

PROVINCE OF QUEBEC

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE SIR WILFRID LAURIER SCHOOL BOARD HELD ON 2012-04-25

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, 2012-04-25.

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, Albina Pace, Merle Parkinson, Mike Pizzola, William Pollock, Nancy Rupnik and Edward Turchyniak; Parent Commissioner 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; Line Desgroseilliers, Director of Information Technology; Linda Di Domenico, Director of Human Resources; Heather Halman, Director of Adult Education & Vocational Training; 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: Commissioner Walter Fogel and Grace Nesi; and Parent Commissioner Roberto Bomba.

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

1.0 ACCEPTANCE OF AGENDA:

CC-120425-CA-0089

Commissioner Mike Pizzola MOVED THAT the agenda be approved as presented in document #SWLSB-2012/04/25-CA-001.

Carried unanimously

2.0 APPROVAL OF MINUTES

CC-120425-CA-0090

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 2012-03-28, having been received by all members prior to this meeting, be approved as presented.

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| 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, Peter MacLaurin, Nick Milas, Steve Mitchell, Tom Mouhteros, Merle Parkinson, Mike Pizzola, William Pollock, Nancy Rupnik, Edward Turchyniak |
| Commissioners ABSTAINING: | Albina Pace |

3.0 QUESTION PERIOD

There were no questions.

4.0 REPORT FROM THE CHAIRMAN:

4.1 Report from the Chairman:

The Chairman advised that a meeting had been held recently with the Director General of the school board, the Director General and President of Commission scolaire de la Seigneurie des Mille-Iles; and himself to discuss the current status of the partnership for a bilingual Adult Education & Vocational Training Centre. The dossier is currently at the level of the Treasury Board. The partners are seeking a meeting with the President of the Treasury Board, Michelle Courchesne, in early May to discuss this project.

He went on to advise that the meeting of the Study Group on Laval High Schools has been postponed until 2012-05-10.

He further noted that the Task Force on the Future of School Boards is continuing to meet and that at its last meeting it was agreed that the legal opinion that was sought would be shared with the Quebec English School Boards Association (QESBA) and others, as it would be in the best interests of school boards to have a united front on this issue.

In response to a request from the Chairman, Commissioner Carolyn Curiale advised that the QESBA Virtual Professional Development Session held on Saturday, 2012-04-14 was well attended and informative. There were two topics for the session one being "immediate priorities" and the other being "setting best practices". The second topic was originally set so that the upcoming budget cuts could be discussed but as the budget parameters had not yet been received only preliminary scenarios were discussed.

The Chairman presented and read an article he had written as a guest columnist for the "Inspirations News", a publication of the English Montreal School Board, which highlights the special needs community. He noted that he wrote this article to express how being in a wheelchair has affected his life and given him a new appreciation of what it means to be "special needs".

Commissioner Steve Kmec expressed his appreciation to the Chairman for all of his efforts in this position.

4.2 Report of the Director General:

The Director General advised the Council that tomorrow, 2012-04-26, is the opening of the International Student Fair, an event which is used to recruit students from other countries to attend schools in Québec. Elizabeth Thibault is representing the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board at the fair. He presented and circulated the information that she had put together for this event, a CD with extensive information on the school board as well as the necessary forms to be completed, an information pamphlet and a luggage tag souvenir to promote the program. An update on how the fair went will be provided at the next Council meeting.

He also noted that earlier today some of the school board's Guidance Counsellors paid a visit to several of the Adult Education & Vocational Training Centres (AEVT) so that they see first hand what is being offered and provide AEVT as an option to students.

He informed the Council that late today he had received a letter from Sir Wilfrid Laurier Administrators Association (SWLAA) expressing concerns relating to the Council of Commissioners.

Commissioner Steve Kmec MOVED THAT the Council go "in camera". **TIME: 19:50 hours**

The meeting resumed. **TIME: 21:39 hours**

The Chairman called for a 10 minute break. **TIME: 21:39 hours**

The meeting resumed. **TIME: 21:54 hours**

The Chairman apologized to the audience for having to wait.

