

PROVINCE OF QUEBEC

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE SIR WILFRID LAURIER SCHOOL BOARD HELD ON 2011-02-23

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, 2011-02-23.

Present: Commissioners Steve Bletas, Chairman; Carolyn Curiale, Vice-Chairman; Georges Benoit, Robert Dixon, Steve Kmec, Peter MacLaurin, Nick Milas, Steve Mitchell, Tom Mouhteros, Grace Nesi, Albina Pace, Merle Parkinson, Mike Pizzola, and William Pollock; 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; Gaëlle Absolonne, Director of School Organization; Johanne Brabant, Director of Adult & Vocational Education; Line Desgroseilliers, Director of Information Technology; Daniel Hogue, Director of Material Resources; Stephanie Krenn, Director of Complementary Services; Livia Nassivera, Director of Financial Resources; Gerry Robillard, 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 Mario Di Domenico, Nazario Facchino, Walter Fogel, Nancy Rupnik, and Edward Turchyniak.

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 19:41 hours.

The Chairman extended his appreciation to the Project Development Officers, Lise Montagne and Tim Foreman, of the Community Learning Centres for Laval and Lachute for their informative presentation prior to the Council meeting.

He also thanked the Principal, Sollie Gliksman, and Resource Teacher, Lee Rother, of Lake of Two Mountains High School for providing a report to the Council and for taking the initiative to hold a "Gender Equity Symposium" at the school on 2011-02-10. There were a diverse number of speakers including Ms. Louise Hevey De Sousa, mother of Anastasia De Sousa, the Dawson College student that was fatally wounded on 2006-09-13 during a shooting rampage at the college.

1.0 ACCEPTANCE OF AGENDA:

The following addition to the agenda was proposed:

10.0 VARIA:

10.2 Spring BreakINFO

CC-110223-CA-0056

Commissioner Robert Dixon MOVED THAT the agenda be approved as amended.

Carried unanimously

2.0 APPROVAL OF MINUTES

CC-110223-CA-0057

Parent Commissioner Roberto Bomba MOVED THAT the minutes of the REGULAR meeting of the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board held on 2011-01-26, 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, Robert Dixon, Steve Kmec, Nick Milas, Tom Mouhteros, Grace Nesi, Albina Pace, Merle Parkinson, William Pollock
Commissioners ABSTAINING:	Carolyn Curiale, Georges Benoit, Steve Mitchell, Mike Pizzola

3.0 QUESTION PERIOD

There were no questions.

4.0 REPORT FROM THE CHAIRMAN:

4.1 *Report from the Chairman:*

The Chairman welcomed and introduced the new Student Ombudsman, William Hartzog.

He invited Mr. Hartzog to provide an overview of what the position entails. Mr. Hartzog provided a brief overview of his work noting that he has received some requests since December 2010 and is following up on them.

The Chairman advised that he and the Director General had met with the **Member of the National Assembly**, Michelle Courchesne, and the **Member of the National Assembly**, Guy Ouellette, to discuss various dossiers, including the multi centre for Adult Education & Vocational Training, the Laval Aquatic Centre, the situation with the rate of school taxes, and the autism partnership with LEARN Québec and Giant Steps.

He went on to note the meeting for “La persévérance scolaire” with the Mayor of Laval and the Chairman of the Commission scolaire de Laval.

The Director General noted that Laval did not have a group of this nature and that it is similar to CRÉVAL. Publicity for “La perseverance scolaire” for Laval will be forthcoming.

On 2011-02-14, the Vice-Chairman of the school board, **representing** the Chairman, attended a meeting with the Ministre de l'Éducation, du Loisir et du Sport, Line Beauchamp, and other representatives of the English education sector.

The Vice-Chairman noted that the Chairs expressed their concern that any initiatives from the Minister of education, Leisure and Sports would allow for flexibility in implementation, so as not to penalize the English sector. The Minister was very interested in hearing about any cooperative efforts between English and French school boards, particularly pedagogical initiatives.

The Chairman commented that school boards need to be careful when investing in initiatives prior to the government announcing **measures** because some school boards that have already invested in the past have either received limited or no funding.

