

PROVINCE OF QUEBEC

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE SIR WILFRID LAURIER SCHOOL BOARD HELD ON 2013-05-22

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, 2013-05-22.

Present: Commissioners Nick Milas, Chairman; Nazario Facchino, Vice-Chairman; Georges Benoit, Steve Bletas, Robert Dixon, Guy Gagnon, Steve Kmec, Elio Lattanzio, Emilio Migliozi, Steve Mitchell, Grace Nesi, Albina Pace, Merle Parkinson, Mike Pizzola, William Pollock, Nancy Rupnik, and Edward Turchyniak (via Skype); Parent Commissioner Angela Martorana; 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; 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; Donna Abel, Assistant Director of Financial Resources; and Jocelyne Thompson-Ness, Administrative Assistant. Several other persons were also in the audience.

Absent: Commissioners Mario Di Domenico and Peter MacLaurin; and Parent Commissioner Roberto Bomba

The Chairman called the meeting to order.

TIME: 19:37 hours

0.0 ACCEPTANCE OF AGENDA:

CC-130522-CA-0154

Commissioner Steve Mitchell MOVED THAT the agenda be approved as presented in document #SWLSB-2013/05/22-CA-001.

Carried unanimously

1.0 PRESENTATION:

The Chairman welcomed and congratulated the following students who had participated in the regional, provincial, Canada-wide and international science fairs this spring:

Taylor Forcier & Megane Monahan	Rosemere High School	Regional Science Fair
		Regional Science Fair
		Provincial Science Fair
Luca Iacono & Wilfred Mason	Mother Teresa Junior High School	Canada-Wide Science Fair
		Regional Science Fair
		Provincial Science Fair
Eunice Lihn You	Laval Liberty High School	International Science Fair

A certificate presentation and photos followed.

The Director General invited Eunice You to provide an overview of the project that won her the privilege of attending the International Science Fair in Phoenix, Arizona earlier this month. She also thanked Ms. You's parents and teachers for supporting her in her education. Ms. You gave a very informative overview of her project on Parkinson's disease. She also commented on her Tweet from Astronaut Chris Hatfield from the International Space Station.

The Chairman announced that at its 2013-05-15 meeting, the Sir Wilfrid Laurier Foundation took the decision to begin a new scholarship in the name of Eunice You, who will also be the first recipient tomorrow evening at the Laurier Gala & Starfest.

2.0 APPROVAL OF MINUTES

CC-130522-CA-0155

Parent Commissioner Angela Martorana MOVED THAT the minutes of the REGULAR meeting of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board held on 2013-04-24 having been received by all members prior to this meeting, be approved as written.

Carried unanimously

CC-130522-CA-0156

Parent commissioner Angela Martorana MOVED THAT the minutes of the SPECIAL meeting of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board held on 2013-05-09 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, Nazario Facchino, Guy Gagnon, Steve Kmec, Elio Lattanzio, Emilio Migliozi, Nick Milas, Steve Mitchell, Grace Nesi, Merle Parkinson, William Pollock, Nancy Rupnik, Edward Turchyniak
Commissioners ABSTAINING:	Steve Bletas, Robert Dixon, Albina Pace, Mike Pizzola

3.0 QUESTION PERIOD

In response to questions and concerns from parents of Twin Oaks Elementary School concerning their respective children and changes to the zoning for the school, the Chairman asked the Secretary General to meet with these parents.

The Secretary General left the meeting.

TIME: 19:56 hours

4.0 REPORT FROM THE CHAIRMAN:

4.1 *Chairman's Report:*

The Chairman presented his monthly report noting the following:

- attendance at the Laval Entrepreneuriate competition at which Mother Teresa Junior High School won its category for the production of "milk bag" mats;
- attendance at the Lieutenant Governor of Québec Awards on 2013-05-04 where 6 students from Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board schools received awards;
- the 2013-05-11 Focus Session for Commissioners and Administrators with Barry Bennett;
- the "Chapeau, les filles!" awards where Nancy Evers, a student of the CDC St-Eustache Carpentry Program, won a bursary. This was the first time a woman had won this award in the sector;
- the Citizenship Ceremonies at Laval Junior High School;
- the Laurier Gala and Starfest tomorrow evening, 2013-05-23 at the Château Royal; and
- the upcoming Lobster Fest on 2013-06-12, also at the Château Royal.

