

## PROVINCE OF QUEBEC

**MINUTES OF THE ADJOURNED MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE SIR WILFRID LAURIER SCHOOL BOARD HELD ON 2003-01-29**

An adjourned meeting of the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board was held in the auditorium of Rosemere High School, 530 Northcote, Rosemere, QC on Wednesday, 2003-01-29 at 19:30 hours, at which were present:

Steve Bletas, Chairman; William Pollock, Vice-Chairman; Natalie Auclair, Mary Austin, Carolyn Curiale, Nazario Facchino, Walter Fogel, Linda Gagnon, Pierre Garofano, Steve Kmec, Peter MacLaurin, James McDougall, Nick Milas, Grace Nesi, Nancy Rupnik, and Morten Schrier, Commissioners; Linda Iaconetti and Mike Possian, Parent Commissioners; and Giordano Rosa-del-Vecchio, Director General.

Also present were: Robert Vallerand, Deputy Director General; Effie Maniatis, Director of Educational Service; Jean-Guy Messier, Director of Information Services; Livia Nassivera, Director of Financial Resources; George Paquette, Coordinator of School Organization & Transportation; Raymond Thivierge, Director of Material Resources; and Jocelyne Thompson-Ness, Administration Officer. Several other persons were also in the audience.

Absent: Glen Haines, Peter Haldimand and Edward Turchyniak, Commissioners.

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 19:30 hours.

**1.0 SUSPENSION OF RULES****030129-CA-0083**

Steve Kmec MOVED THAT item 10.2, QESBA be tabled to the 2003-02-26 meeting of the Council of Commissioners.

**THIS MOTION WAS CARRIED ON THE FOLLOWING DIVISION:**

**YEA:** Natalie Auclair, Mary Austin, Steve Bletas, Nazario Facchino, Walter Fogel, Linda Gagnon, Steve Kmec, Peter MacLaurin, James McDougall, Nancy Rupnik, Morten Schrier

**NAY:** Carolyn Curiale, Nick Milas, Grace Nesi, William Pollock

**030129-CA-0084**

Peter MacLaurin MOVED THAT the rules of order concerning an adjourned meeting be suspended and that the following items be either waived or added to the agenda of this meeting:

1. The Council of Commissioners waives the requirement to read the minutes of the preceding meeting of 2003-01-22.
2. Add under item 18.0, sub-item 18.1 Question Period (20 minutes / 5 min. per person)
3. That sub-item 18.1 be moved up to follow item 1.0 in order to facilitate the participation of the public.
4. At his discretion, the Chairman be authorized to extend the public question period.

**Carried unanimously**

**030129-CA-0085**

William Pollock MOVED THAT the rules of order be reinstated.

**Carried unanimously**

## 18.1 QUESTION PERIOD

The Chairman advised those present that the Laurier Teachers Union and the Parents Committee had been consulted on the *"2003-2004 Enrollment Criteria"*.

He went on to ask those present to please conduct themselves in a professional manner so that all who have submitted questions can receive responses. He also noted that if the proceedings becomes unruly the meeting will be terminated.

The Director General welcomed every one present noting that the reason for this evening's meeting was to provide clarification on the *"Use of School for 2003-2004"* and the *"2003-2004 Enrollment Criteria"*.

He went on to note that the school board was fully aware that the response to some of the changes would not be well received but that the board needed to make its decisions in an equitable manner in order to alleviate overcrowding and to respect mandates of the Ministère de l'Éducation.

He thanked all those who had participated for their time and effort noting that this was a new method of consultation for the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board and that he hoped to receive feedback on how the board can improve this method of consultation.

He continued by acknowledging that no pure consensus was reached during the consultation process due to the diversity of each school but that a lot of valid ideas were retained, such as allowing for grade 4 and 5 students to graduate from a school as well as moving as few students as possible.

In closing, the Director General explained the next step is to approve the enrollment criteria now that the decision has been taken concerning the *"Use of Schools for 2003-2004"* and that the enrollment criteria must take into consideration all the students of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board.

He went onto state that, although painful at times, the consultation on the *"Use of Schools for 2003-2004"* was a positive experience for all involved and that it created relationships between school communities.

Chris Arnaoutelis, Chairman of the Parents Committee, apprised those present of the results of the 2003-01-23 special meeting of the Parents Committee to review the changes to the *"2003-2004 Enrollment Criteria"* resulting from the adoption of the *"Use of Schools for 2003-2004"*, noting that resolutions had been adopted to "grandfather" students currently registered in schools and to have transportation provided for these students.

