

Minutes of the EIGHTH (8th) meeting of the 2017-2018 Sir Wilfrid Laurier Parents Committee held on Thursday June 7th, 2018 at 7:30 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
Tara Anderson	Laurentia Elementary	Effie Kontakos	Souvenir Elementary
Donald Beverly	Laurentian Regional High	Christine Flynn	St Jude Elementary
Douglas Howarth	Laval Junior Academy	Christine Gauthier	St. Vincent Elementary
Tony Beliotis	Laval Senior Academy	Jo Morrissey	Ste-Agathe Academy
Lisa Cipriani	McCaig Elementary	Chiara Parisi	Terry Fox Elementary
Lannie Richard	Mountainview Elementary	Laura Wittebol	Twin Oaks Elementary

ALSO PRESENT: Jennifer Maccarone, Chairperson; Guy Gagnon, Vicky Kaliozakis, Ailsa Pehi, Commissioners

ABSENT: Arundel Elementary, Crestview Elementary, Franklin Hill Elementary, Genesis Elementary, Grenville Elementary, John F. Kennedy Elementary, Joliette Elementary, Jules Verne Elementary, Lake of Two Mountains High, Laurentian Elementary, Morin Heights Elementary, Our Lady of Peace Elementary, Pierre E. Trudeau Elementary, Pinewood Elementary, St Paul Elementary, Ste-Adele Elementary, SEAC Representative

The Chairperson called the meeting to order at 7:38 pm

1. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Welcome to the commissioners present tonight.

The Chairperson would like to thank Jennifer Maccarone and the Commissioners for their support this year. In addition she thanked the Directorate team; Fred Greschner, Maxeen Jolin, Susan O'Keeffe and Jocelyne Thompson for all of their help this year.

Add:

7.2 school board elections

7.3 Request to the MEES to withdraw the provision for recovery of the school transportation surplus from the proposed 2018-2019 budgetary rules.

4.3 Consultation on school complaints

PC20180607-01 Twin Oaks Elementary MOVED THAT the agenda is accepted with additions. Seconded by Rawdon Elementary.

Carried **UNANIMOUSLY**

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES of May 3, 2018

Souvenir Elementary did not move and second adjournment – St Jude seconded
Laval Junior Academy was not present at the last meeting

PC20180607-02 Rawdon Elementary MOVED THAT the minutes of May 3, 2018 are accepted with corrections. Seconded by McCaig Elementary.

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

For: Joliette High, Laurentia Elementary, Laurentian Regional High, Laval Senior Acad,
McCaig Elem, Mountainview Elem, Rawdon Elem, Rosemere High, Souvenir Elem,
St. Jude Elem, Terry-Fox Elem

Abstain: Hillcrest Acad, Laval Junior Acad, St. Vincent, Ste-Agathe Acad, Twin Oaks Elem

3. QUESTION PERIOD

4. BUSINESS ARISING

4.1 Consultation – Special Project School (240 School)

The Chairperson asked members for comments on the consultation.

Rawdon Elementary thinks it is a great idea, but is wondering if there is a way to make the math and science programs stronger in the schools now. Jennifer Maccarone responded that we don't have STEM anywhere. In order to offer this particular program it needs to be a special project school. That does not stop schools from having their own advanced math and science programs if they have the numbers for them.

LRHS – Feels it will hurt their school's population. They are looking more for opportunities and money for at-risk students as this is what comes up constantly when budget is discussed. Their school used to have dedicated classes to at risk students and they have all disappeared. Their school's population has decreased over the last few years and they fear that this school will only take more students from them. They do not see how this school will increase graduation rates.

Jennifer Maccarone went on to explain why this school will help our graduation rates. The 400 students leaving our Laval schools now are specifically seeking special project schools – mostly in science and math. We would like to offer them what they are leaving us for. Most of these students are gifted so by having them graduate from our board, we would increase our graduation rates. A large percentage of Vincent Massey students are Sir Wilfrid Laurier students.

In reference to dedicated classrooms for at risk students, the minister and board are seeking inclusion in the new success plans. SWLSB already does this and we realize that we do need to better equip our schools. There has been an increase in special needs students over the years but not an increase in budget. This has been challenging for us as we have to come up with creative ways to help them. The LRHS student decline is not because students are leaving – it is because the population is not growing – people are not having babies.

