

PROVINCE OF QUEBEC

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE SIR WILFRID LAURIER SCHOOL BOARD HELD ON 2002-01-23

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, 2002-01-23 at 19:30 hours, at which were present:

Steve Bletas, Chairman; William Pollock, Vice-Chairman; Natalie Auclair, Carolyn Curiale, Nazario Facchino, Linda Gagnon, Pierre Garofano, Peter Haldimand, Steve Kmec, Peter MacLaurin, James McDougall, Nick Milas, Nancy Rupnik, Morten Schrier, and Mary Svtelis, Commissioners; Linda Iaconetti and Ghislaine Tanner, Parent Commissioners; and Dominic Martini, Director General.

Also present were: Robert Vallerand, Deputy Director General; François Badin, Director of Human Resources; Jean-Guy Messier, Director of Information Services; Raymond Thivierge, Director of Material Resources; and Jocelyne Thompson-Ness, Administrative Assistant. Several other persons were also in the audience.

Absent: Walter Fogel, Glen Haines, Grace Nesi and Edward Turchyniak, Commissioners

Guests: Laiq Hanafi and Augy Santini.

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 19:43 hours.

The Chairman welcomed everyone and extended best wishes for a happy and healthy New Year.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

The following additions and changes to the agenda were proposed:

6.0 CORPORATE AFFAIRS:

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| 6.1 | <i>Policy on Equity Between Schools</i> | INFO |
| 6.2 | <i>H.O.N.D.A. for Families Project</i> | INFO |

020123-CA-0063

Natalie Auclair MOVED THAT the agenda be accepted as amended in document #2002/01/23-CA-001.

Carried unanimously

2.0 APPROVAL OF MINUTES

In a verbal notice, received via telephone, Carolyn Curiale advised that on page 0637 of the minutes of the meeting held on 2001-12-12 under item 13.1, paragraph 2, line 2 the words “*consider these activities as part of the teacher workday*” are to be struck and replaced by “*underline their importance to students, particularly those who do not excel academically, who are encouraged to stay in school because of these activities.*”

020123-CA-0064

Linda Iaconetti MOVED THAT the minutes of the REGULAR meeting of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board held on 2001-12-12, having been received by all members prior to this meeting, be approved as corrected.

Carried unanimously

3.0 QUESTION PERIOD

The Chairman thanked those who wished to ask questions this evening for submitting their questions in writing.

In response to a question from Mark McNaughton, a parent at McCaig Elementary School, asking that schools receive the GST/PST rebate from expenses related to fundraising activities, the Director General advised that the board had decided to discontinue the practice of giving the GST/PST rebate back to schools since it is considered a revenue for the school board which is taken into consideration when distributing resources among all schools.

He also noted that the board had created a 50 000\$ equity fund to support the most disadvantaged schools with the revenues from the rebate.

He further noted that the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board had been one of the only school boards to have given the rebate to schools.

In response to a question from Steve Mitchell, a parent at McCaig Elementary School, asking that the walking distance for students be adjusted so as to be age appropriate, the Director General advised that the walking distance followed funding norms and that the Transportation Policy is reviewed each year.

In response to an additional question from Mr. Mitchell, the Director General noted that the school could submit its proposal for a change in the walking distances which takes into consideration the age of students to the Transportation Committee.

In response to a question from David Modlin, a parent at Lewis King Elementary School, regarding question period procedures, the Chairman responded that the length of the question period is set out in the rules of order and procedure of the school board and that the manner in which the question period is conducted is at the discretion of the Chairman.

In response to an additional question from Mr. Modlin regarding violence on school buses, the Director General agreed that this is a serious issue which Principals handle within the terms of the discipline policy of the school and the school board's Transportation Policy.

4.0 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The Chairman extended congratulations, on behalf of the Council of Commissioners, to Nancy Rupnik on her appointment to the Board of Directors of the Régie régionale de la santé et des services sociaux des Laurentides.

The Chairman extended appreciation to Laiq Hanafi and Augy Santini for their years of dedication to education and presented each with a plaque to honour their contributions.

The Chairman reported on a recent caucus meeting of the Council noting that issues such as the teachers job action, the legal case concerning the lease of the Holy Rosary Elementary Annex and the executive search for a new Director General had been discussed.

He continued by reading into the minutes a letter to the Ministre de l'Éducation, document #SWLSB-2002/01/23-CA-001, that commends the goodwill and the professionalism of the teachers of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board.

