

PROVINCE OF QUEBEC

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE SIR WILFRID LAURIER SCHOOL BOARD HELD ON 2008-08-27**

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, 2008-08-27 at 19:30 hours:

Present: Commissioners Steve Bletas, Chair; Carolyn Curiale, Vice-Chair; Mario Di Domenico, Robert Dixon, Nazario Facchino, Walter Fogel, Steve Kmec, Peter MacLaurin, Nick Milas, Steve Mitchell, Grace Nesi, Albina Pace, Merle Parkinson, Mike Pizzola, William Pollock, Nancy Rupnik and Edward Turchyniak; Parent Commissioner Lisa Chartier; 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 & Complementary Services; Daniel Hogue, Director of Material Resources; Livia Nassivera, Director of Financial Resources; George Paquette, Director of School Organization; Johanne Brabant, Director of Adult & Vocational Education; and Jocelyne Thompson-Ness, Administrative Assistant. Several other persons were also in the audience.

Absent: Commissioners Georges Benoit and Tom Mouhteros; and Parent Commissioner Luc Samson.

The Chair called the meeting to order at 19:30 hours.

The Chair welcomed everyone back and extended best wishes for the productive and prosperous new school year.

**1.0 ACCEPTANCE OF AGENDA:**

The following additions and modifications to the agenda were proposed:

**5.0 BUSINESS ARISING:**

5.1 *Ratification of Decisions* ..... RES

**7.0 INFORMATION ITEMS**

7.1 *Director General's Objectives 2008-2009*..... INFO

**10.0 VARIA:**

10.1 *General Assemblies* ..... INFO

10.2 *Grenville E.S. Open House* ..... INFO

**CC-080827-CA-0001**

Commissioner Mike Pizzola MOVED THAT the agenda be accepted as amended in document #SWLSB-2008/08/27-CA-001.

**Carried unanimously**

## 2.0 APPROVAL OF MINUTES

### CC-080827-CA-0002

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 2008-06-25, having been received by all members prior to this meeting, be approved as written.

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

## 3.0 QUESTION PERIOD

There were no questions.

## 4.0 CHAIR'S REPORT

### 4.1 *Chair's Report:*

The Chair advised the Council that a meeting of the Chairs of English school boards will take place in the early Fall where issues such as textbooks, the electoral list and Bill 88 will be discussed.

In response to a question from the Chair, the Director of Educational Services advised that a "POP" is a "Personal Orientation Project", which involves students using a CD of exploration materials to create a project on their potential career.

## 5.0 BUSINESS ARISING:

### 5.1 *Ratification of Decisions:*

The Secretary General presented and reviewed the items for ratification by the Council.

In response to a question from Commissioner Walter Fogel, the Director of Financial Resources noted that the properties being sent for seizure are moveable material of the taxpayer. She also noted that the notice of seizure is a warning to the taxpayer and, in most cases, this expedites payment of the outstanding account.

### CC-080827-CA-0003

WHEREAS the Executive Committee has exercised the functions and powers of the Council of Commissioners as delegated by resolution #010627-CA-0231, amended by resolution #030528-CA-0147, reaffirmed by resolution #031126-CA-0081 and in conformity with by-law #BL2000-CA-01: Delegation of Functions and Powers to the Executive Committee;

Commissioner Nick Milas MOVED THAT, in accordance with by-law #BL2000-CA-01: Delegation of Functions and Powers to the Executive Committee, the Executive Committee of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board recommends that the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board ratify the following resolutions:

