

**PROVINCE OF QUEBEC**

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE SIR WILFRID LAURIER SCHOOL BOARD HELD ON 2008-03-26**

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, 2008-03-26 at 19:30 hours, at which were present:

Commissioners Steve Bletas, Chairman; Georges Benoit, Mario Di Domenico, Robert Dixon, Nazario Facchino, Walter Fogel, Steve Kmec, Nick Milas, Steve Mitchell, Tom Mouhteros, Grace Nesi, Albina Pace, Merle Parkinson, Mike Pizzola, William Pollock, Nancy Rupnik and Edward Turchyniak; Parent Commissioners Lisa Chartier and Luc Samson; and Alain Guay, Assistant Director General.

Also present were: 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. Several other persons were also in the audience.

Absent: Commissioner Carolyn Curiale, Vice-Chair, Commissioner Peter MacLaurin, and Anne-Marie Lepage, Director General.

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 19:34 hours.

**1.0 ACCEPTANCE OF AGENDA:**

The following additions to the agenda were proposed:

**4.0 COMMUNICATIONS & CORPORATE AFFAIRS:**

- 4.3 Bill 104 .....RES
- 4.4 QESBA Certified Commissioners Development Program .....RES

**10.0 MATERIAL RESOURCES:**

- 10.5 Request to MELS – Compensation for removal of Snow from Roof Tops .....RES

**CC-080326-CA-0135**

Commissioner Mike Pizzola MOVED THAT the agenda be accepted as amended in document #SWLSB-2008/03/26-CA-001.

**Carried unanimously**

**2.0 APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**CC-080326-CA-0136**

Commissioner Steve Kmec MOVED THAT the minutes of the REGULAR meeting of the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board held on 2008-02-27, having been received by all members prior to this meeting, be approved as corrected.

<b>THIS MOTION WAS CARRIED ON THE FOLLOWING DIVISION:</b>	
Commissioners voting YEA:	Georges Benoit, Steve Bletas, 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 ABSTAINING:	Merle Parkinson, Edward Turchyniak

### 3.0 QUESTION PERIOD

In response to a question from Shawn Parker, a parent, the Chairman noted that a presentation of the Ethics and Religious Culture program to be implemented in the 2008-2009 school year was made at the last meeting of the Parents Committee and he invited the Director of Educational Services to answer Mr. Parker's question.

The Director of Educational Services advised that the new Ethics and Religious Culture program is compulsory for all students, with the exception of Secondary V, and that the course is to make students aware of other religions, ethics and cultures. The Ministère de l'Éducation, du Loisir et du Sport (MELS) has only just begun to provide the school boards with information on this new program so the specifics of the course are not yet known.

She went on to note that if Mr. Parker wishes to have his child(ren) exempt from the course a request needs to be made, in writing, to the Director General with irrefutable information that indicates how this course will harm the child(ren).

A presentation of this new program will be made to the English Directors General next week and the MELS will be conducting training sessions for those who will be teaching the course.

### 4.0 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

#### 4.1 *Chairman's Report:*

The Chairman extended best wishes to Commissioner Albina Pace on the occasion of her birthday.

He went on to note that the Director General is currently on sick leave and presented a note thanking the Council for the lovely flowers.

Commissioner Walter Fogel entered the meeting.

**TIME: 19:40 hours**

The Chairman reminded the Council that the Quebec English School Boards Association (QESBA) Spring Conference will be held from May 15 – 17, 2008 and asked that everyone who plans on attending to please complete their registration form and give them to the Recording Secretary.

On 2008-03-31, the Chairman, Assistant Director General and the Director of Material Resources will be holding a meeting with the Chairs of the high school Governing Boards to update them on the Safety & Security Project and address any questions or concerns they may have.

The Chairman went on to note that the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board had made the front page of *Le Devoir* today as concerns have been expressed by Marie Malavoy, Parti Québécois Critic for Education and Higher Education, over the "MOI? J'apprends in English" advertising campaign that the school board has been running in certain areas of the territory. When interviewed by other media on this story earlier today the Chairman stated that this is the second year that this campaign has been used during the registration period and that the advertisement was vetted through the OQLF prior to it being used.

