

**PROVINCE OF QUEBEC**

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE SIR WILFRID LAURIER SCHOOL BOARD HELD ON 2013-02-27**

A regular 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, 2013-02-27.

Present: Commissioners Nick Milas, Chairman; Georges Benoit, Steve Bletas (via Skype), Guy Gagnon, Steve Kmec, Elio Lattanzio, Steve Mitchell, Grace Nesi, Albina Pace, Merle Parkinson (via telephone); Mike Pizzola, Nancy Rupnik and Edward Turchyniak (via Skype); Parent Commissioner Angelo Grasso; 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; Johanne Brabant, Strategic Plan Advisor; Anne-Marie Lavoie, Assistant-Director of Human Resources; Frédéric Greschner, Director of Complementary Services; Heather Halman, Director of Adult Education & Vocational Training; Daniel Hogue, Director of Material Resources; Tina Korb, Director of Educational Services; Livia Nassivera, Director of Financial Resources; and Manon Monette, Administrative Assistant. Several other persons were also in the audience.

Absents: Nazario Facchino, Vice-Chairman Commissioners Mario Di Domenico, Robert Dixon, Peter MacLaurin, and William Pollock; and Parent Commissioner Roberto Bomba.

The Chairman called the meeting to order.

**TIME:19:35 hours**

**1.0 ACCEPTANCE OF AGENDA:**

The following addition to the agenda was proposed:

10.0 VARIA:

10.1 OQLF ..... INFO

**CC-130227-CA-0116**

Commissioner Angelo Grasso MOVED THAT the agenda be approved as amended in document #SWLSB-2013/02/27-CA-001.

**Carried unanimously**

**2.0 APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**CC-130227-CA-0117**

Commissioner Steve Kmec MOVED THAT the minutes of the REGULAR meeting of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board held on 2013-01-23 having been received by all members prior to this meeting, be approved as written.

<b>THIS MOTION WAS CARRIED ON THE FOLLOWING DIVISION:</b>	
<b>Commissioners voting YEA:</b>	<b>Georges Benoit, Steve Bletas, Guy Gagnon, Steve Kmec, Elio Lattanzio, Nick Milas, Steve Mitchell, Albina Pace, Mike Pizzola, Nancy Rupnik, Edward Turchyniak</b>
<b>Commissioners ABSTAINING:</b>	<b>Grace Nesi</b>

### 3.0 QUESTION PERIOD

Two questions were received were raised by e-mail. Since the people advised that they would not be present in the audience, a response will be sent by e-mail to them.

### 4.0 REPORT FROM THE CHAIRMAN:

#### 4.1 *Chairman's Report:*

The Chairman reported on the following items :

- Quebec English School Boards Association (QESBA) launched a petition concerning Bill 14 that will eventually be deposited at the National Assembly. He also noted that military parents are fighting to keep their exemption permitting them to send their children to English language schools. The link for the petition will appear on the corporate website and he encouraged everyone to support this petition;
- He reported on his meeting with Mrs. Lortie, President of Commission Scolaire de Laval where discussion took place on the school tax issue and the structure of the Council and different committees at their School Board;
- On 2013-02-22 he and the Director General met with Jean Roussel, Deputy for Vimont, who expressed concern over the Terry Fox Elementary school situation; and
- He noted his attendance at the CRC Robotics Competition at Laval Liberty High School on 2013-02-21 and that he was very impressed by the huge participation of Cegep and high schools students and the amount of talent found at such an event.

He concluded his report by confirming that school elections will be held on 2014-11-02.

The Secretary General informed the Council that any requests for additional electoral divisions must be submitted by 2013-03-22.

The Council entered into discussion and it was recommended that the resolution for electoral divisions submitted in 2009 be reviewed prior to making a decision on re-submitting. It was suggested that an information session, caucus or special council meeting be held to do this.

Commissioner Pizzola proposed to re-submit the resolution adopted in 2009 requesting 9 electoral divisions.

### CC-130227-CA-0118

Commissioner Mike Pizzola MOVED THAT the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board resubmit resolution # CC-091216-CA-0073 concerning the division of its territory to the Ministère de l'Éducation, du Loisir et du Sport (MELS).

