

PROVINCE OF QUEBEC

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE SIR WILFRID LAURIER SCHOOL BOARD HELD ON 2008-02-27

A Regular meeting of the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board was held in the boardroom of the Administration Centre, 235 Montée Lesage, Rosemere, QC on Wednesday, 2008-02-27 at 19:30 hours, at which were present:

Commissioners Steve Bletas, Chairman; Carolyn Curiale, Vice-Chair; Georges Benoit, Mario Di Domenico, Robert Dixon, Nazario Facchino, Steve Kmec, Peter MacLaurin, Nick Milas, Steve Mitchell, Tom Mouhteros, Grace Nesi, Albina Pace, Mike Pizzola, William Pollock and Nancy Rupnik; and Lisa Chartier, Parent Commissioner; and Anne-Marie Lepage, Director General.

Also present were: Alain Guay, Assistant Director General; Marie-Claude Drouin, Secretary General; François Badin, Director of Human Resources; Line Desgroseilliers, Director of Information Technology; Heather Halman, Director of Educational & Complimentary Services; Daniel Hogue, Director of Material Resources; Livia Nassivera, Director of Financial Resources; George Paquette, Director of School Organization; Johanne Brabant, Interim Director of Adult & Vocational Education; and Jocelyne Thompson-Ness, Administrative Assistant. Debbie Horrocks, President of the Quebec School Boards Association (QESBA). Several other persons were also in the audience.

Absent: Commissioners Walter Fogel, Merle Parkinson and Edward Turchyniak; and Parent Commissioner Luc Samson.

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 20:12 hours.

1.0 ACCEPTANCE OF AGENDA:

The following additions to the agenda were proposed:

2.0	APPROVAL of Minutes 2008-01-23 & 2008-02-19	RES
6.0	COMMUNICATIONS & CORPORATE AFFAIRS:	
6.3	Amendments to By-Law #BL2000-CA-02: Date, Time & Place of Council Meetings.....	RES
6.4	Authorization – École Notre-Dame de Nareg	RES
7.0	FINANCIAL RESOURCES:	
7.1	Report of the Chairperson – Financial Resources Committee.....	INFO
7.2	2007-2008 Revised Budget	RES
7.6	Liens on Properties	RES
9.0	EDUCATIONAL SERVICES:	
9.2	Derogation from Basic School Regulation – LLHS	RES
9.3	Locally Developed Option Course – LRHS.....	RES

CC-080227-CA-0118

Commissioner Albina Pace MOVED THAT the agenda be accepted as **modified** in document #SWLSB-2008/02/27-CA-001.

Carried unanimously

2.0 APPROVAL OF MINUTES

CC-080227-CA-0119

Commissioner Nazario Facchino MOVED THAT the minutes of the REGULAR meeting of the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board held on 2008-01-23, 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:	Georges Benoit, Steve Bletas, Carolyn Curiale, Mario Di Domenico, Robert Dixon, Nazario Facchino, Steve Kmec, Peter MacLaurin, Nick Milas, Steve Mitchell, Tom Mouhteros, Albina Pace, Nancy Rupnik
Commissioners ABSTAINING:	Grace Nesi, Mike Pizzola, William Pollock

In response to concerns expressed by Commissioner Mario Di Domenico, the Director General explained that the school board has the right of first refusal to purchase the land located at 2323 boul. Daniel-Johnson that is owned by Commission scolaire de Laval (CSDL). As part of the original land transfer to the CSDL there was a clause that indicated that if a decision was made to sell this land, it had to offer it back to the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board prior to approving a public sale.

CC-080227-CA-0120

Commissioner Nazario Facchino MOVED THAT the minutes of the SPECIAL meeting of the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board held on 2008-02-19, 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:	Georges Benoit, Steve Bletas, Carolyn Curiale, Mario Di Domenico, Robert Dixon, Nazario Facchino, Steve Kmec, Peter MacLaurin, Nick Milas, Steve Mitchell, Tom Mouhteros, Grace Nesi, Mike Pizzola, William Pollock, Nancy Rupnik
Commissioners ABSTAINING:	Albina Pace

Commissioner Carolyn Curiale, on behalf of the Council of Commissioners, thanked the Directorate and all of the Administrators that worked on this dossier.