He went on to state that the Parents Committee was disappointed in the consultation process as it had removed the choice of programs within schools.

The Chairman thanked Mr. Arnaoutelis.

In response to a question from Maria Emanuele, a concerned parent, the Director General advised that the option of courses in French above the core program would be at the discretion of the Governing Boards. Once the registration process is completed the board will work with the school to see

whether the students will receive support, if required, during the transition from an English program to a French program.

**0808**

In response to an additional question from Mrs. Emanuele, the Director General acknowledged that the school board is in a deficit situation.

Pierre Garofano entered the meeting.

**TIME: 19:45 hours**

In response to a question from Alba Carpanzano, a parent from Jules Verne Elementary School, the Director General noted that it was not the objective of the board to divide families nor was it an attempt to save on transportation costs but it was a solution to the overcrowding problem that would displace as few students as possible.

In response to a question from Lucia De Fanti, a concerned parent, the Director General advised that someone would contact her concerning her transportation questions.

In response to Mary Ann Lemay, a parent from Genesis Elementary School, the Director General advised that the needs of students entering a new school will be assessed and that resources/intervention will be made available, if required.

He also noted that it is being recommended to the schools that steering committees be established to ensure a smooth transition between schools for students and parents.

In response to an additional question from Mrs. Lemay, the Chairman noted that the board will be requesting from the Ministère de l'Éducation additional student places in the Ville de Laval.

In a statement from Fausta Esposito, a parent from Genesis Elementary School, she noted that students should have the right to choose a French Immersion education.

In response to a question from Freddie Pizzuco, a concerned parent, the Director General advised that the Parents Committee is proposing in its recommendations to the Council that students currently registered in schools be allowed to remain until graduation.

In response to a question from Anna Marabella, a parent from Terry Fox Elementary School, the Director General commented that in the long term the current movement of students will create more stability within the schools in the Ville de Laval.

In response to Laurice Guirguis, a parent from St-Paul Elementary School, the Director General noted that when the boards merged in 1998 the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board maintained what already existed and now it is necessary to create a balance of services to students within the board.

In response to a suggestion from Mrs. Guirguis, the Director General advised that the designation of schools within a cluster as being English and French Immersion was discussed during the consultation but the recommendation was not retained. It will be up to the Governing Board of a school, with the help of a steering committee, to decide what the direction of the school will be through its time allocations.

In response to questions from Annie Lentini, a concerned parent, the Director General stated that the Council of Commissioners is given by law the duty and responsibility of making decisions based on consultation and recommendations but that consultation does not give the population a vote.

He went on to comment that it is not the intent of the school board to use students as pawns but that the establishment of the clusters is being implemented to try to create stability so that students will not have to move on an annual basis. The majority of school boards reorganized schools during the merger of 1998 but the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board chose to keep the status quo and now the time has come to equitably distribute the resources available.

In response to a question from Carol Salmon-Piccolo, a parent from Genesis Elementary School, the Director General advised that the schools did not indicate that they wished to change their respective programs of studies but that they would be willing to adapt their current programs to meet the requirement of having Mathematics taught in English and in consideration of the students being transferred from other schools with differing programs of studies.

In response to a question from Charlie Guddemi, a parent from Genesis Elementary School, the Chairman noted that the only change being made to the education program in some schools is that Mathematics will now be taught in English. He also noted that a Governing Board of a school can change the time allocations and the language of instruction in courses, with the exception of English Language Arts, French and Mathematics, on an annual basis and on the recommendation of the Principal.

In response to an additional question from Mr. Guddemi, the Director General noted that it is the objective of a school board to help students succeed, therefore, that is why the board will provide the necessary resources/intervention, if required, to help ensure the smooth transition of students from one school to another. He noted that there will be some cases where the board will have to meet with parents on an individual basis to discuss individual dossiers.

In a statement, Randi Cerone, a parent from Hillcrest Academy, noted that the parents have a plan of action to counter a decision taken by the Council, which is as follows: (1) follow the Ministère de l'Éducation guidelines and request a review of resolutions; (2) take the legal path and discuss the issues with the school board with a mediator present; and (3) the parents are not being represented properly, therefore, there will be competition during the upcoming school board elections of November 2003.

