

PROVINCE OF QUEBEC

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE SIR WILFRID LAURIER SCHOOL BOARD HELD ON 2014-01-29

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, 2014-01-29.

Present: Commissioners Nick Milas, Chairman; Nazario Facchino, Vice-Chairman (via telephone); Georges Benoit, Steve Bletas, Mario Di Domenico, Robert Dixon, Guy Gagnon, Steve Kmec (via telephone), Elio Lattanzio, Peter MacLaurin (via Skype), Emilio Migliozi, Steve Mitchell, Grace Nesi, Albina Pace, Merle Parkinson, Mike Pizzola, William Pollock, Nancy Rupnik, and Edward Turchyniak; Parent Commissioners Roberto Bomba and Angela Martorana; and Stephanie Vucko, Director General.

Also present were: Eileen Kelly, Assistant Director General; Johanne Brabant, Secretary General; Gaëlle Absolonne, Director of School Organization; Robin Bennett, Director of Information Technology; France D'Aoust, Director of Financial Resources; Frédéric Greschner, Director of Complementary Services; Richard Greschner, Director of Human Resources; Tina Korb, Director of Educational Services; Tina Russo, Interim Assistant Director of Material Resources; Maxeen Jolin, Coordinator of Communications; and Jocelyne Thompson-Ness, Administrative Assistant. Several other persons were also in the audience.

The Chairman called the meeting to order.

TIME: 19:33 hours

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and wished them a happy and healthy New Year.

1.0 ACCEPTANCE OF AGENDA:

CC-140129-CA-0070

Commissioner Edward Turchyniak MOVED THAT the agenda be amended as presented in document #SWLSB-2014/01/29-CA-001.

Carried unanimously

2.0 APPROVAL OF MINUTES

CC-140129-CA-0071

Commissioner Guy Gagnon MOVED THAT the minutes of the REGULAR meeting of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board held on 2013-12-11 having been received by all members prior to this meeting, be approved as written.

THIS MOTION WAS CARRIED ON THE FOLLOWING DIVISION:	
Commissioners voting YEA:	Georges Benoit, Mario Di Domenico, Nazario Facchino, Guy Gagnon, Steve Kmec, Elio Lattanzio, Emilio Migliozi, Nick Milas, Steve Mitchell, Merle Parkinson, William Pollock, Edward Turchyniak
Commissioners ABSTAINING:	Steve Bletas, Mike Pizzola

CC-140129-CA-0072

Commissioner Albina Pace MOVED THAT the minutes of the SPECIAL meeting of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board held on 2013-12-18 having been received by all members prior to this meeting, be approved as written.

THIS MOTION WAS CARRIED ON THE FOLLOWING DIVISION:	
Commissioners voting YEA:	Georges Benoit, Steve Bletas, Mario Di Domenico, Nazario Facchino, Guy Gagnon, Steve Kmec, Elio Lattanzio, Emilio Migliozzi, Nick Milas, Steve Mitchell, Merle Parkinson, Mike Pizzola, William Pollock
Commissioners ABSTAINING:	Peter MacLaurin, Grace Nesi, Ed Turchyniak

3.0 QUESTION PERIOD

In response to questions and concerns from parents and stakeholders in the audience, the Director General with the assistance of the Chairman and the Directorate, responded as follows:

- the goal of the changes planned for the four Laval high schools is to give equal access to the current and future students in Laval;
- the Council was provided with several scenarios from which to make their recommendation for the Laval high schools and have chosen two scenarios that it feels would best serve the students for many years;
- regrouping the students into junior and senior schools in separate buildings will provide them with more space than they currently have. Detailed information can be found in the December 11, 2013 minutes of the Council;
- oversized classes will be reduced within the new locations of the junior and senior high schools in Laval which will allow the school board to meet the class size criteria in the teachers Collective Agreement;
- Laval students will be with their peers no matter which school they choose;
- a preoccupation of the Laval parents in previous years has been the application of the enrolment criteria and the fact that the students could not be with their friends. The students will now have access to their friends on a daily basis by having the same recess and lunch hours, and travelling on the same bus;
- the hope is to be able to offer an extension of certain programs in the future;
- funding is required to have more classroom groups; and
- students will have a broader choice of courses.

