

Minutes of the FIRST (1ST) meeting of the 2016-2017 Sir Wilfrid Laurier Parents Committee held on Thursday October 6th, 2016 at 7:15 pm in the Boardroom of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board, 235 Montée Lesage, Rosemère, Québec.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Dorina Popa Varsamis	Crestview Elementary	Michael Thorburn	Mountainview Elementary
Bertha Myrthil	Franklin Hill Elementary	Andrew Vieira	Our Lady of Peace Elementary
Sam Reda	Genesis Elementary	Bilal Sirhan	Pierre E. Trudeau Elementary
Charbel Mourad	Hillcrest Academy	Frank D'Onofrio	Pinewood Elementary
Damiano Ferraro	John F Kennedy Elementary	Lorne Crawford	Rawdon Elementary
Melody Cayouette	Joliette Elementary	Carla Tosti	Rosemere High
Bob Pellerin	Joliette High	Nekee Doshi	Souvenir Elementary
Alfonso Vincenti	Jules Verne Elementary	Christine Flynn	St Jude Elementary
Christopher Tracton	Lake of Two Mountains High	Patricia Sasso	St Paul Elementary
Daniel Ryan Stone	Laurentia Elementary	Abbi Castronovo	St Vincent Elementary
Don Beverly	Laurentian Regional High	Thomas McCuiston	Ste-Adele Elementary
Tony Beliotis	Laval Junior Academy	Jo Morrissey	Ste-Agathe Academy
Tracy Friedman	Laval Senior Academy	Sergio Di Marco	Terry Fox Elementary
Patick Leprohon	McCaig Elementary	Nadia Zuccaro	SEAC Representative
Sarah Andrews	Morin Heights Elementary		

ALSO PRESENT: Johanne Brabant, Secretary General; Jennifer Maccarone, Chairperson; Guy Gagnon, Commissioner; Angela Martorana, Outgoing Secondary Parent Commissioner; parent guests

ABSENT: Arundel Elementary, Grenville Elementary, Laurentian Elementary, Twin Oaks Elementary

The outgoing Chairperson called the meeting to order at 7:19 pm

1. WELCOME BY OUTGOING CHAIR

Introduction of the members

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

PC20161006-01 Pinewood Elementary MOVED THAT the agenda is accepted as presented. Seconded by Laval Junior Academy.

Carried **UNANIMOUSLY**

3. INTRODUCTION OF MEMBERS

Done in Welcome by Outgoing Chair

4. ELECTIONS

4.1 Procedures of Elections

The outgoing chairperson described the Executive Committee of the Parents Committee and the various committees available for parents to join. She then proceeded to go over the procedures for the elections.

PC20161006-02 Laval Junior Academy MOVED THAT the voting is done by secret ballot. Seconded by Laval Senior Academy.

This motion was **CARRIED** on the following division:
For: Crestview Elem, Franklin Hill Elem, Hillcrest Acad, John F. Kennedy Elem, Joliette Elem, Joliette High, Jules Verne Elem, Lake of Two Mountains High, Laurentia Elem, Laurentian Regional High, Laval Senior Acad, Laval Junior Acad, McCaig Elem, Mountainview Elem, Our Lady of Peace Elem, Pierre E. Trudeau Elem, Pinewood Elem, Rawdon Elem, Rosemere High, St Jude Elem, St Paul Elem, St Vincent Elem, Ste-Adele Elem, Ste-Agathe Acad, Terry Fox Elem, SEAC
Abstain: Genesis Elem, Morin Heights Elem, Souvenir Elem

4.2 Nomination/Election of Chairperson of Elections and Scrutineers

PC20161006-03 The Outgoing Chair MOVED THAT Jennifer Maccarone is nominated as chairperson of elections. Seconded by Laval Junior Academy.

Carried **UNANIMOUSLY**

PC20161006-04 Rosemere High School nominates Johanne Brabant as scrutineer. Seconded by John F Kennedy Elementary

Carried UNANIMOUSLY

4.3 Nomination/Election of Chairperson

Terry Fox Elementary nominated Rosemere High for Chairperson – accepts – Congratulations.