She also indicated that the parents are disappointed with the decisions taken at the last Council meeting on the *"Use of Schools for 2003-2004"*. The parents feel as though they have spent a lot of time on the consultation for nothing.

In a statement from Anna Cordileone, a parent from St-Paul Elementary School, she indicated that there are concerns about what the change in educational program will mean to some students and that it is not fair to students to force them into a language program that is not their choice as students need stability.

In response to a question from Francine Georgiades, a concerned parent, the Director General advised that specific needs of an individual student are always taken into consideration and that resources/intervention, if required, will be provided for these students in their school.

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

TIME: 21:05 hours

In response to a question from Rudy Antoniazzi, a parent from Terry Fox Elementary School, the Director General noted that changes to the new school zones will only be considered if a problem is pointed out and deemed to be legitimate.

The Chairman returned to the meeting and assumed the chair.

**TIME: 21:12 hours**

Natalie Auclair and Nancy Rupnik left the meeting.

**TIME: 21: 13 hours**

In response to a request from Angelo Cuffaro, a parent from St-Paul Elementary School, the Chairman advised that if he wished to have a copy of the consultation it could be obtained by contacting the Recording Secretary.

Natalie Auclair returned to the meeting.

**TIME: 21:15 hours**

In response to a suggestion from Stefano Salvemini, a concerned parent, the Chairman noted that the school board currently has school fees and a request to parents to help pay for transportation cannot be imposed.

Nancy Rupnik returned to the meeting.

**TIME: 21:16 hours**

Carolyn Curiale and Peter MacLaurin left the meeting.

**TIME: 21:16 hours**

In response to a question from Mr. Salvemini, the Director General advised that the funding for the resources/intervention would come from the money saved by the more efficient use of teacher posts.

In response to several questions from Rosemary D'addese, a concerned parent, the Director General noted that the schools use different books in Mathematics.

He went on to advise that siblings are not part of the "grandfathering" of students in grades 4 and 5 but that the Parents Committee is proposing that siblings be included in its recommendations to the Council of Commissioners.

He also noted that the funds raised by parents for school are to be spent in the school and that the school board does not dictate how these funds are distributed.

Carolyn Curiale and Peter MacLaurin returned to the meeting.

**TIME: 21:19 hours**

In response to a question from Claude Desfossés, a concerned parent, the Director General advised that there are resources in all schools for students with difficulties and that the school board will add to these resources, if required, during the transition period to assist any student who experiences difficulties.

In response to a question from Alain Charbonneau, a parent, the Director General reminded Mr. Charbonneau that his case has been reviewed at all levels of the school board and that in order to assist his child the child must be enrolled in school.

In response to a question from Delcie Cabral, a parent from Crestview Elementary School, the Director General noted that the board did not consider what the parents wanted as irrelevant and commented that not all the recommendations received from the consultation could be entertained and that those that were are incorporated within the "*Use of Schools for 2003-2004*".

In response to a question from Laura Battisti, a parent from Genesis Elementary School, the Chairman noted that the school board does support the benefits of French Immersion and will continue to do so. The only change to the French Immersion program will be that Mathematics will now be taught in English.

In response to a question from John Ortika, a parent from Genesis Elementary School, the Chairman advised that the Governing Board of a school approves the time allocations of subjects with the exception of English Language Arts, French and Mathematics.

In response to an additional question from Mr. Ortika, the Director General agreed that the programs at Terry Fox and Genesis Elementary Schools were not the same but that under the reform the objectives are the same. He also indicated that the changes will make the school programs equitable across the board so that if a student changes schools within the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board the program will be similar if not identical.

In response to a question from Sam Forgione, a parent from Genesis Elementary School, the Director General advised that on page 2 of the consultation document on the *"Use of Schools for 2003-2004"* it was clearly indicated that school programs would be discussed as part of the consultation.

In response to John Dolfato, a parent from St-Paul Elementary School, the Chairman noted that no professional opinions, i.e. psychological, were sought on the possible affects of the outcome of the consultation.

In response to a question from Virginia Lahara on behalf of the Cavaluzzi family, the Chairman indicated that the addition of two classrooms at Terry Fox Elementary School was for the benefit of all students residing in the school area and not just Ste-Rose.

In response to a question from Pina Di Medio, a concerned parent, the Director General noted that the school board is willing to support extra curricular and co-curricular activities at the schools but that the fate of privately funded activities in schools is not the domain of the school board.