<b>THIS MOTION WAS DEFEATED ON THE FOLLOWING DIVISION:</b>	
<b>Commissioners voting YEA:</b>	<b>Georges Benoit, Guy Gagnon, Nick Milas, Steve Mitchell, Mike Pizzola</b>
<b>Commissioners voting NAY:</b>	<b>Steve Bletas, Steve Kmec, Elio Lattanzio, Grace Nesi, Albina Pace, Nancy Rupnik, Edward Turchyniak</b>

Several Commissioners requested that this topic be discussed further and that a decision be taken prior to 2013-03-22.

**4.2 Report of the Ethics Commissioner:**

The Chairman moved that the Council go “in camera”.

**TIME: 20:05 hours**

The meeting resumed.

**TIME: 20:24 hours**

There was no further discussion on this topic.

Commissioner Merle Parkinson entered the meeting via telephone.

**TIME: 20:25 hours**

**4.3 Director General's Report:**

The Director General reported on visits to schools and centres, various meetings

- February was punctuated with some more “Meet and Greets” of various group;
- A few school visits of Adult Education Centres, Elementary and High Schools were made;
- Following a meeting with people from the MELS, the SWL Partnership Agreement, along with the Strategic Plan, will be revised to align with their criteria;
- Concerning PLC, ESD is working as to revive it. Strategies to provide support are evolving and encouragement to use strength within everyone is the key role for the Professional Learning Committee (PLC);
- The School Board Management team realized that the past School Boards’ amalgamation is still having repercussions today. The staff was asked to complete a task description form and an analysis of them will be done. The Directors were asked to review their staffing needs and the organigram of each department is also revised; and
- the MELS granted additional fundings for the “Centre Multi-Services” project that SWL has with CSSMI. This great news will allow SWL to give options that would have been impossible otherwise.

She concluded her report by wishing everyone a restful March Break.

**5.0 BUSINESS ARISING:****5.1 Update on Commissioner Vacancy:**

The position if Commissioner of Ward 18 being vacant, the Secretary General confirmed that the vacancy will be filled via a by-election. The advance polling will be held on April 21, 2013, and the by-election on 2013-04-28.

**6.0 DECISION ITEMS:****6.1 FINANCIAL RESOURCES****6.1.1 Engagement of Auditors 2012-2013:**

The Director of Financial Resources explained that the contract for the auditing services is coming to an end but that it provides for a renewal option. The Financial Resources Committee recommends that the renewal option be applied.

**CC-130227-FR-0119**

WHEREAS the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board adopted resolution #CC-100428-FR-0128, engaging Raymond Chabot Grant Thornton s.e.n.c.r.l. to conduct auditing services for the 2009-2010, 2010-2011 and 2011-2012 fiscal year;

WHEREAS this contract has a renewal option clause; of up to 2 years, renewable annually

Commissioner Merle Parkinson MOVED THAT, on the recommendation of the Financial Resources Committee, the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board apply the renewable option clause of its contract with **Raymond Chabot Grant Thornton s.e.n.c.r.l.** to conduct auditing services for the 2012-2013 fiscal year.

AND THAT the cost of this auditing service for the 2012-2013 school year be 39,000\$ before taxes (44 840,25\$, all taxes included).

**Carried unanimously**

**6.1.2 Budget Cuts 2013-2014:**

The Director of Financial Resources summarized the budget cuts announced for 2013-2014, the options offered to absorb those cuts and what was reduced in the 2007-2011 Financial Recovery Plan.

**CC-130227-FR-0120**

WHEREAS the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board adopted resolution #CC-081210-FR-0072, approving the 2008-2013 Financial Recovery Plan;

WHEREAS in order to adopt this Financial Recovery Plan, substantial cuts had to be made in different areas and management and staffing practices were reviewed;

WHEREAS additional cuts were made for a total amount of 2 600 000\$ in the 2011-2012 and 2012-2013 school years under the Government's general effort to attain a balanced budget;

WHEREAS the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board is also abiding by Bill 100: An Act to implement certain provisions of the Budget Speech of 30 march 2010, reduce the debt and return to a balanced budget in 2013-2014, hence, reducing staffing at the Administrative level since the 2009-2010 school year and administrative expenses by 10% by 2013-2014;

WHEREAS additional cuts were announced by the Québec Government for 2013-2014 which will impact the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board for approximately 3 500 000\$, in addition to the cuts already sustained;

WHEREAS the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board cannot make any additional cuts without affecting services to students;

Commissioner Steve Mitchell MOVED THAT, on the recommendation of the Executive Committee, the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board denounce the current situation of yearly recurrent and new budget cuts to school boards.

