

Minutes of the FIRST (1ST) meeting of the 2017-2018 Sir Wilfrid Laurier Parents Committee held on Thursday October 5th, 2016 at 7:15 pm in the Boardroom of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board, 235 Montée Lesage, Rosemère, Québec.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Sean Palardy	Arundel Elementary (via VCN)	Lisa Marie Cipriani	McCaig Elementary
Franco Pellicciotti	Crestview Elementary	Lannie Richard	Mountainview Elementary
Jessica Le Duc	Franklin Hill Elementary	Bilal Sirhan	Pierre E. Trudeau Elementary
Soha Morsi	Genesis Elementary	Amber Lawrence	Rawdon Elementary
Alexandra Antonopoulos	John F Kennedy Elementary	Carla Tosti	Rosemere High
Bob Pellerin	Joliette High	Effie Kontakos	Souvenir Elementary
Samuel Lhémy	Jules Verne Elementary	Christine Flynn	St Jude Elementary
Xavier Pouchain	Lake of Two Mountains High	Abbi Castronovo	St Vincent Elementary
Tara Anderson	Laurentia Elementary	Thomas McCuiston	Ste-Adele Elementary
Douglas Howarth	Laval Junior Academy	Jo Morrissey	Ste-Agathe Academy
Tony Beliotis	Laval Senior Academy	Katherina Benoit	Twin Oaks Elementary

ALSO PRESENT: Jennifer Maccarone, Chairperson; Fred Greschner, Assistant Director General; Sophie Thibault, Project Development Officer, Qualification

ABSENT: Grenville Elementary, Hillcrest Academy, Joliette Elementary, Laurentian Elementary, Laurentian Regional High, Morin Heights Elementary, Our Lady of Peace Elementary, Pinewood Elementary, St Paul Elementary, Terry Fox Elementary, SEAC Representative

The outgoing Chairperson called the meeting to order at 7:16 pm

1. WELCOME BY OUTGOING CHAIR

Introduction of the members

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Add - 10.1: STL bus company transportation and 10.2 Correspondence

PC20171005-01 Laval Junior Academy MOVED THAT the agenda is accepted with additions. Seconded by Souvenir Elementary

Carried **UNANIMOUSLY**

3. INTRODUCTION OF MEMBERS

Members introduced themselves

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.

PC20171005-02 Laval Junior Academy MOVED THAT the voting will be done by secret ballot. Seconded by Joliette high

Carried **UNANIMOUSLY**

4.2 Nomination/Election of Chairperson of Elections and Scrutineers

PC20171005-03 The Outgoing Chair MOVED THAT Jennifer Maccarone is nominated as chairperson of elections. Seconded by Laval Junior Academy.

Carried **UNANIMOUSLY**

PC20171005-04 The Outgoing Chair MOVED THAT Fred Greschner will act as scrutineer. Seconded by Laval Junior Academy.

Carried **UNANIMOUSLY**

4.3 Nomination/Election of Chairperson

Joliette High nominates Carla Tosti, Rosemere High – accepts – congratulations

4.4 Nomination/Election of Vice-Chairperson

Tony Beliotis, Laval Junior Academy nominates himself
 Katherina Benoit, Twin Oaks nominates herself
 Congratulations to Twin Oaks Elementary

4.5 Nomination/Election of Secretary

Christine Flynn, St Jude nominates herself. – Congratulations

4.6 Nomination/Election of Treasurer

Tony Beliotis, Laval Senior Academy nominates himself - Congratulations

4.7 Nomination/Election of EPCA Director (1)

Rhonda Boucher was present to explain what the English Parents Committee Association involves and when meetings are.
 Bilal Sirhan of Pierre E. Trudeau Elementary is one of the SWLSB's directors to the EPCA in his second year.

Abbi Castronovo, St Vincent Elementary nominates himself.
 Tara Anderson, Laurentia Elementary nominates herself
 Congratulations to St Vincent Elementary

PC20171005-05 Laval Junior Academy MOVED THAT is Abbi Castronovo; St Vincent Elementary is nominated as a Director to the EPCA for two years, 2017-2018 and 2018-2019. Seconded by John F Kennedy

Carried UNANIMOUSLY

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

The Chairperson explained the position.
 Twin Oaks Elementary nominates Lake of Two Mountains High

PC20171005-06 Twin Oaks Elementary MOVED THAT Lake of Two Mountains is nominated as the Representative, and St. Jude Elementary is nominated as the alternate to the RCP-3L for the school year 2017-2018. Seconded by St Vincent Elementary.