4.4 Nomination/Election of Vice-Chairperson

Crestview Elementary nominated herself
Terry Fox Elementary nominated Hillcrest Academy – accepts
Nominations closed.
Congratulations to Hillcrest Academy

4.5 Nomination/Election of Secretary

Genesis Elementary nominated Crestview Elementary – accepts – congratulations

4.6 Nomination/Election of Treasurer

Terry Fox Elementary nominated Lake of Two Mountains High – accepts – congratulations

4.7 Nomination/Election of Elementary Parent Commissioner

Pinewood Elementary nominated Terry Fox Elementary – accepts - congratulations

4.8 Nomination/Election of High School Parent Commissioner

Terry Fox Elementary nominated Joliette High – accepts
Crestview Elementary nominated Laval Junior Academy – accepts
Congratulations to Joliette High

4.9 Nomination/Election of EPCA Directors (2)

The outgoing Director explained the position.
Pinewood Elementary nominated Pierre E Trudeau – accepts
Laurentia Elementary nominated himself

PC20161006-05 Pinewood Elementary MOVED THAT Bilal Sirhan of Pierre E. Trudeau Elementary is nominated as a Director to the EPCA for two years, 2016-2017 and 2017-2018. Seconded by Laval Junior Academy.

Carried UNANIMOUSLY

Joliette High nominated Laurentia Elementary

PC20161006-06 Joliette High MOVED THAT Daniel Stone of Laurentia Elementary is nominated as a Director to the EPCA for one year 2016-2017. Seconded by Rawdon Elementary.

Carried UNANIMOUSLY

4.10 Nomination/Election of RCP-3L Representative and Alternate

The outgoing representative explained the position.
Sarah Andrews of Morin Heights nominated herself as the representative to the RCP-3L. Congratulations
Morin Heights nominated Michael Thorburn, Mountainview Elementary as the alternate to the RCP-3L – accepts - Congratulations

4.11 Nomination to Advisory Committee on Transportation

Morin Heights nominated Laval Junior Academy – accepts – Congratulations

PC20161006-07 Laval Junior Academy MOVED THAT the voting ballots be destroyed. Seconded by Lake of Two Mountains High.

Carried UNANIMOUSLY

4.12 Election of Recording Secretary and Remuneration

PC20161006-08 Lake of Two Mountains High MOVED THAT Susan O’Keeffe is engaged as recording secretary for the 2016-2017 Parents Committee at a cost of \$90 per meeting and \$10 for every half hour after 9:45 p.m. Seconded by Joliette High.

Carried **UNANIMOUSLY**

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES of June 2, 2016

Under SEAC 5.1 – Stella is from Crestview, Anna is from St. Paul

PC20161006-09 Terry Fox elementary MOVED THAT the minutes of June 2, 2016 are accepted with corrections. Seconded by Laval Junior Academy.

This motion was **CARRIED** on the following division:

For: John F Kennedy Elem, Joliette High, Laval Junior Acad, Pinewood Elem, Rosemere High, Terry Fox Elem
Abstain: Crestview Elem, Franklin Hill Elem, Genesis Elem, Hillcrest Acad, Joliette High, Jules Verne Elem, Lake of Two Mountains High, Laurentia Elem, Laurentian Regional High, Laval Senior Acad, McCaig Elem, Morin Heights Elem, Mountainview Elem, Our Lady of Peace Elem, Pierre E. Trudeau Elem, Rawdon Elem, Souvenir Elem St Jude Elem, St Paul Elem, St Vincent Elem, Ste-Adele Elem, Ste-Agathe Acad, SEAC

6. CHAIR’S REPORT

Carla Tosti, Rosemere High thanks the members for voting her as Chair and looks forward to sharing ideas and working hard this year.

7. QUESTION PERIOD

Morin Heights Elementary would like to add Intercom at Morin Heights to Varia – members are in agreement
 Sainte Agathe Academy would like to ask a question in Varia – members are in agreement
 In future members are asked that if they have any questions to add them to Varia before the agenda is approved.
 St Jude will be having a blood drive on October 17 and the members are all invited.

8. BUSINESS ARISING

9. NEW BUSINESS

9.1 Date, Time, Place of Meetings

PC20161006-10 John F Kennedy Elementary MOVED THAT the meetings for 2016-2017 will be the first Thursday of each month with the exception of January. The meetings will be held on: October 6, November 3, December 1, 2016, no meeting in January, February 2, March 2, April 6, May 4 and June 1, 2017. Meeting start time will be at 7:15 pm and will be held at the Administrative Center located at 235 Montée Lesage, Rosemère, Quebec. Seconded by Lake of Two Mountains High.

