

PROVINCE OF QUEBEC

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE SIR WILFRID LAURIER SCHOOL BOARD HELD ON 2007-02-28

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, 2007-02-28 at 19:30 hours, at which were present:

Commissioners 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, and Nancy Rupnik, Moreten Schrier; Lisa Chartier and Tom Mouhteros, Parent Commissioners; and Effie Maniatis, Director General.

Also present were: Anne-Marie Lepage, Assistant Director General; Josephine Battista, Secretary General; Line Desgroseilliers, Director of Information Technology; Alain Guay, Director of Adult & Vocational Education; Heather Halman, Director of Educational Services; Daniel Hogue, Director of Material Resources; George Paquette, Director of School Organization & Transportation; Donna Abel, Assitant Director of Financial Resources; Anne-Marie Lavoie, Assitant Director of Human Resources; and Jocelyne Thompson-Ness, Administrative Assistant. Several other persons were also in the audience.

Absent: Commissioner Edward Turchyniak.

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 19:42 hours.

The Chairman welcomed Commissioner Morten Schrier back to the table and wished him good health.

1.0 ACCEPTANCE OF AGENDA:

The following addition and change to the agenda was proposed:

18.0 VARIA:

18.1 Postage Costs.....INFO

CC-070228-CA-0102

Commissioner Morten Schrier MOVED THAT the agenda be accepted as corrected in document #SWLSB-2007/02/28-CA-001.

Carried unanimously

2.0 APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioner Natalie Auclair asked that her letter of resignation referred to on page 1630 of the minutes of the regular meeting of 2007-01-24 be included as part of the text of the said minutes.

CC-070228-CA-0103

Commissioner Georges Benoit MOVED THAT the minutes of the REGULAR meeting of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board held on 2007-01-24, having been received by all members prior to this meeting, be approved as corrected.

THIS MOTION WAS CARRIED ON THE FOLLOWING DIVISION:	
Commissioners voting 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, Albina Pace, Merle Parkinson, William Pollock, Nancy Rupnik,
Commissioners ABSTAINING:	Grace Nesi, Morten Schrier

3.0 QUESTION PERIOD

There were no questions.

4.0 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

4.1 *Chairman's Report:*

The Chairman advised that prior to tonight's meeting the students of the Laval Liberty High School Robotics team gave the Council of Commissioners a demonstration of its winning robot from the 2007 Robotics Competition.

He went on to note that Rosemere High School hosted the event that regrouped 500 team participants from high schools and CEGEPs demonstrate robots and compete in other competitions related to the robots. Laval Liberty High School placed 1st for robot design and construction and 3rd place for sportsmanship, while Rosemere High School placed 1st for sportsmanship, 2nd for its Web site and 3rd for its kiosk, video and journal. Rosemere High School has been invited to demonstrate its robot prior to the 2007-03-28 meeting of the Council of Commissioners.

He continued noting that several Rosemere High School students had placed very well in a poster and essay contest sponsored by the Royal Canadian Legion. These entries will be sent to the Legion's Dominion Command for national judging.

He also commented on a meeting with the Chairs of the Laval-Laurentides-Lanaudière region where the following was discussed: the future of school boards, the possibility of a delay of the next school elections, which was not supported, and a letter from the Ministère de l'Éducation, du Loisir et du Sport (MELS) advising of a grant of 1 300 000\$ for building projects under Measure 50690.

The Council entered into discussion on the Robotics competition, how to best promote the successes of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board, and the recent comments made by the Action démocratique concerning the future of school boards.

5.0 BUSINESS ARISING

5.1 *Safety & Security:*

The Director General drew the Council's attention to the report contained in the meeting package noting that at its meeting of 2007-02-26, the Safety & Security Committee reviewed the influenza pandemic presentation. The school board will not close schools in a pandemic situation without the authorization of the Ministère de l'Éducation, du Loisir et du Sport (MELS). A plan of action is being prepared for the predicted influenza pandemic.

Commissioner Natalie Auclair left the meeting.

TIME: 20:05 hours

The committee also discussed the feedback received from the Management Committee on access controls, maintenance training and the risk analysis report.

Commissioner Natalie Auclair returned to the meeting.

TIME: 20:08 hours

The Council entered into discussion.

