

PROVINCE OF QUEBEC

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE SIR WILFRID LAURIER SCHOOL BOARD HELD ON 2009-10-28

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, 2009-10-28:

Present: Commissioners Steve Bletas, Chair; Carolyn Curiale, Vice-Chair; Georges Benoit, Mario Di Domenico, Robert Dixon, Nazario Facchino, Walter Fogel, Peter MacLaurin, Nick Milas, Tom Mouhteros, Grace Nesi, Albina Pace, Merle Parkinson, William Pollock, and Nancy Rupnik; and Parent Commissioner Lisa Chartier; and Anne-Marie Lepage, Director General.

Also present were: Alain Guay, Assistant Director General; Marie-Claude Drouin, Secretary General; Johanne Brabant, Director of Adult & Vocational Education; Linda Di Domenico, Director of Human Resources; Daniel Hogue, Director of Material Resources; Livia Nassivera, Director of Financial Resources; Gerry Robillard, Director of Educational Services (Interim) and Jocelyne Thompson-Ness, Administrative Assistant. Several other persons were also in the audience.

Absent: Commissioners Steve Kmec, Steve Mitchell, Mike Pizzola, Edward Turchyniak and Parent Commissioner Luc Samson.

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

1.0 ACCEPTANCE OF AGENDA:**CC-091028-CA-0031**

Parent Commissioner Lisa Chartier MOVED THAT the agenda be approved as amended in document #SWLSB-2009/10/28-CA-001.

Carried unanimously

2.0 APPROVAL OF MINUTES**CC-091028-CA-0032**

Commissioner George Benoit MOVED THAT the minutes of the REGULAR meeting of the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board held on 2009-09-23, 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, Walter Fogel, Peter MacLaurin, Nick Milas, Grace Nesi, Albina Pace, William Pollock
Commissioners ABSTAINING:	Mario Di Domenico, Tom Mouhteros, Nancy Rupnik

Commissioner Merle Parkinson entered the meeting via telephone.

TIME: 19:32 hours

3.0 QUESTION PERIOD

There were no questions.

4.0 REPORT FROM THE CHAIR:

4.1 *Report from the Chair:*

The Chair extended congratulations, on behalf of the Council of Commissioners, to the following persons:

- ❖ Commissioner Carolyn Curiale on her re-election as Vice-President of Quebec English School Boards Association (QESBA);
- ❖ Debbie Horrocks, Commissioner from the Riverside School Board, on her re-election as President of QESBA;
- ❖ Lisa Chartier, Parent Delegate from Our Lady of Peace Elementary School, on her re-elections as Elementary Parent Commissioner;
- ❖ Silvana Di Medio, Parent Delegate for Crestview Elementary School, on her re-election as Chair of the Parents Committee; and
- ❖ Angelo Grasso, Parent Delegate for Mother Teresa Junior High School, on his election as Secondary Parent Commissioner.

He went on to thank the outgoing Secondary Parent Commissioner, Luc Samson, for his participation and devotion to the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board and for the good work he has done with Rosemere High School over the past three years.

He continued noting that the Coordinator of Communications had been a co-host of the 2009 Canadian Association of Communicators in Education (CACE) Conference in Montreal from October 4 – 6, 2009 and that it was a great success. The Coordinator of Communications, Maxeen Jolin, has been elected as Vice-Chair of CACE for 2010.

On 2009-10-26, with much excitement, the first cohort of the Assistance in a Health Care Facility Program held its graduation. The second cohort of this program started today. Congratulations to the first graduates and to everyone who worked on the development and set-up of this program.

A Commissioners workshop on Bill 88 will be held on **2009-11-24** at 19:00 hours in the boardroom of the Administration Centre.

The Chair commented on the recent Focus Session noting that it was well received and that there were many good ideas, themes, and objectives brought forth. The attendance of union representatives, additional parents and principals allowed for a different outlook on how the school board communicates. A report on the session will be available in the next few weeks and once received a meeting will be held to establish how the results of the session can be applied.

The Council entered into discussion on the Focus Session and it was noted that it was nice to have the different stakeholders present as it provided an opportunity to network. It was also noted that having this session in the Administration Centre was a positive move as it is a familiar place for all who were involved, which in turn provided more productivity.

He went on note that earlier today several of the local English school boards were invited by CJAD radio to discuss H1N1. All those present had the same message and are keeping close tabs on this pandemic.

5.0 BUSINESS ARISING:

5.1 *Update on Accelerated Learning:*

The Interim Director of Educational Services advised the Executive Committee that on 2009-09-30 an information session for parents was held at Mother Teresa Junior High School for the Accelerated Learning Program and that there were approximately 400 people present.