- #EC-080715-HR-0009: Creation of Administrative Support Position
- #EC-080715-HR-0014: Creation of Non-Teaching Professional Positions
- #EC-080715-MR-0015: Engagement of Professional – 2323 Daniel-Johnson Renovation Project
- #EC-080715-MR-0016: Engagement of Contractor – Pinewood E.S. Window Project
- #EC-080715-MR-0017: Engagement of Contractor – St-Vincent E.S. Bus Loading Zone
- #EC-080715-MR-0020: Engagement of Contractor – CDC Laurier-Lachute Roofing Project
- #EC-080715-MR-0022: Purchase Order – Copy Commitment RHS Print Shop
- #EC-080715-MR-0024: Purchase Order – Capital Projects – Purchase of Furniture for E.S.
- #EC-080715-MR-0028: Purchase Order – Lease of Portables 2008-2009 – McCaig E.S.
- #EC-080715-MR-0029: Purchase Order – Lease of Portables 2008-2009 – Joliette E.S.
- #EC-080715-MR-0030: Purchase Order – LRHS Cafeteria
- #EC-080715-MR-0031: Purchase of Vehicles – Courier vans (2)
- #EC-080715-MR-0032: Rental of Space 2008-2009 – CDC Laurier-Boisbriand
- #EC-080715-MR-0033: Rental of Space 2008-2009 – CDC Laurier-Repentigny
- #EC-080715-MR-0034: Rental of Space 2008-2009 – CDC Laurier-Vimont
- #EC-080715-MR-0035: Sale of Land – Ste-Agathe Academy
- #EC-080715-MR-0038: Engagement of Contractor – School Yard Project at LJHS/LLHS
- #EC-080715-MR-0041: Seizure of Property - Laval
- #EC-080715-MR-0042: Seizure of Property - Laval

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

## **5.2 Textbooks:**

The Director of Educational Services advised the Council that over the summer months significant progress was made with the translation of textbooks for various high school courses. The first module of the provisional textbook for Secondary 4 Mathematics has arrived and the teachers using this text have received the necessary training for its application. A history textbook is also available. Options for textbooks for Science and Ethics & Religious Culture are still being considered.

She extended appreciation to **Michelle Courchesne**, Ministre de l'Éducation, du Loisir et du Sport (MELS) for all of the assistance received in ensuring that some form of text is available to students until the complete translation is available.

The Council entered into discussion and the Chair and the Director General were mandated to send a letter of appreciation to LEARN for all of its assistance in the matter of the translations of the textbooks.

In response to a question from Commissioner Nick Milas, the Director of Educational Services noted that English textbooks are difficult to obtain due to the fact that the Textbook Committee is having difficulty finding material that conforms to the reform and that publishers do not like to print for a small clientele.

In response to a question from Commissioner Merle Parkinson, the Director of Educational Services acknowledged that there are textbooks missing for Secondary I - III but that priority has been given to Secondary IV as they are obligated to write provincial examinations

## **5.3 Amendments to the Transportation Policy:**

The Director of School Organization reviewed the results of the consultation on the amendments to the transportation policy and procedures manual.

The Council entered into discussion on the amendments and there were some concerns expressed over the changes with respect to daycare. The Director of School Organization indicated that the number of changes being made with respect to transportation and daycare have been escalating and needed to be addressed in order to ensure the safety and security of all involved.

**CC-080827-TS-0004**

WHEREAS the Council of Commissioners adopted resolution #CC-080423-TS-0170 approving in principle amendments to policy #1999-TS-01: Transportation Policy and Procedures Manual;

WHEREAS the results of the consultation have been reviewed by the School Organization Committee;

Commissioner Peter MacLaurin 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, as amended, policy #1999-TS-01: Transportation Policy and Procedures Manual.

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

**5.4 Amendments to the Evaluation Policy:**

The Director of Educational Services presented the results of the consultation on the proposed amendments to the evaluation policy noting that it needed to be updated in order to conform to the Régime pédagogique (Basic School Regulation).

**CC-080827-ED-0005**

WHEREAS the Council of Commissioners adopted resolution #CC-080423-ED-0168 approving in principle amendments to policy #1999-ED-05: Evaluation of Learning in the Elementary & Secondary Schools;

WHEREAS the results of the consultation have been reviewed by the Educational Services Committee;

Commissioner Edward Turchyniak MOVED THAT, on the recommendation of the Educational Services Committee and the Executive Committee, the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board approve, as amended, policy #1999-ED-05: Evaluation of Learning in the Elementary & Secondary Schools.