In response to a question from Commissioner Albina Pace, the Director General noted that each school has a procedure to address the issue of bullying and that she would survey the schools to obtain a copy of the procedure used.

5.2 Influenza Pandemic :

The Assistant Director of Human Resources made a PowerPoint presentation on the predicted influenza pandemic based on a workshop, attended by herself and the Director of Material Resources, on the issue with the Direction régionale de Laval-Laurentides-Lanaudière.

Commissioner Carolyn Curiale left the meeting.

TIME: 20:15 hours

The Assistant Director General stressed the importance for the school board to have a plan of action in place prior to the influenza pandemic.

Commissioner Carolyn Curiale returned to the meeting.

TIME: 20:19 hours

In response to a question from Commissioner Walter Fogel, the Chairman suggested that the issue of the influenza pandemic be placed on the next agenda of the Material Resources Committee for further discussion.

Commissioner Nick Milas left the meeting.

TIME: 20:31 hours

In response to a question asked by Commissioner Walter Fogel on page 1629 of the minutes of the meeting held on 2007-01-24, the Director of School Organization advised that in accordance with the law there are criminal sanctions for allowing a student to attend English school without the proper eligibility.

Commissioner Nick Milas returned to the meeting.

TIME: 20:33 hours

In response to an additional point of "business arising" raised by Commissioner Walter Fogel on page 1631 of the above mentioned minutes, the Chairman advised that the registration for the 2007 QESBA/AAESQ Spring Conference for Commissioner Carolyn Curiale would be covered by the Quebec English School Boards Association (QESBA).

6.0 CORPORATE AFFAIRS & COMMUNICATIONS

6.1 Report of the Committee Chairperson - Communications & Public Relations:

The Secretary General noted that at the last meeting of the Communication & Public Relations Committee the following was discussed: the annual report, the 2007-2011 Strategic Plan, the receipt of 104 responses to the Web survey, the distribution of "appreciation" packages for Teachers' Appreciation Week and Non-Teaching Professionals Week, the advertising campaign for registration, student democracy, the review of the Code of Ethics for Commissioners and the establishment of criteria for the Laurier Gala.

Commissioner Tony De Lauri left the meeting.

TIME: 20:38 hours

She went on to advise that the school board has been approached by the Montréal Impact Soccer Club concerning its "Stay in School Program", which targets elementary students in areas experiencing socio-economic difficulties. Eight Sir Wilfrid Laurier schools have been identified for participation in this program.

Commissioner Tony De Lauri returned to the meeting.

TIME: 20:41 hours

In response to a question from Commissioner Steve Kmec, the Assistant Director General noted the concern of the school board on the Journal de Montréal article on violence in schools noting that information presented was not accurate and would cause a negative perception. A letter was drafted to Laval high school parents and co-signed by the Director General and the Chief Inspector for the Laval Police, to reassure parents that the information printed was worrisome and that preventative actions were also taking place.

Commissioner Natalie Auclair left the meeting.

TIME: 20:48 hours

In response to an observation made by Commissioner Merle Parkinson, the Chairman advised that the timeline of the publication of the annual report will be reviewed at the next Communications & Public Relations Committee meeting.

Commissioner Natalie Auclair returned to the meeting.

TIME: 20:50 hours

Commissioner Morten Schrier excused himself for the evening.

TIME: 20:50 hours

The resolution tabled to the School Organization Committee at the 2007-01-24 meeting of the Council for further discussion concerning access to English education was brought back on the table.

Commissioner Walter Fogel urged Commissioners to support his resolution to enrol students in English school regardless of whether or not they have a valid eligibility certificate.

The Council entered into discussion.

On a "point of order", Commissioner Carolyn Curiale called for the vote.

CC-070228-CA-0104

Commissioner Carolyn Curiale MOVED THAT a vote be called on the resolution proposed by Walter Fogel at the 2006-12-13 meeting of the Council of Commissioners.