Jennifer Maccarone went on to say that 97.5% of those who have answered the survey are in favor of this school. If this school is opened it will be a small school of about 300 students. It is unlikely that it will have an effect on other high schools because it will be too small. It will be about 60 kids per grade level. If we can grow our enrolment and keep our students from leaving it will give us more budget to have for all of our students. This school could help by bringing in more money from the government through increased enrolment. Every student that leaves, takes money with them that could be spent on our students. Everyone will benefit from getting this school. We need to meet the needs of gifted students. We can't meet what they need so they are leaving our board.

Some schools fear the other schools will get left behind because of this.

Jennifer Maccarone responded that this will enhance the programs already offered in our schools. We are not meeting the needs of all of our students. We have great programs in all of our schools. If we can get more funding we have the opportunity to do other things in other schools. It is not that what we have is not good – it is just that we are not meeting the needs of all of our schools. She will be counting on PC to be able to be the ambassadors for this school to explain to the community why it is important to open this school. We will be able to offer more diversified programs and to enhance our existing programs. If students are going to leave our board in other areas of our territory, they are going to leave. But if they are leaving for other public schools, why can't we take them in this special project school if that is what they need. She went on to say that the new school has nothing to do with addressing problems in other high schools, nothing to do with the merger – it is about offering programs to students whose needs we are not meeting. In addition to meeting the needs of those students leaving our board, it will create employment - administrative positions, teachers, secretaries, caretakers etc.

Souvenir Elementary – Her parents and teachers did not know that they could attend the town hall meetings. Jennifer Maccarone explained that the town halls were preliminary discussion on the Commitment to success plans. All of the governing boards were sent the invitation. The town halls were represented by parents, teachers, community members, alumni and unions. The discussion of the 240 school was a very small part of the commitment of success plan consultation. What everyone received now is the consultation.

In response to a comment from Rosemere High, Jennifer Maccarone responded that the governing boards were consulted on the 240 school for transparency but it is the parent voice that really counts.

Twin Oaks Elementary voted against it – they feel they did not have enough information and no one to be able to answer questions. Jennifer explained that this new school will not take financing from other schools. If we are approved for it, the financing will come from the government. She went on to say that this school cannot be compared to the previous ALP program at Mother Teresa as it is not the same program at all.

WHEREAS the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board (SWLSB) has informed the Parents Committee of the ongoing declining student enrolment and is seeking support to maintain and increase enrolment in its schools;

WHEREAS, over a number of years families have elected to leave the SWLSB for other educational programs;

WHEREAS the SWLSB wishes to retain and/or repatriate students who have elected to leave the SWLSB;

WHEREAS the parents of the SWLSB feel that the school board has always been open to the ideas and opinions of parents, especially with respect to the educational priorities;

WHEREAS the SWLSB wishes to improve its enriched program offerings in order to meet the needs of a diverse student population;

WHEREAS section 240 of the Education Act states

“By way of exception, at the request of a group of parents and after consulting with the parents’ committee, a school board may, with the Minister’s approval, establish a school for the purposes of a specific project other than a religious project, subject to the conditions and for the period determined by the Minister.

The school board may determine the criteria for the enrollment of the students in that school.”

WHEREAS the SWLSB is confident that a Special Project School will fulfill these needs;

WHEREAS the SWLSB wishes to establish a school under section 240 based on an educational project focused on a specific pedagogical approach or on a specific program and on a particular organization of the curriculum;

PC20180607-03 Souvenir Elementary MOVED THAT that the Sir Wilfrid Laurier Parents Committee recommend to the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board that the Interim Director General be mandated to take the necessary steps to apply to the Ministère de l’Éducation et de l’Enseignement supérieur for a special Project School based on the provisions established under section 240 of the Education Act for public education. Seconded by St. Jude Elementary

AND THAT, after consultation, the Council determine the purpose and location of the Special Project School.

This motion was CARRIED on the following division:

For: Hillcrest Acad, Joliette High, Laval Junior Acad, Laval Senior Acad, McCaig Elem,
Mountainview Elem, Rawdon Elem, Souvenir Elem, St. Jude Elem, St. Vincent Elem,
Ste-Agathe Acad, Terry Fox Elem

Against: Laurentian Regional High, Rosemere High, Twin Oaks Elem
Abstain: Laurentia Elem

4.2 Subcommittee Facebook page project

As per discussion from last month concerning the website, the subcommittee met virtually and discussed the project of a Facebook page during a conference call held on Sunday, May 20th at 8:00 pm (Present: Amber, Bob, Lisa)

DECISION: It would be more beneficial to PC to maintain a FB page than conduct a FB group within the page. Our goal is not to start conversations on FB within groups, but rather to REPLACE the website as a tool for posting interesting and relevant content for the parents of SWLSB.