**Carried unanimously**

**5.5 Amendments to Procedure P2003-CA-08: Standing Committee Procedures:**

The Secretary General presented and reviewed the proposed amendments to the procedures for standing committees noting that only some committees will meet on a monthly basis while others will meet every 6 - 8 weeks, the change in the number of Commissioners required to form a committee and that some committees will meet on the same night, as long as there is no overlap of membership, in order to decrease the number of night meetings so that Commissioners can participate more in the school community.

**CC-080827-CA-0006**

WHEREAS the Council of Commissioners wishes to amend procedure #P2003-CA-08: Standing Committee Procedures, in order to reflect recommendations concerning the committee meeting process;

Commissioner Grace Nesi MOVED THAT, on the recommendation of the Executive Committee, the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board approve, as amended, procedure #P2003-CA-08: Standing Committee Procedures.

**Carried unanimously**

**6.0 DECISION ITEMS:**

**6.1 INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY**

**6.1.1 GRICS Annual Invoice 2008-2009:**

The Director of Information Technology presented the GRICS (Société de gestion du réseau informatique des commissions scolaires) annual invoice and drew attention to the comparison chart that shows the costs invoiced for the past two years.

Commissioner Nancy Rupnik left the meeting.

**TIME: 20:21 hours**

In response to a question from Commissioner Steve Kmec, the Director of Information Technology noted that there is no increase in the basic GRICS fees but the overall is higher due to increased enrolment and new software.

**CC-080827-IT-0007**

WHEREAS the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board uses several GRICS (Société de gestion du réseau informatique des commissions scolaires) software for the management of its administrative and pedagogical information systems;

WHEREAS GRICS invoices the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board on an annual basis for those software licenses and related support services;

Commissioner Carolyn Curiale MOVED THAT, on the recommendation of the Directorate and the Executive Committee, the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board approve the payment of the invoice received for the 2008-2009 school year from GRICS (Société de gestion du réseau informatique des commissions scolaires) in the amount of 315 813,41\$, all taxes included.

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

Commissioner Nancy Rupnik returned to the meeting.

**TIME: 20:23 hours**

**6.2 COMMUNICATIONS & CORPORATE AFFAIRS**

**6.2.1 Authorization to the Ste-Adèle Police:**

The Secretary General advised that a letter had been received from the Police of the Ville de Ste-Adèle seeking support from the school board for a by-law it intends to propose to the Ville de Sainte-Adèle on the safety and security of various institutions within that city.

In response to a question from Commissioner Walter Fogel, the Chair noted that the Secretary General would follow-up and report back to the Council on whether or not the communities in which the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board has schools have a similar by-law to the one being proposed by the Police of the Ville de Ste-Adèle.

**CC-080827-CA-0008**

WHEREAS goal #3 of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board's 2007-2011 Strategic Plan aims to provide students and employees with a safe and healthy environment in which to develop their potential;

WHEREAS the buildings and grounds of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board are reserved for the use of its students, employees and other authorized visitors;

WHEREAS the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board has been advised that the Service de Police de la Ville de Sainte-Adèle will be approaching the Ville de Sainte-Adèle concerning the implementation of a by-law regarding the safety and security of various institutions in the area;

Commissioner Nancy Rupnik MOVED THAT, on the recommendation of the Executive Committee, the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board support the request of the Service de Police de la Ville de Sainte-Adèle.

AND THAT the Ville de Sainte-Adèle be formally requested to adopt, by virtue of the powers entrusted to it, all measures deemed necessary to ensure that no trespassing or loitering take place in and around the buildings and grounds of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board.

FURTHER THAT the Assistant Director General be mandated to oversee this dossier.

**Carried unanimously**

**6.2.2 Twinning of School Board & Municipal Elections:**

The Secretary General presented the proposed resolution concerning the twinning of school board and municipal elections.

