

PROVINCE OF QUEBEC

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE SIR WILFRID LAURIER SCHOOL BOARD HELD ON 2009-03-25

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, 2009-03-25:

Present: Commissioners Steve Bletas, Chair; Georges Benoit, Mario Di Domenico, Robert Dixon, Nazario Facchino, Walter Fogel, Steve Kmec, Nick Milas, Steve Mitchell, Tom Mouhteros, Grace Nesi, Albina Pace, Merle Parkinson, Mike Pizzola, Nancy Rupnik and Edward Turchyniak; and Parent Commissioner Lisa Chartier; and Anne-Marie Lepage, Director General.

Also present were: Alain Guay, Assistant Director General, Marie-Claude Drouin, Secretary General; Line Desgroseilliers, Director of Information Technology; 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 Gaëlle Absolonne, Assistant Director of Adult & Vocational Education; and Jocelyne Thompson-Ness, Administrative Assistant. Several other persons were also in the audience.

Absent: Carolyn Curiale, Vice-Chair; Commissioners Peter MacLaurin, and William Pollock, and Parent Commissioner Luc Samson.

The Chair called the meeting to order at 19:31 hours.

1.0 ACCEPTANCE OF AGENDA:

The following additions to the agenda were proposed:

4.0 REPORT FROM THE CHAIR:

4.3 Accelerated LearningINFO

5.0 BUSINESS ARISING:

5.4 Modification to Resolution – Purchase Order for Summit School.....RES

CC-090325-CA-0101

Commissioner Mike Pizzola MOVED THAT the agenda be accepted as amended in document #SWLSB-2009/03/25-CA-001.

Carried unanimously

Commissioner Nazario Facchino entered the meeting.

TIME: 19:33 hours

2.0 APPROVAL OF MINUTES

CC-090325-CA-0102

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 2009-02-25, 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, Mario Di Domenico, Robert Dixon, Nazario Facchino, Walter Fogel, Steve Kmec, Nick Milas, Steve Mitchell, Tom Mouhteros, Grace Nesi, Albina Pace, Mike Pizzola, Nancy Rupnik
Commissioners ABSTAINING:	Merle Parkinson, Edward Turchyniak

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 recently the topic of talented and gifted has been discussed at length by the Executive Committee, Principals, and a caucus of the Council and that the time has now come to extend a mandate to the Director General to pursue the development of the program.

WHEREAS Council has reflected on the development of an offer of service for students in need of accelerated learning opportunities;

WHEREAS the Parents' Committee has made this one of its priorities for the current year in order to assist the school board in its consideration of an offer of service for a small portion of the student population with special needs of its own;

WHEREAS there have been numerous meetings of Council members, parents and members of the directorate on the issue of developing such an offer of service where ample opportunity was provided for feedback and advice on what could be given consideration;

Parent Commissioner Lisa Chartier MOVED THAT the Director General be mandated to evaluate potential scenarios for the development of services at both the elementary and secondary levels.

AND THAT the following elements be included in the analysis carried out by the directorate for options at the elementary level:

- a) Proposed criteria for identifying the targeted clientele;*
- b) Proposed process to identify which students qualify;*
- c) Proposed accelerated content in the three core subjects (English, French and Math) for students in cycles 2 and 3.*

AND THAT a survey be conducted for the secondary level to determine the volume of potential clients eligible for a regional program being contemplated for the 2010-2011 school year. This survey would be sent in April to all Grades 5, 6 and Secondary 1 teachers to identify the potential critical mass of students who would qualify for accelerated programs in Secondary 1, 2 and 3 in 2010-2011.

AND THAT the survey results be analyzed by the directorate applying the following scenarios:

Scenario 1: Same as a-b-c above but for all Secondary 1 to 5 students;

Scenario 2: Provided the school board has sufficient space for a separate school to accommodate accelerated learning programs, consider a potential offer of service for two groups per level in Secondary 1, 2 and 3;

Scenario 3: An offer of service in one location with one group per level in Secondary 1, 2 and 3.

AND THAT the analysis includes the costing of each of these options;

FURTHER THAT that the Director General report back to Council with a complete analysis and recommendations in time for the May Executive Committee meeting.

The Council entered into discussion on the mandate to the Director General.

Commissioner Steve Kmec recommended that the resolution be modified to implement a talented and gifted program for the 2009-2010 school year and have separate schools. Parent Commissioner Lisa Chartier did not accept this amendment.

