

PROVINCE OF QUEBEC

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE SIR WILFRID LAURIER SCHOOL BOARD HELD ON 2008-11-26

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, 2008-11-26:

Present: Commissioners Steve Bletas, Chair; Carolyn Curiale, Vice-Chair; Georges Benoit, Mario Di Domenico, Robert Dixon, Nazario Facchino, Walter Fogel, Steve Kmec, Nick Milas, Steve Mitchell, Tom Mouhteros, Grace Nesi, Merle Parkinson, 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; Johanne Brabant, Director of Adult & Vocational Education; Line Desgroseilliers, Director of Information Technology; Linda Di Domenico, Director of Human Resources (Interim); 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; and Jocelyne Thompson-Ness, Administrative Assistant. Several other persons were also in the audience.

Absent: Commissioners Peter MacLaurin, Albina Pace, Mike Pizzola, and Parent Commissioner Luc Samson

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

Commissioners Steve Mitchell and Nancy Rupnik entered the meeting. **TIME: 19:31 hours**

The Chair noted that he is extremely proud this evening to congratulate Andrea Prupas, Educational Consultant in Special Education, on winning the Young Professional Prize of the FPPE (Fédération des Professionnelle et Professionnels de l'Éducation). This prize is to recognize contributions and professional excellence and is presented annually during Professionals' Week.

The Chair presented Ms. Prupas with a certificate of congratulations from the school board to honour this achievement. The Director of Educational Services also presented a certificate and a gift from the department.

Ms. Prupas thanked everyone for their kind words and acknowledged that she is honoured to have been chosen to receive this honour. She also thanked her colleague, Maria Guillen, Educational Consultant in Communication, who nominated her for this prize,

The Chairman announced that Ms. Prupas and Ms. Guillen, have been selected to present a workshop at the International Special Education Conference in Seattle, Washington, in April 2009. The workshop will focus on the work they have been doing on the "Bridge Reading Program", an alternative reading program suitable for special needs students with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD). The school board is honoured that two of its employees have been chosen to present at such a respected conference.

Commissioner Merle Parkinson entered the meeting via telephone. **TIME: 19:39 hours**

1.0 ACCEPTANCE OF AGENDA:**CC-081126-CA-0058**

Commissioner Mario Di Domenico MOVED THAT the agenda be accepted as **presented** in document #SWLSB-2008/11/26-CA-001.

Carried unanimously

2.0 APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioner Edward Turchyniak requested that the following be added to the minutes of 2008-10-22, page 1951, item 6.1.1, paragraph 5:

Commissioner Edward Turchyniak noted that the Ministère de l'Éducation, du Loisir et du Sport (MELS) claws back some of the school board's extra taxation revenues that occur after the initial billing. This action hurts the school board as in previous years these extra revenues were used to compensate for additional expenses related to the growth of the student population.

CC-081022-CA-0059

Commissioner Edward Turchyniak MOVED THAT the minutes of the REGULAR meeting of the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board held on 2008-10-22, 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, Nick Milas, Steve Mitchell, Tom Mouhteros, Grace Nesi, Merle Parkinson, William Pollock, Nancy Rupnik, Edward Turchyniak
Commissioners ABSTAINING:	Walter Fogel

3.0 QUESTION PERIOD

There were no questions.

4.0 REPORT FROM THE CHAIR:

4.1 Chair's Report:

The Chair advised the Council that he and the Director General have been able to enlist 16 sponsors for the Career Exploration Lab over the last few weeks to support the purchase of the training modules. The Sir Wilfrid Laurier Foundation is also a supporter of this project.

One of the most recent contributors is a part of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board family, the SEPB 577 (Administrative Support Union), who made a generous contribution of 5 000\$ to the Career Exploration Lab with the purchase of the "Vinyl Sign Making" module. On behalf of the school board, the Chair extended appreciation for their donation and thanked the local President, Jack Fitch.

He continued noting that a request has been made to the Ministère de l'Éducation, du Loisir et du Sport (MELS) for a second Career Exploration Lab in the Laurentians and that the school board is currently awaiting a response.

