

PROVINCE OF QUEBEC

MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE SIR WILFRID LAURIER SCHOOL BOARD HELD ON 2010-05-18

A Special 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 Tuesday, 2010-05-18.

Present: Commissioners Steve Bletas, Chair; Carolyn Curiale, Vice-Chair; Mario Di Domenico; Nazario Facchino, Walter Fogel, Steve Kmec, Peter MacLaurin; Nick Milas, Steve Mitchell, Mike Pizzola, William Pollock, Nancy Rupnik and Edward Turchyniak; Parent Commissioners Lisa Chartier and Angelo Grasso; and Anne-Marie Lepage, Director General.

Also present were: 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; and Jocelyne Thompson-Ness, Administrative Assistant. Several other persons were also in the audience.

Absent: Commissioners Georges Benoit, Robert Dixon, Tom Mouhteros, Albina Pace and Merle Parkinson, and Alain Guay, Assistant Director General

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 19:32 hours.

1.0 ACCEPTANCE OF AGENDA:

Commissioner Nazario Facchino entered the meeting

TIME: 19:33 hours

CC-100518-CA-0132

Commissioner Mike Pizzola MOVED THAT the agenda be approved as presented in document #SWLSB-2010/05/18-CA-001.

Carried unanimously

2.0 APPROVAL OF MINUTES

CC-100518-CA-0133

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 2010-04-28, having been received by all members prior to this meeting, be approved as presented.

THIS MOTION WAS CARRIED ON THE FOLLOWING DIVISION:	
Commissioners voting YEA:	Steve Bletas, Carolyn Curiale, Walter Fogel, Steve Kmec, Nick Milas, Steve Mitchell, Grace Nesi, Mike Pizzola, William Pollock, Nancy Rupnik, Edward Turchyniak
Commissioners ABSTAINING:	Mario DiDomenico, Peter MacLaurin

3.0 QUESTION PERIOD

Jack Fitch, President of SEPB 577 the Administrative Support Staff Union, advised the Council that the union had been consulted on the abolition and creation of administrative staff positions but this evening he is requesting that the abolition of the Recreation Technician Position at the Arundel Nature Centre (ANC) be postponed until 2010-12-30, given the new direction of ANC. The person currently holding the post has assets that will be valuable during the transition period. If the Council were to agree to this proposal the union would be willing to sign a letter to this effect.

The Director General advised that this request cannot be answered this evening as it must be reviewed. She noted that a mandate had been given by the Council to assess ANC in light of the new direction for the centre. The abolition of this position was brought to the Labour Relations Committee and the position of the union on the proposed abolition should have been discussed in this meeting.

Mr. Fitch noted that it had been discussed and that he had made his objection to the proposed abolition very clear but it was still abolished. He asked that the Council of Commissioners consider his request for a delay in this abolition.

The Chair advised that the matter would be looked into.

4.0 REPORT FROM THE CHAIR:

4.1 *Report from the Chair:*

The Chair advised the Council that the Auditor General's report has been released and there are several areas that concern school boards i.e. possible merger of school boards in certain regions, abolition of school boards, the need for school boards to develop audit tools to reduce and explain costs, etc.

The Ministre de l'Éducation, du Loisir et du Sport (MELS) has responded to some of the comments in the Auditor General's report noting that she rejects the idea of abolishing school boards and supports the reduction of costs.

He went on to note that the Conseil général has adopted a resolution concerning school elections and the current mandate has been extended until 2013. It has also been publically noted that if voter turnout is not good during the next school elections, MELS could undertake the appointment of Commissioners.

He continued by advising the Council of a recent Quebec English School Boards Association (QESBA) press conference held on 2010-05-11 concerning access to English education.

The Council entered into discussion on access to English education and several points were brought forth:

- 61% of the French speaking population supports access to English education;
- The possibility of Commissioners being appointed by the MELS if voter turnout is low during the 2013 school elections;
- The English school boards have a strong focus on French instruction which allows for the graduation of fluently bilingual students;
- Make the presence of English schools known and the benefits of a bilingual education, as the English speakers are also Québécois.

