

PROVINCE OF QUEBEC

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE SIR WILFRID LAURIER SCHOOL BOARD HELD ON 2008-12-10

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, 2008-12-10:

Present: Commissioners Steve Bletas, Chair; Carolyn Curiale, Vice-Chair; Georges Benoit, Mario Di Domenico, Robert Dixon, Nazario Facchino, Walter Fogel, Steve Kmec, Peter MacLaurin, 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 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); Daniel Hogue, Director of Material Resources; Livia Nassivera, Director of Financial Resources; George Paquette, Director of School Organization; Gerry Robillard, Assistant Director of Educational & Complimentary Services and Jocelyne Thompson-Ness, Administrative Assistant. Several other persons were also in the audience.

The Chair called the meeting to order at 19:33 hours.

1.0 ACCEPTANCE OF AGENDA:**CC-081210-CA-0069**

Commissioner Steve Mitchell MOVED THAT the agenda be accepted as presented in document #SWLSB-2008/12/10-CA-001.

Carried unanimously

2.0 APPROVAL OF MINUTES**CC-081210-CA-0070**

Commissioner Tom Mouhteros MOVED THAT the minutes of the REGULAR meeting of the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board held on 2008-11-26, having been received by all members prior to this meeting, be approved as presented.

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, Steve Kmec, Nick Milas, Steve Mitchell, Tom Mouhteros, Grace Nesi, Merle Parkinson, Nancy Rupnik, Edward Turchyniak
Commissioners ABSTAINING:	Albina Pace, Mike Pizzola

3.0 QUESTION PERIOD

In response to a question from Silvana Di Medio, Chair of the Parents Committee, the Assistant Director General acknowledged that in some cases, substitutes are not always qualified teachers. A new process is being developed to ensure that qualified teachers are the primary choice to substitute and that if none are available, a non-qualified teacher will be used.

Commissioner Peter MacLaurin entered the meeting.

TIME: 19:36 hours

Ms. Di Medio thanked the Council for their time and also extended the appreciation of the Parents Committee for the efforts made by Commissioners to attend their meetings.

Commissioner William Pollock entered the meeting.

TIME: 19:37 hours

4.0 REPORT FROM THE CHAIR:

4.1 Chair's Report:

There was no report.

4.2 Recovery Plan 2008-2013:

The Director General presented and reviewed the 2008 – 2013 Recovery Plan noting that the Directors, ALT and the Management Committee had all contributed to the development of a viable recovery plan.

WHEREAS the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board wishes to address the current budget deficit without delay and administer its financial resources as proficiently as possible for future years;

WHEREAS the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board has involved all stakeholders in the process of developing a consensus of cost-reducing measures in the recovery plan which will not affect direct services to students;

WHEREAS the Management Committee was consulted on which strategies it felt would be most appropriate, and the Administrative Leadership Team was asked to prepare individual action plans illustrating which measures each department would be willing to put in place to help offset the deficit;

WHEREAS the Management Committee was consulted on the final Recovery Plan 2008-2013 proposal at its meeting held on 2008-12-08;

WHEREAS in keeping with government requirements, the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board must submit its Financial Recovery Plan to the MELs no later than December 15, 2008;

WHEREAS the recommendations retained as a result of the consultation process and the financial impact over the 5 years of the recovery plan is as follows:

	2008-2009	2009-2010	2010-2011	2011-2012	2012-2013
Adjusted Annual Surplus (Deficit)	(3,684,824\$)	(2,213,349 \$)	(1,894,582\$)	(1,574,582\$)	(1,529,582 \$)
PROPOSED ACTION PLAN MEASURES					
1. Implement tighter controls	(9,500\$)	(9,500 \$)	(9,500\$)	(9,500\$)	(9,500\$)
2. Improve management of teacher envelope	90,000\$	682,000 \$	751,000\$	735,000\$	757,000\$
3. Review management practices to reduce expenses	37,400\$	628,000 \$	628,000\$	628,000\$	628,000\$
4. Review staffing levels	229,000\$	1,302,000 \$	1,342,000\$	1,342,000\$	1,342,000\$
5. Maximize revenues	750,000\$	500,00 \$	735,000\$	260,000\$	285,000\$
Total planned savings	1,096,900\$	3,102,500\$	3,446,500\$	2,955,500\$	3,002,500\$
OVERALL RECOVERY PLAN RESULTS					
Surplus (deficit) expected for the year	(2,587,924\$)	889,151\$	1,551,918\$	1,380,918\$	1,472,918\$
Surplus (deficit) at beginning of the year	(2,681,417\$)	(5,269,341 \$)	(4,380,190 \$)	(2,828,272\$)	(1,447,354 \$)
Surplus (deficit) at the end of the year	(5,269,341\$)	(4,380,190 \$)	(2,828,272 \$)	(1,447,354\$)	25,564\$

Commissioner William Pollock *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 **2008-2013 Financial Recovery Plan** of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board as submitted in document #SWLSB-2008/12/10-FR-001.