The Director General acknowledged receipt of the letter from the SWLAA and advised that the Council will be giving him a mandate to meet with the members of the group, either collectively or

individually, to address the issues cited in the letter. The Vice-Chairman of the Council and the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Executive Committee will lend assistance in the meeting or meetings.

CC-120425-CA-0091

WHEREAS Sir Wilfrid Laurier Administrators Association (SWLAA) has written a letter to the Director General expressing some concerns from its membership;

Commissioner Carolyn Curiale MOVED THAT the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board mandate the Director General to meet with the members of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier Administrators Association (SWLAA), either as a group or individually, to address the various issues outstanding with the group.

AND THAT the Vice-Chairman of the Council and the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Executive Committee will lend assistance in the meeting or meetings.

Carried unanimously

5.0 BUSINESS ARISING:

5.1 *Engagement of Assistant Director General:*

The Director General advised the Council that the Selection Committee for the position of Assistant Director General was unable to recommend a candidate for this position due to some irregularities within the process. It is due to these irregularities that the following resolution is proposed.

CC-120425-CA-0092

WHEREAS alleged irregularities were raised regarding the process for the posting and engagement of the Assistant Director General;

WHEREAS the Council of Commissioners wishes to have a clear, complete and accurate understanding of those alleged irregularities and all circumstances regarding the posting and engagement of the Assistant Director General process;

Commissioner Edward Turchyniak MOVED THAT the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board request that the entire process regarding the posting and engagement of the Assistant Director General be submitted as a special mandate to the Ethics Commissioner.

AND THAT the Ethics Commissioner has the full collaboration of the Commissioners and all personnel of the Sir-Wilfrid Laurier School Board concerning this mandate.

AND THAT disclosure of all necessary documentation relating to the inquiry be authorized.

FURTHER THAT the entire review process be accomplished within the shortest possible time period.

Carried unanimously

6.0 DECISION ITEMS:

6.1 HUMAN RESOURCES

6.1.2 Selection Process for the Position of the Director General:

The Secretary General, at the request of the Chairman, presented a resolution concerning the commencement of the search for a new Director General.

WHEREAS, the Council of Commissioners posted for the position of Assistant Director General on March 19, 2012;

WHEREAS the process for the selection of an Assistant Director General was inconclusive;

WHEREAS the interim position of Assistant Director General currently held by Cliff Buckland will expire on June 30, 2012 as per resolution #CC-120125-HR-0071;

WHEREAS the Council of Commissioners recognizes the role of the Director General in the selection process for an Assistant Director General;

WHEREAS the Council of Commissioners adopted resolution #CC-120125-HR-0073, appointing the current Director General until 2012-12-31;

Commissioner Nick Milas MOVED THAT the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board begin the process of searching for a candidate for the position of Director General of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board.

CC-120425-CA-0093

Commissioner Steve Mitchell MOVED THAT this item be tabled for further discussion and be brought back to the Council meeting of 2012-05-23.

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

The Secretary General presented additional resolutions concerning the selection process for the position of Director General.

CC-120425-HR-0094

Commissioner Albina Pace MOVED THAT the additional items be tabled for further discussion and be brought back to the Council meeting of 2012-05-23.

Carried unanimously

6.2 MATERIAL RESOURCES

6.2.1 Engagement of Contractor – Washrooms & Exterior Doors – Hillcrest Academy:

The Chairman advised the Council that the tenders have been reviewed by the project architect and that the contractor selected conforms.

In response to a question from Commissioner Mike Pizzola, the Chairman noted that the lowest conformable bidder must be selected in accordance with the regulations.

CC-120425-MR-0095

WHEREAS the Council of Commissioners of the 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 students' washrooms upgrading and the replacement of exterior doors at Hillcrest Academy;

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 2012-03-21;

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

Commissioner Steve Kmec MOVED THAT, on the recommendation of the Material Resources Committee, the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board award the contract for the Students' washrooms upgrading and replacement of exterior doors at Hillcrest Academy to **Constructions Michel Labbé (2311-9670 Québec Inc.)**, for a total cost of 342 687,00\$, before taxes, (394 004,37\$\$, 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 his knowledge the Assistant Director General, be authorized to sign all documentation concerning this project.