The QESBA is recommending that a meeting be held with school board Chairs, Parents Committee Chairs and Directors General to establish a plan of action for maintaining English language education in Québec.

The Chair noted that the Ministère de l'Éducation, du Loisir et du Sport (MELS) is planning a Fall Summit on Education and when the Quebec English School Boards Association (QESBA) asked the Ministre if the Chairs of all school boards could attend this summit, she indicated that this was not possible, attendance would be by invitation.

He noted that Bill 100 (2010) has been adopted and it makes it necessary for all levels of employment within the school board to reduce the professional development and travel budgets by 25%.

He further noted that the Laurier Gala is being held on 2010-05-27 at the Olympia in Deux-Montages and that the Retirement Dinner is on 2010-06-03 at Le Parc in Laval.

The Council entered into discussion and it was noted that if everyone is expected to reduce costs, it is hoped that MELS will also participate in this exercise. As well it feels as though the MELS is trying to remove power from the school boards.

In response to a question from Commissioner Edward Turchyniak, the Director of Financial Resources noted that directives concerning the 25% reduction in professional development budgets are pending.

In response to an additional question from Commissioner Turchyniak, the Director General advised that she would look into the effect of the new assignments given the new role of 1 for 2 replacements even though those assignments were completed for the 2009-2010 organizational chart.

Commissioner Nick Milas left the meeting.

TIME: 20:11 hours

Commissioner Nick Milas returned to the meeting.

TIME: 20:13 hours

5.0 BUSINESS ARISING:

5.1 *Engagement - Assistant Director of Complimentary Services:*

The Director General provided background information on the selection of the Assistant Director of Complementary Services noting that the recommendation of the Selection Committee was unanimous.

In response to a question from Commissioner Steve Kmec, the Chair noted that 4 candidates were interviewed for this position.

CC-100518-HR-0134

WHEREAS the Council of Commissioners has appointed Stephanie Krenn to the position of Director of Complementary Services, effective 2010-07-01;

WHEREAS the position of Assistant Director of Complementary Services is vacant as a result of this appointment;

Parent Commissioner Lisa Chartier MOVED THAT the Council of Commissioners appoint **Frédéric Greschner** to the position of Assistant Director of Complementary Services, effective 2010-07-01.

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

Frédéric Greschner thanked the Council for its support and noted that he is looking forward to the challenge.

5.2 Update on 2010-2011 Administrative Assignments:

The Director General noted that interviews were also held on 2010-05-17 for the vacant positions of Principal and Vice-Principal with positive results. After this round of assignment and transfer the only vacant positions will be the Principal at Genesis Elementary School and the Vice-Principal position at Laval Liberty High School.

The Council entered into discussion on stability in schools with the movement of personnel and the requirement for a school to have a vice-principal.

The Director General noted that in order for a school to have a vice-principal, enrolment must be over 550 students.

In response to a question from Commissioner Steve Kmec, the Director General noted that the Marcelle-Gauvreau school will not be used until the 2011-2012 school year as it requires renovations before it can be used. The Ministère de l'Éducation, du Loisir et du Sport (MELS) provided us with two buildings in one year and have agreed to allow deferral of the use of Marcelle-Gauvreau until 2011-2012.

CC-100518-HR-0135

WHEREAS the Council of Commissioners adopted resolution #CC-100428-HR-0120, approving the assignment and transfer of in-school Administrators for the 2010-2011 school year;

WHEREAS circumstances have made it necessary for the Director General to recommend some modifications to the assignment and transfer of in-school Administrators;

WHEREAS some positions for Principal and Vice-Principal continue to be vacant;

Commissioner Nick Milas MOVED THAT, on the recommendation of the Director General, the Council of Commissioners approve the following modifications to the aforementioned resolution:

ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS	PRINCIPALS	VICE-PRINCIPALS
Arundel (50% teaching)	Mary-Helen Goyetche	
Genesis	VACANT	
Jules Verne	Aimee Parsons	
McCaig	Serge-Édouard Jeanniton	Marissa Goffredo
Pierre Elliott Trudeau	Karen Lorenz	
Rawdon (50% teaching)	Tammie Marlin	
Ste-Adèle (50% teaching)	Christian St-Pierre	
St-Paul	Ann Cohen	Carolyn Roberts (To be replaced until March)
Terry Fox	Lisa Verrall (To be replaced until Christmas)	Lynn Neveu
HIGH SCHOOLS	PRINCIPALS	VICE-PRINCIPALS
Lake of Two Mountains	Sollie Gliksman	Gail Spillane
Laval Liberty High School	Eric Ruggi	Helen Kalipolidis
		VACANT
DIRECTORS		ASSISTANT DIRECTORS
COMPLEMENTARY SERVICES	Stephanie Krenn, Director	Frédéric Greschner, Assist. Director

AND THAT the Director of Human Resources be mandated to post internally and externally for the positions of Principal at Genesis Elementary School and Vice-Principal at Laval Liberty High School.

THIS MOTION WAS CARRIED ON THE FOLLOWING DIVISION:	
Commissioners voting YEA:	Steve Bletas, Carolyn Curiale, Mario Di Domenico, Nazario Facchino, Walter Fogel, Steve Kmec, Peter MacLaurin, Nick Milas, Grace Nesi, Mike Pizzola, William Pollock, Nancy Rupnik, Edward Turchyniak
Commissioners voting NAY:	Steve Mitchell

6.0 DECISION ITEMS:

Commissioner Carolyn Curiale left the meeting.

TIME: 20:30 hours

6.1 MATERIAL RESOURCES**6.1.1 Engagement of Contractor – Window & Door Project - Phoenix:**

The Director of Material Resources provided background information on the window and door project at Phoenix Alternative.

CC-100518-MR-0136

WHEREAS the Council of Commissioners of Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board adopted resolution #CC-091028-MR-0035 to retain the services of Marco Manini, to prepare the architectural specifications, drawings, tendering documentation and provide supervision for the window/door project at Phoenix Alternative;

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

WHEREAS public tenders were called and subsequently opened on 2010-04-30;

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

Commissioner Mario Di Domenico MOVED THAT, on the recommendation of the Material Resources Committee, the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board award the contract for the window/door project at Phoenix Alternative to **Placements PM 2000 inc.**, for a total cost of 188 595,40\$, before taxes, (212 877,06\$, all taxes included).

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

Carried unanimously

6.2 COMMUNICATIONS & CORPORATE AFFAIRS**6.2.1 Access to English Education:**

The Secretary General provided background information on the resolution concerning access to English Education noting that it is in response to the Québec government's intention to introduce new legislation regarding access.

Commissioner Carolyn Curiale returned to the meeting.

TIME: 20:33 hours

CC-100428-CA-0137

WHEREAS school boards are the cornerstone of communities;

WHEREAS the Québec government recognizes English public school boards and the right to be educated in English;

WHEREAS the enrolment in English public schools has dropped by more than 60% since the 1980's;

WHEREAS this decline is a result of many factors, most notably the restrictions on access to English public education;

WHEREAS the Québec government has indicated that it intends to introduce new legislation regarding access to English public education;

WHEREAS the English public education system has proven over many years that it graduates students who are bilingual and capable of living and working in French and English in Québec;

Commissioner Peter MacLaurin MOVED THAT the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board request from the Québec Government that it ensure the future of the English public school boards and the Anglophone community by making legal arrangements to accommodate a limited broadening of the access to English public education.

AND THAT these legal arrangements be presented to the Members of the National Assembly during its current session.

FURTHER THAT copies of this resolution be sent to the Premier of Québec, the Minister of l'Éducation, du Loisir et du Sport, the Minister of Justice, all members of the National Assembly for Laval-Laurentides-Lanaudière, all English school boards and the Quebec English School Boards Association (QESBA).

Carried unanimously

6.3 ADULT EDUCATION & VOCATIONAL TRAINING

6.3.1 Bilingual Vocational Training Centre:

The Director of Adult Education & Vocational Training commented on the joint proposal for the Multiservice Bilingual Vocational Training Centre with the Commission scolaire de la Seigneurie-des-Mille-les.

