



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



Highlights of the  
Public Consultation Meeting on the  
Reorganization of Laval High Schools 2015-2016  
Meeting 3 | Sector 3 | April 24, 2014  
Held at Laurier Senior High School

A Public Meeting on the Consultation on the Reorganization of Laval High Schools 2015-2016 was held by the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board in the auditorium of Laurier Senior High School, 2323, boul. Daniel-Johnson, Laval, QC on Thursday, April 24, 2014.

During this meeting there was a presentation to explain the overview, framework and solutions regarding the Laval high schools. This is the final Public Consultation meeting on the Reorganization of the Laval High schools 2015-2016.

### Speaker Presentations

#### **Public Speaker 1 | Tracey Friedman, Chair of Laval Junior High School Governing Board**

Ms. Friedman asked the Director General if she had any plans prior to June 2014, to visit with the students from the four high schools affected by the reorganization in order to have a question and answer period with them.

The Director General responded that the senior high school students have been invited to come to the administration centre to meet with the Chairman and herself for an open discussion on the reorganization of the high schools to resolve the registration imbalance prior to the presentation of the final recommendation. The meeting will be held during the day and the students will be provided transportation to and from the meeting. It was felt that the Administration Centre would be the best location to hold the meeting. The students have been asked to gather questions from fellow students to bring to this meeting as well as some other information.

The junior high school students will receive a visit prior to the final presentation of the final recommendation on a date to be determined.

#### **Public Speaker 2 | Natalina Pace, Chair of Crestview Elementary School Governing Board**

Ms. Pace told those present that not only was she Chair of the Crestview Governing Board she was also a parent of two children with autism. She went on to note that it is ironic that the public consultation is taking place in April because it is Autism Awareness Month.

She further noted that, in her opinion, the model that is best suited for this reorganization is Model II, 1 junior and 1 senior high school, as it would better suit the special needs students.

She wanted to impress upon the Council the importance of selecting the correct model because 2013-2014 has already been a difficult year for those special needs students who began grade 7 and to have to make another big transition for 2014-2015 with Phase I is going to be a lot for them to process, as will the implementation of Phase II in 2015-2016 but perhaps on a somewhat lesser scale.

Ms. Pace asked that the Council continue to support special needs students, their teachers, administrators and other support staff as they are essential to the progress made in their education. She acknowledge the efforts that the school board is making to ensure that as much information as possible is being made available to the public on Phase I and II of the reorganization albeit the fact that the community was very taken aback as to how Phase I was implemented. She implored the Council to truly consider the contents of the feedback that will be received during this consultation.

She thanked the Council for its time and expressed her gratitude to the Chair of the Parents Committee and Commissioner Steve Bletas for their opposition to Phase I.

## Open Question Period

### Public Question 1 | Sébastien Joly, President, Laurier Teachers Union (LTU)

Mr. Joly indicated that he was present tonight representing the teachers in the four schools affected by the reorganization and that he has collected questions from them for presentation this evening. The teachers were originally leaning towards denouncing the consultation proposals but have taken the decision to deposit a brief on their preferred Model prior to the conclusion of the consultation period.

Question 1: What monies will be saved and how will it be translated and what level of employees will be affected?

The Director General advised that the savings will come through the grouping of services rather than affecting students and staff. After a detailed analysis, cleaning and Administrative staff could be regrouped without affecting services to students.

Question 2: If Model I is selected there will be one Principal for both buildings and five Vice-Principals; and if Model 2 is selected there will be one Principal for each building with two Vice-Principals for the junior high school and 3 Vice-Principals for the senior high school, so where will that leave the nine administrators currently assigned to the 4 high schools because these Models reduce the number at that level?

The Director General responded noting the current distribution of administration within the four high schools. By regrouping students there will not be less coverage. There will be fewer students per administrator than it is currently.

Question 3: Will there be more Student Supervisors and Behaviour Technicians?

The Director General indicated that these positions have not been looked at yet and that it will be discussed with the school administration during the staffing process in the spring of 2015.

Question 4: The consultation information indicated that beyond 2020 it is expected that a new high school will be required. Does the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board have a guarantee from the Ministère de l'Éducation, du Loisir et du Sport (MELS) that this new school will be built?