A petition, containing approximately 200 names, concerning the decisions being taken on the Laval high schools was presented to the Secretary General. It was noted by the presenter that there was also an on-line petition containing an additional 484 names.

4.0 REPORT FROM THE CHAIRMAN:

4.1 *Chairman's Report:*

The Chairman commented on the holiday breakfasts held at the various high schools just prior to the holiday break. He attended the breakfasts at Laval Liberty and Laurier Senior High Schools noting that it is always nice to see the staff and students working together.

He went on to provide an update on the recent and upcoming activities of the Quebec English School Boards Association (QESBA) with respect to Bills 60 and 63. He noted that the QESBA is experiencing some financial problems and has a deficit budget.

4.2 *Director General's Report:*

The Director General presented her monthly report noting:

- advertising for registration in the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board;
- the promotion of Lake of Two Mountains High School as an option to parents in the west end of Laval highlighting its new Chrome book project
- the promotion of English education in daycares went very well with many calling to receive more information to distribute;
- working actively on the preparation of the consultation on the Laval high schools;
- information on the change of address for the Laval high schools is on the Web site and updated on a daily basis, including the Q & A portion;
- over 2 000 people attended the open houses for the Laval high schools and the feedback on the evenings was very positive. On those evenings the focus was on the programs not the buildings. Calls have been received from parents interested in returning their child to the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board;
- walk-throughs and inventories in the Laval high school buildings are being completed, work is being done with the administration for the transition of teachers and students, good communication is an essential element in this process;
- a request was made to the Laurier Teachers Union (LTU) exploring the possibility of making an exception for one year concerning teachers who may be in the excess position to have 1st choice of the Laval schools, a request that was declined;
- work is being done on a new corporate “brand” that will be used throughout the school board;
- the agreement for the Multi Service Centre has been signed with Commission scolaire de la Seigneurie-des-Mille-Iles (CSSMI) and negotiations continue for land on which to construct the centre;
- interviews are being planned for a Centre Director for the Multi Service Centre;
- the second instalment of “Parenting a 21st Century Teen” Workshop was held on January 21 with the repeat session being held on January 28, 2014. The plan is to continue these sessions with the goal of having video clips available on the Web; and
- school activities such as The Mountainview Times, the “Défi Pierre Lavoie” portable bike lab to promote health, the video of Ste-Agathe Academy with Mobilyls that captures the essence of a partnership to promote school and youth success, a virtual visit by Crestview Elementary School teachers to the Great Barrier Reef to promote the use of this technology.

In response to questions from the Council, the Director General noted:

- the preliminary re-registration and registration numbers will be available for the Council meeting on January 29, 2014;
- the results of a letter from the Sir Wilfrid Laurier Administrators Association (SWLAA) were communicated in the results summary of the consultation on the deeds of establishment. The inclusion of SWLAA in the consultation process was above and beyond what was required as per the Education Act (R.S.Q., Chapter I-13.3); and
- consultation is conducted by the school board as a means to receive the most information possible and to advise Council of the results.

The Council entered into discussion.

In response to a question from Commissioner Mario Di Domenico, the Director General explained that teachers are put on excess when enrolment decreases and then they can pick a post within the territory, if available and, if not, they are placed in the pool of excess teachers. The request of the school board to the Laurier Teachers Union (LTU) was for any teachers from the four Laval high schools that may be put into excess at the end of the 2013-2014 school year to have first choice of any positions available at the four Laval high schools in the 2014-2015 school year, a request that was declined. It was hoped that the request might be considered so that continuity could be maintained for the students.

In response to comments from Commissioner Steve Bletas, the Chairman indicated that the information contained in the letter from SWLAA was provided at a caucus meeting prior to and during the special meeting of the Council on December 18, 2013.

