

PROVINCE OF QUEBEC

MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE SIR WILFRID LAURIER SCHOOL BOARD HELD ON FEBRUARY 3, 2016

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, February 3, 2016 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, Anne McMullon, Emilio Migliozi, Ailsa Pehi and Parent Commissioners Pamala Cipton, Sergio Di Marco and Angela Martorana; and Frédéric Greschner, Interim Director General

Also present were: René Brisson, Assistant Director General; Gaëlle Absolonne, Interim Assistant Director General; Robin Bennett, Director of Information Technology; Jérôme Dionne, Director of Material Resources; Richard Greschner, Director of Human Resources; Tina Korb, Director of Educational Services; Donna Abel, Assistant Director of Financial Resources and Jocelyne Thompson-Ness, Administrative Assistant.

Absent: Commissioner Peter MacLaurin; Johanne Brabant, Secretary General.

The Chair opened the meeting.

TIME: 19:30 hours

Commissioner Ailsa Pehi MOVED THAT the agenda be approved as presented.

Carried unanimously

1.0 STUDENT OMBUDSMAN REPORT:

Commissioner Guy Gagnon MOVED THAT the council go "in camera".

TIME: 19:31 hours

The meeting resumed.

TIME: 19:47 hours

CC-160203-CA-0056

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THIS MOTION WAS CARRIED ON THE FOLLOWING DIVISION:	
Commissioners voting YEA:	Robert Dixon, Dean Dugas, Guy Gagnon, Anne McMullon, Ailsa Pehi
Commissioners voting NAY:	Paolo Galati, Vicky Kaliozakis, Emilio Migliozi

2.0 ENGAGEMENT – DIRECTOR OF FINANCIAL RESOURCES:

The Chair provided background information on the candidate retained by the Selection Committee for the position of Director of Financial Resources.

CC-160203-HR-0057

WHEREAS the position of Director of Financial Resources is currently vacant;

WHEREAS this position was posted from 2015-10-08 until 2015-10-22 and a Selection Committee held interviews on 2015-12-01;

Commissioner Paolo Galati MOVED THAT, on the recommendation of the Selection Committee, the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board engage **Richard Blondin** as Director of Financial Resources, effective 2016-02-04, in accordance with the Regulation Governing the Working Conditions of Management Staff of School Boards and the Management Policies of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board.

Carried unanimously

3.0 ENGAGEMENT – DIRECTOR OF COMPLEMENTARY SERVICES:**CC-160203-HR-0058**

WHEREAS the position of Director of Complementary Services is currently vacant;

WHEREAS this position was posted from 2015-11-26 to 2015-12-09 and a Selection Committee held interviews on 2016-01-19;

Parent Commissioner Sergio Di Marco MOVED THAT, on the recommendation of the Selection Committee, the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board engage **Stephanie Krenn** as Director of Complementary Services, effective on a date to be determined, in accordance with the Regulation Governing the Working Conditions of Management Staff of School Boards and the Management Policies of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board.

Carried unanimously

4.0 RECRUITMENT & HIRING OF A DIRECTOR GENERAL:**Procedure for the Post:**

In response to questions concerning the estimated cost for the process for the recruitment and selection of a new Director General, the Chair noted that it would be approximately \$10,000 and that the budget aspect of this process will be reviewed when it is brought to Council for a decision.

CC-160203-CA-0059

WHEREAS the Council of Commissioners wishes to commence the recruitment and hiring of a Director General;

WHEREAS, in accordance with policy #2012-CA-21: Policy for the Recruitment and Hiring of a Director General and an Assistant Director General, section 4.1.1, the Council of Commissioners must select the method to be used for this process ;

Commissioner Dean Dugas MOVED THAT the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board select to carry out part of the process by itself and engage external support for the recruitment and hiring of a Director General.

Carried unanimously

Selection Committee**CC-160203-CA-0060**

Commissioner Ailsa Pehi MOVED THAT the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board agree that the vote for positions of the Selection Committee for the recruitment and hiring of Director General be by secret ballot.

Carried unanimously

The Chair called for nominations for the Selection Committee for the recruitment and hiring of a Director General.

Parent Commissioner:

Parent Commissioner Sergio Di Marco nominated Parent Commissioner Angela Martorana. Parent Commissioner Martorana accepted the nomination.

There were no other nominations.

Laval Commissioner

Commissioner Ailsa Pehi nominated herself.

Parent Commissioner Angela Martorana nominated Commissioner Vicky Kaliozakis. Commissioner Kaliozakis declined the nomination.

Parent Commissioner Angela Martorana nominated Commissioner Emilio Migliozi. Commissioner Migliozi accepted the nomination.

The vote was taken by secret ballot and Commissioner Pehi was named to the Selection Committee.

Laurentians Commissioner

Commissioner Guy Gagnon nominated Peter MacLaurin, in abstentia. The Chair indicated that Commissioner MacLaurin had advised that he wished to be on the Selection Committee.

Commissioner Paolo Galati nominated Commissioner Robert Dixon. Commissioner Dixon accepted the nomination.

There were no other nominations.

The vote was taken by secret ballot and Commissioner MacLaurin was named to the Selection Committee.

The Chair asked Commissioner Robert Dixon if he would act as an alternate, if required, and Commissioner Dixon agreed.

Lanaudière Commissioner

The Vice-Chair nominated Commissioner Anne McMullon. Commissioner McMullon accepted the nomination.

There were no other nominations.

