

PROVINCE OF QUEBEC

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE SIR WILFRID LAURIER SCHOOL BOARD HELD ON 2004-02-25

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, Rosemère, QC on Wednesday, 2004-02-25 at 19:30 hours, at which were present:

Steve Bletas, Chairman; Carolyn Curiale, Vice-Chair; Natalie Auclair, Georges Benoit, Tony De Lauri, Robert Dixon, Nazario Facchino, Walter Fogel, Steve Kmec, Peter MacLaurin, David McKinley, Nick Milas, Grace Nesi, Albina Pace, Merle Parkinson, William Pollock, Nancy Rupnik, Morten Schrier, and Edward Turchyniak, Commissioners; Linda Iaconetti and Sandra Rouleau, Parent Commissioners; and Giordano Rosa-del-Vecchio, Director General.

Also present were: Robert Vallerand, Deputy Director General; François Badin, Director of Human Resources; Daniel Hogue, Director of Material Resources; Effie Maniatis, Director of Educational Services; Jean-Guy Messier, Director of Information Services; Livia Nassivera, Director of Financial Resources; George Paquette, Coordinator of School Organization & Transportation; and Jocelyne Thompson-Ness, Administrative Assistant. Several other persons were also in the audience.

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 19:38 hours.

On a “point of privilege”, Walter Fogel thanked the Council for the fruit basket he received while recovering from surgery.

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

1.0 ACCEPTANCE OF AGENDA:

The following additions and changes to the agenda were proposed:

5.0 CHAIRMAN’S REPORT:

5.1 *Director General’s Report*.....INFO

6.0 BUSINESS ARISING:

6.6 *Northern Schools Forum*INFO
 6.7 *Standing Committees*INFO

12.0 EDUCATIONAL SERVICES:

12.1 *MEQ Symposium on Life-Long Learning*.....INFO

010225-CA-0123

Carolyn Curiale MOVED THAT the agenda be accepted as amended in document #SWLSB-2004/02/25-CA-001.

Carried unanimously

2.0 APPROVAL OF MINUTES

In a verbal notice, Steve Kmec advised that in the minutes of the regular meeting held on 2004-01-28, on page 0993, he was absent ‘with regrets’.

In a verbal notice, Walter Fogel advised that in the minutes of the regular meeting held on 2004-01-28, on page 0993, resolution #040128-CA-0110, line 3, the word 'corrected' should be replaced with the word 'written'.

Mr. Fogel further noted that under item 7.1 of the same minutes the 1st paragraph, 3rd line should read '*...reconsideration of decisions affecting students*' not '*...reconsideration of a decision affecting a student*'.

040225-CA-0124

Tony De Lauri MOVED THAT the minutes of the REGULAR meeting of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board held on 2004-01-28, having been received by all members prior to this meeting, be approved as corrected.

THIS MOTION WAS CARRIED ON THE FOLLOWING DIVISION:

YEA: Georges Benoit, Steve Bletas, Carolyn Curiale, Tony De Lauri, Robert Dixon, Nazario Facchino, Peter MacLaurin, David McKinley, Grace Nesi, Merle Parkinson, William Pollock, Nancy Rupnik, Morten Schrier

ABST: Walter Fogel, Steve Kmec, Nick Milas, Albina Pace, Edward Turchyniak

040225-CA-0125

Steve Kmec MOVED THAT the minutes of the SPECIAL meeting of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board held on 2004-02-12, having been received by all members prior to this meeting, be approved as written.

THIS MOTION WAS CARRIED ON THE FOLLOWING DIVISION:

YEA: Steve Bletas, Carolyn Curiale, Tony De Lauri, Robert Dixon, Steve Kmec, Peter MacLaurin, David McKinley, Nick Milas, Grace Nesi, Albina Pace, William Pollock, Nancy Rupnik, Morten Schrier

ABST: Georges Benoit, Nazario Facchino, Walter Fogel, Merle Parkinson, Edward Turchyniak

3.0 ROBOTICS PRESENTATION

The Chairman extended congratulations to the staff and students of Rosemere and Western Laval High Schools for their success at the recent Robotics Competition in Montréal. Rosemere High School placed 5th and Western Laval High School placed 8th in a field of 17 competitors which included public and private schools as well as private CEGEPs.

He went on to review the placement of the two schools in the various categories.

He also welcomed two Marianopolis students to the demonstration noting that they are former Rosemere High School students.

The Deputy Director General extended his congratulations to all the participants noting that the school board is very proud of their achievements.

The Chairman presented plaques and certificates of achievement to the students, teachers and Principals of Rosemere and Western Laval High Schools in acknowledgement of their achievements at the 2004 Robotics Competition.

The Chairman invited the Western Laval High School Robotics team to demonstrate their robot.