Council discussion continued and it was expressed that all correspondence from a consultation or concerning a potential decision should be shared with the Commissioners.

Commissioner Steve Mitchell questioned "who decided" to not distribute the letter.

The Director General noted that the communications received in the consultation are shared as part of the results and used towards making an informed decision. The letter from SWLAA is not a public conversation and would be better discussed "in camera" as it appears that the intention of the letter is being taken out of context.

She continued noting that if the Council wishes to have all consultation materials in the future a resolution to that effect would have to be approved.

On a "point of order", Commissioner Steve Mitchell indicated that he felt that his question was not being answered.

The Chairman noted that a clarification would be made with respect to who is to be consulted as per the Education Act (R.S.Q., Chapter I-13.3).

On a "point of order", Commissioner Merle Parkinson requested that the meeting continue as there are other agenda items of importance.

In response to a request from Commissioner Steve Kmec, the Chairman indicated that the letters from the consultation were addressed to the Secretary General and the information was shared with Council.

On a "point of order", Commissioner Mike Pizzola stated that the letter from SWLAA was shared with the members of the Directorate.

The Director General noted that the letter was not shared with the Directorate, that the letter was addressed to the Secretary General as part of the consultation.

5.0 BUSINESS ARISING:

5.1 *Update on the Laval High Schools:*

The Director of School Organization & Transportation advised that the re-registration for 2014-2015 involved approximately 600 grade 6 students with 75 indicating that they will attend an institution outside of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board and 10 who have yet to respond.

The Council entered into discussion and the Director General, with the assistance of the Directorate, answered questions and concerns as follows:

- registration at Laval Junior and Mother Teresa Junior High Schools is 241 and 352, respectively; and
- the letter received from the Sir Wilfrid Laurier Administrators Association (SWLAA) was handled as per the mandate given to her by the Council towards planning the future of the Laval high schools.

6.0 DECISION ITEMS:**6.1 HUMAN RESOURCES****6.1.1 Procedure for the Evaluation of the Director General:**

The Director of Human Resources presented the final version of the procedure for the evaluation of the Director General.

Commissioner Steve Mitchell proposed several amendments to the procedure for the evaluation of the Director General.

The Council entered into discussion on the proposed amendments.

Commissioner Steve Kmec did not accept the amendments

The Director General noted that the procedure will be reviewed annually and that to have unions and associations as part of the evaluation process would be unusual as it is a process that involves herself and the Council.

Commissioner Guy Gagnon requested a clarification from Roberts Rules on the motion process.

The Chairman called for a 5 minute recess.

TIME: 20:46 hours

The meeting resumed.

TIME: 21:01 hours

In response to questions from Commissioner Guy Gagnon, the Secretary General indicated that the procedure for putting a motion on the table is that the resolution is moved and once moved it is open for debate and amendment and if an amendment is proposed the mover can accept or decline it. If the amendment is accepted it becomes part of the main resolution and if it is declined the amendment is put to a vote. In the case of Commissioner Mitchell's amendments the Council would have to decide if they would be addressed as individual amendments or as one amendment

The tradition of this Council has been that the Chairman asks a Commissioner if he wishes to move a resolution to which the Commissioner can accept or decline. Robert's Rules of Order indicate that any Commissioner can move a resolution and if more than one wishes to do the honours it is the first person to raise their hand.

The Council entered into discussion.

Commissioner Steve Mitchell withdrew his amendments noting that he just wanted to ensure all the information needed for the evaluation of the Director General was available.

CC-140129-HR-0073

WHEREAS the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board approved resolution #CC-130828-CA-0009, rescinding policy #2000-HR-03: Annual Evaluation of the Director General;

WHEREAS resolution #CC-130828-CA-0009, also established an Ad Hoc Committee to develop a new policy;

WHEREAS the Ad Hoc Committee deemed that a procedure would best suit the requirements for the evaluation of the Director General and drafted one accordingly;

WHEREAS a caucus of the Council of Commissioners has reviewed the proposed procedure;

Commissioner Steve Mitchell MOVED THAT, on the recommendation of the Executive Committee, the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board approve procedure #2014-HR-09: Procedure for the Evaluation of the Director General.