In response to a question from Commissioner Steve Kmec, the Chairman indicated that when interviewed by the media on this story he advised that the advertising campaign is not meant to attract students from the French sector but that it informs the public that they can attend an English school if they obtain an eligibility certificate from the Ministère de l'Éducation, du Loisir et du Sport (MELS). He also noted that the school board does not have a special line for registration and that the number published in the newspaper is the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board's regular toll free telephone number.

#### 4.2 *Commissioners Focus Session:*

The Chairman informed the Council that the Commissioners Focus Session from April 11 – 13, 2008 has been finalized and that the official notice with all of the necessary information will be sent out next week. The session will deal with communications, roles and responsibilities of Commissioners and Administrators, accountability, bullying in schools and ethics.

In response to a question from Commissioner Steve Kmec, the Chairman indicated that the session on Sunday is for Commissioners, the Director General and the Assistant Director General to discuss goals, participation in provincial associations and other issues.

In response to a request from Commissioner Walter Fogel, the Chairman indicated that there is a budget for the Focus Session and asked the Assistant Director General to forward Commissioner Fogel the budget breakdown.

#### **4.3 Bill 104:**

The Chairman reminded the Council of the caucus meeting that was held on 2008-03-11 to discuss Bill 104 and of the consensus reached whereby the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board should not pursue intervenor status in the court challenge.

He went on to note that at the last Parents Committee meeting the group was asked for its input on Bill 104 and that its vote was nearly unanimous in supporting the school board's decision not to pursue intervenor status.

Commissioner Walter Fogel informed the Council that he finds it appalling, due to the fragile state of English education, that the discussions at the caucus meeting did not result in support for intervenor status as, even though it may only marginally effect the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board, it would support the rights of those who wish to be educated in English. In his opinion, this is not a positive move for the image of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board.

In response to Commissioner Fogel, the Chairman indicated that the issue was discussed at length at the caucus meeting and the majority around the table felt that supporting Bill 104 was not in the best interests of the school board.

The Council entered into discussion and the Chairman noted that everyone has an opinion on the issue of Bill 104 and that all must be respected.

#### **CC-080326-CA-0137**

WHEREAS the Quebec English School Boards Association (QESBA) initiated a consultation with its member school boards on Bill 104: *An Act to amend the Charter of the French Language*;

WHEREAS this consultation was received on 2008-03-07 and the consultation deadline was 2008-03-13;

WHEREAS a caucus of the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board was held on 2008-03-11 to formulate its position on this consultation;

Commissioner George Benoit MOVED THAT, on the recommendation of the Executive Committee, the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board supports the following position taken at the caucus meeting:

#### **PREAMBLE:**

*The members of the Council of Commissioners of Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board were committed in their endeavour to develop an informed recommendation for QESBA on Bill 104 and, to this end, all commissioners received the necessary documentation to study.*

- *A presentation by D. Horrocks and D. Birnbaum of QESBA was given on the issue at the start of the SWLSB Council meeting on February 27, 2008;*
- *On March 11, 2008, the SWLSB held a special caucus meeting to draw up an outline of its position.*

#### **CONSIDERATIONS:**

- *A moral appreciation of what the families are attempting to have recognized;*

- *A moral responsibility towards the ever-growing population of our schools and the necessity of making the best possible use of our limited funds to support that growth;*
- *Our financial situation which currently warrants a recovery plan and is not conducive to investing monies to support legal causes when other more crucial choices must be made;*
- *The strong credibility QESBA has with the MELS which must be maintained for our existing communities;*
- *Since Bill 104 is an emotional issue which has the potential of leaving deep scars at various levels, we must navigate with caution.*

**POSITION:**

*Considering the above points and given the information provided the commissioners to enable them to come to an informed decision, the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board wishes to state its position as follows:*

- *THAT QESBA refrain from active involvement in the court case (Option 1);*
- *THAT no funds be allocated by SWLSB to support an appeal of the court decision;*
- *THAT individual members of the SWLSB Council of Commissioners who may personally support this cause do so without engaging the board;*
- *THAT QESBA concentrate its efforts and involvement on those strategies that have proven most effective – i.e., public and political interventions;*
- *AND THAT special consideration be given by QESBA to the sensitivity of relationships we have with the MELS as well as with the French boards in our communities and our constituents.*

<b>THIS MOTION WAS CARRIED ON THE FOLLOWING DIVISION:</b>	
<b>Commissioners voting YEA:</b>	<b>Georges Benoit, Steve Bletas, Mario Di Domenico, Robert Dixon, Nazario Facchino, Nick Milas, Steve Mitchell, Tom Mouhteros, Grace Nesi, Albina Pace, Mike Pizzola, Nancy Rupnik, Edward Turchyniak</b>
<b>Commissioners voting NAY:</b>	<b>Walter Fogel, Steve Kmec, Merle Parkinson, William Pollock,</b>

Commissioner Steve Kmec asked that it be noted in the minutes of this meeting that he opposed this motion as he believes that it goes against the Charter of Rights and Freedoms and those of the parents.

