

PROVINCE OF QUÉBEC
Ville de Rosemère

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, Rosemère, QC and via video conferencing on Wednesday, May 27, 2020 at 19:30 hours, at which were:

Present at Administration Centre: Paolo Galati, Chairperson; Gaëlle Absolonne, Director General, Frédéric Greschner, Assistant Director General; Anna Sollazzo, Director of Corporate Affairs and Secretary General; Robin Bennett, Director of Information Technology; Michel Dufour, Director of Material Resources and Transportation.

Present video conferencing: Vicky Kaliozakis, Vice-Chairperson; Bob Pellerin, Vice-Chairperson Alternate; Commissioners Anick Brunet, James Di Sano, Peter MacLaurin, Emilio Migliozi, Melissa Wall and Parent Commissioners Tara Anderson, Anthony Beliotis and Stéphane Henley.

Also present via video conferencing were: Florence Delorme, Director of School Affairs and School Organization; Geoffrey Hipps, Director of Pedagogical Services; Stephanie Krenn, Director of Human Resources; Chao Ling Pan, Director of Financial Resources; and Jocelyne Thompson-Ness, Administration Officer.

Absent: Commissioners Guy Gagnon and Anne McMullon

The Chairperson called the meeting to order welcoming everyone who is viewing the meeting online and verified quorum with the Secretary General.

TIME: 19:31 hours

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

The Chairperson read the following into the minutes:

Before we begin with our council meeting tonight, I would like to take the time to offer my deepest condolences to all families and friends that have lost a loved one from covid-19.

I would also like to say THANK YOU to our front-line workers, including those of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board such as our emergency daycare workers, caretakers and teachers from the 8 elementary schools that opened up on May 11th and the teachers that are teaching from home. You are all so amazing!

On behalf of Council, we wish to applaud you and thank you from the bottom of our hearts with your gesture of solidarity and we are so very proud to say that, Sir Wilfrid Laurier students and employees continue to make a difference! THANK-YOU!!!

We will get through this, together.

0.0 Opening of Meeting

0.1 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."

1.0 Approval of the Agenda

The following items were added to the agenda

11.0 VARIA

- 11.1 *Engagement of Principal - Ste-Adele ES*.....RES
 11.2 *Engagement of Principal - Mountainview HS*RES
 11.3 *Intervention to Obtain an Exemption from Bill 40*.....RES

Approval of the Agenda

Commissioner Bob Pellerin MOVED THAT the agenda be approved as amended in document #SWLSB-2020/05/27-CA-001.

CC-200527-CA-0101

Carried unanimously

2.0 Approval of Minutes

2.1 April 29, 2020:

Approval of Minutes
April 29, 2020

Commissioner Melissa Wall MOVED THAT the minutes of the regular meeting of the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board held on April 29, 2020, having been received by all members prior to this meeting, be approved as written.

CC-200527-CA-0102

Carried unanimously

2.2 May 6, 2020:

Approval of Minutes
May 6, 2020

Commissioner Vicky Kaliotzakis MOVED THAT the minutes of the special meeting of the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board held on May 6, 2020, having been received by all members prior to this meeting, be approved as written.

CC-200527-CA-0103

Carried unanimously

2.3 May 13, 2020:

Approval of Minutes
May 13, 2020

Parent Commissioner Stéphane Henley MOVED THAT the minutes of the special meeting of the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board held on May 13, 2020, having been received by all members prior to this meeting, be approved as written.

CC-200527-CA-0104

Carried unanimously

3.0 Question Period

The Director of Corporate Affairs and Secretary General explained the parameters of question period, as follows:

- As per the rules of procedure, the parameters regarding question periods must be explained to the public prior to the first question period;
- The agenda provides for two 20 minute question periods;
 - **For the first question period**, questions are to be addressed to the Chair either by fax or by email by 13h00 the day of the meeting;
 - The **second question period** must be restricted to questions pertaining to agenda items discussed at the meeting;
 - The purpose of these questions periods are restricted to answering questions only, and not to enter into debates or conversations;
- For the members of the public who might be present in the boardroom:
 - Each speaker is allowed 5 minutes to present all their questions.
 - After each speaker's 5 minute presentation, the Chairperson will provide any available answers.