3.0 QUESTION PERIOD

There were no questions

4.0 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

4.1 Chairman's Report:

The Chairman advised the Council that a number of Commissioners met with the Governing Boards of Mother Teresa Junior and Laurier Senior High Schools to discuss the state of the school building and the land surrounding it. The communities of these two schools are very appreciative of the various projects that the school board has undertaken over the years to improve the quality of education offered.

The Chairman went on to circulate the list of Quebec English School Board (QESBA) committees for 2008-2009 and asked for those interested in sitting on any of them to please sign the sheet.

In response to a question from Commissioner Nancy Rupnik, Commissioner Carolyn Curiale noted that the meetings of the QESBA committees take place either early in the morning or on a conference call over the lunch hour.

The Chairman advised the Council that a letter had been received from the Chairman of the Laurier Senior High School (LSHS) Governing Board asking for the support of the school board in establishing a Safety & Security Forum. The forum would include all chairs of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board Governing Boards, Commissioners and members of the Administration. The premise of the forum would be to meet a couple of times a year to discuss issues of safety and security and to voice any concerns. He indicated that he would speak with the Director General and the Assistant Director General on this matter prior to making a decision about this forum.

4.2 Focus Session:

The Chairman announced that the Commissioners Focus Session would be held from 2008-04-11 to 2008-04-13 at Hotel Le Chantecler in Ste-Adele. A facilitator has been engaged who has extensive experience with school boards and the main focus of the session will be governance. Interviews will be conducted with several Commissioners and Administrators by the facilitator prior to the session.

5.0 BUSINESS ARISING

5.1 Land on Roland-Durand:

The Director of Material Resources provided background information on the land on Roland-Durand noting that the Material Resources and Executive Committees supports placing this land up for sale.

The Council entered into discussion.

CC-080227-MR-0121

WHEREAS the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board adopted resolution #CC-070926-MR-0035 mandating the Director of Material Resources to seek a current appraisal for part of lot 241-298-23 (41 471 sq/ft) located on boulevard Roland-Durand in Rosemère (Québec);

WHEREAS the appraisal dated 2007-10-22 establishes the fair market value for part of lot 241-298-23 (41 471 sq/ft) to be 315 000\$;

Commissioner Tom Mouhteros MOVED THAT, on the recommendation of Material Resources Committee and the Executive Committee, the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board mandate the Director of Material Resources to place part of lot 241-298-23 (41 471 sq/ft) located on boulevard Roland-Durand in Rosemère (Québec), up for sale.

Carried unanimously

5.2 Update on SEAC:

The Director General advised the Council that the issue with the expense reimbursements of the Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) has been resolved to the satisfaction of all parties and the outstanding expenses have been paid.

5.3 Update on Communications with Parents Committee:

The Director General noted that the Chair of the Parents Committee has been invited to the Commissioners Focus Session and that communications at various levels of the school board will be discussed at that time.

On a point of "business arising" from the minutes of the meeting held on 2008-01-23, page 1821, paragraph 5, Commissioner Steve Kmec inquired if the Socio-Economic status of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board schools had been obtained.

The Director General advised that a copy would be e-mailed to him by the Recording Secretary.

6.0 COMMUNICATIONS & CORPORATE AFFAIRS

6.1 Report of the Chairperson – Communications & Public Relations:

Commissioner Tom Mouhteros, Chairman of the Communications & Public Relations Committee, commented on its last meeting noting that plans for the Laurier Galas are underway and that the format will be changed due to length of the evening. The Coordinator of Communications & Public Relations presented several ideas to the committee and the format that was supported was one of inviting all the selected students to the Gala but that instead of coming up on stage to receive a certificate, a show would be presented just for them and their guests. The certificates will be given out at the school at the discretion of the Principal. The dates for the Laurier Galas are 2008-05-28 for Elementary and 2008-05-29 for Secondary.

He also noted that the "Stay in School" Project with Impact Soccer of Montreal was recently launched in seven Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board schools by its owner, Joey Saputo.

The Committee also discussed the redesigned Web site, the posters for the 2007-2011 Strategic Plan, and that the Secretary General has advised that as of 2008-04-01 cellular telephones may no longer be used while driving unless "hands free" devices are used.

6.2 SWL Foundation:

The Chairman advised the Council that the next Sir Wilfrid Laurier Foundation event will be the Lobster Fest on 2008-06-12 at the Château Royal in Laval.

He indicated that since the Foundation was established approximately 300 000\$ has been raised.