**4.4 QESBA Certified Commissioners Development Program:**

The Chairman noted that at the last caucus meeting the Quebec English School Boards Association (QESBA) proposal for a “Certified Commissioners Development Program” was discussed and that the general consensus was that the QESBA be advised that the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board would not support such a program.

The Council entered into discussion.

Commissioner Walter Fogel recommended that the resolution be amended to indicate that any person legally qualified is entitled to be a commissioner and this entitlement should not be diminished by any lack of “certification”. Commissioner Nick Milas accepted the amendment.

**CC-080326-CA-0138**

WHEREAS the Quebec English School Boards Association (QESBA) initiated a consultation with its *Certified Commissioner Development Program*;

WHEREAS this consultation was received on 2008-02-14 and the consultation deadline was 2008-03-17;

WHEREAS the President and the Executive Director of the QESBA were invited to meet with the Council of Commissioners on 2008-02-27 to explain the proposed Certified Commissioner Development Program;

WHEREAS a caucus of the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board was held on 2008-03-11 to formulate its position on this consultation;

WHEREAS the "Act respecting school elections" states the qualifications to be a commissioner;

WHEREAS the Council of Commissioners considers that any person legally qualified is entitled to be a commissioner and this entitlement should not be diminished by any lack of "certification";

Commissioner Nick Milas MOVED THAT, on the recommendation of the Executive Committee, the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board supports the following position:

**PREAMBLE:**

*The members of the Council of Commissioners of Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board were committed in their endeavour to develop an informed recommendation for QESBA on the Commissioner Certification Development Program proposition and, to this end, all commissioners received the necessary documentation to study.*

- *The document Proposal For a Certified Commissioner Development Program;*
- *A presentation by D. Horrocks and D. Birnbaum of QESBA was given on the issue at the start of the SWLSB Council meeting on February 27, 2008;*
- *On March 11, 2008, the SWLSB held a special caucus meeting to draw up an outline of its position.*

**CONSIDERATIONS:**

- *We need to continue to enhance and promote effective governance in English public education through an effective decision making process;*
- *Commissioners have years of experience as representatives through various committees in the education system (parents committee, governing boards etc.);*
- *We have always encouraged professional development activities for our commissioners and their participation in various conferences and workshops that are beneficial to the school board;*
- *We hold annual focus sessions with all commissioners and administrators;*

**POSITION:**

*Considering the above points and given the information provided to the commissioners to enable them to come to a common decision, the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board wishes to state its position as follows:*

- *SWLSB commissioners have always been seen as visionaries and have been front runners in professional development;*
- *Since no other elected officials require certification, why should it be different for those in education! Does this diminish their status?*
- *Commissioners are elected because they have gained the trust of their constituents, not because they are certified;*
- *Having certified commissioners, in our opinion, would not increase voter turnout;*
- *Commissioners feel that QESBA should continue to concentrate its efforts and involvement on developing workshops, PD sessions and conferences catered to the specific needs of school boards;*

*For these reasons, the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board opposes having a Commissioner Certification Development Program. We prefer to continue offering PD sessions to our commissioners and further develop our best practices.*

*A consensus was reached on this matter by the commissioners present at this caucus meeting.*

<b>THIS MOTION WAS CARRIED ON THE FOLLOWING DIVISION:</b>	
<b>Commissioners voting YEA:</b>	Georges Benoit, Steve Bletas, Mario Di Domenico, Robert Dixon, Walter Fogel, Steve Kmec, Nick Milas, Steve Mitchell, Tom Mouhteros, Grace Nesi, Merle Parkinson, William Pollock, Mike Pizzola, Nancy Rupnik, Edward Turchyniak
<b>Commissioners ABSTAINING:</b>	Nazario Facchino, Albina Pace

## 5.0 SCHOOL ORGANIZATION

### 5.1 *Report of Chairperson – School Organization Committee:*

Commissioner Albina Pace, Chair of the School Organization Committee, advised that the next meeting would be held on 2008-04-21.