Benefits of using a FB page for PC:

- A FB page is a free platform that is extremely user-friendly for posting information to and accessing information from.
- A FB page can be 'searchable' using key words (for example, to locate an older post)
- A FB page is easy to monitor and regulate by appointing a page administrator or administrators (only admins can post to the page)
- Easy to create posts that link up to SWLSB website for PC minutes
- Easy to create posts that link up to interesting content online (from any platform) relevant to parents
- Parents or individuals who follow the page can leave comments below posts, but these comments can be regulated or require approval before they can be publicly posted

Logistics of maintaining the page:

- In any given school year, a minimum of two (2) Page Administrators should be appointed (they only need to have knowledge of how to post on FB). The Administrators are responsible for ensuring that content posted to the page is relevant and appropriate.
- In addition to the page administrators, a small group of "Content Creators" will be appointed. The Content Creators can also be page admins, or these can be different individuals.
- Content Creators can take turns being responsible for posting content to the page on an alternating monthly basis (schedule to be determined at the beginning of the school year)
- In any particular month, a posting schedule shall be established (e.g. 5 posts per week) and topics for content posting can be planned out in advance in consultation with the Social Media Sub-Committee and PC (can be thematic seasonal topics).
- In a given month, the Content Creator can use free versions of tools such as Hoot suite or Buffer to schedule posts in advance for the week, so they are published at opportune times throughout the week.

Guidelines for posting content:

At the beginning of the 2018-2019 school year, once the Social Media Sub-Committee has been appointed, the group must work on creating an internal document for PC with respect to guidelines for posting content on PC's FB page. This can be a PC created document, and/or be in conjunction with any SWLSB document that currently exists on this topic. The document can then be presented to PC and approved at the next meeting.

As a means to brainstorm for this document, here are a few guidelines and procedures that could be discussed:

- All content posted to the PC FB page should be relevant and informative to parents of the SWLSB. (We must define what this means.)
- If the post contains a link to an online article or blog that doesn't originate from the SWLSB website or SWLSB FB page OR the FB page of a SWLSB school, the link must be verified by the Content Creator to ensure that the reading material does not contain any defamatory, sexual, crude, racist, gender-phobic, homophobic or otherwise inappropriate content (both images and text associated with the link).
- Over time, a list of reliable websites and sources of online content can be documented and inventoried and become part of a running list of "approved" sources for content creation, thereby reducing the risk of unreliable information and facilitating the task of finding and posting relevant information to the PC FB page.

In response to a question from St. Jude – schools can send content through a FB message to those posting on page to be approved and then posted.

In response to a question from Laval Junior Academy, only those responsible for page would be able to post thus maintaining privacy.

In a follow up question on the terms and conditions, McCaig Elementary responded that there is nothing in Facebook that goes against our policies. As far as worry of datamining - there is not that much data that can be taken from a Facebook page.

In response to a question from Twin Oaks, on the process it have to go through to be approved, McCaig Elementary explained that for the new PC year, a committee will be chosen and guidelines and parameters will be put into place for posting. The content will be presented to all of PC for approval. This page will not be about opinions, it will be curating interesting content, successes and events in schools.

In response to a comment from Mountainview, the FB page would be to share information. It would not be a page duplicating information coming from the school board page.

The point of the PC page is to make all parents aware of what their representatives are doing and to share what other schools are doing.

PC20180607-04 Twin Oaks Elementary MOVED THAT the parents committee will create a FB page. Seconded by Laval Senior Academy.

Carried UNANIMOUSLY

4.3 Consultation on school complaints

The chairperson read a letter received from Stephanie Krenn on the consultation on complaints.

5. NEW BUSINESS

5.1 Consultation – Commitment-to-Success Plan 2018-2022

In members packages.

Page 3 – why are only the coded students talked about and not all those with an IEP? Jennifer responded that this document followed a form and guidelines from the government but that there is no reason that students with IEPs cannot be included.

Page 10 – It is unclear if the number of students with difficulty codes are included in the number of students with IEPs. Jennifer responded that yes they are.

Page 14 – clarification on the paragraph beginning with “during the next three years”.... This paragraph seems like there is less weight given to those students without codes. Jennifer replied that EHDA applies to coded and non-coded students. She will see that it is better worded so that it is clear that all at risk students are included.

Make page numbers in white font rather than black.

Page 19 - Orientation number 1 – retaining and supporting high quality teams – Sainte-Agathe Academy commented that we need to get the high quality staff before we can retain them.