6.3 Amendments to By-Law #BL2000-CA-02: Date, Time & Place of Council Meetings:

The Secretary General presented and reviewed the proposed amendments to By-Law #BL2000-CA-02: Date, Time & Place of Council Meetings, noting that these amendments are being recommended by the Communications & Public Relations Committee.

In response to a request from Commissioner Steve Kmec concerning back-to-back meetings, Commissioner Nick Milas indicated that the meeting date of the Executive Committee can be changed, if necessary, as the Executive Committee is not governed by a by-law.

CC-080227-CA-0122

WHEREAS it has become apparent that over the next few years many changes to meeting dates for the Council of Commissioners will be required;

Commissioner William Pollock MOVED THAT, on the recommendation of the Communications & Public Relations Committee and the Executive Committee, the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board approve in principle the amendments to by-law #BL2000-CA-02: Date Time and Place of Meetings of the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board.

AND THAT these amendments be subject to the consultation process for by-laws, as per section 392 of the Education Act (R.S.Q., Chapter I-13.3).

Carried unanimously

6.4 Authorization – École Notre-Dame de Nareg:

The Secretary General advised the Council that a letter has been received from the notary representing École Notre-Dame de Nareg (formerly T.H. Bowes and Prince Charles Schools) asking permission of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board to renovate the buildings, as per the sale agreement. This agreement includes the provision that for 15 years following the sale, the new owner may not modify the nature or activities of the establishments, nor sell or otherwise alienate the said establishments, without the approval of the school board. The buildings would be used as collateral for the loan needed for the renovations, which is the construction of a walkway to connect the two buildings.

CC-080227-MR-0123

WHEREAS the Council of Commissioners adopted resolution #010328-MR-0163 and #010328-MR-0164, which authorized the sale of T.H. Bowes Elementary School and Prince Charles Elementary School to École Notre-Dame-de-Nareg;

WHEREAS in the Agreements of Sale there is a provision that stipulates that for 15 years following the sale that the new owner may not modify the nature or activities of the establishments, nor sell or otherwise alienate the said establishments, without the approval of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board;

WHEREAS École Notre-Dame de Nareg has advised the school board that it wishes to renovate and enlarge these establishments;

WHEREAS it will be necessary for École Notre-Dame de Nareg to procure a loan for this renovation/enlargement project by which the establishments would be used as collateral;

Commissioner Steve Mitchell MOVED THAT the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board authorize École Notre-Dame de Nareg to renovate/enlarge the establishment.

AND THAT these establishments be used as collateral for the loan to be procured at the Caisse Desjardins de Chomedey.

FURTHER THAT the Chairman, and in his absence or with his knowledge the Vice-Chairman, as well as the Director General, and in her absence or with her knowledge the Assistant Director General, be authorized to sign all documentation concerning this project.

Carried unanimously

7.0 FINANCIAL RESOURCES

7.1 Report of the Chairperson – Financial Resources Committee:

Commissioner Merle Parkinson, Chair of the Financial Resources Committee, submitted a written report due to her absence this evening. The report noted the review of the revised budget, the selection process for the engagement of a new auditors and the discussions surrounding the proposal to amend the current travel rate.

7.2 2007-2008 Revised Budget:

The Director of Financial Resources presented and reviewed the 2007-2008 revised budget noting that the accumulated deficit for this current year as of June 30 will be 686 984,00\$.

She extended her appreciation to the Assistant Director of Financial Resources for all of her work on the revised budget, as she has done an excellent job.

In response to a question from Commissioner Steve Mitchell, the Director of Financial Resources noted that the initial budget is based on enrolment projections and that the revised budget is established using the official September 30 enrolment figures.

In response to a concern expressed by Commissioner Steve Kmec, the Director of Financial Resources noted that the claw back on taxation revenues occurred during the 2005-2006 school year and that a small amount was clawed back in 2006-2007.

The Council entered into discussion.

CC-080227-FR-0124

Commissioner Mike Pizzola 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 approve the **revised budget for 2007-2008**.

THIS MOTION WAS CARRIED ON THE FOLLOWING DIVISION:	
Commissioners voting YEA:	Georges Benoit, Steve Bletas, Carolyn Curiale, Mario Di Domenico, Robert Dixon, Nazario Facchino, Peter MacLaurin, Nick Milas, Steve Mitchell, Tom Mouhteros, Grace Nesi, Albina Pace, Mike Pizzola, William Pollock, Nancy Rupnik
Commissioners voting NAY:	Steve Kmec

7.3 Building Conservation:

The Director of Financial Resources commented on the building conservation report noting that it is presented to the Financial Resources Committee every month for monitoring purposes.