CC-160203-CA-0061

WHEREAS the Council of Commissioners wishes to commence the recruitment and hiring of a Director General;

WHEREAS, in accordance with policy #2012-CA-21: Policy for the Recruitment and Hiring of a Director General and an Assistant Director General, the Council of Commissioners must name a Selection Committee which must include the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Council, the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Executive Committee, a Parent Commissioner and three Commissioners representing Laval, Laurentides and Lanaudière;

Commissioner Ailsa Pehi MOVED THAT the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board name the following to the Selection Committee for the position of Director General:

Chairman – Council / Executive:	Jennifer Maccarone
Vice-Chairman, Council / Executive:	Dean Dugas
Parent Commissioner:	Angela Martorana
Commissioner – Laval:	Ailsa Pehi
Commissioner – Laurentians:	Peter MacLaurin
Commissioner – Lanaudière:	Anne McMullon

Carried unanimously

5.0 SCHOOL FEES POLICY:

The Assistant Director of Financial Resources presented and reviewed the proposed amendments to the school fees policy.

The Council entered into discussion and the Interim Director General answered questions and concerns as follows:

- section 6.3.4 was reworded in order to provide flexibility to the school board given current budget constraints;
- in the past the school board did subsidize school fees for the third child but with budget constraints it can no longer do so.

CC-160203-FR-0062

WHEREAS the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board approved resolution #CC-150629-FR-0190, amending policy #2006-FR-03: Policy on School Fees Charged to Parents – Youth Sector;

WHEREAS there are certain sections of said policy that need to be reviewed;

Commissioner Vicky Kaliozakis MOVED THAT, on the recommendation of the Corporate Committee, the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board authorize for consultation the amendments to policy #2006-FR-03: Policy on School Fees charged to Parents - Youth Sector.

AND THAT this policy be subject to consultation beginning on February 4, 2016 to April 4, 2016 with the Parents Committee and the Management Committee.

Carried unanimously

6.0 CAISSE DESJARDINS THÉRÈSE-DE BLAINVILLE – CREDIT LINE:**CC-160203-FR-0063**

WHEREAS the Ministère de l'Éducation, de l'Enseignement supérieur et de la Recherche (MEESR) has increased the maximum short term borrowing limits for school boards;

WHEREAS the Caisse Desjardins Thérèse-De Blainville has requested an update on the signing authority for the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board for this purpose;

Commissioner Guy Gagnon MOVED THAT the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board authorizes borrowing from Caisse Desjardins Thérèse-De Blainville by means of a loan or variable credit contract bearing interest and repayable as per the terms and conditions stipulated in the financing offer or credit contract submitted to the Member.

AND THAT the Chair, as well as the Director General, and in his absence or with his knowledge the Director of Financial Resources, be hereby authorized to sign, for and in the name of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board, all credit contracts submitted by the Caisse, including notes, bank overdrafts, lines of credit and bankers' acceptances, as well as any other document deemed useful or necessary to give full effect to this resolution.

Carried unanimously

7.0 BILL 86:**CC-160203-CA-0064**

WHEREAS draft Bill 86: An Act to modify the organization and governance of school boards, was introduced at the National Assembly of Québec on December 4th, 2015;

WHEREAS Section 23 of the Canadian Constitution confers minority language education rights;

WHEREAS Mahe v. Alberta 1990, clearly defines that minority language groups have the right to manage and control their education system and facilities;

WHEREAS the English schools are the fundamental hub of the English speaking communities they serve;

WHEREAS the Jennings Report: the Election System Study Panel 2015, makes excellent recommendations to the Minister including allowing Parent Commissioners the right to vote;

WHEREAS Bill 86 would confer all powers over English school boards to the Minister of Education – which is unconstitutional;

WHEREAS English school boards across the province boast some of the best success rates in the province;

WHEREAS the English community takes its responsibility to control and manage its schools very seriously;

WHEREAS the Government of Quebec has offered no reason to validate the changes proposed in draft Bill 86;

Commissioner Ailsa Pehi MOVED THAT the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid School Board

1. Reject Bill 86: An Act to modify the organization and governance of school boards;
2. Demand that the Government of Quebec acknowledge its duty to support and respect the constitutional rights of Anglophone Quebecers; and
3. Demand that the Government of Quebec formally withdraw draft Bill 86.

Carried unanimously

8.0 QUESTION PERIOD:

In response to questions, the Chair noted the following:

- Bill 86 cannot be subject to a court challenge until it has been approved by the National Assembly;
- the Quebec School Boards Association (QESBA) has withdrawn as a partner in the 2016 Spring Conference with the AAESQ so the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board will be supporting the QESBA legal fund through its professional improvement fund;

- a lot of information on Bill 86 has been distributed throughout the province and while municipalities have indicated that they are supporting school boards they have not publically stated where they stand on accepting or rejecting the Bill;
- the Ville de Laval is discussing Bill 86;
- the Governing Boards and school communities have been very supportive of the English sectors' wish to reject Bill 86.

Parent Commissioner Angela Martorana advised the Council that the Chair of the Parents Committee and the Parent Commissioners had been invited to an information session on Bill 86 in the French sector and its reality is very different from the English sector. When sharing information the French sector was very impressed at the amount of Bill 86 information and other information shared by the school board with its stakeholders.

The Chair indicated that from information she has received the French sector is divided concerning Bill 86 because of the diverse realities within its own sector. The French sector will also experience a negative impact if Bill 86 is approved and it will also be challenging for them because, even though they have increased their overall school success from 62% to 71% in recent years, they are still considered to be unsuccessful.

Commissioner Anne McMullon MOVED THAT the ballots from the election to the Selection Committee for the recruitment and hiring of a Director General, be destroyed.

Carried unanimously

9.0 ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING:

Commissioner Paolo Galati MOVED adjournment of the meeting.

Carried unanimously

TIME: 20:27 hours

NEXT MEETING ⇒ REGULAR ⇒ 2016-02-24