The Council entered into discussion and it was noted that at the last caucus of the Council the twinning of elections was discussed and it was felt, **by the majority of those present** that maintaining the status quo is preferable.

The Chair noted that this will be a topic of discussion at the next meeting of the Chairs of the English school boards and that he will provide a report on how the other English school boards feel about the twinning proposal.

*WHEREAS the Ministre de l'Éducation, du Loisir et du Sport (MELS) has indicated that the option of twinning school board and municipal elections will be investigated via legislation in the Fall of 2008;*

*WHEREAS the electoral lists for school elections are separated in accordance with the language of the school board, either English or French;*

*WHEREAS history has shown that having two electoral lists for school elections causes significant confusion at the polling stations especially for the English sector;*

*WHEREAS the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board has 160 municipalities within its territory;*

*WHEREAS electors in school and municipal elections deserve to have the opportunity to devote their entire attention to the election, its candidates and the distinct issues involved;*

*WHEREAS the twinning of school and municipal elections would be unfair to all parties involved;*

*Commissioner Robert Dixon MOVED THAT, on the recommendation of the Executive Committee, the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board request that the Ministre de*

*l'Éducation, du Loisir et du Sport (MELS) maintain the status quo of holding school and municipal elections separately.*

*AND THAT a copy of this resolution be sent to the Ministre de l'Éducation, du Loisir et du Sport (MELS), the Ministère des Affaires municipales et des Régions, the Président de la Comité d'étude sur Loi 88, Members of the Assemblée nationale for Laval-Laurentides-Lanaudière, the Executive Director of the Quebec English School Boards Association (QESBA), the chairs of school boards in the Laval-Laurentides-Lanaudière region and all municipalities of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board territory.*

Commissioner Walter Fogel proposed that the resolution be amended by removing the 3<sup>rd</sup> "Whereas" as there is no statistical evidence concerning the state of the electoral list for school elections. Commissioner Robert Dixon accepted the amendment.

Discussion continued.

Commissioner Robert Dixon requested that, due to the discussions, a vote be called on Commissioner Walter Fogel's amendment.

#### **CC-080827-CA-0009**

Commissioner Walter Fogel MOVED THAT the following "WHEREAS" be stricken from the proposed resolution:

*WHEREAS history has shown that having two electoral lists for school elections causes significant confusion at the polling stations especially for the English sector;*

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

Commissioner Edward Turchyniak proposed that the 3<sup>rd</sup> WHEREAS be rewritten. Commissioner Robert Dixon declined this proposal.

Commissioner Turchyniak withdrew his proposal.

#### **CC-080827-CA-0010**

WHEREAS the Ministre de l'Éducation, du Loisir et du Sport (MELS) has indicated that the option of twinning school board and municipal elections will be investigated via legislation in the Fall of 2008;

WHEREAS the electoral lists for school elections are separated in accordance with the language of the school board, either English or French;

WHEREAS history has shown that having two electoral lists for school elections causes significant confusion at the polling stations especially for the English sector;

WHEREAS the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board has 160 municipalities within its territory;

WHEREAS electors in school and municipal elections deserve to have the opportunity to devote their entire attention to the election, its candidates and the distinct issues involved;

WHEREAS the twinning of school and municipal elections would be unfair to all parties involved;

Commissioner Robert Dixon MOVED THAT, on the recommendation of the Executive Committee, the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board request that the Ministre

de l'Éducation, du Loisir et du Sport (MELS) maintain the status quo of holding school and municipal elections separately.

AND THAT a copy of this resolution be sent to the Ministre de l'Éducation, du Loisir et du Sport (MELS), the Ministère des Affaires municipales et des Régions, the Président de la Comité d'étude sur Loi 88, Members of the Assemblée nationale for Laval-Laurentides-Lanaudière, the Executive Director of the Quebec English School Boards Association (QESBA), the chairs of school boards in the Laval-Laurentides-Lanaudière region and all municipalities of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board territory.

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

Commissioner Walter Fogel left the meeting.

