

PROVINCE OF QUEBEC

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE SIR WILFRID LAURIER SCHOOL BOARD HELD ON 2010-08-25

A regular meeting of the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board was held in the boardroom of the Administration Centre, 235 Montée Lesage, Rosemere, QC on Wednesday, 2010-08-25.

Present: Commissioners Steve Bletas, Chairman; Carolyn Curiale, Vice-Chairman; Georges Benoit, Mario Di Domenico; Robert Dixon, Nazario Facchino, Walter Fogel, Steve Kmec, Peter MacLaurin, Nick Milas, Steve Mitchell, Tom Mouhteros, Albina Pace, Merle Parkinson, Mike Pizzola, Nancy Rupnik and Edward Turchyniak; Parent Commissioners Lisa Chartier and 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; Linda Di Domenico, Director of Human Resources; Daniel Hogue, Director of Material Resources; Stephanie Krenn, Director of Complementary Services; Livia Nassivera, Director of Financial Resources; George Paquette, Director of School Organization; Gerry Robillard, Director of Educational Services; and Jocelyne Thompson-Ness, Administrative Assistant. Several other persons were also in the audience.

Absent: Commissioner William Pollock.

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

The Chairman welcomed everyone back noting that 2010-2011 will be a good year.

He went on to welcome Stephanie Krenn, Director of Complementary Services, to the table.

1.0 ACCEPTANCE OF AGENDA:

CC-100825-CA-0001

Commissioner George Benoit MOVED THAT the agenda be approved as presented in document #SWLSB-2010/08/25-CA-001.

Carried unanimously

2.0 APPROVAL OF MINUTES

CC-100825-CA-0002

Commissioner Walter Fogel MOVED THAT the minutes of the REGULAR meeting of the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board held on 2010-06-23, 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, Mario DiDomenico, Walter Fogel, Steve Kmec, Nick Milas, Steve Mitchell, Tom Mouhteros, Grace Nesi, Albina Pace, Merle Parkinson, Mike Pizzola, Nancy Rupnik, Edward Turchyniak
Commissioners ABSTAINING:	Robert Dixon, Peter MacLaurin

3.0 QUESTION PERIOD

There were no questions.

The Chairman welcomed Richard Greschner, the new President of the Laurier Teachers Union, to the meeting.

4.0 REPORT FROM THE CHAIRMAN:

4.1 *Report from the Chairman:*

The Chairman advised the Council that a letter had been sent with school tax bills explaining the difference between the rate of the Commission scolaire de Laval and the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board. He also noted that he and the Assistant Director General had met with the Ministre de l'Éducation, du Loisir et du Sport, during the vacation, to discuss the school tax issue in Laval. The Minister of Education, Leisure and Sports has since been moved to another dossier therefore, the issue will be followed-up by her replacement. The Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board is not the only English school boards facing this type of tax rate discrepancy.

The Laval Members of the National Assembly were also advised of school tax issue. The Quebec English School Boards Association (QESBA) has also been advised and is taking this issue seriously. It will raise the question with the new Minister, Line Beauchamp, and ask for a detailed explanation from the Minister of Finance on the school taxation process. As well, QESBA will also follow-up with its member boards concerning their respective tax rates. This issue will be a discussion topic at the meeting of the English **School Board** Chairmen to be held in November 2010.

He further noted that the difference in the tax rate between the French and English school boards is serious as it could affect the English tax base as persons without children in the school system may choose to pay their taxes to a school board with a lower rate.

The Council entered into discussion and Commissioner Carolyn Curiale advised that the QESBA was unaware of this discrepancy in the school tax rates until advised by this board.

The Chairman asked that this issue be placed on the next agenda of the Financial Resources Committee for further discussion.

The report continued on the partnership with the Commission scolaire de la Seigneurie des Milles-Îles and the shared quest for a new Adult Education & Vocational Training Centre on the north shore. The **Ministère de l'Éducation, du Loisir et du Sport (MELS)** requested that the project for this new centre be revised in order to establish the project in phases. The Chairman also informed the Council about the new Executive Committee format for its meetings.

Commissioner Edward Turchyniak noted that the new Executive Committee format was developed in order to prioritize and debate issues that may have a future impact on the school board so that it can be proactive.

In response to a question from Commissioner Steve Kmec, the Chairman advised that topics to be considered for discussion can be submitted to Commissioner Turchyniak, **Chairman** of the Executive Committee.