7.4 School Surpluses:

The Director of Financial Resources reviewed the school surpluses as of 2008-01-31.

In response to a question from Commissioner Steve Kmec, the Chairman noted that the schools are encouraged to use their surpluses on an annual basis and that the numbers shown, as of 2008-01-31, may not be entirely accurate as there are some expenses that have not yet been paid.

7.5 2007-2008 Travel Rate – Amendment:

The Director of Financial Resources advised that the Financial Resources Committee is recommending that the current travel rate be amended as it does not adequately compensate for travel due to the ever increasing fuel rates. The rates used by other school boards in the province range from 0,45\$/km to 0,52\$/km.

The Assistant Director General left the meeting.

TIME: 21:10 hours

CC-080227-FR-0125

WHEREAS the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board adopted resolution #CC-070627-FR-0192, approving the travel rate for 2007-2008;

WHEREAS the cost of fuel has increased dramatically since this resolution was approved;

Commissioner Steve Kmec 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 approve that the travel rate for 2007-2008 be amended by increasing it to **0.48\$/kilometre** (currently 0,47\$) **up to 5000 km and 0,45\$/kilometre** (currently 0,41\$) **above 5000 km**, effective 2008-03-01.

THIS MOTION WAS CARRIED ON THE FOLLOWING DIVISION:	
Commissioners voting YEA:	Georges Benoit, Steve Bletas, Carolyn Curiale, Mario Di Domenico, Robert Dixon, Nazario Facchino, Steve Kmec, Peter MacLaurin, Nick Milas, Tom Mouhteros, Grace Nesi, Albina Pace, Mike Pizzola, William Pollock, Nancy Rupnik
Commissioners voting NAY:	Steve Mitchell

7.6 Liens on Properties:

The Director of Financial Resources advised the Council that all avenues to collect these outstanding school taxes have been taken and that the bailiff has determined that there is no property to be seized. A lien on both properties is being recommended as it will ensure payment of the outstanding school taxes if either property is ever sold.

CC-080227-FR-0126

WHEREAS the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board adopted resolution #050622-FR-0213 in order to seize property for unpaid school taxes, on property #77050-4782-09-0316, located in Morin Heights, Québec, and registered in the name of Doris Louise Dickson Groves;

WHEREAS Saulnier Robillard Lortie, Huissiers de Justice has determined that there is no property of any value to be seized;

WHEREAS section 317.1 of the Education Act (R.S.Q., Chapter I-13.3) indicates that the school tax is secured by a legal hypothec (lien) on the immovable subject to the tax;

WHEREAS the Financial Resources Committee has recommended that the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board obtain a lien on the said property;

Parent Commissioner Lisa Chartier 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 mandate the Secretary General and the Director of Financial Resources to obtain a lien, in the amount of 1 861,68\$, on property #77050-4782-09-0316, located in Morin Heights, Québec, and registered in the name of Doris Louise Dickson Groves.

THIS MOTION WAS CARRIED ON THE FOLLOWING DIVISION:	
Commissioners voting YEA:	Georges Benoit, Steve Bletas, Carolyn Curiale, Mario Di Domenico, Nazario Facchino, Peter MacLaurin, Nick Milas, Steve Mitchell, Tom Mouhteros, Grace Nesi, Albina Pace, Mike Pizzola, William Pollock, Nancy Rupnik
Commissioners voting NAY:	Robert Dixon, Steve Kmec

In response to a question from Commissioner Robert Dixon, the Director of Financial Resources advised that she is not sure if the properties proposed for a lien are occupied, but will inquire and report back at the March meeting.

CC-080227-FR-0127

WHEREAS the Director of Financial Resources requested that Saulnier Robillard Lortie, Huissiers de Justice investigate property #63048-7582-92-2942, located in Saint-Lin-des-Laurentides, Québec, and registered in the name of Kathy Dunstan in order to determine whether or not there was property to be seized for unpaid school taxes;

WHEREAS Saulnier Robillard Lortie, Huissiers de Justice has determined that there is no property of any value to be seized;

WHEREAS section 317.1 of the Education Act (R.S.Q., Chapter I-13.3) indicates that the school tax is secured by a legal hypothec (lien) on the immovable subject to the tax;

WHEREAS the Financial Resources Committee has recommended that the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board obtain a lien on the said property;

Commissioner George Benoit 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 mandate the Secretary General and the Director of Financial Resources to obtain a lien, in the amount of 1 945,75\$, on property #63048-7582-92-2942, located in Saint-Lin-des-Laurentides, Québec, and registered in the name of Kathy Dunstan.

