

PROVINCE OF QUEBEC

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE SIR WILFRID LAURIER SCHOOL BOARD HELD ON 2003-01-22

A Regular meeting of the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board was held in the boardroom of the Administration Centre, 235 Montée Lesage, Rosemere, QC on Wednesday, 2003-01-22 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, Glen Haines, Peter Haldimand, Steve Kmec, Peter MacLaurin, James McDougall, Nick Milas, 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; François Badin, Director of Human Resources; Effie Maniatis, Director of Educational Services; Livia Nassivera, Director of Financial Resources; Raymond Thivierge, Director of Material Resources; and Jocelyne Thompson-Ness, Administration Officer. Several other persons were also in the audience.

Absent: Grace Nesi and Edward Turchyniak, Commissioners.

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 19:32 hours.

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and advised those present that the fire regulations must be maintained, therefore, once the board room reaches its capacity under the fire code any additional people are asked to go to the staff room where televisions are available for viewing the proceedings.

The Chairman welcomed Marcus Tabachnik, Chairman of the Lester B. Pearson School Board.

1.0 ACCEPTANCE OF AGENDA:

The following additions and changes to the agenda were proposed:

10.0 QESBA:

10.2 *Amendment to the QESBA Constitution.....RES*

030122-CA-0069

Nancy Rupnik MOVED THAT the agenda be accepted as amended in document #SWLSB-2003/01/22-CA-001.

Carried unanimously

2.0 APPROVAL OF MINUTES**030122-CA-0070**

Natalie Auclair MOVED THAT the minutes of the REGULAR meeting of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board held on 2002-12-11, having been received by all members prior to this meeting, be approved as written.

THIS MOTION WAS CARRIED ON THE FOLLOWING DIVISION:

YEA: Mary Austin, Steve Bletas, Carolyn Curiale, Nazario Facchino, Linda Gagnon, Pierre Garofano, Steve Kmec, Peter MacLaurin, Nick Milas, William Pollock, Nancy Rupnik, Morten Schrier

ABST: Natalie Auclair, Walter Fogel, Glen Haines, Peter Haldimand, James McDougall

3.0 QUESTION PERIOD

In response to a question from David Modlin, a parent from Rosemere High School, the Director General noted that the Parents Committee will be working with Educational Services concerning the difficulties parents are experiencing with the elementary report card pilot project.

In response to an additional question from Mr. Modlin on the issue of taxing, the Director General advised that at this time the board does not have information that this issue is a large problem within the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board schools.

The Chairman noted that taxing is an issue that the Parents Committee has included in its plan of action for 2002-2003.

In response to a question from Mr. Modlin on the school board budget, the Director General noted that the budget is a public document and that the board has taken steps to resolve the current deficit it faces within this budget.

In response to a question from Luciano Santoro, a concerned parent, the Director General advised that the board had entered into consultation based on the problem with overcrowding in the schools in the Ville de Laval and the need to come to an equitable solution with the least disruption.

In response to several questions from Salvatore Forgione, a parent from Genesis Elementary School, the Director General noted:

- that there was no objective stated in the consultation document which provided for choice of programs and that the briefs indicated that choice was an important issue but that the imbalance in the schools makes it hard to achieve certain things.

He also noted that the consultation was one that involved parents in all aspects of the consultation process, whereas, the previous consultation was with the Consultative Committee on Attendance Zones.

He further noted that restructuring was needed to balance the needs of the students which resulted in the recommendation that Mathematics be taught in English. Time allocation is still at the discretion of a school's Governing Board, but the language of instruction for the core subjects of English Language Arts, French and Mathematic, is set by the school board.

- that displacement is a problem but that it occurs in all cases in the readjustment of boundaries. The board looked at solutions that would displace the least number of students possible while meeting the requirements of building capacities.
- that the issue of transportation was part of the consultation and the objective was not to increase transport costs. If there are any savings on transportation from the reorganization they will be minimal and will only be realized after several years.
- that additional resources will be provided, if required, to help students with the transition from one school to another.
- that the sense of community surrounding a school will not disappear but it will change and that schools will be encouraged to create a steering committee to guide the community through these changes.

- that a resolution is being proposed this evening that will mandate the school board to request from the Ministère de l'Éducation the construction and/or acquisition of additional school facilities in the Ville de Laval.

