

PROVINCE OF QUEBEC

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE SIR WILFRID LAURIER SCHOOL BOARD HELD ON 2009-04-15

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, 2009-04-15:

Present: Commissioners Steve Bletas, Chair; Carolyn Curiale, Vice-Chair; Georges Benoit, Robert Dixon, Nazario Facchino, Walter Fogel, Steve Kmec, Nick Milas, Steve Mitchell, Tom Mouhteros, Grace Nesi, Albina Pace, Merle Parkinson, Mike Pizzola, William Pollock, Nancy Rupnik and Edward Turchyniak; and 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; Line Desgroseilliers, Director of Information Technology; Linda Di Domenico, Director of Human Resources (Interim); Heather Halman, Director of Educational Services; Livia Nassivera, Director of Financial Resources; George Paquette, Director of School Organization; Gaëlle Absolonne, Assistant Director of Adult & Vocational Education; Fernand Lessard, Assistant Director of Material Resources; and Jocelyne Thompson-Ness, Administrative Assistant. Several other persons were also in the audience.

Absent: Commissioners Mario Di Domenico and Peter MacLaurin

The Chair called the meeting to order at 19:35 hours.

1.0 ACCEPTANCE OF AGENDA:

The following additions to the agenda were proposed:

6.0 Decision Items:

6.1 Human Resources:

- 6.1.2 Assistant Director of Human Resources RES
- 6.1.3 Director of Human Resources..... RES

CC-090415-CA-0113

Commissioner Albina Pace MOVED THAT the agenda be accepted as amended in document #SWLSB-2009/04/15-CA-001.

Carried unanimously

2.0 APPROVAL OF MINUTES

CC-090415-CA-0114

Commissioner Nazario Facchino MOVED THAT the minutes of the REGULAR meeting of the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board held on 2009-03-25, 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, Robert Dixon, Nazario Facchino, Walter Fogel, Steve Kmec, Nick Milas, Steve Mitchell, Tom Mouhteros, Grace Nesi, Albina Pace, Merle Parkinson, Mike Pizzola, Edward Turchyniak
Commissioners ABSTAINING:	Carolyn Curiale, William Pollock

Commissioner Nancy Rupnik entered the meeting.

TIME: 19:37 hours

3.0 QUESTION PERIOD

There were no questions.

4.0 REPORT FROM THE CHAIR:

4.1 *Report from the Chair:*

The Chair advised the Council that he had attended the “Assises de Laval” with the Director General on 2009-04-03. This meeting was in a “Town Hall” format for Laval stakeholders of the Commission scolaire de Laval and the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board to discuss and come to a consensus on how to best regroup efforts to assist students in being successful in their studies. There were 25 representatives in attendance from the English sector.

The Director General noted that the Ministère de l'Éducation, du Loisir et du Sport (MELS) is currently focusing on student perseverance rather than the drop out rate as it wants to encourage students to feel that they can achieve their educational goals. The stakeholders involved in trying to achieve this feel that a PREL type of group should be considered as it has been successful in the Laurentides and Lanaudière regions and given this success, the format would meet the needs of the Laval region. A partnership will be established to incorporate concrete methods to assist in the student perseverance of educational goals.

In response to a question from the Chair, the Secretary General advised the Council that on 2009-03-31 a Governing Board Workshop was given by herself and the Director of Financial Resources on financial issues. Approximately 40 people attended the **session in Laval and Lachute**, via video-conference.

Parent Commissioner Lisa Chartier noted that the Parents Committee was pleased with this workshop as it was reported that those who attended now have a better understanding of the budget building process.

The Chair advised the Council that the last ten days have been difficult ones for the Genesis Elementary School community and the school board. He asked that a moment of silence be taken in the memory of the two girls who recently lost their lives, both of whom attended Genesis Elementary School.

A moment of silence.

The Chair noted that the morning after this tragic incident the Crisis Intervention Team from Educational Services, the Director General and the Coordinator of Communications were at the school to offer support to the students and staff. He thanked all involved for their quick response and support during this tragic event. He indicated that parents had expressed thanks for all the support to the school during this difficult time and for providing a grief workshop for the parents. Hopefully, no other school in the school board will ever have to experience such a tragic event.