The Council entered into discussion on the recovery plan.

Commissioner Walter Fogel noted that he takes exception to some of the changes that have been made to the recovery.

Commissioner Fogel recommended that the 2008 – 2013 Recovery Plan be amended by striking out a part of section 5 with respect to the action plan regarding school surpluses. Commissioner William Pollock accepted the amendment.

Discussion continued with questions being raised concerning the school surpluses. The following comments were made concerning the surpluses:

- that it would be prudent to inquire which schools have already designated their surpluses for projects;
- the school board is not taking away the school surpluses but limiting the spending;
- the school surpluses is a global measure that is addressed as a whole and not on a school by school basis.

In response to all of the questions and concerns with respect to the school surpluses, the Director General noted that the surplus is part of the global measure and that an examination of past years has been performed and has shown that surpluses have increased and not been spent. The measure in place is not unrealistic, given the history, and is not made so as to deny already designated projects to the schools.

The Director of Financial Resources reminded the Council that funds already designated for projects by a school are not a part of the school surplus.

Further discussion ensued.

On a “point of order”, Commissioner Nick Milas called for the vote on the resolution including the amendment.

The Chair inquired if Commissioner Pollock still supported the amendment. Commissioner Pollock indicated that after the lengthy discussions he wished to withdraw his support of the amendment to the recovery plan.

Commissioner Mario Di Domenico noted that everyone must remember that it is a global plan and that there is a tracking mechanism in place to ensure that if there is a negative shift in the direction of the recovery plan it can be re-directed.

CC-081210-FR-0071

Commissioner Walter Fogel MOVED THAT the recovery plan be modified by removing “*Recommendation 5 – Maximize Revenues, regarding limiting the spending of school surpluses*”

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

CC-081210-FR-0072

WHEREAS the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board wishes to address the current budget deficit without delay and administer its financial resources as proficiently as possible for future years;

WHEREAS the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board has involved all stakeholders in the process of developing a consensus of cost-reducing measures in the recovery plan which will not affect direct services to students;

WHEREAS the Management Committee was consulted on which strategies it felt would be most appropriate, and the Administrative Leadership Team was asked to prepare individual action plans illustrating which measures each department would be willing to put in place to help offset the deficit;

WHEREAS the Management Committee was consulted on the final Recovery Plan 2008-2013 proposal at its meeting held on 2008-12-08;

WHEREAS in keeping with government requirements, the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board must submit its Financial Recovery Plan to the MELS no later than December 15, 2008;

WHEREAS the recommendations retained as a result of the consultation process and the financial impact over the 5 years of the recovery plan is as follows:

	2008-2009	2009-2010	2010-2011	2011-2012	2012-2013
Adjusted Annual Surplus (Deficit)	(3,684,824\$)	(2,213,349\$)	(1,894,582\$)	(1,574,582\$)	(1,529,582\$)
PROPOSED ACTION PLAN MEASURES					
1. Implement tighter controls	(9,500\$)	(9,500 \$)	(9,500\$)	(9,500\$)	(9,500\$)
2. Improve management of teacher envelope	90,000\$	682,000 \$	751,000\$	735,000\$	757,000\$
3. Review management practices to reduce expenses	37,400\$	628,000 \$	628,000\$	628,000\$	628,000\$
4. Review staffing levels	229,000\$	1,302,000 \$	1,342,000\$	1,342,000\$	1,342,000\$
5. Maximize revenues	750,000\$	500,00 \$	735,000\$	260,000\$	285,000\$
Total planned savings	1,096,900\$	3,102,500\$	3,446,500\$	2,955,500\$	3,002,500\$
OVERALL RECOVERY PLAN RESULTS					
Surplus (deficit) expected for the year	(2,587,924\$)	889,151\$	1,551,918\$	1,380,918\$	1,472,918\$
Surplus (deficit) at beginning of the year	(2,681,417\$)	(5,269,341\$)	(4,380,190 \$)	(2,828,272\$)	(1,447,354\$)
Surplus (deficit) at the end of the year	(5,269,341\$)	(4,380,190\$)	(2,828,272 \$)	(1,447,354\$)	25,564\$

Commissioner William Pollock 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 **2008-2013 Financial Recovery Plan** of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board as submitted in document #SWLSB-2008/12/10-FR-001.

