

PROVINCE OF QUEBEC

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE SIR WILFRID LAURIER SCHOOL BOARD HELD ON 2012-01-25

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, 2012-01-25.

Present: Commissioners Steve Bletas, Chairman; Carolyn Curiale, Vice-Chairman; Georges Benoit, Robert Dixon, Nazario Facchino (via telephone), Steve Kmec, Peter MacLaurin (via Skype), Nick Milas, Steve Mitchell, Tom Mouhteros, Grace Nesi, Albina Pace, Merle Parkinson, Mike Pizzola, William Pollock, Nancy Rupnik and Edward Turchyniak (via Skype); Parent Commissioners Roberto Bomba and Angelo Grasso 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; Stephanie Krenn, Director of Complementary Services; 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 Mario Di Domenico and Walter Fogel.

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 19:30 hours.

1.0 ACCEPTANCE OF AGENDA:

The following additions to the agenda were proposed:

10.0 VARIA:

10.1 Committees INFO

CC-120125-CA-0067

Commissioner Mike Pizzola MOVED THAT the agenda be approved as amended in document #SWLSB-2012/01/25-CA-001.

Carried unanimously

2.0 APPROVAL OF MINUTES

CC-120125-CA-0068

Parent Commissioner Angelo Grasso MOVED THAT the minutes of the REGULAR meeting of the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board held on 2011-12-14, 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, 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:	Peter MacLaurin

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 the school board has received a notice of retirement from Alain Guay, Assistant Director General. Given that, he proceeded to read into the minutes:

"On January 13, I received the resignation for the purpose of retirement of our Assistant Director General, Mr. Alain Guay. Alain will be joining the ranks of retirement and enjoying time (and golf) between Lorraine and Florida.

I have had the honour of working with Alain for the past 8 years and I have to say that I will certainly miss him. Alain has been a great leader during his years at the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board....be it as high school principal at Rosemere High School, Director of Adult Education & Vocational Training for the CDC Laurier or as Assistant Director General, a role he has done honor to over the past 4 years.

Passionate about enabling schools to become better places for students to learn, for teachers to teach and for administrators to work.

Alain is a man of vision and integrity who has always been appreciated and well respected by everyone he has worked with.

Compassion, patient, charismatic, loyal committee and dedicated.... Are some of the words that come to mind when thinking of Alain?

I wish him the best in his new projects and hopes he enjoys well-deserved retirement!"

He went on to inform the Council that Nancy Bennett, Principal of Grenville Elementary School is one of the Canada-wide recipients of the 2012 Canadian Outstanding Principal Award. She is the only one from Québec. He extended, on behalf of the Council, congratulations on this wonderful award.

The Interim Director General indicated that this is quite an honour for the smallest school in the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board.

The Chairman presented his monthly report commenting on the recent meeting of the Chairmen, Vice-Chairmen, Directors General and Assistant Directors General noting that many questions were placed concerning the ongoing budget compressions and amalgamation of English school boards. It was reported that the Minister did state that there is no onus on the English school boards to amalgamate but that the Ministry would accept proposals from any who wished to present one. Compressions will continue for all school boards and in 2012 the anticipated compressions for the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board will be in the neighbourhood of 1 600 000\$.

He further noted that on 2012-01-20 the Chairmen, Vice-Chairmen, Directors General and Assistant Directors General met and continued discussions on the pending realities being brought forth by the Ministère de l'Éducation, du Loisir et du Sport (MELS). The group also discussed an interesting notion of virtual schools which looks towards possible savings in several areas. This is an interesting idea but a more detailed proposal with expanded details is required before pursuing such a venture.

Discussions also took place on having single services for such services as information technology, legal, payroll, taxation, transportation, etc. and whether or not any constitutional rights for the English community would be lost in this process. It was noted that the English school boards on the Island of Montreal did not lose any constitutional rights when joining the Conseil scolaire de l'Île de Montréal. Given that, amalgamation is a political issue therefore, the mandate of the Directors General in this process is to concentrate on all areas that would be affected in the process.

In response to a question from Commissioner Steve Kmec, the Chairman advised that the effective date of the retirement of the Assistant Director General is 2012-06-27.

The Chairman also advised the Council that the first meeting of the Task Force on the Future of School Boards took place on 2012-01-18. It was an informative meeting and there were interesting comments on a legal opinion that was sought on English rights. The legal opinion will be distributed to all Commissioners.