Parent Commissioner Angela Martorana commented on her first event as Secondary Parent Commissioner where she attended the Laval Liberty High School Citizenship Award evening and noted that it was very humbling to see the devotion of the students to community service.

4.2 Director General's Report:

The Director General presented her monthly report with a PowerPoint noting:

- the action plan for the Strategic Plan;
- the extension of the Laval Families magazine group to include similar versions in the Laurentian and Lanaudière, with congratulations to Luigi Morabito on this great initiative for the English community;
- the need for the Strategic Plan to evolve in order to celebrate success; and
- the contributions of Michael Quinn, Pedagogical Consultant, to the participation of students in the various science fairs.

The Secretary General returned to the meeting.

TIME: 20:06 hours

Commissioner Steve Kmec left the meeting.

TIME: 20:12 hours

The Director of School Organization commented on the "Trottibus" initiative of Souvenir Elementary School, which is a pedestrian form of transportation that encourages students to walk to school under adult supervision. The school has 191 designated "walkers" and on the first day of the program more than half took the "Trottibus".

Commissioner Steve Kmec returned to the meeting.

TIME: 20:14 hours

In response to a question from the Chairman, the Director of School Organization noted that the "Trottibus" program is held on Wednesday mornings.

The Director General commented on the Focus Session for Commissioners and Administrators that was lead by Barry Bennett, a Professor from OISE (Ontario Institute for Studies in Education), on working collaboratively towards change. The session was informative and gave the Commissioners a more pedagogical view of things, such as PLCs (Professional learning Communities).

4.2.1 Mandate to Extend Posting:

The Director General advised the Council that it would be in the school board's best interest to extend the posting for the position of Assistant Director General by an additional week so that a sufficient number of candidates may be assembled.

CC-130522-CA-0157

WHEREAS the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board adopted resolution #-CC-130509-CA-0151, approving the criteria and posting timeline for the position of Assistant Director General;

WHEREAS the posting timeline concludes on 2013-05-24;

WHEREAS the Selection Committee for the position of Assistant Director General deems that as of 2013-05-22 the number of applications received is insufficient;

WHEREAS in accordance with sub-section 5.4.3 of policy #2012-CA-21: Policy for the Recruitment and Hiring of a Director General and an Assistant Director General, the Selection Committee must immediately advise the Council of Commissioners of this situation and its impact on the timeline;

WHEREAS the Selection Committee wishes to extend the posting of the position of Assistant Director General until 2013-06-03 without any forecasted impact on the timeline;

Commissioner Edward Turchyniak MOVED THAT the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board approve an extension on the posting of the position of Assistant Director General until 2013-06-03.

Carried unanimously

5.0 BUSINESS ARISING:

5.1 Deeds of Establishment & Three-Year Plan:

The Director of School Organization presented and reviewed the final version of the deeds of establishment and three-year plan which reflects some of the feedback received from the consultation.

In response to a question from Commissioner Merle Parkinson, the Director of School Organization noted that the school levels need to be indicated in the deed for the former Joliette Elementary School as the school is considered surplus but is still a part of the school board.

CC-130522-CA-0158

WHEREAS the Council of Commissioners adopted resolution #CC-130227-CA-0121 approving in principle policy #2013-CA-02: Deeds of Establishment and Three Year Plan for Allocation and Destination of Immovables;

WHEREAS the consultation period expired on 2013-05-09, and feedback was received and taken into consideration;

Commissioner Elio Lattanzio MOVED THAT, on the recommendation of the School Organization Committee, the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board approve policy #2013-CA-02: Deeds of Establishment and Three Year Plan for Allocation and Destination of Immovables of all schools, centres and other buildings.

Carried unanimously

6.0 DECISION ITEMS:

6.1 COMMUNICATIONS & CORPORATE AFFAIRS

6.1.1 Report of the Student Ombudsman:

Commissioner Nazario Facchino MOVED THAT the Council go "in camera". **TIME: 20:28 hours**

The meeting resumed. **TIME: 21:05 hours**

The Chairman called for a 5 minute break. **TIME: 21:05 hours**

The meeting resumed. **TIME: 21:10 hours**

The Secretary General presented and reviewed the resolution concerning the report of the Student Ombudsman.