The Director General noted that the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board has received allocations to build several schools since its inception. At this time the school board is planning on approaching the Ville de Laval to inquire about securing land for a future school construction project and that the Ville is open to this. The Director of Material Resources is laying the ground work at the Ministry level to move towards making a request for a school when it becomes necessary.

### **Public Question 2 | Dorinda Raymond, Parent of a Secondary 1 Student**

Ms. Raymond asked what steps the school board was going to take to ensure the continuity of programs when the schools come together.

The Director General noted that the continuity of programs is the responsibility of the school administration, teaching staff and the Educational Services Department and that a school's MESA helps facilitate the process. All involved will have to work at aligning practices within each Model. The schools will be encouraged to make the most of the common pedagogical days and work together towards school success.

### **Public Question 3 | Pamela Cripton, SEAC member and Special Needs Parent**

Ms. Cripton expressed concern over the increasing number of special needs students beginning at the kindergarten level and inquired how the Principal in the two Models would be able to handle all of the IEPs that would be present with these ever increasing numbers?

The Director General agreed with Ms. Cripton that the number of special needs students is ever increasing especially in the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board because it services its special needs students very well and this has attracted a lot of interest from parents in other school boards. If you are francophone and have a child with special needs, Bill 101 can be bypassed, in some cases.

She advised those present that the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board is currently piloting an electronic IEP with the Ministère de l'Éducation, du Loisir et du Sport (MELS). This electronic IEP helps all stakeholders to communicate more frequently and with ease. The school board uses a team approach in the management of IEPs and the electronic IEP will be beneficial for the student and a very useful tool for the support team. This project is supported by a network of Resource Teachers. She went on to say that solutions are being put into place to support the challenges.

### **Public Question 4 | Mario Grasso, Student Council President, Laurier Senior High School**

Mr. Grasso inquired as to how the students will be able to avoid bullying and look after their own safety and security if there is only one school to go to?

The Director General indicated that there is now a law on anti-violence and anti-bullying that must be followed and school boards must report to the Ministère de l'Éducation, du Loisir et du Sport (MELS) on what they are doing to prevent these types of incidents. There is no tolerance for this type of behaviour

and the school board will be vigilant in its practices. No one should be bullied and if there are incidents, report them go to the Principal, Vice-Principal, teacher, parent or any authority figure and tell them because if no one knows, help cannot be provided. She went on to say that no one should live with that fear or concern and when there is a report the student will be supported immediately. The school staff will be encouraged to create activities to bring students together.

#### **Public Question 5 | Frank De Luca, Teacher, Laurier Senior High School**

Mr. De Luca indicated that he represents the teachers of Laurier Senior and Mother Teresa Junior High Schools, and has also been delegated by the Teacher Council of Laurier Senior High School. On page 10 of the consultation document it states “The consistency and coherence of the recommendations from the advisory bodies and the public” would be an element considered in rendering a final decision. That being said, with four Governing Boards voting against Phase I and renouncing Phase II, the Parents Committee requesting that the Council rescind its decision for Phase I and the fact that the community at large is against moving the schools, how will the feedback on the consultation be weighted and how will the Council be accountable to the community it represents when they take a final decision?

The Director General noted that all of the documents received from the consultation on Phase II will be posted on the school board’s Web site once the consultation period has expired.

She continued noting that, with respect to the weight given to the information submitted through the consultation, the Council will review everything received and make its decision based on what is best for the system.

#### **Public Question 6 | A Parent**

A Parent wanted to know why the school board did not consult the parents and students on Phase I.

The Chairman reminded everyone present that tonight’s meeting is to receive feedback on Phase II of the reorganization of the Laval high schools. He indicated that the situation with the Laval high schools has been debated for many years and the time has come to resolve the current registration imbalance.

The Parent noted that the students had submitted a petition opposing Phase I and it was not respected.

#### **Public Question 7 | Carla Scarpato, Parent, Laval Junior High School**

Ms. Scarpato read a prepared statement on her experience as a parent affected by the application of the enrollment criteria and the compulsory transfer of her child to a school not of his choice. She expressed her appreciation to the Council for stepping up to address the problem noting that while many parents may feel that a merger is not the solution, it will withdraw the need for the school board to apply its enrollment criteria.

She stressed that only if you have been involved with a compulsory transfer can you understand what a heart wrenching experience it is and no child should have to start high school on such a negative note. Two solutions are being proposed and they both offer an equal and fair opportunity to students.