THIS MOTION WAS CARRIED ON THE FOLLOWING DIVISION:	
Commissioners voting YEA:	Natalie Auclair, Georges Benoit, Steve Bletas, Carolyn Curiale, Tony De Lauri, Robert Dixon, Nazario Facchino, Peter MacLaurin, David McKinley, Nick Milas, Grace Nesi, Albina Pace, Merle Parkinson, William Pollock, Nancy Rupnik
Commissioners voting NAY:	Walter Fogel, Steve Kmec

CC-070228-TS-0105

WHEREAS, notwithstanding the provisions of Article 2.0 of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board's Enrollment Criteria for the 2007-2008 school year;

Commissioner Walter Fogel MOVED THAT the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board approve that any student applicant to schools of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board who meets all other criteria for enrolment save that of holding certificate of eligibility for English language education and has applied for same but final dispensation of said application and/or appeal from same has not been finally decided, shall be temporarily enrolled until such final decision is rendered.

THIS MOTION WAS CARRIED ON THE FOLLOWING DIVISION:	
Commissioners voting YEA:	Walter Fogel, Steve Kmec
Commissioners voting NAY:	Natalie Auclair, Georges Benoit, Steve Bletas, Carolyn Curiale, Robert Dixon, Nazario Facchino, David McKinley, Nick Milas, Grace Nesi, Albina Pace, Merle Parkinson, William Pollock, Nancy Rupnik
Commissioners ABSTAINING:	Tony De Lauri, Peter MacLaurin

6.2 SWL Foundation:

The Chairman presented the following letter from the Sir Wilfrid Laurier Foundation President in response to the resignation of Commissioner Natalie Auclair:

Fondation Sir-Wilfrid Laurier Foundation

Rosemère, February 21, 2007-03-20

Natalie Auclair

Commissioner

Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board

1371 Louise Street

Mascouche, Quebec J7L 4A6

Dear Madam,

We were very sorry to hear that you would be leaving the Bord of Directors of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier Foundation before the end of your term.

Partly thanks to your contribution, the Foundation was able to reach the corporative, financial and communication objectives that were set at its creation in August 2004. This was achieved despite the stumbling blocks that any new organization is bound to encounter.

My colleagues and I wish to express our appreciation for the time and effort you have invested in this cause. You will especially be remembered for your outspokenness and your perseverance in defending your ideals. I thank you for having shown such commitment.

Wishing you good luck in your future endeavours.

Sincerely,

Francois Ghali,

Chairman

*c.c. Council of Commissioners
Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board*

He went on to note that the combined results of the last two Foundation Galas will enable the purchase of an interactive white board for each school in the Sir Wilfrid Laureir School Board and it is expected that these white boards will be in place by the end of the 2006-2007 school year. The Foundation will be holding a day of reflection on 2007-03-16, with Principals, members of the Directorate and the Assitant Director General to receive feedback from the participants on the recent achievements fo the Foundation and its future goals with respect to the needs fo the schools. The issue of the Foundation's participation in the security needs of the schools will also be discussed.

In response to a question from Commissioner Steve Kmec, the Chairman advised that the tax receipts for the 2007-01-11 gala were mailed on 2007-02-26.

The Council entered into discussion on the need to nominate a Commissioner to the Sir Wilfrid Laurier Foundation to replace Commissioner Natalie Auclair and it was agreed that this item should be placed on the agenda of the 2007-03-28 meeting of the Council of Commissioners.

6.3 Commissioners Professional Improvement:

The Secretary General reviewed several requests from Commissioners for professional improvement.

CC-070228-CA-0106

WHEREAS policy #2005-CA-11: Professional Development for Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board requires approval of the Council of Commissioners for Commissioner attendance at conferences;

WHEREAS this policy sets a ceiling of three delegates from the Council of Commissioners to any one conference;

WHEREAS two Commissioners have submitted requests to attend the "I am Safe Conference" (3rd National Conference on Bullying) in being held from 2007-04-02 to 2007-04-04 in Ottawa, Ontario;

Commissioner Walter Fogel MOVED THAT the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board approve the attendance of **Lisa Chartier** at the "I am Safe Conference" (3rd National Conference on Bullying) in Ottawa, Ontario from 2007-04-02 to 2007-04-04.

AND THAT registration, travel, accommodations and miscellaneous expenses not exceed 1 200,00\$ Canadian.

