

PROVINCE OF QUEBEC**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE SIR WILFRID LAURIER SCHOOL BOARD HELD ON 2011-12-14**

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, 2011-12-14.

Present: Commissioners Steve Bletas, Chairman; Carolyn Curiale, Vice-Chairman; Georges Benoit, Mario Di Domenico, Robert Dixon, Nazario Facchino, Walter Fogel, Steve Kmec, Nick Milas, Steve Mitchell, Tom Mouhteros, Grace Nesi, Albina Pace, Merle Parkinson, Mike Pizzola, William Pollock, Nancy Rupnik and Edward Turchyniak; and Robert Vallerand, Interim Director General.

Also present were: Clifford Buckland, Interim Assistant Director General; Marie-Claude Drouin, Secretary General; Gaëlle Absolonne, Director of School Organization; Johanne Brabant, Strategic Plan Advisor; Line Desgroseilliers, Director of Information Technology; Linda Di Domenico, Director of Human Resources; Heather Halman, Director of Adult Education & Vocational Training; Daniel Hogue, Director of Material Resources; Livia Nassivera, Director of Financial Resources; Gerry Robillard, Director of Educational Services; Fred Greschner, Assistant Director of Complementary Services; and Jocelyne Thompson-Ness, Administrative Assistant. Several other persons were also in the audience.

Absent: Commissioner Peter MacLaurin and Parent Commissioners Roberto Bomba and Angelo Grasso.

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 19:40 hours.

The Chairman welcomed Commissioners Walter Fogel and William Pollock back to the table.

The Chairman welcomed the Souvenir Elementary School "Green Team" students, teachers and Principal to the meeting. He also extended appreciation, on behalf of the Council of Commissioners, to Commissioner Albina Pace for her participation in this school program.

He invited Carmela Sacco, Principal of Souvenir Elementary School, and Mary Bellon, Teacher/Coordinator of the "Green Team" project, to provide background information on this project.

Mrs. Sacco informed the Council that the "Green Team" meets on a weekly basis and that as a group they have created a democratic process for making decisions.

Mrs. Bellon provided background information noting that the "Green Team" project began about 10 years ago at Souvenir Elementary School at the request of the Principal of the school at that time, who is now the Director of Human Resources, who asked her to expand on the "green" efforts that her class was undertaking at that time. The project has grown considerably in the last 10 years going from raising funds for fresh water to mosquito nets, school supplies, etc. The "Green Team" students elect their own President and Vice-President which is a great education in the election process.

The President and the Vice-President of the "Green Team" spoke about the team noting that it currently has 25 members and provided information on the things they have done to raise funds to assist with their projects, i.e. ticketing idling cars in the school parking lot, etc. They expressed their appreciation, on behalf of the "Green Team" to the Principal and Mrs. Bellon, for without her original "green" initiative this project would not exist in its current format.

The Chairman thanked the students and their parents for attending as well as their Principal and Teacher.

A certificate presentation and photos followed.

Mrs Bellon thanked the Council again for this honour and went on to introduce Alex, a “Green Team” member, to the Council. She went on to explain that Alex is the student who has been participating in his classes from the Montreal Children’s Hospital for the past year via Virtual School while undergoing medical treatment.

Following the previous presentation, the Chairman welcomed the “Laval Girl Talk” students, teachers, the Laval Liberty Community Learning Centre Project Development Officer and Principal of Laval Liberty High School to the meeting and congratulated them on the second edition of the magazine.

He extended appreciation to Lise Montagne, project Development Office, and Louise Outland, a former teacher of Laval Liberty High School, for their initiatives in the project.

Ms. Montagne introduced a graduate of Laval Liberty High School who had participated in the first edition of the magazine and has returned to mentor the girls currently involved in the project.

The Chairman thanked the students and their parents for attending as well as their Principal, former teacher and the Project Development Officer.

A certificate presentation and photos followed.

The Chairman called for a 5 minute break.

TIME: 20:06 hours

The meeting resumed.

TIME: 20:11 hours

The Chairman advised the Council that he wished to acknowledge the great contribution of the Assistant Director of Complementary Services over the past few months, who stepped in during the absence of the Director of Complementary Services. His contributions during this period have been invaluable therefore, on behalf of the Council of Commissioners; he thanked him for taking on this role. He also extended his appreciation to Johanne Vallerand for joining the team and supporting the Assistant Director of Complementary Services during this period.