AND THAT, subject to the deposit of the 2013-2014 budget parameters, the announced budget cuts to the taxation envelope of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board be absorbed by the taxpayers.

AND THAT the Directorate be mandated to establish and implement a communication plan addressed to all stakeholders regarding the budget cuts.

AND THAT a letter be sent to the Ministre de l'Éducation, du Loisir et du Sport denouncing the continuous budget cuts and their impact on the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board.

FURTHER THAT a copy of this resolution be sent to the Sous-ministre adjoint aux Services à la communauté anglophone, aux affaires autochtones et au Plan Nord, Members of the National Assembly for Laval-Laurentides-Lanaudière, all English school boards and the Quebec English School Boards Association (QESBA).

**Carried unanimously**

## **6.2 SCHOOL ORGANIZATION & TRANSPORTATION**

### **6.2.1 2013-2014 Deeds of Establishment & Three-Year Plan:**

The Director of School Organization distributed a document titled "Deed of Establishment 2013 – 8 Monseigneur Lafortune" showing that the building is in excess to Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board. This document was received from the Ministère de l'Éducation, du Loisir et du Sport (MELS) late this afternoon and is to be added to the 2013-2014 Deeds of Establishment.

### **CC-130227-CA-0121**

WHEREAS section 211 of the Education Act (R.S.Q., chapter I-13.3) requires the school board each year to establish a three-year plan of allocation and destination of its immovables;

WHEREAS section 211 also requires the school board to draw up, in accordance with the plan, a list of its schools and of its vocational training and adult education centres and issue a deed of establishment to them;

Commissioner Georges Benoit MOVED THAT, on the recommendation of the School Organization Committee and the Executive Committee, the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board approve in principle proposed policy #2013-CA-02: Deeds of Establishment and Three Year Plan for Allocation and Destination of Immovables.

AND THAT this policy be subject to a consultation beginning on 2013-03-11 and ending on 2013-05-09.

**Carried unanimously**

## **6.3 INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY**

### **6.3.1 GRICS Voting Delegates:**

The Secretary General advised that with the replacement and appointment of a new Director General and a new Director of Information Technology, it is necessary for the school board to appoint new voting delegates to GRICS.

**CC-130227-IT-0122**

WHEREAS the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board approved resolution #CC-120229-IT-0083, naming the Director General and the Director of Information Technology as voting and alternate voting delegates, respectively, to the Société de gestion du réseau informatique des commissions scolaires (GRICS);

WHEREAS resolution #CC-120229-IT-0083 also indicated that the resolution is in effect until replaced;

WHEREAS the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board has named a new Director General and a new Director of Information Technology;

Commissioner Guy Gagnon MOVED THAT the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board name Stephanie Vucko, Director General, as the official delegate of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board to the Société de gestion du réseau informatique des commissions scolaires (GRICS) for all Annual General Meetings and to exercise the powers inherent.

AND THAT if the official delegate is absent or unable to act, Robin Bennett, Director of Information Technology, be named as alternate delegate of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board to the Société de gestion du réseau informatique des commissions scolaires (GRICS) for all Annual General Meetings.

FURTHER THAT this resolution cancels and replaces any other resolution naming an official delegate to the Annual General Meetings of the Société de gestion du réseau informatique des commissions scolaires (GRICS).

**Carried unanimously**

<b>6.4 HUMAN RESOURCES</b>
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**6.4.1 Local Arrangements – SEPB 577:**

The Assistant Director of Human Resources, in the absence of the Director of Human Resources, advised that an agreement in principle was reached with the Support Staff affiliated with SEPB577. She summarized the major changes in explaining the reduction in the printing of the collective agreements to members, how the religious holidays and special days will be treated and that the justification of “force majeure” will be reinforced by asking for a proof each time a day is taken in such event.

In response to a question from Commissioner Edward Turchyniak, the Chairman noted that although the actual costs and saving of the agreement in principle was presented at the Human Resources Committee, the report of those amounts will be presented at next Council.