In response to a question from Commissioner Walter Fogel, the Director of Educational Services advised that grief is a process and that interventions, assemblies, classroom discussion, staffroom discussions, letters home to parents, and daily contact with the Principal by Educational Services have been completed in order to see the school through the various stages of grief.

The Chair went on to advise the Council that Educational Services is to be complimented for its 93% success in obtaining codes for special needs students in comparison to 87% in 2007-2008.

He extended congratulations to all students and schools that participated in the 2009 Bell Montreal Regional Science Fair.

The Director General advised that Sayuri Sepulveda, a student at Laval Liberty High School, has been invited to attend the 2009 Intel International Science & Engineering Fair being held in Reno, Nevada this May. The school board will cover the 675\$ registration fee.

The Chair commented on the Quebec English School Boards Association (QESBA) Professional Development Session held on March 27 & 28, 2009 at Hôtel Chantecler noting that the Chairs had a meeting with Michelle Courchesne, **Minister of Education, Leisure & Sports**. During the meeting with the **Minister**, preventing student drop out, upcoming teacher negotiations and the implementation of Bill 88 were discussed. He also noted that the **Minister** acknowledged that in combating the continued problem of student drop outs that there is "no one size fits all" solution and that she is open to tailoring solutions to fit the English sector. The **Minister** also indicated that she is open to working with the English sector to ensure that it fully benefits from the MELS initiatives.

5.0 BUSINESS ARISING:

5.1 *Disposition of Cartier Centre:*

In response to an observation made by Commissioner Walter Fogel at the 2009-03-17 Council meeting, the Director of School Organization acknowledged that there was no deed for the Cartier Centre (Batshaw) as the centre was to have been closed and moved to another location outside the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board territory. Given that this closure did not occur, the deed of Mountainview High School (Batshaw) will be modified to include the Cartier Centre, as both schools now fall under the same school number at the MELS. This modification will be included as part of the consultation process.

6.0 DECISION ITEMS:

6.1 HUMAN RESOURCES

6.1.1 *2009-2010 Administrative Organizational Chart:*

The Director General presented and reviewed the 2009-2010 Administrative Organizational Chart noting that the reporting lines have been adjusted and that there has been one position created and one abolished. The Sir Wilfrid Laurier Administrators Association (SWLAA), the Association des cadres scolaires du Québec (ACSQ) and the Directorate have been consulted on the organizational chart and support the proposed changes for 2009-2010.

The Council entered into discussion.

CC-090415-HR-0115

WHEREAS the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board organizational chart has been under consultation for the past month;

WHEREAS the relevant associations have provided the Director General with their feedback;

Parent Commissioner Luc Samson MOVED THAT the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board organizational chart for 2009-2010 be amended as follows:

- 1) The abolition of one Human Resources Consultant post (management level position)
- 2) The creation of one additional Assistant Director of Human Resources position
- 3) The adjustment of reporting lines of departments as indicated,

AND THAT this organizational chart comes into effect on July 1, 2009, as per document #SWLSB-2009/04/15-HR-001.

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

6.1.2 Assistant Director of Human Resources:

The Director General advised that the following resolution was completed with the collaboration and agreement of the person it affects.

CC-090415-HR-0116

WHEREAS the 2009-2010 Administrative Organizational Chart has created an additional position of Assistant Director of Human Resources;

WHEREAS consultation has taken place on a proposed new division of responsibilities in the Human Resources department;

Commissioner Tom Mouhteros MOVED THAT, on the recommendation of the Director General, the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board assign **François Badin** to the position of Assistant Director of Human Resources, effective 2009-07-01.

AND THAT consequently the position of Director of Human Resources, previously occupied by François Badin, becomes vacant

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

The Assistant Director General left the meeting.

TIME: 20:14 hours

6.1.3 Director of Human Resources:

In response to a question from Commissioner Walter Fogel, the Director General noted that the mandate given to her by the Council of Commissioners allows for persons assigned on an interim basis to be maintained in the position, if required. In this case, the interim Director of Human Resources has handled the position for the last nine months and has proven to be knowledgeable and capable of handling the responsibilities. This assignment was also included as part of the consultation on the 2009-2010 Administrative Organizational Chart.

