

Minutes of the SIXTH (6th) meeting of the 2017-2018 Sir Wilfrid Laurier Parents Committee held on Thursday April 5th, 2018 at 7:15 pm in the Boardroom of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board, 235 Montée Lesage, Rosemère, Québec.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Michael Arfanis	Hillcrest Academy	Amber Lawrence	Rawdon Elementary
Bob Pellerin	Joliette High	Carla Tosti	Rosemere High
Samuel Lhémy	Jules Verne Elementary	Effie Kontakos	Souvenir Elementary
Don Beverly	Laurentian Regional High	Christine Flynn	St Jude Elementary
Douglas Howarth	Laval Junior Academy	Christine Gauthier	St Vincent Elementary
Tony Beliotis	Laval Senior Academy	Thomas McCuiston	Ste-Adele Elementary
Lisa Cipriani	McCaig Elementary	Jo Morrissey	Ste-Agathe Academy
Lannie Richard	Mountainview Elementary	Billie Chasiotis	Terry Fox Elementary
Andrew Viera	Our Lady of Peace Elementary	Natalie Codner	Twin Oaks Elementary

ALSO PRESENT: Fred Greschner, Assistant Director General

ABSENT: Arundel Elementary, Crestview Elementary, Franklin Hill Elementary, Genesis Elementary, Grenville Elementary, John F. Kennedy Elementary, Joliette Elementary, Lake of Two Mountains High, Laurentia Elementary, Laurentian Elementary, Laurentian Regional High, McCaig Elementary, Morin Heights Elementary, Pierre E. Trudeau Elementary, Pinewood Elementary, St. Paul Elementary, Ste-Agathe Academy, SEAC Representative

The Chairperson called the meeting to order at 7:18 pm

1. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

PC20180405-01 Joliette High MOVED THAT the agenda is accepted. Seconded by Mountainview Elementary.

Carried **UNANIMOUSLY**

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES of March 1, 2018

PC20180405-02 Our Lady of Peace Elementary MOVED THAT the minutes of February 1, 2018 are accepted as presented. Seconded by Souvenir Elementary.

This motion was **CARRIED** on the following division:
For: Hillcrest Acad, Joliette High, Jules Verne Elem, Laval Junior Acad, Mountainview Elem, Our Lady of Peace Elem, Rosemere High, Souvenir Elem, St. Vincent Elem, St. Jude Elem, Ste-Adele Elem
Abstain: Laurentian Regional High, Laval Senior Acad, McCaig Elem, Sainte Agathe Acad, Terry Fox Elem, Twin Oaks Elem

3. QUESTION PERIOD

4. BUSINESS ARISING

4.1 Commitment to Success Plan: Update

Two town halls were held in March (Laurentides and Lanaudiere) and April (Laval) for the Commitment to Success Plan.

5. NEW BUSINESS

Rawdon Elementary entered the meeting at 7:32 p.m.

5.1 Budget Building Process 2018-2019

Please rank the level of importance on the following criteria to be considered for the allocation of the resources for your school, centre or service.

- Enrollment - Important
- Enrollment weighted (takes into consideration the special needs student population) - Very important
- Socio economic index - Important
- Geography (Distance from the Board and accessibility to English services) - Important
- Regional needs - Not so important

- Square meter of the school or centre - Important
- Ratios for student supervision - Very important
- Multi-level classroom - Important
- Opening of a new classroom - Important
- Historical Data – Important

If the MEES supplemental allocations ("mesures") as we know them actually would disappear in the next budget parameters and be replaced by a lump sum amount; which of the following would you choose to keep or let go for your school or centre?