He welcomed the Director of Complementary Services to the meeting noting that she would be returning to her position full-time in January 2012.

A certificate presentation and photos followed.

Commissioner Tom Mouhteros returned to the meeting.

TIME: 20:17 hours

1.0 ACCEPTANCE OF AGENDA:

CC-111214-CA-0055

Commissioner Walter Fogel MOVED THAT the agenda be approved as presented in document #SWLSB-2011/12/14-CA-001.

Carried unanimously

2.0 APPROVAL OF MINUTES

CC-111214-CA-0056

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 2011-11-23, having been received by all members prior to this meeting, be approved as presented.

Carried unanimously

3.0 QUESTION PERIOD

In response to concerns expressed by Véronique Benard, a parent from McCaig Elementary School, the Interim Director General noted that he would respond to the questions as best he could and invited Ms. Benard to meet with the Interim Assistant Director General, Assistant Director of Complementary Services and the Secretary General to discuss her concerns of the situation further.

In response to Ms. Benard's questions concerning the violent behaviour of a student, the Interim Director General advised that the school board does not accept any form of violence on the school bus and in school. Incidents are reported and dealt with accordingly.

In addition, the Interim Director General noted that in the Education Act (R.S.Q., Chapter I-13.3) it is stated that:

"Every person is entitled to the preschool education services and elementary and secondary school instructional services provided for by this Act and by the basic school regulation made by the Government under section 447, from the first day of the school calendar in the school year in which he attains the age of admission to the last day of the school calendar in the school year in which he attains 18 years of age, or 21 years of age in the case of a handicapped person within the meaning of the Act to secure handicapped persons in the exercise of their rights with a view to achieving social, school and workplace integration (chapter E-20.1)."

Finally, he advised that the Principal of a school is present to supervise the smooth running of the daily routine, ensures the safety and security of all students and takes into account all members of the school community when making decisions.

He then invited Ms. Benard to continue the discussion with the Interim Assistant Director General, Assistant Director of Complementary Services and the Secretary General.

4.0 REPORT FROM THE CHAIRMAN:

4.1 Report from the Chairman:

The Chairman advised the Council that on 2011-12-10 there was a teleconference of the Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen of the English school boards where the main topic of discussion was the rumours of the reorganization of boards or services that are currently circulating. The rumour of merging boards or services is politically based as the topic was indirectly placed on the table at a meeting on 2011-11-20 with the Assistant Deputy Minister Education, Leisure and Sports, Louise Pagé, under the guise of budget cuts. Given that, the school boards have been advised that there will be very deep cuts in future budgets for all school boards as the Provincial Government is seeking a zero deficit as soon as possible. The Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board would be looking at reducing its budget in the neighbourhood of 1 600 000\$ annually for a number of years or until the current provincial government reaches a zero deficit. Additional meetings have been held since the teleconference with each board's respective Council of Commissioners, Director General, Assistant Director General and management teams to advise them of these new developments. The budget needs are to be examined closely to see where these cuts can be made as status quo is not an option.

The Interim Director General added that Mme Pagé invited the school boards to work with the Ministry on these budget reductions as the other option available would be the Ministry introducing the cuts as it sees fit.

He went on to note that the meeting at Quebec English School Boards Association (QESBA) revolved around the above mentioned discussions and the pros and cons of the reorganization of school boards. The group looked at several preliminary scenarios with as many as 6 English school boards and as few as 1. Other options to reduce expenses were discussed and the most frequently mentioned was to have taxation and payroll centralized as these services are the same in the English school boards. More detailed information will be available as this issue expands and solutions are explored.

The Chairman noted that he had spoken with some of his colleagues in the French sector and they have heard the rumours but, at this time, they have not been approached by the Ministry. He also indicated that when reading between the lines it is obvious that some form of reorganization is in the future for all school boards.

The Council entered into a lively discussion on the serious budget cutbacks and the possibility of more reorganizations.

In response to many comments and concerns, the Chairman advised that the near future holds many meetings and discussions at all levels in order to come up with a viable plan to fit the situation that school boards are going to face.