THIS MOTION WAS CARRIED ON THE FOLLOWING DIVISION:	
Commissioners voting YEA:	Georges Benoit, Steve Bletas, Carolyn Curiale, Mario Di Domenico, Nazario Facchino, Peter MacLaurin, Nick Milas, Steve Mitchell, Tom Mouhteros, Grace Nesi, Albina Pace, Mike Pizzola, William Pollock, Nancy Rupnik
Commissioners voting NAY:	Robert Dixon, Steve Kmec

The Assistant Director General returned to the meeting.

TIME: 21:16 hours

8.0 MATERIAL RESOURCES

8.1 Report of Chairperson – Material Resources Committee:

Commissioner William Pollock, Chairman of the Material Resources Committee, advised the Council that at its last meeting the committee discussed the new Ministère de l'Éducation, du Loisir et du Sport (MELS) nutrition policy and an invitation to the schools to submit library upgrade projects for consideration.

Commissioners Peter MacLaurin and Albina Pace left the meeting.

TIME: 21:18 hours

8.2 Engagement of Supplier – Camera Systems:

The Director of Material Resources advised that with the assistance of the Director of Information Technology and the recommendation of the Information Technology and Material Resources Committees, a supplier for the purchase and installation of the camera systems of the Safety and Security Project has been selected.

CC-080227-MR-0128

WHEREAS the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board adopted resolution #CC-070926-MR-0025 authorizing the implementation of the recommendations proposed by Pegasus Emergency Management Consortium Corp.;

WHEREAS public tenders were called and subsequently opened on 2007-12-12;

WHEREAS Information Technology and Material Resources departments have evaluated the tenders received;

Commissioner Nick Milas MOVED THAT, on the recommendation of the Directors of Information Technology and Material Resources, the Information Technology and Material Resources Committees and the Executive Committee, the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board award the contract for the purchasing and installation of camera surveillance systems to **Bell Canada** for a total amount of 269 822,13\$, all taxes included.

Carried unanimously

8.3 2009 Québec Winter Games:

The Director of Material Resources advised the Council that a request has been received from the organizers of 2009 Québec Winter Games to use McCaig Elementary School and Rosemere High School as accommodations from 2009-02-27 to 2009-03-07, inclusively. If approved, it will be necessary for these two schools to have a pedagogical day on 2009-02-27. The school board offered its assistance to the organizers of this event in October 2006.

Commissioners Peter MacLaurin and Albina Pace returned to the meeting. **TIME: 21:21 hours**

In response to a question from Commissioner Mario Di Domenico, the Director of Material Resources indicated that this request will be incorporated into the three-year plans of McCaig Elementary School and Rosemere High School.

In response to a question from Commissioner Steve Kmec, the Director of Material Resources noted that the two schools would be used as accommodations during the 2009 spring break so classes would not be disrupted.

CC-080227-MR-0129

WHEREAS the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board adopted resolution #CC-061025-CA-0048 supporting the candidacy of Blainville, Rosemère and Sainte-Thérèse for the Finale des Jeux du Québec to be held in the winter of 2009;

WHEREAS the Quebec Winter Games will be held from 2009-02-27 to 2009-03-07, inclusively;

WHEREAS the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board has been approached by the 2009 Québec Winter Games Organization Committee to enter into an agreement for the use of Rosemere High School and McCaig Elementary School as accommodations for athlete delegations;

WHEREAS the buildings would be used from the evening of 2009-02-26 starting at 6:00 p.m., to 2009-03-07 at 6:00 p.m.;

WHEREAS the use of these buildings will require that 2009-02-27 be set as a pedagogical for Rosemere High School and McCaig Elementary School;

Commissioner Mario Di Domenico 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 the use of Rosemere High School and McCaig Elementary School for the 2009 Québec Winter Games.

AND THAT 2009-02-27 be set as a pedagogical day for both schools;

FURTHER THAT the Chairman, and in his absence or with his knowledge the Vice-Chairman, as well as the Director General, and in her absence or with her knowledge the Assistant Director General, be authorized to sign all documentation concerning this agreement.

Carried unanimously

Commissioner Robert Dixon left the meeting.