Carried **UNANIMOUSLY**

9.2 Internal Rules & Procedures

This was included in member’s packages. Please read these documents and be prepared to discuss and vote at the next meeting

9.3 Internal Financial Policy

Tabled to next meeting

9.4 SEAC Members

PC20161006-11 Laval Junior Academy MOVED THAT Michael Andreoli, Bertha Myrthil and Alexandra Sparagis are accepted as alternate members on SEAC. Seconded by Lake of Two Mountains High.

Carried **UNANIMOUSLY**

9.5 Corporate Calendar (Information to share with GB’s)

Members were given year at a glance calendars to share with their GB’s so that schools do not schedule events on nights that there are other meetings going on.

10. REPORTS

10.4 School Board's Report

- Busy summer
- Happy to have Sergio Di Marco back and glad to welcome Bob Pellerin. Nice to have representation from two regions.
- New Director General, Paul Lamoureux, over 25 years of various roles and experience at Western Quebec School Board. His previous school board has a similar profile to SWLSB, so he understands our diverse needs. We are very fortunate to have him join our school board
- SWLSB has signed an entente with CSDL and CSSMI for various different vocational programs that our board does not offer. This will give our students access to more programs.
- New organization chart will go into consultation in the next month. Our board is in declining enrolment.
- SWLSB is fourth in the province for graduation, first in the language for French langue maternelle. We also have a 93% integration rate for special needs students.
- International school program is growing – we welcome students in youth and adult sector. There is a cohort arriving on Saturday from Thailand to spend two weeks in our two Laval High Schools.
- Bill 86 has evolved into Bill 105. This is an abridged version of Bill 86. There are some positive things in this bill but it is almost a copy of Bill 86 where the minister of education gives himself rights to make decisions for our schools and remove this process from our local tables. The position of the QESBA and many other tables is that they want to work with the Minister in the parameters of Bill 105 but not changes that will take away our rights. Counting on the community to get involved to help defeat many items in this bill.
- Our board pays more school tax than our French counterparts – we do not have the numbers to compete in our collection of taxes. The government sets the rate and we are obliged to collect as much funding as we can. There is a ceiling that we are supposed to raise and we do not have a big enough tax base to raise. A campaign was started by the AGAPE community with a petition – parents are urged to sign it. Please go onto the SWLSB Facebook page where you will find the survey. The deadline to sign is December 14.

In response to question from Hillcrest Academy, the students who will take vocational studies with the CSSMI and CSDL partnership will get the diploma or certificate through SWLSB.

In a follow up question, Hillcrest Academy asked if there are any indicators on how well our school board is managed to illustrate success to the minister. The Chairperson responded that they already know, they are more concerned with those school boards who are not managing properly.

In response to a question from Pierre E Trudeau, there is a process at the ministry level where they put the school boards into receivership if they are not fiscally responsible.

In response to a question from Mountainview Elementary, we are looking at building partnerships with international partners to share best practices. There is a lot of sharing within other boards and various other tables as well within and outside Quebec on best practices.

In response to a question from St Vincent Elementary, the parliamentary commission on Bill 105 ended on September 23 and they are now looking at the bill article by article. They are looking at passing it as quickly and quietly as possible. Parents can draft a resolution that says we do not support Bill 105 in its current state and that we support the position of QESBA and EPCA. Parents are encouraged to bring this petition to their governing boards to also make a resolution.

The Chairperson will send a template resolution to the Chair to send to members.

10.2 Treasurer's Report

The PC budget was a fixed amount last year and was significantly smaller than in prior years. This money is used for paying members mileage, the recording secretary, speakers and other things that can benefit the members. Last year the members surprised the treasurer at the last minute with mileage he was not expecting, resulting in a last minute panic of finances. This year, the treasurer insists that members give their mileage claim on the day of the PC meeting in order to get it into the budget. He needs to know monthly how much money is in the budget and cannot properly predict the budget if members do not submit their claims until the last minute.

If you are not prepared to submit your mileage claim after the meeting, please email him your intent to claim mileage for the year so that he can budget accordingly.

10.3 Parent Commissioners Report

In member's packages.

The Elementary Parent Commissioner takes the opportunity to thank the outgoing Chair Carol Mastroianni and the outgoing secondary parent's commissioner Angela Martorana. Their contribution over the years was invaluable and they will be missed.

10.4 RCP-3L Report

No report this month

10.5 SEAC Report

In member's packages.

Clarification on "No Child Without" was made. 27 of our schools are registered. Guy Gagnon brought this partnership to the school board many years ago. He will send the information to the school board to find a person to head this up so that the information can be given to the schools who will then send it to parents.

