



Sir Wilfrid Laurier Administrators' Association

May 16, 2014

Nick Milas
Chairman of the Council of Commissioners
Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board

Dear Mr. Milas,

In response to the public consultation package regarding the two models of reorganization for the Laval High Schools to be implemented for the 2015-2016 school year, the Sir Wilfrid Laurier Administrators' Association passed a resolution on May 13, 2014 supporting the 2nd Model: Two (2) high schools, one (1) junior and one (1) senior with two (2) Principals and two (2) Governing Boards.

The SWLAA considers it important to clarify our reasons for supporting the 2nd model. Those reasons include the following:

1. Given that the School Board has always declared pedagogy its first priority, the SWL Administrators' Association maintains that the Principal is the pedagogical leader in a school. Model #1 would effectively change that role and turn the Principal into a Manager, due to the size of the school, which we feel would be a disservice to the entire community.
2. Having experience with other schools that are in 2 buildings (e.g. St. Vincent Elementary, St. Paul Elementary), this creates additional and unnecessary difficulties for the staff and administration especially when one factors in the size and population of both buildings.
3. The community of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board is accustomed to having relatively easy access to the School Principal. This access allows Principals to build positive relationships with staff, parents and students. In turn, these positive relationships are the cornerstone of a successful school. This would be exceedingly difficult to accomplish in a school with a population of 3000 students.
4. In order to effectively manage a school, the Principal needs to be a visible presence. One Principal for two buildings would make this impossible.

The Sir Wilfrid Laurier Administrators' Association would also like to emphasize that although we unanimously support the implementation of Model #2 for the 2015-2016 school year, the Association feels that the number of Vice-Principals in each building is inadequate to manage the student population and that each school should have an additional administrator.

Thank you for addressing these concerns and for taking the time to consider the opinion of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier Administrators' Association.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Karen Lorenz".

Karen Lorenz
President - SWLAA

