

Minutes of the THIRD (3rd) meeting of the 2016-2017 Sir Wilfrid Laurier Parents Committee held on Thursday December 1st, 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	Bilal Sirhan	Pierre E. Trudeau Elementary
Santina Pendino	Genesis Elementary	Lorne Crawford	Rawdon Elementary
Charbel Mourad	Hillcrest Academy	Carla Tosti	Rosemere High
Bob Pellerin	Joliette High	Nekee Doshi	Souvenir Elementary
Christopher Tracton	Lake of Two Mountains High	Christine Flynn	St Jude Elementary
Daniel Ryan Stone	Laurentia Elementary	Patricia Sasso	St Paul Elementary
Don Beverly	Laurentian Regional High	Abbondio Castronovo	St Vincent Elementary
Tony Beliotis	Laval Junior Academy	Thomas McCuiston	Ste-Adele Elementary
Tracy Friedman	Laval Senior Academy	Jo Morrissey	Ste-Agathe Academy via telephone
Patrick Leprohon	McCaig Elementary	Sergio Di Marco	Terry Fox Elementary
Sarah Andrews	Morin Heights Elementary	Leonor Paixao	Twin Oaks Elementary
Andrew Vieira	Our Lady of Peace Elementary		

ALSO PRESENT: Paul Lamoureux, Director General; Fred Greschner, Assistant Director General, Richard Greschner, Director of Human Resources

ABSENT: Arundel Elementary, Franklin Hill Elementary, Grenville Elementary, John F Kennedy Elementary, Joliette Elementary, Jules Verne Elementary, Laurentian Elementary, Mountainview Elementary, Pinewood Elementary, SEAC

The Chairperson called the meeting to order at 7:38

1. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The Chairperson thanks all who brought the wonderful food and wine!

Add.

7.1 School Budgets

7.2 School Organizational Chart

PC20161201-01 Laurentia Elementary MOVED THAT the agenda is accepted as presented. Seconded by Joliette High.

Carried UNANIMOUSLY

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES of November 3rd, 2016

Twin Oaks Elementary was present at the last meeting

PC20161201-02 Laval Senior Academy MOVED THAT the minutes of November 3rd, 2016 are accepted with correction. Seconded by Laval Junior Academy.

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

3. QUESTION PERIOD

No questions.

4. BUSINESS ARISING

4.1 Consultation – Enrollment Criteria – Amendment

PC20161201-03 Terry Fox Elementary MOVED THAT the Enrollment Criteria is approved as presented. Seconded by St. Vincent Elementary.

Carried UNANIMOUSLY

4.2 Consultation – Deeds of Establishment and Three-year Plan

Terry Fox Elementary enquired if other schools have ententes with their cities for Parc École. Is it profitable for the schools? Please enquire at your schools and come back with the answer at the next meeting. They are looking at their entente and wondering if they should renew it.

Members discussed their ententes and the benefits/disadvantages.

The Director General responded that we will have to look at the definition of profit as there is history with the various agreements. The city often gives money for the construction of the playground and/or takes care of the maintenance of the grounds and this results in an agreement where they share the schools outside facilities after school hours. (The agreement with St. Paul Elementary is exceptional and is being looked into) There are different agreements with different schools and each of them needs to be reviewed.

PC20161201-04 Morin-Heights Elementary MOVED THAT the Deeds of Establishment and Three-Year Plan is approved as presented. Seconded by Joliette High.

Carried UNANIMOUSLY

4.3 Consultation draft on History Curriculum

At RHS the teachers said that they were uncomfortable discussing curriculum as, if they have problems with it they would refer to their unions.

Members are asked to please take this back to the governing boards and discuss it so that they can vote on it. The elementary schools are looking for feedback from the high schools in order for them to consult with their members and understand what it is that they are looking for.

The members would like more information on this subject. The directors of EPCA will bring it up at their next meeting and ask someone to attend a PC meeting to present something

4.4 Guest Speakers

Have someone come in to teach parents how to market their schools in order to promote and try to reduce the declining enrolment. Sort of a Marketing 101 – to reach their target audience, advertise their resources available to schools, look at practical ways to promote our schools, etc.

Thorstyn Harold is a speaker on Autism and Asperger's – She is the parent of an autistic child and is willing come at no charge.

BOKS program – the teachers at McCaig Elementary who were running it in their school would be willing to come and speak. This is a program where a team comes in before school starts to do 20 minutes of exercise to help kick start the brain.

Learn Quebec – free online tutoring and resources for our students.

Since Bill 105 has passed, the governing boards will have new responsibilities. Members would like someone to come and explain what the new role for GB's is. There are many elements in this bill that need to be highlighted and parent's committee should know about them in order to share with their governing boards. The Director General will take out the pertinent changes that will have an impact on all of us as a school board to present to members.

5. NEW BUSINESS

5.1 School Board's Demographic projections (presented by Mr. Paul Lamoureux, Director General)

The Director General presented and explained the demographic projections of the English and French school boards for ten years. Members discussed the reasons why our board projects a decrease until 2020.

