

PROVINCE OF QUEBEC

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE SIR WILFRID LAURIER SCHOOL BOARD HELD ON 2010-12-15

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, 2010-12-15.

Present: Commissioners Steve Bletas, Chairman; Carolyn Curiale, Vice-Chairman; Mario Di Domenico; Robert Dixon, Nazario Facchino, Walter Fogel, Steve Kmec, Peter MacLaurin, Nick Milas, Tom Mouhteros, Grace Nesi, Merle Parkinson, Mike Pizzola, William Pollock, Nancy Rupnik and Edward Turchyniak; Parent Commissioners Roberto Bomba 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; Livia Nassivera, Director of Financial Resources; Gerry Robillard, Director of Educational Services; Gaele Absolonne, Assistant Director of Adult Education & Vocational Training; Fred Greschner, Assistant Director of Complementary Services and Jocelyne Thompson-Ness, Administrative Assistant. Several other persons were also in the audience.

Absent: Commissioners Georges Benoit, Steve Mitchell, and Albina Pace.

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

Commissioner Merle Parkinson entered the meeting via telephone.

1.0 ACCEPTANCE OF AGENDA:

CC-101215-CA-0046

Commissioner Nazario Facchino MOVED THAT the agenda be approved as presented in document #SWLSB-2010/12/15-CA-001.

Carried unanimously

2.0 APPROVAL OF MINUTES

CC-101215-CA-0047

Commissioner William Pollock MOVED THAT the minutes of the REGULAR meeting of the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board held on 2010-11-24, 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, Mario Di Domenico, Robert Dixon, Nazario Facchino, Walter Fogel, Steve Kmec, Peter MacLaurin, Nick Milas, Tom Mouhteros, Merle Parkinson, William Pollock, Nancy Rupnik, Edward Turchyniak
Commissioners ABSTAINING:	Grace Nesi, Mike Pizzola

3.0 QUESTION PERIOD

There were no questions.

4.0 REPORT FROM THE CHAIRMAN:

4.1 *Report from the Chairman:*

The Chairman advised the Council that he had received a letter from the Commission de la construction du Québec (CCQ) indicating its support of the proposed Laval Aquatic Park project.

The Director General noted that the school board had sought the support of the CCQ for this project as it would enable them to offer retraining to their licensed underwater professionals within the Greater Montréal area. The CCQ currently only has training facilities in Rimouski so a new location is of great interest to them. A copy of this letter of support for the project will be sent to the President of the Treasury Board and the Mayor of the Ville de Laval as the quest for project approval continues and the support of the CCQ is invaluable.

The Chairman went on to note that he and the Director of Information Technology had attended an excellent presentation on the Networking & Partnership Initiative (NPI) given by the Program Development Officer at the Community Learning Centre (CLC) at Laval Liberty High School. The CLC is currently looking at ways to self-finance and a fundraiser has been proposed for a Monday in March 2011 from 6 – 8 p.m. Further information on the event will be available in the New Year. He also indicated that there is the possibility of a CLC in the Lanaudière region.

He asked that the Program Development Officers of the Community Learning Centres (CLC) be invited to the 2011-02-23 to make a presentation.

The Chairman wished the Director of Human Resources a “Happy Birthday”.

The Chairman noted that the school board has invested in the Arundel Nature & Science Centre (ANSC), the Accelerated Learning Program (ALP) and the 4-Year Old Kindergarten program at Grenville Elementary School over the past couple of years and requested that a cost analysis be completed so that the Council can see what has been invested and has to be done in order to maintain and expand these programs.

Commissioner Nick Milas left the meeting.

TIME: 19:49 hours

He went on to advise that the Quebec English School Boards Association (QESBA) has prepared an “Action Plan for QESBA Community Engagement Initiative” and is requesting member board feedback on the proposal. He asked that the Commissioners read the document and send their comments to Commissioner Carolyn Curiale.

The Action Plan is a multifaceted outreach initiative sponsored by the QESBA to promote a better understanding of and community support for English school board elections across the province. He noted that a similar plan was launched by the Alberta School Boards Association in response to the lack of involvement in publically funded education.

Commissioner Nick Milas returned to the meeting.

TIME: 19:50 hours

He continued noting that at this time there is no indication as to when or if school elections will be held. Many options are being examined at the government level but nothing has been decided.

The objectives of this Action Plan are:

- To provide the community with balanced and objective information, to assist it in understanding the role and mandate of school boards and the responsibilities and expectations of all community stakeholders;
- To obtain feedback and make recommendations on gaps and opportunities;
- To work directly with the community throughout the process to ensure that all community concerns are consistently understood and considered; and
- To partner and build relationships at each level in the QESBA community engagement process.