The students of the Western Laval High School Robotics team advised that they would be unable to demonstrate their robot as it was experiencing some technical difficulty.

The students continued by explaining how the robot functioned and provided a presentation of their video and web site.

Natalie Auclair entered the meeting.

TIME: 20:08 hours

The Chairman thanked the students of Western Laval High School for their informative presentation.

The Chairman invited the Rosemere High School Robotics team to present their robot.

The students explained how their robot "Jaws" functioned and provided a demonstration and presented their video and web site.

The Chairman thanked the students of Rosemere High School for their educational demonstration.

The Chairman asked the Marianopolis if they would like to present their robot.

The Marianopolis students thanked the Chairman and provided a demonstration of their robot as well as providing some general highlights of the competition. They also noted that in 2005 they will be the senior students on the Marianopolis Robotics team and that they hoped graduating students from Rosemere and Western Laval High Schools will consider attending the CEGEP and join the robotics team.

The Chairman congratulated everyone for all of their hard work noting that the recognition is well deserved.

The Chairman advised the Council and those present that in the past few weeks there has been considerable negative comments in the media concerning the educational services provided at Western Laval High School and read into the record the school board's response to these negative comments (Document #SWLSB-2004/02/25 – CA- 002).

In closing, the Chairman wished the students of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board good luck at the 2004 Bell Science Fair which is being held at Western Laval High School from March 28 -30, 2004.

The Chairman called for a five minute break.

TIME: 20:35 hours

The meeting resumed.

TIME: 20:41 hours

4.0 QUESTION PERIOD

There were no questions.

5.0 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The Chairman commented on the recent QESBA Workshop held on 2004-02-07 noting that the Chairs of the English school boards had met after the workshop to discuss an upcoming meeting with the Ministre de l'Éducation. The group has selected the following issues for discussion with the Ministre: the English electoral list, the cost of the election, the suspension of the "Villages branchés" program, the condition of buildings, and special education.

He noted that one of the more important issues for the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board is the suspension of the "Villages branchés" program as it is depriving schools off the Island of Laval of fibre optic services. He also indicated that the original promise from the Minsitère de l'Éducation to compensate school boards that invested in fibre optics prior to "Villages branches" needs to be fulfilled.

He advised the Council that he and the Deputy Director General had recently met with David Whissell, Membre de l'Assemblée nationale for Argenteuil, to discuss the need to have the fibre optic network completed in his region. A meeting with the French school boards is planned to discuss concerns and to look at solutions to complete the fibre optic network in both sectors.

In closing, the Chairman advised the Council that the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board would be hosting the 2004 Bell Montreal Regional Science & Technology Fair from March 28 – 30, 2004 at Western Laval High School.

5.1 Director General's Report:

The Director General advised that he would present his report throughout the meeting as various issues were presented.

The Chairman invited Tom Mouhteros, Chairman of the Western Laval High School Governing Board, to present the question he had submitted to the Council prior to the meeting concerning the negative media attention received in recent weeks by Western Laval High School.

In response to the question presented by Mr. Mouhteros, the Chairman advised that the school board cannot control what newspapers print nor can it control word of mouth.

He went on to state that the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board delivers excellent educational services at Western Laval High School.

The Director General advised Mr. Mouhteros that at this time the board has not received a response to the letter read in to the record earlier this evening and that even if the letter is printed what has been reported cannot be changed and people will have formed their own opinions. He noted that he has publicly asked parents not to malign other schools when trying to promote their own school.

He continued noting that the proposal being presented this evening concerning the organization of high schools in Laval will look at the long-term needs of these schools and that the community will be consulted on this proposal.

He commended the Principal, teachers and students of Western Laval High School for their efforts to reshape the image of the school but unfortunately history keeps getting in the way, it is time for the Laval community to forget the past and look to the future.

The Director General also noted that the board responds, in writing, to any negative media attention.

In response to an additional question from Mr. Mouhteros, the Director General noted that French Immersion is not being removed from Western Laval High School but that the board is being consistent in having Mathematics taught in English across the board and that it is the decision of the Governing Board as to what language is used to teach those courses that are not core courses.

Mr. Mouhteros thanked that board for its time.

6.0 BUSINESS ARISING

6.1 Request for Transportation:

In response to a request made at the 2003-11-26 meeting of the Council concerning a transportation allocation for students residing in Laval and attend Lake of Two Mountains High School, the Coordinator of School Organization & Transportation advised that the request has been reviewed

extensively by the Committee on the Use of Schools & Other Facilities / Transportation and the committee recommends that the request for the allocation be denied.