- For the members of the public who are using the link provided on the school board website to view this meeting, you may type your questions in the Q&A Section of website. Please make sure to type your full name before all your questions.
- For any questions not related to agenda items, please consult the school board website. An FAQ section has been created in the COVID-19 dossier in which you will find answers to Frequently Asked Questions regarding the current extraordinary circumstances. Within this FAQ section, you will also find a link in which you may send the school board your questions and it will make sure to answer them in best possible delays.

She went on to advise that two questions from Chris Eustace had been received via e-mail.

The Chairperson thanked Mr. Eustace for his questions and answered as follows:

Question #1: Would the Chair please provide an example of a "damaging consequence" to the English-speaking community?

The Chairperson specified that the damaging consequences would be that our rights as a minority community will be compromised due to the fact that we need to ensure that the democratic process takes place in such a manner that it protects all rights as per section 23 of the federal charter.

He further noted that all community members in the Anglophone community should have an equal voice as to avoid the current inequities created by Bill 40. A true democratic process should not be rushed and in the current circumstances with COVID-19, we owe it to ourselves and our constituents that we have a transparent, well planned and well executed process that respects our rights.

Question #2: Regardless when the payment is due, what is the plan of the SWLSB given that boards will cease to exist after Nov. 1, 2020?

The Chairperson noted that the QESBA membership fees for 2019-2020 have been paid and that the fees for the 2020-2021 school year will be discussed at the June meeting.

The Director of Corporate Affairs and Secretary General advised that no other questions had been received.

4.0 Report from the Chairperson

The Chairperson read the following into the minutes:

"We have been busy making sure that the necessary safety measures are in place for the eight elementary schools and that we are also getting ready for the potential opening of the schools this coming September. The most important thing for us is the health and safety of our students, staff and families. I would also like to say that our director general and I took the time the week of May 4 to bring the necessary PPE for 2 of the 8 elementary schools. Our director general will go more into detail with everything that has been going on this past month. Regular newsletters and updates have been sent to parents on a regular basis.

Finally, I'd like to mention that we have been hard at work putting together the HOPEfest that will take place this coming Friday at 7:30 pm on the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board Facebook page as it will be a Facebook live event starting at 7:30 PM I hope everyone will take the time to tune in and watch our incredibly talented students entertain us and bring our Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Community together for 1 night."

5.0 Report from the Director General

The Director General presented her monthly report noting the following:

- On May 11, 2020 eight of the school board's elementary schools reopened in the Laurentides and Lanaudière regions. The data for this week shows that 20% of the students came to school during this week with 56% requiring transportation. During the week of May 25, 2020 student attendance increased to 23% while transportation decrease to 48% . Four schools did progressive reentry by cycle;
- Online distance learning:
 - All elementary school students have access to distance learning even if their school has reopened given that some parents have made the decision to continue to keep their children at home;
 - High school students all have access to distance learning and support offered so that they can have the tools needed to learn from a distance. The parents received a letter prior to the start of learning at a distance with a detailed schedule of when students can go online;
 - Adult Education – On-line education has been available to students who wish to continue their current studies since April 27, 2020. As of May 25, MEES exams can be written at the centre as long as social distancing rules are respected;
 - Vocational Training – Students have also been able to pursue the theoretical elements of their studies on-line where possible. As of May 25, while respecting social distancing regulations, students may come to the centres for technical training and evaluation;
- Data:
 - Information Technology is to be commended for rising to the challenge of getting everyone equipped to learn and work from home through the use of Zoom, Microsoft Teams and Google Classroom. Zoom is the most used platform currently;
 - Pedagogical Services is also to be congratulated for organizing training in a quick and efficient manner to enable teachers to be on-line;
- Human Resources has received 702 requests for a work exemption out of 2, 617 employees and 370 have been granted while some are still being processed;
- Material Resources and Transportation have worked diligently and efficiently to ensure that all the schools and centres, opened or closed, have all the necessary PPE available to them, as well as all the necessary cleaning products to ensure the safety and security of the buildings;
- Recruitment of Principals and Vice-Principals has been ongoing and two new Principals will be named later this evening. Vice-Principals will be named prior to the end of the current school year;
- On May 25, 2020 a member of each department of the school board visited one of the eight schools that have re-opened. Recognition to all involved for the great job they are doing;
- May 29, 2020 will be the first HOPE fest on-line that will showcase the talented students of our school board;
- Check-in Café – This is an on-line venue for students from grades 5 -11 to meet and talk about topics that are of interest to them. The café is led by Guidance and Spiritual Animators. Thank you to Pedagogical Services for organizing this for the students;
- The school board has received authorization for two additional Pre-Kindergarten groups for 2020-2021 for total of 33. This has been an amazing journey because two years ago the school board only had five groups. Everyone who works on this dossier is to be congratulated because there is a lot of work to be done to accommodate a Pre-Kindergarten group. This is a great boost to the enrolment of this school board.

The Director General thanked all students, parents, staff and partners of the school board for their patience and support during these different times. She also expressed appreciation to the Council of Commissioners for its support, which has allowed for the best possible services to be made available to the stakeholders.

The Chairperson and the Commissioners concurred that the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board and its employees have risen to this unprecedented challenge of COVID-19 and that all are to be congratulated for being passionate, patient and flexible.

6.0 Business Arising:

There was no business arising.

7.0 Decision Items:

7.1 Information Technology

7.1.1 GRICS Annual Invoice

GRICS Annual Invoice
CC-200527-IT-0105

WHEREAS the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board uses GRICS (Société de gestion du réseau informatique des commissions scolaires) softwares for the management of its administrative and pedagogical information systems;

WHEREAS GRICS invoices the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board on an annual basis for those software licenses and related support services;

WHEREAS the estimated amount of the 2020-2021 GRICS invoice is \$506,421.98 before taxes;

Commissioner Bob Pellerin MOVED THAT, on the recommendation of the Corporate Committee, the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board approve the payment of the 2020-2021 school year invoice from **GRICS** (Société de gestion du réseau informatique des commissions scolaires) for an amount of \$506,421.98 before taxes or \$541,267.66 net taxes;

AND THAT the Director General or, in her absence, the Assistant Director General be authorized to pay the final invoice to be received in the month of July 2020;

FURTHER THAT should the invoice exceed the estimated amount, the Director General or, in her absence, the Assistant Director General be granted authorization to pay an additional 10% of the estimated amount.

Carried unanimously

7.1.2 Microsoft Licenses

Microsoft Licenses
CC-200527-IT-0106

WHEREAS the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board (SWLSB) uses Microsoft Corporation products and services for the majority of its information technology infrastructure;

WHEREAS the SWLSB pays annual educational license fees to the Microsoft Corporation for the right to use its products and services;

WHEREAS these license fees cover the SWLSB's workstations, laptops, servers, storage, email, office productivity software, identity management, security, systems management, databases and cloud based solutions;

WHEREAS the current contract with Microsoft Corporation concludes on May 31, 2020;

WHEREAS the Ministère de l'Éducation et de l'Enseignement supérieur (MEES) has mandated Collecto to conduct a public tender for all school boards to acquire the best overall scenario and price structure;

WHEREAS Collecto has completed a public tender (SAR325-2019) and Softchoice LP has been selected to manage the Microsoft Corporation license dossier;

WHEREAS Collecto has exercised its option to extend the contract for an additional year (second year) covering the 2020-2021 school year;

WHEREAS Softchoice LP has invoiced the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board for the 2020-2021 school year;

Commissioner Emilio Migliozi MOVED THAT, on the recommendation of the Corporate Committee, the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board approve the payment of the 2020-2021 Microsoft license fees to Softchoice LP in the amount of \$107,442.08 before taxes or \$114,834.91 net taxes;

AND THAT the Director General or, in her absence, the Assistant Director General be authorized to sign all documentation concerning this agreement.