- Social solidarity (nutritional support) - Keep
- Teacher release (special need intervention plan) - Keep
- Agir autrement Primaire et secondaire (NANS schools) - Keep
- Regional priorities – Village schools (improvement of the educational services) - Keep
- Homework assistance - Keep
- Health and well-being (support development of healthy lifestyle programs) - Keep
- Active youth secondary (prevent drop out for the at-risk student) - Keep
- Action plan "Reading in school" (invest in school library) - Keep
- Action plan for violence (support actions against bullying) - Keep
- Support for probationers (student teachers) - Keep
- Culture in schools (integration of culture in schools) - Keep
- Special projects for First Nation students - Keep
- Integration and support for First Nation students - Keep
- Adjustment for multi-grade groups - Keep
- Culture du "sport à l'école secondaire publique" (coaching, uniforms and equipment) - Keep
- French second language ("mesure d'accueil") - Keep
- Entrepreneurship (develop entrepreneurship skills) – Keep

Is there an area that you would like to receive an allocation that is not represented in the MEES actual budget rules and that could be specific to your school, centre or department?

- Transportation to have access to resources and services (ex: museum, etc.)
- Shuttle bus between two buildings of same school.

Please choose 2 budgetary priorities in line with the School Board's Strategic Plan goal 1 : Success

- Additional Special Education (Behavior) Technician time
- Additional in-school professionals (speech, occupational therapist, psychologist, social worker, guidance counselor, spiritual animator)

Please choose 2 budgetary priorities in line with the School Board's Strategic Plan goal 2 : Well-being

- Playground improvement
- Building repair and maintenance

Please choose 2 budgetary priorities in line with the School Board's Strategic Plan goal 3 : Leadership and innovation

- Leadership initiatives
- Information and technology

Would you see any other topics to prioritize in any of the 3 goals that were not mentioned above?

- Guidance counselor, ex: transgender;
- STEM program at elementary.

PC20180405-03 Souvenir Elementary MOVED THAT the budget building 2018-2019 survey is approved as discussed and voted. Seconded by Rawdon Elementary.

Carried UNANIMOUSLY

5.2 Consultation – By-Law establishing procedures for examination of complaints by students or their parents

The document was e-mailed to members for their comments.

Laval Junior Academy wanted to know where the students' rights in the document are. Mr. Greschner explained the procedure and steps for complaints by students or their parents to the members. There is a form on the website that needs to be filled out in order to make a complaint. An e-mail is also accepted as written notice. The board has 10 days to respond to a complaint but some are not accepted. When the student ombudsman is examining a complaint they may call anyone involved at the school board who could help. When the complaint by a parent is lodged, it will go through the proper channels. When the form is filled out it goes directly to the Director of Schools and she distributes it to the correct place.

Who decides if the case goes on too long – when the event happened to when the complaint was filed – ie: last day of school, people on vacation...etc – what does that mean. The line “clearly it will serve no purpose” is offensive – who’s to say the ombudsman understands the complaint clearly and this is subjective. Sometimes parents do not go through the correct procedure before going straight to the ombudsman – they bypass the steps and go straight to the ombudsman. Need to understand what a reasonable amount of time for delay is. This should be clear.

A parent can go directly to the ombudsman if they want – they do not have to go through the process. But the ombudsman is aware of the internal procedures and will encourage parents to follow the right steps.

If there is a complaint concerning an abusive staff member – this is another procedure completely. Parents should send these kinds of complaints to the Director of Schools and she will guide you to the correct place. Anything that touches school management will be taken care of at the board level.

We share the ombudsman with the EMSB and the mandate is 3 years. Mr. Greschner will verify this timeline. The chairperson pointed out that in the education act it states that in 220.2 of the EA - the Parents Committee should be consulted before the ombudsman is renewed. Mr. Greschner will verify this. It says in the documentation that the ombudsman is an interim position – Mr. Greschner will verify this.

The following comments were made by the parents committee and should be taken into consideration.