Commissioner Nick Milas left the meeting.

TIME: 21:10 hours

Discussions continued.

Commissioner Nick Milas returned to the meeting. **TIME: 21:12 hours**

Commissioner George Benoit left the meeting. **TIME: 21:12 hours**

In response to questions concerning the government's scenario of one English school board, the Interim Director General indicated that this was put forth as a challenge to the English school boards to come up with something else.

Commissioner George Benoit returned to the meeting. **TIME: 21:16 hours**

Discussions continued on keeping the status quo as an option.

Commissioner Carolyn Curiale left the meeting. **TIME: 21:18 hours**

In response to a question from Commissioner Merle Parkinson, the Chairman noted that he has already asked the Interim Director General to put together various scenarios based on the economies of scale with respect to payroll and taxation for future presentation.

Commissioner Carolyn Curiale returned to the meeting. **TIME: 21:21 hours**

The Chairman proposed that a Task Force on the Future of School Boards be created and a mandate assigned.

CC-111214-CA-0057

Commissioner Edward Turchyniak **MOVED THAT** a Task Force on the Future of School Boards be established comprised of Commissioners, Interim Director General, Interim Assistant Director General, Union Presidents/Representatives, Chairman of the Parents Committee, Coordinator of Communications & Public Relations, and four (4) outside persons, to examine the necessary elements concerning budget cutbacks and the possibility of the amalgamation of school boards.

Carried unanimously

Commissioner Grace Nesi left the meeting. **TIME: 21:26 hours**

The Chairman advised the Council that a one-day Focus Session for Council, Directors and invited persons will be held on 2012-03-24 at the Administration Centre.

He went on to express, on behalf of the Council, appreciation to the Interim Director General and Interim Assistant Director General for the leadership they have shown since assuming their positions.

4.2 Interim Director General's Report to Council:

The Interim Director General presented his monthly report noting a meeting with the Assistant Deputy Minister of Education, Leisure and Sports, Louise Pagé, concerning budget cutbacks; FormaClé, the proposed International education project, Free the Children, the project with Ameresco, persévérance scolaire, the Laval Task Force and other activities.

Commissioner Grace Nesi returned to the meeting. **TIME: 21:29 hours**

In response to a question from Commissioner Walter Fogel, the Interim Director General noted that when the school board met with the representative of the International Student Program, all aspects of hosting these students were discussed. The representative returned with the information to the parents of these students and was informed of their wish to have them housed all together, so given the short time frame for the organization to host these students, the school board has passed on this particular opportunity but will continue to work with this representative to establish a business plan to host International Student Program students that would meet our needs. The school board will have a booth at the 2012 International Education Fair.

Commissioner Mike Pizzola left the meeting. **TIME: 21:31 hours**

5.0 BUSINESS ARISING:

5.1 Balance of 2012-2013 QESBA Membership Fees:

The Secretary General presented the revised balance of the Quebec English School Boards Association (QESBA) membership fees for the 2012-2013 school year.

CC-111214-CA-0058

WHEREAS the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board adopted resolution #CC-110629-CA-0112 authorizing the payment of the preliminary Quebec English School Boards Association (QESBA) membership fee;

WHEREAS the QESBA has submitted an invoice for the balance of the 2011-2012 membership fee;

Commissioner Grace Nesi MOVED THAT the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board approve the payment of the balance of the 2011-2012 Quebec English School Boards Association (QESBA) membership fee in the amount of **29 122,58\$**.

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

Commissioner Mike Pizzola returned to the meeting.

TIME: 21:34 hours

5.2 2012-2013 Enrollment Criteria:

The Director of School Organization presented and reviewed the final version of the 2012-2013 enrollment criteria noting that the School Organization Committee supports this document.

CC-111214-ED-0059

WHEREAS section 239 of the Education Act (R.S.Q., Chapter I-13.3) states that each year, the school board must adopt an enrolment criteria;

WHEREAS the section 193 (6) of the Education Act requires that the Parents' Committee be consulted on the enrolment criteria;

WHEREAS the registration period for students for 2012-2013 is the week of 2011-02-06:

WHEREAS the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board Parents Committee has been consulted on the 2012-2013 enrolment criteria and its feedback received and taken into consideration;

Commissioner Tom Mouhteros MOVED THAT, on the recommendation of the School Organization Committee and the Executive Committee, the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board approve the establishment of the criteria for enrolment of students in its schools, subject to the availability of space, for the 2012-2013 school year.