In response to questions from Anna Marabella, a parent from Terry Fox Elementary School, the Director General noted that the school board was aware that parents would not respond favourably to the movement of students but that it must be understood that the school board has to create stability among its schools for the future and in order to meet certain requirements set out by the Ministère de l'Éducation.

In response to a question from Carol Salmon-Piccolo, a parent from Genesis Elementary School, the Director General noted that the Governing Board of Genesis Elementary School will determine the percentage of French for the subjects outside of the core subjects of English Language Arts, French and Mathematics, which are to be taught in English.

He went on to advise Mrs. Salmon-Piccolo that the elimination of French Immersion is not being proposed but that the language of instruction for Mathematics is being changed to English.

In response to a question concerning transportation from Francisco Couto, a parent from Jules Verne Elementary School, the Director General advised that the resolutions being presented this evening would provide the answer to his question.

Glen Haines left the meeting.

TIME: 20:45 hours

In response to a question from David Fogel, a parent from Hillcrest Academy, the Director General noted that if a Governing Board takes a position to continue teaching Mathematics in French it will not be consistent with the proposal for Mathematics to be taught in English.

Glen Haines returned to the meeting.

TIME: 20:50 hours

He went onto advise Mr. Fogel that the board is aware of the activities of other school boards with respect to individual plans for the use of schools but that each school board situation is unique and must be treated as such.

In response to a question from Pina Di Medio, a parent, the Chairman explained that the school board is not eliminating French Immersion but requesting that Mathematics be taught in English.

In response to questions from Richard Perrier, a parent from Twin Oaks Elementary School, the Director General advised that all the elementary schools in the Ville de Laval had to be involved with the consultation on the use of schools in order to make the process equitable and the process showed that the proposal being presented is a balanced approach for the Ville de Laval

He went on to note that if Our Lady of Peace and Twin Oaks Elementary Schools had not refused the option of cycle schools the application of the clusters would have a different meaning for the two schools.

In a statement to the Council of Commissioners, Laura Battisti, a parent from Genesis Elementary School, noted that the consultation originally indicated that parents were to have a choice between English and French Immersion and that that choice has now been taken away from them and that the school board is regressing back to a system where French was not a priority.

The Chairman did not have a report.

0798

5.0 BUSINESS ARISING

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

Walter Fogel indicated that he wished to make several amendments to the proposed by-law.

On a "point of order", Glen Haines inquired as to why these amendments had not been received prior to this meeting.

Discussion ensued.

030122-CA-0071

Linda Gagnon MOVED THAT the proposed resolution concerning By-Law #BL2002-CA-09: Delegation of Powers to the Director General be tabled to the adjourned meeting of 2003-01-29. AND THAT any proposed amendments be submitted in writing to the Recording Secretary prior to the meeting.

THIS MOTION WAS CARRIED ON THE FOLLOWING DIVISION:

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

ABST: **Walter Fogel**

5.2 *Use of School 2003-2004 – Lanaudière:*

030122-TS-0072

WHEREAS on 2002-08-28 the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board approved in principle, as per resolution #020828-TS-0006, a consultation on the "Use of Schools for 2003-2004";

WHEREAS this consultation was conducted in an open and transparent manner and with the active participation of Governing Boards, Professional Associations and Unions;

WHEREAS public meetings were held with parents;

WHEREAS members of the Directorate met with municipal counterparts to examine and report to the Council of Commissioners offers received from the various municipalities regarding the location of a new school;

WHEREAS members of the Council of Commissioners in association with the Directorate have met with members of the Assemblée Nationale to emphasize the need for additional space in the lower Lanaudière region;

WHEREAS the portables at Holy Rosary and Lewis King Elementary Schools must be removed at the request of the Ville de Mascouche;

WHEREAS the lease for the Holy Rosary Annex expires on 2003-06-30 and will not be renewed;

WHEREAS on 2003-01-22 the Ministère de l'Éducation has not authorized the construction of any new school in the lower Lanaudière region of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board;

Natalie Auclair MOVED THAT, on the recommendation of the Committee on the Use of Schools and Other Facilities and the Executive Committee, the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board mandate the Directorate to explore the leasing of suitable facilities to house the students presently attending Holy Rosary and Lewis King Elementary Schools.

AND THAT the Chairman, and in his absence or with his knowledge the Vice-Chairman, as well as the Director General, and in his absence or with his knowledge the Deputy Director General, be authorized to sign all documentation concerning this lease.

