

Minutes of the SIXTH (6<sup>th</sup>) meeting of the 2016-2017 Sir Wilfrid Laurier Parents Committee held on Thursday April 6, 2017 at 7:15 pm in the Boardroom of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board, 235 Montée Lesage, Rosemère, Québec.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Dorina P. Varsamis	Crestview Elementary	Michael Thorburn	Mountainview Elementary
Sammy Reda	Genesis Elementary	Lorne Crawford	Rawdon Elementary
Charbel Mourad	Hillcrest Academy	Carla Tosti	Rosemere High
Damiano Ferraro	John F Kennedy Elementary	Effie Kontakos	Souvenir Elementary
Bob Pellerin	Joliette High	Nadine Audet	St. Jude Elementary
Christopher Tracton	Lake of Two Mountains High	Patricia Sasso	St Paul Elementary
Daniel Ryan Stone	Laurentia Elementary	Abbondio Castronovo	St Vincent Elementary
Don Beverly	Laurentian Regional High	Thomas McCuiston	Ste-Adele Elementary
Lisa Chartier	Laval Senior Academy	Jo Morrissey	Ste-Agathe Academy
Tony Beliotis	Laval Junior Academy	Sergio Di Marco	Terry Fox Elementary
Patrick Leprohon	McCaig Elementary	Leonor Paixao	Twin Oaks Elementary
Sarah Andrews	Morin Heights Elementary	Naria Zuccaro	SEAC Representative

**ALSO PRESENT:** Fred Greschner, Assistant Director General; Maxeen Jolin, Coordinator Communication Services; Suzanne Longpre and Carol Totedo, Learn Quebec

**ABSENT:** Arundel Elementary, Franklin Hill Elementary, Grenville Elementary, Joliette Elementary, Jules Verne Elementary, Laurentian Elementary, Laval Junior Academy, Our Lady of Peace Elementary, Pierre E. Trudeau Elementary, Pinewood Elementary

The Chairperson called the meeting to order at 7:24

**1. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

**PC20170406-01** St. Jude Elementary MOVED THAT the agenda is accepted as presented. Seconded by Laval Senior Academy.

Carried UNANIMOUSLY

**2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES of March 2, 2017**

Sainte Agathe Academy was present at last month's meeting.

At the end of the History curriculum presentation, Sainte-Agathe Academy asked Jennifer Maccarone if the board intends to endorse the statement from the EPCA on the history curriculum, to which she responded, no.

**PC20170406-02** Mountainview Elementary MOVED THAT the minutes of March 2, 2017 are accepted with corrections. Seconded by St Vincent Elementary.

This motion was CARRIED on the following division:

For: Genesis Elem, John F Kennedy Elem, Joliette High, Lake of Two Mountains High, Laurentia Elem, Laurentian Regional High, McCaig Elem, Morin Heights Elem, Mountainview Elem, Rawdon Elem, Rosemere High, Souvenir Elem, St Paul Elem, St Vincent Elem, Ste-Adele Elem, Ste-Agathe Acad, Terry Fox Elem, Twin Oaks Elem

Abstain: Crestview Elem, Hillcrest Acad, Laval Jr. Acad, Laval Sr. Acad, St. Jude Elem, SEAC

**3. QUESTION PERIOD**

**4. BUSINESS ARISING**

**4.1 Consultation Draft on History Curriculum**

The Chair explained to members that the group from EPCA and School Board had both presented their views on the new History Curriculum and that there would be no more discussion on this issue.

**PC20170406-03** Souvenir Elementary MOVED THAT the Parents Committee endorses the consultation draft from the Committee for the Enhancement of the Curriculum of History in Quebec (ComeCH-Quebec), an ad hoc committee by the English Parents' Committees Association (EPCA), Quebec Anglophone Heritage Network (QAHN) and Quebec Federation of Home and School Associations (QFHSA).. Seconded by Rawdon Elementary.

This motion was CARRIED on the following division:

For: Crestview Elem, Genesis Elem, Hillcrest Acad, Lake of Two Mountains High, Laval Jr. Acad, McCaig Elem, Morin-Heights Elem, St. Paul Elem, St. Vincent Elem, Souvenir Elem, Twin Oaks Elem, Rawdon, SEAC

Against: John F. Kennedy Elem, Joliette High, Laurentian Regional High, Laval Senior Academy, Mountainview Elem, Rosemere High, Sainte-Agathe Academy, Terry Fox  
 Abstain: St Jude Elem, Ste-Adele Elem

#### 4.2 Top 3 priorities of PC for EPCA

Members sent the Chair several priorities. The following were voted as the top 3.

1. Equal tax for the English and French school boards
2. Technology - Update Infrastructure
  - a. Smartboard repairs
  - b. Internet Speed/Wifi Broadband
  - c. Assistance with increasing the level of access to IT resources and individual devices, computers to continue to support our students in this area
3. Special needs - appropriate funding for the code allocated to the child, resources to help issues of anxiety for students

Some of the others are:

- Eligibility to English Education (Protecting that right) Facilitating enrolment (focus on awareness) many people are not aware their children are eligible for English education.
- Advertise the English and bilingual establishment. Raise awareness campaign to show the benefits of English or bilingual education
- Translation of educational programs, textbooks, curriculums to be reviewed and translated into English at the same time as the French programs.
- (Minister to ensure proper translation)
- School Buildings and Infrastructure - Update School wide Intercoms, electrical concerns, upkeep of buildings
- Free and ample physical education
- Get the students to hear Influential speakers (from rags to riches, hard work always pays off), visit large and small work places:
  - understanding the framework of different jobs on large construction site, hospital, in all types of research and development.
  - understanding the framework of manufacturing different products, raw materials, production, assembly, distribution.
  - understanding of different challenges/problems in our society ( get them thinking what they would do to fix them).
- Promoting social / school spirit (proud of all are achievements, qualities).
- Concrete measures to increase student success - i.e. funding for tutoring, enrollment in sports programs, etc
- Resources and Opportunities for Small and/or Rural English Schools, including transportation: Grants, Memberships, Economies of Scale. The size of the school limits funding available, and its location makes access to resources difficult. Museum visits entail lengthy round trips that have to be paid for, English-speaking workshops levy a premium to travel so far out of Montréal or Ottawa to deliver in school, we wanted to send a teacher on a weekend workshop but the mileage and accommodation required made it unaffordable with our limited resources.
- Our rural location is a bonus in many respects, but it does make transportation a major concern/cost centre. To send our High School students to a theatrical production in St Jerome, a 90km round trip, is costing us over \$700
- Reintroducing French immersion program in elementary.

## 5. NEW BUSINESS

### 5.1 LEARN Presentation by Suzanne Longpre and Carol Toteda

Carol Toteda and Suzanne Longpre were here to present the resources and tutoring available from Learn Quebec to English school boards in Quebec FOR FREE.

In response to a question from Mountainview Elementary, Learn is in the process of marketing themselves and making parents more aware of the services. They are asking parents to tell other parents about Learn services. They have a Facebook page

and are on Twitter, but are asking to create awareness by word of mouth. Mr. Greschner went on to say that Learn has been a partner of the school board for many years and thinks the tutoring service is a great resource for our students. There is one seat on the Learn board of directors for each English school board.

Laval Junior suggested that Learn have a presence at the parent teacher evenings.

Mr. Greschner will find out how parents get information or pass codes to get into the Learn resources.

In response to a question from St. Vincent, there is no minimum number of students who can be online at the same time. Learn is open until the eve of the provincial exams. In a follow-up question from St Vincent, Learn is funded from the Ministry, Federal and provincial entente money.

Online tutoring sessions are from 6 to 8:30 Monday to Thursday.

## 5.2 Marketing our schools

Maxeen Jolin, Coordinator, Communication Services was here to do a presentation on how members can market their schools.

We need to brag about our successes to other parents. Promote our schools, the uniqueness of them.

Mr. Greschner will speak to the principals to offer the services to schools to set up FB pages for them.

Educate the community on how they are eligible to attend English schools.

Maxeen will send a copy of the presentation to the Chair to send to members.

*Laurentia Elementary let the meeting at 9:02 pm*

## 5.3 Budget Building Process

By voting through raising of hands, the committee went over the questions in the budget building process as it applies to Parents Committee.

Members expressed that governing boards had many questions about the survey and suggested that some of the points in the document needed to be explained, as there is not a common understanding on some of the items. Perhaps having an appendix for some of the questions would be helpful.

**PC20170406-04** Rawdon Elementary MOVED THAT the budget building process is approved as filled out at the meeting.

Seconded by St Jude Elementary

Carried UNANIMOUSLY

## 5.4 Best Practices

Table to next meeting.

## 6. REPORTS

### 6.1 School Board's Report

- Mr. Greschner gave some new information on the History curriculum. Our teachers report that they like the program; it is a better course, and there is an increased chance of engaging students. There is a companion resource being developed and the teachers are aware of it. More flexibility for the program for the teachers and they like this.
- Impact game day – April 29, 2017, tickets are \$14 each and can be ordered online. Check the SWLSB facebook page for details.

- Three Médailles du Lieutenant-Gouverneur du Québec (positive influence in community) were handed out in the Laurentian Region to Elizabeth Hua of Rosemere High, Nicolas Gaudreau, Laurentian Regional High and Helen Skalkogiannis of Lake of Two Mountains High.
- Province-wide coaching for all English principals – Robyn Jackson at Cosmodome
- Vocational Training, Adult Education and Services aux entreprises (training for companies) is now Mr. Greschner's dossier. We have signed an entente for 10 million dollars with CS des Samares and Affluents for a new program – Stationary engine mechanics. (big equipment and machines) Looking at opening it at the corner of 640 and 25. 4 new programs will open with CS des Mille Iles. Mr. Greschner will bring the Centre Directors to explain the programs.
- Star-Fest auditions held this week – Wednesday night they were at Laval Junior Academy and Saturday morning at Rosemere High. Students chosen at the audition will perform at the Laurier Gala on May 31.
- I love to Read week at Terry Fox – video shown to members.

## 6.2 Chair Report

In members packages.

## 6.3 Treasurer's Report

In members packages.

## 6.4 Parent Commissioner Report

In member's packages.

## 6.5 RCP-3L Report

No report this month

## 6.6 SEAC Report

In members packages

SEAC Conference for all parents on April 25 at Laval Senior Academy.

## 6.7 EPCA Report

No report this month

## 7. VARIA

## 8. QUESTION PERIOD

## 9. ADJOURNMENT

Next meeting April 6, 2017

**PC20160406-05** Terry Fox Elementary MOVED THAT the meeting is closed at 10:25 p.m. Seconded by Joliette High.

Carried UNANIMOUSLY

Minutes approved \_\_\_\_\_, 2017

Chairperson \_\_\_\_\_ Secretary \_\_\_\_\_

Respectfully submitted by:  
Susan O'Keeffe, Recording Secretary

