

PROVINCE OF QUEBEC

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE SIR WILFRID LAURIER SCHOOL BOARD HELD ON 2009-02-25

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, 2009-02-25:

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, Mike Pizzola, William Pollock and Nancy Rupnik; 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; Linda Di Domenico, Director of Human Resources (Interim); Heather Halman, Director of Educational Services; Daniel Hogue, Director of Material Resources; Livia Nassivera, Director of Financial Resources; and Jocelyne Thompson-Ness, Administrative Assistant.

Absent: Commissioners Merle Parkinson and Edward Turchyniak; and Parent Commissioners Lisa Chartier and Luc Samson.

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

The Chair wished Commissioner Tom Mouhteros and Alain Guay, Assistant Director General, best wishes for their upcoming birthdays.

1.0 ACCEPTANCE OF AGENDA:

The following additions to the agenda were proposed:

10.0 VARIA:

- 10.1 Textbooks..... INFO
- 10.2 School Success Plans INFO
- 10.3 Emergency Preparedness INFO

CC-090225-CA-0093

Commissioner Steve Mitchell MOVED THAT the agenda be accepted as amended in document #SWLSB-2009/02/25-CA-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, Steve Mitchell, Tom Mouhteros, Grace Nesi, Albina Pace, Mike Pizzola, William Pollock, Nancy Rupnik
Commissioners ABSTAINING:	Walter Fogel

2.0 APPROVAL OF MINUTES

CC-090225-CA-0094

Commissioner William Pollock MOVED THAT the minutes of the REGULAR meeting of the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board held on 2009-01-28, 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, Robert Dixon, Nazario Facchino, Peter MacLaurin, Steve Kmec, Nick Milas, Steve Mitchell, Tom Mouhteros, Grace Nesi, William Pollock, Nancy Rupnik
Commissioners ABSTAINING:	Mario Di Domenico, Walter Fogel, Albina Pace, Mike Pizzola

3.0 QUESTION PERIOD

Frank Massa, Laurier Senior High School (LSHS) Student Council President, and Amanda D'Angelo, LSHS Student Council member; presented a petition from the student body opposing the proposed changes to the school hours for the 2009-2010 school year. The student body of LSHS feels that if the school hours are changed the school day will not finish until 4:30 p.m., therefore, infringing on extra curricular activities, after school tutorials, part-time jobs, etc. The petition asks that the Council of Commissioners consider maintaining the status quo for the school hours at LSHS.

The Chair accepted the petition and thanked the students for their presentation. He noted that last week a meeting was held at LSHS to address concerns about the change in school hours. The petition will be given to the Director of School Organization for review and further discussion at the School Organization Committee.

4.0 REPORT FROM THE CHAIR:

4.1 *Chair's Report:*

The Chair advised Council that on 2009-02-23 he and the Director General had met with the Ministre de l'Éducation, du Loisir et du Sport, Michelle Courchesne, to discuss various issues, such as the Aquatic Centre in Laval, Career Exploration Labs, Joliette Elementary school, the possible implementation of an educational program for 4-year olds, E-books as an alternative to textbooks and other issues. It was a very positive meeting and the Ministre expressed interest on several issues.

The Director General noted that the offer of service for Adult & Vocational Education was also discussed and the Ministre was advised of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board's request for a centre in the lower Laurentians and the enlargement of CDC Laurier-Pont-Viau. She also noted that the Ministre was advised that the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board is seeking partnerships with the francophone school boards in the territory to share the new centre. The Ministre requested additional information on this, which is positive.

The Chair noted recent activities in which he has participated:

- he had attended a health and social services forum on 2009-02-16 for the English sector in Laval to discuss services to the Anglophone community;
- discussions concerning the upcoming provincial negotiations on the teachers' contract;
- the assembling of the feedback on the three Safety & Security Focus Sessions held in the Fall for the preparation of a summary;

- discussions on the establishment of a program to stimulate the talented and gifted students of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board;
- a meeting with **english chairs** on Bill 88, universal suffrage, and expenses for future school elections. Leo LaFrance, sous-ministre adjoint, was present to address the concerns of these issues and will present the feedback to the Ministre; and
- the pre-evaluation of the Director General.

The Secretary General noted that **sections of** Bill 88 **were decreed into law** on 2009-02-11 and that several sections are to be implemented immediately. On 2009-07-01 the sections pertaining to the strategic plan, the role of Commissioners, training of Commissioners, the role of the Ministre de l'Éducation, du Loisir et du Sport, and the implementation of a by-law concerning complaints will come into effect. The remaining non-implemented sections of this law will come into effect at later dates via government decree.

