

PROVINCE OF QUEBEC

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE SIR WILFRID LAURIER SCHOOL BOARD HELD ON 2013-03-27

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, 2013-03-27.

Present: Commissioners Nick Milas, Chairman; Nazario Facchino, Vice-Chairman; Georges Benoit, Mario Di Domenico, Robert Dixon, Guy Gagnon, Steve Kmec, Elio Lattanzio, Peter MacLaurin, Steve Mitchell, Grace Nesi, Albina Pace, Merle Parkinson (via telephone), William Pollock, Nancy Rupnik and Edward Turchyniak; Parent Commissioners Roberto Bomba and Angelo Grasso; and Stephanie Vucko, Director General.

Also present were: Clifford Buckland, Interim Assistant Director General; Gaëlle Absolonne, Director of School Organization; Robin Bennett, Director of Information Technology; Johanne Brabant, Strategic Plan Advisor; Linda Di Domenico, 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 Jocelyne Thompson-Ness, Administrative Assistant. Several other persons were also in the audience.

Absent: Commissioners Steve Bletas and Mike Pizzola; Marie-Claude Drouin, Secretary General.

The Chairman called the meeting to order.

TIME: 19:35 hours

1.0 ACCEPTANCE OF AGENDA:

CC-130327-CA-0127

Parent Commissioner Angelo Grasso MOVED THAT the agenda be approved as presented in document #SWLSB-2013/03/27-CA-001.

Carried unanimously

2.0 APPROVAL OF MINUTES

CC-130327-CA-0128

Commissioner Steve Kmec MOVED THAT the minutes of the REGULAR meeting of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board held on 2013-02-27 having been received by all members prior to this meeting, be approved as written.

THIS MOTION WAS CARRIED ON THE FOLLOWING DIVISION:	
Commissioners voting YEA:	Georges Benoit, Guy Gagnon, Steve Kmec, Elio Lattanzio, Nick Milas, Steve Mitchell, Grace Nesi, Albina Pace, Merle Parkinson, Nancy Rupnik, Edward Turchyniak
Commissioners ABSTAINING:	Mario Di Domenico, Robert Dixon, Nazario Facchino, Peter MacLaurin, William Pollock

3.0 QUESTION PERIOD

In response to a question from a Laval citizen, the Chairman indicated that the school board is still a part of the Laval Aquatic Park project but that the project is currently on hold.

In response to several concerns expressed by a parent from Terry Fox Elementary School, the Chairman advised

- that rezoning in Laval is an option being examined but that with whatever decision taken, it will be at least a year before it can be implemented as consultation would need to take place;
- a committee has been established to review and make recommendations concerning the use of the Laval high schools;
- that last year when Mother Teresa Junior High School reached its registration limit the school board transferred students on a first-come, first-served basis, and this was not well received;
- after consultation, the lottery was included as part of the enrolment criteria so as to make the transfer process more transparent and fair;
- there is a possibility that the lottery process will be part of next year's enrolment criteria; and
- the enrolment criterion is only applied when a school reaches its capacity.

In response to a question from a parent, the Chairman noted that until all the re-registration and registration forms are received the school board cannot predict which schools will be lacking student places.

4.0 REPORT FROM THE CHAIRMAN:

4.1 *Chairman's Report:*

The Chairman presented his monthly report noting the Course des pompiers at Centropolis Laval on 2013-06-02, the Montreal Impact game on 2013-03-23 where a student from Souvenir Elementary School and a student from Lake of Two Mountains High School received bursaries, and attendance at the Quebec English School Boards Association (QESBA) Virtual Professional Development Session on 2013-03-23

4.2 *Director General's Report:*

The Director General presented her monthly report noting the following:

- that a student from Ste-Agathe Academy will be representing Québec at the National Youth Advisory Committee ArtsSmarts 21st Century Youth Creativity Challenge;
- the Ministère de l'Éducation, du Loisir et du Sport (MELS) announcement that each school board in Québec will be funded for one (1) pre-Kindergarten (4 year old) class, 18 students, in an area that is either 9 or 10 on the socio-economic scale, with the stipulation that there be no increase in space within the building that will accommodate them. There will be training for the teachers who will be involved in the program;
- a recruitment workshop for in-school administrators where ten (10) people participated in three activities to gauge their potential as administrators. Those retained will participate in additional activities;
- staffing for the 2013-2014 school year is nearing completion;
- hosted the English Directors General table this month. School boards are to promote the new SOS Learn on-line tutorial program for grade 6 and high school students. The Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board will be advising the parents of this service via e-mail;
- a pilot project of virtual summer school is in the discussion phase. The Central Québec School Board provided this last summer and had great success with it;
- various changes have been proposed for Phoenix Alternative school will remain open and that with respect to the process, accountability and the requirements of the Basic School Regulation;
- the English Directors General sit at many tables and she will be representing the group at DEEN;

- administrative staffing is underway and she is not anticipating many changes;
- she is establishing her goals as a Director General;
- in order to have the Strategic Plan accepted by the MELS it is being revised taking into account the feedback received from them; and
- recent school closings due to inclement weather were not well received by some stakeholders but the school board's number one priority is the safety of its students. Closing of schools is not taken lightly and the process of closing a school can begin as early as 4 a.m. taking into account many factors such as the vastness of the territory, the different climates within the territory and transportation, before a final decision is taken. The media assists greatly in the process of closing schools when necessary but given the volume a media centre may receive on any given storm day it may not be delivered in due time nor portrayed in the format it was received. The process of closing schools is being reviewed and if there are any changes to be made to the process the Council will be informed.