### 5.2 *Deeds of Establishment & Three-Year Plan:*

The Director of School Organization presented and reviewed the deeds of establishment and three-year plan noting the various modifications.

#### CC-080326-CA-0139

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 Albina Pace 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 #2008-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**

### 5.3 *2008-2009 Projected Enrolment:*

The Director of School Organization reviewed the preliminary enrolment figures for the 2008-2009 school year noting that a meeting will be held on 2008-03-28 to discuss the options available for housing the excess kindergarten enrolment at Terry Fox Elementary School.

The Council entered into discussion and it was noted that registration continues long after the annual registration week is concluded.

In response to a request from Commissioner Walter Fogel, the Director of School Organization indicated that the enrolment grid could be modified to show actual capacity and functional capacity, which is determined by the Ministère de l'Éducation, du Loisir et du Sport (MELS).

## 6.0 HUMAN RESOURCES

### 6.1 *Report of the Chairperson – Human Resources Committee:*

Commissioner George Benoit, Chairman of the Human Resources Committee, noted that at its last meeting the amendments to the various local arrangements were discussed at length.

## 7.0 BUSINESS ARISING

### 7.1 *Update on Lien on Property:*

In response to a question from Commissioner Robert Dixon at the 2008-02-27 meeting, the Director of Financial Resources advised that of the two properties recommended for a lien due to unpaid school taxes, one has been paid in full and the owner of the other is deceased so the property is not occupied therefore, the taxes could be paid by the estate or upon the sale of the property. A lien will be placed on the unpaid property.

### 7.2 *Update on Long-Term Leaves of Absence:*

In response to a question from Commissioner Steve Kmec at the 2008-02-27 meeting, the Director of Human Resources noted that long-term leaves of absence were discussed at the last Human Resources Committee at which Commissioner Kmec was present.

In response to a question from Commissioner Steve Kmec, the Chairman indicated that the long-term sick leaves are CSST cases and that they are not normally questioned as medical reports have been produced.

### 7.3 *Update on Québec Winter Games:*

In response to a request from Commissioner Mike Pizzola at the above mentioned meeting, the Director of Material Resources advised that the information on the 2009 Québec Winter Games is located in the correspondence section of the Web package.

### 7.4 *QESBA Award of Merit:*

The Chairman advised that no names have been brought forward for the Quebec English School Boards Association (QESBA) Award of Merit.

The Council entered into discussion and it was agreed that the issue be closed until next year.

On a point of "business arising" on page 1837, item 10.1, of the minutes of the meeting held on 2008-02-27, Commissioner Walter Fogel inquired when the Commissioners training on computers will take place.

The Director of Information Technology advised that the survey has been prepared and will be sent out on 2008-03-27. A schedule will be prepared when the needs are known.

Commissioner Nick Milas left the meeting.

**TIME: 20:40 hours**

On an additional "point of business arising" on page 1838, item 14.1, of the aforementioned minutes, Commissioner Walter Fogel inquired about the restriction of special transportation arrangements.

The Chairman advised that a letter has been sent to the Director General by the Parents Committee concerning the changes to special transportation arrangements and that it has been given to the Director of School Organization, who will present it to the School Organization Committee. The School Organization Committee is currently in the process of reviewing the Transportation Policy and Manual of Procedures so the letter will be taken into consideration.

Commissioner Nick Milas returned to the meeting.

**TIME: 20:43 hours**

## 8.0 COMMUNICATIONS & CORPORATE AFFAIRS

### 8.1 *Report of the Chairperson – Communications & Public Relations:*

Commissioner Tom Mouhteros, Chairman of the Communications & Public Relations Committee, noted that at its last meeting the committee discussed the annual report, the new Web site, Impact Soccer night on 2008-06-13, the positive reception of the Tel-jeunes poster campaign and the Hockey Alouettes fundraiser for McCaig elementary School and Rosemere High School.