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6.2 “Directions 2004 & Beyond” – Mandate to Director General:

The Director General noted that the document “Directions 2004 & Beyond” had been presented at the 2004-01-28 meeting of the Council as information and that now he is requesting a mandate to pursue the three objectives contained in the document.

In response to a question from Edward Turchyniak, the Director General advised that there is no specific timeline but that if a mandate was approved he would pursue the three objectives immediately.

In response to a question from Steve Kmec, the Director General noted that requesting an annual review on the three objectives is premature as a proposal on each of the three objectives has not yet been formulated and that when the proposals are brought to the Council for consideration it will be determined at that time if annual review is necessary.

The Council entered into discussion.

The Chairman asked Sandra Rouleau if she would accept Mr. Kmec’s amendment. Mrs. Rouleau indicated that she would not accept this amendment.

040225-CA-0126

Steve Kmec MOVED THAT the resolution concerning the mandate to the DRG for “*Directions 2004 and Beyond*”, be amended to include that the Director General must report back to the Council of Commissioners by 2004-09-10

THIS MOTION WAS DEFEATED ON THE FOLLOWING DIVISION:

YEA: Tony De Lauri, Walter Fogel, Steve Kmec, Albina Pace, Morten Schrier

NAY: Natalie Auclair, Georges Benoit, Steve Bletas, Robert Dixon, Nazario Facchino, Peter MacLaurin, David McKinley, Nick Milas, Merle Parkinson, William Pollock, Nancy Rupnik, Edward Turchyniak

ABST: Carolyn Curiale, Grace Nesi

040225-CA-0127

WHEREAS the Director General has presented the Executive Committee and the Council of Commissioners with a document entitled “*Directions 2004 and Beyond*”;

WHEREAS this document outlines three significant avenues requiring deliberation and action;

Sandra Rouleau MOVED THAT, on the recommendation of the Directorate and the Executive Committee, the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board mandate the Director General to pursue the three significant avenues outlined in “*Directions 2004 and Beyond*”, document #SWLSB-2004/02/25-CA-002.

AND THAT the Director General report back to the Council of Commissioners as to the progress and to propose any specific directions to be taken.

THIS MOTION WAS CARRIED ON THE FOLLOWING DIVISION:

YEA: Natalie Auclair, Georges Benoit, Steve Bletas, Carolyn Curiale, Tony De Lauri, Robert Dixon, Nazario Facchino, Steve Kmec, Peter MacLaurin, David McKinley, Nick Milas, Grace Nesi, Albina Pace, Merle Parkinson, William Pollock, Nancy Rupnik, Morten Schrier, Edward Turchyniak

6.3 *Proposed Policy #2004-CA-10: Role of the Chairman:*

The Deputy Director General presented the proposed policy on the "Role of the Chairman of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board" noting that the policy is for consultation by the Council of Commissioners only. The policy will be brought back to the Council for final approval at the 2004-03-24 meeting.

In response to a question from Walter Fogel, the Deputy Director General advised Mr. Fogel that the Ethics Review Committee had received a mandate from the Council to prepare a policy of the role of the Chairman and that this mandate was given to this particular committee as it deals closely with the role and conduct of Commissioners.

040225-CA-0128

Steve Kmec MOVED THAT, on the recommendation of the Ethics Review Committee and the Executive Committee, the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board approve in principle proposed policy #2004-CA-10: Role of the Chairman of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board.

AND THAT any recommendations be forwarded to the Deputy Director General for examination by the Ethics Review Committee.

FURTHER THAT this policy be brought to the 2004-03-24 regular meeting of the Council of Commissioners for final approval.

THIS MOTION WAS CARRIED ON THE FOLLOWING DIVISION:

YEA: **Natalie Auclair, Georges Benoit, Steve Bletas, Carolyn Curiale, Tony De Lauri, Robert Dixon, Nazario Facchino, Steve Kmec, Peter MacLaurin, David McKinley, Nick Milas, Grace Nesi, Merle Parkinson, William Pollock, Nancy Rupnik, Morten Schrier, Edward Turchyniak**

ABST: **Walter Fogel, Albina Pace**

6.4 *QESBA Priorities:*

Carolyn Curiale advised the Council that it was not possible for the ad hoc committee to hold a meeting to discuss the QESBA priorities but that discussions were held via telephone to formulate recommendations on the priorities.

040225-CA-0129

WHEREAS the Quebec English School Boards Association (QESBA) has submitted revised policy documents for review and recommendations by its member boards;

WHEREAS the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board has received these policy documents and were requested to provide feedback to Carolyn Curiale;

Carolyn Curiale MOVED THAT the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board mandate its Quebec English School Boards Association (QESBA) delegates to recommend that the revised policy documents be adopted with the following suggestions:

- Examine the effectiveness of the current system, including post-secondary education.
- Examine the secondary and post secondary sections to look at more efficiently delivering technical and vocational education.
- Educate high school Principals and Guidance Counsellors as to the opportunities and avenues for technical and vocational education.