Carried unanimously

CC-070228-CA-0107

WHEREAS policy #2005-CA-11: Professional Development for Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board requires approval of the Council of Commissioners for Commissioner attendance at conferences;

WHEREAS this policy sets a ceiling of three delegates from the Council of Commissioners to any one conference;

WHEREAS two Commissioners have submitted requests to attend the "I am Safe Conference" (3rd National Conference on Bullying) in being held from 2007-04-02 to 2007-04-04 in Ottawa, Ontario;

Commissioner Walter Fogel MOVED THAT the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board approve the attendance of **Albina Pace** at the "I am Safe Conference" (3rd National Conference on Bullying) in Ottawa, Ontario from 2007-04-02 to 2007-04-04.

AND THAT registration, travel, accommodations and miscellaneous expenses not exceed 1 200,00\$ Canadian.

Carried unanimously

CC-070228-CA-0108

WHEREAS policy #2005-CA-11: Professional Development for Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board requires approval of the Council of Commissioners for Commissioner attendance at conferences;

WHEREAS this policy sets a ceiling of three delegates from the Council of Commissioners to any one conference;

WHEREAS the Chairman of the Council of Commissioners will be attending the "I am Safe Conference" (3rd National Conference on Bullying) in being held from 2007-04-02 to 2007-04-04 in Ottawa, Ontario;

Commissioner Walter Fogel MOVED THAT the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board approve the attendance of **Steve Bletas** at the "I am Safe Conference" (3rd National Conference on Bullying) in Ottawa, Ontario from 2007-04-02 to 2007-04-04.

AND THAT registration, travel, accommodations and miscellaneous expenses not exceed 1 200,00\$ Canadian.

Carried unanimously

Commissioner Nancy Rupnik left the meeting.

TIME: 21:07 hours

7.0 MATERIAL RESOURCES

7.1 Report of Committee Chairperson:

Commissioner David McKinley, Chairman of the Material Resources Committee, advised that at its last meeting the situation of Joliette Elementary School, the Competency Development Centre (CDC) Laurier renovation project, the renovations needed at 2323, boul. Daniel-Johnson and the proposal for the playing field at Laurentian Regional High School were discussed.

The Director of Material Resources advised the Council that the caretaker hours at Grenville Elementary School have been increased due to the high number of illnesses at the school amongst teachers and students. The numerous illness' has resulted in the school being thoroughly cleaned and antibacterial soap dispensers being installed in every classroom in order to minimize the spread of germs. The health department has been advised of the incident and the action taken.

Commisisoner Nancy Rupnik returned to the meeting.

TIME: 21:09 hours

The Assistant Director General noted that it was the health department that provided the school board with the protocol for the cleaning of the school. This was the first incident that showed how much a plan of action will be required in the predicted influenza pandemic. The school was not closed as replacement teachers were engaged and the school continued its daily routine.

Commissioner Natalie Auclair left the meeting.

TIME: 21:14 hours

7.2 Modification to Resolution - LRHS Cafeteria:

The Director of Material Resources advised that the original resolution for the purchase of food supplies for the cafeteria at Laurentian Regional High School (LRHS) needs to be amended, as the current amount allotted will not cover the food purchases for the 2006-2007 school year.

He went on to note that the reorganization of the cafeteria services at LRHS has increased its usage and indicated that there may be a small profit at the end of the 2006-2007 school year.

CC-070228-MR-0109

WHEREAS the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board adopted resolution #061213-MR-0082 approving an open purchase order of 90 000\$ for the Laurentian Regional High School cafeteria;

WHEREAS it has become apparent that the original amount of the open purchase order will not be enough to cover purchases during the 2006-2007 school year;

Commissioner David McKinley MOVED THAT, on the recommendation of the Material Resources Committee and the Executive Committee, the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board approve an amendment to resolution #061213-MR-0082 by increasing the amount of the open purchase order with **Dubord & Rainville Inc.** by 60 000\$ for a total amount of 150 000\$.

THIS MOTION WAS CARRIED ON THE FOLLOWING DIVISION:	
Commissioners voting 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
Commissioners ABSTAINING:	Walter Fogel

7.3 Synthetic Playing Field - LRHS:

The Director of Material Resources advised the Council that the school board has been approached by the MRC d'Argenteuil to participate in a shared cost partnership with the Ville de Lachute and the Commission scolaire de la Rivière-du-Nord to renovate the playing field at Laurentian Regional High School/Polyvalente Lavigne. The contribution of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board and the Commission scolaire de la Rivière-du-Nord would be 150 000\$ **apiece**. The cost to the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board would be spread out over a two year period. The two high schools would contribute 10 000\$ each. The project would see the field replaced with synthetic turf and new lighting.

