



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 2 | Sector 2 | April 15, 2014  
Held at Terry Fox Elementary 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 gymnasium of Terry Fox Elementary School, 900, rue des Lacasse, Laval, QC on Tuesday, April 15, 2014.

During this meeting there was a presentation to explain the overview, framework and solutions regarding the Laval high schools. The same presentation will be repeated at the last of three public meetings; Thursday, April 24 at LSHS.

### Speaker Presentations

#### **Public Speaker 1 | Lisa Chartier, Chair of Laval Liberty High School Governing Board**

Ms. Chartier asked how the School Board and school administration would ensure equal representation of junior and senior parents with model 1 which would have one governing board when the ministry has no limitations on such a model. How does representation from 20 members with the same number of children have the same impact and accuracy as model 2 with 40 members or even currently with over 50 members on the four governing boards? How do we as a community, work towards developing the different dynamics, if we can't by law limit parents from nomination at assembly?

The Director General responded noting that the Laval high schools, under Model 1, would not be unique within Québec with a large student population and 20 members on the Governing Board, because that is the most members allowed by the Education Act (R.S.Q., Chapter I-13.3). She reminded everyone that the Parent Participation Organization (PPO) is also a consultative body of the Governing Board as per the law. With respect to the number of members from the junior and senior level in Model 1, the Provisional Governing Board would make a recommendation as to what would be the fairest distribution of parents, teachers, and other members.

Ms. Chartier noted that under Model 2 parent representation would be double because there would be two Governing Boards; one per school.

#### **Public Speaker 2 | Ailsa Pehi, Parent from Souvenir Elementary School**

Ms. Pehi made the following statement:

*"I want to begin with an extract from the consultation document that has been presented this evening:*

*The SWLSB endeavors to provide the best services possible to its students while rationalizing the allocation and use of its human, financial and material resources and this in the best interest of the students.*

*This being said and according to what we have heard this evening about both school models with respect to the allocation and use of its human, financial and material resources, there is no clear advantage or disadvantage to either choice of model and the few differences, as stated by Ms Vucko, are negligible.*

*Going back to PHASE I without going into the details and without focusing blame, the general feeling has been that the suggestions, recommendations or proposals put forth during PHASE I, were not taken into consideration when the Commissioners voted to move forward with the address change. As a result the community has experienced a sense of disconnection for many reasons but mainly because of a breakdown in communication."*

Ms. Pehi went on to ask the following questions:

**Question 1)** On June 3, 2014, once the consultation period on PHASE II is over and the board has received the various suggestions, recommendations or proposals from various community members and groups, if there is clearly a preference for one of the two models, will these be considered during the decision process?

The Chairman responded that any questionnaires, briefs or other documentation in response to the consultation on the reorganization of the Laval high schools for 2015-2016 would be posted on the website.

The Director General added that they would be posted on the website after the close of the consultation period ending June 3, 2014.

**Question 2)** Are the suggestions, recommendations or proposals considered public record and if so how can we access this information?

The Chairman noted that the consultation documents are of public record.

**Question 3)** Once the Commissioners have voted on a model, will the School Board inform us of the thought process behind the decision and how will the decision be communicated to the stakeholders?

The Chairman advised that after the final decision is adopted at the June Council meeting, highlights will be posted on the website the following morning, whether Model 1 or Model 2 is to be implemented as the solution to the reorganization of the Laval high schools.

## Open Question Period for the Public

### Public Question 1 | Ailsa Pehi, Parent from Souvenir Elementary School

Ms. Pehi asked if the students of the Governing Board of a high school have the right to vote.

The Assistant Director General advised that the Governing Board of a senior high school (grades 9, 10 and 11) has two student representatives appointed by the Student Council and that they do have the right to vote.

### Public Question 2 | Michael Messina, a student from Laurier Senior High School

Mr. Messina asked the Chairman and the Director General if they had any plans to meet with the students of the four Laval high schools.