Carried unanimously

030122-TS-0073

WHEREAS it has become necessary to find suitable accommodations for students of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board that reside in the areas of Charlemagne, Le Gardeur and Repentigny;

WHEREAS on 2003-01-22 the Ministère de l'Éducation has not authorized the construction of any new school in the lower Lanaudière region of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board;

WHEREAS the current interboard agreement with the English Montreal School Board expires on 2003-06-30;

Glen Haines MOVED THAT, on the recommendation of the Committee on the Use of Schools and Other Facilities and the Executive Committee, the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board authorize the Director General to negotiate an extension of the current interboard agreement with the English Montreal School Board for the 2003-2004 school year for students eligible to attend the McLearn Elementary School.

Carried unanimously

5.3 Use of Schools 2003-2004 - Laval

In response to a question from Steve Kmec concerning late registrations and the school being at capacity, the Director General indicated that the process for handling late registrations will not change and that Principals will contact the Directorate to discuss each case and a decision will be made.

030122-TS-0074

WHEREAS on 2002-08-28 the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board approved in principle, as per resolution #020828-TS-0006, a consultation on the "Use of Schools for 2003-2004";

WHEREAS this consultation was conducted in an open and transparent manner and with the active participation of Governing Boards, Professional Associations and Unions;

WHEREAS a number of public meetings attended by parents, school staff, Directorate and Commissioners were held to inform parents of the school board's intentions;

WHEREAS the school board received briefs from interested parties;

WHEREAS these briefs have been analyzed by the Committee on the Use of Schools and Other Facilities, the Executive Committee, the Council of Commissioners and the Directorate;

Nick Milas MOVED THAT, on the recommendation of the Committee on the Use of Schools and Other Facilities and the Executive Committee, the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board recommend that the "Proposal on the Use of Schools for the Laval and Lanaudière

Regions”, as contained in document #SWLSB-2003/01/22-TS-001, be implemented on a cluster model; AND THAT the clusters be formed as follows:

0800

- Cluster #1: Crestview, John F. Kennedy, and Souvenir Elementary Schools, Hillcrest Academy
- Cluster #2: Genesis, Jules Verne, St-Paul and Terry Fox Elementary Schools
- Cluster #3: Our Lady of Peace and Twin Oaks Elementary Schools.

AND THAT Educational Services provide support and additional resources if required in order to ensure the successful transition of students.

THIS MOTION WAS CARRIED ON THE FOLLOWING DIVISION:

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

ABST: Walter Fogel, Steve Kmec, Morten Schrier

The Council entered into a discussion on the proposed resolution concerning the need for additional space in the Ville de Laval.

030122-TS-0075

WHEREAS on 2002-08-28 the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board approved in principle, as per resolution #020828-TS-0006, a consultation on the “Use of Schools for 2003-2004”;

WHEREAS this consultation was conducted in an open and transparent manner and with the active participation of Governing Boards, Professional Associations and Unions;

WHEREAS a number of public meetings attended by parents, school staff, Directorate and Commissioners were held to inform parents of the school board’s intentions;

WHEREAS the school board received briefs from interested parties;

WHEREAS the briefs received from several schools in the Ville de Laval demonstrated the need for additional school facilities in the east and west sectors of the Ville de Laval;

WHEREAS the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board is projecting an increase in the elementary enrollment in the Ville de Laval;

WHEREAS these briefs have been analyzed by the Committee on the Use of Schools and Other Facilities, the Executive Committee, the Council of Commissioners and the Directorate;

Nick Milas MOVED THAT, on the recommendation of the Committee on the Use of Schools and Other Facilities and the Executive Committee, the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board mandate the Director General to request authorization from the Ministère de l’Éducation for the construction and/or acquisition of additional school facilities in the Ville de Laval.

THIS MOTION WAS CARRIED ON THE FOLLOWING DIVISION:

YEA: Natalie Auclair, Mary Austin, Steve Bletas, Carolyn Curiale, Nazario Facchino, Walter Fogel, Linda Gagnon, Pierre Garofano, Peter Haldimand, Steve Kmec, Peter MacLaurin, Nick Milas, William Pollock, Nancy Rupnik, Morten Schrier

5.4 2003-2004 Enrollment Criteria:

The Chairman advised that in view of the decisions on the "Use of Schools for 2003-2004" it would be necessary to make some changes to the proposed "2003-2004 Enrollment Criteria", therefore, requiring additional consultation with the Parents Committee. In order for the Parents Committee to be consulted the proposed resolution on the enrollment criteria has been moved to the 2003-01-29 adjourned meeting of the Council of Commissioners.

