

PROVINCE OF QUEBEC

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE SIR WILFRID LAURIER SCHOOL BOARD HELD ON 2010-02-24

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, 2010-02-24.

Present: Commissioners Steve Bletas, Chair; Carolyn Curiale, Vice-Chair; Mario Di Domenico, Robert Dixon, Nazario Facchino, Walter Fogel, Steve Kmec, Nick Milas, Steve Mitchell, Tom Mouhteros, Albina Pace, Merle Parkinson, William Pollock, and Nancy Rupnik; Parent Commissioner Angelo Grasso; and Anne-Marie Lepage, Director General.

Also present were: Alain Guay, Assistant Director General; Marie-Claude Drouin, Secretary General; Johanne Brabant, Director of Adult & Vocational Education; Line Desgroseilliers, Director of Information Technology; Daniel Hogue, Director of Material Resources; Livia Nassivera, Director of Financial Resources; George Paquette, Director of School Organization; Gerry Robillard, Interim Director of Educational Services; Anne-Marie Lavoie, Assistant Director of Human Resources; and Jocelyne Thompson-Ness, Administrative Assistant. Several other persons were also in the audience.

Absent: **Commissioners** George Benoit, Peter MacLaurin, Mike Pizzola, Edward Turchyniak and Parent Commissioner Lisa Chartier.

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

1.0 ACCEPTANCE OF AGENDA:

CC-100224-CA-0089

Commissioner Steve Mitchell MOVED THAT the agenda be approved as presented in document #SWLSB-2010/02/24-CA-001.

Carried unanimously

2.0 APPROVAL OF MINUTES

CC-100224-CA-0090

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 2010-01-27, having been received by all members prior to this meeting, be approved as presented.

Carried unanimously

3.0 QUESTION PERIOD

There were no questions.

4.0 REPORT FROM THE CHAIR:

4.1 Report from the Chair:

The Chair informed the Council that the school board is now in its second year of its recovery plan and that a pamphlet is being prepared for stakeholders to provide information on what has been accomplished to date.

The Director General noted that she will be meeting with the union and association presidents to review what has been accomplished to date on the recovery plan and what is planned for the second year.

The Chair went on to note that he has received a copy of a letter being sent to the Ministre de l'Éducation, du Loisir et du Sport from the Chair of the Parents Committee expressing concerns over certain things that are lacking for education in the English sector that would be required in order to fully participate in the Partnership Agreement.

5.0 BUSINESS ARISING:

In response to a question from Commissioner Walter Fogel concerning the minutes of 2010-01-27, pages 2140 – 2141, item 10.0 Varia; the Director General advised that she had brought forward the issue of the costs related to establishment and implementation of the Partnership Agreements to the English Directors General and that it was decided not to pursue this issue at this time.

In response to an additional question from Commissioner Fogel, the Director General noted that a meeting with the Ministre de l'Éducation, du Loisir et du Sport had taken place and the funding of various projects was addressed. The response was that there is no funding available. The Ministre may consider partnerships between the English and French school boards who are lacking services in certain areas and this may persuade the Treasury Board to provide funding. The Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board has already submitted such a proposal to the Ministre to create a multi-purpose centre with the Commission scolaire de la Seigneurie-des-Mille-Iles and is currently awaiting a response.

She also noted that the English sector 5-year Plan for Adult & Vocational Education has had its first presentation and has been moved on for a second review.

Commissioner Merle Parkinson entered the meeting.

TIME: 19:54 hours

6.0 DECISION ITEMS:

6.1 SCHOOL ORGANIZATION

6.1.1 2010-2011 Deeds & Three-Year Plan:

The Director of School Organization presented and reviewed the proposed deeds of establishment and three-year plan for 2010-2011 noting the various changes and updating. The School Organization Committee has reviewed the document and recommends that it be approved in principle.

The Council entered into discussion.

