

PROVINCE OF QUEBEC

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE SIR WILFRID LAURIER SCHOOL BOARD HELD ON 2002-02-27

A Regular meeting of the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board was held in the boardroom of the Administration Centre, 235 Montée Lesage, Rosemere, QC on Wednesday, 2002-02-27 at 19:30 hours, at which were present:

Steve Bletas, Chairman; William Pollock, Vice-Chairman; Carolyn Curiale, Nazario Facchino, Walter Fogel, Linda Gagnon, Pierre Garofano, Glen Haines; Peter Haldimand, Steve Kmec, Peter MacLaurin, James McDougall, Nick Milas, Grace Nesi, Nancy Rupnik, Mary Sotelis, and Edward Turchyniak, 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; Livia Nassivera, Director of Financial Resources; Raymond Thivierge, Director of Material Resources; and Jocelyne Thompson-Ness, Administrative Assistant. Several other persons were also in the audience.

Absent: Natalie Auclair and Morten Schrier, Commissioners.

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 19:35 hours.

The Chairman welcomed, on behalf of the Council of Commissioners, Livia Nassivera the new Director of Financial Resources.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

The following additions and changes to the agenda were proposed:

6.0 CORPORATE AFFAIRS:

6.2	<i>Executive Committee Minutes</i>	INFO
6.3	<i>Director General Search</i>	INFO

12.0 TRANSPORTATION:

12.4	<i>STL Strike</i>	INFO
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14.0 MATERIAL RESOURCES:

14.3	<i>Protocol with Ville de Deux-Montagnes</i>	INFO
14.4	<i>Emergency Preparedness</i>	INFO

020227-CA-0070

Steve Kmec MOVED THAT the agenda be accepted as amended in document #2002/02/27-CA-001.

Carried unanimously

2.0 APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Steve Kmec noted that on page 0642 of the minutes of the regular meeting held on 2002-01-23 in the 1st paragraph on the 3rd line that the words "...of seven..." should be inserted after the word "consist".

020227-CA-0071

Mary Svotelis MOVED THAT the minutes of the REGULAR meeting of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board held on 2002-01-23, having been received by all members prior to this meeting, be approved as corrected.

THIS MOTION WAS CARRIED ON THE FOLLOWING DIVISION:

YEA: 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 Svotelis

ABST: Walter Fogel, Glen Haines, Grace Nesi, Edward Turchyniak

3.0 QUESTION PERIOD

In response to a question from Marc McNaughton, a parent from McCaig Elementary School, the Chairman advised that the Council of Commissioners did not ignore the recommendations received during the consultation on the 2001-2002 Budget Parameters. He noted that all responses had been reviewed and that decisions had been made in the best interest of the school system.

The Director General responded to Mr. McNaughton's question by stating that the GST/PST rebate is part of the revenue stream of the school board that is revenue neutral in some areas such as transportation and capital projects, and revenue enhancing in others thereby allowing the school board to support the system and distribute its resources more equitably so that some of the schools that are socio-economically disadvantaged may benefit.

In response to a question from David Modlin, a parent from Lewis King Elementary School, the Director General advised that three years ago the school board installed cameras in public areas of its high schools in order to provide better safety and security for students and staff.

In response to an additional question from Mr. Modlin concerning board correspondence, the Director General confirmed that he had sent an invoice to the Laurier Teachers Union requesting payment to schools for deposits lost for field trips that have had to be cancelled due to the teachers' job action.

4.0 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The Chairman advised the Council that the Ministère de l'Éducation had authorized 636 794,00\$ to the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board for the upgrading of its schools.

He went on to remind the Council of the caucus meeting planned for 2002-03-13 to discuss the evaluation of the Director General and the Deputy Director General and other topics.

He read for the Council a letter received from Céline Signori, the former member de l'Assemblée Nationale for Blainville, thanking the board for the kind words of appreciation extended to her at the official opening of the Pierre Elliott Trudeau Elementary School.

At the invitation of the Chairman, the Director General commented on the recent agreement reached with the teachers unions. He advised that because this agreement in principle does not address the issue of pay equity the teacher job action will continue.

5.0 BUSINESS ARISING

5.1 *Legal Cases – Update:*

The Director General brought the Council up to date on various cases presently before the courts: the use of well lit playing fields at Morin Heights Elementary School after school hours; the rental fee charged to private day care and the requirement that English be taught at least 60 minutes a day in grade 1 in French Immersion schools; support staff union seeking to have day care workers in the private day cares recognized as unionized employees of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board; and the temporary injunction preventing the board from signing the annual renewable lease for the Holy Rosary Elementary School annex.