### 8.2 *SWL Foundation:*

Commissioner Edward Turchyniak advised that annual lobster dinner, entitled "Delicacy of the Sea", will be held at the Château Royal on 2008-06-12 and that tickets are 150\$ each. The Honorary Chairman of the event is Laurent Caron of Caisse Desjardins Chomedey. The invitations will be sent out in a few weeks.

### 8.3 *Mediation on Legal Case:*

The Secretary General provided background information on the mediation between the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board and Consortium MR noting that a representative of the Ministère de l'Éducation, du Loisir et du Sport (MELS) and the Association des Entrepreneurs du Québec acted as mediators but that no consensus was reached.

She went on to note that the school board has two options available, one being to settle out of court and the other is to pursue the legal action already lodged against the school board. The level of risk in taking the legal route has been explained to the school board.

## CC-080326-MR-0140

WHEREAS the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board adopted resolution # CC-071212-CA-0094, mandating the Secretary General and the Director of Material Resources to enter into mediation with Consortium MR Ltée., in order to resolve the excavation issue from the construction of Franklin Hill Elementary School;

WHEREAS a mediation session between representatives of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board and Consortium MR Ltée was held on 2008-02-26;

WHEREAS the mediation did not result in a consensus;

Parent Commissioner Lisa Chartier 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 mandate the Secretary General and the Director of Material Resources to pursue the discussions with the Ministère de l'Éducation, du Loisir et du Sport (MELS) and Consortium MR Ltée for an amount not exceeding the amount found in Document #SWLSB-2008/03/26-MR-001, in order to conclude the mediation process.

AND THAT, if no consensus can be reached, the school board terminate the mediation process and move forward with legal proceedings on the issue of the excavation at Franklin Hill Elementary School.

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 legal case.

**Carried unanimously**

### 8.4 *Commissioners Professional Development:*

The Secretary General provided background information on the request of two Commissioners to attend the 2008 National School Public Relations Association (NSPRA) Seminar.

In response to comments from Commissioner Walter Fogel, the Chairman indicated that he is aware of Commissioner Fogel's opinion on professional development for Commissioners but that the funds for these activities are allotted in accordance with law and that if the money is not used for professional development it is returned to the Ministère de l'Éducation, du Loisir et du Sport (MELS), as it cannot be transferred to other budgets.

**CC-080326-CA-0141**

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, the Chairman and two Commissioners unless the Chairman is unable to attend and cedes his place to another Commissioner;

WHEREAS the Chairman will be exercising his right to attend the 2008 National School Public Relations Association (NSPRA) Seminar being held from 2008-07-06 to 2008-07-09 in Washington, D.C. as per section 3.2 of the Professional Development Guidelines of Policy #2005-CA-11: Professional Development for Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board;

Commissioner Edward Turchyniak MOVED THAT, on the recommendation of the Executive Committee, the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board approve the attendance of **Steve Bletas** at the 2008 National School Public Relations Association (NSPRA) in Washington, D.C. from 2008-07-06 to 2008-07-09.

AND THAT registration, travel, accommodations and miscellaneous expenses not exceed 3 000,00\$ Canadian.

<b>THIS MOTION WAS CARRIED ON THE FOLLOWING DIVISION:</b>	
<b>Commissioners voting YEA:</b>	<b>Georges Benoit, Steve Bletas, Robert Dixon, Nazario Facchino, Steve Kmec, Nick Milas, Steve Mitchell, Tom Mouhteros, Grace Nesi, Albina Pace, Merle Parkinson, William Pollock, Mike Pizzola, Nancy Rupnik, Edward Turchyniak</b>
<b>Commissioners ABSTAINING:</b>	<b>Mario Di Domenico, Walter Fogel,</b>

**CC-080326-CA-0142**

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, the Chairman and two Commissioners unless the Chairman is unable to attend and cedes his place to another Commissioner;

WHEREAS one Commissioner, other than the Chairman, has submitted a request to attend the 2008 National School Public Relations Association (NSPRA) Seminar being held from 2008-07-06 to 2008-07-09 in Washington, D.C.;

Commissioner Grace Nesi MOVED THAT, on the recommendation of the Executive Committee, the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board approve the attendance of **Tom Mouhteros** at the 2008 National School Public Relations Association (NSPRA) in Washington, D.C. from 2008-07-06 to 2008-07-09.

AND THAT registration, travel, accommodations and miscellaneous expenses not exceed 3 000,00\$ Canadian.