He also noted that a meeting with the Chairs and Vice-Chairs of Governing Board's was held on 2012-01-24, with himself, the Interim Assistant Director General and the Secretary General. Issues discussed were the continuing budget compressions, fundraising, dress code, attendance at Governing Board workshops. Allocations, mergers, etc.

In closing, the Chairman welcomed the Director of Complementary Services back to the table.

4.2 Interim Director General's Report to Council:

The Interim Director General referred the Council to his report to the Executive Committee contained in the meeting package.

In response to several questions arising from the Executive Committee that required follow-up, the Interim Director General noted:

- That there is still a 300 000\$ shortfall in the Adult Education & Vocational Training budget therefore, for the balance of the 2011-2012 school year all purchase requests must be reviewed before final approval. It is recognized that the implementation of the new Carpentry Program has incurred start up costs, as is expected. Once the program is established it should be able to become self-financing.
- With respect to the school board contract with AMERESCO for building management, the school board wishes to stay with the original plan for the buildings only and not act on the offer of other services.
- The sale of land for the Laval Aquatic Centre is still at the level of the Ministry.

In response to a question from Commissioner Edward Turchyniak, the Interim Director General noted that the cost of the contract with AMERESCO has not been reduced with the non participation in the other services offered.

5.0 BUSINESS ARISING:

There was no business arising.

6.0 DECISION ITEMS:

6.1 MATERIAL RESOURCES

6.1.1 Engagement of Contractor – Construction of Locker Rooms & Showers:

The Director of Material Resources presented background information on the locker rooms and showers project at 3200 boul. du Souvenir noting that the resolution approved on 2011-08-31 was for the demolition of these locker rooms and showers. The demolition is now completed so Phase II of the project, the re-construction of the locker rooms and showers, can be undertaken.

In response to several questions concerning whether or not the new QST of 9.5% would be applied to this project, the Director of Material Resources indicated that the tender was opened prior to January 1, 2012, but that he would look into the matter and report back to the Council.

CC-120125-MR-0069

WHEREAS, in conformity with the public call for tenders and the bid retained, the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board adopted resolutions #CC-110831-MR-0005 awarding the contract for the demolition of the locker rooms and showers renovation project at 3200 Souvenir to Hulix Construction Inc. for a total cost of 370 000\$, before taxes, (421 522,50\$, all taxes included);

WHEREAS the Council of Commissioners of Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board adopted resolution #CC-110629-MR-0102 approving the 2011-2012 capital priorities for its schools and centres which included the locker rooms and showers renovation project at 3200 Souvenir;

WHEREAS the Ministère de l'Éducation, du Loisir et du Sport (MELS) has adopted Measure 50690 to assist school boards with the repair and maintenance of its buildings;

WHEREAS public tenders were called and subsequently opened on 2011-12-14, for phase II of the project, reconstruction of the locker rooms and showers;

WHEREAS the conformability of all bidders has been verified by the Architect of the project

Commissioner Tom Mouhteros MOVED THAT, on the recommendation of the Director of Material Resources, the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board award the contract for phase 2 (construction) of the locker rooms and showers renovation project at 3200 Souvenir to **Trempro Construction Inc.** for a total cost of 1 122 016,69\$, before taxes, (1 290 038,69\$, all taxes included).

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

Carried unanimously

6.1.2 Souvenir Project:

The Director of Material Resources provided background information on the request from the Ville de Laval to enter into a Partnership Agreement concerning the reconfiguration of Bertin Street which runs next to Souvenir Elementary School. As part of the agreement the Ville de Laval has offered 50 000\$ to purchase the piece of land that it requires for the reconfiguration of Bertin Street and, in addition, it will provide the school board with another piece of land and construct a new parking lot and bus loading zone at Souvenir Elementary School as part of the project.

In response to a question from Commissioner Nancy Rupnik, the Director of Material Resources informed the Council that the Ville de Laval is not consulting the school board on this project as it is a project that it deems necessary.

In response to a question from Commissioner Tom Mouhteros, the Director of Material Resources noted that if the school board does not accept to participate, the Ville de Laval could expropriate the land required to reconfigure Bertin Street.

In response to a concern expressed by Commissioner Merle Parkinson, the Director of Material Resources noted that before the holiday shutdown he had sent, via e-mail, all the information concerning this project to all members of the Material Resources Committee seeking their support and recommendation due to the timeline of the project. He advised that he had received majority support and recommendation from the members of the committee via e-mail.