Commissioner Walter Fogel indicated that he does not agree with this method of assignment as it is not transparent.

The Assistant Director General returned to the meeting.

TIME: 20:16 hours

CC-090415-HR-0117

WHEREAS the position of Director of Human Resources is vacant;

WHEREAS consultation has taken place on a proposed new division of responsibilities in the Human Resources department;

WHEREAS Linda Di Domenico has successfully held the interim position of Director of Human Resources during the 2008-2009 school year;

Commissioner Nick Milas MOVED THAT, on the recommendation of the Director General, the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board appoint **Linda Di Domenico** to the position of Director of Human Resources, effective 2009-07-01.

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

Commissioner Walter Fogel noted that his vote of “NAY” is against the process, not the person.

6.1.4 Assignment & Transfer of In-School Administrators:

Commissioner Carolyn Curiale MOVED THAT the Council go “in camera”. **TIME: 20:18 hours**

The meeting resumed. **TIME: 21: 03 hours**

The Director General presented and reviewed the assignments and transfers of in-school Administrators for the 2009-2010 school year.

CC-090415-HR-0118

WHEREAS it is the responsibility of the Director General to recommend to the Council of Commissioners the assignment of the in-school and centre administrators prior to May 1 annually in accordance with the Management Policy adopted by the board;

WHEREAS principals and vice-principals have submitted their career plans for 2009-2010 to the Director General as requested;

WHEREAS the career plans of all the in-school Administrators have been reviewed by the Director General;

WHEREAS meetings were held with the individuals involved in the changes of assignment;

WHEREAS the Sir Wilfrid Laurier Administrators Association was presented with the criteria for assignment and transfer of in-school Administrators;

Commissioner Carolyn Curiale MOVED THAT, on the recommendation of the Director General, the Council of Commissioners approve the assignment of the in-school and centre administrators, effective 2009-07-01, as follows:

ELEMENTARY	PRINCIPAL	VICE-PRINCIPAL
ARUNDEL (100% Principal post with 50% teaching responsibilities)	Carolynn Roberts	
CRESTVIEW	Mary Lazaris	
FRANKLIN HILL	Dan Tremblay	
GENESIS	Serge Édouard Jeanniton	
GRENVILLE (100% Principal post with 50% teaching responsibilities)	Nancy Bennett	
HILLCREST ACADEMY	Doug Clarke	
JOHN F. KENNEDY	VACANT	
JOLIETTE	Paul Fogel	
JULES VERNE	Karen Lorenz	
LAURENTIA	Darlene Reeves	
LAURENTIAN	Karen Moore	
McCAIG	Fred Greschner	Marissa Goffredo
MORIN HEIGHTS	Grace Courey	
MOUNTAINVIEW	Darlene Miller	
OUR LADY OF PEACE	Tina Miscio	
PIERRE ELLIOTT TRUDEAU	Lisa Verrall	
PINEWOOD	André Gionet	
RAWDON ELEM. (with Rawdon Middle)	Josée Coté (to be replaced)	
SOUVENIR	Carmela Sacco	Lynn Shalit
STE-ADELE (100% Principal post with 50% teaching responsibilities)	Ilona Robillard	
STE-AGATHE	Christina Shousha	
ST-JUDE	VACANT	
ST-PAUL	Ann Cohen	Connie Larosa
ST-VINCENT	Nathalie Rollin	
TERRY FOX	Tina Korb	Florence Delorme
TWIN OAKS	Hazel Milley	
SECONDARY	PRINCIPAL	VICE-PRINCIPAL
BATSHAW (100% Principal post with 50% teaching responsibilities)	Louise Mc Laughlin	
JOLIETTE HIGH	Robert Simpson	
LAKE OF TWO MOUNTAINS	VACANT	Aimee Parsons
LAURENTIAN REGIONAL	Laird Bracken (replaced by Josée Coté)	Nadia Anwar, Chris Roblin
LAURIER SENIOR HIGH	Nick Primiano	Robert Bennett, Constantina Chronopoulos
LAVAL JUNIOR	Richard Mason	Lynn Neveu to be replaced by Sonia Busnardo
LAVAL LIBERTY	Eric Ruggi	Charles Chagnon, Helen Kalipolidis
MOTHER TERESA JUNIOR	Anna Villalta	Luciana Cifarelli
PHOENIX / CARTIER (100% Principal post with 40% teaching responsibilities)	Susan Gilmore	
RAWDON MIDDLE (with Rawdon Elem.)	Josée Coté (to be replaced)	
ROSEMERE HIGH	Scott Traylen	David Mitchell, Josée Yelle, Christina Chichon
STE-AGATHE ACADEMY (with above)	Christina Shousha	
Adult & Vocational Education	DIRECTOR	CENTRE
CDC LAURIER	Johanne Brabant	Gaëlle Absolonne, Assistant Director Gina Persechino, Assistant Centre Director
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR, COMPLEMENTARY SERVICES	Stephanie Krenn	