In response to a question from Commissioner Steve Kmec, the Director General suggested that, given that the SOS LEARN is a new offering, that a participation report be made at the May meeting in order to allow time for students to register for the service.

5.0 BUSINESS ARISING:

5.1 Local Arrangements – SEPB 577 – Cost Savings:

In response to question from Commissioner Edward Turchyniak from the 2013-02-27 meeting of Council, the Director of Human Resources advised that two areas have been modified within the agreement so that monied days are used prior to social days. This change results in a savings of 5000\$ - 15 000\$ for the two days for this group of employees.

6.0 DECISION ITEMS:

6.1 MATERIAL RESOURCES

6.1.1 Change Orders – Joliette Elementary School:

The Director of Material Resources presented the change orders for the Joliette Elementary School construction project noting that the project is now complete.

In response to a question from Commissioner Merle Parkinson, the Director of Material Resources advised that more detailed information on the portion of the construction project not financed will be provided at the next meeting of the Material Resources Committee.

CC-130327-MR-0129

WHEREAS, in conformity with the public call for tenders and the bid retained, the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board adopted resolution #CC-110330-MR-0069 awarding the contract for the construction of the new Joliette Elementary School to **Construction De Castel** for the total amount of 4 315 567,00\$, (4 916 509,70\$ taxes included);

WHEREAS the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board adopted resolution #CC-120627-MR-0189 approving change orders amounting to 802 791,15\$, before taxes;

WHEREAS, more change orders were anticipated and presented to the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board in June 2012, along with resolution #CC-120627-MR-0189;

WHEREAS the costs of these anticipated change orders are now confirmed and final, and amount to 385 166,61\$, before taxes;

Commissioner Merle Parkinson MOVED THAT, on the recommendation of the Director of Material Resources Services, the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board approve the change orders in the amount of 385 166,61\$, before taxes (438 800,50\$, taxes included).

AND THAT the total cost of the project, including the change orders, be increased to 5 503 524,76\$ before taxes (6 269 890,58\$, taxes included).

AND THAT the Director of Material Resources be mandated to submit a request for reimbursement in the amount of 619 511,08\$, before taxes, under the Defect in Construction / Litigation Measure.

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

Carried unanimously

6.2 HUMAN RESOURCES

6.2.1 Selection Committee – Director of Financial Resources:

The Chairman presented the following and asked that it be included in the minutes:

“As you know, tonight we are losing a very important member of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier Family- Livia Nassivera, Director of Financial Resources.

During her 11 years with our board, Livia has played a key role in keeping us on track and has seen us through a couple of financial recovery plans. It is because of her professionalism, passion and energy that we have made it through those difficult times!

*Livia is an expert in explaining the MELS budget parameters, whether it be **THE OLD WAY OR THE NEW WAY**. She has always been there to answer our many questions and I thank her for her patience!!*

Livia, we are sad to say good-bye and we wish you much success at EMSB!”

The Chairman presented Livia with flowers and a gift on behalf of the Council

Commissioner Merle Parkinson, as Chair of the Financial Resources committee, wished Ms. Nassivera all the best in her future endeavours and extended appreciation for all of her work over the past 11 years

The Director of Human Resources advised that the position of Director of Financial Resources has been posted, will close on 2013-04-08 and interviews are scheduled for 2013-04-12. As of today seven (7) people have applied for the position. Given that, in accordance with school board policy a Selection Committee for the interviews for Director of Financial Resources must be established.

Commissioner Albina Pace nominated Commissioner Merle Parkinson for the Selection Committee. Commissioner Parkinson accepted the nomination.

Commissioner Edward Turchyniak nominated Commissioner Steve Mitchell for the Selection Committee. Commissioner Mitchell accepted the nomination on the condition that no one else was nominated.

Commissioner William Pollock nominated Commissioner Edward Turchyniak. Commissioner Turchyniak declined the nomination as he has a previous commitment.

Commissioner Steve Kmec nominated Commissioner Nick Milas. Commissioner Milas accepted the nomination.

