

**PROVINCE OF QUEBEC**

**MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE SIR WILFRID LAURIER SCHOOL BOARD HELD ON DECEMBER 16, 2015**

A Special 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, December 16, 2015 at 19:30 hours, at which were present:

Present: Jennifer Maccarone, Chair; Commissioner Dean Dugas, Vice-Chair; Commissioners Robert Dixon, Guy Gagnon, Paolo Galati, Vicky Kaliozakis, Peter MacLaurin, Anne McMullon, Emilio Migliozi, Ailsa Pehi (via Facetime) and Parent Commissioners Pamala Cripton, Sergio Di Marco and Angela Martorana.

Also present were: René Brisson, Assistant Director General; Frédéric Greschner, Assistant Director General; Johanne Brabant, Secretary General; Gaëlle Absolonne, Director of School Organization & Transportation; Robin Bennett, Director of Information Technology; Jérôme Dionne, Director of Material Resources; Richard Greschner, Director of Human Resources; Geoffrey Higgs, Interim Director of Educational Services; Donna Abel, Assistant Director of Financial Resources and Jocelyne Thompson-Ness, Administrative Assistant.

Absent: Stephanie Vucko, Director General.

The Chair opened the meeting.

**TIME: 19:30 hours**

The Chair invited the Director of School Organization & Transportation to present her guests.

The Director of School Organization & Transportation provided background information on the “smoothie stationary bike” initiative noting that it is a partnership between the Commission scolaire de Laval, the Centre intégré de santé et de services sociaux de Laval (CISSS de Laval), the École Polymécanique de Laval and this school board to promote healthy habits and “transport actif”. The bike will be rotated through the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board schools for the students to use for health related initiatives. She welcomed and introduced Helene Morrison and her team of representatives from the CISSS de Laval and invited them to demonstrate the “smoothie stationary bike”.

The team from the CISSS de Laval spoke about the bike and the fact that the centre promotes health initiatives in the schools in Laval noting that it is the only team of this type in the province. The Team provided a brief description of the services it offers to promote healthy eating and active living and expressed thanks to the École Polymécanique de Laval for modifying the bike.

The Director of School Organization & Transportation thanked the CISSS de Laval Team and presented them with \$350 that was raised through smoothie sales over two days in the Administration Centre, plus the donation of a bike from Marianne Girard, Executive Secretary in Financial Resources.

The Chair thanked the CISSS de Laval Team for its presentation and congratulated the Director of School Organization & Transportation and her team on the initiative.

The Chair called the meeting to order.

**TIME: 19:38 hours**

**1.0 ACCEPTANCE OF AGENDA:**

The Chair requested that item 6.2.2 be addressed to just prior to Business Arising.

**CC-151216-CA-0047**

Commissioner Peter MacLaurin MOVED THAT the agenda be approved with the proposed change as presented in document #SWLSB-2015/12/16-CA-001.

**Carried unanimously**

## 2.0 APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

CC-151216-CA-0048

Commissioner Vicky Kaliozakis MOVED THAT the minutes of the REGULAR meeting of the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board held on 2015-11-25 having been received by all members prior to this meeting, be approved as presented.

**Carried unanimously**

## 3.0 QUESTION PERIOD

There were no questions.

## 4.0 REPORTS FROM THE CHAIR & DG

### 4.1 *Chair Report:*

The Chair presented her monthly report noting:

- Bill 86:
  - the deposit of this Bill to amend the Education Act has shocked the Anglo community as it attacks its minority rights, gives the right to control and manage all schools to the Ministre de l'Éducation, de l'Enseignement supérieur et de la Recherche (MEESR), amongst other things;
  - this school board has a successful graduation rate and the proposed changes to governance with this Bill will not have a positive effect on student success;
  - the Quebec School Boards Association (QESBA) and the English Parents' Committee Association (EPCA), as well as other groups, will be addressing the media on the bill;
  - it is hoped that the government will conduct an open consultation;
  - a request for the government to rescind Bill 86 will be made;
- China, with the assistance of the Assistant Director General:
  - the business trip to China with the Assistant Director General and representatives from the Lester B. Pearson School Board to secure ententes for Adult Education & Vocational Training programs as a source of revenue for the school board;
  - arrangements for an exchange program for students and teachers;
  - meetings with embassy officials;
  - the goal is to market the school board as widely as possible in China;
  - the summer school at the Arundel Nature & Science Centre (ANSC) was well received by the Chinese officials and will be another source of revenue;
  - letters of intent were signed with various schools;
  - keynote speaker with the Chair of the Lester B. Pearson School Board at the International Education Forum.