CC-100428-CA-0138

WHEREAS regional partnerships must be created to facilitate the organization of vocational and technical training services, in order to respond to financial constraints of the Ministère de l'Éducation, du Loisir et du Sport (MELS) to support these initiatives;

WHEREAS Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board and la Commission Scolaire de la Seigneurie-des-Mille-Iles are willing to work hand in hand to improve the vocational and technical training offer in the Laurentians;

WHEREAS both school boards have worked together towards a joint proposal for discussion with the Ministère de l'Éducation, du Loisir et du Sport (MELS);

Commissioner Nazario Facchino MOVED THAT, on the recommendation of the Directorate and the Executive Committee, the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board support the proposal for a Multiservice Bilingual Vocational Training Centre in partnership with la Commission Scolaire de la Seigneurie-des-Mille-Iles, for the Laurentian region, as presented in Document # SWLSB-2010/05/18-AE-001.

Carried unanimously

7.0 INFORMATION ITEMS

7.1 SWL Foundation:

Commissioner Edward Turchyniak advised the Council that as of today 475 tickets have been sold for the lobster event.

He went on to advise that Telus will donate 10\$ to the Sir Wilfrid Laurier Foundation for every employee phone contract sold under its new contract with the school board.

7.2 Parent Commissioners Report

The Parent Commissioners report commented on its last meeting noting the informative presentation by the Director of Information Technology on social networking, such as Facebook and You Tube. During the presentation it was noted that the school board has blocked sites which are hateful, pornographic or inappropriate. Requests were received to block Facebook and You Tube but the school board felt that education about the social network and proactive strategies for students to gain knowledge, skills and motivation to make appropriate decisions would prove to be more beneficial.

The report also noted the consultation on the Strategic Plan, the Sir Wilfrid Laurier Foundation Lobster "Red Carpet" event on 2010-06-09, and the change of meeting date for June to 2010-06-02.

7.3 Report of the QESBA:

Commissioner Carolyn Curiale advised the Council that Commissioner mandates have been extended past 2011 but no date of expiry has been given therefore, there will be no school election in November 2011. It is expected that more information will be available at the Fall Summit on Education being planned by the Ministère de l'Éducation, du Loisir et du Sport (MELS).

The report also commented on a press conference concerning access to English education and the 2011 QESBA/AAESQ Spring Conference.

7.4 Abolition & Creation of Positions & Staffing Plans for 2010-2011:

The Director of Human Resources advised the Council that at last evening's Executive Committee the following were adopted: the abolition of administrative support staff and non-teaching professional positions, the creation of maintenance, administrative support staff and non-teaching professional positions and the 2010-2011 maintenance staffing plan. She went on to provide background information on these resolutions.

Commissioner Nazario Facchino left the meeting.

TIME: 20:41 hours

The Council entered into discussion on several positions being either reduced or abolished.

Requests were made for the Director of Human Resources to review the reduction of the position of Documentation Technician at Lake of Two Mountains High School and the **abolition** of the Recreational Activities Technician position at the Arundel Nature Centre.

Commissioner Nazario Facchino returned to the meeting

TIME: 20:46 hours

The Director General noted that the concerns have been heard and that a review will be conducted. She also noted that these resolutions were approved within the delegation of powers to the Executive Committee and in accordance to several collective agreements.

She asked that the Director of Human Resources include the results of the review in her June monthly report.

Commissioner Grace Nesi left the meeting.

TIME: 20:57 hours

8.0 QUESTION PERIOD:

There were no questions

9.0 CORRESPONDENCE:

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

10.0 VARIA:

Commissioner Nancy Rupnik, as Chair of the Communications & Public Relations Committee, advised Commissioners that the meeting set for 2010-05-19 has been rescheduled for 2010-06-14.

Commissioner Grace Nesi returned to the meeting.

TIME: 20:59 hours

11.0 ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING:

Commissioner Edward Turchyniak MOVED adjournment of the meeting.

Carried unanimously

TIME: 21:00 hours

NEXT MEETING ⇨ REGULAR ⇨ 2010-06-23