The Chair advised the Council that he had recently received some very positive feedback on the Arundel Nature Centre (ANC) and asked the Director of Educational Services to distribute this information to all Commissioners. There is a lot of potential for this centre under the guidance of the Director of Educational Services and the new technician at ANC.

Commissioner Peter MacLaurin extended appreciation to Commissioner William Pollock for all of his efforts concerning ANC since the merger of school boards in 1998.

In response to a question from Commissioner Steve Kmec, the Chair noted that he would take Commissioner Kmec's concerns about the lack of proper modalities for the implementation of Bill 88 to a meeting being held by the Ministère de l'Éducation, du Loisir et du Sport (MELS) with school boards and associations.

He further noted that the issue of twinning of school and municipal elections is still being considered by the Ministre.

Commissioner Tom Mouhteros left the meeting.

TIME: 20:15 hours

5.0 BUSINESS ARISING:

In response to a question from Commissioner Walter Fogel concerning resolution #CC-090128-FR-0088 on page 1996 of the minutes of the Council meeting held on 2009-01-25, the Director of Human Resources advised that every employee of the school board is assigned an employee number when the personnel dossier is opened in the payroll system. The use of the employee number in the minutes helps protect the identity of an employee in a public document.

In response to an additional question from Commissioner Fogel concerning item 6.4.1, on page 1997 of the above mentioned minutes, the Director of Material Resources explained that the operating costs of the Aquatic Centre over the first 20 years would be covered by additional government funding received through the capital envelope.

Commissioner Tom Mouhteros returned to the meeting.

TIME: 20:19 hours

In response to another question from Commissioner Fogel, the Chair noted that in order to start the Aquatic Centre project a Partnership Agreement must be negotiated with the Ville de Laval.

The Director General advised that the Ministre de l'Éducation, du Loisir et du Sport has offered to provide a MELS representative to assist the Secretary General and the Director of Material Resources in the negotiation of the Partnership Agreement. The project is not ready to be assessed as the detailed business plan for the project has not yet been established. Once the business plan is in place the project can move forward.

In response to a comment from Commissioner Fogel concerning resolutions #CC-090128-MR-0090 and 0091 found on page 1999 of the above minutes, the Chair indicated that the Selection Committee for the examination of tenders for Material Resources projects is established by the Director of Material Resources who asks for volunteers from the department committee, the Executive Committee and the Council. The issue of the establishment of a Selection Committee can be brought to the next Material Resources Committee meeting for further discussion.

In response to a final question and comment from Commissioner Fogel on item 7.3 on page 2000 of the above mentioned minutes, the Chair advised that there was no additional cost to the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board for its part in the Quebec English School Boards Association's (QESBA) "Go publique" campaign as it was funded from the school board's annual membership fees.

6.0 DECISION ITEMS:

6.1 FINANCIAL RESOURCES

6.1.1 *Engagement of Auditors:*

The Director of Financial Resources advised the Council that the Financial Resources Committee is recommending that the school board engage the current auditors for the audit of the 2008-2009 school year due to the major accounting reform being instituted by the Ministère de l'Éducation, du Loisir et du Sport (MELS). There will be an increase in the auditor's fee of 2% over the 2007-2008 cost but it does not include any additional work that may be required. Additional work over and above the contract will be subject to an hourly rate to be negotiated, if necessary.

In response to a question from Commissioner Steve Kmec, the Director of Financial Resources indicated that it is hard to determine if there will be additional work for the auditors as the MELS has not yet provided the list of dossiers subject to audit for the 2008-2009 school year.

CC-090225-FR-0095

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 **its** audit of the financial transactions of the school board;

WHEREAS given the changes due to the Reform of Government Accounting and the delay in the issuance by the MELS of the Mandate for External Auditors, it was determined that the current auditors should be 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 Tom Mouhteros MOVED THAT, on the recommendation of the Financial Resources Committee, the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board engage the firm of **Brunet Roy Dubé** at a cost of 26 526,00\$ including taxes, to conduct auditing services for the 2008-2009 school year.

AND THAT the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board call for public tenders for auditing services for a three year period, with an option for an additional year, effective with 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, Walter Fogel, Steve Kmec, Peter MacLaurin, Nick Milas, Steve Mitchell, Tom Mouhteros, Grace Nesi, Mike Pizzola, William Pollock, Nancy Rupnik
Commissioners ABSTAINING:	Albina Pace

6.2 MATERIAL RESOURCES

6.2.1 *Engagement of Contractor – St-Paul E.S. Window/Door Project:*

The Director of Material Resources reviewed the tenders for the window/door project at St-Paul Elementary School noting that the lowest conformable bidder has been selected. This project is funded under a MELS **measure** and is within the allocated budget

CC-090225-MR-0096

WHEREAS the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board has resolved to replace the windows and exterior doors at St-Paul 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;

WHEREAS public tenders were called and subsequently opened on 2009-02-23;

WHEREAS the Director of Material Resources recommends that the contract be awarded to the lowest conformable bidder;

Commissioner Walter Fogel MOVED THAT, on the recommendation of the Director of Material Resources, the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board award the contract for window and door replacement at St-Paul Elementary School to **Amro Aluminium Inc.** for a total cost of 589 000\$, all taxes included.