THIS MOTION WAS CARRIED ON THE FOLLOWING DIVISION:	
Commissioners voting YEA:	Georges Benoit, Steve Bletas, Robert Dixon, Nazario Facchino, Steve Kmec, Nick Milas, Steve Mitchell, Tom Mouhteros, Grace Nesi, Albina Pace, Merle Parkinson, William Pollock, Mike Pizzola, Nancy Rupnik, Edward Turchyniak
Commissioners ABSTAINING:	Mario Di Domenico, Walter Fogel

## 9.0 FINANCIAL RESOURCES

### 9.1 Report of the Chairperson – Financial Resources Committee:

Commissioner Merle Parkinson, Chair of the **Financial Resources** Committee, noted that at its last meeting the committee discussed the request from the Ministère de l'Éducation, du Loisir et du Sport (MELS) for more frequent financial reporting, the request of the MELS for the amortization of fixed assets as far back as 1991 and the renewal of the contract for auditing services.

In response to a request from Commissioner Steve Kmec, the Chairman indicated that the MELS parameters have been received and that the Director of Financial Resources will advise the Council of the specific changes once the document has been reviewed.

### 9.2 Engagement of Auditors:

The Director of Financial Resources advised that the current contract for auditing services includes a renewal clause which the **Financial Resources** Committee is recommending due to the upcoming changes in the Ministère de l'Éducation, du Loisir et du Sport (MELS) accounting procedures and the fact that the services rendered to date have been exceptional.

In response to a question from Commissioner Steve Kmec, the Director of Financial Resources indicated that a one-year renewal clause was part of the original contract with the auditing firm and to tender for a new auditing firm at this time, without being up to date on the proposed changes to the reporting process, would be difficult.

## CC-080326-FR-0143

WHEREAS section 284 of the Education Act (R.S.Q., Chapter I-13.3) stipulates that for each fiscal year, every school board shall appoint an external auditor who shall file a report of his audit of the financial transactions of the school board;

WHEREAS during the 2003-2004 school year, public tenders were called for auditing services for a three year period, with an option for an additional year;

WHEREAS the term of this tender ended with the 2006-2007 school year;

WHEREAS our current auditors were invited to submit a written quote for auditing services for the current school year;

WHEREAS the Financial Resources Committee has reviewed the written quotation and services rendered in prior years and recommends that the current auditor be appointed for an additional year;

Commissioner Merle Parkinson 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 **re-engage** the firm of **Brunet Roy Dubé** at a cost of 25 961\$, all taxes included, to conduct auditing services for the 2007-2008 school year.

**Carried unanimously**

The Chairman called for a five minute break.

**TIME: 21:08 hours**

The meeting resumed.

**TIME: 21: 21 hours**

Commissioner Mario Di Domenico and Steve Mitchell excused themselves for the evening.

**TIME: 21: 21 hours**

## **10.0 MATERIAL RESOURCES**

### **10.1 Report of Chairperson – Material Resources Committee:**

Commissioner William Pollock, Chairman of the Material Resources Committee, noted that at the last meeting the electrical fire at Joliette High School, the installation of the cameras for the Safety & Security Project, and the removal of excess snow from the roof tops of the schools and centres were discussed.

### **10.2 Call to Tender – Insurance 2008-2009:**

The Director of Material Resources noted that the current insurance contract expires on 2008-06-30 and that a new policy must be engaged.

#### **CC-080326-MR-0144**

WHEREAS the insurance policy of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board expires on 2008-06-30;

WHEREAS the Material Resources Committee recommends that a public tender be called for insurance services;

Commissioner Nancy Rupnik 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 a call for public tenders for insurance services for the 2008-2009 school year.

**Carried unanimously**

### **10.3 Engagement of Professionals – Measure 50690:**

The Director of Material Resources provided background information on the engagement of professionals for the roofing and window projects.