6.0 CORPORATE AFFAIRS**6.1 Division of Territory:**

The Deputy Director General advised the Council of the amendments to the “*Act respecting school elections*” in preparation for the November 2003 elections highlighting the method for dividing territory into electoral divisions based on the number of electors. He noted that the board currently has 19 electoral divisions and that under the law it would only be entitled to 17.

He went on to inform the Council that a school board can make a formal request to the Ministre de l'Éducation to have the number of electoral divisions increased as long as it meets the criteria set out in the amended version of the “*Act respecting school elections*”.

The Council entered into discussion.

020227-CA-0072

WHEREAS section 6 of “*An Act respecting school elections*” designated that electoral divisions will vary in accordance with the number of electors;

WHEREAS the Directeur général des élections has advised the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board that the number of electors registered to date stands at 33 338;

WHEREAS this number of electors entitles the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board to divide its territory into 17 electoral divisions;

WHEREAS the electoral divisions established in 1998 gave the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board 19 electoral divisions;

WHEREAS section 7 of “*An Act respecting school elections*” states that the Minister may authorize a school board to increase or decrease its number of electoral divisions;

WHEREAS the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board satisfies all the justifications required under section 7, namely the particularly large size of the school board territory, the number of municipalities, cities, towns, villages and parishes (151) that are located within the territory of the school board and the isolated location of many of these municipalities, etc. within the territory of the school board;

WHEREAS the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board wishes to maintain the current number of electoral divisions at 19;

James McDougall MOVED THAT, on the recommendation of the Executive Committee, the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board request that the Ministère de l'Éducation authorize the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board an increase of electoral divisions from 17 to 19 for the 2003-11-16 school board elections.

THIS MOTION WAS CARRIED ON THE FOLLOWING DIVISION:

YEA: Steve Bletas, Carolyn Curiale, Nazario Facchino, Linda Gagnon, Pierre Garofano, Glen Haines, Peter Haldimand, Peter MacLaurin, James McDougall, Nick Milas, Grace Nesi, William Pollock, Nancy Rupnik, Mary Svoltelis, Edward Turchyniak

NAY: Walter Fogel, Steve Kmec

6.2 Executive Committee Minutes:

In response to a question from Walter Fogel, the Director General noted that he had made the recommendations to the Executive Committee for the resolutions concerning Human Resources because no meeting of the Human Resources Committee had been held in January prior to the meeting of the Executive Committee.

6.3 Director General Search:

In response to an objection from Steve Kmec concerning the use of the word “Anglophone” in the advertisement placed by PricewaterhouseCoopers for a new Director General, the Director General advised that the word “Anglophone” is correct English usage and can be found in the Canadian Oxford Dictionary as well as the Merriam Webster Dictionary.

7.0 FINANCIAL RESOURCES

7.1 Proposed Policy #2001-FR-02: Issuance of Tax Receipts:

The Director General reviewed the responses received from the consultation on the policy for the issuance of tax receipts.

020227-FR-0073

Walter Fogel MOVED THAT section 3 of Policy #2001-FR-02: Issuance of tax receipts be amended by adding at the end “*and that such amount will be conveyed to the donor before the donation is accepted.*”

THIS MOTION WAS DEFEATED ON THE FOLLOWING DIVISION:

YEA: Walter Fogel, Steve Kmec

NAY: Steve Bletas, Carolyn Curiale, Nazario Facchino, Linda Gagnon, Pierre Garofano, Glen Haines, Peter Haldimand, Peter MacLaurin, James McDougall, Nick Milas, Grace Nesi, William Pollock, Nancy Rupnik, Mary Svoltelis, Edward Turchyniak

020227-FR-0074

Edward Turchyniak MOVED THAT, on the recommendation of the Financial Resources Committee, the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board approve policy #2001-FR-02: Issuance of Tax Receipts.

THIS MOTION WAS CARRIED ON THE FOLLOWING DIVISION:

YEA: Steve Bletas, Carolyn Curiale, Nazario Facchino, Linda Gagnon, Pierre Garofano, Glen Haines, Peter Haldimand, Peter MacLaurin, James McDougall, Nick Milas, Grace Nesi, William Pollock, Nancy Rupnik, Mary Svoltelis, Edward Turchyniak

ABST Walter Fogel, Steve Kmec

7.2 2001-2002 Revised Budget:

The Director General reviewed the 2001-2002 revised budget.

The Council entered into discussion.

