

**PROVINCE OF QUEBEC****MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE SIR WILFRID LAURIER SCHOOL BOARD HELD ON 2012-08-29**

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, 2012-08-29

Present: Commissioners Nick Milas, Chairman; Carolyn Curiale, Vice-Chairman; Georges Benoit, Steve Bletas, Mario Di Domenico, Robert Dixon, Nazario Facchino, Steve Kmec, Peter MacLaurin, Steve Mitchell, Tom Mouhteros, Grace Nesi, Albina Pace, Mike Pizzola, William Pollock (via Skype), Nancy Rupnik and Edward Turchyniak; Parent Commissioners Roberto Bomba and Angelo Grasso and Robert Vallerand, Director General.

Also present were: Marie-Claude Drouin, Secretary General; Gaëlle Absolonne, Director of School Organization; Robin Bennett, Interim 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 Walter Fogel and Merle Parkinson; and Clifford Buckland, Interim Assistant Director General.

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 19:37 hours.

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and wished them a good year.

**0.0 WOTP PRESENTATION**

The Director General welcomed Ingrid Hove-Gust, a Guidance Counsellor on loan to the Ministère de l'Éducation, du Loisir et du Sport (MELS), who is assisting the English school boards in setting up Work Oriented Training Path Programs (WOTP) for high school students.

Ms. Hove-Gust made a PowerPoint presentation on WOTP noting that the program has been designed for students 15 – 21 years of age who do not function well in a classroom environment. WOTP teaches workplace and life skills, focuses on the individual student by creating a program suited to their needs, provides a smaller class size and encourages community involvement. Teachers in WOTP are encouraged to reach out to the students and develop a positive relationship while delivering a positive and meaningful curriculum. The Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board has been an innovative leader in this program with Lake of Two Mountains High School setting a provincial standard for WOTP literacy instruction. WOTP has also increased retention and academic success.

The Chairman thanked Ms Hove-Gust for her informative presentation.

**1.0 ACCEPTANCE OF AGENDA:****CC-120829-CA-0001**

Commissioner Nazario Facchino MOVED THAT the agenda be approved as presented in document #SWLSB-2012/08/29-CA-001.

**Carried unanimously**

## 2.0 APPROVAL OF MINUTES

### CC-120829-CA-0002

Commissioner Steve Mitchell MOVED THAT the minutes of the REGULAR meeting of the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board held on 2012-06-27, having been received by all members prior to this meeting, be approved as presented.

**Carried unanimously**

## 3.0 QUESTION PERIOD

In response to a question from Kevin Wilkinson, a parent with a child who has an Interboard Agreement, the Chairman noted that the resolution concerning changes to the process for interboard agreements was rescinded at the 2012-06-27 Council meeting therefore it is status quo while the issue is reviewed further.

In response to a question from Luc Samson, a stakeholder, the Chairman advised that the report of the Ethics Commissioner was based on a mandate to investigate irregularities in the process for the hiring of an Assistant Director General and her conclusions have been taken into account but no sanctions were provided as this was not the purpose of the mandate.

In response to an additional question from Mr. Samson, the Chairman noted that his opinions are respected but due diligence was done by the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board and that the Ministère de l'Éducation, du Loisir et du Sport (MELS) was consulted on the situation.

In response to questions from Scott Traylen, President of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier Administrators Association (SWLAA) and spokesman this evening on behalf of the Association des cadres scolaires du Québec (ACSQ) - Sir Wilfrid Laurier Chapter, the Chairman acknowledged that there is a malaise amongst Administrative employees. A Communications Sub-Committee has been established with Council and Administration to make recommendations as to what can be done to overcome this malaise so that everyone can move forward.

In response to questions from Mary Cataldo, a parent from Terry Fox Elementary School, the Director General indicated that the presentation earlier this evening showcased some of the exceptional services to students that this school board provides. The school board tries to be equitable in the improvements it makes within its school and centres. With respect to Laurier Senior High School, the Principal has been asked to review student groupings to see where class size can be increased so as to free up space for other classes. As for the auditorium project at the school, this is a partnership project with the Ville de Laval and a Protocol of Agreement is under negotiation and when an agreement is reached the project will commence.

Concerning the promotion of employees, he commented that the positions in question were reclassifications that were authorized by the Ministère de l'Éducation, du Loisir et du Sport (MELS) and supported by the Council.

In response to a questions from Rossana Rizzuto, a parent from Laval Liberty High School, the Chairman noted that with the start of the 2012-2013 school year, the school board office handles many different types of phone calls and that all are answered as soon as possible. There is a policy in place for transportation concerns to be answered within a certain delay. If there is a concern of a personal nature, the Secretary General would be happy to meet with her.

In response to concerns expressed by Agnes Ciarlo, a parent from Laval Liberty High School, the Director General explained that the Education Act (R.S.Q., Chapter I-13.3) dictates that a school board must have an Ethics Commissioner and provide financial compensation for services rendered so as to ensure that it is being honest and transparent in its function when a complaint or other issue is assigned. This is also the same for the Student Ombudsman which protects the rights of the students and parents.

