

PROVINCE OF QUEBEC

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE SIR WILFRID LAURIER SCHOOL BOARD HELD ON 2012-03-28

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, 2012-03-28.

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

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 19:34 hours.

The Chairman welcomed Nancy Bennett, Principal of Grenville Elementary School, to the meeting and congratulated her, on behalf of the Council, on being one of the winners of Canada's Outstanding Principal Award for 2012 and the only recipient from Québec.

The Director General left the meeting.

TIME: 19:37 hours

The Secretary General entered the meeting.

TIME: 19:37 hours

The Chairman presented a letter from the Quebec English School Boards Association (QESBA) congratulating Mrs. Bennett.

The Director General returned to the meeting

TIME: 19:38 hours

Mrs. Bennett expressed her appreciation to everyone who has made the receipt of this award possible and gave special thanks to her staff as she could not have achieved this without their help. She also indicated that her experience with the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board has also been a contributing factor as the school board has supported Grenville Elementary School on its pre-Kindergarten Program and belief and support of small schools.

A certificate presentation and photos followed.

The Chairman welcomed the members of the Organizing Committee of the 2012 Montreal Regional Science & Technology Fair (MRSTF) that was held from March 18 - 20, 2012 at Laval Junior and Laval Liberty High Schools. The students of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board were very successful at the MRSTF winning 7 gold medals, 14 silver medals, 28 bronze medals, 7 honourable mentions and several other awards and prizes given by Centre québécois de recherche et de développement de l'aluminium, Concordia University, Hydro-Québec, Immunology Montréal, John Abbott College, Intel, Marianopolis College, McGill University, Shadd Valley International and Université de Laval. The gold medal winners will be participating in the provincial competition in April and winners from that competition will go on to the Canadian competition. Eunice You, of Laval Liberty High School, will be competing in the Intel Science & Engineering Fair, in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania in May. He extended, on behalf of the Council, congratulations to all of the students who participated and expressed appreciation to the following people:

- Robin Bennett, Analyst, Information Technology;
- Josée Côté, Principal, Laval Liberty High School;
- Line Desgroseilliers, Director of Information Technology;
- George Dimacacos, Science & Math Teacher, Laval Junior High School;
- Jacques Gendron, Foreman, Material Resources;
- Daniel Johnson, Special Education Technician, Laval Liberty High School;
- Daniel Hogue, Director of Material Resources;
- Maxeen Jolin, Coordinator of Communications & Public Relations;
- Tina Korb, Assistant Director of Educational Services;
- Laura Martinez, Administrative Technician, Laval Liberty High School;
- Richard Mason, Principal, Laval Junior High School;
- Heather McPherson, Science & Math Teacher, Laval Liberty High School
- Susan O’Keeffe, Office Agent.
- Michael Quinn, Chairman of the 2012 MRSTF & Pedagogical Consultant - Science;
- Gerry Robillard, Director of Educational Services; and
- Anyone who may have given just a few minutes of their time to ensure that this event was a success.

A certificate presentation and photos followed.

Commissioner Merle Parkinson entered the meeting.

TIME: 19:58 hours

1.0 ACCEPTANCE OF AGENDA:

The following addition to the agenda was proposed:

10.0 VARIA:

10.1 *Financial Portrait of School Boards across Canada..... INFO*

CC-120328-CA-0084

Commissioner Mike Pizzola MOVED THAT the agenda be approved as amended in document #SWLSB-2012/03/28-CA-001.

Carried unanimously

2.0 APPROVAL OF MINUTES

CC-120328-CA-0085

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 2012-02-29, 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 Di Domenico, Robert Dixon, Steve Kmec, Nick Milas, Steve Mitchell, Tom Mouhteros, Grace Nesi, Merle Parkinson, William Pollock, Nancy Rupnik
Commissioners ABSTAINING:	Nazario Facchino, Peter MacLaurin, Mike Pizzola, Edward Turchyniak

3.0 QUESTION PERIOD

There were no questions.

4.0 REPORT FROM THE CHAIRMAN:

4.1 *Report from the Chairman:*

There was no report.

4.2 *Report of the Director General:*

The Director General commented on his monthly report noting his meetings with 22 Administrators to discuss their career plans, the honouring of Nancy Bennett, Principal of Grenville Elementary School, by the Learning Partnership as one of Canada's "Outstanding Principals", a possible partnership with Harrington College for the use of the library and labs at Lake of Two Mountains High School outside of school hours; the recent discussions at FormaClé concerning the partnership structure, the extension of the Evidence-Based Decision Making project for the 2012-2013 school year, and a meeting with the President of the Laurier Teachers Union (LTU) to discuss the Educational Leadership Team for 2012-2013.