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR, COMPLEMENTARY SERVICES	Stephanie Krenn	
-----------------------------------------------	-----------------	--

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

The Chair called for a 5 minute break.

TIME: 21:14 hours

The meeting resumed.

TIME: 21:25 hours

6.2 EDUCATIONAL SERVICES

6.2.1 Safety & Respect:

The Director of Educational Services commented on the following resolution noting that it will mandate the Director General to ensure the development, implementation and measurement of board-wide guiding principles for codes of conduct for all schools and centres; and ensure that the principles of respect and safety are incorporated into the school "Positive Behaviour Support Plans" and the delivery of the Quebec Education Program.

Commissioners Nazario Facchino, Nick Milas, Grace Nesi and Albina Pace returned to the meeting.

TIME: 21:27 hours

CC-090415-ED-0119

WHEREAS the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board believes that all students, parents, teachers and staff members have the right to be safe and secure in their school community;

WHEREAS the Council has held three focus sessions in the Fall of 2008 inviting stakeholders to participate in the development of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board's statement of principles and that important data has been collected and integrated into this statement;

WHEREAS section 37.1 of the Education Act will be amended July 1st, 2009 to stipulate that a school Success Plan shall reflect the Strategic Plan of the School Board;

WHEREAS the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board has a policy on harassment which supports respectful interactions;

WHEREAS starting July 1st, 2009, the Education Act will provide for the establishment by the School Board of a by-law for the examination of complaints from students or their parents;

WHEREAS this by-law must provide for a complainant who is dissatisfied with the handling of a complaint or with the outcome to refer the complaint to a student ombudsman;

WHEREAS the Education Act gives Governing Boards the mandate to approve school codes of conduct;

Commissioner Steve Mitchell MOVED THAT the Council of Commissioners mandate the Director General of the Sir Wilfrid School Board to:

- (i) Ensure the development, implementation and measurement of a board-wide guiding principles for codes of conduct for all schools and centres;

- (ii) Ensure that the principles of respect and safety be incorporated into the school “Positive Behaviour Support Plans” and the delivery of the Quebec Education Program.

Carried unanimously

6.3 MATERIAL RESOURCES

6.3.1 *Synthetic Field Project - LRHS:*

The Secretary General presented a project for a Multisports Complexe on the grounds of Laurentian Regional High School (LRHS) in partnership with the MRC d'Argenteuil, Ville de Lachute and Commission scolaire de la Rivière-du-Nord. This project was approved in principle by the Council of Commissioners on 2007-02-28 as a partnership. The Ministère de l'Éducation, du Loisir et du Sport (MELS) will also be providing some funding. The steps being taken at this time are to establish two protocols of Agreement with the MRC d'Argenteuil, Ville de Lachute and Commission scolaire de la Rivière-du-Nord: one to cover all capital assets and the other for the use and operation of the future Argenteuil Multisports Complex. The MRC d'Argenteuil will oversee all aspects of the construction of this complexe and the school boards and Ville de Lachute will assume part of the building, maintenance and operating costs.

The Council entered into discussion.

In response to several questions from Commissioner Walter Fogel, the Chair advised that the MELS has declared publicly that it is subsidizing the project. He confirmed that David Whissell, **Member of the National Assembly** for Argenteuil, is fully supporting this project. The project is being developed along the same lines as the **3200, boulevard Souvenir O.** synthetic field project.