In response to a question from Commissioner Walter Fogel, the Director of School Organization noted that the functional capacity in the 3rd year shows a decline because that year, the Ministère de l'Éducation, du Loisir et du Sport (MELS) changes the group size from 29 to 26 per class therefore, decreasing the functional capacity.

In response to an additional question from Commissioner Fogel, the Director of Material Resources advised that each school has an evacuation plan and a shelter arrangement in the case of an emergency. In the case of the schools in Deux-Montagnes there is a reciprocal agreement that if there is a town emergency the schools will be available to it for shelter.

CC-100224-CA-0091

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 Tom Mouhteros 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 #2010-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

6.2 COMMUNICATIONS & CORPORATE AFFAIRS

6.2.1 By-Law #BL2010-CA-19: Student Ombudsman:

The Secretary General presented and reviewed the proposed by-law on the examination of a complaint and the role of the Student Ombudsman.

In response to a question from Commissioner Walter Fogel, the Secretary General advised that complaints are requested in writing as verbal complaints are sometimes difficult to answer.

In response to an additional question from Commissioner Fogel, the Secretary General noted that the school board does not have control over as to when, during the 90-day window, a complainant advises the Student Ombudsman of his/her dissatisfaction with the outcome of the appeals process. After receiving a complaint the Student Ombudsman will have 30 days to handle to complaint and respond.

CC-100224-CA-0092

WHEREAS the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board must establish a by-law on the procedure for the examination of a complaint, in accordance with section 220.2 of the Education Act (R.S.Q., Chapter I-13.3);

Commissioner Walter Fogel 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 in principle by-law #BL2010-CA-19: Procedure for the Examination of Complaints of Students or Their Parents, as per the attached document.

AND THAT this proposed by-law be subject to the consultation process for by-laws, as per section 392 of the Education Act (R.S.Q., Chapter I-13.3).

Carried unanimously

6.2.2 Commissioners PD – CSBA 2010:

The Secretary General informed the Council that a request has been received from Commissioner Carolyn Curiale to attend the 2010 Canadian School Boards Association Conference (CSBA) in St-John's, Newfoundland from 2010-07-07 to 2010-07-10.

In response to a question from Commissioner Steve Kmec, the Chair noted that for this conference the school board will be covering all expenses so as to allow other members of the Quebec English School Boards Association (QESBA) to have their registration fees covered. For the past two years the registration fees of Commissioner Curiale have been covered by the QESBA.

In response to a comment from Commissioner Walter Fogel, the Chair noted that Commissioner Curiale is attending the conference in her capacity as Vice-Chair of this school board and that if any other commissioners wish to attend they can apply and the request will be looked at in conformity with school board policy.

CC-100224-CA-0093

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 2010 Canadian School Boards Association Conference (CSBA) being held from 2010-07-07 to 2010-07-10 in St-John's, Newfoundland.

Parent Commissioner Angelo Grasso MOVED THAT the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board approve the attendance of **Carolyn Curiale** at the 2010 Canadian School Boards Association Conference (CSBA) in St-John's, Newfoundland from 2010-07-07 to 2010-07-10.

AND THAT registration, travel, accommodations and miscellaneous expenses not exceed 3 000\$ Canadian for this Commissioner.

THIS MOTION WAS CARRIED ON THE FOLLOWING DIVISION:	
Commissioners voting YEA:	Steve Bletas, Carolyn Curiale, Mario Di Domenico, Robert Dixon, Steve Kmec, Nick Milas, Steve Mitchell, Tom Mouhteros, Grace Nesi, Albina Pace, Merle Parkinson, William Pollock, Nancy Rupnik
Commissioners ABSTAINING:	Walter Fogel

Commissioner Nazario Facchino entered the meeting.

TIME: 20:10 hours

6.3 MATERIAL RESOURCES**6.3.1 Transfer of Land – New School in Joliette:**

The Director of Material Resources presented and reviewed the offer of land from municipality of Saint-Charles-Borromée for the construction of the new Joliette Elementary School.

