartrand Inc.	\$92,060	\$460,300
	2	Le Groupe Bell-Horizon Inc.	\$115,830	\$579,150
2	1	Autocar Chartrand Inc.	\$234,690	\$1,173,450

The College's financial obligations under these contracts are strictly limited to services actually rendered, as engagements are initiated solely on an on-demand basis.

The on-demand service contracts are included in the operating budgets. The usage of the on-demand services will be limited on an annual basis to the available operating budgets allocated to the athletics team.

Il est proposé par Pelagia Nickoletopoulos, appuyé par Danica Meredith, QUE LE CONSEIL D'ADMINISTRATION AUTORISE LE COLLÈGE À ADJUGER LES CONTRATS DE LOTS 1 ET 2, EN PROCÉDANT SELON L'ORDRE DE CLASSEMENT, POUR DES SERVICES DE TRANSPORT NOLISÉ PAR AUTOBUS POUR LES ANNÉES :

1. 2026-2027;

2. 2027-2028;

3. 2028-2029;

ET LES ANNÉES OPTIONNELLES :

1. 2029-2030;

2. 2030-2031;

TEL QUE DÉCRIT CI-DESSOUS :

LOT	RANG	SOUSSIONNAIRE	COÛT ANNUEL	COÛT TOTAL POUR 5 ANS (3 ANS + 2 ANS OPTIONNELS)
1	1	AUTOCAR CHARTRAND INC.	\$92,060	\$460,300
	2	LE GROUPE BELL- HORIZON INC.	\$115,830	\$579,150
2	1	AUTOCAR CHARTRAND INC.	\$234,690	\$1,173,450

La résolution a été adoptée à l'unanimité.

(It was moved by Pelagia Nickoletopoulos, seconded by Danica Meredith, **THAT THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS AUTHORIZES THE COLLEGE TO AWARD THE CONTRACTS FOR LOTS 1 AND 2, IN ORDER OF RANKING, FOR CHARTERED BUS TRANSPORTATION SERVICES FOR THE FOLLOWING YEARS:**

1. 2026-2027;

2. 2027-2028;

3. 2028-2029;

AND THE FOLLOWING OPTIONAL YEARS:

1. 2029-2030;

2. 2030-2031;

AS DESCRIBED BELOW:

LOT	RANK	BIDDER	ANNUAL COST	TOTAL COST FOR 5 YEARS (3 YEARS + 2 OPTIONAL YEARS)
1	1	AUTOCAR CHARTRAND INC.	\$92,060	\$460,300
	2	LE GROUPE BELL-HORIZON INC.	\$115,830	\$579,150
2	1	AUTOCAR CHARTRAND INC.	\$234,690	\$1,173,450

(The motion was adopted unanimously.)

558.15 VARIA

As previously mentioned at the June Board meeting (BOG 557.4.3), a Board member raised the possibility of the Board preparing a formal statement regarding Law 9. This matter will be discussed at the next Board meeting.

558.16 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next regular Executive meeting is September 30, 2026.

The date of the next regular Board meeting is October 14, 2026.

558.17 ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:29 p.m.

Signatures:

Sean Smith
Board Chair

Megan Ainscow
Director of Communications & Corporate Affairs