In response to questions from Commissioner Merle Parkinson, the Chair noted that the campus of LRHS already has indoor facilities and that this project will be entirely **outdoors**. He also noted that this project has been discussed on many occasions at the Material Resources Committee.

The Director General reminded the Council that this project was originally discussed and approved in principle during the 2007-2008 school year and that the Director of Material Resources has been a part of its development as per his mandate from the Council of Commissioners. The MRC d'Argenteuil requires a resolution from the school board supporting this project as it is required by the MELS in order to obtain the funding. Protocols of Agreement will be negotiated during the project for implementation upon the opening of the facilities.

In response to a question from Commissioner Edward Turchyniak, the Secretary General noted that the current facilities at the LRHS campus are shared and that a new protocol of agreement will be drawn up by the Tripartite Committee with the MRC d'Argenteuil for the use of the new facilities.

CC-090415-MR-0120

WHEREAS at its regular meeting held on 2007-02-28, the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board adopted resolution #CC-070228-MR-0110 confirming a financial commitment of up to \$150 000, to be paid over two fiscal years, for the construction of an Argenteuil Multisports Complex in Lachute;

WHEREAS an agreement in principle was reached between the MRC d'Argenteuil, Ville de Lachute, Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board and Commission scolaire de la Rivière-du-Nord for the construction of the Argenteuil Multisports Complex on the fields behind the Laurentian Regional High School and École Polyvalente Lavigne, in Lachute;

WHEREAS in conformity with this agreement, the MRC d'Argenteuil will oversee all aspects of the construction of the centre, and the school boards and Ville de Lachute will assume part of the building, maintenance and operating costs;

WHEREAS the MRC d'Argenteuil wishes to undertake the construction of the Multisports Complex in 2009, i.e. the construction of a soccer/football synthetic field with lighting, the repair of the existing track, and the construction of a bicycle/multifunctional path of approximately 1.5 km;

WHEREAS detailed protocols of agreement are being drafted with regard to capital assets and the rules for the operation and use of the complex;

WHEREAS the cost of this project is estimated at \$2 741 759 (all taxes included), which covers construction expenses, contingencies, professional fees and temporary financing costs;

WHEREAS in addition to the financial support provided by its partners, the MRC d'Argenteuil will also be receiving a \$1,050,000 subsidy from the Ministère de l'Éducation, du Loisir et du Sport (MELS) within the Support for Sports and Recreational Facilities program;

Commissioner Robert Dixon MOVED THAT, on the recommendation of the Material Resources Committee and the Executive Committee, the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board authorize the MRC d'Argenteuil to build the Argenteuil Multisports Complex on the fields located behind the Laurentian Regional High School (# 3856-61-8347, renovated lot # 3037413), property of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board;

AND THAT the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board establish a protocol of agreement with the MRC d'Argenteuil, Ville de Lachute et Commission scolaire de la Rivière-du-Nord covering all capital assets;

FURTHER THAT the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board establish a protocol of agreement with the MRC d'Argenteuil, Ville de Lachute et Commission scolaire de la Rivière-du-Nord for the use and operation of the future Argenteuil Multisports Complex.

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

7.0 INFORMATION ITEMS

7.1 SWL Foundation:

Commissioner Edward Turchyniak advised the Council that the next Sir Wilfrid Laurier Foundation event is "Lobster Tales" which will take place on 2009-06-11 at the Château Royal in Laval. Tickets are 150\$ and will be available shortly.

The Foundation lottery will also be drawn on the night of the "Lobster Tales" and to date **812 tickets have been committed to**. Commissioner Turchyniak encouraged Commissioners to promote the lottery as 10\$ per ticket will be returned to the schools and the other monies will be used for Citizenship Bursaries and the Career Exploration Lab.

7.2 Parent Commissioners Report

Parent Commissioner Lisa Chartier advised the Council that at the last meeting of the Parents Committee several schools expressed disappointment in the placement of the December 2009 break given that it is split weeks instead of full weeks, which are more convenient when planning vacation time. The committee also discussed its action plan, the 2009 Outstanding Effort Award and the upcoming publication of the SEAC (Special Education Advisory Committee) pamphlet.