At the request of the Chairman the Director General commented on the legal case concerning the renewal of the lease of the Holy Rosary Elementary School Annex.

The Chairman advised that PricewaterhouseCoopers had been engaged to conduct the executive search for a new Director General.

He went on to note that the format of the Selection Committee for the new Director General had been discussed and agreed upon at the caucus meeting held on 2002-01-22 and that the committee would consist of seven of the following persons: the Chairman of the Council of Commissioners, the Chairman of the Executive Committee, and the Chairs of the Standing Committees with the exception of the Transportation Committee since the Chairperson of that committee would not be available.

The Chairman advised that the Treasury Board had responded to the board's resolution on salary scales and that it has instituted a 7% differential between a director of a service and the highest paid employee he/she supervises.

In closing, the Chairman drew the Council's attention to the upcoming Leadership Symposium in February 2002 and the official openings of Pierre Elliott Trudeau Elementary School on 2002-01-24 and Jules Verne Elementary School on 2002-01-28. He encouraged Council members to attend these events.

020123-CA-0065

Steve Kmec MOVED THAT the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board mandate the Chairman to send a letter to François Legault, Ministre de l'Éducation, conveying the board's support of the exemplary work by teachers; AND THAT the Ministre recognize the high level of professionalism and dedication of the teachers of Québec.

Carried unanimously

5.0 BUSINESS ARISING

5.1 *Idling Buses:*

In response to a request made by Walter Fogel at the 2001-12-12 meeting of the Council, the Deputy Director General advised the Council that none of the board's school buses are parked in close proximity to the air intake vent at the schools and that a report to that effect had been prepared by the Coordinator of School Organization and Transportation and could be found in the meeting package.

6.0 CORPORATE AFFAIRS

6.1 *Policy on Equity Between Schools:*

In response to a concern from Steve Kmec on the lack of a board policy on equity between schools, the Director General advised that this equity is built into the annual budget parameters and is based on the socio-economic status of a school. He identified such elements as: the budget for small schools, the additional allocations for distance and dispersion for schools as well as Governing boards; the socio-economic fund for category 89 schools; the supplementary allocations for Crestview elementary School, Phoenix Alternative and Mountainview High School.

6.2 *H.O.N.D.A. for Families Project:*

In response to a question from Nancy Rupnik, the Director General advised that the *H.O.N.D.A. for Families Project* is a project of Crestview Elementary School to promote literacy.

7.0 PARENT COMMISSIONERS REPORT

Linda Iaconetti reported to the Council of Commissioners on the most recent Parents Committee meeting noting that the Parents Committee:

- approved the 2002-2003 school calendar with the request that two pedagogical days be granted only if teachers do not boycott curriculum implementation;
- named a second delegate to the FCPPQ;

- expressed concerns about the new elementary report card;

- asked what the financial impact of providing Lewis King and Holy Rosary Elementary Schools with the same Spring break as other schools would be;
- approved sending a letter to the Laurier Teachers Union supporting them as full-time teachers but advising that parents do not support the job action as it will result in students being penalized and financial investments in activities being lost;
- expressed concern about violence on school buses.

In response to a question from Steve Kmec, the Director General advised that some field trips would still take place such as those to Europe but that other field trips would only take place if the teacher boycott is lifted.

8.0 HUMAN RESOURCES

There was no business to be concluded.

9.0 USE OF SCHOOLS

The Director General advised Council that registration for the 2002-2003 school year would take place the week of 2002-01-28.

In response to a question from Steve Kmec, the Deputy Director General informed the Council that a public notice concerning registration had been placed in the 2002-01-09 edition of The Gazette in accordance with the Education Act (R.S.Q., Chapter I-13.3).

10.0 TRANSPORTATION

There was no business to be conducted.

11.0 EDUCATIONAL SERVICES

11.1 *Time Allocations 2002-2003 – Secondary:*

The Deputy Director General reviewed the proposed secondary time allocations for the 2002-2003 school year.

020123-ED-0066

Carolyn Curiale MOVED THAT, on the recommendation of the Educational Services Committee, the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board authorize the time allocations, as contained in Document #SWLSB-2002/01/23-ED-002, approved by the Governing Board of each middle school and high school for the 2002-2003 school year, as they are in compliance with section 3.2 of Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board policy #99-ED-04: Program of Studies for the Secondary School.