Commissioner Natalie Auclair returned to the meeting.

TIME: 21:17 hours

In response to a question from Commissioner Georges Benoit, the Director of Material Resources advised that each of the high schools would be contributing 10 000\$. He also noted that the Adult & Vocational Education department of the Commission scolaire de la Rivière-du-Nord would also be contributing to the project.

CC-070228-MR-0110

WHEREAS the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board, the MRC d'Argenteuil, the Ville de Lachute, and the Commission scolaire de la Rivière-du-Nord have met to discuss a proposed shared project;

WHEREAS the total cost of this project has been estimated at \$2,105,389.00 and involves:

Synthetic Soccer Field	1,486,242.00\$
Lighting	232,370.00\$
Bicycle Path	386,777.00\$
Total Investment	2,105,389.00\$

WHEREAS the Ministère de l'Éducation, du Loisir et du Sport (MELS) has created a program to reshape, construct, and improve sport equipment;

WHEREAS the costs of the project could be shared as per the following distribution:

Ministère de l'Éducation, du Loisir et du Sport (MELS)	1,050,000.00\$
Tax Rebate	144,430.00\$
MRC & Ville de Lachute	565,959.00\$
C.S. de la Rivière-du-Nord	150,000.00\$
Polyvalente Lavigne	10,000.00\$
Form. Prof. C.S. de la Rivière -du-Nord	25,000.00\$
C.S. Sir-Wilfrid-Laurier	150,000.00\$
Laurentian Regional High School	10,000.00\$
TOTAL	2 105 389.00\$

Natalie Auclair **MOVED THAT**, on the recommendation of the Material Resources Committee and the Executive Committee, the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board accept to participate financially in this project to a maximum of 150 000.00\$, to be paid over the 2007-2008 and 2008-2009 fiscal years.

THIS MOTION WAS CARRIED ON THE FOLLOWING DIVISION:	
Commissioners voting 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
Commissioners voting NAY:	Walter Fogel

7.4 Engagement of Contractor - CDC Laurier:

The Director of Material Resources extended his appreciation to the members of the Council of Commissioners for being available to attend the special meeting of the Executive Committee of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board held prior to this evening's meeting to review the tenders received for the Competency Development Centre (CDC) Laurier renovation project.

The Council entered into discussion and concern was expressed over the low contingency budget. The Director of Material Resources agreed to review the contingency budget with the professionals and the Material Resources Committee.

CC-070228-MR-0111

WHEREAS the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board adopted resolution #060927-MR-0037 which approved a public call to tender for a general contractor for the renovation of the new Competency Development Centre (CDC) Laurier facilities;

WHEREAS tenders were received and subsequently opened on 2007-02-26;

WHEREAS the Material Resources Committee and the Executive Committee recommend that the contract be awarded to the lowest conformable bidder;

Commissioner Steve Kmec MOVED THAT, on the recommendation of the Material Resources Committee and the Executive Committee, the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board award the contract for the renovation of the new Competency Development Centre (CDC) Laurier facilities to **Construction de la Croisette Inc.** for a total cost of 3 202 608,30\$, all taxes included.

Carried unanimously

The Chairman called for a 10 minute break.

TIME: 21:24 hours

The meeting resumed.

TIME: 21:36 hours

8.0 FINANCIAL RESOURCES

8.1 Report of Committee Chairperson:

Commissioner Merle Parkinson, Chair of the Financial Resources Committee, noted that at its last meeting the committee did a preliminary analysis of the energy consumption of the school board, and discussed the budget building process for 2007-2008, school surpluses and the **implementation** of Bill 43, which will see the implementation of changes to the payment method for increases in municipal and school taxes.

In response to a question from Commissioner Walter Fogel, Commissioner Parkinson noted that the Finance Committee will continue to discuss energy consumption and its costs, as it appears that there have been limited savings with the changes made to several of the systems in the schools. Additional details have been requested so that the matter can be discussed further.