Carried unanimously

7.2 Material Resources and Transportation

7.2.1 Engagement of Suppliers

7.2.1.1 Acquisition of Office Supplies

Engagement of Supplier

WHEREAS the schools and centres of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board purchase approximately \$120,000.00 of office supplies annually;

Acquisition of Office
Supplies

WHEREAS the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board needs to ensure that it is getting fair market value when purchasing office supplies;

CC-200527-MR-0107

WHEREAS public tenders for the purchase of goods were called and opened on May 7, 2020;

WHEREAS tender specifications are submitted for the next three consecutive school years;

WHEREAS the tendering specifications required the suppliers to complete a grid containing the top 128 items ordered annually;

WHEREAS the tender specifications also called for an additional rebate on items not included in the top 128 list;

WHEREAS the Director of Material Resources and Transportation has reviewed the tenders received and recommends that the contract be awarded to the lowest conformable bidder;

Parent Commissioner Stéphane Henley MOVED THAT, on the recommendation of the Corporate Committee, the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board authorize the Director of Material Resources and Transportation to engage Grand & Toy Limitée as its authorized supplier for the purchasing of office supplies for its schools and centres;

AND THAT the Director of Material Resources and Transportation be authorized to sign purchase orders for Grand & Toy Limitée for up to \$120,000 annually for the school years 2020-2021, 2021-2022 and 2022-2023.

Carried unanimously

7.2.1.2 Acquisition of Furniture

In response to a question from Parent Commissioner Anthony Beliotis, the Director of Material Resources and Transportation noted that the kind of furniture to be purchased would be desks, chairs, and classroom furniture. This tender provides prices for items that school board might purchase during the course of the 2020-2021 school year.

Engagement of Supplier

WHEREAS the contract with the purchasing group C.A.R.L.L.L. (Comité d'achat regroupé Laval, Laurentides, Lanaudière) for the acquisition of school furniture has ended December 31, 2019;

Acquisition of Furniture

WHEREAS public tenders for the purchase of school furniture were called and opened on May 7, 2020;

CC-200527-MR-0108

WHEREAS the contract will be attributed by lots to attain the most competitive annual pricing for a period of thirteen (13) months with one (1) option of renewal for an additional year;

WHEREAS the total combined cost of the fifteen lots amounts to \$124, 445.44 before taxes or \$133,015.69 net taxes, per year;

WHEREAS the conformability of all bidders has been verified;

Commissioner Vicky Kalitziakos MOVED THAT, on the recommendation of the Corporate Committee, the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board engage the below mentioned providers as its authorized suppliers, by lot, for a period of thirteen (13) months with one (1) option of renewal for an additional year, up to the yearly amounts mentioned below:

Lot #	Supplier with lowest conform bid	Amount before taxes	Net taxes	
1	Mobilier métallique	ESPACE PAPIER INC (HAMSTER +)	7 845,00\$	8 385,27\$
2	Rangement	ALPHA-TABCO INC.	24 062,50\$	25 179,62\$
3	Chaises d'élèves	ALPHA VICO	12 075,00\$	12 906,58\$
4	Tables de classes avec pattes à hauteur ajustables	ALPHA VICO	9 735,00\$	10 405,43\$
5	Tables de cafétéria	ALPHA-TABCO INC.	28 000,00\$	29 928,29\$
6	Pupitres d'élèves	ALPHA VICO	14 000,00\$	14 964,15\$
7	Mobilier administratif	NOVEXCO INC.	10 173,86\$	10 874,51\$
8	Matelas de relaxation	BRAULT & BOUTHILLIER	1 951,60\$	2 086,00\$
9	Ensemble de coussins carrés	-	-	-
10	Pupitre à hauteur variable 29" à 46"	BRAULT & BOUTHILLIER	2 302,10\$	2 460,64\$
11	Tabouret oscillant	BRAULT & BOUTHILLIER	1 917,60\$	2 049,66\$
12	Ballon avec pattes sit'n'gym	BRAULT & BOUTHILLIER	121,38\$	129,74\$
13	Coussin disco'sit	BRAULT & BOUTHILLIER	527,40\$	563,72\$
14	Petit ensemble de cuisine en bois	BRAULT & BOUTHILLIER	8 735,25\$	9 336,82\$
15	Coussin beanbag	KIT PLANÈTE	2 998,75\$	3 205,27\$

