

PROVINCE OF QUEBEC**MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE SIR WILFRID LAURIER SCHOOL BOARD HELD ON 2013-01-16**

A special meeting of the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board was held in the boardroom of the Administration Centre, 235 Montée Lesage, Rosemere, QC on Wednesday, 2013-01-16

Present: Commissioners Nick Milas, Chairman; Georges Benoit, Steve Bletas (via Skype), Mario Di Domenico, Guy Gagnon, Steve Kmec, Elio Lattanzio, Peter MacLaurin, Steve Mitchell, Merle Parkinson (via telephone); Mike Pizzola, William Pollock and Nancy Rupnik; Parent Commissioner Roberto Bomba and Stephanie Vucko, Director General.

Also present were: Clifford Buckland, Interim Assistant Director General; Marie-Claude Drouin, Secretary General; Gaëlle Absolonne, Director of School Organization; Robin Bennett, Director of Information Technology; Linda Di Domenico, Director of Human Resources; Frédéric Greschner, Director of Complementary Services; Daniel Hogue, Director of Material Resources; Tina Korb, Director of Educational Services; Livia Nassivera, Director of Financial Resources; and Jocelyne Thompson-Ness, Administrative Assistant. Several other persons were also in the audience.

Absent: Nazario Facchino, Vice-Chairman; Commissioners Robert Dixon, Tom Mouhteros, Grace Nesi, Albina Pace and Edward Turchyniak; and Parent Commissioner Angelo Grasso.

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 19:33 hours.

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and wished them all the best for 2013.

0.0 ACCEPTANCE OF AGENDA

The Chairman advised that quorum is achieved.

CC-130116-CA-0103

Commissioner Steve Kmec MOVED THAT the agenda be approved as presented in document #SWLSB-2013/01/16-CA-001.

Carried unanimously

1.0 2013-2014 ENROLMENT CRITERIA

The Chairman introduced the new Director General of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board, Stephanie Vucko, and welcomed her to the school board and the table.

The Director General expressed her appreciation to the Chairman for the warm introduction and thanked all the parents, employees and stakeholders for being present this evening.

The Secretary General presented and reviewed the final version of the 2013-2014 enrolment criteria noting that the feedback received from the consultation with the Parents Committee was taken into consideration. She drew attention to the changes made since the end of the extended consultation.

She also referred to the fact that, although there are ongoing discussions concerning the use of St-Paul & Terry Fox Elementary Schools as well as the use of the Laval high schools, it is still necessary to adopt the enrolment criteria for the 2013-2014 school year in order to meet requirements of the Education Act (R.S.Q., Chapter I-13.3).

CC-130116-TS-0104

WHEREAS section 239 of the Education Act (R.S.Q., Chapter I-13.3) states that each year, the school board must adopt an enrolment criteria;

WHEREAS the section 193 (6) of the Education Act requires that the Parents' Committee be consulted on the enrolment criteria;

WHEREAS the registration period for students for 2013-2014, as per the policy, is as follows:

- The first week of February for re-registrations (February 4 – 8, 2013); and
- The second week of February until the last working day of March for (new) registrations (February 11 – March 29, 2013);

WHEREAS the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board Parents Committee has been consulted on Policy #2012-TS-04: Enrollment Criteria 2013-2014 and its feedback received and taken into consideration;

Commissioner Mike Pizzola MOVED THAT, on the recommendation of the Executive Committee, the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board adopt Policy #2012-TS-04: Enrollment Criteria 2013-2014.

Carried unanimously

Commissioner Merle Parkinson excused herself from the meeting.

TIME: 19:51 hours

2.0 QUESTION PERIOD

In response to questions from the parents, teachers and stakeholders with respect to the Use of St-Paul & Terry Fox Elementary Schools, the Use of the Laval High Schools, and the enrolment criteria the Chairman, with the assistance of the Assistant Director General, the Secretary General and the Directors, noted the following:

Use of the Laval High Schools:

- option of one junior and one senior high school Laval could be considered by the Committee on the Future of the Laval High Schools as a long term solution;
- the Acceleration Learning Program (ALP) will be at Mother Teresa Junior High School for the 2013-2014 school year;
- there are no attendance zones for the high schools in Laval;
- ALP will not be moved for 2013-2014 even if Mother Teresa Junior High School is over crowded;
- the "first come first served" adage no longer applies when registering for a school during the re-registration and registration periods. Once all re-registrations and registrations are received, the enrolment criteria will be applied if the school is at capacity. New registrations received after the re-registration and registration periods will be considered on a "first come first served" basis.

Enrolment Criteria:

- the enrolment criteria is an annual obligation of the school board and that the 2012-2013 school year was the first time in many years that the criteria had to be applied.
- the enrolment criteria is usually adopted in December but this year it was extended in order to address the concerns of the Parents Committee;
- the "tie breaker" process, if it needs to be applied, will be written by the administration of the school board and communicated to those it applies to. The first step in the process is for the re-registration and registration periods to be concluded, the order of priority applied, and then, if required, the implementation of a tie breaker;

Use of St-Paul & Terry Fox Elementary Schools:

- all feedback received on the consultation of the use of St-Paul & Terry Fox Elementary Schools was presented at the School Organization & Transportation Committee where they were reviewed, discussed and filtered to the point where 3 options were established. Some recommendations received would be subject to a year long consultation in order to meet legal requirements;
- an Ad Hoc Committee will be created at the 2013-01-23 meeting of the Council to look at what can be done on a long term basis for the Laval elementary schools;
- the Council is respecting the mandate given to the school community at its 2012-10-24 meeting and will provide solid answers as to why an option was not selected;
- at a meeting on 2013-01-14, the Governing Board of Terry Fox Elementary School was told that if they resubmitted its original brief it would be re-reviewed;
- with respect to the “grandfathering” entirely or partially within the enrolment criteria and the 3 options for consultation, this was drafted in a legal manner in order to be as inclusive as possible and to leave as many options open until such a time as a decision is taken by the Council for the use of St-Paul & Terry Fox Elementary Schools;
- the role of a Governing Board is to listen to its community;
- the role of a Governing Board, once elected, is to represent the parents under the Education Act (R.S.Q., Chapter I-13.3) and make decisions on behalf of them.

Parent Commissioner Roberto Bomba entered the meeting.

TIME: 19:56 hours

The Chairman advised that there will be a special caucus of Council on Monday, 2013-01-21 to continue the process towards making a decision.

On a “point of order”, Commissioner Peter MacLaurin stated that the Council must be as equitable as possible, it has spent a significant amount of time on this dossier and is doing its due diligence as elected officials.

The Director of School Organization & Transportation gave a detailed example of the enrolment process to be conducted after receipt of the re-registrations and the registrations noting that if your registration or re-registration arrives after the deadline date it will be handled on a first come first served basis.

The Chairman thanked everyone for taking the time to come to this meeting and ask their questions.

3.0 ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING:

Commissioner Elio Lattanzio MOVED adjournment of the meeting.

Carried unanimously

TIME: 20:44 hours

NEXT MEETING ⇨ REGULAR ⇨ 2013-01-23