TIME: 21:23 hours

8.4 Call to Tender – Snow Removal:

The Director of Material Resources advised that the current contracts for snow removal expire on 2008-06-30. The current cost of snow removal is approximately 165 000\$ annually and given that the last contract was for three years, the school board can expect an increase in the cost.

CC-080227-MR-0130

WHEREAS the snow removal contracts of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board expire on 2008-06-30;

WHEREAS the Material Resources Committee recommends that invitational and public tenders be called for snow removal for 2008-2009, 2009-2010 and 2010-2011;

Commissioner Peter MacLaurin 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 call for invitational and public tenders for snow removal contracts for 2008-2009, 2009-2010 and 2010-2011.

THIS MOTION WAS CARRIED ON THE FOLLOWING DIVISION:	
Commissioners voting YEA:	Georges Benoit, Steve Bletas, Carolyn Curiale, Mario Di Domenico, Robert Dixon, Nazario Facchino, Steve Kmec, Peter MacLaurin, Nick Milas, Steve Mitchell, Tom Mouhteros, Grace Nesi, Albina Pace, Mike Pizzola, William Pollock, Nancy Rupnik
Commissioners voting NAY:	Mike Pizzola

Parent Commissioner Lisa Chartier left the meeting.

TIME: 21:26 hours

Commissioner Robert Dixon returned to the meeting.

TIME: 21:26 hours

8.5 Energy Project:

The Director of Material Resources provided background information on the energy project noting that if the school board is to meet the energy savings target set out by the Ministère de l'Éducation, du Loisir et du Sport (MELS), it must consider extending the project to 7 elementary schools, 5 high schools and 1 centre, once additional feasibility studies on these schools and centre are completed.

CC-080227-MR-0131

WHEREAS the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board adopted resolution #CC-070425-MR-0151, authorizing the Director of Material Resources to proceed with the energy project as per the feasibility study;

WHEREAS article 29 of the Ecosystem contract states that the energy project can be applied to additional buildings of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board;

WHEREAS the Director of Material Resources has established that the following schools and centre would also benefit from the energy project: Arundel, Crestview, Laurentian, McCaig, St-Paul and St-Vincent Elementary Schools, Hillcrest Academy, Laurentian Regional, Laurier Senior/Mother Teresa, Laval Liberty/Laval Junior High Schools and the CDC Laurier Pont-Viau;

Commissioner Grace Nesi MOVED THAT, on the recommendation of Material Resources Committee and the Executive Committee, the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board authorize **Ecosystem** to perform a feasibility study for these additional schools and centre, which must include the total cost of the project.

AND THAT upon the completion of the feasibility study, it shall be reviewed by the Material Resources Committee and a recommendation be made to the Council of Commissioners.

AND THAT the final project be submitted to the Ministère de l'Éducation, du Loisir et du Sport (MELS) for authorization;

FURTHER THAT upon receipt of authorization from the Ministère de l'Éducation, du Loisir et du Sport (MELS), the Chairman, and in his absence or with his knowledge the Vice-Chairman, as well as the Director General, and in her absence or with her knowledge the Assistant Director General, be authorized to sign all documentation concerning this project.

Carried unanimously

Commissioner Carolyn Curiale left the meeting.

TIME: 21:28 hours

Parent Commissioner Lisa Chartier returned to the meeting.

TIME: 21:28 hours

9.0 EDUCATIONAL SERVICES

9.1 *Report of the Chairperson – Education Committee:*

Commissioner Nazario Facchino, Chairman of the Education Committee, commented on its last meeting noting that positive behaviour plans, in-school suspension, draft amendments to the Evaluation Policy, and a request for statistics on elementary school suspensions were discussed.

He also advised that the 2008 Robocup Junior Robotics Competition, for students 16 and under, would take place at Mother Teresa Junior High School on 2008-04-25 and 2008-04-26. This will be the first time that this competition is held outside of Montreal.

Commissioner Tom Mouhteros left the meeting.

TIME: 21:31 hours

Commissioner Carolyn Curiale returned to the meeting.

TIME: 21:31 hours

9.2 *Derogation from Basic School Regulation – LLHS:*

The Director of Educational Services advised the Council that Laval Liberty High School is requesting a derogation from the regular education program for those students in the Sports Concentration program at the Secondary 3 level. The Governing Board of the school supports this program and the Education Consultants have reviewed the program to ensure that all the required elements have been included.