The Chairman called for a 10 minute recess. **TIME: 21:35 hours**

Glen Haines excused himself for the evening. **TIME: 21:35 hours**

The meeting resumed. **TIME: 22:00 hours**

6.0 CORPORATE AFFAIRS

6.1 2004 QESBA/AESQ Spring Conference:

The Deputy Director General advised the Council that the planning for the conference is on track and that the Public Relations Committee would be convening on 2003-01-23 and the Program Committee on 2003-02-04.

6.2 Refunds of Taxes:

030122-CA-0076

Walter Fogel MOVED THAT in accordance with section 1.2 of by-law #BL2000-CA-01: Delegation of Functions and Powers to the Executive Committee, the powers be withdrawn temporarily in order to dispose of items 6.2 and 6.3.

AND THAT following the adoption of these resolutions that the said powers be reinstated.

Carried unanimously

030122-FR-0077

Peter Haldimand MOVED THAT, on the recommendation of the Financial Resources Committee, the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board approve the following refunds of taxes totalling 3,631.35\$

Municipality/Roll #	Name	Amount Refunded	Reason for Refund
075028-7281-42-3828	HOELZER A. RICHARD E.	108.58 \$	OVERPAYMENT - ERROR IN DEPOSIT
072015-7143-64-7439	LATIMER WILLIAM	171.10 \$	DOUBLE PAYMENT
065005-7544-48-93368	KELLY JAMES	441.21 \$	VALUATION REDUCTION AS 01-08-06
065005-8544-87-69100	ISKANDER ADEL, YOUSSEF ADEL NAIEMA	201.12 \$	OVERPAYMENT ON ACCT 2002/03
078040-3500-78-3010	GOUGEON DENIS	5.07 \$	OVER-PAYMENT
077055-2884-75-8840	CALDER MAVRITLIS LINDA	282.33 \$	OVER-PAYMENT
076035-3867-89-9628	SAUL SYLVIA PEARCE	73.61 \$	OVER-PAYMENT
078015-4711-55-8146	T O C K M I C H A E L	145.25 \$	REPLACES CK 58020 - NEVER REC'D/CASHED
076065-2081-03-0336	BERRY JOHN DOUGLAS	1,316.96 \$	TRIPLE BILLING - CAUSED BY DOWNLOAD
076065-2182-91-2790	T O W E L L E L M A	434.76 \$	TRIPLE BILLING - CAUSED BY DOWNLOAD

076065-1872-82-9097	WHITE GLENNA MACLEOD	451.36 \$	TRIPLE BILLING - CAUSED BY DOWNLOAD
TOTAL:		3,631.35 \$	

**Carried unanimously
0802**

6.3 Approval of Accounts Payable:

030122-FR-0078

Carolyn Curiale MOVED THAT, on the recommendation of the Financial Resources Committee, the Council of Commissioners the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board approve the cash disbursements listed in the List of Cheques dated 2002-12-02 to 2002-12-19 as follows:

OPERATING CHEQUES	#103955 to 104671	2,178,158.56 \$
SCHOOL CHEQUES	#47385 to 47423	20,771.59 \$
PLUS: Cancelled cheques for prior months	#102347,102565,102593,103434,103742,103746,103874,104026,104051,104422	11,841.53 \$
PLUS: Deductions at Source		1,623,934.65 \$
FOR A TOTAL OF:		3,834,706.33 \$

Carried unanimously

Walter Fogel left the meeting.

TIME: 22:01 hours

6.4 Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board Educational Foundation:

The Deputy Director General advised that the establishment of a "Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board Educational Foundation" was a recommendation received from the Communications & Public Relations Sub-Committee that has been supported by the Executive Committee. The following resolution will give the Directorate the mandate to proceed with its establishment.

Walter Fogel returned to the meeting.

TIME: 22:04 hours

030122-CA-0079

WHEREAS the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board wishes to create an educational foundation to foster educational excellence within its schools;

WHEREAS the Communications Sub-Committee of the Executive Committee has explored the legal requirements of establishing such a foundation;

Peter MacLaurin MOVED THAT, on the recommendation of the Executive Committee and its Communications Sub-Committee, the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board mandate the Deputy Director General to initiate the required procedures for the establishment of the "Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board Educational Foundation".