The Vice-Chairman also noted that several of the Chairmen noted that the manner in which the targeted funding for school boards is handled for the Anglophone sector needs to be reviewed. The Quebec English School Boards Association (QESBA) will follow up on this.

The Chairman continued his report noting he and the Vice-Chairman had held an open discussion with Governing Board Chairs to receive general feedback on the school board and to hear any concerns the Governing Boards may have. The evening was well received. There were many similar issues raised by the Governing Board Chairs with respect to more participation by the teacher members on the Governing Board and the transition process from one Chair to a new Chair.

He also noted the upcoming Quebec English School Boards Association (QESBA) Professional Development Session on 2011-03-19 being held via video-conference and the upcoming Town Hall meeting on 2011-03-29 for stakeholders of the school board.

Commissioner Carolyn Curiale left the meeting.

TIME: 20:09 hours

The Director General advised that the invitations for the Town Hall meeting will be distributed after the March break.

Commissioner Carolyn Curiale returned to the meeting.

TIME: 20:12 hours

The Chairman continued noting the new partnership on **autism** with LEARN and Giant Steps, the Quebec English School Boards Association (QESBA) 2011 Spring Conference in Lac Leamy from May 26 – 28, 2011, and requested that Commissioners advise the various **persons responsible for** committees, Executive Committee and Council meetings, in good time, when they will be absent, as the establishment of quorum is necessary in order to hold these meetings.

In response to a question from Commissioner Steve Kmec, the Chairman noted that there is a provincial committee looking into the issue of the school board taxation rates and is gathering information to make recommendations. At this time it is not known whether or not its recommendations will be made into law.

In response to a question from Parent Commissioner Roberto Bomba, the Chairman advised that any changes to the school board taxation rate, as per the recommendations of the provincial committee, will be for future taxation as school boards are currently preparing for the issuance of the 2011-2012 school tax bills.

5.0 BUSINESS ARISING:

There was no business arising.

6.0 DECISION ITEMS:

6.1 HUMAN RESOURCES

6.1.1 Mandate to Consult - 2011-2012 Organizational Chart – Adult Education & Vocational Training:

The Director General presented a proposal concerning the 2011-2012 Organizational Chart for Adult Education & Vocational Training for consultation purposes. She noted that the service is looking to reorganize as it needs a flexible structure in order to handle its continued growth.

Parent Commissioner Angelo Grasso left the meeting.

TIME: 20:23 hours

Commissioner Grace Nesi left the meeting.

TIME: 20:25 hours

Parent Commissioner Angelo Grasso returned to the meeting.

TIME: 20:26 hours

She continued noting that the proposed new structure will bring more autonomy to the centres. The reporting structure will be that the Director of Adult Education & Vocational Training and the Centre Directors would report directly to the Director General. The Director of Adult Education & Vocational Training will oversee the service and the Centre Directors will look after their respective centres, Vimont or Pont-Viau. The current positions in the centres would be abolished and new titles and responsibilities assigned. These positions would be posted for applications.

Commissioner Grace Nesi returned to the meeting.

TIME: 20:28 hours

The Council entered into discussion.

Commissioner Tom Mouhteros left the meeting.

TIME: 20:35 hours

In response to a question from Commissioner William Pollock, the Director General noted that the support staff is not a part of the Organizational Chart as those positions are funded under the general budget not the envelope received from the Ministère de l'Éducation, du Loisir et du Sport (MELS).

In response to a question from Commissioner Steve Kmec, the Director General noted that the premise behind reorganizing the service in this manner is so that the Director of Adult Education & Vocational Training would concentrate on the overall Adult Education & Vocational Training service while the Centre Directors would focus solely on their respective centres and their day-to-day operation.

Commissioner Tom Mouhteros returned to the meeting.

TIME: 20:37 hours

In response to a question from Commissioner Robert Dixon, the Director General advised that at this point a mandate to consult on the Organizational Chart is being sought and that the development of the chart was done with input from the Director of Adult Education & Vocational Training and the Chairman of the Adult Education & Vocational Training Committee. If there are any concerns about the proposed Organizational Chart they can be addressed directly to her.

