



COMMISSION SCOLAIRE SIR-WILFRID-LAURIER
SIR WILFRID LAURIER SCHOOL BOARD

April 3, 2019

Subject: Town Hall Report

Dear stakeholder,

Council wishes to thank the esteemed community members who attended this event and who had the courage to voice their concerns, ask questions, and express their views. As mentioned, that evening, The *Institut du Nouveau Monde* (INM), was hired to animate the town hall as an impartial third party with expertise in these types of events. They guided the discussions and have since produced this public report with feedback and recommendations.

We wish to reiterate and continue to clarify options for requests by some parents to receive transportation services from Laval to Rosemere High School for the upcoming school year. As explained, parents have the right to request an out of zone transfer for the school they feel will best meet their child's needs. However, as per the Education Act (article 4), the exercise of this right, does not entail to require transportation services where the transportation services required for the student concerned exceeds the limits established by the school board.

Although we understand and respect parental choice, we must comply with the laws and policies as well as be fiscally responsible and vigilant with the management of public funds, your funds. Attendance zones help the school board manage and organize funds, transportation and school organization. They take into consideration school capacity and overall budget for the entire school board territory.

One of the biggest challenges that English school boards in Québec face is transportation. We have very large territories. The SWLSB has a \$13 million transportation budget and it is used effectively to offer equal services and opportunity to each and every child within the LLL regions. Any expenses over budget result in the removal of services to students in the classroom, a serious consequence we cannot consider as these needs continue to increase.

The town hall was a first step in having open dialogues with our community and being solution oriented while respecting the policies in place and keeping our students our priority.

Yours sincerely,

Paolo Galati
SWLSB Chairperson

From the office of Paolo Galati, Chairperson
Du bureau de Paolo Galati, président

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