**TIME: 20:40 hours**

### **6.3 MATERIAL RESOURCES**

#### **6.3.1 Modification to Resolution – Insurance 20082-009:**

The Director of Material Resources noted that when the resolution for the 2008-2009 school board insurance was presented at the 2008-06-25, the taxes were omitted in error.

#### **CC-080827-MR-0011**

WHEREAS the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board adopted resolution # CC-080521-MR-0212 authorizing the administration to enter into an insurance agreement for the 2008-2009 school year for the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board's insurance needs with the firm Lemieux, Ryan & Ass. for a total premium of 72 744,00 \$;

WHEREAS this amount did not include taxes;

Commissioner Albina Pace MOVED THAT, on the recommendation of the Director of Material Resources and the Executive Committee, the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board approve the modification to resolution # CC-080521-MR-0212 by changing the total premium amount to 79 121,52\$, all taxes included.

**Carried unanimously**

### **6.4 ADULT & VOCATIONAL EDUCATION**

#### **6.4.1 Collaboration Plan with Vanier College:**

The Director of Adult & Vocational Education presented and explained the partnership with Vanier College noting that it is a derivative of the Plan d'aménagement for the English sector, which will see links created between programs. The Ministère de l'Éducation, du Loisir et du Sport (MELS) is encouraging partnerships between vocational and technical programs so that some modules will be recognized at the CEGEP level. This is the first partnership of this type in the province.

Commissioner Walter Fogel returned to the meeting.

**TIME: 20:41 hours**

The Council entered into discussion.

In response to a point made by Commissioner Edward Turchyniak on the data used in the plan, the Director of Adult & Vocational Education noted that the data was supplied by the Ministère de l'Éducation, du Loisir et du Sport (MELS) and Emploi-Québec and that their data is usually a few years old.



Commissioner Nancy Rupnik left the meeting.

**TIME: 20:42 hours**

Discussion continued.

Commissioner Nancy Rupnik returned to the meeting.

**TIME: 20:44 hours**

In response to a question from Commissioner Carolyn Curiale, the Director of Adult & Vocational Education noted that the plan was created by one consultant from the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board and one from Vanier, with the goal being to ensure a smooth transition from the vocational sector to a similar program in the CEGEP sector and the recognition of achievement within that transition.

#### **CC-080827-AE-0012**

WHEREAS regional partnerships must be created to facilitate the organization of vocational and technical training services;

WHEREAS school boards and CEGEPs are willing to work hand in hand to improve the vocational and technical training offer;

WHEREAS the Collaboration Plan for the Vocational and Technical Training Offer represents a significant measure to increase school retention and academic success;

WHEREAS the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board and Vanier College wish to maximize its training offer in order to better meet the needs of the English-speaking clientele;

Commissioner Nazario Facchino MOVED THAT, on the recommendation of the Directorate and the Executive Committee, the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board adopt the Collaboration Plan between Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board and Vanier College for a Consolidated Vocational and Technical Training Offer for the Laval, Laurentides, Lanaudière regions, as presented in Document # SWLSB-2008/08/27-AE-001.

AND THAT a copy of the Collaboration Plan between Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board and Vanier College for a Consolidated Vocational and Technical Training Offer be forwarded to the Ministère de l'Éducation, du Loisir et du Sport (MELS) in order to obtain financial assistance for its implementation.

**Carried unanimously**

#### **7.0 INFORMATION ITEMS**

##### **7.1 Director General's Objectives 2008-2009:**

The Director General presented her objectives for the 2008-2009 school year: Supporting Excellence (Communications & Planning) and Encouraging Development (Continued Improvement & Partnerships).

##### **7.2 SWL Foundation:**

Commissioner Edward Turchyniak advised the Council that the first meeting of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier Foundation would take place on 2008-09-09. Planning for the January 2009 Gala is underway and it will be a "magical" evening.

He went on to note that the Sir Wilfrid Laurier Foundation Citizenship Bursary was well received in the schools and centres.