AND THAT the Director of Material Resources and Transportation be authorized to sign all purchase orders concerning the acquisition of school furniture for up to \$124,445.44, before taxes, annually for the school years 2020-2021 and 2021-2022

FURTHER THAT the Director of Material Resources and Transportation be authorized to sign purchase orders starting June 1, 2020 in preparation for the upcoming school year;

Carried unanimously

8.0 Information Items

8.1 SWL Foundation Report:

There was no report.

8.2 Parent Commissioners Reports

8.2.1 Parents Committee Report:

The report can be found in the meeting package.

8.2.2 SEAC Report:

There was no report.

8.3 Report of QESBA

In response to a concern expressed by Commissioner Peter MacLaurin, the Chairman noted that the school board has had representation on the QESBA's Student Advisory Committee but that with the current COVID-19 pandemic they may not have been available to attend meetings.

The Director General indicated that high schools will be re-contacted concerning selecting students to sit on this committee.

Commissioner Melissa Wall congratulated the Communications team of the school board for the great job that they are doing in a short time and with a small budget. They have been able to provide timely information in a quick and efficient manner which has not gone unnoticed by the stakeholders of the school board. In conversation with persons associated with other school boards they are very impressed with the information received by members of this school board. The Communications team is to be thanked for going above and beyond during this difficult time.

The Chairman concurred with Commissioner Wall and applauded the Communications team and all those who support it.

9.0 Question Period

The Director of Corporate Affairs and Secretary General confirmed that no additional questions had been received during the course of the meeting.

10.0 Correspondence

There was no correspondence.

11.0 Varia

11.1 Engagement of Principal - Ste-Adele ES

Commissioner Emilio Migliozi, a member of the Selection Committee, noted that the interview process was very impressive and that it was astounding to know how many teachers have worked for us for more or less 18 years.

Engagement of Principal
Ste-Adele ES

WHEREAS the Council of Commissioners adopted resolution # CC-200429-HR-0089, approving the assignment of the Principals, Vice-Principals and Centre Directors for the 2020-2021 school year;

CC-200527-HR-0109

WHEREAS the position of Principal at Ste-Adèle Elementary School is currently vacant;

WHEREAS the position was posted and a Selection Committee was held on May 25, 2020;

Commissioner Peter MacLaurin MOVED THAT, on the recommendation of the Selection Committee, the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board engage Peter Clark, as Principal at Ste-Adèle Elementary School, effective July 1, 2020;

AND THAT the following modification be made to the aforementioned resolution:

SCHOOL	PRINCIPALS	VICE-PRINCIPAL
Ste-Adèle	Peter Clark	

Carried unanimously

The Chairperson and the Director General congratulated Mr. Clark and wished him well on his new assignment.