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

In response to a question from Commissioner Robert Dixon, the Director General pointed out that the Management Committee is comprised of all levels of management and that each level is represented by an association. The associations examined the recovery plan and some took positions on certain sections which may have been reflected in the final vote of the Management Committee on the plan.

5.0 BUSINESS ARISING:

5.1 2009-2010 Enrolment Criteria:

The Director of School Organization presented the 2009-2010 Enrolment Criteria noting that the Parents Committee had been consulted and had supported the criteria as presented. He reminded the Council that as of 2009-2010 the grandfather clause that has been in effect for certain schools in the Laval area has expired and no longer appears in the criteria.

CC-081210-ED-0073

WHEREAS section 239 of the Education Act (R.S.Q., Chapter I-13.3) states *“Each year, every school board shall enrol students in its schools in keeping with the choice of each student’s parents or the choice of the student, if of full age. However, if the number of applications for enrolment in a school exceeds the capacity of the school, enrolment shall be effected according to the criteria established by the school board after consultation with the parents’ committee”*;

WHEREAS section 239 of the Education Act states *“Enrolment criteria must give priority to students coming under the jurisdiction of the school board and, as far as possible, to students whose place of residence is nearest to the school premises. They must be adopted, put into force and sent to each governing board at least 15 days before the beginning of the student enrolment period”*;

WHEREAS section 239 of the Education Act states *“The conditions or criteria for participation in a special project may not serve as criteria for enrolment in a school; nor may they operate to exclude a student from the school of the student’s choice if the student has a right to enrol in that school pursuant to the criteria referred to in the first paragraph”*;

WHEREAS the section 193 (6) of the Education Act requires that the Parents’ Committee be consulted on the criteria for the enrolment of students in schools, which exceed the capacity of the school;

WHEREAS the registration period for students for 2009-2010 is the week of 2009-02-02;

WHEREAS the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board Parents Committee have been consulted and endorses the 2009-2010 enrolment criteria;

Commissioner Walter Fogel MOVED THAT, on the recommendation of the Executive Committee, the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board approve the establishment of the criteria for enrolment of students in its schools, subject to the availability of space, for the 2009-2010 school year.

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

5.2 Agreement with the Ville de Laval:

The Secretary General presented and reviewed the Protocol of Agreement with the Ville de Laval for the use of the Gerry Datillio Park located at 3200, boul. Souvenir O.

In response to a question from Commissioner Steve Kmec, the Secretary General noted that if the field is rented the fees collected will be used to maintain the field.

CC-081210-CA-0074

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 Tom Mouhteros 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.

Carried unanimously

5.3 Amendment to By-Law #2000-CA-05: Date, Time & Place of Council Meetings:

The Secretary General presented the revised by-laws for the date, time and place of meetings of the Council of Commissioners and the Executive Committee noting that the process for the adoption or change to by-laws had been followed.

CC-081210-CA-0075

WHEREAS the Council of Commissioners approved resolution #CC-081022-CA-0040 which approved the change of meeting dates for both the Executive Committee and the Council of Commissioners in the month of April 2009;

WHEREAS the consultation process for by-laws, as per section 392 of the Education Act (R.S.Q., Chapter I-13.3), was adhered to and a public notice published in the 2008-11-09 edition of the Journal Le Courrier (Laval);

WHEREAS no responses to the proposed changes were received;

Parent Commissioner Luc Samson MOVED THAT, on the recommendation of the Directorate, the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board approve the amendments to by-law #BL2000-CA-05: Date, Time & Place of Regular Meetings of the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board, as contained in document #SWLSB-2008/12/10-CA-001.