#### **4.2 Director General's Report:**

The Assistant Directors General presented the monthly report noting that:

- a candidate will be retained for the position of Director of Financial Resources, pending the verification of references;
- the position of Director of Complementary Services was posted on 2015-12-09 and interviews will be held in January 2016;
- a meeting with the partners on the soccer complex has been rescheduled for January 2016;
- a meeting was held with the school owners from Thailand to begin discussing the logistics of opening a Canadian school in their facility. They received a tour of McCaig Elementary School. Updates will be provided as discussions move forward;
- a press conference was held by the Ville de Laval to launch its initiative with Giant Steps to become an autism inclusive city;
- a meeting with Giant Steps to have a preliminary discussion of a one-week summer camp at ANSC for children with autism.

#### **6.2.2 Student Ombudsman Report:**

Parent Commissioner Sergio Di Marco MOVED THAT the Council go "in camera". **TIME: 19:53 hours**

The meeting resumed.

**TIME: 19:59 hours**

#### **CC-151216-CA-0049**

Commissioner Dean Dugas MOVED THAT the Student Ombudsman report be tabled to the 2016-01-20 meeting of the Corporate Committee for review and recommendation.

**Carried unanimously**

The Chair advised the family present for the Student Ombudsman Report that the Council, having received the report this evening wishes to move it to the Corporate Committee for a detailed review of all recommendations contained in the report.

### **5.0 BUSINESS ARISING**

#### **5.1 Update on LRHS Pool Rejuvenation Project:**

The Assistant Director General advised the Council that since the 2015-11-25 meeting the opportunity to meet with the various partners in the project has led to the Commission scolaire de la Rivière-du-Nord approving a resolution to subsidize 60% of the rejuvenation project from its AMT budget.

He continued by expressing the school board's gratitude to the other partners in this project for their understanding of this school board's financial situation and agreeing to support us so that the project can move forward.

The Chair expressed, on behalf of the Council, appreciation to Commissioner Robert Dixon and the Director of Material Resources for all of their hard work on this dossier.

**6.0 DECISION ITEMS:****6.1 HUMAN RESOURCES****6.1.1 Human Resources Update – Resignation of the Director General:****CC-151216-HR-0050**

WHEREAS *Certain conditions of employment of senior executives of school boards and of the comité de gestion de la taxe scolaire de l'île de Montréal (Conditions)* are in force;

WHEREAS Ms. Stephanie Vucko has submitted a notice of resignation as Director General of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board;

Commissioner Dean Dugas MOVED THAT the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board takes note of the resignation of the Director General, Ms. Stephanie Vucko, from her position and from all employment relationship with the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board as of the date agreed upon in the agreement between the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board and Ms. Vucko.

AND THAT the Council of Commissioners waive the prior notice as stipulated in the aforementioned *Conditions*.

FURTHER THAT the Chair of the Council of Commissioners be mandated to sign an agreement with Ms. Stephanie Vucko to give full effect to the present resolution which will then be deposited in confidence in her file.

**Carried unanimously**

Commissioner Guy Gagnon noted that with the resignation of the Director General an interim needed to be named.

**Interim Director General****CC-151216-HR-0051**

WHEREAS section 198 of the Education Act stipulates that a School Board must appoint a Director General;

WHEREAS the position of Director General is vacant;

Commissioner Guy Gagnon MOVED THAT the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board appoint **Frédéric Greschner** as interim Director General, effective December 17, 2015 until a new Director General is named.

**Carried unanimously**

The Chair congratulated Frédéric Greschner on his appointment as Interim Director General.

The Interim Director General thanked the Council for its vote of confidence.

Parent Commissioner Sergio Di Marco noted that with the appointment of the Assistant Director General as Interim Director General, an interim replacement needs to be named.

**Interim Assistant Director General****CC-151216-HR-0052**

WHEREAS the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board has appointed Frédéric Greschner as interim Director General;

WHEREAS the position of Assistant Director General is now vacant;

Parent Commissioner Sergio Di Marco MOVED THAT the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board appoint **Gaëlle Absolonne** as interim Assistant Director General, effective December 17, 2015.

**Carried unanimously**

<b>6.2</b>	<b>COMMUNICATIONS &amp; CORPORATE AFFAIRS</b>
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**6.2.1 Agreement – Ministry of Culture & Communications:**

In response to a question from Commissioner Guy Gagnon, the Interim Director of Educational Services noted that there will be a consultant assigned to assist the schools in making the necessary applications for cultural field trips and activities.

**CC-151216-CA-0053**

WHEREAS a new Ministère de la Culture et des Communications project regarding field trips as part of the “Culture à l’école” program offers a subsidy to schools for cultural field trips;

WHEREAS the schools of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier school board are eligible to receive financial aid in order to take advantage of cultural activities provided by the various cultural organizations listed in the “Répertoire des ressources Culture-Éducation”;

WHEREAS the participating schools may receive a reimbursement of expenses prorated to the number of requests and the total allocation received from the Ministère de la Culture et des Communications;

Parent Commissioner Angela Martorana MOVED THAT the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board enter into an agreement with the Ministère de la Culture et des Communications to allow their schools to participate in the new project for cultural activities as part of the program “Culture à l’école”.