He went on to state:

"Tonight, we will have a brief summary from the Director General of the steps being taken towards a financial recovery plan.

Preparing such a plan is a difficult exercise which requires a great deal of involvement of all Directors and members of the management team. In order to bring consensual recommendations to the Council of Commissioners tough choices have to be brought forward. For this to happen, we the Council, with the Directorate must have a common vision to achieve the necessary results. They have a tough job ahead and it is our responsibility, the Council of Commissioners, to allow them to do this so that we can evaluate and assess the validity of this recovery plan.

On 2008-12-03, at 7 p.m., I am asking all Commissioners and Directors to attend a caucus meeting for the recovery plan. There will be discussion and questions on the recommendations brought forward.

I am asking everyone to keep an open mind and listen and participate for the betterment of the school board.

Please mark it in your calendar and the only topic is the recovery plan.”

The Director General noted that work on the recovery plan has been ongoing as cuts were made during the preparation of the 2008-2009 budget. The recovery plan has also been discussed at the Management Committee, with input being sought as to what areas should remain non-negotiable. The recommendation received for non-negotiable areas was direct services to students. The Management Committee also suggested several areas that could be considered for reduction.

She continued noting that it is the intention to establish a solid recovery plan that will ensure that the school board does not repeat history and fall back into debt. The recovery plan must be in Québec by 2008-12-15, therefore, a caucus of the Council will take place on 2008-12-03 to discuss recommendations, followed by a Management Committee on 2008-12-08 for final input and the final recovery plan will be presented to Council for its approval on 2008-12-10. She extended her appreciation to everyone involved for all of the work that is being done within a very short time period.

In response to a question from Commissioner Steve Kmec, the Chair indicated that all secondary 3 students will have access to the Career Exploration Lab and that there will be one visit that will be covered by the funding received by the school board, other visits will have to be covered by the school.

In response to a question from Commissioner Merle Parkinson, the Director General noted that the Career Exploration Labs will be able to generate revenues by offering courses to organizations like Emploi-Québec. The project has sustainability as there are many ways in which funding can be sought.

The Chair indicated that the Director General has been requested to apply for funding at both the Provincial and Federal levels of government.

5.0 BUSINESS ARISING:

5.1 Policy #1999-ED-03: Program of Studies – Elementary:

The Director of Educational Services provided background information on the two educational policies noting that the consultation period had been concluded and that the feedback received was reviewed and the elements retained incorporated into the policies.

CC-081126-ED-0060

WHEREAS the Council of Commissioners adopted resolution # CC-080625-ED-0240 approving in principle amendments to policy #1999-ED-03: Program of Studies for the Elementary School;

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

Commissioner Grace Nesi MOVED THAT, on the recommendation of the Educational Services Committee, the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board approve, as amended, policy #1999-ED-03: Program of Studies for the Elementary School.

Carried unanimously

5.2 Policy #1999-ED-04: Program of Studies – Secondary:

CC-081126-ED-0061

WHEREAS the Council of Commissioners adopted resolution # CC-080625-ED-0241 approving in principle amendments to policy #1999-ED-04: Program of Studies for the Secondary School;

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

Commissioner Carolyn Curiale MOVED THAT, on the recommendation of the Educational Services Committee, the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board approve, as amended, policy #1999-ED-04: Program of Studies for the Secondary School.

Carried unanimously

On a point of “business arising”, from the minutes of 2008-10-22, pages 1964 and 1965, items 6.3.8 and 6.3.9, Commissioner Walter Fogel inquired if the requests concerning Measures 50690 and 50710 will be accepted as the deadline of 2008-09-30 has passed.

The Chair advised that although the deadline has passed the Ministère de l'Éducation, du Loisir et du Sport (MELS) will consider the requests.

On an additional point of “business arising” from the same minutes, page 1969, item 6.6.1, Commissioner Walter Fogel inquired about the creation of the School Board Librarian position and if it would involve tenure at some point.

The Director of Educational Services informed Commissioner Fogel that this position has been created and funded by the MELS and that if the position continues beyond two years that the MELS will fold the funding into the school board's base budget. MELS will fund the position as long as it exists.