Unfortunately, initial registration for the program resulted in only 22 applications for secondary II, so a decision had to be taken and the result is that due to this low number, the Accelerated Learning Program for secondary II will not be available in 2010-2011.

The exam for secondary I will be at 9:00 hours on Saturday, 2009-10-31 at Mother Teresa Junior High School. There are 113 registered for the exam for 64 places so once the exams have been corrected the students will be advised as to whether or not they have been accepted into of the program for 2010-2011.

In response to a question from Commissioner Tom Mouhteros, the Chair noted that there were no applications for the program from some schools as it is the choice of the parents whether or not an application will be submitted.

6.0 DECISION ITEMS:

6.1 SCHOOL ORGANIZATION

6.1.1 2010-2011 Enrolment Criteria:

The Assistant Director General advised the Council that the School Organizational Committee has reviewed the enrolment criteria from the 2009-2010 school year and has proposed no changes for 2010-2011.

The Council entered into discussion and it was noted that while there are no changes to the enrolment criteria for 2010-2011 it is prudent to review it and consult with the Parents Committee on an annual basis.

In response to a question from Commissioner Walter Fogel, the Chair noted that any changes that may have resulted from the Supreme Court decision on Bill 104 may not be reflected in the enrolment criteria until next year.

CC-091028-ED-0033

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 annually on the criteria for the enrolment of students in schools, which exceed the capacity of the school;

WHEREAS the registration period for students for 2010-2011 is the week of 2010-02-08;

Commissioner Nick Milas MOVED THAT, on the recommendation of the School Organization Committee and the Executive Committee, the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board approve in principle the establishment of the criteria for enrolment of students in its schools, subject to the availability of space, for the 2010-2011 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, Tom Mouhteros, Grace Nesi, Albina Pace, Merle Parkinson, William Pollock, Nancy Rupnik
Commissioners voting NAY:	Walter Fogel

6.2 ADULT & VOCATIONAL EDUCATION

6.2.1 Organizational Plan for Vocational & Technical Training:

The Director of Adult & Vocational Education advised the Council that the Organizational Plan for Vocational & Technical Training in English has been completed. The plan outlines the different strategies that will be used by the English school boards and English CEGEPs in order to offer quality training to the Québec English community. In the plan's developmental process the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board submitted its requests for programs and all have been retained in the final version of the plan. The plan will be sent to the MELS for final approval.

CC-091028-AE-0034

WHEREAS the Ministère de l'Éducation, du Loisir et du Sport has mandated all Quebec regions to produce a concerted "Plan d'aménagement de la formation professionnelle et technique » ;

WHEREAS, in continuity with the "2004-2008 Strategic Plan for the Québec-wide delivery of English Language Vocational Training" plan, the nine English school boards have worked collaboratively with the 4 English colleges in this process and have represented the needs of their student population;

WHEREAS this « plan d'aménagement » was developed in close consultation with the Ministère de l'Éducation, du Loisir et du Sport's "Section de la formation professionnelle et technique et de la formation continue (SFPTFC)", the "Services à la communauté Anglophone (SCA)" and the Provincial Vocational-Technical Collaboration Committee for the English Sector (PVTCC);

WHEREAS this "plan d'aménagement" includes an in-depth analysis of labour market trends and reviews existing points of service with the view of developing and consolidating program offerings where appropriate;

WHEREAS this "plan d'aménagement" is comprehensive and deals with major issues affecting vocational and technical education service delivery in the English language;

WHEREAS this "plan d'aménagement" has been approved unanimously by the Association of Directors general of English School Boards of Québec (ADGESBQ);

Commissioner Peter MacLaurin MOVED THAT, the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board approve the "2009 Plan d'aménagement de l'offre de formation professionnelle et technique en langue anglaise" for the Québec-wide delivery of English Language Vocational and Technical Training".

AND THAT a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Provincial Vocational-Technical Collaboration Committee for the English Sector (PVTCC) to be included in support of our "Plan d'aménagement" and deposited at the Ministère de l'Éducation, du Loisir et du Sport for analysis and consideration.

Carried unanimously

6.3 MATERIAL RESOURCES

6.3.1 *Engagement of Professionals – Measures 50690 & 50710:*

The Director of Material Resources presented and reviewed the resolution concerning the engagement of professionals for various projects noting that the tenders were invitational.