020227-FR-0075

Edward Turchyniak MOVED THAT, on the recommendation of the Financial Resources Committee, the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board approve the **revised budget for 2001-2002**.

THIS MOTION WAS CARRIED ON THE FOLLOWING DIVISION:

YEA: Steve Bletas, Carolyn Curiale, Nazario Facchino, Linda Gagnon, Pierre Garofano, Glen Haines, Peter Haldimand, Peter MacLaurin, James McDougall, Nick Milas, Grace Nesi, William Pollock, Nancy Rupnik, Mary Svoltelis, Edward Turchyniak

NAY: Walter Fogel
ABST: Steve Kmec

The Director General left the meeting.

TIME: 20:56 hours

8.0 QESBA

8.1 QESBA Report:

Carolyn Curiale advised the Council of a conference on health and social services that will be held on March 22 & 23, 2002; that the Quebec English School Boards Association (QESBA) draft budget will be approved in principle at the March meeting and that the per capita rate paid as a membership fee by school boards will not be raised for the 2002-2003 school year.

She asked that the Council review the QESBA draft budget and bring any questions concerning it to the March meeting of the Council of Commissioners.

In response to a question from the Chairman, Mrs. Curiale advised that the results of the recent survey are being reviewed and that focus groups will be formed to address some of the issues resulting from the survey.

8.2 Nominations for QESBA Board of Directors:

The Chairman advised the Council that Natalie Auclair had expressed an interest in continuing as a delegate to the Quebec English School Boards Association (QESBA) Board of Directors.

Carolyn Curiale indicated that she is interested in continuing to represent the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board on the Board of Directors of the QESBA.

The Chairman asked if there were any other nominations and there being none declared Mrs. Auclair and Mrs. Curiale elected by acclamation.

020227-CA-0076

WHEREAS the Chair of the Quebec English School Boards Association (QESBA) Nominations Committee has requested member boards to advise the Association of their delegates to the Board of Directors of the QESBA;

Pierre Garofano MOVED THAT the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board name **Natalie Auclair** and **Carolyn Curiale** to the Board of Directors of the Quebec English School Boards Association (QESBA) for 2002-2003.

THIS MOTION WAS CARRIED ON THE FOLLOWING DIVISION:

YEA: Steve Bletas, Carolyn Curiale, Nazario Facchino, Linda Gagnon, Pierre Garofano, Glen Haines, Peter Haldimand, Steve Kmec, Peter MacLaurin, James McDougall, Nick Milas, Grace Nesi, William Pollock, Nancy Rupnik, Mary Sotelis, Edward Turchyniak

ABST: Walter Fogel

8.3 QESBA Honourary Membership:

020227-CA-0077

Carolyn Curiale MOVED THAT the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board nominate **Dominic R. Martini**, Director General, for the Quebec English School Boards Association (QESBA) Honourary Membership.

THIS MOTION WAS CARRIED ON THE FOLLOWING DIVISION:

YEA: Steve Bletas, Carolyn Curiale, Nazario Facchino, Linda Gagnon, Pierre Garofano, Glen Haines, Peter Haldimand, Steve Kmec, Peter MacLaurin, James McDougall, Nick Milas, Grace Nesi, William Pollock, Nancy Rupnik, Mary Sotelis, Edward Turchyniak

The Chairman called for a 10 minutes recess.	TIME: 21:00 hours
Linda Gagnon excused herself for the evening.	TIME: 21:00 hours
The meeting resumed.	TIME: 21:10 hours
The Director General returned to the meeting.	TIME: 21:10 hours

9.0 PARENT COMMISSIONERS REPORT

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

- is aware that the Calendar Committee could not come to a unanimous decision concerning the 2002-2003 school calendar and that it was now being discussed by the board and the Laurier Teachers Union;
- had elected Beverly Schofield as its third representative to the FCPPQ;
- will be having a retreat at the Arundel Natural Science Centre on 2002-03-16;
- feels that the board needs to look at the needs of the gifted student as these students also require special services;
- extended appreciation to the Director General for his letter on violence on the school bus as the contents helped to alleviate concerns.

10.0 HUMAN RESOURCES

There was no business to be concluded.

11.0 USE OF SCHOOLS

11.1 *Deeds of Establishment & Three-Year Plan:*

The Director General reviewed the proposed changes to the deeds of establishment and the three-year plan for 2002-2003.