In response to a question from Commissioner Edward Turchyniak, the Director General noted that the school board is obligated to create this position and that the position has been posted but not yet filled.

In response to a comment from Commissioner Walter Fogel concerning the situation with Joliette Elementary School, the Chair asked that Commissioner Fogel give the newspaper article about a recent judgement by the Supreme Court of Canada to the Secretary General and that she would look into its significance.

Commissioner Walter Fogel left the meeting.

Time: 20:10 hours

6.0 DECISION ITEMS:

6.1 MATERIAL RESOURCES

6.1.1 Engagement of Architect – McCaig ES Enlargement/Renovation Project:

The Director of Material Resources advised that the tenders for the services of an architect and an engineer were opened on 2008-11-14. A Selection Committee was convened to review the 12 tenders received for the services of an architect and the 9 received for the services of an engineer and the Selection Committee unanimously supports its recommendations.

In response to a question from Commissioner Steve Kmec concerning the building collapse in Montreal earlier today, the Chair noted that this should be discussed at the next meeting of the Material Resources Committee.

CC-081126-MR-0062

WHEREAS the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board adopted resolution #CC081022-MR-0047 approving a call for public tenders for the services of an architect and a consulting engineer to prepare the drawings, plans and tender specifications for the McCaig Elementary School enlargement/renovation project;

WHEREAS public tenders were called and opened on 2008-11-14;

WHEREAS a selection committee has studied and evaluated all architectural tenders received and prepared a recommendation;

Commissioner Nancy Rupnik MOVED THAT, on the recommendation of the Selection Committee, the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board retain the services of **Héloïse Thibodeau**, architect, to prepare the architectural specifications, drawings, tendering documentation and provide supervision for the enlargement/renovation of McCaig Elementary School.

AND THAT the cost of these services be paid in accordance with the Ministère de l'Éducation, du Loisir et du Sport (MELS) remuneration scale for professionals.

FURTHER THAT, upon receipt of the completed drawings, plans and tender specifications, a public tender be called for the services of a contractor.

Carried unanimously

6.1.2 Engagement of Engineer – McCaig ES Enlargement/Renovation Project:

CC-081126-MR-0063

WHEREAS the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board adopted resolution #CC081022-MR-0047 approving a call for public tenders for the services of an architect and a consulting engineer to prepare the drawings, plans and tender specifications for the McCaig Elementary School enlargement/renovation project;

WHEREAS public tenders were called and opened on 2008-11-14;

WHEREAS a selection committee has studied and evaluated all engineering tenders received and prepared a recommendation;

Commissioner Robert Dixon MOVED THAT, on the recommendation of the Selection Committee, the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board retain the services of **Cima+**, consulting engineers, to prepare the technical engineering specifications, drawings, and tendering documentation and provide supervision for the enlargement / renovation of McCaig Elementary School.

AND THAT the cost of these services be paid in accordance with the Ministère de l'Éducation, du Loisir et du Sport (MELS) remuneration scale for professionals.

FURTHER THAT, upon receipt of the completed drawings, plans and tender specifications, a public tender be called for the services of a contractor.

Carried unanimously

6.1.3 Call to Tender – Arundel ES Septic Project:

The Director of Material Resources noted that this project was included on the list of capital projects approved in June 2008 and that now approval is required to a call for tenders for the services of a contractor as the project is over 100 000\$.

CC-081126-MR-0064

WHEREAS the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board has resolved to install a new septic tank and waste water disposal system at Arundel Elementary School;

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;

Commissioner Nazario Facchino MOVED THAT, on the recommendation of the Material Resources Committee, the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board approve a public call to tender for the services of a general contractor for the installation of a new septic tank and waste water disposal system at Arundel Elementary School.

Carried unanimously

6.1.4 Call to Tender – Laurentian ES Playground Project:

The Director of Material Resources commented on the Laurentian Elementary School playground project.