**CC-130227-HR-0123**

WHEREAS the 2008-2010 Local Arrangements between the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board and the Syndicat des employées et employés professionnel-les et de bureau – FTQ, Local 577, concluded on 2010-03-31 and is in effect until replaced;

WHEREAS the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board ratified the agreement in principle on 2013-02-12 with the Syndicat des employées et employés professionnel-les et de bureau – FTQ, Local 577, SWLSB; on those matters subject to local arrangements;

WHEREAS the negotiations have been completed to the satisfaction of the representatives of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board;

WHEREAS the Syndicat des employées et employés professionnel-les et de bureau – FTQ, Local 577, SWLSB has advised that the negotiations have been completed and wishes to sign the agreement with the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board;

Commissioner Nancy Rupnik MOVED THAT, on the recommendation of the Human resources Committee and the Executive Committee, the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board approve the 2010-2015 Local Arrangements between the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board and the Syndicat des employées et employés professionnel-les et de bureau – FTQ, Local 577, SWLSB; as they appear in document #SWLSB-2013/02/27-HR-001.

AND THAT the 2010-2015 Local Arrangements between the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board and the Syndicat des employées et employés professionnel-les et de bureau – FTQ, Local 577, come into effect upon signing.

FURTHER THAT the Chairman, and in his absence or with his knowledge the Vice-Chairman, as well as the Director General, and in her absence or with her knowledge the Deputy Director General, be authorized to sign all documentation concerning these negotiations.

<b>THIS MOTION WAS CARRIED ON THE FOLLOWING DIVISION:</b>	
<b>Commissioners voting YEA:</b>	<b>Georges Benoit, Steve Bletas, Guy Gagnon, Elio Lattanzio, Nick Milas, Steve Mitchell, Grace Nesi, Albina Pace, Merle Parkinson, Mike Pizzola, Nancy Rupnik, Edward Turchyniak</b>
<b>Commissioners ABSTAINING:</b>	<b>Steve Kmec</b>

## **6.5 COMMUNICATIONS & CORPORATE AFFAIRS**

### **6.5.1 Report of the Student Ombudsman:**

The Secretary General advised that the parents of a student filed a complaint to the Student Ombudsman on 2012-11-22. Following his investigation, the Student Ombudsman provided his recommendations in the report presented to the Council of Commissioners.

#### **CC-130227-CA-0124**

WHEREAS the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board adopted by-law #BL2009-CA-19: By-Law Establishing Procedures for the Examination of Complaints from Students or their Parents;

WHEREAS this by-law establishes the procedure for the intervention of the Student Ombudsman when all other avenues have been exhausted;

WHEREAS the parent of “Student MZ” was dissatisfied with the outcome of a decision regarding “Student MZ”;

WHEREAS the parent of “Student MZ” complained to the Student Ombudsman, such complaint being received verbally on 2012-11-15 and documents sent via e-mail on 2012-11-22;

WHEREAS the Student Ombudsman provided the Council of Commissioners with his opinion on the merit of the complaint;

WHEREAS the Student Ombudsman concludes that this is an unfortunate case of missed opportunities due to an unintentional mistake and to personal reasons;

WHEREAS the Student Ombudsman is not recommending any changes for the balance of the 2012-2013 school year but would like to ensure that all students receive the re-registration forms on the exact same date, this year and in the future;

Commissioner Albina Pace MOVED THAT the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board receive the report of the Student Ombudsman regarding the complaint of parent of "Student MZ".

AND THAT, after having reviewed this opinion, determines that **no further** action is necessary except to mandate the Director of School Organization & Transportation to advise the family of the space available at the school and of the process taking place should "Student MZ" re-apply to Mother Teresa Junior High School for the 2013-2014 school year.

<b>THIS MOTION WAS CARRIED ON THE FOLLOWING DIVISION:</b>	
<b>Commissioners voting YEA:</b>	<b>Georges Benoit, Steve Bletas, Guy Gagnon, Elio Lattanzio, Nick Milas, Steve Mitchell, Grace Nesi, Albina Pace, Merle Parkinson, Mike Pizzola, Nancy Rupnik, Edward Turchyniak</b>
<b>Commissioners ABSTAINING:</b>	<b>Steve Kmec</b>

#### **CC-130227-CA-0125**

Parent Commissioner Angelo Grasso MOVED THAT the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board mandate the Chairman of the Council of Commissioners to address the concern in the delay for the treatment of a complaint in writing to the Student Ombudsman of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board to remind him that in the future, the procedures contained in By-Law #2010-CA-19: By-Law Establishing Procedures for the Examination of Complaints from Students or Their Parents, are to be respected.

**Carried unanimously**

## **6.6 MATERIAL RESOURCES**

### **6.6.1 Transfer of Former Joliette ES to CS des Samares:**

The Director of Material Resources provided background information on the transfer of the former Joliette Elementary School.