Thank you to Pamala Crompton for all the work she has done for SEAC.

In response to a question from SEAC concerning the writing up and implementation of IEP's, the IEP's are the responsibility of the Principal of the school. If the parent is having difficulty establishing an IEP they might go to SEAC for support. SEAC also has a role to advise the board on the allocation of funds to the schools. They are consulted on the special education policy. SEAC is an advisory committee for the school board.

Parents who need information on their child's IEP should go to the principal first in order to establish the services for their child. There is also a school level special needs committee in each school.

Laurentian Regional High School said he has never received an IEP toolkit at his school. He also mentioned that he has never seen an IEP and he has three children with IEPs.

Parents are encouraged to go back to the Governing Boards and speak about SEAC.

10.6 EPCA Report

e-mailed to parents.

11. VARIA

11.1 Intercom at Morin Heights Elementary

Morin Heights reported that the security system has not been installed for their Daycare, after many calls from many staff members to the Board there has been no action, they would like to get this system in.

11.2 Interim Principal

How long is a school expected to operate with an interim principal? It's a situation the board tries to avoid. We do not have a large pool of principal and vice principals in the board. There is no timeline, but it is always a priority to put someone in the position permanently as soon as possible.

11.3 Bill 105 Resolution

WHEREAS draft BILL 105: An Act to modify the Education Act, was introduced at the National Assembly of Québec on June 9th, 2016;

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 Bill 105 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 105;

PC20161006-12 Terry Fox Elementary MOVED THAT the Parents Committee of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board

Reject Bill 105: An Act to modify the Education Act;

Demand that the Government of Quebec acknowledge its duty to support and respect the constitutional rights of Anglophone Quebecers;

Seconded by Lake of Two Mountains High

This motion was CARRIED on the following division:

For: Franklin Hill Elem, Genesis Elem, Hillcrest Acad, John F. Kennedy Elem, Joliette Elem, Joliette High, Jules Verne Elem, Lake of Two Mountains High, Laurentian Regional High, Laval Senior Acad, Laval Junior Acad, McCaig Elem, Morin Heights Elem, Mountainview Elem, Our Lady of Peace Elem, Pierre E. Trudeau Elem, Pinewood Elem, Rawdon Elem, Rosemere High, Souvenir Elem, St Jude Elem, St Paul Elem, St Vincent Elem, Ste-Adele Elem, Ste-Agathe Acad, Terry Fox Elem, SEAC
Abstain: Crestview Elem, Laurentia Elem

School Tax inequity

The members discussed the petition that was initiated by AGAPE. Parents can go onto the SWLSB Facebook page to sign or directly to the link <https://www.assnat.qc.ca/en/exprimez-votre-opinion/petition/Petition-6253/index.html> . Members felt it was important to pass a resolution from the Parents Committee.

WHEREAS the maximum of taxation revenue is set, by regulation, by the Ministry of Education and Higher Education;

WHEREAS school boards, by law, may set their tax rate up to a maximum of 35 cents per \$100 of the standardized assessment of taxable immovables;

WHEREAS the equalization program, which provided additional financial support to school boards that set their tax rate below or equal to 35 cents per \$100 of the standardized assessment of taxable immovables, has been abolished;

WHEREAS there is an imbalance in school taxation on the territory of Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board;

WHEREAS the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board, based on a lower standardized assessment of taxable immovables, has set a higher tax rate (\$0.33995 per \$100 valuation);

WHEREAS the English-speaking population of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board must pay higher school taxes if their children attend English schools;

WHEREAS taxpayers who do not have children attending English schools but wish to support the English school board must pay more than those paying school taxes to the French school board;

PC20161006-13 Pierre E Trudeau MOVED THAT The SWLSB Parents Committee insist that the Government of Québec take all measures to make school taxes equitable amongst taxpayers who pay to either the French or English school boards, outside of the island of Montreal. Seconded by Joliette High.

Carried UNANIMOUSLY

It also needs to be communicated to parents that if their children are registered in our schools they must pay to the English boards. They need to verify this when they are paying their taxes.

12. QUESTION PERIOD

13. ADJOURNMENT

PC20161006-14 Mountainview Elementary MOVED THAT the meeting is closed at 10:16 p.m. Seconded by Laval Junior Academy.

Carried UNANIMOUSLY

Respectfully submitted by:
Susan O'Keeffe, Recording Secretary