Parent Commissioner Luc Samson commented that the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board Parents Committee has approved in principle a resolution to withdraw from the Fédération des comités des parents (FCPQ) and that the final decision will be made at the 2009-05-07 meeting once the consequences are discussed. He will report back at the 2009-05-20 meeting of the Council.

Parent Commissioner Lisa Chartier noted that several of the English school boards had taken the decision to withdraw from the FCPQ but are now reconsidering this action.

In response to a concern expressed by Parent Commissioner Samson on behalf of the Parents Committee, the Director General noted that the maintenance staffs in the schools do have a protocol for what needs to be done in a school during the flu season in order to prevent its spread.

7.3 Report of the QESBA:

Commissioner Carolyn Curiale informed Council that the Quebec English School Boards Association (QESBA) has formed two committees as a result of Bill 88: the Universal Suffrage Committee for parameters and funding, and the English Electoral List Committee to look at solutions for the ongoing problems with the English portion of the school electoral list.

In response to a question from Parent Commissioner Luc Samson, the Chair advised that the implementation of the sections of Bill 88 concerning the additional Parent Commissioner has not yet been decreed.

In response to a suggestion from Commissioner Steve Kmec, the Chair noted that he would have Commissioner Carolyn Curiale bring the issue of how school boards in other provinces handle budgeting and school elections to the next QESBA meeting.

7.4 Update on Enrolment 2009-2010:

The Director of School Organization advised the Council that enrolment continues to increase and that the current enrolment stands at 14 441. There are some concerns about the low enrolment at Grenville and Ste-Adèle Elementary Schools and Ste-Agathe Academy. Out-of-zone requests are being received and will be treated on an individual basis.

7.5 MELS Budget Parameters 2009-2010:

The Director of Financial Resources presented and reviewed the consultation on the 2009-2010 Ministère de l'Éducation, du Loisir et du Sport (MELS) budget parameters noting the reduction of class size at the elementary level, salary insurance costs, Ombudsman, and the limiting of spending accumulated surplus to 10%. She advised that the school board's response to this consultation was sent earlier today to the MELS.

She went on to note that the MELS will require a recovery plan for any school board that exceeds the 10% limit on the spending of accumulated and new surpluses as of June 30, 2008, in order to recoup the excess amount spent. The notion of having a 10% spending of surplus limit is more acceptable than the original intent of the MELS to claw back all surpluses.

In response to a comment from Commissioner Carolyn Curiale, the Director of Financial Resources noted that the MELS does provide a textbook allocation annually and that any other funds set aside for the purchase of textbooks could be considered as surplus.

7.6 Results of Consultation – 2009-2010 Budget Building Process:

The Director of Financial Resources commented on the results of the consultation on the 2009-2010 budget building process noting that 20 schools responded. In a comparison to the 2008-2009 consultation there is a noticeable shift in the survey of needs from Material Resources to Educational Services.

8.0 QUESTION PERIOD:

There were no questions.

9.0 CORRESPONDENCE:

The Chair drew the Council's attention to several items under correspondence: the letters to the Genesis Elementary School community, Director's reports, a breakdown of election expenses for the November 2007 school elections and the monthly update of the 2008-2013 Recovery Plan.

In response to a question from Commissioner Walter Fogel, the Chair noted that in the school election expense breakdown, the candidates travel is separate from all other travel incurred during the elections. He suggested that Commissioner Fogel meet with the Secretary General if he wishes to review these expenses in detail.

10.0 VARIA:

The Chair extended best wishes, on behalf of the Council, to the Director General on the occasion of her 25th wedding anniversary.

He went on to advise the Council that he will be absent for 4 – 6 weeks as he is scheduled for an operation during the month of May 2009 and asked that the Commissioners give Commissioner Carolyn Curiale, Vice-Chair, their full support during his absence.

11.0 ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING:

Commissioner Nancy Rupnik MOVED adjournment of the meeting.

Carried unanimously

TIME: 22:11 hours

NEXT MEETING ⇒ REGULAR ⇒ 2009-05-20