In response to a question from Commissioner Nick Milas, the Director of Material Resources noted that the actual size of the lot is to be confirmed once surveyed but that it is big enough to construct the new school and have the necessary outside activity areas.

There are some questions concerning the location of nearby gas reservoirs and he will report back when more information is obtained.

CC-100224-MR-0094

WHEREAS the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board adopted resolution #CC-080924-MR-0017 requesting financing from the Ministère de l'Éducation, du Loisir et du Sport (MELS) in 2009-2010 for the construction of a new school in Joliette in order to relocate Joliette Elementary School:

WHEREAS the Ministère de l'Éducation, du Loisir et du Sport (MELS) has authorized the construction of a new building for Joliette Elementary School in the amount of 5 426 464\$;

WHEREAS, after consultation with the Director of School Organization, the Director of Material Resources sent letters to five municipalities, Notre-Dame-des-Prairies, Saint-Charles-Borromée, Saint-Paul, **Village de Saint-Pierre**, and Ville de Joliette, advising that the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board is seeking land for the construction of the new Joliette Elementary School;

WHEREAS a Selection Committee was formed to examine and evaluate the offers received and mandated the Director of Material Resources to pursue the investigation of the land, part of lot #284, offered by the municipality of Saint-Charles-Borromée;

WHEREAS an environmental study has been conducted on the land being offered;

WHEREAS soil testing has been conducted on the land being offered;

WHEREAS the results of both studies were conclusive and thereby meet the requirements for standard construction;

Commissioner Albina Pace 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 accept the offer of land part of lot #284 from the municipality of Saint-Charles-Borromée for the construction of the new Joliette Elementary School.

AND THAT the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board accepts this transfer of land, part of lot #284, at gratis;

AND THAT the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board assumes all legal fees involved for the transfer of part of lot #284;

FURTHER THAT the Chairman, or in his absence or with his knowledge the Vice-Chairman, as well as the Director General, or in her absence or with her knowledge the Assistant Director General, be authorized to sign all documentation concerning this project.

Carried unanimously

6.4 FINANCIAL RESOURCES

6.4.1 Call to Tender – Auditing Services:

The Director of Financial Resources advised the Council that the contract with the current provider of auditing services is coming to an end on 2010-06-30 and that it is necessary to call a tender. The Financial Resources Committee is proposing a three-year contract with an optional year.

CC-100224-FR-0095

WHEREAS the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board wishes to proceed with a call to tender for auditing services for a 3 year period, with an option for an additional year;

WHEREAS the estimated cost of a 3-year contract is potentially superior to \$ 100 000;

WHEREAS service contracts over \$ 100 000 require a public call to tender;

WHEREAS per **section** 284 of the Education Act, the auditors must be appointed by the school board;

Commissioner Merle Parkinson MOVED THAT, on the recommendation of the Financial Resources Committee, the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board approve that public tenders be called for the selection of auditing services as per the tender specifications.

Carried unanimously

7.0 INFORMATION ITEMS

7.1 *SWL Foundation:*

The Chair advised that the next Sir Wilfrid Laurier Foundation event would be the Lobster Fest on 2010-06-09 at the Château Royal in Laval.

7.2 *Parent Commissioners Report*

Parent Commissioner Angelo Grasso provided information on the most recent meeting of the Parents Committee noting that an informative presentation of the Partnership Agreements was given by Ms. Halman. He noted that the Chair of the Parents Committee has sent a letter to the Ministre de l'Éducation, du Loisir et du Sport concerning accountability and resources for the Partnership Agreements.

He went on to note the 2010-02-08 Governing Board Workshop on Financing given by the Secretary General and the Director of Financial Resources, the publication and distribution of the Parents Committee Information Pamphlet, the fundraising for Haiti, a request from a parent from Laurentian Elementary School to have the dress code revoked, and textbooks.