In response to an additional question from Ms. Di Medio, the Director General advised that the school board is trying to create a balance of services for students in the Ville de Laval and that the suggestions being made by the parents are being taken in and that the school board is committed to working with the school communities in order to improve the process.

The Chairman called for a 5 minutes break.

**TIME: 21:58 hours**

Mary Austin and the Deputy Director General excused themselves for the evening.

**Time 21:58 hours**

The meeting resumed.

**TIME: 22:30 hours**

## 5.0 BUSINESS ARISING

030129-CA-0086

William Pollock MOVED THAT the meeting be extended until the completion of the agenda.

Carried unanimously  
**0812**

**5.1 By-Law #BL2002-CA-09: Delegation of Powers to the Director General:**

**030129-CA-0087**

WHEREAS a Commissioner has suggested amendments to proposed by-law #BL2002-CA-09: Delegation of Powers to the Director General;

WHEREAS the Commissioner has been requested to submit these amendments in writing to the Recording Secretary;

William Pollock MOVED THAT the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board table by-law #BL2002-CA-09: Delegation of Powers to the Director General to the 2003-02-26 meeting of the Council.

Carried unanimously

**5.4 2003-2004 Enrollment Criteria:**

The Chairman advised the Council that there are four different proposals for the 2003-2004 enrollment criteria and that only one will be adopted.

*WHEREAS the Council of Commissioners approved in principle the 2003-2004 enrollment criteria in resolution #021023-ED-0021;*

*WHEREAS the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board Parents Committee has been consulted as per section 193 (6) of the Education Act (R.S.Q., Chapter I-13.3);*

*WHEREAS the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board Parents Committee adopted a resolution at its 2002-12-05 meeting indicating that it was not prepared to issue an opinion on the 2003-2004 enrollment criteria;*

*WHEREAS a second consultation was held with the Parents Committee on 2003-01-23, whereby amendments to the proposed 2003-2004 enrollment criteria were adopted;*

*WHEREAS the Council of Commissioners has adopted a resolution on the use of schools in the Ville de Laval based on the cluster model;*

*(5.4.1) William Pollock 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 the 2003-2004 enrollment criteria, as presented in*

*Version #1 Document #SWLSB-2003/01/29-ED-001*

*Version #1A Document #SWLSB-2003/01/29-ED-002*

*Version #2 Document #SWLSB-2003/01/29-ED-003*

*Version #3 Document #SWLSB-2003/01/29-ED-004*

The Council entered into discussion and William Pollock agreed to withdraw the resolution under 5.4.1.

In response to a question from Steve Kmec, the Director General advised that there is no funding for students admitted without eligibility and that the school board cannot absorb the cost.

Linda Iaconetti, on behalf of the Parents Committee, made a statement asking that the Council of Commissioners accept the proposed changes to the 2003-2004 enrollment criteria as adopted by the Parents Committee.

**0813**

The Director General left the meeting.

**TIME: 22:59 hours**

Walter Fogel stated that he supported the recommendations made by the Parents Committee for changes to the 2003-2004 enrollment criteria.

The Director General returned to the meeting.

**TIME: 23:01 hours**

The Chairman reminded the Council that the enrollment criteria involves the entire school board not just the Ville de Laval.

In response to a question from Nancy Rupnik, the Chairman noted that any additional costs incurred for allowing all students currently registered in schools to remain would be taken from the operations budget.

In response to an additional question from Mrs. Rupnik, the Director General advised that additional costs excluding transportation will be assessed over the next few months in order to meet the priorities of the system.

Linda Gagnon stated that she felt that as Commissioners they had looked at the global picture of the board when making the recommendation on the "*Use of Schools for 2003-2004*" and that this type of reorganization could not have been successful under the Provisional Council.

She asked that the schools and Governing Boards look strongly at creating steering committees to assist with the transition and to include the parents of new students to the school. As well, she encouraged parents to become active in the new school so as to not feel like a minority.

Discussion continued on various aspects of the enrollment criteria

In response to a question from Steve Kmec, the Director General stated that once a school has reached its capacity students must enroll in another school. He also noted that registering does not give admission to a school until the registration is accepted under the criteria set out by the board and the Ministère de l'Éducation.

In response to a question from Peter MacLaurin, the Director General indicated that most schools outside the Ville de Laval already teach Mathematics in English and those that do not may be requested to do so.