He noted that this action plan will be done as follows:

- Town Halls, actual and virtual, in English school board territories conducted by the schools board and QESBA leadership to attain feedback. The guest list would include all levels of stakeholders involved within each territory.
- Promotional information for those invited to attend the Town Hall meetings as well as publication of the event in the media.
- A “Virtual” PD Session for Commissioners is scheduled for the month of March whereby Community Engagement will be the topic of the session.
- Monthly “engagement seminars” on community engagement themes, which will be done via videoconference
- Polling of English-eligible school election voters throughout Québec on their perceptions of attitudes towards English school boards and the importance of their continued existence.
- Outreach and potential partnerships will be explored with the Fédération des commissions scolaires du Québec (FCSQ)
- Periodic reviews of the progress of the implementation of the plan.
- A final report will be published on the results of the outreach with the FCSQ and on the recommendations on how to best secure democratic governance for English public education.

He noted that the members of the QESBA feel very positive about this plan and are confident that it will be successful. He also feels that as a member board, the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board should give its full support.

5.0 BUSINESS ARISING:

There was no business arising.

Commissioners Walter Fogel and Tom Mouhteros left the meeting. **TIME: 20:06 hours**

6.0 DECISION ITEMS:

6.1 FINANCIAL RESOURCES

6.1.1 Statement of Unpaid Taxes:

The Director of Financial Resources presented and reviewed the statement of outstanding taxes as of 2010-11-01 noting that it is an annual requirement under the Education Act (R.S.Q., Chapter I-13.3) and that since the beginning of November the amount of outstanding taxes has been reduced to approximately 3 700 000\$.

CC-101215-FR-0048

Commissioner Merle Parkinson MOVED THAT, on the recommendation of the Financial Resources Committee and the Executive Committee, the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board approve, in accordance with sections 339 and 340 of the Education Act, the statement prepared by the Director of Financial Resources for the Director General for school taxes outstanding as of 2010-11-01 in the amount of 7 926 288,48\$.

Carried unanimously

Commissioner Walter Fogel returned to the meeting.

TIME: 20:09 hours

The Chairman noted that the Ministère de l'Éducation, du Loisir et du Sport (MELS) will be making an announcement concerning school board taxation. The MELS is aware that there are discrepancies with the school taxation process.

He went on to note that he feels it would be prudent for the school board to issue a clear statement concerning the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board surplus as the stakeholders need to be informed that this surplus is not for the school board to spend but an accounting process initiated by the change in accounting practices at the government level.

Commissioner Tom Mouhteros returned to the meeting

TIME: 20:10 hours

6.2 MATERIAL RESOURCES

6.2.1 Offer to Purchase – Land in Ste-Agathe:

The Director of Material Resources provided background information on the sale of land located in Ste-Agathe noting that if this sale is approved there will be one lot remaining to be sold.

CC-101215-MR-0049

WHEREAS the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board adopted resolution # CC-100428-MR-0125 mandating the Director of Material Resources to place part of lot 14-2 (3 168,9 m² / 3 buildable lots: 153-2, 153-3 and 153-4), located in Ste-Agathe (Québec) adjacent to Ste-Agathe Academy, up for sale;

WHEREAS Renovation Daniel Hays Enr. deposited an offer, on 2010-12-14 to purchase one lot (153-3), in the amount of 36,010\$ (taxes not included);

WHEREAS an appraisal of this land (3 168,9 m² / 3 buildable lots) establishes the fair market value at 35 000\$ each lot (taxes not included);

Commissioner Tom Mouhteros 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 in the amount of 36,010\$ (taxes not included), made by Renovation Daniel Hays Enr., to purchase lot 153-3, located in Ste-Agathe (Québec) adjacent to Ste-Agathe Academy.

AND THAT Renovation Daniel Hays Enr. accepts all legal and notarial fees related to the sale.

FURTHER THAT, the Chairman, 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 sale.

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

7.0 INFORMATION ITEMS

7.1 SWL Foundation:

Commissioner Edward Turchyniak reminded the Council of the 2011-01-13 Sir Wilfrid Laurier Foundation event being held at the Château Royal and encouraged them to attend.

7.2 Parent Commissioners Report

Parent Commissioner Angelo Grasso thanked the Chairman and the Council for its continued support of the endeavours of the Parents Committee during 2010. He advised that the Parents Committee had purchased two tickets to the Foundation event in January 2011.

7.3 Report of the QESBA:

There was no report.

8.0 QUESTION PERIOD:

There were no questions

9.0 CORRESPONDENCE:

The Chairman drew attention to the correspondence in the meeting package.

10.0 VARIA:

There was no varia.

11.0 ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING:

The Chairman wished everyone a very Happy Holiday and a safe and healthy New Year.

Commissioner Nancy Rupnik MOVED adjournment of the meeting.

Carried unanimously

TIME: 20:20 hours

NEXT MEETING ⇨ REGULAR ⇨ 2011-01-26