CC-130522-CA-0159

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 JO" was dissatisfied with the outcome of a school board decision of a general scope that had an impact on "Student JO";

WHEREAS the parent of "Student JO" complained to the Student Ombudsman, such complaint being received in writing via e-mail on 2013-03-13;

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

WHEREAS the Student Ombudsman concludes that the process used to resolve the overcrowding at Mother Teresa Junior High School is fair and impartial;

WHEREAS the Student Ombudsman is not recommending any changes to the school board decision of a general scope and, more precisely, to "Student JO";

Commissioner Mike Pizzola MOVED THAT the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board receive and accept the report of the Student Ombudsman regarding the complaint of parent of "Student JO".

AND THAT, after having reviewed this opinion, determines that the registration for 2013-2014 **be maintained.**

THIS MOTION WAS CARRIED ON THE FOLLOWING DIVISION:	
Commissioners voting YEA:	Georges Benoit, Steve Bletas, Robert Dixon, Steve Kmec, Elio Lattanzio, Emilio Migliozi, Nick Milas, Merle Parkinson, Mike Pizzola, William Pollock, Nancy Rupnik, Edward Turchyniak
Commissioners voting NAY:	Steve Mitchell, Grace Nesi, Albina Pace
Commissioners ABSTAINING:	Nazario Facchino, Guy Gagnon

The Chairman recommended that items 6.1.2 and 6.2.1 would be moved to the end of the agenda. The Council agreed.

6.3 FINANCIAL RESOURCES

6.3.1 Application of Reduction Rates:

The Assistant Director of Financial Resources presented and reviewed the proposal for the application of the reduction rate for taxation. She noted that although final data on this reduction rate has not been received, nor has the Government adopted Bill 25, the school board must take a decision on the reduction rate because it is necessary to advise the French school boards on the territory for the neutral tax billing.

Commissioner Merle Parkinson, Chairman of the Finance & Audit Committees, noted that the committee supports a fluctuating rate for this purpose so as to impact fewer municipalities overall.

The Council entered into discussion on the options for the reduction rate.

In response to a question from Commissioner Steve Kmec, the Assistant Director of Financial Resources indicated that if and when Bill 25 is adopted it will affect all school boards in the province. If the Bill does not pass the Ministère de l'Éducation, du Loisir et du Sport (MELS) will have to come up with a solution for the shortfall left by the reductions.

CC-130522-FR-0160

WHEREAS the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board adopted resolution #CC-130227-FR-0120, denouncing the situation of annual recurring and new budget cuts,

WHEREAS, for the 2013-2014 school year and pending the adoption of Bill 25, the Ministère de l'Éducation, du Loisir et du Sport (MELS) has announced a 50% reduction to the equalization grant, which represents a shortfall of 3 500 000\$ in taxation for the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board;

WHEREAS the equalization grant to school taxes was a program implemented by the Government of Québec in 2007-2008 to reduce the effect of the increase in the property values;

WHEREAS this equalization grant was reimbursed to the school board to compensate it for the application of the reduction rate to the taxpayers;

WHEREAS the provisions of Bill 25 require the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board to determine the application of the reduction rates for its taxpayers school tax bills;

WHEREAS these reduction rates must be equitable (cannot be inferior or superior to 0,10\$ per 100\$ uniform evaluation);

WHEREAS the Council of Commissioners has considered two options for the application of the reduction rates;

WHEREAS, after analyzing the two options, the Council of Commissioners considers that a fluctuating rate by municipality is most equitable;

Commissioner Merle Parkinson MOVED THAT, on the recommendation of the Financial Resources Committee, subject to the adoption of Bill 25, the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board approve a fluctuating reduction rate by municipality, as per document #SWLSB-2013/05/22-FR-001.

Carried unanimously

7.0 INFORMATION ITEMS**7.1 Reports of Committee Chairs:****7.1.1 Material Resources:**

Commissioner Steve Kmec, Chairman of the Material Resources Committee, commented on the last meeting of the committee noting the 2013-2014 capital requests received from the schools, various updates on different projects, the need for additional space at the CDC St-Eustache, the need to request from the Ministère de l'Éducation, du Loisir et du Sport (MELS) an enlargement project for Twin Oaks Elementary School and some outstanding dossiers were discussed.

7.2 SWL Foundation:

This report was made under item 4.1.

7.3 Parent Commissioners Report

The report of the Parent Commissioners highlighted the change in school hours for some high schools in 2013-2014, the negotiations with the STL, the creation of the Laval Ad Hoc Committees for elementary and high schools and the nomination of parent committee representatives to these committees, the election of a new Secondary Parent Commissioner and some changes to the Parents Committee Internal Rules & Procedures.