CC-110223-HR-0058

WHEREAS the Executive Committee adopted resolution # EC-110215-CA-0039 recommending that the Director General be mandated to consult on the proposed 2011-2012 Organizational Chart for Adult Education & Vocational Training;

Commissioner Carolyn Curiale MOVED THAT, on the recommendation of the Directorate and the Executive Committee, the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board mandate the Director General to consult on the proposed 2011-2012 Organizational Chart for Adult Education & Vocational Training.

AND THAT the proposed 2011-2012 Organizational Chart for Adult Education & Vocational Training be subject to a 25-day consultation with the Sir Wilfrid Laurier Administrators Association (SWLAA) and the Association des cadres scolaires du Québec - Sir Wilfrid Laurier Chapter (ACSQ).

THIS MOTION WAS CARRIED ON THE FOLLOWING DIVISION:	
Commissioners voting YEA:	Georges Benoit, Steve Bletas, Carolyn Curiale, Robert Dixon, Steve Kmec, Peter MacLaurin, Nick Milas, Tom Mouhteros, Grace Nesi, Albina Pace, Merle Parkinson, William Pollock
Commissioners voting NAY:	Mike Pizzola
Commissioners ABSTAINING:	Steve Mitchell

6.2 FINANCIAL RESOURCES

6.2.1 Budget Building Process 2011-2012:

The Director of Financial Resources presented and reviewed the 2011-2012 Budget Building Process noting that there are few changes from 2010-2011. This will be subject to a 45-day consultation.

The Assistant Director General left the meeting.

TIME: 20:43 hours

The Council entered into discussion on the budget building process for the 2011-2012 school year.

The Assistant Director General returned to the meeting.

TIME: 20:48 hours

In response to a concern expressed by Commissioner Merle Parkinson concerning daycare surpluses, the Director of Financial Resources noted that the decision making process for daycare surplus is handled by the Governing Board.

The Director General suggested that the section concerning the daycare surplus be reworded noting that some aspects of the surpluses are regulated by the law. Commissioner Parkinson accepted this proposal.

In response to a suggestion from Commissioner Steve Mitchell, the Chairman agreed that it would be a good idea for the departments, upon the completion of a consultation and the adoption of the final document, to send out a note to the Chairs of Governing Boards who responded to the consultation, thanking them for their input and advising them what elements of the consultation feedback were retained.

The Director General indicated that this is not a part of the usual consultation process but given that it was also requested by the Parents Committee a note with what feedback was retained from a consultation will be sent to those schools that responded to the consultation.

CC-110223-FR-0059

WHEREAS the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board is commencing its budget building process for the 2011-2012 school year;

WHEREAS section 275 of the Education Act (R.S.Q., Chapter I-13.3) requires that a school board make public the objectives and principles governing budget allocations;

WHEREAS the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board has drafted its "2011-2012 Budgetary Process";

Commissioner Merle Parkinson MOVED THAT, on the recommendation of the Management Advisory Committee and the Financial Resources Committee, the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board approve in principle the "2011-2012 Budgetary Process", as contained in document #SWLSB-2011/02/23-FR-001.

AND THAT this Budget Building Process be subject to a 45-day consultation.

THIS MOTION WAS CARRIED ON THE FOLLOWING DIVISION:	
Commissioners voting YEA:	Georges Benoit, Steve Bletas, Carolyn Curiale, Robert Dixon, Peter MacLaurin, Nick Milas, Steve Mitchell, Tom Mouhteros, Grace Nesi, Albina Pace, Merle Parkinson, Mike Pizzola, William Pollock
Commissioners voting NAY:	Steve Kmec

6.3 SCHOOL ORGANIZATION

6.3.1 Deeds of Establishment & Three-Year Plan:

The Director of School Organization presented and reviewed the deeds and three-year plan, noting that the changes within the document have been highlighted. This policy will be subject to a 60-day consultation.

In response to a question from Commissioner Merle Parkinson, the Director General noted that pre-kindergarten is not included in the deeds and three-year plan for Rawdon as the proposal is still in the discussion process.