CC-081126-MR-0065

WHEREAS Laurentian Elementary School has submitted a playground project to the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board;

WHEREAS the costs of the project have been estimated to **81 919,03\$**, taxes included, and would be shared as per the following distribution:

Availability of funds	
Ministère de l'Éducation, du Loisir et du Sport (MELS)	21 608,00\$
City of Lachute	32 412,50\$
Laurentian Elementary School	20 000,00\$
SWLSB	7 898,53\$
TOTAL	81 919,03\$

Cost of the project	
Architectual fees	7 750,00\$
Construction	52 625,00\$
Equipment and furnishings	7 700,00\$
Tree planting	4 500,00\$
Sub-total	72 575,00\$
GST	3 628,75\$
PST	5 715,28\$
TOTAL	81 919,03\$

WHEREAS the Director of Material Resources is recommending that a public call to tenders be called;

Commissioner Tom Mouhteros MOVED THAT, on the recommendation of the Material Resources Committee, the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board approve a call to tender for the services of a contractor to complete the playground project at Laurentian Elementary School.

Carried unanimously

Commissioner Walter Fogel returned to the meeting.

TIME: 20:20 hours

6.2 COMMUNICATIONS & CORPORATE AFFAIRS

6.2.1 Agreement with CRÉ-Laval:

The Secretary General provided background information on the agreement with the Conférence régionale des élus de Laval (CRÉ – Laval) noting that the school board's participation does not involve any financial commitment.

CC-081126-CA-0066

WHEREAS the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board has been involved with the Conférence régionale des élus de Laval (CRÉ – Laval) for several years;

WHEREAS the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board wishes to be a part of the entente on the "Amélioration de la Santé globale par la promotion et la prévention, par l'adoption et le développement de saines habitudes de vie et par l'accessibilité aux services" with the CRÉ – Laval;

Commissioner William Pollock MOVED THAT, on the recommendation of the Director General and the Communications & Corporate Affairs Committee, the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board enter into an agreement with the Conférence régionale des élus de Laval (CRÉ – Laval) for the "Amélioration de la Santé globale par la promotion et la prévention, par l'adoption et le développement de saines habitudes de vie et par l'accessibilité aux services".

AND THAT the Chair, and in his absence or with his knowledge the Vice-Chair, 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

6.2.2 Agreement with Ville de Laval:

The Secretary General advised the Council that the negotiations on the Protocol of Agreement for the use of Gerry Datillio **Park** located at 3200, boul. Souvenir O. have concluded and that the final version is ready for signing.

*WHEREAS the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board and the Ville de Laval have been in negotiations for a Protocol of Agreement for the use of Gerry Datillio **Park** located at 3200, boulevard Souvenir O.;*

WHEREAS the negotiations have been concluded to the satisfaction of both parties;

*Commissioner Steve Mitchell MOVED THAT the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board approve the Protocol of Agreement with the Ville de Laval for the use of Gerry Datillio **Park** located at 3200, boulevard Souvenir O.*

AND THAT the Chair, and in his absence or with his knowledge the Vice-Chair, 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 Protocol of Agreement.

The Council entered into discussion and concerns were expressed over whether or not stakeholders were consulted. It was suggested that the resolution be tabled until this is known.

The Secretary General noted that both Laval Junior and Laval Liberty High Schools were part of the negotiations and that Laval Liberty High School has signed off on the final protocol.

Discussion continued and the Chair noted that until the agreement is signed, the Ville de Laval will not provide its share of the financing.

The Director General suggested that perhaps the Governing Boards of both schools could approve a resolution acknowledging communication of the agreement and the rental arrangements and that these resolutions could be presented as supporting documents at the 2008-12-10 meeting of the Council.

CC-081126-CA-0067

Commissioner Walter Fogel MOVED THAT the proposed resolution concerning the entente with the Ville de Laval for the use of the playing field at 3200, boulevard Souvenir O. be tabled to the 2008-12-10 meeting of the Council of Commissioners.

Carried unanimously

6.3 FINANCIAL RESOURCES

6.3.1 Statement of Taxes in Arrears:

The Director of Financial Resources commented on the statement of taxes in arrears noting that the report was prepared prior to the second instalment being received for those who pay school taxes in two payments.

CC-081126-FR-0068

Commissioner Merle Parkinson MOVED THAT the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board approve, in accordance with sections 339 and 340 of the Education Act, the statement prepared by the Director of Financial Resources for the Director General for school taxes outstanding as of 2008-11-01 in the amount of 6 734 172,30\$.