THIS MOTION WAS CARRIED ON THE FOLLOWING DIVISION:	
Commissioners voting YEA:	Georges Benoit, Robert Dixon, Nazario Facchino, Guy Gagnon, Steve Kmec, Elio Lattanzio, Peter MacLaurin, Emilio Migliozi, Nick Milas, Steve Mitchell, Grace Nesi, Albina Pace, Merle Parkinson, William Pollock, Nancy Rupnik, Edward Turchyniak
Commissioners voting NAY:	Steve Bletas, Mike Pizzola
Commissioners ABSTAINING:	Mario Di Domenico

6.2 COMMUNICATIONS & CORPORATE AFFAIRS

6.2.1 Commissioners Remuneration 2013-2014:

The Chairman advised the Council that the Executive Committee has recommended two scenarios for discussion and decision for the remuneration for Commissioners. The 2000 government decree concerning the stipend for Commissioners was distributed.

The Council entered into discussion and Commissioner Nancy Rupnik proposed that all options for remuneration be tabled until after the November 2, 2014 school elections as it is an inappropriate topic of discussion at this time.

Discussion turned to the reconfiguration of the Executive Committee and the fact that there are no longer Executive Committee delegates and what would be done with the balance of the remuneration that was designated to those delegates.

On a "point of privilege", Parent Commissioner Roberto Bomba called for the vote.

CC-140129-CA-0074

Commissioner Nancy Rupnik MOVED THAT the Commissioners remuneration be tabled until the end of its current mandate.

THIS MOTION WAS CARRIED ON THE FOLLOWING DIVISION:	
Commissioners voting YEA:	Georges Benoit, Nazario Facchino, Guy Gagnon, Steve Kmec, Elio Lattanzio, Peter MacLaurin, Emilio Migliozi, Nick Milas, Grace Nesi, Albina Pace, Merle Parkinson, William Pollock, Nancy Rupnik
Commissioners voting NAY:	Steve Bletas, Mario Di Domenico, Robert Dixon, Steve Mitchell, Mike Pizzola, Edward Turchyniak

The Chairman called for a 2 minute recess.

TIME: 21:25 hours

During the break, Commissioner Mike Pizzola excused himself for the evening.

The meeting resumed.

TIME: 21:29 hours

Discussion continued on the tabling of the remuneration motion with respect to the disbursement of the balance of funds in the said budget. It was noted that the start date of the new Executive Committee began on November 24, 2013.

On a "point of order", Commissioner Mario Di Domenico stated that the new members of the Executive Committee should be paid as of November 24, 2013.

Commissioner Steve Mitchell excused himself for the evening.

TIME: 21:36 hours

7.0 INFORMATION ITEMS

7.1 SWL Foundation:

Commissioner Edward Turchyniak expressed his appreciation to everyone who attended the "Viva Las Vegas" Gala on January 23, 2014. The event raised 51 000\$ for the Sir Wilfrid Laurier Foundation. These funds will be used to fund projects submitted by the schools and approved by the Foundation Board of Directors.

Upcoming events include the 1st Annual Bike Rally & Spaghetti Dinner to take place on May 25, 2014, the Laurier Gala and Star Fest on May 29, 2014 and the Lobster Fest on June 12, 2014.

The Chairman expressed, on behalf of the Council of Commissioners, appreciation to Commissioner Turchyniak for his tireless work for the Sir Wilfrid Laurier Foundation for the benefit of the students of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board.

Commissioner Turchyniak thanked him for his kind words and noted that the events of the Foundation would not be possible without the assistance of Maxeen Jolin, Coordinator of Communications and Susan O'Keeffe, Office Agent.