#### 4.0 REPORT FROM THE CHAIRMAN:

##### 4.1 *Report from the Chairman:*

The Chairman welcomed everyone back and extended best wishes to everyone for a good 2012-2013 school year.

He continued by announcing, with regret, that Commissioner Carolyn Curiale has given in her resignation as Commissioner for Electoral Division #5 (Deux-Montagnes), effective at the closure of this meeting. He expressed his appreciation, on behalf of the Council, to Mrs. Curiale for all of her dedication to the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board over the past 14 years. He invited her to attend the 2012-09-24 meeting of Council so the school board can honour her in an appropriate manner. He read into the minutes her letter of resignation:

*August 20, 2012*

*Mr. Nick Milas  
Chairman, Council of Commissioners  
Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board  
235, Montée Lesage  
Rosemere, QC J7A 4Y6*

*Dear Nick,*

*I am hereby tendering my resignation as a Commissioner and Vice-Chairman of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board.*

*Since the current mandate for elected commissioners given by the public ended November 2011, and while there is no set date for another election, my resignation will be effective after the August 2012 Council meeting, on August 29, 2012.*

*I would like to take this opportunity to thank the constituents of Ward 5 for the support they gave me in electing me as their representative since 1998. In addition, I have appreciated the chance to be the S.W.L. representative as Director at the Quebec English School Board Association; I would like to express my gratitude for the work that the members and staff do on behalf of English education in Quebec.*

*Finally, I would like to sincerely thank the employees and elected representatives of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board for their dedication in making the success of our students a priority; it has been a pleasure working with you.*

*Regards, Carolyn Curiale*

*cc: Members, Council of Commissioners  
Mr. Robert Vallerand, Director General, Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board  
Mr. David D'Aoust, President, Quebec English School Boards Association  
Mr. David Birnbaum, Executive Director, Quebec English School Boards Association*

Commissioner Curiale received a standing ovation in recognition of her exemplary service to the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board.

In response to a concern from Commissioner Steve Bletas, the Chairman advised that he would add his letter as item 4.4 under his report.

##### 4.2 *Report of the Executive Committee:*

Commissioner Edward Turchyniak, Chairman of the Executive Committee, reminded those present that during the summer months the Executive Committee holds all the powers of Council, as per the by-law on the delegation of functions and powers. He went on to provide the report of the Executive Committee noting that at its 2012-07-10 meeting the Executive Committee approved the 2012-2013 Organization Chart for Management, approved one reconsideration of a decision affecting a student, upheld the decision of the school board on another reconsideration of a decision affecting a student, engaged an Alternate Ethics Commissioner and established an Ad Hoc Committee for the Timeline for the Hiring of a Director General and an Assistant Director General.

In response to a concern expressed by Commissioner Steve Kmec, the Chairman noted that there is a by-law in place that grants the Executive Committee all the powers during the summer months and that if he wished to see this by-law changed he could present a proposal.

#### **4.3 Report of the Director General:**

The Director General welcomed everyone back and wished them a great 2012-2013 school year. He reported on the following:

- The annual bus safety program will be launched with a press conference at Twin Oaks Elementary School on 2012-08-30;
- The Ministère de l'Éducation, du Loisir et du Sport (MELS) has authorized the following funding:
  - compensation will be given for the start up costs for the Carpentry Program;
  - 80% coverage of the rental for 5 years for the CDC Laurier-St-Eustache;
  - education for Native students from the Oka reserve at Lake of Two Mountains High School; and
  - compensation for the housing of the Polyvalent Lavigne at Laurentian Regional High School after its fire in September 2011.
- the MELS authorized a deficit budget and the school board must have a recovery plan in place by the end of October 2012 so further cuts are being discussed by the Directors. The plan will be monitored by the MELS;
- there was a high failure rate in some subjects in the June 2012 exams which translated into a significant increase in registration for summer school making it necessary to cap registration at 680 students. Arrangements were made for all who wished to write the August exams to do so. Any who failed the August exams will have another opportunity to write in January 2013;
- a successful teacher recall was held on 2012-08-24 with congratulations to the Director of Human Resources and her team;
- Joliette Elementary School (JES) will move into its new building on Friday, 2012-08-24, set up will take place the week of 2012-08-27 and classes will begin on 2012-09-05;
- Commission scolaire des Samares has made a request to use the old Joliette Elementary School for the 2012-2013 school year as it has a serious mold problem in its elementary school in Joliette and, in exchange, the board is loaning the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board fibres for the fibre optic network at the new JES; and
- 2012-09-04 will be a student holiday due to the Provincial elections but most daycares will be open but with altered operating hours.

Commissioner Grace Nesi left the meeting.

**TIME: 20:28 hours**

In response to a question from Parent Commissioner Angelo Grasso concerning the washrooms at Laurier Senior High School, the Director General advised that when this project was presented as a part of the Auditorium Partnership Project in Spring 2012, it was noted that tendering and the work would be done during the 2012-2013 school year. The Protocol of Agreement will be ready when all the terms have been agreed to.