Carried unanimously

12.0 MATERIAL RESOURCES

12.1 *Bi-Energy Rate Increase for 2002 & 2003 :*

The Director General provided background information on the proposed Bi-Energy rate increase.

020123-MR-0067

WHEREAS Hydro Québec has deposited a request to amend its Bi-Energy rates with the “Régie de l’énergie”;

WHEREAS the financial impact to school boards, by implementing this two-phased additional rate increase, which would take effect 2002-05-01 and 2003-05-01, results in additional expenditures of 55% for the consumption of Bi-Energy:

WHEREAS this new rate increase could be considered as additional budgetary compressions and hence adversely affect services to students directly;

WHEREAS additional costs for energy expenditures to school boards should be compensated by public funds;

WHEREAS Hydro Québec is a para-Government entity and its proceeds contribute financially to the Government of Québec’s operation and activities;

WHEREAS it is a paradox that the additional revenues received by a para-Government agency creates additional equivalent expenditures that must be assumed by the school boards and the Ministère de l’Éducation;

Peter Haldimand MOVED THAT, on the recommendation of the Material Resources Committee, the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board strongly oppose Hydro Québec’s request to increase its rates for Bi-Energy consumption.

AND THAT a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Ministère de l’Éducation, the Quebec English School Boards Association (QESBA); La Fédération des Commissions scolaire du Québec (FCSQ), La société Hydro-Québec, and La Régie de l’énergie requesting that the Bi-energy rates remain status quo.

AND FURTHER THAT this resolution also be forwarded to QESBA member school boards requesting their support.

Carried unanimously

13.0 INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

There was no business to be concluded.

14.0 FINANCIAL RESOURCES

There was no business to be concluded.

15.0 QESBA**15.1 QESBA Report:**

Carolyn Curiale advised that there would be a report for the next Council meeting as the first meeting of the New Year would be held on 2002-01-25.

The Chairman asked that Council members complete and return the survey recently sent by the Quebec English School Boards Association (QESBA).

15.2 Nominations for QESBA Award of Merit:

The Chairman advised the Council that the nominations for the QESBA Award of Merit had been discussed at the caucus meeting.

0645

020123-CA-0068

Nick Milas MOVED THAT the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board submit the names of **Peter Haldimand** and **William Pollock** as a candidates for the QESBA Award of Merit on the occasion of the 2002 Annual Spring Conference.

THIS MOTION WAS CARRIED ON THE FOLLOWING DIVISION:

YEA: Natalie Auclair, Steve Bletas, Carolyn Curiale, Nazario Facchino, Linda Gagnon, Pierre Garofano, Steve Kmec, Peter MacLaurin, James McDougall, Nick Milas, Nancy Rupnik, Morten Schrier, Mary Svtelis

ABST: Peter Haldimand, William Pollock

15.3 Nominations for QESBA Long Service Award:

The Chairman advised the Council that the nominations for the QESBA Long Service Award had also been discussed at the caucus meeting.

020123-CA-0069

Peter MacLaurin MOVED THAT the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board submit the name of **Morten Schrier** as a candidate for the QESBA Long Service Award on the occasion of the 2002 Annual Spring Conference.

THIS MOTION WAS CARRIED ON THE FOLLOWING DIVISION:

YEA: Natalie Auclair, Steve Bletas, Carolyn Curiale, Nazario Facchino, Linda Gagnon, Pierre Garofano, Peter Haldimand, Steve Kmec, Peter MacLaurin, James McDougall, Nick Milas, William Pollock, Nancy Rupnik, Mary Svtelis

ABST: Morten Schrier

16.0 QUESTION PERIOD

In response to a question from the audience, the Chairman stated that the teachers are boycotting field trips, extra curricular activities and curriculum reform implementation, but not remediation.

17.0 CORRESPONDENCE

In response to a question from Peter MacLaurin regarding legal fees, the Director General noted that Le Corre et Associés handles the grievance cases for all categories of employees and is involved in the case where day care attendants working in privately operated day cares using the facilities of some schools are asking to be recognized as employees of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board.

18.0 VARIA

In response to a question from Nick Milas, the Director General advised that the new Director of Financial Resources will start on 2002-02-04.

19.0 ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING

Nazario Facchino MOVED adjournment of the meeting.

Carried unanimously

TIME: 20:56 hours

NEXT MEETING ⇨ REGULAR ⇨ 2002-02-27

Robert Vallerand, Secretary General

Steve Bletas, Chairman