CC-080227-ED-0132

WHEREAS Governing Boards are authorized to request a derogation from the Régime pédagogique (Basic School Regulation) to replace a compulsory course with a locally developed program or a variation in subject-time allocation;

WHEREAS the Teacher Council and staff of Laval Liberty High School has approved the proposed derogation from the educational program/subject-time allocation for those students who are enrolled in the sports concentration program at Secondary 3 for football, hockey and soccer, as per the resolution dated 2008-01-25;

WHEREAS the Governing Board of Laval Liberty High School has approved the proposed derogation from the educational program/subject-time allocation for those students who are enrolled, as per the resolution dated 2008-01-28;

Commissioner Carolyn Curiale MOVED THAT, on the recommendation of the Director of Educational Services and the Director General, the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board approve the request of Laval Liberty High School for a derogation from the education program for those students on the Sports Concentration program at Secondary 3.

AND THAT this request be forwarded to the Ministère de l'Éducation du loisir et du sport (MELS) for formal authorization as required by the Régime pédagogique (Basic School Regulation).

Carried unanimously

9.3 *Locally Developed Option Course – LRHS:*

The Director of Educational Services presented the request of Laurentian Regional High School (LRHS) to implement a locally developed 4-credit Outdoor Education & Community Development course for Secondary 4 and 5 students. This is a competency based program.

Due to time constraints this project is being presented this evening without being presented to the Executive Committee. The Governing Board of LRHS will adopt a resolution supporting the program at its March meeting.

CC-080227-ED-0133

WHEREAS Governing Boards are authorized to request approval of a locally developed program as per the Régime pédagogique (Basic School Regulation);

WHEREAS the Teacher Council of Laurentian Regional High School has approved the proposed locally-developed, 4 credit option course: Outdoor Education and Community Development, for Secondary 4 and 5 students as part of the educational program/subject-time allocation, pending the approval of the Governing Board scheduled to meet on March 17th.

Commissioner Robert Dixon MOVED THAT, on the recommendation of the Director of Educational Services and the Director General, the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board approve the request of Laurentian Regional High School for a locally-developed 4 credit option course: Outdoor Education and Community Development for Secondary 4 and 5 students.

Carried unanimously

Commissioner Nick Milas left the meeting.

TIME: 21:34 hours

Commissioner Tom Mouhteros returned to the meeting.

TIME: 21:34 hours

10.0 INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

10.1 Report of the Chairperson – Information Technology Committee:

Commissioner Peter MacLaurin, Chairman of the Information Technology Committee, noted that at its last meeting the committee discussed a parent e-mail pilot project at the high school level, the activities of the Laval Liberty Community Learning Centre (CLC), the engagement of a coordinator for the Laurentian Regional CLC, a report on laptop performance in the schools including the low number of service calls required with the exception of keyboards and batteries, and the review of the security camera proposals.

A promotion of the student e-mail server will be done as only 600 out of 15 000 students are using the service.

Commissioner Nick Milas returned to the meeting.

TIME: 21:36 hours

In response to a question from the Chairman, the Director of Information Technology noted that a survey of laptop computer training needs would be sent to Commissioners after the spring break and that training sessions would be prioritized based on the responses received.

11.0 SCHOOL ORGANIZATION

11.1 Report of Chairperson – School Organization Committee:

Commissioner Albina Pace, Chair of the School Organization Committee, commented on its last meeting noting that the 2008-2011 forecasted projections for kindergarten, deeds of establishment and three-year plan, negotiations with the STL, and department policies were discussed.

She advised that a request has been received from Crestview Elementary School concerning its zoning and that the committee feels that the status quo continues to be feasible but that it will be monitored.

In response to a question from Commissioner Mike Pizzola, the Director of Material Resources indicated that he would include the information on the 2009 Québec Winter Games in the package of 2008-03-26.

12.0 ADULT & VOCATIONAL EDUCATION:

12.1 Report of Chairperson – Adult & Vocational Education Committee:

Commissioner Nazario Facchino, Chairman of the Adult & Vocational Education Committee, noted that at its last meeting the following was discussed: the review of the budget in order to reduce expenses, the action plan for the department and development of exploration labs.

13.0 HUMAN RESOURCES

13.1 Report of the Chairperson – Human Resources Committee:

Commissioner George Benoit, Chairman of the Human Resources Committee, advised that at its last meeting the following was discussed: follow-up on encouraging non-qualified teachers to become qualified, a report from the CSST that shows that the school board has a high level of incidents in the parking lots of its buildings during the winter months and the local negotiations with the various unions.