Commissioner Grace Nesi returned to the meeting.

**TIME: 20:31 hours**

#### **4.4 Letter from Commissioner Steve Bletas:**

Commissioner Steve Bletas read the following statement:

*The past five months while difficult, have opened my eyes to a sad reality. When our collective energies are not focused on our students needs, even 14 years of loyal service can be uprooted overnight.*

*My concerns as an elected school commissioner were always focused towards the needs of our diverse school communities.*

*My intent was always to bring improvements to our schools and School Board while attending to the needs of our parents and employees.*

*Having stated the above, I would like to take this opportunity to apologize to the Council, the Directorate and the Associations of the School Board for not having disclosed the fact that I knew personally one of the candidates for the Assistant Director General position. It was never my intent to be misleading or malicious. I was acting in good faith in what I thought would be in the best interest of the School Board*

*I made an honest mistake!*

*As well in a special Council meeting in the month of May I stated that "I'm being persecuted by the Principal's Association for my involvement" This comment was made more out of emotion. It was wrong and for that I would like to apologize to them.*

*I was honest, transparent and upfront with the Ethics Commissioner and fully endorse that our School Board needs to overhaul its hiring practices.*

*Let us now work towards rebuilding the confidence within our School Board.*

The Chairman thanked Commissioner Steve Bletas for his comments.

Commissioner Albina Pace left the meeting.

**TIME: 20:52 hours**

The Chairman asked if there were any questions.

**CC-120829-CA-0003**

Commissioner Edward Turchyniak MOVED THAT the Council go "in camera".

<b>THIS MOTION WAS DEFEATED ON THE FOLLOWING DIVISION:</b>	
<b>Commissioners voting YEA:</b>	<b>Nazario Facchino, William Pollock, Edward Turchyniak</b>
<b>Commissioners voting NAY:</b>	<b>Georges Benoit, Steve Bletas, Carolyn Curiale, Mario Di Domenico, Robert Dixon, Steve Kmec, Peter MacLaurin, Nick Milas, Steve Mitchell, Tom Mouhteros, Grace Nesi, Nancy Rupnik, Mike Pizzola</b>

Commissioner Albina Pace returned to the meeting.

**TIME: 20:54 hours**

In response to a question from Commissioner Steve Mitchell and with the Chairman's permission, Commissioner Steve Bletas indicated that he has already stated that he had made a mistake and has apologized and will not address this question.

**5.0 BUSINESS ARISING:**

**5.1 Reports of the Ethics Commissioner:**

The Secretary General informed the Council that decisions of the Ethics Commissioners have been received concerning the latest complaints.

**CC-120829-CA-0004**

Parent Commissioner Angelo Grasso MOVED THAT the Council go "in camera".

**Carried unanimously**

**TIME: 20:56 hours**

The meeting resumed.

**TIME: 21:35 hours**

The Secretary General advised that the Ethics Commissioners had received 3 complaints in the past few weeks and that all have received a response.

The Chairman read the following decisions and sanctions imposed by the Ethics Commissioners:

Complaint against Commissioner Walter Fogel:

Decision:

"On the grounds set out above, the undersigned considers that breaches of sections 5.1, 5.5, 6.1, 6.2 and 6.6 of the *Code of Ethics* did occur.

The fact that the concerned commissioner apologized when asked by the Chairman to do so does not constitute a reason to reject the complaint under the *Code of Ethics*."

Sanction:

"Considering that this is the first decision concluding to a breach of the Code of Ethics against the concerned commissioner but that said breach has been made in a public meeting, affecting the credibility of the School Board and its reputation, and exposing tensions to public scrutiny, a sanction that reflects the seriousness of the breach must be imposed. In addition, nothing leads the undersigned to believe that the said gesture has been made inadvertently; it must then be considered that it has been made voluntarily.

The fact that the concerned commissioner apologized, when asked by the Chairman to do so, shall be, in part, considered when imposing the said sanction under the *Code of Ethics*. However, the breach committed concerns both the Council as an institution and the Director General. This dual aspect has to be taken into consideration when imposing the sanction.

For these reasons, the sanction that is imposed is a call to order, accompanied by a request for an apology to the Director General, since an apology to the Council has already been made. The apologies will have to be made in writing and read to the Council of commissioners at the first public meeting the concerned commissioner attends after the present decision, no matter if the Director General to whom the derogatory gesture was directed, is present at the meeting or not."

Complaint against Commissioner Tom Mouhteros:

Decision:

"On the grounds set out above, the undersigned considers that breach of section 5.5 of the *Code of Ethics* did occur."

Sanction:

"Given that it has not been proven that the breach was committed in bad faith, and that it constitutes the first concerning this commissioner and concluding to a breach, the undersigned considers that the least severe sanction provided for in the *Code of Ethics* should be imposed, that is, a call to order."