He went on to extend congratulations to the Director of Complementary Services and her staff for their hard work to achieve 100% acceptance for the 2011-2012 validations by the Ministère de l'Éducation, du Loisir et du Sport (MELS).

In light of the 2012-03-26 Council caucus meeting, which included the Directors, Commissioner Tom Mouhteros asked the question as to what the Ministère de l'Éducation, du Loisir et du Sport (MELS) is doing to reduce its budget as he pointed out that there are 111 management positions in the ministry. The MELS expects the school boards to cut its budget and collapse positions under Bill 100 but there is no indication that it is doing likewise. He asked that this be brought to the Quebec English School Boards Association (QESBA) for further investigation and a response.

The Council entered into discussion.

In response to questions from Commissioners Steve Kmec and William Pollock, the Director General advised that he would be addressing how Québec education budgets compare to the rest of Canada under Varia.

5.0 BUSINESS ARISING:

5.1 *2012-2017 Strategic Plan:*

The Strategic Plan Advisor presented and reviewed the final draft of the 2012-2017 Strategic Plan noting that it will be sent out for consultation on 2012-03-29 and commented on the options for responding to the consultation.

In her presentation of the draft Strategic Plan she noted the following:

- That the goals selected for the Strategic Plan were ones that could be achieved through strategies and initiatives;
- The preliminary consultation for the development of the Strategic Plan resulted in numerous ideas, such as safe environments, practices in communication, the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board listens to its stakeholders, etc;

- The top priorities received in the comments from the preliminary consultation for the development of the Strategic Plan were caring, communication, diversity, technology, and pedagogy;
- A committee made up of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier Administrators Association (SWLAA), Association des cadres scolaires du Québec (ACSQ) – Sir Wilfrid Laurier Chapter, the Director General and the Assistant Director General reviewed the feedback received from the stakeholders in the preliminary consultation;
- The vision and mission statement approved by Council of commissioners in 2006 was incorporated;
- The following Orientations were agreed to:
 - Orientation #1: Well Being – defines the “human” aspect of the plan and stresses the importance of human relationships to encourage and support the development of every person, as well as the quality of the students and employees’ environment.
 - Goals of Orientation #1: 1) To promote the building of positive relationships at all levels
2) To promote healthy and safe environments.
 - Orientation #2 – Leadership & Innovation – innovation is at the heart of new programs and pedagogical approaches developed to meet the different learning styles so it was a natural orientation for this plan.
 - Goals of Orientation #2: 1) To promote, support and increase the implementation of innovative approaches in teaching, learning and problem solving through leadership;
2) To recognize and celebrate innovative approaches.
 - Orientation #3 – Success – this orientation encompasses the first two and aims at ensuring the success of all students of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board and includes the Ministère de l’Éducation, du Loisir et du Sport (MELS) goals:
 - Increase success rates and qualifications before age 20;
 - Improved mastery of English and French second language;
 - Improved levels of retention in school and academic success among certain target groups, especially among handicapped students or students with learning or adjustment difficulties; and
 - Increase the number of students under 20 enrolled in Vocational Training.
 - Goals of Orientation #3: 1) To support development and implementation of programs that favour literacy;
2) To support measures to reach the MELS’ goals.
- The three orientations and the respective goals will be reflected in the Management & Educational Success Agreements (MESA) received from each school;
- The ultimate goal of the entire Strategic Plan is student success.

In response to a question from Commissioner Steve Kmec, the Strategic Plan Advisor indicated that the members of the Council could respond to this consultation either in writing to the Secretary General or via the on-line survey questions set up for this purpose.

The final version of the plan will be presented for approval at the 2012-06-27 Council meeting.

CC-120328-CA-0086

WHEREAS the end date of the 2007-2011 Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board Strategic Plan has been amended by resolutions #CC-110926-CA-0052 and #CC-110927-CA-0022 in order that it conclude on 2012-06-30;

WHEREAS a series of consultation activities took place with different stakeholders during the fall/winter of 2011-2012 in preparation for the revision of the Strategic Plan;

WHEREAS the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board has established three (3) orientations for the 2012-2017 Strategic Plan that reflect the evolution of the school board, its current needs and the five (5) goals of the Ministère de l'Éducation, du Loisir et du Sport (MELS);

WHEREAS an extensive consultation to provide feedback on the suggested orientations, objectives and goal for the 2012-2017 Strategic Plan;

Commissioner Steve Kmec MOVED THAT, on the recommendation of the Executive Committee, the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board approve in principle the 2012-2017 Strategic Plan, as contained in document #SWLSB-2012/03/28-CA-001.

AND THAT this document be subject to a sixty-day consultation from 2012-03-29 to 2012-05-28.

FURTHER THAT the consultation group include among others, the Parents' Committee, Governing Boards, Student Councils, Unions, Associations and external partners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board.