CC-120125-MR-0070

WHEREAS the Ville de Laval wishes to reconfigure Bertin Street in Chomedey, Laval;

WHEREAS the Ville de Laval will require part of lot #1 720 228 (1 560 m2), property of the school board, in front of Souvenir Elementary School property in order to reconfigure said street;

WHEREAS the Ville de Laval has approached the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board to make an offer of 50 000\$ to purchase this land, and, in addition, provide the school board with another piece of land, part of lot #4 304 611 (1 158 m2) in the Ville de Laval;

WHEREAS authorization is required from the Ministère de l'Éducation, du Loisir et du Sport (MELS) to sell this land;

WHEREAS the Ville de Laval and the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board also wish to enter into a partnership agreement for the construction of a new parking lot and bus loading zone at Souvenir Elementary School while re-constructing Bertin Street;

WHEREAS the value of the project is estimated at 500 000\$;

WHEREAS the cost of the project would be divided equally between the school board and the Ville de Laval;

WHEREAS the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board share would be financed from the amount received from the sale of land and the 2012-2013 AMT Measure;

Commissioner Albina Pace MOVED THAT, on the recommendation of the Material Resources Committee and the Communications & Public Relations Committee, the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board mandate the Director of Material Resources to seek authorization from the Ministère de l'Éducation, du Loisir et du Sport (MELS) for the sale of part of lot #1 720 228 (1 560 m2) to the Ville de Laval.

AND THAT the Director of Material Resources be authorized to proceed with the Partnership Agreement for the construction of a new parking lot and bus loading zone at Souvenir Elementary School with the Ville de Laval, subject to receipt of the authorization from the Ministère de l'Éducation, du Loisir et du Sport (MELS) for the sale of land.

FURTHER THAT the Chair, and in his absence or with his knowledge the Vice-Chair, as well as the Director General, and in his absence or with her knowledge the Assistant Director General, be authorized to sign all documentation concerning this sale of land and the Partnership Agreement.

Carried unanimously

6.2 HUMAN RESOURCES

6.2.1 Notice of Retirement of Assistant Director General:

CC-120125-HR-0071

Commissioner Grace Nesi MOVED THAT the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board receive the notice of retirement from **Alain Guay**, from his position as Assistant Director General, effective 2012-06-27, and extend best wishes to him.

Carried unanimously

6.2.2 Interim Assistant Director General:

The Secretary General presented the following resolution.

CC-120125-HR-0072

WHEREAS the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board adopted resolution # CC-110927-HR-0016, engaging Cliff Buckland as the Interim Assistant Director General, effective until the conclusion of the medical leave of the Assistant Director General;

WHEREAS the Assistant Director General has given his notice of retirement, effective 2012-06-27;

WHEREAS the position of Assistant Director General will be posted in the Spring of 2012;

Commissioner Nick Milas MOVED THAT the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board maintain the appointment of Cliff Buckland as Interim Assistant Director General until 2012-06-30, pending the engagement of a Assistant Director General and a transition period.

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

6.2.3 Director General:

Commissioner Steve Mitchell moved that the Council go "in camera". **TIME: 20:16 hours**

The meeting resumed. **TIME: 20:37 hours**

CC-120125-HR-0073

WHEREAS the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board adopted resolution # CC-110927-HR-0015, engaging Robert Vallerand as Interim Director General;

WHEREAS considering the extraordinary circumstances that could affect Quebec English School Boards in the near future;

WHEREAS the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board wishes to be as prepared as possible to meet these challenges;

WHEREAS the position of Director General will be posted in the Fall of 2012;

WHEREAS the Council of Commissioners wishes to appoint the Interim Director General to the position of Director General for the duration of the process of engaging a Assistant Director General and a Director General;

Commissioner Robert Dixon MOVED THAT the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board appoint **Robert Vallerand** as Director General of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board until 2012-12-31, pending the process for the engagement of the Assistant Director General, the transition period and the engagement of a Director General be completed.

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

On a "point of information", Commissioner Peter MacLaurin inquired as to whom had not voted in favour of the above resolution. Commissioners Steve Mitchell, Merle Parkinson and Mike Pizzola responded that their individual votes were not against the person but the process.

6.3 COMMUNICATIONS & CORPORATE AFFAIRS

6.3.1 Nomination to RRSSS – Laval:

The Chairman advised that Commissioner Walter Fogel had approached him expressing his interest in continuing to represent the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board on the Regional Committee of the Agence de la santé et des services sociaux de Laval.

He inquired if there was anyone else who wished to put their name forth for this position and there was no other interest.