In response to a question from Commissioner Steve Kmec, the Assistant Director of Financial Resources noted that Bill 43 only allows for two instalments for school taxes, the initial payment and a 2nd payment due 31 days after the 1st instalment. If the 1st instalment is missed then the school tax bill is due in full and interest is charged.

8.2 2007-2008 Budget Building Process:

The Assistant Director of Financial Resources presented and reviewed the 2007-2008 budget building process noting that the document would be subject to a 60-day consultation to the Parents Committee and the Management Committee.

In response to questions from Commissioner Walter Fogel, the Assistant Director of Financial Resources noted that the "Survey of Needs" provided to the Governing Boards is to receive feedback on what it sees as being the needs of its school.

CC-070228-FR-0112

WHEREAS the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board is commencing its budget building process for the 2007-2008 school year;

WHEREAS section 275 of the Education Act (R.S.Q., Chapter I-13.3) requires that a school board make public the objectives and principles governing budget allocations;

WHEREAS the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board has drafted its "2007-2008 Budgetary Process";

WHEREAS the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board Management Advisory Committee, Executive Committee and Financial Resources Committee have reviewed the "2007-2008 Budgetary Process";

WHEREAS the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board will conduct a sixty-day consultation on this document;

Parent Commissioner Tom Mouhteros MOVED THAT, on the recommendation of the Management Advisory Committee, Financial Resources Committee and Executive Committee, the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board approve in principle the "2007-2008 Budgetary Process", as contained in document #SWLSB-2007/02/28-FR-001.

Carried unanimously

8.3 School Surpluses:

The Assistant Director of Financial Resources provided a detailed review of the current school surpluses.

9.0 SCHOOL ORGANIZATION

9.1 Report of Committee Chairperson:

Commissioner Georges Benoit, Chairman of the School Organization Committee, advised that at its last meeting the committee discussed registration week, school bus safety spot checks, and the eligibility criteria for English education.

In response to a question from Commissioner Steve Kmec, the Director of School Organization noted that enrolment figures would be available during the month of March, as the schools are currently entering the registrations received.

In response to an observation made by Commissioner David McKinley, the Director General advised that all school boards are experiencing an increase in the number of special needs students.

Parent Commissioner Lisa Chartier left the meeting.

TIME: 21:48 hours

9.2 Policy #2007-CA-02: Deeds of Establishment & Three-Year Plan:

The Director of School Organization reviewed the changes to the deeds of establishment and the three-year plan for the allocation of immovables, specifically the new format of the document.

Parent Commissioner Lisa Chartier returned to the meeting.

TIME: 21:51 hours

The Council entered into discussion noting in particular the functional capacity of various schools and some of the space problems that may be experienced in the near future.

CC-070228-CA-0113

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

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

Commissioner Grace Nesi MOVED THAT, on the recommendation of the School Organization Committee and the Executive Committee, the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board approve in principle proposed policy #2007-CA-02: Deeds of Establishment and Three Year Plan for Allocation and Destination of Immovables.

AND THAT this policy be subject to a 60-day consultation.

Carried unanimously

10.0 ADULT & VOCATIONAL EDUCATION:

10.1 Report of Committee Chairperson:

Commissioner Steve Bletas extended birthday wishes to the Director of Adult & Vocational Education.

Commissioner Nazario Facchino, Chairman of the Adult & Vocational Education Committee, commented on the last meeting of the committee noting that the exploration lab, the piloting of a new strategy for the guidance counsellors for dealing with students who appear to be having attendance problems and the Director's attendance at a recent meeting of the Parents Committee were discussed.

11.0 HUMAN RESOURCES

11.1 Report of Committee Chairperson:

Commissioner Grace Nesi, Chair of the Human Resources Committee, noted that at its last meeting the 2007-2008 calendars, the influenza pandemic, and the Human Resources contribution to the 2005-2006 annual report were discussed.

12.0 INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

12.1 Report of Committee Chairperson:

Commissioner Nancy Rupnik, Chair of the Information Technology Committee, advised that at its last meeting the committee discussed its contribution to the 2005-2006 annual report, reviewed the objectives of Information Technology for the strategic plan, a workshop using the educational portal, and the effect of the time change on the computer systems.