Commissioner Walter Fogel asked that the amendments proposed by Commissioner Steve Kmec be separated in two **for discussion purposes**. Commissioner Kmec did not accept this request.

Discussion continued **on the amendment.**

The Chair reminded the Council that the proposed resolution is a mandate to the Director General to investigate what options are available for the talented and gifted and the timelines for implementation.

CC-090325-CA-0103

Commissioner Steve Kmec MOVED THAT the resolution to mandate the Director General to evaluate potential scenarios for a Talented & Gifted Program be amended by including that the program be implemented for 2009-2010 and that it be in two separate schools.

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

Commissioner Nazario Facchino left the meeting.

TIME: 19 49 hours

Commissioner Robert Dixon proposed an amendment to the resolution to include a fourth scenario to also survey the possibility of a separate school within an existing building. Parent Commissioner Lisa Chartier accepted Commissioner Dixon's amendment.

Commissioner Nazario Facchino returned to the meeting.

TIME: 19 51 hours

CC-090325-CA-0104

WHEREAS Council has reflected on the development of an offer of service for students in need of accelerated learning opportunities;

WHEREAS the Parents' Committee has made this one of its priorities for the current year in order to assist the school board in its consideration of an offer of service for a small portion of the student population with special needs of its own;

WHEREAS there have been numerous meetings of Council members, parents and members of the directorate on the issue of developing such an offer of service where ample opportunity was provided for feedback and advice on what could be given consideration;

Parent Commissioner Lisa Chartier MOVED THAT the Director General be mandated to evaluate potential scenarios for the development of services at both the elementary and secondary levels.

AND THAT the following elements be included in the analysis carried out by the directorate for options at the elementary level:

- a) Proposed criteria for identifying the targeted clientele;
- b) Proposed process to identify which students qualify;
- c) Proposed accelerated content in the three core subjects (English, French and Math) for students in cycles 2 and 3.

AND THAT a survey be conducted for the secondary level to determine the volume of potential clients eligible for a regional program being contemplated for the 2010-2011 school year. This survey would be sent in April 2009 to all Grades 5, 6 and Secondary 1 teachers to identify the potential critical mass of students who would qualify for accelerated programs in Secondary 1, 2 and 3 in 2010-2011.

AND THAT the survey results be analyzed by the directorate applying the following scenarios:

- Scenario 1: Same as a-b-c above but for all Secondary 1 to 5 students;
- Scenario 2: Provided the school board has sufficient space for a separate school to accommodate accelerated learning programs, consider a potential offer of service for two groups per level in Secondary 1, 2 and 3;
- Scenario 3: An offer of service in one location with one group per level in Secondary 1, 2 and 3;
- Scenario 4: Provided there is sufficient space to accommodate a separate school in an existing building, consider a potential offer of service of two groups per level in Secondary 1, 2 and 3.

AND THAT the analysis includes the costing of each of these options;

FURTHER THAT that the Director General report back to Council with a complete analysis and recommendations in time for the May Executive Committee meeting.

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

The Chair extended congratulations, on behalf of the Council of Commissioners, to Deb Kellman and Mona Segal, Education Consultants, for compiling the results of the fall Focus session on “Safety and Respect”.

The Director General noted that a presentation of the results of the Focus Session will be made to the Parents Committee at its 2009-04-02 meeting and then sent out to the stakeholders.

The Chair announced that the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board has received positive feedback, verbally, on the project to have a 4-year Old Education Program at Grenville Elementary School for the 2009-2010 school year. The program will be finalized upon receipt of a letter of authorization.

The Chair invited the Director of Financial Resources to report on the budget for 2009-2010.

The Director of Financial Resources advised that the budget parameters were received from the Ministère de l'Éducation, du Loisir et du Sport (MELS) earlier today for consultation.

She went on to review various aspects of the parameters:

- MELS budget will increase by 3.5% in 09-10;
- System costs will be covered;
- Investment in existing measures will be maintained;
- Additional resources to be allocated to reduce group sizes in socially disadvantaged areas;
- Maintain capital investments already announced through 2013;

She continued noting that additional information is also expected on:

- Reducing dropout rates;
- Faster access to Vocational Training programs for the unemployed;
- New policy to be developed by the government on user fees charged to the public, with the exception of Daycare, which will remain at \$7 per day

The Chair noted that he had recently received a question from Commissioner Steve Mitchell concerning the expenditures of the November 2007 school board elections. He advised that the majority of the expenditures were for the operation of the elections and that 9% was for candidate expenses. He agreed to have the list of school election expenses sent to the members of the Council.