Complaint against Commissioner Steve Bletas:

Decision:

"On the grounds set out above, the undersigned considers the breaches of the sections 2.1, 2.2, 4.3, 5.1, 5.4, 6.3, and 6.8 of the *Code of Ethics* mentioned in the complaint did occur."

Sanction:

"Given the importance and number of violations of the Code of Ethics and Professional Conduct of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board in the present case and of which the undersigned has recognized Respondent's guilt;

Given the importance of the role conferred on the President by the Code of Ethics on the occurrence of conflicts of interest, Articles 8.1 and 8.2:

"Therefore, the expectations for him with respect to integrity, transparency and conflicts of interest are higher. Consequently, of all people, he should disclose any information that could bring these values into question."

Given his fourteen (14) year experience as commissioner for the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board;

Given that his behaviour in the present case is one of gross negligence and a certain voluntary blindness;

Given that the respondent has previously been sanctioned by the Ethic Commissioner in 2011 for breaches of professional ethics pertaining to Articles 5.1 and 6.11 of the Code of Ethics;

The undersigned considers that the second sanction provide by the Code of Ethics, that is, as written reprimand must be imposed. This reprimand, with a copy of this document sha11be filed to the Secretary General of the School Board."

### **5.2 QESBA 2012-2013 Budget Consultation:**

Commissioner Carolyn Curiale advised the Council that the Quebec English School Boards Association (QESBA) enrolment fee for the 2012-2013 school year is 8,54\$ per student.

Commissioners George Benoit and Tom Mouhteros left the meeting. **TIME: 21:42 hours**

#### **CC-120829-CA-0005**

Commissioner Carolyn Curiale MOVED THAT the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board support the Quebec English School Boards Association (QESBA) 2012-2013 Budget amendments as presented in document #SWLSB-2012/08/29-CA-001.

<b>THIS MOTION WAS CARRIED ON THE FOLLOWING DIVISION:</b>	
<b>Commissioners voting YEA:</b>	Steve Bletas, Carolyn Curiale, Mario Di Domenico, Robert Dixon, Nazario Facchino, Steve Kmec, Peter MacLaurin, Nick Milas, Grace Nesi, Albina Pace, William Pollock, Nancy Rupnik, Edward Turchyniak
<b>Commissioners voting NAY:</b>	Steve Mitchell, Mike Pizzola

### **5.3 QESBA Amendments to the Constitution:**

Commissioner Carolyn Curiale advised that the main change to the Quebec English School Boards Association (QESBA) constitution being proposed is due to a technical problem when there were 3 candidates running for the position of President. A legal opinion was sought on the matter and the proposed amendment will bring the constitution up to date.

In response to a question from Commissioner Steve Mitchell, Commissioner Carolyn Curiale noted that the QESBA does not have the technological support to handle e-mail or web voting at this time.

#### **CC-120829-CA-0006**

Parent Commissioner Roberto Bomba MOVED THAT the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board support the Quebec English School Boards Association (QESBA) Constitutional amendments as presented in document #SWLSB-2012/08/29-CA-002.

<b>THIS MOTION WAS CARRIED ON THE FOLLOWING DIVISION:</b>	
<b>Commissioners voting YEA:</b>	Steve Bletas, Carolyn Curiale, Mario Di Domenico, Robert Dixon, Nazario Facchino, Steve Kmec, Peter MacLaurin, Nick Milas, Grace Nesi, Albina Pace, William Pollock, Nancy Rupnik, Edward Turchyniak
<b>Commissioners ABSTAINING:</b>	Steve Mitchell, Mike Pizzola

**5.4 Policy on the Recruitment & Hiring of a Senior Executive Employee:**

The Secretary General advised that the draft policy on Recruitment and Hiring of Senior Executive Employees, as per the mandate given to the Governance & Ethics Committee at the 2012-08-29 meeting of the Council, is ready but needs to be re-read in order to ensure that everything that is required for this process has been included. A special meeting of the Council will be called in order to approve the policy in principle for consultation purposes with the unions and associations.

In response to a question from Commissioner Steve Kmec, the Secretary General noted that the Governance & Ethics Committee will be meeting as soon as possible in order to keep on track with the proposed timeline.

Commissioner Carolyn Curiale left the meeting. **TIME: 21:49 hours**

**5.5 Timeline on the Hiring of DG & ADG – Recommendation of Executive:**

Commissioner Edward Turchyniak, as Chairman of the Executive Committee, presented and reviewed the proposed timeline as per the mandate given to the Executive Committee. He noted that the timeline has been revised and that 2012-10-01 has been selected as the date for the process to begin.

The Secretary General noted that the Executive Committee met twice and looked at several scenarios prior to making its recommendation on the criteria and timeline. The dates on the timeline will be adjusted accordingly once the policy is adopted.