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

7.0 INFORMATION ITEMS

7.1 SWL Foundation:

Commissioner Edward Turchyniak advised that tickets to the "Magic and Humour" Gala on 2009-01-08 are now on sale and that they are 225\$ each.

The Foundation is working on the lottery and it will be launched at the gala with prizes such as a car, vacations, etc. Tickets for the lottery will be 100\$ each, members of the foundation and their immediate families are ineligible to participate and prizes cannot be shared. The prizes will be drawn at the lobster dinner in June 2009.

7.2 Parent Commissioners Report

Parent Commissioner Lisa Chartier commented on the last meeting of the Parents Committee noting that the Chair of this committee has requested that its members not bring any personal agendas to the table as they impede the purpose of the committee, which to represent issues related to the schools and school board as a whole.

A lengthy discussion took place concerning the consultation on the Healthy Eating and Active Living Policy and the Parents Committee felt that it is important for the school board to promote the dangers of "power" beverages even though they are not available in the schools. The issue of "policing" what goes into a student's lunch was also brought up but it was noted that this is not possible and that schools should be proactive in educating the students to the various food allergies that exist as well as the do's and don'ts when in the company of someone with allergies.

The Parents Committee has changed the format of its Action Plan for 2008-2009 by creating a list of discussion topics and at each meeting one will be discussed and feedback will be given to the school board. The topic for December will be communication.

7.3 School Surpluses:

The Director of Financial Resources presented and reviewed the school surpluses as of 2008-10-31.

In response to a question from Commissioner Edward Turchyniak, the Director of Financial Resources noted that she will follow-up on the large surplus at Laval Junior High School and report back at the 2008-12-10 meeting of the Council. She indicated that approximately 142 000\$ of the surplus is designated.

In response to several other questions concerning the surpluses and deficits, the Director of Financial Resources noted that at this point in the school year, there are expenses to be incurred for planned projects for funds located in a school's surplus but, as the year goes on, these funds will be expended. She also noted that not all of the schools send out their school fee invoices at the same time.

In response to a question from Commissioner Walter Fogel, the Chair indicated that the surplus/deficit situation is monitored very closely throughout the year.

7.4 Report of the QESBA:

Commissioner Carolyn Curiale brought the Council up to date on the Quebec English School Boards Association's (QESBA) intervener status **on Bill 104** noting that oral arguments will be heard on 2008-12-15.

She went on to provide an update on the direction that has been taken by the Federal Government in terms of intervener status. The Attorney General sought intervener status **on Bill 104** but on the side of the Provincial Government supporting the prediction that the French language is so imperiled that **revoking** Bill 104 would have a negative effect on the province.

The QESBA's position continues to be that the 500 or so students that are affected by Bill 104 can enrich the English system without putting the French system at risk, as well the students that graduate from the English system continue their education to become full and bilingual contributors to the Quebec society.

In response to a question from Commissioner Steve Kmec, the Chair advised that many municipalities within Québec are against the twinning of school and municipal elections and that at this time everyone needs to be patient due to the upcoming election and the changes that will result. The Chairs and Vice-Chairs of the English school boards will be discussing this issue prior to the holiday season.

8.0 QUESTION PERIOD:

There were no questions.

9.0 CORRESPONDENCE:

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

10.0 VARIA:

The Director General advised the Council that the Assistant Director of Human Resources will be going on maternity leave in January 2009. A posting for this position will be done shortly and will be posted for 10 days and a Selection Committee will be formed, even though she has been delegated the power to replace the position.

In response to a question from Commissioner Steve Kmec, the Director General noted that this is a temporary replacement and that when the current Assistant Director of Human Resources returns from maternity leave the replacement position will be concluded.

11.0 ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING:

Commissioner Steve Kmec MOVED adjournment of the meeting.

Carried unanimously

TIME: 20:45 hours

NEXT MEETING ⇨ REGULAR ⇨ 2008-12-10

Marie-Claude Drouin, Secretary General

Steve Bletas, Chair