CC-110223-CA-0060

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 George Benoit 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 #2011-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

6.4 COMMUNICATIONS & CORPORATE AFFAIRS

6.4.1 Commissioners PIC – NSBA 2011:

The Chairman advised the Council that Commissioner Carolyn Curiale has been named as Co-Chair of the 2012 Canadian School Boards Association (CSBA) Annual Conference and that her attendance at the National School Boards Association (NSBA) Annual Conference would be beneficial for the planning of the CSBA event. The Quebec English School Boards Association (QESBA) is covering the cost of the air fare.

CC-110223-CA-0061

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 2011 National School Boards Association Conference (NSBA) being held from 2011-04-09 to 2011-04-11 in San Diego, California;

WHEREAS the Quebec English School Boards Association (QESBA) has offered to pay the air fare for this conference;

Commissioner Grace Nesi MOVED THAT the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board approve the attendance of **Carolyn Curiale** at the 2011 National School Boards Association Conference (NSBA) in San Diego, California from 2011-04-09 to 2011-04-11.

FURTHER THAT registration, travel, accommodations and miscellaneous expenses not exceed 2 500\$ Canadian for this Commissioner.

THIS MOTION WAS CARRIED ON THE FOLLOWING DIVISION:	
Commissioners voting YEA:	Georges Benoit, Steve Bletas, Carolyn Curiale, Robert Dixon, Steve Kmec, Peter MacLaurin, Nick Milas, Tom Mouhteros, Grace Nesi, Albina Pace, Merle Parkinson, Mike Pizzola, William Pollock
Commissioners voting NAY:	Steve Mitchell

6.4.2 Mandate to Director General – ANSC:

The Secretary General provided background information on the status of the property and buildings at the Arundel Nature & Science Centre (ANSC) noting that prior to the amalgamation of the school boards in 1998, the Laurentian School Board took precautions to protect the land and buildings at ANSC so that it would not be seized by the government given that the land and its natural resources are valuable assets for the school board, by establishing a foundation for the sub-soil. With the new initiatives being developed at ANSC it has been recommended that the school board meet with the trustees of the ANSC Foundation to discuss the status of the Foundation and of ANSC.

She went on to note that there are some issues that need to be discussed and resolved with respect to the **contract of sale**, the sub-soil, insurance and taxes.

The Council entered into discussion on ANSC with respect to the land and buildings.

In response to a question from Commissioner Steve Kmec, the Chairman noted that the ANSC land is not crown land but land that was donated to the former Laurentian School Board. The creation of the foundation was to protect the land.

Commissioner William Pollock noted that the land is private and managed by the Foundation which has non-profit status.

The Secretary General noted that the school board has been paying the civil liability insurance on the property and the municipal taxes since the merger.

In response to a question from Commissioner Steve Kmec, the Director General noted that if the land belonged to the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board there would be no need for additional civil liability insurance as it would be included in the school board's regular insurance package and we would not have to pay school tax to Commission scolaire des Laurentides.

She also noted that the mandate being sought is to open discussions on the sub-soil and if there is an interest in returning it to the school board.

The Chairman indicated that everything concerning ANSC will be examined upon the extension of a mandate to enter into discussion.

CC-110223-CA-0062

WHEREAS the Laurentian School Board approved a contract of sell on 1997-06-27 to the Centre des sciences naturelles d'Arundel (CSNA) which divided the interests of the Arundel Natural Science Centre (ANSC) as follows: CSNA became the owner of the sub-soil, and the school board remained the owner of the buildings located at ANSC;

WHEREAS the contract of sell provided that the CSNA must pay for all municipal and school taxes, as well as civil liability insurance;

WHEREAS, upon the amalgamation on 1998-07-01, the Laurentian School Board and all of its assets and liabilities became a part of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board;

WHEREAS, in the past three (3) years, the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board has undertaken the implementation of many initiatives to upgrade the offerings at ANSC with respect to nature and technology;

WHEREAS, in order to move forward and towards new initiatives, the ownerships of the property need to be re-evaluated;

Commissioner Albina Pace MOVED THAT, on the recommendation of the Communications & Public Relations Committee, the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board mandate the Director General to enter into discussions with representatives of the Centre des sciences naturelles d'Arundel (CSNA) concerning the current ownerships for the Arundel Natural Science Centre.