He went on to thank the Chair of the Parents Committee and the sub-committee formed for their exceptional work on the information pamphlet. He gave special thanks to Morton Jaquays, Parent Delegate for Laval Junior High School, for being able to obtain 20 000 copies of the information pamphlet free of charge.

In response to a comment from Parent Commissioner Angelo Grasso, the Director General noted that after the discussion on the textbooks she had asked that Educational Services to prepare some information for the next Parents Committee meeting that outlines the allocations and the process for the selection of textbooks at the elementary and high school levels.

The Council entered into discussion.

In response to several comments and questions, the Interim Director of Educational Services advised that the only textbooks that can be used in the schools are those found on the list approved by the Ministère de l'Éducation, du Loisir et du Sport (MELS).

The Assistant Director General noted that the question of Commissioner participation at Parents Committee meeting was again discussed and that it be on a rotating basis.

In response to a question from Commissioner Robert Dixon, the Director General noted that the parent who brought forth the question on revoking the dress code at Laurentian Elementary School was advised that the Parents Committee was not the place for this to be discussed and that this should be brought to the school's Governing Board. She noted to the parent that the school board believes that the implementation of a dress code should not penalize those students who do not wish to wear it and that all students should be treated equally.

7.3 *Report of the QESBA:*

Commissioner Carolyn Curiale presented and reviewed the report of the Quebec English School Boards Association (QESBA) noting the various activities and committees. She also noted the Winter Professional Development Session that will take place on March 26 & 27, 2010 at The Nouvel Hotel in Montréal.

The Chair advised that the Quebec English School Boards Association (QESBA) "Go publique" campaign to raise awareness of public education has received funding of 250 000\$ through the Québec-Canada entente. From the funding received 100 000\$ will be used for billboards on major autoroutes throughout the province. The balance of the funding will be used for Web postings and media advertisement. The campaign will begin the week of 2010-02-08 and controversy is expected as it is only the English school boards that are participating in this campaign.

7.4 Auditor's Observation Letter:

The Director of Financial Resources presented and reviewed the auditor's observation letter noting that it was a very good report.

In response to a question from Commissioner Steve Kmec, the Director of Information Technology explained the process for the approval of requisitions to purchase goods and services noting that only a Director can approve a requisition on the computer and that a signed copy of the requisition must be kept as a back up for auditing purposes.

8.0 QUESTION PERIOD:

In response to a question from Teresa Kralik, President of the Laurier Teachers Union (LTU), the Chair noted that the Council is aware of what is going on with the negotiations as it receives information through CPNCA.

9.0 CORRESPONDENCE:

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

In response to a question from Commissioner Walter Fogel, the Assistant Director General advised that there have been incidents of bullying in the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board and that each incident is treated quickly and seriously with the Administration of the school.

The Chair advised that there will be a Focus Session on the 2010-03-22 at 19:00 hours in the Boardroom of the Administration Centre on the Partnership Agreement so that the process can be presented to invited stakeholders.

He went on to note that things are beginning to progress at the Arundel Nature Centre (ANC) with a teacher being engaged to develop programs for the centre, the increase use of the centre, the development of a business plan, the twinning with the Palisades Stewardship Education Centre in Jasper, Alberta, upcoming meetings with Senators, etc.

The Director General commended all the employees involved in the promotion of ANC as it enhances the education provided at the centre. She thanked the Council of Commissioners for their support of this initiative and to the Directors and their teams for bringing everything to realization.

10.0 VARIA:

Commissioner Grace Nesi congratulated the students and staff at Lake of Two Mountains High School on the success for their first Fashion Show.

11.0 ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING:

Commissioner Robert Dixon MOVED adjournment of the meeting.

Carried unanimously

TIME: 20:54 hours

NEXT MEETING ⇨ REGULAR ⇨ 2010-03-24

Marie-Claude Drouin, Secretary General

Steve Bletas, Chair