- Consider smaller groups in technical and vocational education to reflect the reality.

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- Develop partnerships with industry to better understand the needs of industry, and to provide a more specifically trained workforce.
- The Adult Education envelope should reflect the ETPs

THIS MOTION WAS CARRIED ON THE FOLLOWING DIVISION:

YEA: Natalie Auclair, Georges Benoit, Steve Bletas, Carolyn Curiale, Tony De Lauri, Robert Dixon, Nazario Facchino, Steve Kmec, Peter MacLaurin, David McKinley, Nick Milas, Grace Nesi, Albina Pace, Merle Parkinson, William Pollock, Nancy Rupnik, Morten Schrier, Edward Turchyniak

ABST: Walter Fogel

Natalie Auclair left the meeting.

TIME: 21:32 hours

6.5 Update on Appeals Review Committee Decisions:

The Director General advised the Council that one of the decisions taken at the 2004-01-28 meeting of the Council concerning a decision affecting a student cannot be followed up as the teacher is currently on sick leave.

He went on to note that he has not received further feedback on the second case of a decision affecting a student and that this issue should be considered closed.

6.6 Northern Schools Forum:

The Director General advised the Council that the meeting with the northern schools held on 2004-02-23 at Laurentia Elementary School was a positive one and that the priorities of these schools were presented and discussed. The school board will review the priorities and see if any of them are feasible.

Natalie Auclair returned to the meeting.

TIME: 21:35 hours

6.7 Standing Committees:

In response to a concern expressed by Steve Kmec, the Chairman advised that the decision to merge the Transportation Committee with the Committee on the Use of Schools and Others Facilities was reviewed at the 2004-01-28 meeting of the Council and it was agreed that the status quo would be maintained for the 2003-2004 school year and that the status of the committee would be reviewed for 2004-2005.

In response to an additional question from Mr. Kmec, the Deputy Director General advised that the merging of the two committees was not a last minute decision but that it was approved by resolution at the 2003-11-26 meeting of the Council.

The Director General left the meeting.

TIME: 21:40 hours

Nancy Rupnik left the meeting.

TIME: 21:41 hours

Discussion ensued.

In response to a request made by Walter Fogel in reference to item 14.0 on page 1002 of the minutes of the Council meeting held on 2004-01-26, the Chairman advised that he would bring to the attention of the QESBA the issue of the lack of accessibility to English education to the Ministère de l'Éducation.

The Director General returned to the meeting.

TIME: 21:43 hours

Nancy Rupnik returned to the meeting.

TIME: 21:44 hours

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In response to a question from Walter Fogel on item 8.4 on page 1000 of the minutes of the 2004-01-26 meeting of the Council, the Deputy Director General noted that the paperless meeting format would be an education for everyone involved and that adequate training will be provided to all Commissioners, if the project proves to be viable once the test period is completed with the Executive Committee.

In response to a question from Walter Fogel on item 16.2 on page 1003 of the minutes of the above mentioned meeting, Peter MacLaurin, Chairman of the Financial Resources Committee, advised that while there was not a meeting of the committee a phone chain was used to recommend this seizure to the Council.

7.0 CORPORATE AFFAIRS

7.1 2004 QESBA/AESQ Spring Conference:

The Deputy Director General advised that the Steering Committee met on 2004-02-24 and that it is pleased with the progress of the planning for the conference. The conference material has been sent to the AAESQ for distribution during the first week of March and the deadline for room reservations at Manoir St-Sauveur is 2004-04-04.

The next meeting of the Steering Committee is 2004-03-25 and all committees will be invited in order to finalize the roles of the organizers.

In response to a question from the Chairman, the Deputy Director General advised that it is anticipated that the conference will be self-financing.

7.2 2004 ASCD Annual Conference:

The Chairman commented that the attendance of Commissioners at various conferences in North America has provided many feasible project ideas for the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board such as the Rawdon Laptop Project.

The Deputy Director General reviewed the budget for the 2004 Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development (ASCD) Conference noting that the funding for these conferences comes from a professional improvement budget set aside specifically for Commissioners.

The Council entered into discussion.

Robert Dixon proposed that items 7.2.1 to 7.2.7 be voted upon "en bloc".

David McKinley did not accept this proposal.

040225-CA-0130

Robert Dixon MOVED THAT the resolutions concerning the 2004 Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development (ASCD) "*Faces of Education*" Conference in New Orleans, Louisiana, be voted upon all together.