The Director General acknowledged the wonderful work being done by the Sir Wilfrid Laurier Foundation and thanked them for their ongoing support and their key role in supporting education. She extended a special thank you to Commissioner Turchyniak and Christian Frechette, President of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier Foundation, for their dedication.

7.2 Parent Commissioners Report

Parent Commissioner Angela Martorana stated that she felt that a disservice was done to the Council when it did not receive the consultation response from the Sir Wilfrid Laurier Administrators Association (SWLAA) on the Three-Year Plan & Deeds of Establishment, given that the letter to the Secretary General requested that it be shared. In order to make the best possible decision for the students of the Laval high schools all information is required.

7.3 Report of the QESBA:

The Chairman drew attention to the Monday Messages contained in the meeting package.

7.4 Commissioners Focus Session – Part II:

The Coordinator of Communications advised the Council that those who did not participate in the 1st part of the Focus Session were more than welcome to attend part II. The Focus Session – Part II will take place on Saturday, February 15, 2014 in the boardroom of the Administration Centre from 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Those who wish to take part are asked to contact her for further details.

8.0 QUESTION PERIOD:

In response to questions from the audience, the Director General with the assistance of the Chairman and the Directors provided the following information:

- the Directorate is currently waiting until the official registration period has concluded before examining which sports programs can be sustained at the four Laval high schools. When information is available it will be provided to the Principals, Governing Boards and students of those schools;

- it was not the intent of the school board to upset the Laurier Teachers' Union (LTU) when it inquired if it would be willing to make an exception for the 2014-2015 school year with respect to the choice of school for certain teachers declared as excess;
- the benefits of the model chosen for consultation to resolve the registration imbalance in Laval high schools have been shared at several meetings of the Council meetings and a synopsis of these deliberations can be found in the minutes of these meetings that are available on the Web;
- the Laval community has struggled with where their child should attend high school for many years and with the change of address for 2014-2015 the students entering high school will have access to both junior high schools and be able to continue school with their friends
- the Council feels that the models proposed are in the best interests of the students;
- Phase I is a decision of the Council so no consultation other than for the deeds and three-year plan is required;
- Phase II is a proposal and no decisions have been taken concerning its implementation due to the fact that the models proposed for consultation have not yet been sent to the parents and other stakeholders for that purpose. The consultation on Phase II will begin on March 27 and a recommendation will be brought to the June 25, 2014 meeting of the Council for a decision;
- there has been no directive given to employees by the school board regarding sanctions should they talk about the issue of the registration imbalance in the Laval high schools;
- when something is sent for consultation feedback is requested, reviewed and taken into consideration so that the Council can make an informed decision in the best interest of the students;
- change is difficult but the Council always tries to make its decisions in the best interests of the students, present and future; and
- all opinions given on the issue of the registration imbalance are respected whether positive or negative.

The Chairman MOVED THAT the Council go "in camera".

TIME: 22:05 hours

The meeting resumed.

TIME: 22:37 hours

TIME 22:37 Hours

CC-140129-CA-0074

Commissioner Albina Pace MOVED THAT the meeting be extended until the completion of the agenda.

Carried unanimously

9.0 CORRESPONDENCE:

The Chairman drew attention to correspondence in the package.

10.0 VARIA:

10.1 Administration Centre Wheel Chair Access:

In response to a concern from Commissioner Mike Pizzola, the Chairman indicated that he would look into the handicapped access to 235, montée Lesage and report back to him.

10.2 Date, Time & Place of Council Meetings:

This item will be addressed at the next meeting of the Corporate Committee.

10.3 Donations:

This item will be addressed at the next meeting of the Corporate Committee.

11.0 ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING:

Commissioner Emilio Migliozi MOVED adjournment of the meeting.

Carried unanimously

TIME: 22:39 hours

NEXT MEETING ⇨ REGULAR ⇨ 2014-02-26

Johanne Brabant, Secretary General

Nick Milas, Chairman