#### **CC-130227-MR-0126**

WHEREAS the Ministère de l'Éducation, du Loisir et du Sport (MELS) authorized the construction of a new building for Joliette Elementary School;

WHEREAS this project was completed for the start of the 2012-2013 school year;

WHEREAS the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board is not currently using the building and does not foresee any future use;

WHEREAS the Commission scolaire des Samares has expressed an interest in obtaining the former Joliette Elementary School located at 8, Monseigneur-Lafortune in Saint-Paul-de-Joliette (Québec), for administrative purposes;

WHEREAS the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board has received a resolution from the Commission scolaire des Samares offering to purchase the former Joliette Elementary School building located at 8, Monseigneur-Lafortune in Saint-Paul-de-Joliette (Québec) for the sum of 1,00\$;

Commissioner Merle Parkinson MOVED THAT, on the recommendation of the Material Resources Committee, the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board, subject to the approval of the Ministère de l'Éducation, du Loisir et du Sport (MELS), approve the transfer of the former Joliette Elementary School building to the Commission scolaire des Samares for the sum of 1,00\$, effective 2013-07-01 or, after, following receipt of the approval from the Ministère de l'Éducation, du Loisir et du Sport (MELS).

AND THAT the documents for the transfer to the Commission scolaire des Samares will be prepared by the Secretary General and will indicate that if the building is no longer used by the Commission scolaire des Samares, the property will revert back to the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board.

AND THAT all legal and other related costs to this transfer be covered by the Commission scolaire des Samares.

FURTHER THAT the Chairman, and in his absence or with his knowledge the Vice-Chairman, as well as the Director General, and in her absence or with her knowledge the Assistant Director General, be authorized to sign all documentation concerning this transfer.

**Carried unanimously**

## **7.0 INFORMATION ITEMS**

### **7.1 Reports of Committee Chairs:**

#### **7.1.1 Communications & Public Relations**

The report was e-mailed to all the members of the Council.

#### **7.1.2 Educational Services**

The report of the Chairman of the Education Committee highlighted the future of Phoenix Alternative High School, an update on the Arundel Nature & Science Centre, the results of the "Tell them from Me" survey, an update on the safe school plans, and the development of a data base to assist with the collection of information on bullying.

#### **7.1.3 Financial Resources**

The report of the Chairman of the Financial Resources Committee noted that at its last meeting the committee reviewed the feedback received from the school board on the weaknesses identified by the auditors and what steps have been recommended to resolve them. A presentation on the calculation of the tax rate was also informative.

### **7.2 SWL Foundation:**

Commissioner Edward Turchyniak advised the Council of the change in date for the Losbter event which will now will be held on 2013-06-12 rather than 2013-06-13.

### **7.3 Parent Commissioners Report**

Commissioner Angelo Grasso advised the Council that the EPCA has submitted a brief on Bill 14 and encouraged participation to the online petition.

### **7.4 Report of the QESBA:**

This was discussed under item 3.0.

## **8.0 QUESTION PERIOD:**

There were no questions.

**9.0 CORRESPONDENCE:**

The Chairman drew the Council's attention to the correspondence in the meeting package.

**10.0 VARIA:****10.1 OQLF**

Commissioner Mitchell discussed the complaint of the OQLF received at Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board concerning voice messages that have to be recorded in French first and read the following statement into the minutes:

*"The idea that the OQLF is coming into our English School Board and making demands that have resulted in our sending a memo to our staff requiring them to change their voicemail messages to respond in French before English?"*

*I'm sorry, but we have greater issues to deal with than this. Our employees have greater issues to deal with than this.*

*This school board respects and values the French language. We educate our students to be responsible, respectful, productive, bilingual citizens of this province.*

*This is a distraction, and I would respectfully submit that the monies being spent on this type of almost "vigilanteism" might be better off spent on education, and could reduce the disastrous cuts this Government is slamming us with, yet again.*

*We must demand that our Government value and invest in Education, and stop wasting our time, our energy and our money on this type of offensive, petty and and valueless attack that serves no purpose but to feed their radical political base."*

**11.0 ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING:**

Commissioner Albinna Pace MOVED adjournment of the meeting.

**Carried unanimously**

**TIME: 21:15 hours**

**NEXT MEETING ⇒ REGULAR ⇒ 2013-03-27**