#### **CC-080326-MR-0145**

WHEREAS the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board has resolved to undertake window projects at St-Paul and Pinewood A Elementary Schools, as well as roofing projects at Genesis Elementary School and CDC Lachute;

WHEREAS the Ministère de l'Éducation, du Loisir et du Sport (MELS) has adopted Measure 50690 to assist school boards with the repair and maintenance of its buildings;

WHEREAS the Director of Material Resources has invited professionals to submit proposals for these window and roofing projects;

WHEREAS a selection committee has reviewed the proposals received;

Commissioner Robert Dixon 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 engagement of the following architects to prepare the drawings, plans and tender specifications for the projects listed below:

Héloïse Thibodeau	St-Paul Elementary School Window Project & Genesis Elementary School Roofing Project
Marco Manini	Pinewood Elementary School "Campus A" Window Project
Jean-Marc Coursol	CDC Laurier-Lachute Roofing Project

**Carried unanimously**

#### **10.4 AVEC Projects – 2008/2009, 2009/2010 & 2010/2011:**

The Director of Material Resources provided an update on the AVEC project partnership noting that the school board's participation in the project over the past three years has been positive. The Material Resources Committee is recommending that the partnership be renewed for an additional three years at a cost of 20 000\$ per year.

#### **CC-080326-MR-0146**

WHEREAS the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board is a partner in the "AVEC (Avenir-Viable-École-Communauté)" program;

WHEREAS the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board adopted resolution #CC-050427-CA-0152 authorizing the Chairman to sign the entente with AVEC (Avenir-Viable-École-Communauté) and the 20 000\$ cost of the program for the 2005-2006, 2006-2007 and 2007-2008 school year;

Commissioner Nazario Facchino 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 renew the entente with AVEC (Avenir-Viable-école-communauté).

AND THAT the Council of Commissioners authorize the 20 000\$ per school year cost of this program for the 2008-2009, 2009-2010 and 2010-2011 school year.

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**

#### **10.5 Request to MELS – Compensation for Removal of Snow from Roof Tops:**

The Director of Material Resources provided background information on the removal of the excess snow from the roof tops of schools and centres noting that to date the cost of this venture is in the neighbourhood of 243 000\$. A full report of the removal of the excess snow will be made at the next Material Resources Committee.

The Council entered into discussion and it was noted that the excess removal of snow has been discussed by the Directors of Material Resources in the Laval-Laurentides-Lanaudière region and that the conclusion is that the Ministère de l'Éducation, du Loisir et du Sport (MELS) should be approached to assist with the costs of this unforeseen event.

The Council entered into discussion.

On a "point of order", Commissioner Nick Milas indicated that the issue of the cost of regular snow removal should be discussed at the next Material Resources Committee.

#### **CC-080326-MR-0147**

WHEREAS the Province of Québec has received an exceptional amount of snow during the 2007-2008 winter;

WHEREAS a letter was received on 2008-03-13 from the Direction générale du financement et de l'équipement du ministère de l'Éducation, du Loisir et du Sport (MELS) inviting school boards to put in place preventative measures to ensure the safety of students and employees;

WHEREAS the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board has always verified the accumulation of the snow on the roof tops of its schools and centres and cleaned the roof tops, when required;

WHEREAS the closing of schools and centres by other school boards in the Laval-Laurentides-Lanaudière region and the media coverage on the excess snow on roof tops became a concern for parents and employees of the school board;

WHEREAS it became necessary for the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board to remove the excess snow and ensure the safety and peace of mind of its students, parents and employees;

WHEREAS excessive snow removal from the roof tops of the schools and centres is not included in the budget;

Parent Commissioner Luc Samson MOVED THAT the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board request from the Direction générale du financement et de l'équipement du ministère de l'Éducation, du Loisir et du Sport (MELS) financial reimbursement of the expenses incurred for the removal of the excess snow on the roof tops of its schools and centres during the 2007-2008 winter.

**Carried unanimously**

## **11.0 INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY**

### **11.1 Report of the Chairperson – Information Technology Committee:**

There was no report

### **11.2 Call to Tender – Refurbished Desktop Computers:**

The Director of Information Technology provided background information on the following resolution noting that the cost of the refurbished desktop computers comes under Measure 50670.

#### **CC-080326-IT-0148**

WHEREAS the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board is planning the purchase of up to 700 refurbished desktop Pentium 4 computers to replace obsolete desktop computers in its schools and centres and increase the board wide computer ratio;

WHEREAS the funding for this project is provided by the Ministère de l'Éducation, du Loisir et du Sport (MELS) measure 50670 for the purchase and replacement of computers and peripherals;

Commissioner Walter Fogel MOVED THAT, on the recommendation of the Information Technology Committee and the Executive Committee, the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board approve that public tender be called for the purchase of up to 700 refurbished desktop computers, as per the tender specifications contained in document #SWLSB-2008/03/26-IT-001.

