

PROVINCE OF QUÉBEC
Ville de Rosemère

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, Rosemère, QC and conference call or video conferencing on Wednesday, May 6, 2020 at 19:00 hours, at which were:

Present conference call or video conferencing: Paolo Galati, Chairperson; Vicky Kaliozakis, Vice-Chairperson; Bob Pellerin, Vice-Chairperson Alternate; Commissioners Anick Brunet, James Di Sano, Guy Gagnon, Peter MacLaurin, Anne McMullon, Melissa Wall and Parent Commissioners Tara Anderson and Stéphane Henley.

Present at Administration Centre: Gaëlle Absolonne, Director General, Anna Sollazzo, Director of Corporate Affairs and Secretary General; and Robin Bennett, Director of Information Technology.

Also present via video conferencing were: Frédéric Greschner, Assistant Director General; Florence Delorme, Director of School Affairs and School Organization; Michel Dufour, Director of Material Resources and Transportation; Geoffrey Hipps, Director of Pedagogical Services; Stephanie Krenn, Director of Human Resources; Chao Ling Pan, Director of Financial Resources; Linda DaSilveira, Assistant Director of Pedagogical Services; Michael Quinn, Assistant Director of Pedagogical Services; Silvia Patella, Assistant Director of Pedagogical Services; Maxeen Jolin, Coordinator of Communications and Public Relations; and Jocelyne Thompson-Ness, Administration Officer.

Absent: Commissioner Emilio Migliozi and Parent Commissioner Anthony Beliotis

The Chairperson called the meeting to order and confirmed with the Director of Corporate Affairs and Secretary General that the process for calling this special meeting was in conformity with the law.

TIME: 19:02 hours

After roll call, the Director of Corporate Affairs and Secretary General confirmed quorum.

1.0 Opening of Meeting

1.1 Acknowledgement of the Land

"We [I] would like to begin by acknowledging that the land on which we gather is the traditional territory of the Kanien'keha:ka or Mohawk nation. The Mohawk Nation is also known as the "Eastern Door Keepers" and is a member of the Haudenosaunee Confederacy, which also includes the Seneca, Cayuga, Tuscarora, Onondaga and Oneida Peoples.

All those who gather here are counted as esteemed stakeholders in our community and most importantly friends."

The Chairperson read the following statement:

"It is with great sadness that the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board (SWLSB) announces the passing of its former Chairperson, Mr. Steve Bletas.

Mr. Bletas was the very first Chairperson of the SWLSB, from 1998 to 2012. During his 14-year tenure, he was instrumental in negotiating land grants and other agreements with municipal and provincial authorities, securing funding for new schools in Rawdon, Blainville and Repentigny and obtaining renovation grants for schools in Chomedey (John F. Kennedy Elementary) and Duvernay (Jules Verne Elementary). He was also a founding member of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier Foundation, created in 2004.

In addition, Mr. Bletas was part of the Executive Committee of the Québec English School Boards Association and, over the years, a member of many different local and provincial education tables. The Council of Commissioners extends its sincerest condolences to his family, in particular to his children, Eva and Michael. "We are deeply saddened by this loss. Steve was a visionary and a passionate and fearless leader. I have always had great respect for him,"

The Chairperson asked for a moment of silence in memory of the former Chairman of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board, Steve Bletas.

2.0 Approval of the Agenda

Approval of the Agenda
CC-200506-CA-0095

Parent Commissioner Tara Anderson MOVED THAT the agenda of the special meeting be approved as presented in document #SWLSB-2020/05/06-CA-001.

Carried unanimously

3.0 Schools and Centres Reopening During COVID-19 Pandemic

Commissioner Guy Gagnon stated that he strongly supports this proposed resolution, as he disagrees with the statement from the Ministre de l'Éducation et de l'enseignement supérieur saying that the English school boards do not have the right to oppose the decision of the government to reopen schools and centres in various regions on May 11, 2020. The Minister should be seeking the facts of those who are working on the front lines of education prior to making such a serious decision.

The Chairperson agreed with Commissioner Gagnon's statement noting that the English school boards are acting responsibly at all levels. He noted that all the safety guidelines provided by Santé publique have been put in place and that all schools have all of the materials required to ensure that the students and staff are safe.

In response to questions, the Director General noted:

- The schools in the Laurentians and Lanaudière are still scheduled to open on May 11, 2020 all while maintaining the high standards of health and safety measures put in place by the government;
- A survey was conducted and the schools can be reopened as the current needs can be accommodated;
- At this time there are 25% of the student population in the nine schools within the two regions that have indicated that they will be returning to school.

The Chairperson noted that returning to school is voluntary and that everyone has to respect and not judge the decisions taken by parents.

He applauded everyone for the exceptional work being done and reminded everyone that the safety of the students and their families is the most important thing.

Schools and centres
Reopening During COVID-
19 Pandemic

WHEREAS the Government of Québec has announced target dates for the reopening of elementary schools, more specifically May 11 for schools located outside the Montreal Metropolitan Community and May 19 for the schools located within said area;

CC-200506-CA-0096

WHEREAS the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board has the responsibility first and foremost to ensure the health and safety of all students and staff;

WHEREAS the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board, along with the other English language school boards in Quebec, has the legal authority to manage its schools and centres as per its constitutional right to manage and control its minority language institutions;

Commissioner James Di Sano MOVED THAT the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board will assess and evaluate the situation of each school and centre as to determine, on the recommendation of its senior administration, if any school or centre should delay its reopening or temporarily close an establishment after it has reopened in order to ensure the safety of all staff and students;

AND THAT the recommendations of its senior administration will be based on recognized health and safety standards and the organizational requirements in order to respect all Government guidelines, in the best interest of our students and staff;

AND THAT the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board will inform the Minister of Education should a specific school or centre not be in a position to safely reopen at the target date as well as to the reasons for such a decision;

FURTHER THAT the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board will also inform the Minister of Education should a specific school or centre be temporarily closed after it has reopened in order to ensure the safety of all staff and students.

Carried unanimously

4.0 Question Period

The Chairperson inquired if there were any questions for the second question period related to this evening's meeting from the viewing audience. The Director of Corporate Affairs and Secretary General and the Director of Information Technology confirmed that there were no questions.

5.0 Adjournment

Commissioner Vicky Kalliotzakis MOVED the adjournment of the meeting.

Carried unanimously

TIME: 19:17 hours

NEXT MEETING ⇒ REGULAR ⇒ May 27, 2020