Carried unanimously

5.4 Amendment to By-Law #2000-CA-15: Date, Time & Place of Executive Meetings:

CC-081210-CA-0076

WHEREAS the Council of Commissioners approved resolution #CC-081022-CA-0040 which approved the change of meeting dates for both the Executive Committee and the Council of Commissioners in the month of April 2009;

WHEREAS the consultation process for by-laws, as per section 392 of the Education Act (R.S.Q., Chapter I-13.3), was adhered to and a public notice published in the 2008-11-09 edition of the Journal Le Courrier (Laval);

WHEREAS no responses to the proposed changes were received;

Commissioner Nazario Facchino MOVED THAT, on the recommendation of the Directorate, the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board approve the amendments to by-law #BL2008-CA-15: Date, Time & Place of Regular Meetings of the Executive Committee of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board, as contained in document #SWLSB-2008/12/10-CA-002.

Carried unanimously

5.5 2008-2009 QESBA Membership Fees - Balance:

The Secretary General presented the final payment of the 2008-2009 Quebec English School Boards Association (QESBA) membership fees.

The Council entered into discussion on the feasibility of being a member of the QESBA.

Commissioner Edward Turchyniak left the meeting.

TIME: 20:29 hours

The Chair indicated that membership in the QESBA could be discussed further at a caucus meeting in the New Year.

Commissioner Tom Mouhteros left the meeting.

TIME: 20:32 hours

In response to a question from Commissioner Walter Fogel, the Chair advised that the QESBA had increased its fees by 1,00\$ per student for the 2008-2009 school year, a decision supported by the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board.

CC-081210-CA-0077

WHEREAS the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board adopted resolution #CC-080924-CA-0022 authorizing the payment of the provisional Quebec English School Boards Association (QESBA) membership fee;

WHEREAS the Quebec English School Boards Association (QESBA) has submitted an invoice for the balance of the 2008-2009 membership fee;

Commissioner Albina Pace MOVED THAT the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board approve the payment of the balance of the 2008-2009 Quebec English School Boards Association (QESBA) membership fee in the amount of 41 368,60\$.

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

6.0 DECISION ITEMS:**6.1 COMMUNICATIONS & CORPORATE AFFAIRS****6.1.1 Rules of Order & Procedure for the Executive Committee:**

The Secretary General advised the Council that the Executive Committee does not have any rules of order and that it would be prudent to establish a policy for this purpose.

Commissioner Edward Turchyniak returned to the meeting.

TIME: 20:35 hours

The Council entered into discussion on the draft rules of order for the Executive Committee.

Commissioner Tom Mouhteros returned to the meeting.

TIME: 20:36 hours

In response to several questions, the Secretary General noted that these rules are based on the Education Act (R.S.Q., Chapter I-13.3) and that if anyone has any comments or suggestions to please address them to her office. The policy will be presented for final approval in the New Year.

CC-081210-CA-0078

WHEREAS it has become necessary for rules of order and procedure to be established for the Executive Committee;

Commissioner Robert Dixon MOVED THAT, on the recommendation of the Executive Committee, the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board approve in principle policy #2008-CA-16: Rules of Order & Procedure for Meetings of the Executive Committee of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board.

Carried unanimously

6.2 ADULT & VOCATIONAL EDUCATION

6.2.1 2008-2013 Development Plan for the Vocational & Technical Training Offer for Laval:

The Director of Adult & Vocational Education presented and reviewed the vocational and technical training offer for the Laval region noting that it is currently being studied by the CNPEPT for recommendations to the Ministère de l'Éducation, du Loisir et du Sport (MELS). The decision of the MELS will be received in the New Year.

In response to a request from Commissioner Steve Kmec, the Director General acknowledged that having the training offer in English would be nice but given that it is the work of several partners and time constraints, it has not been translated. The highlights of the offer will be prepared in English for the next meeting of Council.

CC-081210-CA-0079

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 regionalization of services offered by the Ministère de l'Éducation, du Loisir et du Sport (MELS) will provide greater autonomy to regions;

WHEREAS the 2008-2013 Development Plan for the Vocational and Technical Training Offer would respond to the socioeconomic needs of the Laval region;

WHEREAS the 2008-2013 Development Plan for the Vocational and Technical Training Offer represents a significant measure to increase school retention and academic success;

WHEREAS regional partners support the 2008-2013 Development Plan for the Vocational and Technical Training Offer;

Commissioner Nancy Rupnik MOVED THAT, on the recommendation of the Directorate, the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board adopt the 2008-2013 Development Plan for the Vocational and Technical Training Offer for the Laval region, as presented in Document # SWLSB-2008/12/10-AE-001

AND THAT a copy of the 2008-2013 Development Plan for the Vocational and Technical Training Offer in Laval 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

6.3 HUMAN RESOURCES

6.3.1 Local Arrangements – SEPB 577:

The Director of Human Resources provided background information on the Local Arrangements for the Administrative Support Staff, SEPB 577.