The Director General indicated that she and the Chairman would meet the students of the Laval high schools prior to the June exam period.

Mr. Messina also asked about the status of the labs for the schools for the 2014-2015 school year.

The Assistant Director General advised that the labs have been visited by Principals, the Director of Material Resources and herself and that there is sufficient lab space to accommodate the science classes.

The Director General noted that one of focuses within Phase I is safety and security and while that focus will shift to the aspects of need within Phase II.

### Public Question 3 | A concerned Parent

The parent expressed concerns with respect to drugs and theft within the schools and asked what the School Board intended to do to ensure that these issues are not a problem when the change of address takes place?

The Director General advised that the School Board is in the final stages of the development of a drug prevention plan as it does not tolerate drug or theft. All employees of the schools and centres of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board are vigilant in trying to prevent the use or sale of drugs and in the education of its students to make the right choices and not become involved in this type of behaviour.

### Public Question 4 | Tanya, a student from Laurier Senior High School

Ms. Tanya asked why there was no consultation on Phase I, the change of address of the schools.

The Chairman advised that the School Board is not required to consult on how it organizes its facilities, however, under the law, it must consult at least 1 year in advance if it intends on closing schools, which is technically what will occur once Model 1 or Model 2 is chosen for implementation.

The Director General indicated that the Deeds of Establishment, which are technically the organization of each facility under the jurisdiction of the School Board, are consulted upon internally while the closure of a school or schools is subject to a public consultation.

#### **Public Question 5 | Joanne, a Parent from Mother Teresa Junior High School**

Ms. Joanne expressed concern over the academic success of the students with the impending changes and inquired what the School Board intended to do to prevent “West Side Story or an us versus them” type situations whereby students may feel threatened by old adversaries?

The Director General noted that the staff of the schools have had meetings and discussions and will continue these to ensure that the transition is smooth for themselves as well as the students. The Assistant Director General has met with the four Student Councils to find out what transitional activities they have planned. Everyone must remember that many of these students were friends in elementary school, are still friends and will re-establish friendships.

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

A concerned parent noted that many students chose to attend a different school in Laval not to be in the presence of former students whom they did not get along with, and asked if the School Board could use the e-push format to provide the Laval parents affected by the upcoming change of address with regular updates on the progress of the changes?

The Director General noted that the four Laval high school Principals were present this evening and asked them to ensure that the parents are provided with regular updates on activities that are being planned for the transition.

She further noted that there is a provincial law on violence and anti-bullying in effect and that all school boards are required to adhere to. The Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board is very conscientious in ensuring that the aspects of the law are followed. If a parent sees or hears something that is of concern to them, it would be very much appreciated if they would report it to the school administration or the School Board because everyone takes part in ensuring the students' safety and security.

#### **Public Question 7 | Lisa Chartier, a Parent from Laval Liberty High School**

Ms. Chartier asked if the cameras within the four Laval high schools are in good working condition as some have been in place for close to 10 years.

The Director General indicated that she did not have the answer to this question and that she would ensure that it is answered and posted in the Q & A section for the Laval high schools on the website.

*After verification, we can confirm that the cameras are working and being used every day.*

#### **Public Question 8 | Lisa – a Parent from Laurier Senior High School**

Ms. Lisa asked if the School Board would consider having security guards in place in the two buildings during the transition period as it would make everyone involved feel safer.

The Chairman noted that this would be taken under advisement but that the majority of these students already are in each other's presence on a daily basis because they travel together on the STL busses and there have been no major problems reported to date.

The Assistant Director General noted that Student Supervisors are present in the schools on a daily basis as well as Peace Officers from the Laval Police who are present off and on during the school year presenting education programs to the students. The implementation of the new house system within the senior school will also provide support during the transition.

### **Next public meeting**

- April 24, 2014 - Laurier Senior High School auditorium at 7:30 p.m.