Commissioner Mike Pizzola left the meeting. **TIME: 21:51 hours**

Commissioners George Benoit and Tom Mouhteros returned to the meeting. **TIME: 21:51 hours**

Commissioner Carolyn Curiale returned to the meeting. **TIME: 21:52 hours**

**CC-120829-CA-0007**

WHEREAS the Council of Commissioners adopted resolution #CC-120611-CA-0157, mandating the Executive Committee to elaborate a timeline for both the Director General and the Assistant Director General;

WHEREAS the Executive Committee met on 2012-07-10 and 2012-08-21 and discussed the timeline;

Commissioner Edward Turchyniak MOVED THAT, on the recommendation of the Executive Committee, the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board receive the proposed Timeline to Replace the Director General from the Executive Committee, as presented in document #SWLSB-2012/08/29-CA-003.

AND THAT, upon the final adoption of a Policy on the Recruitment & Hiring of a Senior Executive Employee, this timeline be revised and presented for the approval of the Council of Commissioners.

<b>THIS MOTION WAS CARRIED ON THE FOLLOWING DIVISION:</b>	
<b>Commissioners voting YEA:</b>	Georges Benoit, Steve Bletas, Mario Di Domenico, Robert Dixon, Nazario Facchino, Steve Kmec, Peter MacLaurin, Nick Milas, Steve Mitchell, Tom Mouhteros, Grace Nesi, Albina Pace, William Pollock, Nancy Rupnik, Edward Turchyniak
<b>Commissioners ABSTAINING:</b>	Carolyn Curiale

Commissioner Mike Pizzola returned to the meeting. **TIME: 21:53 hours**

**6.0 DECISION ITEMS:****6.1 COMMUNICATIONS & CORPORATE AFFAIRS****6.1.1 Reconsideration of a Decision:**

The Secretary General advised that she had received this request for the reconsideration of a decision affecting a student in early July and that the family had opted for their case to be presented to the entire Council rather than the Executive Committee at its 2012-07-10 meeting. The Appeals Review Committee met and heard the parents request on 2012-08-21 and its recommendation is to uphold the decision of the school board.

**CC-120829-CA-0008**

WHEREAS the 2012-2013 Enrolment Criteria of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board approved by resolution #CC-111214-ED-0059 on 2011-12-14, outlines the order of priority for registration for the schools of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board;

WHEREAS Student "DM" completed elementary school outside the territory of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board during the 2011-2012 school year, on an Interboard Agreement, and has made a request to attend Mother Teresa Junior High School beginning in the 2012-2013 school year:

WHEREAS the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board has refused this request as Mother Teresa Junior High School is at its functional capacity;

WHEREAS the Secretary General of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board received a letter dated 2012-04-11 from the parents of "Student DM" requesting that the Council of Commissioners reconsider a decision taken concerning the choice of school;

WHEREAS the case of "Student DM" has been reviewed by the Director General and the Secretary General and the parents of Student "DM" were informed on 2012-07-04 that the decision was maintained;

WHEREAS the Appeals Review Committee of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board met on 2012-08-21 to examine the administrative decision concerning the request of the family of "Student DM" to attend Mother Teresa Junior High School;

WHEREAS the father of "Student DM" had the opportunity to present his position vis-à-vis the request for registration at Mother Teresa Junior High School;

WHEREAS the school board presented its position vis-à-vis the decision:

Commissioner Robert Dixon MOVED THAT, on the recommendation of the Appeals Review Committee, the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board **refuse** the request of the parents of "Student DM" to attend Mother Teresa Junior High School.

<b>THIS MOTION WAS CARRIED ON THE FOLLOWING DIVISION:</b>	
<b>Commissioners voting YEA:</b>	<b>Georges Benoit, Carolyn Curiale, Mario Di Domenico, Robert Dixon, Nazario Facchino, Peter MacLaurin, Nick Milas, Steve Mitchell, Tom Mouhteros, Grace Nesi, Albina Pace, Mike Pizzola, William Pollock, Nancy Rupnik, Edward Turchyniak</b>
<b>Commissioners ABSTAINING:</b>	<b>Steve Bletas, Steve Kmec</b>

**6.1.2 Vote of Non-Confidence:**

The Director General presented and reviewed the proposed motion of non-confidence.

*WHEREAS an ethics complaint was deposited against Commissioner Steve Bletas on 2011-08-24 with regards to a breach of Sections 5.1\* and 6.11\* of by-law #BL2009-CA-17: Code of Ethics and Professional Conduct for Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board;*

*WHEREAS this ethics complaint was upheld by the Ethics Commissioner who found that Commissioner Steve Bletas was in breach of the above-mentioned sections and a sanction was imposed on him as per by-law #BL2009-CA-17: Code of Ethics and Professional Conduct for Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board;*

*WHEREAS the Director General received a letter of complaint from the Sir Wilfrid Laurier Administrators Association (SWLAA) in April 2012 with regard to the unacceptable interference by Commissioner Steve Bletas in the management of their respective schools and centres;*

*WHEREAS the Council of Commissioners adopted unanimously a resolution and mandated a Task Force to meet with the members of SWLAA;*

*WHEREAS the report of this Task Force unanimously concluded that the actions of Commissioner Steve Bletas have deteriorated the working environment of our schools and centres and have resulted in adding undue confusion and stress to our instructional leaders in their professional relationships and with those of the senior executives;*