THIS MOTION WAS DEFEATED ON THE FOLLOWING DIVISION:

YEA: Tony De Lauri, Robert Dixon, Walter Fogel, Steve Kmec, Albina Pace,

NAY: Natalie Auclair, Georges Benoit, Steve Bletas, Carolyn Curiale, Nazario Facchino, Peter MacLaurin, David McKinley, Nick Milas, Grace Nesi, William Pollock, Nancy Rupnik, Edward Turchyniak

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040225-CA-0131

David McKinley MOVED THAT the Council of Commissioners authorize **Natalie Auclair** to attend the 2004 Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development (ASCD) "*Faces of Education*" Conference in New Orleans, Louisiana from March 20 - 22, 2004 and accept to defray her costs for registration, travel and other related expenses to a maximum amount of 2 900,00\$ Canadian.

THIS MOTION WAS CARRIED ON THE FOLLOWING DIVISION:

YEA: Natalie Auclair, Georges Benoit, Steve Bletas, Carolyn Curiale, Tony De Lauri, Robert Dixon, Nazario Facchino, Walter Fogel, Steve Kmec, Peter MacLaurin, David McKinley, Nick Milas, Grace Nesi, Albina Pace, William Pollock, Nancy Rupnik, Morten Schrier, Edward Turchyniak

ABST: Merle Parkinson

040225-CA-0132

Walter Fogel MOVED THAT the Council of Commissioners authorize **Carolyn Curiale** to attend the 2004 Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development (ASCD) "*Faces of Education*" Conference in New Orleans, Louisiana from March 20 - 22, 2004 and accept to defray her costs for registration, travel and other related expenses to a maximum amount of 2 900,00\$ Canadian.

Carried unanimously

040225-CA-0133

William Pollock MOVED THAT the Council of Commissioners authorize **Walter Fogel** to attend the 2004 Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development (ASCD) "*Faces of Education*" Conference in New Orleans, Louisiana from March 20 - 22, 2004 and accept to defray his costs for registration, travel and other related expenses to a maximum amount of 2 900,00\$ Canadian.

THIS MOTION WAS DEFEATED ON THE FOLLOWING DIVISION:

YEA: Tony De Lauri, Robert Dixon, Walter Fogel, Steve Kmec, Albina Pace, Merle Parkinson, Morten Schrier

NAY: Natalie Auclair, Georges Benoit, Steve Bletas, Carolyn Curiale, Nazario Facchino, Peter MacLaurin, David McKinley, Nick Milas, Grace Nesi, William Pollock, Nancy Rupnik, Edward Turchyniak

040225-CA-0134

Georges Benoit MOVED THAT the Council of Commissioners authorize **Steve Kmec** to attend the 2004 Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development (ASCD) "*Faces of Education*" Conference in New Orleans, Louisiana from March 20 - 22, 2004 and accept to defray his costs for registration, travel and other related expenses to a maximum amount of 2 900,00\$ Canadian.

THIS MOTION WAS DEFEATED ON THE FOLLOWING DIVISION:

YEA: Tony De Lauri, Robert Dixon, Walter Fogel, Steve Kmec, Albina Pace, Merle Parkinson, Morten Schrier

NAY: Natalie Auclair, Georges Benoit, Steve Bletas, Carolyn Curiale, Nazario Facchino, Peter MacLaurin, David McKinley, Nick Milas, Grace Nesi, William Pollock, Nancy Rupnik, Edward Turchyniak

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040225-CA-0135

Morten Schrier MOVED THAT the Council of Commissioners authorize **Grace Nesi** to attend the 2004 Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development (ASCD) "*Faces of Education*" Conference in New Orleans, Louisiana from March 20 - 22, 2004 and accept to defray her costs for registration, travel and other related expenses to a maximum amount of 2 900,00\$ Canadian.

THIS MOTION WAS CARRIED ON THE FOLLOWING DIVISION:

YEA: Natalie Auclair, Georges Benoit, Steve Bletas, Carolyn Curiale, Tony De Lauri, Robert Dixon, Nazario Facchino, Steve Kmec, Peter MacLaurin, David McKinley, Nick Milas, Grace Nesi, Albina Pace, William Pollock, Nancy Rupnik, Morten Schrier, Edward Turchyniak

ABST: Walter Fogel, Merle Parkinson

040225-CA-0136

Nancy Rupnik MOVED THAT the Council of Commissioners authorize **Albina Pace** to attend the 2004 Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development (ASCD) "*Faces of Education*" Conference in New Orleans, Louisiana from March 20 - 22, 2004 and accept to defray her costs for registration, travel and other related expenses to a maximum amount of 2 900,00\$ Canadian.