**Carried unanimously**

### **11.3 GRICS Voting Delegates:**

The Director of Information Technology commented on the following resolution noting **that the effect of this** resolution will be continuous and only replaced when there is a change of delegate or alternate.

In response to a question from Commissioner Walter Fogel, the Director of Information Technology advised that the names of the voting delegates need to be included as the title is not enough.

**CC-080326-IT-0149**

WHEREAS the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board is a member of the Société de gestion du réseau informatique des commissions scolaires (GRICS);

WHEREAS the membership agreement stipulates that the school board must name an official delegate to act on its behalf;

Commissioner Tom Mouhteros MOVED THAT, on the recommendation of the Executive Committee, the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board name **Anne-Marie Lepage**, Director General, as the official delegate of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board to the Société de gestion du réseau informatique des commissions scolaires (GRICS) for all Annual General Meetings and to exercise the powers inherent;

AND THAT if the official delegate is absent or unable to act, **Line Desgroseilliers**, Director of Information Technology, be named as alternate delegate of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board to the Société de gestion du réseau informatique des commissions scolaires (GRICS) for all Annual General Meetings.

FURTHER THAT this resolution cancels and replaces any other resolution naming an official delegate to the general assembly of the Société de gestion du réseau informatique des commissions scolaires (GRICS).

**Carried unanimously**

The Director of Information Technology noted that the survey on the computer training needs of the Council will be sent out via E-mail and that the responses should be returned in the same manner. The needs will be prioritized and a list will be drawn up with the courses and dates.

**12.0 EDUCATIONAL SERVICES****12.1 Report of the Chairperson – Education Committee:**

Commissioner Nazario Facchino, Chairman of the **Educational Services** Committee, commented on the last meeting noting the revision of the evaluation policy, the ongoing work on the report card, and a request for funding for the Laval Liberty High School (LLHS) football program were discussed. The discussions concerning the request for funding for the LLHS football program was discussed at length and it was noted that school board is willing to assist in the establishment of programs but that it is the task of the school to find the means to sustain the programs implemented.

The next meeting of the **Educational Services** Committee will be a joint meeting with Information Technology on 2008-04-14.

The Director of Educational Services noted that some concerns have been expressed by the Laurier Teachers Union on the locally developed “Outdoor Education and Community Development” program at Laurentian Regional High School, in that some of the activities are outside of the regular work week. The program will be reviewed and it will be re-presented to Council at a later date.

**13.0 ADULT & VOCATIONAL EDUCATION:****13.1 Report of Chairperson – Adult & Vocational Education Committee:**

Commissioner Nazario Facchino, Chairman of the Adult & Vocational Education Committee, advised that at its last meeting the committee discussed vocational training, the exploration labs and a report from the trip to New York to see the labs in full action, the department’s technical systems and the 2008-2009 budget.

**14.0 PARENT COMMISSIONERS REPORT****14.1 Parents' Committee Report:**

Parent Commissioner Luc Samson indicated that the Parents Committee is concerned over the proposed changes to the Transportation Policy without consultation with the parents.

The Chairman advised that the Transportation Policy is currently being revised by the School Organization Committee and that proposed amendments to the policy will be sent to the Parents Committee and the chairs of the Governing Boards for consultation once approved in principle by the Council.

Parent Commissioner Lisa Chartier advised that the Parents Committee approved a resolution supporting the position of the Council with respect to Bill 104.

**15.0 QESBA****15.1 Report of the QESBA:**

The Chairman advised that the next meeting of the Quebec English School Boards Association (QESBA) Board of Directors will be during the week of 2008-03-31 and that a special meeting of the school board Chairs is being held on 2008-03-29 to discuss the QESBA Constitution.

**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.

**18.0 VARIA**

Commissioner William Pollock advised that he is still not receiving the QESBA's Monday Message and asked that this be rectified.

**19.0 CONCLUSION OF MEETING**

Commissioner William Pollock MOVED THAT the meeting be concluded.

**Carried unanimously**

**TIME: 21:48 hours**

**NEXT MEETING ⇨ REGULAR ⇨ 2008-04-23**

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**Marie-Claude Drouin, Secretary General**

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**Steve Bletas, Chairman**