- Special programs offered in other schools
- Sports etudes programs
- Affordable private schools
- Sending to French high schools

- Parents perceive that writing an exam to get into a school makes it a better school

He will ensure that members get a copy of this presentation.

5.2 School Calendar 2017-2018 (presented by Mr. Richard Greschner, Human Resources Director)

Richard Greschner, the Director of Human Resources presented the 2017-2018 school calendars.

He went on to explain how he builds the calendar in conjunction with the teacher's collective agreement.

We are obliged to use the school calendars of the school boards where we share transportation.

Members are asked to share the calendars with their governing boards and send the feedback to the Chairperson. An e-vote will be taken to approve the calendar for all schools except SAA, Arundel, Joliette Elementary and High School and Rawdon Elementary. These calendars have no leeway for movement as these are the schools who we share transportation with.

PC20161201-05 Joliette High School MOVED THAT the calendars for Saint-Agathe Academy, Arundel Elementary, Joliette Elementary, Joliette High and Rawdon Elementary are approved as presented. Seconded by Laval Junior Academy.

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

5.3 Top 3 priorities of PC for EPCA

EPCA continues to want the top 3 priorities from our board.

5.4 Best Practices

- Morin-Heights used to make the students run around the school yard when they got off the bus in the mornings in order to expend the energy and get them moving as some are on the school bus for a long time. They also use stationary bikes for students.
- McCaig Elementary will purchase a bicycle desk for each grade level and each class will get a standing desk. Those who use them in that school are happy with them.
- At Souvenir they are looking into flexible seating in some of the classrooms.

6. REPORTS

6.1 School Board's Report

- MEES has been holding public consultations on educational success. The Director General and the Chairperson attended the one in Laval where they presented a brief on what we believe will have a positive impact on student success. Some of the priorities outlined are:
 - ✓ The importance of early intervention
 - ✓ Literacy and numeracy skills
 - ✓ Pre-K programs
 - ✓ Professional development for employees
 - ✓ Additional resources for special needs
 - ✓ Parental involvement
 - ✓ Vocational training
 - ✓ Outside partners to support community schools
- In addition, the Vice-Chair and the Director General presented a brief in the Laurentides-Lanaudière regions on the different realities in rural schools. These consultations will lay the foundations for the first policy on educational success.

- Attended a consultation meeting on the Canada-Quebec agreement where the Chairperson and the Director General spoke about the priorities and challenges on what the English school boards are facing.
- The organizational chart was presented at the last corporate committee meeting. This is a restructuring of departments to better utilize staff and have savings. The proposed chart was approved at the last Council meeting and is in consultation for 30 days with the associations. Once it has been approved it will go into effect over the next 6 months.

6.2 Chair Report

In member's packages.

6.3 Treasurer's Report

In member's packages.

The budget projection for mileage will need to be increased as more members are claiming. The treasurer proposed a revised budget more in line with the monthly mileage expenses. This budget can be revisited any time during the year.

PC20161201-06 Laval Junior Academy MOVED THAT the revised budget is approved as presented. Seconded by Pierre E Trudeau Elementary.

Carried UNANIMOUSLY

6.4 Parent Commissioner Report

In member's packages.

6.5 RCP-3L Report

No report this month.

6.6 SEAC Report

No meeting took place.

6.7 EPCA Report

In member's packages.

7. VARIA

7.1 Budget

The Education act states the GB approves the school budget. There has been some objection from the LRHS GB as they do not get the full scope of where the budget is spent. They are wondering if the GB members would be better served knowing the whole picture of the budget prior to voting on it.

The Director General explained that what is presented at GB is the school budget that is used to operate the school. Salaries, heating, light etc is covered by school board and are not subject to GB adoption. There are grants specific to schools with specific targets that are given at various times during the year. These grants are given to schools and are already targeted to specific projects so cannot be spent anywhere else. The GB is responsible to adopt the decentralized portion of the budget.

He went on to say that the principal of the school has to render an account of the budget and how they spent it to the GB. They are responsible to approve the budgets that are part of the school's budget.

A suggestion was made to bring in a speaker who is able to explain the decentralized and centralized budgets of schools.

7.2 Organizational Chart

In response to a question from Sainte-Agathe Academy, the organizational chart is in consultation and cannot be viewed until it becomes a public document. It is a 30-day consultation and is conditional to the approval of the Council of Commissioners. Once it has been approved and becomes public it will be shared with all stakeholders.

8. QUESTION PERIOD

Paul Lamoureux, Fred Greschner and Susan O'Keeffe thanked the members for the dinner and the hospitality and wishes everyone a very Happy Holiday season.

9. ADJOURNMENT

Next meeting February 2, 2017 - Happy Holidays!

PC20161201-07 Laurentia Elementary MOVED THAT the meeting is closed at 9:54 p.m. Seconded by Laval Senior Academy

Carried **UNANIMOUSLY**

Minutes approved _____, 2017

Chairperson _____ Secretary _____

Respectfully submitted by:
Susan O'Keeffe, Recording Secretary