AND THAT the Chairman, 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 project.

Carried unanimously

6.2.2 *Engagement of Contractor – Genesis E.S. Roofing Project:*

The Director of Material Resources noted that the roofing project at Genesis Elementary School had a large response to the tender with 14 bids received.

CC-090225-MR-0097

WHEREAS the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board has resolved to repair the roof at Genesis 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;

WHEREAS public tenders were called and subsequently opened on 2009-02-23;

WHEREAS the Director of Material Resources recommends that the contract be awarded to the lowest conformable bidder;

Commissioner Nazario Facchino MOVED THAT, on the recommendation of the Director of Material Resources, the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board award the contract for repair of the roof at Genesis Elementary High School to **Les couvertures St-Léonard** for a total cost of 152 381,25\$, all taxes included.

AND THAT the Chairman, 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 project.

Carried unanimously

6.2.3 Engagement of Contractor – 2323 boul. Daniel Johnson:

The Director of Material Resources commented on the following resolution noting that the contractor selected is the lowest conformable bidder.

The Council entered into discussion and there was concern expressed over the contractor selected.

The Director of Material Resources assured them that this project would be monitored very closely given the past challenges the school board has encountered with this particular contractor.

Discussion continued.

The Secretary General noted that the lowest conformable bidder cannot be disqualified on previous experiences but a new mechanism for school boards was introduced in the new legislation, adopted in October 2008, to address these particular situations. This new **mechanism** is not retro active.

In response to a question from Commissioner Steve Kmec, the Secretary General noted that under the new regulation if a tender for construction is recalled the caller of the tender must compensate the **contractor** that would have been granted the contract.

In response to a suggestion from Commissioner Walter Fogel to delay the project, the Chair stressed the priority of getting the exterior walls at 2323 Daniel Johnson replaced.

The Director of Material Resources indicated that if the school board decides to recall this tender it will have to pay the lowest conformable bidder compensation, have the plans for the project redone as a new tender cannot be called on the same plans and the time delay of having to redo the project.

CC-090225-MR-0098

WHEREAS the Executive Committee of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board adopted resolution #EC-080715-MR-0015 approving the engagement of **Anis Nazar Architecte** to prepare the drawings, specifications and tendering documentation for the renovation project at 2323 boul. Daniel-Johnson;

WHEREAS public tenders were called and opened on 2009-02-23;

WHEREAS the Director of Material Resources recommends that the contract be awarded to the lowest conformable bidder;

Commissioner Albina Pace MOVED THAT, on the recommendation of the Director of Material Resources, the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board award the contract for the renovation project at 2323 boul. Daniel-Johnson to **Consortium MR** for a total cost of 2 164 000\$, all taxes included.

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 Assistant Director General, be authorized to sign all documentation concerning this project.

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, Nick Milas, Steve Mitchell, Tom Mouhteros, Grace Nesi, Albina Pace, Mike Pizzola, William Pollock, Nancy Rupnik
Commissioners voting NAY:	Peter MacLaurin
Commissioners ABSTAINING:	Walter Fogel

6.3 COMMUNICATIONS & CORPORATE AFFAIRS

6.3.1 Commissioners PIC – NSBA 2009:

The Secretary General advised the Council that she has received two requests to attend the 2009 National School Boards Association Conference (NSBA) being held from 2009-04-04 to 2009-04-07 in San Diego, California.

Commissioner Robert Dixon moved away from the table for the vote.

The **Chairman** turned the meeting over to the Vice-Chair in order to address a question.

In response to a question from Commissioner Walter Fogel, Commissioner Steve Bletas stated that many of the projects that the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board has achieved have come from ideas gained at the various NSBA conferences and that while the conferences may be geared towards education in the United States the information obtained has been very useful. He further noted that there is a budget for Commissioners professional development and that this trip to San Diego falls within the budget.

CC-090225-CA-0099

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 two Commissioners have submitted a request to attend the 2009 National School Boards Association Conference (NSBA) being held from 2009-04-04 to 2009-04-07 in San Diego, California;

Commissioner Nancy Rupnik MOVED THAT the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board approve the attendance of **Carolyn Curiale** at the 2009 National School Boards Association Conference (NSBA) in San Diego, California from 2009-04-04 to 2009-04-07.