Carried unanimously

6.2.2 Engagement of Professional - Synthetic Field Project – Rosemere H.S.:

The Chairman informed the Council that the Selection Committee met yesterday to review the tenders received for professionals. The Selection Committee included representatives from the Ville de Rosemère, the Chairman of the Executive Committee, the Director General, the Chairman of the Material Resources Committee, three(3) members of the Material Resources department and himself.

In response to an observation by Commissioner Mike Pizzola, the Chairman noted that the professionals are paid a percentage for their expertise as per a regulation governing the professional fees.

In response to a question from Commissioner Tom Mouhteros, the Chairman indicated that several Commissioners have been asked why the school board keeps investing in large projects and the response is that these projects are financed by a Measure from the Ministère de l'Éducation, du Loisir et du Sport (MELS).

Commissioner Edward Turchyniak noted that the investment of the school board in the synthetic field project at Rosemere High School is 25% of the total cost of the project and the result is a long term asset owned entirely by the school board.

CC-120425-MR-0096

WHEREAS the Ministère de l'Éducation, du Loisir et du Sport (MELS), the Ville de Rosemère and the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board have entered into a shared cost project for a synthetic playing field at Rosemere High School;

WHEREAS the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board adopted resolution CC-120328-MR-0088 calling for public tenders for the services of a consulting engineer to prepare the drawings, plans and tender specifications for the synthetic field project at Rosemere High School;

WHEREAS the tenders were received and opened on 2012-04-18;

WHEREAS the Selection Committee, established in accordance with the Ministère de l'Éducation, du Loisir et du Sport (MELS) regulations, has studied and evaluated all the consulting engineer tenders received and prepared a recommendation;

Commissioner Edward Turchyniak MOVED THAT, on the recommendation of the Selection Committee; the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board retain the services of **AECOM Consultants Inc.** as consulting engineer to prepare the plans, drawings and tender specifications for the synthetic playing field project at Rosemere High School.

AND THAT the cost of these services be paid in accordance with the Ministère de l'Éducation, du Loisir et du Sport (MELS) remuneration scale for professionals.

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

Carried unanimously

6.3 COMMUNICATIONS & CORPORATE AFFAIRS

6.3.1 By-Law – Date, Time & Place of Council Meetings for 2012-2013:

The Secretary General presented and reviewed the proposed amendments to the by-laws for the date, time and place of both Council and Executive Committee meetings for the 2012-2013 school year. These by-laws will be subject to the consultation process provided for in the Education Act (R.S.Q., Chapter I-13.3).

CC-120425-CA-0097

WHEREAS the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board approved resolution #000126-CA-0130, adopting by-law #BL2000-CA-05: Date, Time & Place of Regular Meetings of the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board;

WHEREAS it has become necessary to amend this by-law to bring it in line with the 2012-2013 meeting dates for the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board;

Commissioner Robert Dixon MOVED THAT, on the recommendation of the Communications & Public Relations Committee and the Executive Committee, the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board approve in principle the amendments to by-law #BL2000-CA-05: Date, Time & Place of Regular Meetings of the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board.

AND THAT this proposed by-law be subject to the consultation process for by-laws, as per section 392 of the Education Act (R.S.Q., Chapter I-13.3).

FURTHER THAT this by-law will be presented for adoption at the 2012-06-27 meeting of the Council of Commissioners.

Carried unanimously

6.3.2 *By-Law – Date, Time & Place of Executive Meetings for 2012-2013:*

CC-120425-CA-0098

WHEREAS the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board approved resolution # CC-080625-CA-0232, adopting by-law #BL2008-CA-15: Date, Time & Place of Regular Meetings of the Executive Committee of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board;

WHEREAS it has become necessary to amend this by-law to bring it in line with the 2012-2013 meeting dates for the Executive Committee of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board;

Commissioner Mario Di Domenico MOVED THAT, on the recommendation of the Communications & Public Relations Committee and the Executive Committee, the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board approve in principle the amendments to by-law #BL2008-CA-15: Date, Time & Place of Regular Meetings of the Executive Committee of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board.

AND THAT this proposed by-law be subject to the consultation process for by-laws, as per section 392 of the Education Act (R.S.Q., Chapter I-13.3).