*WHEREAS the Council of Commissioners unanimously mandated the Ethics Commissioner to investigate the alleged irregularities of Commissioner Steve Bletas in the selection process of the Assistant Director General;*

*WHEREAS the Ethics Commissioner report submitted and accepted by the Council of Commissioners on 2012-06-11 finds that Commissioner Steve Bletas committed these irregularities;*

*WHEREAS Commissioner Steve Bletas did not respect the resolution unanimously adopted by Council mandating the Ethics Commissioner to look into these irregularities namely "and that disclosure of all necessary documentation relating to the inquiry by authorized.";*

*WHEREAS the Ethics Commissioner concluded in her above-mentioned report that "It should be noted that it was impossible to verify the content of the Chairman's cellular phone (Steve Bletas) (Blackberry), for elements of which could have been relevant to this mandate, because at the time of the verification it was noted that the phone had been reset (factory reset)";*

*WHEREAS the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board chapter of the Association des cadres scolaires du Québec (ACSQ) deposited letters of concern in 2009, and again in May 2012 and that the concerns raised were examined by the new Chairman and Director General and were found to be valid;*

*Commissioner Albina Pace MOVED THAT the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board finds that Commissioner Steve Bletas no longer has the confidence of the Council of Commissioners to carry out his mandate as Commissioner as detailed in Section 177.1\* of the Education Act (R.S.Q., Chapter I-13.3).*

*AND THAT the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board further believes that Commissioner Steve Bletas no longer has the moral legitimacy to sit on this Council.*

*FURTHER THAT the members of the Council of Commissioners respectfully request that Commissioner Steve Bletas consider his resignation effective immediately as a Commissioner of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board.*

In response to a question from Commissioner Steve Kmec, Commissioner Edward Turchyniak, in his capacity as Chairman of the Executive Committee and with the Chairman's permission, noted that the Executive Committee did not handle this issue as it did not have a mandate from Council.

The Council entered into discussion on the proposed vote of non-confidence with respect to the legalities.

The Chairman advised that a legal opinion was sought and received from Bernard Jacob, Lawyer. This opinion was shared with the Council.

Discussion continued.

In response to a question from Commissioner Mario Di Domenico and with the Chairman's permission, Commissioner Albina Pace explained that she had moved the resolution concerning the vote of non-confidence in order to begin the discussion but that she will not be supporting this resolution.

On a "point of order", Commissioner Peter MacLaurin suggested that Commissioner Pace withdraw as mover of the resolution if she does not intend on supporting it.

Commissioner Albina Pace withdrew her name as the mover of the resolution.

Discussion continued and it was felt that this resolution will allow for everyone's position to be known, put the discussion to rest and move on with the business that the Council was elected to oversee.

On a "point of order", Parent Commissioner Angelo Grasso called for the vote.

#### **CC-120829-CA-0009**

WHEREAS an ethics complaint was deposited against Commissioner Steve Bletas on 2011-08-24 with regards to a breach of Sections 5.1\* and 6.11\* of by-law #BL2009-CA-17: Code of Ethics and Professional Conduct for Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board;

WHEREAS this ethics complaint was upheld by the Ethics Commissioner who found that Commissioner Steve Bletas was in breach of the above-mentioned sections and a sanction was imposed on him as per by-law #BL2009-CA-17: Code of Ethics and Professional Conduct for Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board;

WHEREAS the Director General received a letter of complaint from the Sir Wilfrid Laurier Administrators Association (SWLAA) in April 2012 with regard to the unacceptable interference by Commissioner Steve Bletas in the management of their respective schools and centres;

WHEREAS the Council of Commissioners adopted unanimously a resolution and mandated a Task Force to meet with the members of SWLAA;

WHEREAS the report of this Task Force unanimously concluded that the actions of Commissioner Steve Bletas have deteriorated the working environment of our schools and centres and have resulted in adding undue confusion and stress to our instructional leaders in their professional relationships and with those of the senior executives;

WHEREAS the Council of Commissioners unanimously mandated the Ethics Commissioner to investigate the alleged irregularities of Commissioner Steve Bletas in the selection process of the Assistant Director General;

WHEREAS the Ethics Commissioner report submitted and accepted by the Council of Commissioners on 2012-06-11 finds that Commissioner Steve Bletas committed these irregularities;

WHEREAS Commissioner Steve Bletas did not respect the resolution unanimously adopted by Council mandating the Ethics Commissioner to look into these irregularities namely "*and that disclosure of all necessary documentation relating to the inquiry by authorized.*";

WHEREAS the Ethics Commissioner concluded in her above-mentioned report that "*It should be noted that it was impossible to verify the content of the Chairman's cellular phone (Steve Bletas) (Blackberry), for elements of which could have been relevant to this mandate, because at the time of the verification it was noted that the phone had been reset (factory reset)*";

WHEREAS the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board chapter of the Association des cadres scolaires du Québec (ACSQ) deposited letters of concern in 2009, and again in May 2012 and that the concerns raised were examined by the new Chairman and Director General and were found to be valid;

Commissioner Mike Pizzola MOVED THAT the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board finds that Commissioner Steve Bletas no longer has the confidence of the Council of Commissioners to carry out his mandate as Commissioner as detailed in Section 177.1\* of the Education Act (R.S.Q., Chapter I-13.3).