7.4 Report of the QESBA:

The Chairman reminded everyone that the QESBA/AAESQ Spring Conference will be held on May 30, 31 & June 1, 2013 at the Manoir St-Sauveur.

In response to a question from Commissioner Steve Mitchell, the Chairman said he would look into having a report made on the 2012 Canadian School Boards Association (CSBA) Conference held last July.

7.5 Budget Parameters Consultation Response to MELS:

The Assistant Director of Financial Resources presented and reviewed the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board's response to the consultation of the Ministère de l'Éducation, du Loisir et du Sport (MELS) on the 2013-2014 budget parameters.

7.6 Abolition/Creation of Positions & Staffing Plan 2013-2014:

The Director of Human Resources presented and reviewed the abolition and creation of positions approved at the 2013-05-09 special meeting of the Executive Committee.

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.

6.2.1 2013-2014 Organizational Chart for Management:

The Chairman MOVED THAT the Council and the Directors go "in camera".

The motion to go "in camera" met with some questions and discussion ensued. It was suggested that the Directors be included in the "in camera" and that at a certain point they be asked to leave.

The Chairman MOVED THAT the Council and the Directors go "in camera". **TIME: 22:14 hours**

THIS MOTION WAS CARRIED ON THE FOLLOWING DIVISION:	
Commissioners voting YEA:	Georges Benoit, Steve Bletas, Robert Dixon, Nazario Facchino, Guy Gagnon, Steve Kmec, Elio Lattanzio, Nick Milas, Emilio Migliozi, Steve Mitchell, Grace Nesi, Albina Pace, Merle Parkinson, Mike Pizzola, William Pollock, Nancy Rupnik
Commissioners voting NAY:	Guy Gagnon, Steve Mitchell, Mike Pizzola

The meeting resumed.

TIME 23:05 hours

CC-130522-CA-0161

Commissioner Steve Kmec MOVED THAT the meeting be extended until completion of the agenda,
Carried unanimously

6.2 HUMAN RESOURCES**6.2.1 2013-2014 Organizational Chart for Management:****CC-130522-HR-0162**

WHEREAS the Directorate has reviewed the Organizational Chart for Management of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board for the 2013-2014 school year;

Commissioner Steve Kmec MOVED THAT, on the recommendation of the Executive Committee, the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board approve in principle the proposed 2013-2014 Organizational Chart for Management, as per document #SWLSB-2013/05/22-HR-001.

AND THAT in conformity with the management policies of the school board the Council of Commissioners approve a 30-day consultation period beginning on 2013-05-23 and ending on 2013-06-21 with the Sir Wilfrid Laurier Administrators Association (SWLAA) and the Association des cadres scolaires du Québec – SWL Chapter (ACSQ).

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

6.1.2 Division of Territory:

The Secretary General presented and reviewed the proposed division of territory for the 2014-11-02 school elections. She noted that the division was discussed by the Communications & Public Relations Committee.

The Council entered into discussion.

The Chairman and turned the chair over to the Vice-Chairman and left the meeting.

TIME 23:20 hours

The Chairman returned to the meeting and resumed the chair.

TIME: 23:22 hours

Commissioner George Benoit excused himself for the evening.

TIME: 23:22 hours

CC-130522-CA-0163

WHEREAS the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board adopted resolution #CC-091216-CA-0073, maintaining the number of electoral divisions at 9 in accordance with section 6 of the Act respecting school elections;

WHEREAS the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board adopted resolution #CC-130321-CA-0127, to re-submit resolution #CC-091216-CA-0073;

WHEREAS section 7.5 of the Act requires school boards to adopt a division proposal, as contained in document #SWLSB-2013/05/22-CA-001, for the purposes of the election prior to 1 June of the year preceding school elections;

WHEREAS section 9 of the Act requires school boards to publish a public notice within 15 days of the adoption of the division of territory proposal;

WHEREAS upon publication of the public notice the public will have 15 days to advise the Director General in writing of any objection to the division of territory proposal;

Commissioner Steve Kmec MOVED THAT the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board approve the distribution of electoral divisions as contained in document #SWLSB-2013/05/22-CA-001.

Carried unanimously

10.0 VARIA:

There was no varia.

11.0 ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING:

Commissioner Grace Nesi MOVED adjournment of the meeting.

Carried unanimously

TIME: 23:31 hours

NEXT MEETING ⇨ REGULAR ⇨ 2013-06-26