FURTHER THAT this by-law will be presented for adoption at the 2012-06-27 meeting of the Council of Commissioners.

Carried unanimously

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 commented on the Facebook campaign to increase awareness of the services offered, today's meeting and centres tour with the high school Guidance Counsellors to present the programs available.

7.1.2 Communications & Public Relations

The report of the Chairman of the Communications & Public Relations Committee noted that at its 2012-04-16 meeting the art contest for the 2012-2013 wall calendar, the Laurier Star Fest, the Parents' Committee brochure, the International Student program, the renewal of the insurance contract for 2012-2013 and Bill 56 were all topics of discussion.

7.1.3 Educational Services

The report of the Chairman of the Education Committee focused on its meeting of 2012-04-23, which was a joint meeting with the Information Technology Committee to look at "Innovative Technological Approaches to Learning", a 21st century approach for the school board. Discussions took place with respect to this project on the direction of the school board for the next 5 years given the new strategic plan, the Ministère de l'Éducation, du Loisir et du Sport (MELS) supplying smartboards to all schools and other technologies being used by the schools. The technology infrastructure was also discussed as there will be a need for some future upgrading.

7.1.4 Financial Resources

The report of the Chairman of the Financial Resources Committee noted that the April meeting had to be rescheduled to 2012-05-08, due to lack of quorum.

7.1.5 Material Resources

The report of the Chairman of the Material Resources Committee commented on tenders for projects at Hillcrest Academy, Grenville and Our Lady of Peace Elementary Schools. The report also noted the recommendation of the committee to sign an entente with the Ville de St-Jérôme for the exchange of some land next to Laurentia Elementary School.

7.2 SWL Foundation:

Commissioner Edward Turchyniak advised that the Laurier Star Fest will be held on 2012-05-29 as part of the Laurier Gala. Auditions for the event were held at the end of March and beginning of April with acts being selected from all three regions of the school board. The event will proceed as per previous years with the red carpet prior to the event. He noted that it was a pleasure to work with the committee organizing this event.

The Lobster Fest will be held on 2012-06-14 at the Chateau Royal in Laval.

7.3 Parent Commissioners Report

The report of the Parent Commissioners focused on the deeds of establishment and 3-year plan consultation, the recycling project, Bill 56, the 2012-2017 Strategic Plan, the proposal to approach the French school boards in the 3-L region to hold a joint meeting to discuss the future of school boards, and the drafting of a letter to the Ministère de l'Éducation, du Loisir et du Sport (MELS) from the Parents Committee.

Parent Commissioner Angelo Grasso noted that the Parents Committee has received some feedback for its initiatives concerning the budget cuts and the future of school boards. It is considering requesting a meeting with the Ministre de l'Éducation, du Loisir et du Sport, Line Beauchamp, once the final amount of the budget cuts is known.

He extended appreciation to the Communications department for its assistance with the development of the Parents' Committee Brochure on its position on the budget cuts and the future of school boards. The initial distribution of the brochure will take place on 2012-04-26 at the SEAC Conference.

CC-120425-CA-0099

Commissioner Peter MacLaurin MOVED THAT the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board extend its appreciation to the Parents Committee for its initiative in the development of the "Partners for Success" brochure and for being involved and showing continued support to the schools, centres and the school board.

Carried unanimously

7.4 Report of the QESBA:

Commissioner Carolyn Curiale commented on the report of the Quebec English School Boards Association (QESBA) noting that strategies are being discussed concerning the budget cuts although it is hard to be specific as the parameters have not yet been received. She also drew attention to the report of the Executive Director of QESBA.

In response to a request from Commissioner Curiale, Parent Commissioner Angelo Grasso indicated that the Parents' Committee would be please if she shared its Parents Brochure with the QESBA.

8.0 QUESTION PERIOD:

There were no questions.

9.0 CORRESPONDENCE:

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

10.0 VARIA:

There was no varia.

11.0 ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING:

Commissioner Merle Parkinson MOVED adjournment of the meeting.

Carried unanimously

TIME: 21:13 hours

NEXT MEETING ⇨ REGULAR ⇨ 2012-05-23