020227-TS-0078

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

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

WHEREAS the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board has carried out the required consultation in conformity with sections 40 and 193 of the Education Act (R.S.Q., Chapter I-13.3);

Peter MacLaurin MOVED THAT, on the recommendation of the Committee on the Use of Schools and Other Facilities, the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board approve in principle policy #2002-CA-02: Deeds of Establishment and Three Year Plan for Allocation and Destination of Immovables.

THIS MOTION WAS CARRIED ON THE FOLLOWING DIVISION:

YEA: Steve Bletas, Carolyn Curiale, Nazario Facchino, Linda Gagnon, Pierre Garofano, Glen Haines, Peter Haldimand, Steve Kmec, Peter MacLaurin, James McDougall, Nick Milas, Grace Nesi, William Pollock, Nancy Rupnik, Mary Svolis, Edward Turchyniak

12.0 TRANSPORTATION**12.1 Attendance Zone- St-Janvier:**

The Director General provided background information noting that the student population in St-Janvier has not increased and the status quo is recommended for the 2002-2003 school year.

He went on to advise that new students from the St-Janvier area would attend Laurentian Elementary School as Pierre Elliott Trudeau Elementary School is at capacity.

020227-TS-0079

WHEREAS the Governing Board of Laurentia Elementary School has asked for a review of the decision to modify the attendance zone of its school by excluding St-Janvier;

WHEREAS the Committee on the Use of Schools and Facilities has undertaken that review;

Ghislaine Tanner MOVED THAT, on the recommendation of the Committee on the Use of Schools and Other Facilities, the Council of Commissioners accept to allow the students to remain at Laurentia Elementary School for the 2002-2003 school year, to maintain the status quo of Saint-Janvier students with respect to their attendance zone for the 2002-2003 school year, and to review this recommendation for the 2003-2004 school year.

Carried unanimously

12.2 Bus Safety Video:

The Deputy Director General advised the Council that the Coordinator of School Organization and Transportation on behalf of the board had participated in a joint project with the Commission scolaire de Laval to produce a 15-minute film on bus safety aimed at parents and students. The Transportation Committee has viewed the film and the Parents Committee will review it at its April meeting. Schools can view the film upon request.

12.3 Review of Transportation Policy:

The Director General advised that the Transportation Committee had reviewed the request of the McCaig Elementary School Governing Board to have walking distances based on age group and that the committee had decided to maintain the status quo.

Nancy Rupnik commented that the media has reported that there has been renewed interest in students walking to school as a health benefit and that the board should promote this.

12.4 STL Strike:

In response to concerns expressed by Walter Fogel on the 2002-01-31 Société de transport de la Ville de Laval (STL) strike, the Director General commented that on the whole the STL provides good service to the board and that even if private contractors were used to transport the high school students living in Laval there is no guarantee that a strike could not occur.

020227-TS-0080

Walter Fogel MOVED THAT the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board mandate the Transportation Committee to review the Transportation Policy with respect to dedicated transportation service in Laval by the Société de transport de la Ville de Laval (STL) with the view of having this service provided by other contractors.

THIS MOTION WAS DEFEATED ON THE FOLLOWING DIVISION:

YEA: Walter Fogel, Steve Kmec

NAY: Steve Bletas, Carolyn Curiale, Nazario Facchino, Pierre Garofano, Glen Haines, Peter Haldimand, Peter MacLaurin, James McDougall, Nick Milas, Grace Nesi, William Pollock, Nancy Rupnik, Mary Svoltelis, Edward Turchyniak

13.0 EDUCATIONAL SERVICES

The Deputy Director General advised the Council that an understanding has been reached with the Laurier Teachers Union with respect to the 2002-2003 school calendar.

13.1 Time Allocations 2002-2003 – Elementary:

The Deputy Director General reviewed the elementary time allocations for 2002-2003 noting that they respect the Basic School Regulation, board policy and were approved by the individual Governing Boards.

020227-ED-0081

Grace Nesi 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 approved by the Governing Board of each elementary school, as per Document #SWLSB-2002/02/27-ED-001, for the 2002-2003 school year, as they are in compliance with section 2.2 of Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board policy #99-ED-03: Program of Studies for the Elementary School.

THIS MOTION WAS CARRIED ON THE FOLLOWING DIVISION:

YEA: Steve Bletas, Carolyn Curiale, Nazario Facchino, Linda Gagnon, Pierre Garofano, Glen Haines, Peter Haldimand, Peter MacLaurin, James McDougall, Nick Milas, Grace Nesi, William Pollock, Nancy Rupnik, Mary Svoltelis, Edward Turchyniak

NAY: Walter Fogel, Steve Kmec

14.0 MATERIAL RESOURCES**14.1 5-Year Plan – Furniture & Painting:**

The Director General presented the proposed 5-year plan for the replacement of furniture and the painting of schools.