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

5.3 Sustainable Development Policy:

This item was tabled to the 2012-01-25 meeting.

6.0 DECISION ITEMS:**6.1 FINANCIAL RESOURCES****6.1.1 Registration for clicSÉCUR:**

The Director of Financial Resources provided background information on the need to register for clicSécur noting that this is required in order to have access to the internet services.

CC-111214-FR-0060

WHEREAS the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board requires access to *clicSÉCUR* which is the electronic services of government departments and agencies;

WHEREAS in order to have access to this service, registration and authorization codes are required for the authentication process;

Commissioner Nick Milas MOVED THAT Robert Vallerand, Interim Director General, be authorized to sign for and in the name of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board the documents required to register with *clicSÉCUR*.

AND THAT authorization be given to the Minister of Revenue to communicate to the representative information that is necessary for *clicSÉCUR* registration.

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, Nick Milas, Steve Mitchell, Tom Mouhteros, Grace Nesi, Albina Pace, Merle Parkinson, Mike Pizzola, William Pollock, Nancy Rupnik, Edward Turchyniak
Commissioners ABSTAINING:	Walter Fogel

6.1.2 2012-2013 Budget Building Process:

The Director of Financial Resources presented and reviewed the 2012-2013 budget building process noting that there are no changes to the document and that the feedback from the 2011-2012 consultation has been included as additional information.

CC-111214-FR-0061

WHEREAS the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board is commencing its budget building process for the 2012-2013 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 "2012-2013 Budgetary Process";

Commissioner Albina Pace MOVED THAT, on the recommendation of the Management Advisory Committee, the Financial Resources Committee and the Executive Committee, the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board approve in principle the "2012-2013 Budgetary Process", as contained in document #SWLSB-2011/12/14-FR-001.

AND THAT this Budget Building Process be subject to a consultation beginning on 2012-01-09 and ending on 2012-03-19.

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

6.2 COMMUNICATIONS & CORPORATE AFFAIRS

6.2.1 Partnership Agreement Report:

The Strategic Plan Advisor presented and reviewed the annual report to the Ministère de l'Éducation, du Loisir et du Sport (MELS) on the 2010-2011 Partnership Agreement noting that the recommended changes made at the Executive Committee have been included.

CC-111214-CA-0066

WHEREAS the Council of Commissioners adopted resolution # CC-100623-CA-0155, formalizing the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board's 2010-2011 Partnership Agreement with the Ministère de l'Éducation, du Loisir et du Sport (MELS);

WHEREAS part of the Partnership Agreement process is to produce an Annual Report on the agreement that includes an analysis of the school board's results in accordance with the goals set by the MELS;

WHEREAS the data on the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board's 2010-2011 Partnership Agreement has been compiled and analyzed;

Commissioner Edward Turchyniak MOVED THAT, on the recommendation of the Communication & Public Relations Committee and the Executive Committee, the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board accept the 2010-2011 Partnership Agreement Annual Report.

AND THAT this report be submitted to the Ministère de l'Éducation, du Loisir et du Sport (MELS).

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

7.0 INFORMATION ITEMS

7.1 Reports of Committee Chairs:

7.1.1 Communications & Public Relations

Commissioner Grace Nesi, Chairman of the Communications & Public Relations Committee, reported on the last meeting noting that the Strategic Plan Advisor had presented the 2010-2011 Annual report on the Partnership Agreement. The committee also discussed the campaign to promote the Laval high schools, "Zero Violence" posters being created for distribution to the schools, and the interview done by the Principal of Laval Junior High School for CTV on positive intervention for bullying.

7.1.2 Financial Resources

Commissioner Merle Parkinson, Chairman of the Financial Resources Committee, advised the Council that the committee meeting scheduled for 2012-01-10 has been cancelled and the 2012-02-09 meeting has been moved to 2012-02-14.

She went on to advise that at the last meeting the preparation of the 2011-2012 revised budget and the upcoming consultation on the budget building process for 2012-2013 were discussed.