CC-091028-MR-0035

WHEREAS the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board has resolved to undertake renovation projects at Laurentia, Laurentian, Marcelle-Gauvreau and St-Charles Elementary Schools, Phoenix Alternative and Rosemere High School;

WHEREAS the Ministère de l'Éducation, du Loisir et du sport (MELS) has adopted Measure 50690 and Measure 50710 to assist school boards with the repair and maintenance of its buildings;

WHEREAS the Director of Material Resources has invited professionals to submit proposals for those projects;

WHEREAS a selection committee has reviewed the proposals received;

Commissioner Mario Di Domenico MOVED THAT, on the recommendation of the Selection Committee and the Material Resources Committee, the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board approve the engagement of the following architects to prepare the drawings, plans and tender specifications for the projects listed below:

SCHOOL	\$	PROJECT	PROFESSIONALS
Laurentia Elementary School	300 000 \$	Brick work renovations	Arcand Laporte
Laurentian Elementary School	350 000 \$	Brick work renovations	Viau architectes
Marcelle-Gauvreau	600 000\$	Renovations	Anis Nazar
St-Charles	1 300 000 \$	Major renovations	Anis Nazar
Phoenix Alternative	275 000 \$	Window project	Marco Manini
Rosemere High School	240 000 \$	Gym floor	Arcand Laporte

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

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

Carried unanimously

6.4 COMMUNICATIONS & CORPORATE AFFAIRS

6.4.1 *Archives – Conservation Calendar:*

The Secretary General presented the conservation (retention) calendar for the documents of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board noting that a draft of the document has been reviewed by the Bibliothèque et Archives Nationale du Québec and that the recommendations received have been incorporated into this final version of the calendar.

CC-091028-CA-0036

WHEREAS the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board requires a conservation calendar for the retention of documents;

WHEREAS a final draft of the conservation calendar for the retention of documents has been sent to the Bibliothèque et Archives Nationale du Québec for review and comments;

WHEREAS the conservation calendar for the retention of documents is now ready to be deposited at the Bibliothèque et Archives Nationale du Québec;

Commissioner Grace Nesi MOVED THAT, on the recommendation of the Communications & Public Relations Committee and the Executive Committee, the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board approve the conservation calendar for the retention of documents.

AND THAT the Secretary General be mandated to sign all documentation related to the conservation calendar for the retention of documents.

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, Tom Mouhteros, Grace Nesi, Albina Pace, Merle Parkinson, William Pollock, Nancy Rupnik
Commissioners ABSTAINING:	Walter Fogel

6.4.2 Commissioners Professional Development:

The Secretary General presented and reviewed two requests for professional development.

Parent Commissioner Lisa Chartier left the meeting.

TIME: 19:59 hours

CC-091028-CA-0037

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 one Commissioner has submitted a request to attend the 37th Annual International Conference on the Association for Experiential Education (AAE) being held from 2009-10-29 to 2009-11-01 in Montréal, Québec;

Commissioner Carolyn Curiale MOVED THAT the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board approve the attendance of **William Pollock** at the 37th Annual International Conference on the Association for Experiential Education (AAE) in Montréal, Québec from 2009-10-29 to 2009-11-01.

AND THAT registration, travel, accommodations and miscellaneous expenses not exceed 1 500,00\$ Canadian.

Carried unanimously

CC-091028-CA-0038

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 one Commissioner has submitted a request to attend the 2009 Conference for Audit Committees being held from 2009-11-19 to 2009-11-20 in Toronto, Ontario;

Commissioner Nancy Rupnik MOVED THAT the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board approve the attendance of **Merle Parkinson** at the 2009 Conference for Audit Committees in Toronto, Ontario from 2009-11-19 to 2009-11-20.

AND THAT registration, travel, accommodations and miscellaneous expenses not exceed 2 600,00\$ Canadian.

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, Tom Mouhteros, Grace Nesi, Albina Pace, Merle Parkinson, William Pollock, Nancy Rupnik
Commissioners ABSTAINING:	Walter Fogel

Parent Commissioner Lisa Chartier returned to the meeting.

TIME: 20:01 hours

7.0 INFORMATION ITEMS

7.1 Change of Meeting Dates – December 2009:

The Secretary General advised the Council that the meeting dates scheduled in December for both Council and Executive Committee would need to be changed.

The Council entered into discussion and agreed that the meetings scheduled for December 8 & 9, 2009 be cancelled and that special meetings be held on December 15 & 16, 2009.

In response to a question from Commissioner Merle Parkinson, the Chair advised that the Communications & Public Relations Committee meeting will be moved to 2009-12-08 and that the School Organization Committee meeting will be on 2009-12-09. All Commissioners are invited to attend the School Organization Committee meeting.