In response to a question from Commissioner Steve Kmec, the Chair noted that the Ministère de l'Éducation, du Loisir et du Sport (MELS) does not fund school elections so school boards must cover the costs from its regular operating budget.

The Chair went on to note that when it is necessary for the school board to make budget reductions, Educational Services always seems to be targeted. He asked the Director General for her input as to the level of educational services this school board has in comparison to other school boards of similar size.

The Director General noted that the level of service provided by Educational Services has increased annually in the areas of consultants, positions in the schools that provide services directly to students, and services to special needs students. The quality of service offered by Educational Services is excellent given that the services provided are by a department that is understaffed when compared to other school boards.

In response to a question from Commissioner Edward Turchyniak, the Director of Financial Resources indicated that some school boards have more services to students as it is based on strata and sector, and these elements in the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board are lower than in other school boards.

In response to an additional question from Commissioner Turchyniak, the Director of Educational Services noted that conscious decisions are made when staffing in Educational Services in order to get the best results for the allocation.

The Director General commented that this school board offers a lot of services to special needs students and that the Ministère de l'Éducation, du Loisir et du Sport (MELS) envelope for these services is greatly supplemented directly by this school board. The Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board does everything it possibly can to see that the special needs students get the best services available. The size of the school board territory also affects services provided as it is a large territory and services have to be provided to outlying schools, so the cost of the service provided rises.

4.2 *Transfer of Schools from CSDL to SWLSB:*

The Director General advised the Council that she and the Chair had met with representatives of the Commission scolaire de Laval (CSDL) to discuss and request the transfer of school buildings in the east and west ends of Laval in order to accommodate the increasing student population in both areas. The CSDL offered two buildings, Pavillon St-Charles (formerly the Gordon School) and École Marecelle-Gauvreau.

The Council entered into discussion.

In response to a question from Commissioner Steve Kmec, the Director of Material Resources noted that the requests to the Ministère de l'Éducation, du Loisir et du Sport (MELS) for buildings is completed annually in the PQI (Five-Year Plan) which is submitted to the MELS each September.

In response to a question from Commissioner Merle Parkinson, the Director of Material Resources noted that there are timelines to be established for the project with the Commission scolaire de Laval and the Director of School Organization. The actual opening of one of the schools will be determined in the timeline.

In response to a question from Commissioner Nazario Facchino, the Director General noted that the school board has demonstrated to the MELS that these two buildings are required in order to resolve the overcrowding in certain areas of Laval.

Discussion continued and it was noted that different scenarios need to be established for discussion by the School Organization Committee and a school in the Ste-Dorothée area should also be considered.

The Chair noted that the school board is still awaiting a letter concerning the request for a new building for Joliette Elementary School.

CC-090325-CA-0105

WHEREAS the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board has included in its Plan triennial 2008-2011 and its Plan quinquennal 2009-2014 to the Ministère de l'Éducation, du Loisir et du Sport (MELS) its need for additional schools in order to accommodate the increasing student population in sectors 2 and 3 in Laval;

WHEREAS Commission Scolaire de Laval currently has vacant schools not being used to service its student population;

WHEREAS the Ministère de l'Éducation, du Loisir et du Sport (MELS) has advised the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board to approach the Commission scolaire de Laval to discuss the possibility of a transfer of two schools that it has declared as "excess";

WHEREAS the Chair and the Director General of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board met with representatives of the Commission Scolaire de Laval on 2009-03-17;

WHEREAS the Commission Scolaire de Laval has indicated that the Pavillon St-Charles in sector 2 and École Marcelle Gauvreau in sector 3 are currently available, subject to the approval of its Council of Commissioners;

WHEREAS Pavillon St-Charles, located in the east end of Laval, would be required as of July 1, 2009;

WHEREAS École Marcelle Gauvreau, located in the west end of Laval, would be required as of July 1, 2010;

Commissioner George Benoit MOVED THAT, on the recommendation of the Directorate and the Executive Committee, the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board request the transfer of Pavillon St-Charles from Commission Scolaire de Laval as of July 1, 2009.

AND THAT the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board also requests the transfer of École Marcelle Gauvreau from Commission Scolaire de Laval as of July 1, 2010.

FUTHER THAT the Director of Material Resources be mandated to inform the Ministère de l'Éducation, du Loisir et du Sport (MELS) of this request.