7.1.3 Human Resources

Commissioner Nazario Facchino, Chairman of the Human Resources Committee, noted that at the last meeting there was no quorum and, given that, the presentation planned for the evening was still given so those in attendance received a very informative presentation on CSST.

The Chairman, in response to an observation made at the Executive Committee by Parent Commissioner Angelo Grasso, asked that when a Commissioner knows in advance that they will be absent from a committee meeting to please call 24 hours before the meeting to advise the Chairman of that committee and the Director so that quorum can be determined. Last minute emergencies are understandable. If schedule conflicts occur consistently it is recommended that the Commissioners with a conflict remove themselves from that committee.

7.2 SWL Foundation:

Commissioner Edward Turchyniak advised that representatives of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier Foundation recently met with Hydro Québec to discuss a partnership agreement. Hydro Québec has a grant program and high schools and adult centres are eligible to apply for grants, with the high schools being eligible for grants worth 2 000\$ to 25 000\$. The criteria is available on the Hydro Québec Web site and must be met in order to be considered for a grant in the education sector.

He also noted that the ticket sales for the 2012-01-12 Sir Wilfrid Laurier Foundation Gala are going well, that planning for the Laurier Star Fest is underway, and that partnerships continue to be sought.

Commissioner Nazario Facchino left the meeting.

TIME: 21:47 hours

The Interim Director General noted that a presentation on this partnership with Hydro Québec will be made at the next Principals meeting.

7.3 Parent Commissioners Report

The report is in the package. The Parent Commissioners had committed to school events and send their regrets.

7.4 Report of the QESBA:

Commissioner Carolyn Curiale indicated that a list of committees of the Quebec English School Boards Association (QESBA) for the 2011-2012 year is being circulated around the table. She noted that Commissioner involvement on these committees would be very much appreciated. The meetings of these committees are at the convenience of the members but in her experience the meetings usually take place in the morning or at lunch time and via telephone.

7.5 2012-2013 Calendar:

The Director of Human Resources advised that the 2012-2013 calendar contained in the meeting package is the final calendar for most schools. Those schools that receive transportation from either Commission scolaire des Laurentides or Commission scolaire des Samares will receive their respective calendars in the New Year. She thanked the unions, Parents' Committee, Educational Services and School Organization for their input during the development and consultation process.

Commissioner Nazario Facchino returned to the meeting.

TIME: 21:51 hours

7.6 *Free the Children:*

The Interim Director General advised that Free the Children has approached the school board concerning a partnership, as several of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board schools are already involved with the group on an individual level. Free the Children promotes social awareness and, at the same time, helps emerging communities in third world countries. He recommends that the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board enter into a partnership with this group as there is no cost to the school board, it will show support to the schools currently involved in the program and encourage others to participate, all while promoting social awareness and empathy to our students.

8.0 QUESTION PERIOD:

The Interim Director General addressed several questions from the 2011-12-13 meeting of the Executive Committee:

- Question on the AESOP Program - The launch of the AESOP Program in Human Resources has been moved to 2012-01-20 due to some technical problems.
- Question on who pays for the transportation workshops - The bus driver workshops are shared cost projects. School Organization & Transportation selects a topic and animator and presents a proposal to the contractors. These partnerships have proven to be successful and bus drivers receive the necessary current information.
- Question of the stipend of subject animators - The stipend of the subject animators in the schools comes from an allocation at the school level. The school decides how many animators it requires and divides the allocation amongst that number which is why the amounts vary.
- Question concerning snow days - The principals are asked to reserve three (3) floating pedagogical days until March 31 annually to cover any snow days that may occur. After March 31, the Principals can use the floating days as they wish.
- Question concerning a mandate for Free the Children – In November, as the Interim Director General, he was given a mandate concerning Memoranda of Understanding (MOU) for non-monetary partnerships. The Free the Children partnership falls into the category of a MOU.

In response to a question from Commissioner Tom Mouhteros, the Interim Director General noted that all transportation contractors, with the exception of the Société de transport de Laval (STL), were invited to participate in the partnership for bus driver training. The STL provides its own training.

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:

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

Commissioner Walter Fogel MOVED adjournment of the meeting.

Carried unanimously

TIME: 21:59 hours

NEXT MEETING ⇨ REGULAR ⇨ 2012-01-25