In response to questions concerning moneyable sick days, the Director of Human Resources advised that in the past at the end of the school year, support staff employees could receive a lump sum payment for the balance of sick days. Under the new agreement those with a balance of sick days also have the option of converting it into vacation. If taken as vacation time, it is a saving to the school board.

CC-081210-HR-0080

WHEREAS the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board ratified the agreement in principle with the Syndicat des employees et employés professionnel-les et de bureau – FTQ, Local 577, SWLSB; on those matters subject to local arrangements;

WHEREAS the negotiations have been completed to the satisfaction of the representatives of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board;

WHEREAS the Syndicat des employees et employés professionnel-les et de bureau – FTQ, Local 577, SWLSB has advised that the negotiations have been completed and wishes to sign the agreement with the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board;

Commissioner Nick Milas 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 Local Arrangements between the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board and the Syndicat des employees et employés professionnel-les et de bureau – FTQ, Local 577, SWLSB; as they appear in document #SWLSB-2008/12/10-HR-001.

AND 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 Deputy Director General, be authorized to sign all documentation concerning these negotiations.

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, Peter MacLaurin, Nick Milas, Steve Mitchell, Tom Mouhteros, Grace Nesi, Albina Pace, Merle Parkinson, Mike Pizzola, William Pollock, Nancy Rupnik, Edward Turchyniak
Commissioners ABSTAINING:	Steve Kmec

7.0 INFORMATION ITEMS

7.1 SWL Foundation:

Commissioner Edward Turchyniak advised the Executive Committee that the permit for the lottery has been received and the tickets will go on sale the evening of the Gala with the draw being the night of the Lobster Fest. Ticket sales for the 2009-01-08 Sir Wilfrid Laurier Foundation Gala are going very well.

The Chair extended thanks to the Parents Committee for its purchase of two tickets, which were raffled off at the committee's last meeting. The winners were the parent delegates of Hillcrest Academy and Our Lady of Peace Elementary School.

7.2 Parent Commissioners Report

The report of the Parents Committee commented on the success of the recent Governing Board workshop, the action plan of the committee, and enriched programs.

In response to a concern expressed by Parent Commissioner Luc Samson, the Chair noted that the sharing of budget information by the Principal with the Governing Board has been an ongoing problem and was assured that the Director General would advise the Principals of the importance of providing the Governing Board with a budget update at each meeting.

7.3 School Surpluses:

In response to a question from the 2008-11-26 meeting of the Council of Commissioners, the Director of Financial Resources advised that the surplus at Laval Junior High School has decreased in the last month by 70 000\$. She noted that she is unaware of what the funds were used for as the Principal was not available to comment.

7.4 Report of the QESBA:

The Chair advised the Council that the Ministre de l'Éducation, du Loisir et du Sport (MELS) would be inviting five groups, from the French and English sectors, to join her in discussions on the implementation of Bill 88.

He went on to advise that the Quebec English School Boards Association (QESBA) will be launching a "Go Publique" campaign starting 2009-01-23 until 2009-02-01 to promote English public school. As part of this campaign the QESBA has asked each member board to contribute a success story of not more than 100 words. This campaign is funded through the QESBA. The campaign will appear in the Montreal Gazette and La Presse.

Commissioner Carolyn Curiale presented a brief report on the QESBA noting that anyone who wishes to sit on a QESBA committee is more than welcome to do so. The QESBA is being encouraged to hold these meetings by teleconference either over the lunch hour or early in the morning. The committee list is being circulated for sign up and will be sent to QESBA in the morning.

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.

In response to a question from Parent Commissioner Luc Samson concerning Bill 88, the Secretary General advised that the bill has been adopted but will come into force via government decree.

10.0 VARIA:

10.1 Appeals Review Committee:

Commissioner Merle Parkinson MOVED THAT the Council go in camera. **TIME: 21:06 hours**

The meeting resumed.

TIME: 21:10 hours

The Chair, on behalf of the Council of Commissioners, extended appreciation to the Director General, Assistant Director General and the Directors for all of their efforts in the establishment of a viable recovery plan.

The Chair wished everyone a happy, safe and healthy holiday.

11.0 ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING:

Commissioner Carolyn Curiale MOVED adjournment of the meeting.

Carried unanimously

TIME: 21:12 hours

NEXT MEETING ⇨ REGULAR ⇨ 2009-01-28