THIS MOTION WAS CARRIED ON THE FOLLOWING DIVISION:

YEA: Natalie Auclair, Carolyn Curiale, Tony De Lauri, Robert Dixon, Nazario Facchino, Walter Fogel, Steve Kmec, Peter MacLaurin, David McKinley, Nick Milas, Grace Nesi, Albina Pace, Nancy Rupnik, Morten Schrier

NAY: William Pollock

ABST: Georges Benoit, Steve Bletas, Merle Parkinson, Edward Turchyniak

040225-CA-0137

Linda Iaconetti MOVED THAT the Council of Commissioners authorize **Sandra Rouleau** to attend the 2004 Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development (ASCD) "*Faces of Education*" Conference in New Orleans, Louisiana from March 20 - 22, 2004 and accept to defray her costs for registration, travel and other related expenses to a maximum amount of 2 900,00\$ Canadian.

THIS MOTION WAS CARRIED ON THE FOLLOWING DIVISION:

YEA: Natalie Auclair, Georges Benoit, Carolyn Curiale, Tony De Lauri, Robert Dixon, Nazario Facchino, Walter Fogel, Steve Kmec, Peter MacLaurin, Nick Milas, Grace Nesi, Albina Pace, Merle Parkinson, Morten Schrier

NAY: William Pollock

ABST: Steve Bletas, David McKinley, Nancy Rupnik, Edward Turchyniak

Walter Fogel left the meeting.

TIME: 22:15 hours

8.0 QESBA

8.1 Report of the QESBA:

The Chairman advised the Council that the 2004-02-07 QESBA workshop was very informative and well attended by new Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board.

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David McKinley presented a document distributed at the workshop and advised that if anyone was interested that a copy could be provided.

8.2 Voting Delegates 2004 Annual General Meeting:

The Deputy Director General advised the Council that a request has been received from the QESBA for voting delegates for the 2004 Annual General Meeting to be held on 2004-05-08. He noted that the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board will now have 13 votes instead of 12.

Walter Fogel returned to the meeting

TIME: 22:19 hours

Peter MacLaurin nominated Carolyn Curiale and Steve Bletas as voting delegates. Mrs. Curiale and Mr. Bletas accepted the nomination.

Peter MacLaurin nominated William Pollock as alternate voting delegate. Mr. Pollock accepted the nomination.

040225-CA-0138

WHEREAS the Quebec English School Boards Association (QESBA) has assigned thirteen votes to the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board for its Annual General Meeting being held on 2004-05-08;

Peter MacLaurin MOVED THAT the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board name the following as voting delegates for the Quebec English School Boards Association (QESBA) Annual General Meeting to be held on 2004-05-08; AND THAT the thirteen votes be divided among them:

Steve Bletas (6 votes)
Carolyn Curiale (7 votes)

AND THAT William Pollock be named as an alternate voting delegate for each of the named Commissioners at the Quebec English School Boards Association (QESBA) Annual General Meeting to be held on 2004-05-08.

THIS MOTION WAS CARRIED ON THE FOLLOWING DIVISION:

YEA: Natalie Auclair, Georges Benoit, Steve Bletas, Carolyn Curiale, Tony De Lauri, Robert Dixon, Nazario Facchino, Steve Kmec, Peter MacLaurin, David McKinley, Nick Milas, Grace Nesi, Albina Pace, Merle Parkinson, William Pollock, Nancy Rupnik, Edward Turchyniak

ABST: Walter Fogel, Morten Schrier

Nick Milas left the meeting.

TIME: 22:21 hours

9.0 MATERIAL RESOURCES

9.1 Update on Projects:

The Director of Material Resources advised the Council that the various projects are going well and are close to being on schedule.

Natalie Auclair, Carolyn Curiale and Peter MacLaurin left the meeting. **TIME: 22:22 hours**

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In response to a question from Edward Turchyniak, the Director of Material Resources advised that the issue of the placement of the flags was discussed at length by the Material Resources Committee. Heritage Canada was contacted and it was recommended that the flags flying outside the Administration Centre should hang in the order designated by Québec law and that indoor flags could be arranged at the discretion of the administration.

Peter MacLaurin returned to the meeting. **TIME: 22:25 hours**

10.0 FINANCIAL RESOURCES

Peter MacLaurin, Chairman of the Financial Resources Committee, advised that all Commissioners will be e-mailed the monthly list of cheques and that if there are any questions about a cheque to please contact him and the question will be answered at the next meeting of the committee.

Carolyn Curiale returned to the meeting. **TIME: 22:26 hours**

Natalie Auclair returned to the meeting. **TIME: 22:27 hours**

040225-CA-0139

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

THIS MOTION WAS CARRIED ON THE FOLLOWING DIVISION:

YEA: Natalie Auclair, Georges Benoit, Steve Bletas, Carolyn Curiale, Tony De Lauri, Robert Dixon, Nazario Facchino, Steve Kmec, Peter MacLaurin, David McKinley, Nick Milas, Grace Nesi, Albina Pace, Merle Parkinson, William Pollock, Nancy Rupnik, Edward Turchyniak

ABST: Walter Fogel, Morten Schrier

10.1 Call to Tender for Auditors:

The Director of Financial Resources advised the Council that the current contract for the services of an auditing firm has expired and it is necessary to call a public tender for a new contract.