5.0 BUSINESS ARISING:

5.1 *By-Law – Date, Time & Place of Council Meetings:*

The Secretary General presented and reviewed the by-law on the date, time and place of Council meetings noting that the consultation period had expired and that no comments had been received.

In response to a question from Commissioner Steve Kmec, the Chairman advised that the by-law had been thoroughly reviewed and that none of the dates conflicted with holidays.

CC-100825-CA-0003

WHEREAS the Council of Commissioners adopted resolution # CC-100623-CA-0160, approving in principle by-law #BL2000-CA-05: Date, Time & Place of Regular Meetings of the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board;

WHEREAS the consultation process for by-laws, as per section 392 of the Education Act (R.S.Q., Chapter I-13.3), was adhered to and a public notice published in the 2010-06-26 edition of the Journal Le Courrier (Laval);

WHEREAS no comments were received;

Commissioner Nancy Rupnik MOVED THAT the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board approve by-law #BL2000-CA-05: Date, Time & Place of Regular Meetings of the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board.

AND THAT this By-Law becomes effective upon the publication of a public notice to that effect, in accordance with section 394 of the Education Act (R.S.Q., Chapter I-13.3).

Carried unanimously

5.2 By-Law – Date, Time & Place of Executive Committee Meetings:

The Secretary General presented and reviewed the by-law on the date, time and place of Executive Committee meetings noting that the consultation period had expired and that no comments had been received.

Commissioner Walter Fogel mentioned that the resolution should not indicate the recommendation from the Executive Committee as it was not discussed at the 2010-08-24 meeting of the Executive Committee.

CC-100825-CA-0004

WHEREAS the Council of Commissioners adopted resolution # CC-100623-CA-0161, approving in principle by-law #BL2000-CA-15: Date, Time & Place of Regular Meetings of the Executive Committee of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board;

WHEREAS the consultation process for by-laws, as per section 392 of the Education Act (R.S.Q., Chapter I-13.3), was adhered to and a public notice published in the 2010-06-26 edition of the Journal Le Courrier (Laval);

WHEREAS no comments were received;

Commissioner Steve Mitchell MOVED THAT, on the recommendation of the Executive Committee, the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board approve by-law #BL2000-CA-15: Date, Time & Place of Regular Meetings of the Executive Committee of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board.

AND THAT this By-Law becomes effective upon the publication of a public notice to that effect, in accordance with section 394 of the Education Act (R.S.Q., Chapter I-13.3).

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

5.3 *St-Vincent Annex:*

The Director General advised **the** Council that the opening of the St-Vincent Elementary School Annex will be delayed.

She noted that the St-Vincent Elementary School community has been advised of the delay and the reasons behind it. Seven groups from the school are to move to the annex when the renovations are completed but for the start of school these groups need to be accommodated. Five of the seven groups can be accommodated in the main campus building but the remaining two groups need to be housed in an alternate location. The alternative being retained is to house two groups at St-Paul Elementary School until the annex is ready. Transportation is being adjusted so as to minimize inconveniences for the students and parents. The school community has been advised via letter and e-mail of this delay. The letter contains information about the delay, the solution to be implemented and a contact person for those who have questions or require more information. The Principal is working with the teachers involved to make them more comfortable with this temporary situation. The students who are housed **at** St-Paul Elementary School will be returned to St-Vincent Elementary School at the end of each school day.

She thanked the Directorate team for all of their work **in** achieving a viable short term solution.

In response to a question from Parent Commissioner Angelo Grasso, the Director of School Organization stated that the functional capacity of St-Vincent Elementary School is 258.

In response to an additional question from Parent Commissioner Angelo Grasso, the Director of Material Resources noted that the fire departments in each municipality contact each school to review their respective evacuation plan. St-Vincent Elementary School is being operated in the same way as previous years. At the next Material Resources Committee a demonstration of how the functional capacity is calculated will be presented.

6.0 DECISION ITEMS:

6.1 MATERIAL RESOURCES

6.1.1 *Finals of the 2013 Winter Jeux du Québec:*

The Director of Material Resources advised the Council that a letter had been received from the Ville de Laval seeking support from its stakeholders in its bid to host the finals of the 2013 Winter Jeux du Québec.