AND THAT registration, travel, accommodations and miscellaneous expenses not exceed 4 000\$ Canadian for this Commissioner.

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

CC-090225-CA-0100

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 two Commissioners have submitted a request to attend the 2009 National School Boards Association Conference (NSBA) being held from 2009-04-04 to 2009-04-07 in San Diego, California;

Commissioner Grace Nesi MOVED THAT the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board approve the attendance of **Nazario Facchino** at the 2009 National School Boards Association Conference (NSBA) in San Diego, California from 2009-04-04 to 2009-04-07.

AND THAT registration, travel, accommodations and miscellaneous expenses not exceed 4 000\$ Canadian for this Commissioner.

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

The Chairman resumed the chair.

Commissioner Robert Dixon returned to the table.

Commissioner Nancy Rupnik left the meeting.

TIME: 20:49 hours

7.0 INFORMATION ITEMS

7.1 SWL Foundation:

The Chair noted that the funds raised at the 2009-01-08 Gala have been used to purchase modules for the CDC Laurier Career Exploration Lab. Lottery tickets are now on sale and he encouraged Commissioners to try and sell some tickets as the students of the school board are the beneficiaries.

7.2 Parent Commissioners Report

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

In response to a question from Commissioner Steve Mitchell, the Director of Financial Resources noted that the Principals have been asked to provide how much of their respective surplus' have been committed to projects and that she is currently awaiting responses.

Commissioner Nancy Rupnik returned to the meeting.

TIME: 20:53 hours

In response to a comment from the Chair, the Secretary General advised the Council that there will be a Governing Board workshop, **via video conference**, focused on financial issues on 2009-03-31 at the Community Learning Centres in Laval and Lachute.

In response to an observation from Commissioner Peter MacLaurin, the Director General indicated that she would include an overview of where the **school surpluses stand** in her monthly recovery plan report.

7.3 Report of the QESBA:

The Chair advised the Council that on March 27 & 28, 2009 the Quebec English School Boards Association (QESBA) would be holding its winter professional development session at Hôtel Le Chantecler. The Ministre de l'Éducation, du Loisir et du Sport will be present speak on the Friday evening. He encouraged Commissioners to attend as the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board is the host board.

Commissioner Carolyn Curiale noted that for anyone interested in attending the 2009 AAESQ/QESBA Spring Conference the information is available on the QESBA Web site.

In response to a question from Commissioner Walter Fogel, the Director General noted that if the class size ratio changes it does not guarantee that there will not be oversized classes. She also noted that the funding of oversize classes comes from the teacher envelope.

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:

10.1 Textbooks:

In response to comments from Commissioner Steve Mitchell, the Director of Educational Services noted that the Ministère de l'Éducation, du Loisir et du Sport (MELS) has made a commitment to have all necessary textbooks in place for September 2009.

She went on to note that many different aspects are being considered with respect to the availability of textbooks and the issue has gained a lot of ground over the past year towards a resolution of the problem.

10.2 School Success Plans:

In response to a question from Commissioner Steve Mitchell, the Chair advised that under Bill 88 schools will be accountable for the application of their respective success plans and that information on them can be obtained through Educational Services.

The Director of Educational Services noted that school success plans are not "living" documents and that the service is currently looking at how a school develops its success plan as there are certain aspects that need to be addressed.

Commissioner Nick Milas left the meeting.

TIME: 21:24 hours

10.3 Emergency Preparedness:

In response to concerns expressed by Commissioner Walter Fogel, the Assistant Director General mentioned that the school board is moving ahead on this project noting the recent installation of cameras in the high schools.

Commissioner Grace Nesi left the meeting.

TIME: 21:25 hours

He went on to note that a workshop had been planned for December 2008 on this topic but that during the planning stages the school board was made aware that the Provincial Government had given a mandate to local police departments and the Surété du Québec to provide training on emergency plans.

Commissioner Grace Nesi returned to the meeting.

TIME: 21:28 hours

He continued noting that the school board has met with the Laval Police, the Laval Fire Department and the Surété du Québec to discuss a partnership to create a single training session that would address issues such as intruders, evacuation, etc. The camera system was demonstrated for the Surété and they were duly impressed as they had never seen this system in action outside of a conference venue.

Commissioner Nick Milas returned to the meeting.

TIME: 21:34 hours

11.0 ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING:

Commissioner Mario Di Domenico MOVED adjournment of the meeting.

Carried unanimously

TIME: 21:37 hours

NEXT MEETING ⇒ REGULAR ⇒ 2009-03-25