The school board is working hard to address the concerns of the registration imbalance and it is up to the community to make the change work.

### **Public Question 8 | Tanya, Student, Laurier Senior High School**

Ms. Tanya indicated that the thing that worries her the most about this process is that during the Phase I discussions the students were told that their position was being considered yet the Council moved forward with Phase I anyways. Given that, some students feel that the Council will go ahead and do what it wants without considering any of the information and feedback received from the current consultation.

### **Public Question 9 | Lisa Chartier, Parent**

Ms. Chartier noted that while she appreciates the fact that the students will be able to have lunch together at the junior level in 2014-2015, will that cafeteria be able to seat everyone and how many additional tables have been ordered?

The Assistant Director General advised that a sufficient number of tables have been ordered for the system and will be placed where there is the greatest need. She will inquire about the exact number with the Director of Material Resources and post the response on the Q & A section of the Web.

She also mentioned that an expansion of the cafeteria at the Daniel-Johnson building is being examined.

Ms. Chartier, as follow-up to her question at the April 15, 2014 meeting at Terry Fox Elementary school, on the composition of the Governing Boards, inquired how junior high school students would have a voice on a Governing Board under Model I.

The Director General noted, that the law unfortunately does not provide for junior students to vote, however she is hopeful that the Governing Board will accommodate the voice of these students in an equitable way.

### **Public Question 10 | A Parent, Laurier Senior High School**

The Parent indicated that she had heard rumours that students from Laurier Senior High School would be housed in the basement of the Souvenir building for 2014-2015 and, if so, why?

The Director General noted that each school will have a wing of the building at 3200 boul. du Souvenir.

The Assistant Director General noted that one of the floors that will be used appears to be a basement but that it is actually a sub-main floor. As scheduling is done for the 2014-2015 school year there will be designated areas per school plus shared areas such as labs, cafeteria, etc. It will depend on the needs of each school how the classroom space is allocated.

The Parent also inquired about the air conditioning at the Souvenir building and asked if it works?

The Assistant Director General indicated that Material Resources is looking into this to ensure that it is functional.

The Parent expressed concerns about security and asked how it will be handled?

The Assistant Director General noted the presence of cameras, Student Supervisors, Teacher supervision and, the best offence; tell an adult if you are being bullied.

### **Public Question 11 | Carol Toteda Governing Board Member & Parent, Laurier Senior High School**

Ms. Toteda noted that the Laurier Senior Governing Board meeting was held last week at the Souvenir building and that it was nice to be able to see the entire building. She expressed concerns over the size of the cooking area of the cafeteria, as it is smaller than the one in the Daniel-Johnson building, and asked if it will be expanded to accommodate the flow of students?

The Assistant Director General advised that this was also a concern of the school board and the Director of Material Resources will be meeting with Aramark, the cafeteria service provider, to discuss the expansion of the cooking area at the Souvenir building.

Ms. Carol also expressed concerns over the labs being smaller than those at the Daniel-Johnson building and asked if they will meet the needs of the students?

The Assistant Director General advised that Educational Services Department has assessed the labs for the course and will monitor them to ensure that students will get the services that they require.

Ms. Carol asked if both the middle school and house systems will be used or just one of them.

The Director General noted that they are different systems. She also indicated that she would like to see both systems used as they each serve a different purpose and encourages all stakeholders to download the public consultation document and read about these systems in detail. She also noted that there are references at the end of the document should anyone wish to read in detail about these models.

### **Public Question 12 | Karen Ferri, Teacher Laurier Senior High School**

Ms. Ferri noted that one of the selling points being use by the school board is a savings of 500 000\$ that will translate into more programs and services but where is the money coming from?

The Director General noted that funding is based on a per student amount funded by the Ministère de l'Éducation, du Loisir et du Sport (MELS) and with the reduction to administrative costs monies will be available to be reinvested in the system.

Ms. Karen asked about infrastructure investment?

The Director General explained that infrastructure falls under another budget and that this type of investment comes from mesure monies from the MELS.

Ms. Karen inquired as to whether or not there really is a savings?

The Director General indicated that a considerable amount of time was spent analyzing this and that yes there are savings and that these savings will be redirected back into schools.