Carried unanimously

6.0 DECISION ITEMS:

6.1 HUMAN RESOURCES

6.1.1 Engagement of Director of Educational Services:

The Director General advised that the Director of Educational Services has announced that he will be retiring at the end of August 2012. The selection process was followed and the Selection Committee was unanimous in its recommendation.

CC-120328-HR-0087

WHEREAS the Director of Educational Services has given his notice of retirement, effective 2012-08-28;

WHEREAS the position was posted and interviews held on 2012-03-26;

Commissioner Peter MacLaurin MOVED THAT, on the recommendation of the Selection Committee, the Council of Commissioners appoint **Tina Korb**.

AND THAT, effective for the period of 2012-07-01 until 2012-08-28, she be assigned to the position of Interim Director of Educational Services.

FURTHER THAT, effective 2012-08-29, she be assigned to the position of Director of Educational Services.

Carried unanimously

Mrs. Korb thanked the Council for its vote of confidence and that she looks forward to the challenge and working with everyone.

6.2 MATERIAL RESOURCES

6.2.1 Call for Tenders – Professional Services – Rosemere HS Synthetic Field Project:

The Director General advised the Council that the synthetic field shared cost project at Rosemere High School has been approved by all participants, the Ministère de l'Éducation, du Loisir et du Sport (MELS), the Ville de Rosemère and the school board. A meeting was held earlier today with representative from the Ville de Rosemère and the school board to discuss the project and in order to proceed with the project it is now necessary to call for tenders for the services of professionals for this project.

WHEREAS the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board adopted resolution CC-091216-MR-0074 mandating the Director of Material Resources to submit a shared cost project for 2010-2011 to the Ministère de l'Éducation, du Loisir et du Sport (MELS) for the sports field at Rosemere High School;

WHEREAS Phase 1 of the Programme de soutien aux installations sportives et récréatives had been completed therefore, the Council of Commissioners adopted resolution CC-111026-MR-0028, authorizing the Director of Material Resources to re-submit this shared cost project under Phase II of the program for 2011-2012;

WHEREAS the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board has received a written authorization, dated 2012-02-23, from the Ministère de l'Éducation, du Loisir et du Sport (MELS) to proceed with this shared cost project for the synthetic field at Rosemere High School for an amount not exceeding 890 348,31\$;

WHEREAS the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board has received a written confirmation, dated 2011-10-05, of participation in this shared cost project from the Ville de Rosemère shared cost project for the synthetic field at Rosemere High School for an amount not exceeding 439 000\$;

WHEREAS the contribution of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board in this shared cost project for the synthetic field at Rosemere High School is for an amount not exceeding 439 000\$;

WHEREAS the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board requires the services of a consulting engineer for the synthetic field project;

WHEREAS the Ministère de l'Éducation, du Loisir et du Sport (MELS) regulations require that the consulting engineer be selected by a call for public tenders within the budget range of the project;

WHEREAS the Director General recommends that public tenders be called for the services of a consulting engineer;

Commissioner Edward Turchyniak MOVED THAT, on the recommendation of the Director General, the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board call for public tenders for the services of a consulting engineer to prepare the drawings, plans and tender specifications for the Rosemere High School synthetic field project.

AND THAT, upon receipt of the completed drawings, plans and tender specifications, a public tender be called for the services of a contractor.

Commissioner Edward Turchyniak noted that the architect was missing from the resolution and he accepted this amendment to the resolution.

CC-120328-MR-0088

WHEREAS the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board adopted resolution CC-091216-MR-0074 mandating the Director of Material Resources to submit a shared cost project for 2010-2011 to the Ministère de l'Éducation, du Loisir et du Sport (MELS) for the sports field at Rosemere High School;

WHEREAS Phase 1 of the Programme de soutien aux installations sportives et récréatives had been completed therefore, the Council of Commissioners adopted resolution CC-111026-MR-0028, authorizing the Director of Material Resources to re-submit this shared cost project under Phase II of the program for 2011-2012;

WHEREAS the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board has received a written authorization, dated 2012-02-23, from the Ministère de l'Éducation, du Loisir et du Sport (MELS) to proceed with this shared cost project for the synthetic field at Rosemere High School for an amount not exceeding 890 348,31\$;

WHEREAS the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board has received a written confirmation, dated 2011-10-05, of participation in this shared cost project from the Ville de Rosemère shared cost project for the synthetic field at Rosemere High School for an amount not exceeding 439 000\$;

WHEREAS the contribution of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board in this shared cost project for the synthetic field at Rosemere High School is for an amount not exceeding 439 000\$;

WHEREAS the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board requires the services of an architect and a consulting engineer for the synthetic field project;

WHEREAS the Ministère de l'Éducation, du Loisir et du Sport (MELS) regulations require that the architect and consulting engineer be selected by a call for public tenders within the budget range of the project;

WHEREAS the Director General recommends that public tenders be called for the services of an architect and a consulting engineer;

Commissioner Edward Turchyniak MOVED THAT, on the recommendation of the Director General, the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board call for public tenders for the services of an architect and a consulting engineer to prepare the drawings, plans and tender specifications for the Rosemere High School synthetic field project.