The Director of Information Technology advised the Council that with the change to day light savings time three weeks earlier than in the past, which will have an effect on the computers systems and that the department technicians have installed a patch that will allow the majority of systems to run without problems when the time changes.

In response to a question from Commissioner Steve Kmec, the Director of Information Technology advised that all computer users of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board will be advised on how to manage the time change within individual computers.

13.0 PARENT COMMISSIONERS REPORT

13.1 Parents' Committee Report:

Parent Commissioner Lisa Chartier commented on the last meeting of the Parents Committee noting that the Director and Assistant Director of Adult & Vocational Education made an informative presentation on the services offered and the committee members were very impressed with the options available to students after high school. The Director of Educational Services was also present to discuss the proposed 2007-2008 school calendars.

She continued noting that the Chairman of the Council of Commissioners had also been invited to discuss the role of Commissioner and the upcoming focus session for the Strategic Plan.

Commissioner Natalie Auclair left the meeting.

TIME: 21:11 hours

Parent Commissioner Tom Mouhteros extended an invitation to all of the Commissioners to attend the next meeting of the Parents Committee being held on 2007-03-01.

Commissioner Natalie Auclair returned to the meeting.

TIME: 21:13 hours

14.0 EDUCATIONAL SERVICES

14.1 Report of Committee Chairperson:

Commissioner Peter MacLaurin, Chairman of the Education Committee, commented on the two meetings of the committee held during the month of February noting that a presentation was made to the committee by St-Jude Elementary School on a distance education pilot project it has been involved in whereby a pedagogical day session was held on math across the country using a computer and projector.

The committee also discussed the resources being built for school success and the planned forum with special needs parents to obtain feedback on the services being provided to these students.

One of the meetings held during the month of February was held at LEARN where a presentation on its free tutoring and resources to the education community.

In response to a question from Commissioner Steve Kmec, the Chairman noted that the schools have been advised that if the policy concerning field trips is not followed with respect to the deadlines, requests for field trips will not be brought forward.

15.0 QESBA

15.1 Report of the QESBA:

Commissioner Carolyn Curiale commented on the most recent activities of the Quebec English School Boards Association (QESBA) noting that the Association has followed up on the report of the advisory committee and have engaged the services of a consultant to conduct a study on the feasibility of pre-kindergarten.

She went onto advise that the next QESBA "Town Hall" meeting would be hosted by the English Montreal School Board in April. The Eastern Townships School Board will host a QESBA "Town Hall" meeting in the Fall of 2007.

The Quebec English School Boards Association (QESBA) plan of action for the upcoming school elections will be distributed shortly. It is also working with the Ministère de l'Éducation, du Loisir et du Sport (MELS) to promote the importance of school elections.

Commissioner Curiale also noted that the next QESBA Professional Development session would be held from March 23 - 24, 2007.

TIME: 22: 30 hours

CC-070228-CA-0114

Commissioner Nancy Rupnik MOVED THAT the meeting be extended until the completion of the agenda.

THIS MOTION WAS CARRIED ON THE FOLLOWING DIVISION:	
Commissioners voting 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
Commissioners ABSTAINING:	Walter Fogel

Commissioner Carolyn Curiale advised the Council that the Board of Directors of the Quebec English School Boards Association (QESBA) is suggesting to the member boards that, for this year only, the QESBA Award of Merit will be awarded to past Presidents of the association. The normal selection process for the QESBA Award of Merit will be reinstated for 2008.

16.0 QUESTION PERIOD

There were no questions.

17.0 CORRESPONDENCE

The Chairman drew the Council's attention to the correspondence contained in the meeting package with specific reference to letters received from the Ministère de l'Éducation, du Loisir et du Sport (MELS) and recent newspaper articles on the future of school boards in Québec.

18.0 VARIA

18.1 Postage Costs:

In response to a question from Commissioner Steve Kmec, the Assistant Director of Human Resources advised that the cost to mail all the employee income tax receipts that could not be distributed internally was under 20\$.

19.0 ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING

Carolyn Curiale MOVED adjournment of the meeting.

Carried unanimously

TIME: 22:34 hours

NEXT MEETING ⇨ REGULAR ⇨ 2007-03-28