AND THAT the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board further believes that Commissioner Steve Bletas no longer has the moral legitimacy to sit on this Council.

FURTHER THAT the members of the Council of Commissioners respectfully request that Commissioner Steve Bletas consider his resignation effective immediately as a Commissioner of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board.

<b>THIS MOTION WAS DEFEATED ON THE FOLLOWING DIVISION:</b>	
<b>Commissioners voting YEA:</b>	Carolyn Curiale, Robert Dixon, Steve Mitchell, Mike Pizzola, William Pollock
<b>Commissioners voting NAY:</b>	Steve Bletas, Mario Di Domenico, Steve Kmec, Nazario Facchino, Nick Milas, Tom Mouhteros, Grace Nesi, Albina Pace, Edward Turchyniak
<b>Commissioners ABSTAINING:</b>	George Benoit, Peter MacLaurin, Nancy Rupnik

Commissioner Edward Turchyniak commented that he voted against this resolution as he believed there was no legal grounds to take a vote of non-confidence against Commissioner Steve Bletas.

**6.1.3 Sir Wilfrid Laurier Foundation Delegation to Director General:**

The Director General presented and reviewed a request received from the Sir Wilfrid Laurier Foundation.

In response to a question from Commissioner Steve Kmec, the Director General noted that the proposed resolution indicates that he will be a non-voting member of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier Foundation.

In response to additional comments from Commissioner Kmec, Commissioner Edward Turchyniak, Commissioner delegate to the Sir Wilfrid Laurier Foundation and with the permission of the Chairman, indicated that the school board has had a partnership with the Foundation since its inception and that the vote taken by the Sir Wilfrid Laurier Foundation to have the Director General as a non-voting member was unanimous.

**CC-120829-CA-0010**

WHEREAS the Chairman of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier Foundation Board of Directors met with the Chairman and the Director General of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board and requested that the Director General or his delegate become a non-voting member of the Board of Directors of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier Foundation;

Commissioner Edward Turchyniak MOVED THAT the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board authorize the Director General or his delegate to sit as a non-voting member of the Board of Directors of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier Foundation, effective immediately.

<b>THIS MOTION WAS CARRIED ON THE FOLLOWING DIVISION:</b>	
<b>Commissioners voting YEA:</b>	Georges Benoit, Steve Bletas, Carolyn Curiale, Mario Di Domenico, Robert Dixon, Nazario Facchino, Peter MacLaurin, Nick Milas, Steve Mitchell, Tom Mouhteros, Grace Nesi, Albina Pace, Mike Pizzola, William Pollock, Nancy Rupnik, Edward Turchyniak
<b>Commissioners ABSTAINING:</b>	Steve Kmec

**6.1.4 Process for Replacement of Vacancy:**

The Secretary General presented and reviewed a process for the replacement of the Commissioner seat that will be left vacant with the impending departure of Commissioner Carolyn Curiale. The seat must be replaced within 30 days of the resignation as per the Education Act (R.S.Q., Chapter I-13.3).

She went on to note that when the Ministère de l'Éducation, du Loisir et du Sport (MELS) suspended the November 2011 school elections until further notice it provided the steps to be taken in the case of a vacant commissioner seat, that being that no by-election is necessary as the Council of Commissioners may appoint a person to that seat. She provided various options to the Commissioners for replacing this position.

The Council entered into discussion.

**TIME: 22:32 hours**

**CC-120829-CA-0011**

Commissioner Carolyn Curiale MOVED THAT the meeting be extended until the completion of the agenda.

**Carried unanimously**

**CC-120829-CA-0012**

WHEREAS Commissioner Carolyn Curiale of Electoral Division 5 is resigning her seat as Commissioner of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board as of the closure of the 2012-08-29 meeting;

WHEREAS in accordance with the *Act to defer the November 2011 general school election*, the Council of Commissioners must fill the vacancy within 30 days, after consultation with the Parents Committee by appointing a person of its choice who has the qualifications required of a school board Commissioner;

Commissioner Peter MacLaurin MOVED THAT the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board ask its members to invite potential candidates to submit their interest to the Secretary General prior to 2012-09-11 explaining what they could contribute to the school board and the Council of Commissioners.

AND THAT in addition, this position of Commissioner be posted on the Corporate Web site of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board.

AND THAT the Chairman of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board call for a caucus meeting to review the applications.

AND THAT a new Commissioner is appointed no later than 2012-09-28.

FURTHER THAT the position of Vice-Chairman be replaced within the same delay.