She continued by reviewing the recommendations of the Financial Resources Committee, the Executive Committee and the Directorate noting that the previous method for selecting a firm has been reviewed and it will now be weighted, 35% price and 65% reputation. As well, the term will now be for three years with a one year renewal option. A Selection Committee will also be established and be comprised of Director General, the Director of Financial Resources, the Director of Material Resources, the Coordinator of Material Resources, one Principal, and one Commissioner recommended by the Financial Resources Committee.

The Council entered into discussion.

In response to a question from Walter Fogel, the Director of Financial Resources advised that the criteria was established by contacting other English and French school boards to gain information on their methods of selecting an auditing firm. Those firms that respond to the tender will be required to complete an extensive questionnaire that will ask questions based on experience, the time they will spend on the audit, experience with school boards and how they budget time.

The Chairman turned the chair over to the Vice Chair and left the meeting. **TIME: 22:31 hours**

Sandra Rouleau left the meeting. **TIME: 22:31 hours**

Morten Schrier excused himself for the evening. **TIME: 22:33 hours**

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Grace Nesi left the meeting. **TIME: 22:34 hours**

In response to several questions, the Chairman of the Financial Resources Committee advised that the committee had discussed the method of selection at length and that the number of firms that tender to provide auditing services to school boards is dwindling due to the demands being placed on them by the Ministère de l'Éducation, therefore, experience is becoming more important than price.

The Director General left the meeting. **TIME: 22:35 hours**

Discussion continued.

The Director General returned to the meeting. **TIME: 22:42 hours**

In response to several questions concerning cost, the Director of Financial Resources noted that it is not possible to even guess at what the cost will be until the tenders are received, although it is expected that the bids will be similar due to the information the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board is providing the firms to prepare their tenders. A billing schedule is also being requested as part of the tender, as well as a cost for circumstances that go beyond what is required by the audit.

040225-FR-0140

WHEREAS the current contract for auditing services has expired making it necessary to tender a new contract;

WHEREAS it has become known that many auditing firms will not undertake the audit of a school board due to the guidelines implemented by the Ministère de l'Éducation;

WHEREAS it has become known that the cost of an annual audit will be significantly higher than in recent years due to the guidelines implemented by the Ministère de l'Éducation;

WHEREAS the current process undertaken by school boards in the selection of a firm to conduct auditing services is to weight the process by considering the cost and the reputation of an auditing firm;

WHEREAS the Financial Resources Committee recommends that a public tender be called for the services of a firm to conduct auditing services;

Peter MacLaurin MOVED THAT, on the recommendation of the Financial Resources Committee and the Executive Committee, the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board call for public tenders for the services of a firm to conduct auditing services for the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board.

AND THAT the term of the contract of auditing services be for a three year period with a one year renewal option.

AND THAT a Selection Committee be established to examine the tenders received from firms wishing to conduct auditing services for the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board;

FURTHER THAT the Selection Committee be made up of the Director General, the Director of Financial Resources, the Director of Material Resources, the Coordinator of Material Resources, one Principal, and one Commissioner recommended by the Financial Resources Committee.

THIS MOTION WAS CARRIED ON THE FOLLOWING DIVISION:

YEA: Natalie Auclair, Georges Benoit, Steve Bletas, Carolyn Curiale, Tony De Lauri, Robert Dixon, Nazario Facchino, Steve Kmec, Peter MacLaurin, David McKinley, Albina Pace, Merle Parkinson, William Pollock, Nancy Rupnik, Edward Turchyniak

ABST: Walter Fogel

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10.2 Budget Building Process:

The Director of Financial Resources presented a draft of the budget building process for the 2004-2005 school year noting that this document is being presented to the Sir Wilfrid Laurier Administrators Association, Principals, Governing Boards and the Parents Committee for feedback.

Nick Milas, Grace Nesi and Sandra Rouleau returned to the meeting. **TIME: 22:43 hours**

10.3 School Surpluses:

The Director of Financial Resources presented and reviewed the school surpluses for 2003-2004 noting that approximately 70% of the school fees for 2003-2004 have been collected.

The Council entered into discussion.

Steve Kmec excused himself for the evening. **TIME: 22:45 hours**

10.4 Day Care Surpluses:

The Director of Financial Resources reviewed the day care surpluses noting that there is almost 1 000 000\$ in surpluses.