In response to a question from Commissioner Steve Kmec concerning employees on long term leave, the Chairman asked that this be on the next agenda of the Human Resources Committee and that a report be made at the 2008-03-26 Council meeting.

14.0 PARENT COMMISSIONERS REPORT

14.1 Parents' Committee Report:

Parent Commissioner Lisa Chartier presented the monthly report of the Parents' Committee noting the committee has made a request to Governing Boards that meetings not be held on the 4th Wednesday of each month in order to allow the opportunity for Commissioners to be invited to meetings.

She went on to advise that as of the 2008-2009 school year parents will not be able to make any special transportation arrangements for their child(ren). School organization will be sending a letter to those families that currently have special arrangements to advise them of this change.

She also noted that the Parents Committee discussed the proposed 2008-2009 school calendars and supported them as presented, the 2007-2008 action plan, recent problems that have occurred on the STL buses involving high school students and that there is a feeling that the special needs requirements at the high school level are not being addressed by SEAC or the Parents Committee.

The issue of the name of Pinewood Elementary School continues to be a recurring topic presented by its Parent Delegate and it is felt by many that this issue should be put to rest.

The Council entered into discussion and it was felt by many that several of the comments made concerning the democracy of the school board are offensive. Several Commissioners indicated that they would be present at the 2008-03-13 meeting of the Parents Committee.

Commissioner Tom Mouhteros extended appreciation to the Chair of the Parents Committee for her diplomacy at the meetings when difficult issues are presented.

15.0 QESBA

15.1 Report of the QESBA:

Commissioner Carolyn Curiale extended her appreciation to the President and Executive Director of the QESBA for making the time to be present at this evening’s meeting to discuss Bill 104 and to clarify questions concerning the Certified Commissioners Development Program.

She noted that at the last meeting of the Quebec English School Boards Association (QESBA) an Internet Task Force, the loss of the bid to intervene in the Court Challenges program and the Spring Conference were discussed.

She also advised that the preliminary budget forecast was reviewed and that in order for the QESBA to continue to offer the same level of service to its member school boards it must either increase its membership fees or decrease the level of service provided. Further discussions will be held on this issue before a decision is made.

In response to a request from Commissioner Steve Kmec, the Chairman agreed that the issue of the appeal of the decision taken on Bill 104 should now be discussed.

The Council entered into discussion on Bill 104 and the Chairman asked those members of the Council who have not responded to his e-mail concerning Bill 104 to please do so as soon as possible in order that a response to the QESBA consultation can be drafted as response is required by 2008-02-29.

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Commissioner Carolyn Curiale MOVED THAT the issue of the appeal of the decision taken on Bill 104 be tabled for further discussion.

THIS MOTION WAS CARRIED ON THE FOLLOWING DIVISION:	
Commissioners voting YEA:	Georges Benoit, Steve Bletas, Carolyn Curiale, Mario Di Domenico, Robert Dixon, Nazario Facchino, Peter MacLaurin, Nick Milas, Steve Mitchell, Tom Mouhteros, Grace Nesi, Albina Pace, Mike Pizzola, William Pollock, Nancy Rupnik
Commissioners voting NAY:	Steve Kmec

15.2 QESBA Award of Merit:

Commissioner Carolyn Curiale advised that the Quebec English School Boards Association (QESBA) gives the Award of Merit to a commissioner who has gone above and beyond their role as a commissioner. Nominations for the award are sought annually but the award is not always given out on an annual basis. The Executive of the QESBA selects the recipient(s) of the award.

_____ MOVED THAT the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board submit the name of _____ as a candidate for the QESBA Award of Merit on the occasion of the 2008 Annual Spring Conference.

The Council entered into discussion and the motion was tabled to the 2008-03-26 meeting of the Council.

16.0 QUESTION PERIOD

There were no questions.

17.0 CORRESPONDENCE

The Chairman drew the Council’s attention to the correspondence in the meeting package.

In response to a question from Commissioner William Pollock, the Secretary General indicated that Quebec English School Board (QESBA) would be contacted concerning the distribution of the Monday Message.

18.0 VARIA

There was no varia.

19.0 CONCLUSION OF MEETING

Commissioner Nancy Rupnik MOVED THAT the meeting be concluded.

Carried unanimously

TIME: 22:10 hours

NEXT MEETING ⇨ REGULAR ⇨ 2008-03-26