**Carried unanimously**

**6.2 HUMAN RESOURCES**

**6.2.1 Director of Information Technology:**

The Director of Human Resources advised that the Selection Committee interviewed potential candidates on 2012-08-21 and made a recommendation.

**CC-120829-HR-0013**

WHEREAS the position of Director of Information Technology is currently vacant;

WHEREAS this position was posted from 2012-08-06 until 2012-08-17 and a Selection Committee held interviews on 2012-08-21;

Commissioner Nancy Rupnik MOVED THAT, on the recommendation of the Selection Committee, the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board approve the appointment of **Robin Bennett** as the Director of Information Technology, effective 2012-08-30.

**Carried unanimously**

**6.3 INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY**

**6.3.1 GRICS Annual Invoice 2012-2013:**

The Director of Information Technology presented the annual GRICS invoice noting that there was a 7 000\$ increase over the 2011-2012 school year due to the installation of new programs.

**CC-120829-IT-0014**

WHEREAS the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board uses GRICS (Société de gestion du réseau informatique des commissions scolaires) software for the management of its administrative and pedagogical information systems;

WHEREAS GRICS invoices the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board on an annual basis for those software licenses and related support services;

Commissioner George Benoit MOVED THAT, on the recommendation of the Director of Information Technology, the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board approve the payment of invoice #FA-201598 received for the 2012-2013 school year from **GRICS** (Société de gestion du réseau informatique des commissions scolaires) in the amount of 298 149,84\$ (342 797,78\$, all taxes included).

**Carried unanimously**

**6.4 QESBA**

**6.4.1 QESBA Award of Merit:**

Commissioner Carolyn Curiale advised that the Council that the Quebec English School Boards Association (QESBA) solicits nominations for the QESBA Award of Merit annually but that it doesn't always bestow the award. The Council is not obligated to make nominations for this award.

Commissioner Steve Mitchell nominated Commissioner Carolyn Curiale for the QESBA Award of Merit for 2012.

**CC-120829-CA-0015**

Commissioner Steve Mitchell MOVED THAT the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board submit the name of **Commissioner Carolyn Curiale** as a candidate for the QESBA Award of Merit on the occasion of the 2012 Annual General Meeting.

<b>THIS MOTION WAS CARRIED ON THE FOLLOWING DIVISION:</b>	
<b>Commissioners voting YEA:</b>	Georges Benoit, Steve Bletas, Mario Di Domenico, Robert Dixon, Nazario Facchino, Steve Kmec, Peter MacLaurin, Nick Milas, Steve Mitchell, Tom Mouhteros, Grace Nesi, Albina Pace, Mike Pizzola, William Pollock, Nancy Rupnik, Edward Turchyniak
<b>Commissioners ABSTAINING:</b>	Carolyn Curiale

## 7.0 INFORMATION ITEMS

### 7.1 *Reports of Committee Chairs:*

There were no meetings during the summer months.

### 7.2 *SWL Foundation:*

Commissioner Edward Turchyniak informed the Council that the Sir Wilfrid Laurier Foundation Gala will be held on 2013-01-17 and the Lobster Fest on 2013-06-14.

### 7.3 *Parent Commissioners Report*

Parent Commissioner Angelo Grasso extended best wishes to Commissioner Carolyn Curiale on behalf of the Parents Committee and thanked her for her support and dedication to the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board students and staff.

### 7.4 *Report of the QESBA:*

Commissioner Carolyn Curiale thanked all the Commissioners who attended the 2012 Canadian School Boards Association (CSBA) Annual Congress in Québec City noting that it was very positive and informative.

The Chairman advised the Council that there would be a caucus meeting on 2012-09-11 at 19:30 hours.

He went on to welcome Tina Korb, Director of Educational Services, and Fred Greschner, Director of Complementary Services, to the Council table.

## 8.0 QUESTION PERIOD:

In response to a question from Paul Leal, a parent from Crestview Elementary School, the Director of Material Resources advised that during the tendering process for phase II of the AVEC project at Crestview Elementary School some problems with the plans were discovered. The necessary revisions were made to the plans but the timing for the tendering was not favourable due to the summer holiday period, therefore the project will be completed in the summer of 2013 so as not to disrupt the students.

In response to questions from a parent concerning interboard agreements, the Chairman noted that the issue of interboard agreements has been returned to the committee level for further discussion and examination, and that her comments will be taken into consideration

Commissioner Steve Kmec left the meeting.

**TIME: 22:55 hours**

## 9.0 CORRESPONDENCE:

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

Commissioner Steve Kmec returned to the meeting.

**TIME: 22:56 hours**

## 10.0 VARIA:

In response to a question from Commissioner Edward Turchyniak, the Chairman noted that the date selected for the caucus allows for the necessary information to be collated.

**11.0 ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING:**

Commissioner Tom Mouhteros MOVED adjournment of the meeting.

**Carried unanimously**

**TIME: 22:57 hours**

**NEXT MEETING ⇨ REGULAR ⇨ 2012-09-24**

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**Marie-Claude Drouin, Secretary General**

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**Nick Milas, Chairman**