Carried unanimously

4.3 Accelerated Learning:

This was discussed under item 4.1.

5.0 BUSINESS ARISING:

5.1 Policy #2008-MR-03: Healthy Eating & Active Living:

The Director of Material Resources presented and reviewed the final version of the policy noting the changes made from the consultation.

CC-090325-MR-0106

WHEREAS the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board adopted resolution #CC-080625-MR-0236 approving in principle policy #2008-MR-03: Healthy Eating and Active Living Policy;

WHEREAS consultation on this policy took place from 2008-09-15 to 2008-11-14;

WHEREAS the Material Resources Committee has reviewed all feedback and proposed changes received;

Commissioner Merle Parkinson MOVED THAT, on the recommendation of the Material Resources Committee, the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board approve policy #2008-MR-03: Healthy Eating and Active Living Policy.

Carried unanimously

5.2 Policy #2008-CA-16: Rules of Order for Executive Committee:

The Secretary General presented and reviewed the final version of the policy noting changes from the consultation.

WHEREAS the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board adopted resolution #CC-081210-CA-0078 approving in principle policy #2008-CA-16: Rules of Order and Procedure for Meetings of the Executive Committee of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board;

Commissioner Nick Milas MOVED THAT, on the recommendation of the Executive Committee, the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board approve policy #2008-CA-16: Rules of Order and Procedure for Meetings of the Executive Committee of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board.

Commissioner Walter Fogel proposed several amendments to the resolution that, in his opinion, would increase the school board's transparency. Commissioner Nick Milas did not accept the amendments.

Commissioner Edward Turchyniak, Chair of the Executive Committee, indicated that the Executive has always been transparent and has always opened up the meetings to allow for Commissioners who are not members of the committee to participate in the meetings.

The Chair reminded Commissioner Fogel that this policy has been out for consultation for 60-days and that he should have contacted the Secretary General or put his recommendations in writing.

Commissioner Walter Fogel indicated that he does not deny that Commissioners have been accommodated but his recommendations would open the Executive Committee meetings to the public.

Commissioner Albina Pace left the meeting.

TIME: 20:46 hours

CC-090325-CA-0107

Commissioner Walter Fogel MOVED THAT the Rules of Order for the Executive Committee be modified as follows:

- Section 5.1 - at the end of the 3rd bullet add the words "and other commissioners".
- Sub-Section 6.3 should read:

Commissioners who are not members of the Executive Committee are entitled to attend its sitting and take part in the proceedings of the committee, at the discretion of the Chair, but are not entitled to vote.

- Add Sub-sub-Section 6.3.1 which would read:

Stakeholders of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board may attend sittings of the Executive Committee but may not take part in the proceedings except for the question periods provided for in the agenda.

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

CC-090325-CA-0108

WHEREAS the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board adopted resolution #CC-081210-CA-0078 approving in principle policy #2008-CA-16: Rules of Order and Procedure for Meetings of the Executive Committee of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board;

Commissioner Nick Milas MOVED THAT, on the recommendation of the Executive Committee, the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board approve policy #2008-CA-16: Rules of Order and Procedure for Meetings of the Executive Committee of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board.

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

5.3 Land on Roland-Durand – Offer to Purchase:

The Director of Material Resources presented an offer to purchase the land on Roland-Durand noting that the offer, as presented to the Executive Committee, was misread and that the offer for the 3rd lot was 91 000\$ including tax.

The Council entered into discussion and it was agreed to table this offer to purchase back to the Material Resources Committee and Executive Committee for further review and discussion.

Commissioner Albina Pace returned to the meeting.

TIME: 20:48 hours

5.4 Modification to Resolution – Purchase Order for Summit School:

The Director of Educational Services informed the Council that the school board had been advised by the Ministère de l'Éducation, du Loisir et du Sport (MELS) that there was an error in the declaration of students by the Summit School therefore resulting in the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board being invoiced for four students at the elementary level that are actually at the secondary level. The cost of educational services at the Summit School is lower for a secondary student than that of an elementary student.

CC-090325-ED-0109

WHEREAS the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board adopted resolution #CC-081022-ED-0056 approving the educational services provided by the Summit School to students of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board for the 2008-2009 school year;

WHEREAS the Ministère de l'Éducation, du Loisir et du Sport (MELS) has advised the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board that the Summit School has declared four students at the secondary level but has charged the school board for these four students at the elementary level rate;

WHEREAS the cost of educational services provided by Summit School for a secondary level student is lower than that of an elementary level student, resulting in the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board being overcharged for services by 2 780,00\$;

Commissioner Mario Di Domenico MOVED THAT, on the recommendation of the Director of Educational Services, the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board approve the modification to resolution #CC-081022-ED-0056 by changing the total cost from 587 161,00\$ to 584 381,00\$, all taxes included.