Carried UNANIMOUSLY

4.9 Nomination to Advisory Committee on Transportation

The SWLSB Chairperson explained the position.
 Laval Junior Academy nominates himself - congratulations

4.10 Election of Recording Secretary and Remuneration

PC20171005-07 St Jude Elementary MOVED THAT Susan O'Keeffe is engaged as recording secretary for the 2017-2018 Parents Committee at a cost of \$90 per meeting and \$10 for every half hour after 9:45 p.m. Seconded by Rawdon Elementary.

Carried UNANIMOUSLY

The Chairperson introduced the Parent Commissioners to the members. Bob Pellerin, Joliette High is the Secondary Parent Commissioner and Sergio Di Marco, formerly of Terry Fox Elementary is the Elementary Parent Commissioner.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES of June 1, 2017

PC20151005-09 Joliette High MOVED THAT the minutes of June 1, 2017 are accepted as presented. Seconded by Laval Junior Academy.

This motion was CARRIED on the following division:
 For: Joliette High, Laval Senior Acad, Rosemere High, Souvenir Elem, St. Jude Elem
 Abstain: Arundel Elem, Crestview Elem, Franklin Hill Elem, Genesis Elem, John F. Kennedy Elem,
 Jules Verne Elem, Lake of Two Mountains High, Laurentia Elem, Laval Junior Elem, McCaig Elem,
 Mountainview Elem, Pierre E. Trudeau Elem, Rawdon Elem, St. Vincent Elem, Ste-Adele Elem,
 Ste-Agathe Acad, Twin Oaks Elem

6. QUESTION PERIOD

7. BUSINESS ARISING

8. NEW BUSINESS

8.1 Qualification – Services aux entreprises

The members welcomed Sophie Thibault, Project Development Officer who was here to present the Services aux entreprises to members. Qualification goes to businesses to assess their needs and is able to offer bilingual training to employees. The PowerPoint presentation will be sent to members.

Qualification:

- Provides attestations, not certificates
- Exploring classes by internet
- Generates significant revenues for the school board
- Repeat customers
- Goes into companies and provides services to them based on their budget.
- Has a partnership for some classes with Emploi Quebec
- May have opportunity to go into other provinces to teach
- Teachers are hired either through our school board or Sophie hires them

8.2 Date, Time, Place of Meetings

The secretary will send calendar invites

PC20171005-10 Mountainview Elementary MOVED THAT the meetings for 2017-2018 will be the first Thursday of each month with the exception of January. The meetings will be held on: October 5, November 2, December 7, 2017, no meeting in January, February 1, March 1, April 5, May 3 and June 7, 2018. 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 John F. Kennedy

Carried UNANIMOUSLY

8.3 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.

8.4 Internal Financial Policy

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

meeting.

The Chairperson explained the statement of expenses.

8.5 SEAC Members

PC20171005-11 Joliette Elementary MOVED THAT Valentina Basilicata, Crestview Elementary; Julie Courtemanche, Pinewood Elementary; Antoinetta Di Minno, Crestview Elementary and Tanya Rousseau, Mountainview Elementary are accepted as members on SEAC for the 2017-2018 and 2018-2019 school years. Seconded by Jules Verne Elementary.

Carried UNANIMOUSLY

8.6 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.