7.2 SWL Foundation:

The Chair advised the Council that the next Foundation event will be on 2010-01-14 and it will be a night of music with the CAP Show. The cost of a ticket will be 225\$. The funds raised from this show will be for school projects. The Foundation has agreed to provide 40 000\$ of funding for school projects and the schools will have to submit a project. A selection committee will review the submissions and chose those that will receive funding.

The Sir Wilfrid Laurier Foundation is also increasing the number of bursaries for the 2009-2010 school year with the larger elementary and high schools receiving two bursaries and smaller ones receiving one bursary.

7.3 Parent Commissioners Report

Parent Commissioner Lisa Chartier advised the Council that the first Parents Committee of 2009-2010 was held on 2009-10-01 and that elections were held for the Parents Committee executive, as discussed in item 4.0.

She went on to note that the committee had received a very informative presentation on the Career Exploration Lab from the Assistant Director of Adult & Vocational Education. The Parents Committee would like to hold an informal meeting with the Council to discuss various issues and that an invitation will be forthcoming from the Chair.

She also noted that the Parents Committee would like to see more participation of principals and teachers at Governing Board workshops.

Commissioner Walter Fogel left the meeting.

TIME 20:08 hours

The Director General noted that the absence of principals and teachers at Governing Board workshops is because there is training at the school board involving principals and teachers. The training given may be comprised of similar topics but on the level associated with the role of the principal or the teachers.

Commissioner Walter Fogel returned to the meeting.

TIME: 20:10 hours

7.4 Report of the QESBA:

Commissioner Carolyn Curiale advised that, at the last Quebec English School Boards Association (QESBA) Board of Directors meeting, partnership agreements and the need to align the school board strategic plans with the Ministère de l'Éducation, du Loisir et du Sport (MELS) strategic plan was discussed.

Discussion also took place on the harmonization of territories for the potential twinning of school board and municipal elections. For most English school boards there will be minimal impact on the twinning of these elections if done by municipality but if school elections and municipal elections were to be twinned in accordance with MRCs the results could be devastating for some school boards, who would have to change their school board borders. The QESBA voted unanimously not to support the harmonization of school board territories with MRC territories.

She went on to advise that the question of the funding of SOFAD (Société de formation à distance des commissions scolaires du Québec) for 2009-2010 has been resolved with the MELS providing the necessary budget.

7.5 Arundel Nature Centre Pilot Project:

Commissioner Peter MacLaurin, Chair of the Arundel Nature Centre (ANC) Management Sub-Committee, advised that the centre has been underused for several years and that this 4 month pilot project will help to make the centre more viable. This pilot project has been developed by a team in Educational Services.

The Interim Director of Educational Services noted that the role of the teacher on site will be to animate the activities and to develop programs based on actual needs not perceived needs.

He went on to note that the centre has been "twinning" with the Palisade Stewardship Centre, which is similar to ANC, and is run by the Grande Yellowhead Regional School Division in Alberta and Parks Canada. A team from the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board consisting of a Pedagogical Consultant, the ANC Recreational Activities Technician and two teachers, are currently visiting this Centre to meet with its consultants and teachers to observe how they use the centre effectively.

ANC is a valuable asset that needs to be used to its potential and it is hoped that this pilot project will achieve its goals so that future plans can be made.

7.6 Career Exploration Lab – November Schedule:

The Director of Adult & Vocational Education advised the Council that several groups have booked the Career Exploration Lab and that the most frequent visitors are the students from Laval Liberty's 16+ Program.

8.0 QUESTION PERIOD:

In response to a question from Jack Fitch, President of the SEPB 577, the Chair noted that he is aware of the burden being taken on at the school level with the reduction in part-time secretarial staff but that at this time additional staffing cannot be approved as the school board does not have a final report on the effectiveness of the recovery plan.

The Director of Financial Resources noted that a report on the effectiveness of the recovery plan will only be available upon the completion of the audit for the 2008-2009 school year.

9.0 CORRESPONDENCE:

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

10.0 VARIA:

In response to a concern expressed by Commissioner Walter Fogel, the Chair advised that any concerns over the carbon footprint of the school board should be brought to the Material Resources Committee for further discussion and recommendations.

Commissioner Albina Pace left the meeting.

TIME: 20:30 hours

The Chair suggested that the issue can be brought back to the December meeting of the Council.

Commissioner Albina Pace returned to the meeting.

TIME: 20:32 hours

11.0 ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING:

Commissioner Robert Dixon MOVED adjournment of the meeting.

Carried unanimously

TIME: 20:35 hours

NEXT MEETING ⇨ REGULAR ⇨ 2009-11-25

Marie-Claude Drouin, Secretary General

Steve Bletas, Chair