AND THAT, upon receipt of the completed drawings, plans and tender specifications, a public tender be called for the services of a contractor.

Carried unanimously

Commissioner Edward Turchyniak, on behalf of the Council, extended appreciation to the Material Resources Committee, the Director of Material Resources and his staff for all the work done to achieve authorization for this project.

7.0 INFORMATION ITEMS

7.1 Reports of Committee Chairs:

Commissioner Grace Nesi advised that there are no reports this month as there were no meetings for the following committees: Adult Education & Vocational Training, Communications & Public Relations, Financial Resources, Material Resources and School Organization.

7.1.1 Information Technology

Commissioner Steve Mitchell, Chair of the Information Technology Committee, presented his monthly report noting that this was a special meeting of the Committee and its sole focus was discussions on the ExoPC pilot project. This pilot project involves the use of table tablets whereby all the information is presented on a table like computer that several people can use at the same time. The Council will be updated on the project as it proceeds.

7.2 SWL Foundation:

Commissioner Edward Turchyniak advised the Council that the Sir Wilfrid Laurier Foundation is hosting auditions on March 30 and April 4, 2012 for its Laurier Starfest presentation at the 2012 Laurier Gala. There are currently 60 students who will be auditioning.

7.3 Parent Commissioners Report

The report of the Parent Commissioners commented on the meeting of the Parents Committee held on 2012-03-01 noting the discussions on the recommendations for the consultation on the 2012-2013 budget building process, a presentation from EPCA, receipt of a new consultation on the deeds of establishment and three-year plan, the reimbursement of mileage expenses for non-voting delegates, the bus safety committee, recycling, and a web site entitled www.irightthewrong.com.

7.4 Report of the QESBA:

Commissioner Carolyn Curiale presented her Quebec English School Boards Association (QESBA) report noting that the Priorities Committee have recommended to the Board of Directors the following five (5) priorities for consideration:

1. Promote the role of school boards, elected commissioners and their value added to education;
2. Promote success of the public (English and French) education system to parents and other stakeholders;
3. Lobby aggressively for flexibility in budget utilization and elimination of specific grants (tagged funding);
4. Obtain clarity on school board elections from the Minister; and
5. Assume a leadership role in increasing minority-language education funding in Québec.

She also drew attention to the QESBA Brief to the Commission de la culture et de l'éducation on Bill 56 and noted the upcoming virtual Professional Development Session scheduled for 2012-04-14 with the theme of "Setting priorities by sharing best practices" and the upcoming CSBA Conference in Québec City from July 4 – 7, 2012; which replaces this year's QESBA Spring Conference.

8.0 QUESTION PERIOD:

In response to a question from the Principal of Phoenix Alternative School, the Chairman advised that the synthetic field project at Rosemère High School will begin as soon as it possibly can.

9.0 CORRESPONDENCE:

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

10.0 VARIA:

10.1 Financial Portrait of School Boards Across Canada:

The Director General responded to a question raised at the 2012-02-27 Council meeting by commenting on the recent announcement by the Ministère de l'Éducation, du Loisir et du Sport (MELS) that 150 000 000\$ is being cut from its budget which translates into 15 000 000\$ for English school boards or approximately 2 500 000\$ per board. These compressions will be recurrent, will not be re-injected into the budget in subsequent years and will continue for at least three (3) years. On top of this the MELS announced last week that it will not cover some costs that it has previously approved.

He drew attention to the press releases from the Quebec English School Boards Association (QESBA) and the Fédération des commissions scolaires du Québec (FCSQ).

The Council entered into discussion and the question was asked as to how the MELS budget compares to the rest of the Country.

The Director General commented that Québec has the second largest education budget in Canada next to Ontario. He presented a comparison chart for nine (9) provinces in Canada which compares the budgets to the number of students noting that it must be taken into account the provinces that have grade 12. He noted that the gathering of data on this subject will be ongoing and updates provided.

In closing, he provided some food for thought noting that in the late 1990's the Government of New Brunswick eliminated school boards but that after three (3) years the new system for education was not working as anticipated therefore, the government re-introduced school boards. This is something to consider when politicians talk about abolishing the school board system.

11.0 ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING:

Commissioner Tom Mouhteros MOVED adjournment of the meeting.

Carried unanimously

TIME: 21:07 hours

NEXT MEETING ⇨ REGULAR ⇨ 2012-04-25

Marie-Claude Drouin, Secretary General

Steve Bletas, Chairman