AND THAT the Chair, as well as the Director General, and in her absence or with her knowledge the Assistant Director General, be authorized to sign all documentation concerning this entente.

**Carried unanimously**

**6.2.2 Student Ombudsman Report:**

This item was moved to just prior to item 5.0

### 6.3 MATERIAL RESOURCES

#### 6.3.1 Change Orders – Special Measure Project – St-Paul ES & Annex:

The Director of Material Resources advised that while undertaking this work an underground reservoir was discovered that had to be removed and that some electrical work had to be completed due to water in an electrical box.

In response to a question from Commissioner Guy Gagnon, the Director of Material Resources noted that to the best of his knowledge there should not be more than 25% in total for change orders to complete the project. The change orders are currently at 23%.

#### CC-151216-MR-0054

WHEREAS the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board adopted resolution #CC-150325-MR-0142, awarding the contract for the special measure renovation project at St-Paul Annex Elementary to Construction Eiffel Inc., for a total cost of 447 700,00\$, before taxes, (514 743,08\$, all taxes included);

WHEREAS the Executive Committee of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board adopted resolution #EC-151104-MR-0020, approving change orders in the amount of 36 330,72\$, before taxes (41 771,25\$, taxes included), increasing the total cost of the project to 484 030,72\$, before taxes (556 514,32\$, taxes included);

WHEREAS, during the renovation project, change orders occurred to address specific issues, amounting to 66 925,66\$, before taxes (76 947,77 \$, taxes included);

Commissioner Paolo Galati MOVED THAT, on the recommendation of the Director of Material Resources, the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board approve the change orders in the amount of 66 925,66 \$, before taxes (76 947,77 \$, taxes included).

AND THAT the total cost of the project, including the change orders, be increased to 550 956,38\$, before taxes (633 462,10 \$, taxes included).

FURTHER THAT, the Chair, as well as the Director General, and in her absence or with her knowledge the Assistant Director General, be authorized to sign all documentation concerning this project.

**Carried unanimously**

### 6.4 QESBA

#### 6.4.1 Nomination to QESBA Board of Directors:

The Vice-Chair nominated Commissioner Ailsa Pehi. Commissioner Pehi accepted the nomination.

There were no other nominations.

#### CC-151216-CA-0055

WHEREAS the Constitution and By-Laws of the Quebec School Boards Association (QESBA) states that the mandates of the QESBA Board of Directors are for two (2) years;

WHEREAS the Commissioner representing the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board on the Quebec School Boards Association (QESBA) Board of Directors has asked to be replaced;

Commissioner Anne McMullon MOVED THAT, the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board name **Commissioner Ailsa Pehi** to the Board of Directors of the Quebec English School Boards Association (QESBA) for 2015-2017.

**Carried unanimously**

## **7.0 INFORMATION ITEMS**

### **7.1 SWL Foundation:**

Commissioner Paolo Galati provided an update on the Foundation's activities noting that:

- January 21, 2016 is the Sir Wilfrid Laurier Foundation Gala with the Backbeat Show Band. Tickets are \$225 and the funds raised will be going back to the schools;
- the Foundation lottery tickets are on sale for \$20 each and the profits from it will be used for literacy tools;
- \$33,000 in grants have been disbursed to the schools who had projects accepted for funding by the Foundation.

### **7.2 Parent Commissioners Report:**

Parent Commissioner Sergio Di Marco provided an update on the 2015-12-03 meeting of the Parents Committee noting that the 2016-2017 school calendar, the deeds of establishment and the three-year plans had been approved. The Parents Committee has also decided that its Action Plan for 2015-2016 is to have the Honourable Marlene Jennings come to speak to the committee on the Jennings Report.

Parent Commissioner Pamala Cripton highlighted the relatively new role of Special Education Parent Commissioner noting that it allows for increased visibility for the special needs students and their parents.

She went on to note that she has received several concerns from parents concerning IEPs and how they are implemented. The section in the special needs policy pertaining to IEPs needs to be revised.

The Chair extended congratulations, on behalf of the Council, to Rhonda Boucher, Elementary Parent Commissioner for the Western Quebec School Board, on her election as President of the English Parents Committee Association (EPCA).

### **7.3 Report of QESBA:**

This was discussed under item 4.1.

## **8.0 QUESTION PERIOD:**

There were no questions.

**9.0 CORRESPONDENCE:**

The Chair drew the Council's attention to the correspondence in the meeting package.

**10.0 VARIA:**

There was no varia.

**11.0 ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING:**

Commissioner Emilio Migliozi MOVED adjournment of the meeting.

**Carried unanimously**

**TIME: 20:20 hours**

**NEXT MEETING ⇒ REGULAR ⇒ 2016-02-24**

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**Johanne Brabant, Secretary General**

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**Jennifer Maccarone, Chair**