CC-100825-CA-0005

WHEREAS the Ville de Laval has expressed a keen interest in hosting the 2013 Finale des Jeux du Québec;

WHEREAS these games represent a unique opportunity to mobilize community members around a common objective;

WHEREAS the Finale des Jeux du Québec will have a positive impact on several levels (sport, culture, **economic**, recreation and tourism);

WHEREAS this event will promote Laval culture, as well as its heritage, institutions and artists;

WHEREAS this event will have a positive impact on the development and involvement of the youth of the Laval region;

WHEREAS the Finale des Jeux du Québec will encourage the community to be more physically active and engage in sports;

Commissioner Steve Kmec MOVED THAT, on the recommendation of the Directorate, the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board support the candidacy of the Ville de Laval for the Finale des Jeux du Québec to be held in the winter of 2013.

AND THAT the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board lend its support to the Ville de Laval should they host the games.

Carried unanimously

6.2 QESBA

6.2.1 QESBA 2010-2011 Budget:

The Secretary General advised that the Quebec English School Boards Association (QESBA) has sent its 2010-2011 budget for consultation to its member boards and would like to receive feedback by 2010-09-01.

Commissioner Carolyn Curiale reviewed the budget noting that for the past three years QESBA has been decreasing its spending but for 2010-2011 there is a slight increase in expenses due to staffing needs.

In response to a question from Commissioner Merle Parkinson, Commissioner Carolyn Curiale advised that the QESBA expects to have a slight surplus at the end of the 2010-2011 school year.

In response to a question from Commissioner Edward Turchyniak, Commissioner Carolyn Curiale noted that there are full-time and part-time employees on the QESBA payroll and that she will have a list for the next meeting.

CC-100825-CA-0006

WHEREAS the Quebec English School Boards Association (QESBA) will be presenting its budget for 2010-2011 at its Annual General Meeting to be held on 2010-11-05;

WHEREAS the Quebec English School Boards Association (QESBA) has requested feedback from its member boards on the proposed 2010-2011 Quebec English School Boards Association (QESBA) budget, no later than 2010-09-01;

Commissioner Nazario Facchino MOVED THAT the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board recommend the approval of the proposed 2010-2011 budget of the Quebec English School Boards Association (QESBA) as presented.

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

6.3 INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

6.3.1 2010-2011 GRICS Annual Invoice:

The Director of Information Technology advised the Council that the invoice received from GRICS is its pre-billing for the 2010-2011 school year and that it covers all of the services and programs used by the school board. This increase for 2010-2011 is 2% over 2009-2010.

The current services provided by GRICS are being reviewed as the school board is working on its own projects that could replace some of these services and reduce costs.

Commissioner Nazario Facchino left the meeting.

TIME: 20:33 hours

In response to a question from Commissioner Walter Fogel, the Director of Information Technology noted that there may be an increase every year depending on the services provided and the school board's needs.

CC-100825-IT-0007

WHEREAS the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board uses GRICS (Société de gestion du réseau informatique des commissions scolaires) software for the management of its administrative and pedagogical information systems;

WHEREAS GRICS invoices the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board on an annual basis for those software licenses and related support services;

Parent Commissioner Lisa Chartier MOVED THAT, on the recommendation of the Directorate, the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board approve the payment of the invoice FA-130295 received for the 2010-2011 school year from GRICS (Société de gestion du réseau informatique des commissions scolaires) in the amount of 292 932,35\$, taxes excluded (330 647,39\$, all taxes included).

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

Commissioner Nazario Facchino returned to the meeting.

TIME: 20:36 hours

7.0 INFORMATION ITEMS**7.1 SWL Foundation:**

Commissioner Edward Turchyniak advised that Council that the Sir Wilfrid Laurier Foundation will have its first meeting of the 2010-2011 school year tomorrow morning and at that time a new President of the Foundation will be elected.

7.2 Parent Commissioners Report

Parent Commissioner Lisa Chartier advised that the first meeting of the Parents Committee for 2010-2011 will be held on 2010-10-07.

7.3 Report of the QESBA:

Commissioner Carolyn Curiale noted that the Fall Professional Development Session will be held on November 5 & 6, 2010. The Annual General Meeting will be held on November 5 and the budget will be presented for adoption. The session will be held in the Montréal area at a location to be determined.

8.0 QUESTION PERIOD:

There were no questions

9.0 CORRESPONDENCE:

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

10.0 VARIA:

There was no varia.

11.0 ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING:

Commissioner Mario Di Domenico MOVED adjournment of the meeting.

Carried unanimously

TIME: 20:40 hours

NEXT MEETING ⇨ REGULAR ⇨ 2010-09-29

Marie-Claude Drouin, Secretary General

Steve Bletas, Chairman