- We need to add process for homeschool children from the Board. They should be considered in the Complaints process;
- In section 1.0, Definitions, there should be a definition of what a “written complaints” is, to include email and all other forms of written complaints, including the forms from the School Board;
- In section 1.0, Definitions, the numbering is wrong;
- In section 1.0, Definitions, the definition of complainant should be on the same as the article 220.2 of the Education Act and include homeschooled children.
- In section 5.4, The complainant has the right to be accompanied by the person (...) It should say “person(s)” as the complainant should be able to bring more than one person;
- In section 5.6, “written complaints”. If there is a form to be filled-in, it should be specified;
- In section 6.1, it should be specified that a complaint will follow its course, i.e. going to steps b) and c), even if the complainant did not follow the proper order;
- In section 6.3, it should say “Upon receipt” instead of “Upon reception”;
- In section 8.4, a definition of “reasonable time” should be given as it is subjective. Also, there should be a delay written in between the recorded event and the receiving of said complaint. Finally, “would clearly serve no purpose”, the writing should be reviewed (very subjective, there should be criteria);
- In section 8.8, to insert a delay to inform the complainant. For example, if it is at the end of June, a complainant should not have to wait all summer and more to have an answer or information.

- In section 9.3, it should be added “In the annual report of the School Board”, (...) the student ombudsman must provide (...) a report stating (...). It should also state “Each year by September 15th” and not “On September 15th at the latest”.
- In the form “Request for Intervention by the Student Ombudsman for the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board”, in section 2.2, add another square (tick box) for “other”.
- In the same form as above, in section 8, it should be written “seeking with” in two words and not “seekingwith”.

PC20180405-04 Laval Senior Academy MOVED THAT the *By-Law establishing procedures for examination of complaints by students or their parents* is accepted with noted corrections. Seconded by Sainte Agathe Academy.

Carried UNANIMOUSLY

6. REPORTS

6.1 School Board Report

- Two town halls for the Commitment to Success Plan were held. We looked at not only the ministry’s orientations, but some school board ones as well. We presented 7 and they had to rank them to get the top 3. The document will be put together and go out for consultation. This should be ready over the next month. At the May council meeting it will be voted on. The deadline to submit to the MEES is June 1.
- At the Laval Town Hall, we asked for a mandate from parents for a special project school in Laval (article 240). A survey will go out to the Laval community to ask if a school were to be developed would we have students to fill it. This is to respond to the many numbers of students who annually leave our board for other special project schools in other boards. We are not looking to take away from our other high schools but to keep our students from going to other boards for these programs. We have to find an orientation for the school so we asked parents to fill out a form to see what kind of special school they would like and interested in. If we have the commitment of a group of parents, the parents committee will be consulted. We have to demonstrate that parents have asked for this. Should there be the will and mandate we are aiming to put an application in at the end of June in the hopes that the school will open in 2020. In response to a question from Laval Junior – we can decide how to house these students – a building on its own, or house it within an existing school.

6.2 Chair Report (in package)

In members packages.

Formation on la Loi sur instruction publique April 14.

6.3 Treasurer’s Report

All expenses were submitted tonight and cheques will be prepared in due process.

Expenses need to be handed in at the end of each meeting.

Budget is in good shape right now.

6.3.1 PC Student Award

PC20180405-04 Rawdon Elementary MOVED THAT the parents committee will spend approximately \$800 for the small plaques to give all students who win this award. Seconded by Rawdon Elementary.

Carried UNANIMOUSLY

Sainte Agathe Academy pointed out that the website needs to be cleaned up. There is a lot of old information on it. She will prepare something and send it to the Chairperson on what should be corrected on the site.

6.4 Parent Commissioners Report (no report)

6.5 RCP-3L Report (no report)

6.6 SEAC Report (no report)

6.7 EPCA Report (in package)

7. VARIA

8. QUESTION PERIOD

9. ADJOURNMENT

Next meeting May 3, 2018

PC20180405-04 Laval Junior Academy MOVED THAT the meeting is closed at 8:50 p.m. Seconded by St Jude Elementary.

Carried UNANIMOUSLY

Minutes approved _____, 2018

Chairperson

Secretary

Respectfully submitted by:
Susan O'Keeffe, Recording Secretary