Carried unanimously

Commissioners Nick Milas and Mike Pizzola left the meeting.

TIME: 20:50 hours

Commissioner Walter Fogel raised a point of business arising.

The Chair advised Commissioner Fogel that any questions concerning business arising should be addressed to the Secretary General prior to the Council meeting so that they may be placed on the agenda.

6.0 DECISION ITEMS:

6.1 EDUCATIONAL SERVICES

6.1.1 Draft Policy – Promotion of Arts & Culture in SWL Schools:

The Director of Educational Services presented the draft policy on arts and culture in the schools noting that a school board is obliged to have a policy of this nature. The draft policy has been reviewed by the Educational Services Committee and the Management Committee.

In response to a proposed amendment to the policy from Commissioner Walter Fogel, the Chair advised that any proposed changes to the draft policy can be put in writing to the Secretary General as part of the 60-day consultation period. Any responses received from the consultation will be reviewed for consideration.

CC-090325-ED-0110

WHEREAS the Ministère de l'Éducation, du Loisir et du Sport (MELS) has been in a partnership with the Ministère de la Culture, des Communications et de la Condition féminine for more than 20 years for the purpose of integrating the culture dimension into the educational mission;

WHEREAS the Ministère de l'Éducation, du Loisir et du Sport (MELS) has mandated school boards to establish a policy on the integration of arts and culture into its educational programs;

Commissioner Edward Turchyniak MOVED THAT, on the recommendation of the Educational Services Committee, the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board approve in principle policy #2009-ED-10: Promotion of Arts and Culture in Sir Wilfrid Laurier Schools.

AND THAT this policy be subject to a 60-day consultation.

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

Commissioners Nick Milas and Mike Pizzola returned to the meeting. **TIME: 20:54 hours**

6.1.2 Agreement with Bishop's University – Practice Teaching:

The Director of Educational Services advised that Council that School of Education at Bishop's University has approached the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board to enter into an agreement for its student teaching aspect of the Teacher Education Program.

CC-090325-ED-0111

WHEREAS the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board has been approached by the School of Education at Bishop's University to enter into an agreement for the support of the practicum component of the Teacher Education Program;

WHEREAS the support of the practicum component of the Teacher Education Program by the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board has the potential of being a resource for the recruitment of teachers;

Commissioner Grace Nesi MOVED THAT, on the recommendation of the Director General, the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board enter into an agreement with the School of Education at Bishop's University for the practicum component of the Teacher Education Program.

AND THAT 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 SCHOOL ORGANIZATION

6.2.1 Policy #2009-CA-02: Deeds & Three-Year Plan:

The Secretary General, in the absence of the Director of School Organization, presented and reviewed the deeds of establishment and three-year plan noting that this policy will be subject to a 60-day consultation.

In response to a question from Commissioner Steve Mitchell, the Director General noted that the majority of consultations are sent to all the schools, Parents Committee, unions and associations and that no report is made as to whether or not feedback has been retained nor is a personal reply sent. The final version of the policy is sent to everyone involved in the consultation after its final adoption.

Commissioner Steve Mitchell noted that some Governing Boards feel that the consultation process expires after it sends its response to the school board as nothing is ever received at the end of the consultation period and suggested that the school board consider a process that would allow for Governing Boards to know if its input was retained or rejected.

In response to a question from Commissioner Walter Fogel, the Director General noted that to her knowledge the Batshaw Youth Facility in Prévost is not closing. There have been many rumours over the last few years about this facility closing but to date no steps have been taken.

She further noted that she would inquire with the Director of School Organization as to the disposition of the Cartier Centre, also a Batshaw Youth Facility.

CC-090325-CA-0112

WHEREAS section 211 of the Education Act (R.S.Q., chapter I-13.3) requires the school board each year to establish a three-year plan of allocation and destination of its immovables;

WHEREAS section 211 also requires the school board to draw up, in accordance with the plan, a list of its schools and of its vocational training and adult education centres and issue a deed of establishment to them;

Commissioner Nancy Rupnik MOVED THAT, on the recommendation of the School Organization Committee, the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board approve in principle proposed policy #2009-CA-02: Deeds of Establishment and Three Year Plan for Allocation and Destination of Immovables.