CC-130327-HR-0130

WHEREAS the Director of Financial Resources has given notice of resignation, effective 2013-03-28;

WHEREAS the position was posted on 2013-03-22 and will close on 2013-04-08;

WHEREAS, in accordance section 5.2 of policy #2000-HR-02: Regulating the Working Conditions of Management Staff Represented by the Sir Wilfrid Laurier Section of the Association des cadres scolaires du Québec (ACSQ), the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board is required to form a Selection Committee for the engagement of a new Director of Financial Resources;

WHEREAS this Selection Committee must include three commissioners;

Commissioner Edward Turchyniak MOVED THAT the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board establish a Selection Committee for the selection of a new Director of Financial Resources.

AND THAT this Selection Committee be comprised of the following:

Nick Milas	Director General
Steve Mitchell	Director of Human Resources
Merle Parkinson	ACSQ Representative

Carried unanimously

In response to a question from Commissioner Steve Kmec, the Director General advised that she would be overseeing Financial Resources until a replacement is named. She also noted that Ms. Nassivera will be lending assistance one day per week given the upcoming deposit of the budget parameters.

7.0 INFORMATION ITEMS

7.1 Reports of Committee Chairs:

There were no reports.

7.2 SWL Foundation:

Commissioner Edward Turchyniak advised that the Sir Wilfrid Laurier Foundation lobster dinner would be taking place on 2013-06-12.

7.3 Parent Commissioners Report

Parent Commissioner Angelo Grasso advised the Executive Committee that the English Parents Committee Association (EPCA) has prepared a brief concerning Bill 14 and has been invited to present it before the National Assembly on 2013-03-25.

In response to a question from Commissioner Robert Dixon, the Director General indicated that some high schools do have a position of Sports Coordinator but that it is funded through a grant. At this time the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board does not have this position as it is not mandated by the Ministère de l'Éducation, du Loisir et du Sport (MELS).

7.4 Report of the QESBA:

The Chairman advised that Bill 14 was discussed at length at the 2013-03-22 meeting of the Quebec English School Boards Association (QESBA) Board of Directors. The group has asked that Commissioners lobby their member of the National Assembly to vote against this Bill due to the negative impact on the English community.

7.5 Consortium Formation:

The Strategic Plan Advisor provided an update on Consortium Formation noting that the final version of the entente has been completed. She also noted that most of the businesses served are in Laval and that to date approximately 800 people from different sectors have received training.

In response to a question from Commissioner Edward Turchyniak, the Strategic Plan Advisor noted that when FormaClé was dissolved any residuals were divided among the partners. Since 2012-07-01 revenues have been generated so it is expected that there will be a profit.

In response to a question from the Chairman, the Strategic Plan Advisor indicated that the CRÉ is a regional education table that is chaired by the Directors General and is in no way affiliated with Consortium Formation although there is networking between the two groups.

8.0 QUESTION PERIOD:

In response to questions from Laura Di Vincenzo, a parent from Terry Fox Elementary School, the Chairman commented, as per earlier in the meeting, and added:

- there is no zone for high schools in Laval but creating a zone is an option;
- both are excellent schools and when one school reaches capacity students are directed to the other school as per the enrolment criteria; and
- students can re-apply to go to Mother Teresa Junior High School for the 2014-2015 school year.

In response to other questions from parents, the Chairman noted:

- the Accelerated Learning Program (ALP) was established at Mother Teresa Junior High School by a decision taken by the Council and requires an examination process in order to be admitted;
- the enrolment criteria is established annually and siblings are usually considered when drafting the criteria;
- if a parents wishes to appeal a decision there is a process within the Education Act (R.S.Q., Chapter I-13.3) for this purpose and a school board policy based on the law;
- the lottery and other options will continue to be discussed by the School Organization & Transportation Committee;
- the school board always tries to be fair in its decision making and does consider the feelings of the students but sometime difficult decisions have to be taken;

In response to a question from a parent, the Director of School Organization & Transportation advised that annually Mother Teresa Junior High School accepts more students than there are space available and with natural attrition, i.e. moving, private school, etc., the capacity of the school balances out. As some classes are already oversized, parents should not expect that if someone leaves the school they will be replaced by another student who many have applied to the school. The school board must now also take into consideration the reduction in class size from the Ministère de l'Éducation, du Loisir et du Sport (MELS) from 30 to 28 students per class.

In response to a comment from a parent, the Chairman indicated that he had also spoken with the office of Jean Rousselle, Member of the Québec National Assembly for Vimont, and that M. Rousselle was advised of the enrolment process used by the school board.

The Director General commented that transition from elementary school to high school is never easy in any circumstance. She went on to note that when a building is at capacity it is out of the control of the school board as there are laws from the government and municipalities that must be respected.

She also advised that the school board has many services available to its students and families should the transition not go well and that if families are concerned they can turn to Educational Services or Complementary Services to seek assistance in planning for a smoother transition.

9.0 CORRESPONDENCE:

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

10.0 VARIA:

There was no varia.

11.0 ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING:

Commissioner Robert Dixon MOVED adjournment of the meeting.

Carried unanimously

TIME: 20:50 hours

NEXT MEETING ⇨ REGULAR ⇨ 2013-04-24

Stephanie Vucko, Director General

Nick Milas, Chairman