11.2 Engagement of Principal - Mountainview HS

Engagement of Principal
Mountainview HS

WHEREAS the Council of Commissioners adopted resolution # CC-200429-HR-0089, approving the assignment of the Principals, Vice-Principals and Centre Directors for the 2020-2021 school year;

CC-200527-HR-0110

WHEREAS the position of Principal at Mountainview High School is currently vacant;

WHEREAS the position was posted and a Selection Committee was held on May 25, 2020;

Commissioner Melissa Wall MOVED THAT, on the recommendation of the Selection Committee, the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board engage Jenny Svetec, as Principal at Mountainview High School, effective July 1, 2020;

AND THAT the following modification be made to the aforementioned resolution:

SCHOOL	PRINCIPALS	VICE-PRINCIPAL
Mountainview High School	Jenny Svetec	

Carried unanimously

The Chairperson and the Director General congratulated Ms. Svetec and wished her well on her new assignment.

11.3 Intervention to Obtain an Exemption from Bill 40

Parent Commissioners Tara Anderson and Anthony Belotis advised that they would be abstaining from this vote given that they had no mandate from the Parents Committee to speak to this resolution.

Intervention to Obtain an
Exemption from Bill 40

CC-200527-CA-0111

WHEREAS the National Assembly introduced a bill to reform the province's public education system entitled *An Act to amend mainly the Education Act with regard to school organization and governance* ("**Bill 40**") on October 1, 2019;

WHEREAS the English-speaking community in Quebec has expressed grave concerns with the effects of Bill 40 on the English-language minority's power of management and control protected by section 23 of the *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms*;

WHEREAS the National Assembly gave assent to Bill 40 on February 8th, 2020;

WHEREAS Bill 40 provides for the election of the members of the boards of directors of the new English-language school service centres on November 1st, 2020;

WHEREAS the Quebec English School Boards Association ("**QESBA**") launched a constitutional challenge to Bill 40 on May 15, 2020 filed jointly with Lester B. Pearson School Board and Mr. Adam Gordon, as co-applicants;

WHEREAS, until a judgment on the merits is rendered, the application of Bill 40 will have significant harmful effects on section 23 rights holders' management and control;

WHEREAS the QESBA and its co-applicants have also applied for an exemption for all English-language school boards from Bill 40 until a final judgment on its constitutionality is rendered;

WHEREAS the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board wishes to be exempt from Bill 40 before a final judgment on its constitutionality is rendered;

Commissioner Vicky Kalitziakos MOVED THAT the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board expresses its full support for the Quebec English School Boards Association ("**QESBA**") and its co-applicants' challenge to Bill 40's constitutionality;

AND THAT the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board also expresses its full support for QESBA and its co-applicants' application to obtain an exemption from Bill 40 for all English-language school boards in Quebec before a final judgment on its constitutionality;

AND THAT the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board wishes to benefit from any exemption from Bill 40 granted by the courts in order to protect the power of management and control for section 23 rights holders residing in its territory before a judgment on Bill 40's constitutionality is rendered;

FURTHER THAT the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board shall mandate external lawyers to file a declaration of intervention in order to become a co-applicant in the constitutional challenge to Bill 40 and benefit from any exemption granted by the court from Bill 40 before a final judgment on its constitutionality is rendered.

THIS MOTION WAS CARRIED ON THE FOLLOWING DIVISION:	
Commissioners & Parent Commissioners voting YEA:	Anick Brunet, James Di Sano, Paolo Galati, Stéphane Henley, Vicky Kalitziakos, Peter MacLaurin, Emilio Migliozi, Bob Pellerin, Melissa Wall
Commissioners & Parent Commissioners ABSTAINING:	Tara Anderson, Anthony Beliotis

12.0 Adjournment

The Chairman reminded everyone that everything will be re-opening up in the next few weeks but that does not mean that COVID-19 will disappear, it means that we need to be more vigilant than ever and keep up with the safe distancing rules. He encouraged all stakeholders of the school board to continue to respect the rules so that we can all remain safe and healthy.

Parent Commissioner Tara Anderson MOVED the adjournment of the meeting.

Carried unanimously

TIME: 20:30 hours

NEXT MEETING ⇒ REGULAR ⇒ June 25, 2020

Anna Sollazzo, Secretary General

Paolo Galati, Chairperson