The Council entered into discussion.

020227-MR-0082

WHEREAS the furniture needs to be replaced or refurbished in the majority of the schools of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board;

WHEREAS the majority of the schools within the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board need to be painted;

WHEREAS the Material Resources Committee and the Directorate recommend that 1 500 000\$ be budgeted over the next five years towards the purchase and refurbishing furniture and the painting of schools;

WHEREAS the funds for this project will become available as a result of the reduction in the school board's debt service;

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William Pollock MOVED THAT, on the recommendation of the Material Resources Committee and the Directorate, the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board allocate a budget of 1 500 000\$ over the next five years to purchase and refurbish furniture in schools and to paint schools as per the schedule contained in document #SWLSB-2002/02/27-MR-001.

Carried unanimously

14.2 Measure 50620 – Upgrade of Buildings:

The Director General reviewed Measure 50620 noting that the school board must contribute 30% of the total investment in the project. He reported that the Material Resources department had reviewed the architectural and engineering studies completed for the board 2 years ago and has prioritized seven projects. The Material Resources Committee has reviewed and supports the projects.

The Council entered into discussion.

In response to a question from Peter Haldimand, the Director General noted that the Director of Material Resources has been asked to act immediately on these projects, if approved, so as to engage professionals and contractors for the projects before the market for services is flooded.

020227-MR-0083

WHEREAS the government of Quebec announced a special measure to assist school boards in upgrading their buildings;

WHEREAS the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board will receive 636 794\$ through this measure provided it is prepared to invest an amount equal to 30% of the total investment in all projects undertaken under this measure;

WHEREAS the total investment must include the rebate on taxes accorded to the school board in an amount equivalent to 43 749\$;

WHEREAS the government of Quebec has calculated the contribution of the school board from its capital budget to be 291 661\$;

WHEREAS all projects must be initiated prior to August, 2002;

WHEREAS the government of Quebec has given school boards a dispensation from the application of its directive on the hiring of professionals as well as the requirement to obtain the advice of the MEQ on the plans and specifications for the projects undertaken under this measure;

Nancy Rupnik MOVED THAT the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board, on the recommendation of the Material Resources Committee, commit 291 661\$ of its capital budget for 2002-2003 and also commit the GST/PST rebate of 43 749\$ so as to benefit from the allocation of 636 794\$ from the government of Quebec to upgrade school buildings, for a total investment of 972 204\$; AND THAT the Director of Material Resources proceed with the following projects:

Rosemere High School	Windows	510 000\$
St-Paul Annex (St-Ernest)	Roof	218 500\$
Lake of Two Mountains High School	Water Infiltration Correction	85 500\$
Joliette High School	Roof	50 000\$
Western Laval High School	Windows	30 000\$
Arundel Elementary School	Water Infiltration	16 000\$
Laurentian Elementary School	Boiler Replacement	62 000\$
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		972 000\$

14.3 Protocol with Ville de Deux-Montagnes:

In response to a question from Walter Fogel, the Director General advised that the protocol with the Ville de Deux-Montagnes for the park project at Mountainview Elementary School will only be developed once the Ville decides that it will proceed with its project.

14.4 Emergency Preparedness :

In response to concerns expressed by Walter Fogel, the Director General agreed to provide an update on the status of emergency plans adopted by schools.

15.0 INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

There was no business to be concluded.

16.0 QUESTION PERIOD

There were no questions.

17.0 CORRESPONDENCE

The Chairman drew the Council's attention to the reports and letters contained in the meeting package.

In response to a question from Walter Fogel, the Director General explained that the Fédération des commissions scolaires du Québec and the Quebec English School Boards Association (QESBA) had represented the school boards before the Régie de l'énergie concerning the increase in the bi-energy rates and that the resolution presented at the 2002-01-23 meeting of the Council was to advise the Régie and Hydro-Québec that the school boards indeed support the actions of their respective associations.

The Council entered into discussion.

18.0 VARIA

Nick Milas offered best wishes for a speedy recovery to Morten Schrier and the Director General advised that get-well wishes have been sent to him on behalf of the board.

19.0 ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING

Linda Iaconetti MOVED adjournment of the meeting.

Carried unanimously

TIME: 22:10 hours

NEXT MEETING ⇨ REGULAR ⇨ 2002-03-27

Robert Vallerand, Secretary General

Steve Bletas, Chairman