CC-120125-CA-0074

WHEREAS the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board adopted resolution #051214-CA-0095, nominating Walter Fogel to the Regional Committee on the Access program to English Health and Social Services;

WHEREAS the school board received a letter dated 2012-01-19 concerning the renewal of the composition of this committee;

Commissioner William Pollock MOVED THAT the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board nominate **Walter Fogel** for consideration by the President and Director General of the Agence de la santé et des services sociaux de Laval when appointing members to Regional Committee for a four (4) year mandate.

Carried unanimously

Commissioner Albina Pace left the meeting.

TIME: 20:41 hours

Commissioner Edward Turchyniak excused himself for the evening.

TIME: 20:41 hours

6.3.2 Anti-Homophobia Day 2012:

The Secretary General advised that this event was discussed at the 2012-01-23 meeting of the Communications & Public Relations Committee and that it was recommended that the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board support this International Day against Homophobia on 2012-05-17.

CC-120125-CA-0075

WHEREAS the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board's mission is based on the recognition of the dignity and worth of every person and on academic success;

WHEREAS the school board promotes a work and study environment free of harassment and violence;

WHEREAS homophobia is a form of harassment that can lead to violence;

WHEREAS several studies have revealed that homophobic acts or language can have a negative psychological impact on the people targeted;

WHEREAS homophobia can discourage students from persevering in school and succeeding;

WHEREAS the Charter of Human Rights and Freedoms prohibits discrimination based on sexual orientation;

WHEREAS, on December 11, 2009, the Minister of Justice released the *Québec Policy against Homophobia*;

Commissioner Carolyn Curiale MOVED THAT the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board support the **International Day against Homophobia** on May 17, 2012.

AND THAT the Council of Commissioners encourages initiatives from its schools and centres to denounce homophobic acts, behaviors, remarks and attitudes.

FURTHER THAT the school board be committed to working with unions and associations to adopt the appropriate awareness and action measures aimed at preventing and combating homophobia in each of its schools and centres.

Carried unanimously

Commissioner Albina Pace returned to the meeting.

TIME: 20:44 hours

7.0 INFORMATION ITEMS

7.1 Reports of Committee Chairs:

7.1.1 Adult Education & Vocational Training

The report of the Chairman of the Adult Education & Vocational Training Committee (AEVT) held its meeting of 2012-01-11 at the new CDC Laurier-St-Eustache, where a tour was given and discussion took place on the 2011-11-20 Focus Session for AEVT, the update on the request for the Multiservice Centre, and foreign student initiatives.

7.1.2 Communications & Public Relations

The Executive Summary of the last meeting of the Communications & Public Relations Committee focused on the Laurier Gala, a presentation on Homophobia, registration for 2012-2013, the planning of the Focus Session on the Strategic Plan scheduled for 2012-02-22, the Partnership with the Ville de Laval concerning the reconfiguration of the street next to Souvenir Elementary School and an update on the judicial record process.

7.1.3 Educational Services

The report of the Chairman of the Education Committee commented on the last meeting noting that the committee received a very informative presentation of the A.T.O.M.S. Program at Laval Junior High School and a review of the results from the "Tell them from Me" survey.

7.1.4 Information Technology

The report of the Chairman of the Information Technology Committee commented on the Global Printing Solution, the Ameresco Asset Planning & Accommodation Analysis Project, and Measure 50680 École branchée 2.0.

7.2 SWL Foundation:

The Chairman advised that the Sir Wilfrid Laurier Foundation "Big Bang" Gala held on 2012-01-12 was a success, despite the first major snow storm of the winter, with approximately 109 000\$ being raised. The next Foundation event will be the Lobster Fest on 2012-06-14.

7.3 Parent Commissioners Report

There was no report. The next meeting of the Parents Committee is 2012-02-02.

7.4 Report of the QESBA:

Commissioner Carolyn Curiale advised that the first meeting of the New Year of the Quebec English School Boards Association (QESBA) Board of Directors will be held on 2012-02-04.

8.0 QUESTION PERIOD:

There were no questions.

9.0 CORRESPONDENCE:

The Chairman drew the Council's attention to the correspondence in the package and particularly drawing attention to the various articles on bullying and the article on François Legault's comments concerning education.

10.0 VARIA:

10.1 Committees

Commissioner Steve Mitchell, who requested this addition to the agenda, asked that it be withdrawn.

11.0 ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING:

Parent Commissioner Roberto Bomba MOVED adjournment of the meeting.

Carried unanimously

TIME: 20:48 hours

NEXT MEETING ⇨ REGULAR ⇨ 2012-02-29