The Council entered into discussion.

The Chairman returned to the meeting. **TIME: 22:50 hours**

In response to a question from Walter Fogel, the Director General advised that if a day care employee is ill and cannot work the replacement is paid out of the surplus.

The Director of Human Resources advised that day care employees have the same insurance package as the support staff the only difference is that the day care employees is laid off at the end of the school year.

The Chairman resumed the chair.

11.0 HUMAN RESOURCES

The Director of Human Resources advised that no meeting was held as there was no quorum

12.0 EDUCATIONAL SERVICES

Carolyn Curiale, Chair of the Education Committee, invited all Commissioners to attend the committee meetings as they are always interesting and informative.

12.1 MEQ Symposium on Life Long Learning:

William Pollock commented on the symposium on Life Long Learning noting that he will be making a full report to the Executive Committee at its March meeting.

13.0 USE OF SCHOOLS / TRANSPORTATION

13.1 Update on 2004-2005 Enrollment:

The Coordinator of School Organization & Transportation provided an update on the 2004-2005 enrollment noting that according to the numbers reported by Lewis King Elementary School, only 27 more registrations are needed to meet the 110 enrollments required to preclude a merger between Holy Rosary and Lewis King Elementary Schools.

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He also noted that a letter was sent out to the parents in Lanaudière South with the results of the consultation in order to assist Lewis King Elementary School in meeting its minimum enrollment.

He informed the Council that after the spring break enrollment figures will be submitted to his office on a bi-weekly basis.

The Council entered into discussion.

In response to a question from Natalie Auclair, the Coordinator of School Organization & Transportation advised that the new school in Repentigny has received 20 new registrations above and beyond what was projected.

In response to questions from Nick Milas, the Director General advised that a procedure will be set up in the community to name the new school in Repentigny. He also advised that a notice has been sent out to the Principals inquiring if anyone would be interested in transferring to the new school and that the deadline to respond is 2004-03-05.

In response to a question from Edward Turchyniak, the Director General noted that how the space is arranged at Rosemere High School may have to be reviewed in the anticipation that the school will be at capacity in a few years.

In response to a concern expressed by Natalie Auclair, the Director General advised that provision of transportation, based on school board policy, was included as part of the resolution concerning the zoning for the new school in Repentigny. He also noted that all the information on the rezoning of Lanaudière south is available on the school board's Web site.

13.2 Organization of High Schools in Laval for 2005-2006:

The Coordinator of School Organization & Transportation advised the Council that the consultation and timeline on the reorganization of high schools in Laval has been prepared, reviewed by the Committee on the Use of School & Other Facilities / Transportation and distributed to the various groups for consultation.

He advised that at the last meeting of the Committee on the Use of School & Other Facilities / Transportation it was stated that the current organization, status quo, of the high schools in Laval should not be accepted as a recommendation.

The Director General noted that the consultation being presented at this time is preliminary in order to find out what direction the school board should take in the organization of high schools in Laval and that the final options will be presented for further consultation.

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WHEREAS the Committee on the Use of Schools & Other Facilities and Transportation has concluded that the use of the three high schools in Laval needs to be examined;

WHEREAS the services offered to students in these three high schools need to be reviewed in order to examine if there is a more effective way of providing services to these students;

WHEREAS it is recommended that the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board consult the school communities involved for their input on the use of the three high schools in Laval;

Grace Nesi MOVED THAT, on the recommendation of the Committee on the Use of Schools & Other Facilities and Transportation, the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board mandate the Director General and the Coordinator of School Organization and Transportation to proceed immediately with a consultation on the organization of services in the three high schools in Laval.

AND THAT this consultation process be concluded by June 30th, 2004 with a view to implementation in the 2005-2006 school year.

**Carried unanimously
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14.0 PARENT COMMISSIONERS REPORT

14.1 Parents' Committee Report:

Linda Iaconetti advised the Council that Nathalie Riley, Parent Delegate from Lewis King Elementary School, has been named as Vice-Chair to the Executive Committee of the Fédération des comités de parents du Québec (FCPQ), making her the first representative from an English school board to hold this position.

15.0 INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

Peter MacLaurin advised the Council that the next meeting of the Information Technology Committee would be held on 2004-03-08.

16.0 QUESTION PERIOD

There were no questions.

17.0 CORRESPONDENCE

The Chairman drew the Commissioners attention to the correspondence contained in the meeting package.

18.0 VARIA

There was no varia.

19.0 ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING

Merle Parkinson MOVED adjournment of the meeting.

Carried unanimously

TIME: 23:16 hours

NEXT MEETING ⇨ REGULAR ⇨ 2004-03-24

Robert Vallerand, Secretary General

Steve Bletas, Chairman