AND THAT any invoices regarding municipal and school taxes, as well as civil liability, be forwarded to the Centre des sciences naturelles d'Arundel (CSNA).

THIS MOTION WAS CARRIED ON THE FOLLOWING DIVISION:	
Commissioners voting YEA:	Georges Benoit, Steve Bletas, Carolyn Curiale, Robert Dixon, Peter MacLaurin, Nick Milas, Steve Mitchell, Tom Mouhteros, Grace Nesi, Albina Pace, Mike Pizzola, William Pollock
Commissioners voting NAY:	Merle Parkinson
Commissioners ABSTAINING:	Steve Kmec

7.0 INFORMATION ITEMS

7.1 SWL Foundation:

The Chairman noted that the applications submitted by schools to the Foundation for project funding have been reviewed and those projects approved have received funding.

7.2 Parent Commissioners Report

The report of the Parent Commissioners on the last meeting of the Parents Committee noted that an informative presentation was made by LEARN Québec on how its services can help our students and that this was very much appreciated by the parents. The report also commented on the presentation of the 2011-2012 school calendar and the Outstanding Effort Awards for 2010-2011.

Parent Commissioner Angelo Grasso expressed his appreciation to the Director of Material Resources and his staff for the comprehensive guidelines for contractors when present in the schools as it sets out clear rules.

He also asked the Director General to speak with the Principals concerning the scheduling of events at the school, i.e. open house, meet the teacher, etc.; on the same evenings as the Parents Committee meetings as this effects quorum which could lead to the Parents Committee being unable to respond to a matter presented to it for consultation by the school board.

7.3 Report of the QESBA:

Commissioner Carolyn Curiale drew the Council's attention to the report of the Quebec English School Boards Association (QESBA) noting the upcoming video conference professional development session on 2011-03-19 and the digital citizens' report. She asked that Commissioners provide QESBA with feedback on the video conference as it is its first venture of this sort so there may be some things that need to be adjusted afterwards.

8.0 QUESTION PERIOD:

There were no questions

The Chairman introduced the Vice-Principals of McCaig and Terry Fox Elementary Schools and of Laval Junior High School to the Council.

9.0 CORRESPONDENCE:

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

10.0 VARIA:**10.1 Monitoring of E-Mail:**

The Secretary General advised that she had received a question concerning the monitoring of e-mail at the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board in light of the current problems with the Montréal City Council and accusations of “spying” on e-mails. The school board does not monitor e-mails and has a policy on the acceptable use of information technology.

The Director of Information Technology advised that there is a code of ethics for the Information Technology department and that e-mail accounts would only be accessed in a legal investigation.

In response to a question from Commissioner Steve Kmec, the Director of Information Technology advised that the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board computer system has not been entered by any illegal means.

10.2 Spring Break:

In response to concerns expressed by Commissioner Robert Dixon, the Director General advised that the master school calendar is negotiated with the Laurier Teachers Union, as part of the local arrangements. Local arrangements are different in every school board.

She provided some background on spring break noting that many years ago the Commission scolaire de Montréal established the first full week of March as spring break in order to ensure that its students on welfare had means to participate in activities. Over the years school boards have planned spring breaks over a period of 3 weeks, the last full week of February, last days of February first days of March and the first full week in March. This year in Québec it is about 60% the last days of February first days of March and 40% the first full week in March.

She also noted that for some Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board schools there is no choice for spring break due to shared transportation with Commission scolaire des Laurentides and Commission scolaire des Samares and it would be too expensive to assume the transportation costs for a different spring break. The school board is aware of the sensitivity of this issue and attempts have been made to enter into discussion with our French counterparts.

11.0 ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING:

Commissioner Nick Milas MOVED adjournment of the meeting.

Carried unanimously

TIME: 21:33 hours

NEXT MEETING ⇨ REGULAR ⇨ 2011-03-30

Marie-Claude Drouin, Secretary General

Steve Bletas, Chairman