**030129-ED-0082**

WHEREAS section 239 of the Education Act states "Each year, every school board shall enroll students in its schools in keeping with the choice of each student's parents or the choice of the student, if of full age. However, if the number of applications for enrollment in a school exceeds the capacity of the school, enrollment shall be effected according to the criteria established by the school board after consultation with the parents' committee";

WHEREAS section 239 of the Education Act states “Enrolment criteria must give priority to students coming under the jurisdiction of the school board and, as far as possible, to students whose place of residence is nearest to the school premises. They must be adopted, put into force and sent to each governing board at least 15 days before the beginning of the student enrollment period”;

**0814**

WHEREAS section 239 of the Education Act states “The conditions or criteria for participation in a special project may not serve as criteria for enrollment in a school; nor may they operate to exclude a student from the school of the student’s choice if the student has a right to enroll in that school pursuant to the criteria referred to in the first paragraph”;

WHEREAS the section 193 (6) of the Education Act (R.S.Q., chapter I-13.3) requires that the Parents’ Committee be consulted annually on the criteria for the enrollment of students in schools, which exceed the capacity of the school;

WHEREAS the Parents’ Committee and the Laurier Teachers Union have been consulted on the criteria for enrollment;

WHEREAS the registration period for students for 2003 - 2004 is the week of February 17, 2003;

Nick Milas MOVED THAT the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board approve the establishment of the following criteria for enrollment of students in its schools, subject to the availability of space, for the 2003 - 2004 school year:

- 1.0 The schools under the jurisdiction of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board will accept requests for admission for students who have attained the age of admission as defined by the Education Act (at least 5 years of age as of September 30, 2003) or who have obtained an exemption from the age requirement;
- 2.0 Students must have obtained a certificate of eligibility for English language education prior to their first day of school.
- 3.0 Enrollment to a school will be based on the criteria established in the following priority order:
  - 3.1 Students who reside within the school attendance zone as established by the school board;
  - 3.2 Any student attending elementary school on the Island of Laval in the year 2002-2003 shall continue attending this school until they graduate or withdraw.
  - 3.3 Students residing within the attendance zones of a specific cluster are entitled to attend any school within that specific cluster on a first come, first served basis and whose parents/guardian agree to provide transportation.
  - 3.4 Subject to availability of space, on a first come first served basis, students who are currently attending that school who reside outside the established school attendance zone and whose parents/guardians agree to provide transportation;

3.5 Subject to availability of space, on a first come first served basis, siblings of students who are currently attending that school who reside outside the established school attendance zone and whose parents/guardians agree to provide transportation;

**0815**

3.6 Subject to availability of space, on a first come first served basis, students who reside outside the established school attendance zone and whose parents/guardians agree to provide transportation;

3.7 Subject to availability of space, on a first come first served basis, students who are under the jurisdiction of another school board but are subject to an agreement between that school board and the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board and whose parents/guardians agree to provide transportation;

4.0 Transportation to a school will be provided in accordance with the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board Transportation Policy to students who reside within the school attendance zone established by the school board and to students covered by sub section 3.2 unless they move into a new zone at which time they will attend a 2003-2004 zoned school.

5.0 In schools where alternative programs have been approved for 2003 - 2004, students will be required to meet the admission requirements where they exist.

6.0 To enable the School Board to provide an appropriate placement, admission requests for special needs students requiring specialized services or programs must be made in writing, before May 30, 2003. This request, indicating the special needs of the student, must be submitted to Special Education Services for validation. Should the school board be unable to provide services for a student, the school board will ensure that educational services are made available through an agreement with another school board or institution. Requests for admission to specialized services or programs received after May 30, 2003 will be considered by the school board and accepted pending the availability of space.

**Carried unanimously**

## **10.0 QESBA**

### **10.2 Amendment to QESBA Constitution:**

This issue was tabled under item 1.0.

## **17.0 CORRESPONDENCE**

There was no correspondence.

## **18.0 VARIA**

### **18.1 Question Period (20 minutes – 5 min. per person):**

This item was moved to follow item 1.0.

## **19.0 ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING**

Peter MacLaurin MOVED adjournment of the meeting.

**Carried unanimously**

**TIME: 23:47 hours**

**NEXT MEETING ⇨ REGULAR ⇨ 2003-02-26**

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**Robert Vallerand, Secretary General**

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**Steve Bletas, Chairman**