AND THAT this policy be subject to a 60-day consultation.

Carried unanimously

The Chair called for a 10 minute recess.

TIME: 21:10 hours

The meeting resumed.

TIME: 21:19 hours

7.0 INFORMATION ITEMS

7.1 *SWL Foundation:*

Commissioner Edward Turchyniak advised the Council that the Sir Wilfrid Laurier Foundation will be holding a Wine & Cheese with the Chairs of the Governing Boards and the Parents Committee delegates on 2009-04-02 to promote the Foundation's lottery. There are many nice prizes to be won, 10\$ from the sale of each ticket goes to the schools and this lottery can generate a substantial amount of money towards the betterment of education in the schools.

7.2 *Parent Commissioners Report*

Parent Commissioner Lisa Chartier noted that at its last meeting, the Parents Committee discussed the 2009-2010 budget building process, the 2009-2010 calendar, and how parents can become more involved in lowering the student drop out rate.

7.3 *Report of the QESBA:*

The Chair reminded the Commissioners that the Quebec English School Boards Association (QESBA) professional development session is this weekend at l'Hôtel Le Chantecler and the Ministre de l'Éducation, du Loisir et du Sport will address those present. There will also be various workshops and one will be lead by himself and the Communications Coordinator.

7.4 *Update on Enrolment 2009-2010:*

The Chair advised the Council that enrolment for 2009-2010 currently stands at 14 396, which ironically is exactly the same enrolment number on the same date in 2008.

8.0 QUESTION PERIOD:

In response to a question from a parent from Laurier Senior High School, the Assistant Director General advised that he would have the Director of School Organization call her to provide her with all the information on how the decision for the new school hours came about.

Parent Commissioner Lisa Chartier noted that the issue of the late finish time was discussed at a meeting of parents affected by the change in school hours. Several parents voiced concerns about their child(ren) not being able to participate in extra curricular activities (ECA) or hold a part-time job. Parent Commissioner Chartier noted that she inquired at several businesses at the Carrefour Laval and they did not seem to think that the change in school hours would affect their part-time student help.

9.0 CORRESPONDENCE:

The Chair drew the Council's attention to the correspondence contained in the meeting package noting the articles on Laurentian Elementary School and Joliette High School in a recent copy of the QPAT magazine. He also noted the visit to Crestview Elementary School by Greg Chamitoff, a former student of the school and an astronaut with NASA.

The Assistant Director of Adult & Vocational Education reminded the Council of the open house at the CDC Laurier-Pont-Viau on 2009-03-31. Open house for CDC Laurier-Vimont and CDC Laurier-Lachute will take place in April and May

In response to a question from Commissioner Walter Fogel, the Director of Educational Services noted that when the actual textbooks arrive at the schools they are different from the provisional, although the provisional texts are based on the methods used under the Quebec Education Program. Provisional texts were only used for courses where textbooks were not yet available. The publication of the textbooks required for the start of the 2009-2010 is on track at this time.

She went on to announce that Silvia Patella, Andrea Prupas, Special education consultants, and Maria Guillen, Speech & Language Pathologist, have been awarded the “Practitioner Presentation Award” by the CEC’s Division on Developmental Disabilities (DDD) in the USA. The Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board should be very proud of these three women as there is only one award granted in North America annually.

10.0 VARIA:

The Chair announced that members of the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board from Laval have been invited to participate in “Les Assises sur la persévérance scolaire” on 2009-04-03 and encouraged participation.

The Director General noted that “Les Assises sur la persévérance scolaire” is being hosted by the Commission scolaire de Laval for the Laval community and 25 places have been reserved for the English sector. The premise of the event is a focus session to get orientations on how to keep students in school. She indicated that all Laval Commissioners will be receiving an invitation.

She continued noting that high school students in the Laurentians have been targeted by a research company to find out if they feel a sense of belonging, safety and caring within their educational environment. The results showed a difference between the English and French school populations. The English students had a positive perception in terms of involvement and the significance of their education, while the response from the French students indicated that more needs to be done in order for them to feel that they belong, feel safe and cared for in their educational environment.

11.0 ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING:

Commissioner Robert Dixon MOVED adjournment of the meeting.

Carried unanimously

TIME: 21:54 hours

NEXT MEETING ⇨ REGULAR ⇨ 2009-04-15