9. REPORTS

9.1 School Board's Report

- Proud to say that SWLSB is top 5 in the province with 84% graduation rate.
- We are number 1 in province for integration of our special needs students
- SWLSB has the lowest operating rates of any government institution in the province.
- Innovative programs in SWLSB, leaders in technology
- Voted in favour of Bill 144, that pertains to home schooling and the idea of free education for students. We support parental choice. However, we need a measure of control for parents reporting of home schooled students in our territory.
- The Chairperson met with Premier Couillard and Minister Proulx – discussed taxation, impending school board elections in 2018 – because of provincial elections at the same time they do not want to support two elections. The year after is the federal elections. Want to be sure that people have the opportunity to go and vote for their elected officials at the school level.
- Taxation – SWLSB has the highest tax rate allowable. The school tax rate is dictated by the government and even at the highest rate we still have a shortfall in collection – we are not able to collect the 19% that we should be collecting. Parents who are with our board are obliged to pay to our board. The Chairperson has been working on this issue – lobbying for a regional tax rate similar to what they have on the island of Montreal. She is hoping for one tax rate for our regions. At SWLSB we have a big territory that we share with eight French school boards – She was promised that this is the year that the taxes will be corrected. What also needs to be corrected is that once your child turns 18 you are automatically put onto the French school board. Parents must remember this when it is voting time to be sure that they are on the English voter list. The chairperson is also asking for online voting to facilitate our voters in remote areas.

In response to a question from Laval Junior Academy, the tax department is verifying that the parents whose children go to SWLSB are paying the English school board.

- Hearing a lot of news on school fees and the class action suit. The suit is on the consumables, that is, everything related outside of school supplies. I.e: field trips. Should this class action go through, many programs the schools offer would not be allowed to ask for money, which essentially means that they will no longer be available in our schools, as we are not budgeted to pay for these. Council will be fighting for this not to happen. Parents who have chosen to remain in the class action suit will be paid a small fee - that will cost the school board 2 million dollars. Council and other groups will lobby on behalf of our board in order to be able to continue to offer specialized programs to schools.

In response to a question from Lake of Two Mountains – we will not be pursuing a harmonized rate like they do in Montreal but a regional one for our territory.

In response to a question from St Jude Elementary, the range of school fees is between \$200 - \$350 depending on the school and the grade your child is in. \$200 elementary - \$325 for high school – these amounts do not include student supervision.

In response to a question from Twin Oaks Elementary, it is the governing board who makes the decision on the colour code/uniform model in schools. This is something that needs to be discussed at the individual schools.

In response to a question from Lake of Two Mountains, dyslexia is not recognized as a special need and is therefore not coded by the government – it is specific for at-risk student for reading and writing. Some funding is given for support to these children.

In response to a question from Genesis – the shortfall of taxes we are not able to recover is paid to us by the government.

- Our Strategic Plan ends in 2017. Bill 105 is requiring boards to develop Commitment to Success Plans. One of the groups that will be consulted is the parents committee. Consultation will go to several stakeholders and needs to be finalized by April 2018. Once it is in place the governing boards must develop educational projects in their schools.

Souvenir Elementary asked the Chair and the Assistant Director General what was learned from the events of today and would we have done things differently?

It was explained that a student from LSA posted in social media that students should not go to school because someone was going to the school and there would be stabbings. It came to the attention of the board at 10:30 p.m. and immediately everything was put

into place by police and crisis intervention teams. The police needed to do their investigation and we were asked to wait so that they would have an opportunity to do what they needed to do with regards to the bus before we could inform parents. We took the lead from the police as to when we could inform the parents. Looking for other systems that can diffuse information to parents quicker.

9.2 Treasurer's Report

Will have the full scope next month once we have the budget.
The Chairperson explained where the budget went last year.

9.3 Parent Commissioner Report

In members packages

10. VARIA

10.1 STL bus company transportation

Souvenir Elementary reported that there are major issues with certain roads in the LJA area – one route in particular is a nightmare as even after one month of school the busses are still arriving late – Bus 198C. When calling the STL they are saying it is traffic and take a nonchalant attitude. They are also not dropping kids off at correct stops. Mr. Greschner will look into this.

10.2 Correspondence

We received a thank you note from Sainte-Agathe Academy for the PC award given to their students.

11. QUESTION PERIOD

12. ADJOURNMENT

PC20171005-14 Souvenir Elementary MOVED THAT the meeting is closed at 9:34 p.m. Seconded by Rawdon Elementary

Carried UNANIMOUSLY

Minutes approved _____, 2017

Chairperson

Secretary

Respectfully submitted by:
Susan O'Keeffe, Recording Secretary