Carried unanimously

Nick Milas returned to the meeting.

TIME: 22:09 hours

6.5 Strategic Planning Meeting:

The Director General advised the Council that the strategic planning meeting had been held on 2003-01-13 and involved the students, teachers, parents, administration, professional associations and support staff groups. The premise of the meeting was to solicit ideas from each group on the future directions that the school board should be considering.

He noted that the meeting was a success and thanked all who had participated. A proposal will be put together from the ideas generated at the meeting.

0803

Mike Possian noted that the students who participated in the strategic planning session are to be commended for their original ideas and that a lot can be learned from the younger generation.

7.0 EDUCATIONAL SERVICES

There was no business to be discussed.

8.0 INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

There was no business to be discussed.

9.0 USE OF SCHOOLS

There was no business to be discussed.

10.0 QESBA

10.1 Report of QESBA:

Carolyn Curiale advised that a report was unavailable as the Quebec English School Boards Association (QESBA) had not yet met in 2003.

10.2 Amendments to QESBA Constitution:

This item has been moved to the 2003-01-29 adjourned meeting.

11.0 MATERIAL RESOURCES

There was no business to be discussed.

12.0 FINANCIAL RESOURCES

12.1 Financial Turnaround Plan:

The Director of Financial Resources commented on the interim report on the financial turnaround plan prepared by Raymond Chabot Grant Thornton noting the interviews with the Directorate and various employees.

Morten Schrier excused himself for the evening.

TIME: 22:20 hours

She went on to note that some recovery efforts are already in place and that plans of action are being developed to address the various needs of the board.

In response to a question from Steve Kmec, the Director General noted that the current report is interim and that final proposals for a recovery plan cannot be made until such a time as the final report of the auditors is presented.

13.0 HUMAN RESOURCES

There was no business to be discussed.

14.0 TRANSPORTATION

There was no business to be discussed.

The Director General left the meeting.

TIME: 22:23 hours

15.0 PARENT COMMISSIONERS REPORT

Waived until next regular meeting.

16.0 QUESTION PERIOD

Richard Perrier asked that the Council of Commissioners consider reviewing the composition of the Advisory Committee on Special Education annually in order to allow all qualified parents interested in participating to be allowed to do so.

The Director General returned to the meeting.

TIME: 22:25 hours

In response to allegations made by Carol Salmon-Piccolo, Linda Gagnon noted that the Council of Commissioners has listened to the results of the consultation on the "Use of Schools for 2003-2004" in the different venues in which they have been presented and, although, the Council can sympathize with the parents, it must conform with the law and do what it can to ensure that services are distributed equitably among its schools.

The Chairman asked to Mrs. Salmon-Piccolo to put her questions in writing and that she would receive a written response.

030122-CA-0080

William Pollock MOVED THAT the meeting be extended for 20 minutes.

THIS MOTION WAS CARRIED ON THE FOLLOWING DIVISION:

YEA: Natalie Auclair, Carolyn Curiale, Nazario Facchino, Walter Fogel, Linda Gagnon, Pierre Garofano, Peter Haldimand, Steve Kmec, William Pollock, Nancy Rupnik

NAY: Mary Austin, Steve Bletas, Peter MacLaurin, James McDougall

ABST: Nick Milas

Leo Venditti, a concerned tax payer, asked all those present to think about what it means to be an English school board and to consider the consequences of what would happen to English education if too much French were taught in English schools.

In response to a question from David Modlin, the Director General advised that a final proposal for the financial turnaround plan is expected to be ready at the end of March.

In response to a question from Christina, a parent from Genesis Elementary School, the Director General indicated that if status quo were to be maintained at the elementary schools in the Ville de Laval the overcrowding problem would continue to grow.

17.0 CORRESPONDENCE

Tabled to the 2003-01-29 adjourned meeting.

18.0 VARIA

Tabled to the 2003-01-29 adjourned meeting.

19.0 ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING

030122-CA-0081

Nazario Facchino MOVED THAT the meeting be adjourned to 2003-01-29 at 19:30 hours in the Boardroom of the Administration Centre, 235 Montée Lesage, Rosemère (Québec).

THIS MOTION WAS CARRIED ON THE FOLLOWING DIVISION:

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

NAY: Walter Fogel

TIME: 22:50 hours

NEXT MEETING ⇒ ADJOURNED ⇒ 2003-01-29

Robert Vallerand, Secretary General

Steve Bletas, Chairman