In response to a question from Commissioner Steve Kmec, Commissioner Turchyniak noted that the school submits the name of a student who has gone above and beyond in a non-academic area of education.

Commissioner Nick Milas left the meeting.

**TIME: 20:56 hours**

In response to a request from Commissioner Mike Pizzola, the Chair indicated that a copy of the Foundations Annual report could be obtained by contacting the Foundation office.

### **7.3 Parent Commissioners Report**

There was no report.

### **7.4 Update on Enrolment 2008-2009:**

The Director of School Organization advised that enrolment currently stands at 14 760 and that there are approximately 30 foreign students to be registered. He cautioned that enrolment may decrease due to students moving to private school. Regular updates will be provided.

Commissioner Nick Milas returned to the meeting.

**TIME: 20:58 hours**

### **7.5 Back-to-School:**

The Director of School Organization advised the Executive Committee that the distribution of the transportation information to students has been completed, the transporters have received their respective routes and the drivers will be reviewing the routes to ensure that everything is okay.

He went on to note that a new transportation software has been installed to manage requests and complaints that are received electronically. The program appears to work well given the approximately 334 calls received since the transport information was mailed out

In response to a question from Commissioner Edward Turchyniak, the Director of School Organization noted that the report on the use of small passenger vans, stemming from the New Brunswick accident involving a school basketball team, has not yet been released. He went on to inform the Council that in Québec small passenger vans cannot be used to transport students.

### **7.6 Report of QESBA:**

Commissioner Carolyn Curiale advised the Council that the Quebec English School Boards Association (QESBA) Annual General Meeting (AGM) will be held on the territory of the Riverside School Board with a professional development session on the Friday evening and the AGM on Saturday.

She thanked the Secretary General for the detailed copy of the changes proposed to Bill 88 during the sessions of the Assemblée nationale, as she had shared it with her QESBA colleagues.

She further noted that the QESBA will be seeking intervener status, depositing its affidavit in early September. She will be sitting on the Bill 104 committee in her capacity as Vice-President of the QESBA.

## **8.0 QUESTION PERIOD:**

There were no questions

## **9.0 CORRESPONDENCE:**

The Chair drew attention to correspondence contained in the meeting package.

In response to comments on her visit to a Hutterite school contained in her Canadian School Boards Annual Meeting report, Commissioner Carolyn Curiale noted that the Saskatchewan government monitors these schools closely to ensure that the education meets the standards.

In response to a question from Commissioner Walter Fogel concerning a field trip to Costa Rica, the Chair noted that the trip is self-financed and supported by the parents of the students participating.

The Council entered into discussion on various aspects of field trips and it was noted that it is the Governing Board of a school that approves a field trip and that field trips are optional not mandatory.

In response to a concern expressed by Commissioner Walter Fogel, the Chair noted that he was aware of the comments made by the leader of the Action démocratique concerning discipline being the responsibility of the school and that he would bring this up at the meeting of the English Chairs for a unified response.

## 10.0 VARIA:

### 10.1 *General Assemblies:*

Parent Commissioner Lisa Chartier noted that she and the Chair of the Parents Committee have received several complaints from parents concerning the conflict of General Assembly dates at the elementary and high school level.

### 10.2 *Grenville E.S. Open House:*

Commissioner Robert Dixon noted that the Principal of Grenville Elementary School will be holding a BBQ and open house on 2008-09-18 to promote the school and has invited the entire community, as well as all the Council of Commissioners. He encouraged everyone to attend.

The Director General reminded the Council that 2008-2009 is the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board and extended appreciation for all of the efforts of those who have been a part of the school board since its beginning. A letter has been sent to all employees and a letter to the stakeholders has been posted on the Web site.

The Chair inquired how the Commissioners like the new agenda format and it was agreed that it worked well this evening.

## 11.0 ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING:

Commissioner Walter Fogel MOVED the conclusion of the meeting.

**Carried unanimously**

**TIME: 21:30 hours**

**NEXT MEETING ⇒ REGULAR ⇒ 2008-09-24**