Twin Oaks commented that the format of document is difficult to follow – it has no flow. It needs an introduction and a table of contents. In addition the acronyms used are not defined. There needs to be a consistent use of key words.

In response to a comment from St Jude, the fundraising of each school and how to spend money is more of a school based decision.

Laval Junior Academy will send their comments on the consultation document to the Chairperson to be included.

PC20180607-05 Souvenir Elementary MOVED THAT the Commitment-to-Success Plan 2018-2022 document is approved taking into consideration the above comments and those of LJA. Seconded by Sainte-Agathe Academy.

This motion was CARRIED on the following division:
 For: Hillcrest Acad, Joliette High, Laval Junior Acad, Laval Senior Acad, McCaig Elem,
 Mountainview Elem, Rawdon Elem, Rosemere High, Souvenir Elem, St. Jude Elem,
 St. Vincent Elem, Ste-Agathe Acad, Terry Fox Elem, Twin Oaks Elem
 Abstain: Laurentia Elem, Laurentian Regional High

5.2 SEAC membership

PC20180607-06 Rawdon Elementary MOVED THAT the parents committee recommends that Lisa Mosher of Pierre E. Trudeau Elementary be delegated to the SEAC for a 2-year term for school years 2018-2019, 2019-2020. Seconded by St. Jude Elementary.

Carried UNANIMOUSLY

6. REPORTS

6.1 School Board Report

- Great news! A Sport etudes program will be at Laval Senior Academy and Laval Junior Academy next year. Thank you to all those involved in the application process. Hopefully this will be able to attract students to these schools.
- In the process of looking for a new Director General.
- Last week we inaugurated Construc Plus – the new multi service centre, a first of its kind in the province. It is a bilingual centre that offers 5 vocational programs. It was great to see so many women in the program. The 5 programs are painting, plumbing, carpentry, welding, and cement. We received significant funding from both governments for this project. It is great for students who will be able to have the ability to study in both languages and this will make them more marketable. The building is beyond beautiful! If anyone is interested they can sign up for Student for a day.
- Bill 185 passed – The commissioners' term has been extended to 2020. This gives the government two years to improve the election process – ie: able to vote online.
- New budget rules were just deposited. The major change is the validation process for special needs students. There will be no more need to do validations. Instead the funding will be given according to the trend of the school board. They will give us what we have had in the past 4-5 years.
- Schools supply changes will be coming shortly. Some budget will come from the government – about \$25 per student. The major change will be that schools will no longer be able to charge for field trips – this will be challenging on the system.
- In response to a question from LRHS – in the future, someone will come prepared with budget when it comes to big projects – ie: International students

6.2 Chair Report

Have a great summer!

The committee thanks Carla who members feel did a stellar job.

6.3 Treasurer's Report

Sent to members.

Committee is in healthy shape.

PC20180607-07 Laval Junior Academy MOVED THAT the Parents Committee will purchase 10 tickets to the Lobster Gala. Seconded by Ste Agathe Academy.

Carried UNANIMOUSLY

6.4 Parent Commissioners Report

On behalf of Sergio and himself, Bob thanked the PC members.

Council highlights in package.

Parents committee thanks Sergio and Bob. This is Sergio's last meeting. We wish him great success and hope to see him again.

6.5 RCP-3L Report

Report in package.

6.6 SEAC

No report.

6.7 EPCA Report

Report in package.

7. VARIA

7.1 Taxes collected on school fees

There are no taxes on school fees.

Jennifer Maccarone will read the question submitted on this and get back to the Chair.

7.2 School Board Elections

Laval Junior Academy questioned what strategies we will do to inform parents about school elections.

Jennifer Maccarone responded that QESBA is working on a strategic plan to inform stakeholders about board elections. In addition, the government will be providing some funding so that we can do publicity on elections and promote what a school board and elected officials do.

QESBA is working with the DGEQ to establish a process of online voting over the next two years.

Now that the elections are postponed for two years, if the current commissioners do not want to continue we will follow the same nomination process as we did when Robert Dixon left. A call for candidates will be made. The candidates will present themselves to council and PC and PC will recommend and Council will have the final decision.

7.3 Request to the MEES to withdraw the provision for recovery of the school transportation surplus from the proposed 2018-2018 budgetary rules.

We have been diligent with transportation costs resulting in a surplus. We have been using this surplus in regions where extra transportation financing is needed. The MEES wants to take back 50% of this surplus of transportation. Council worked and they have defeated this and the ministry has now retracted their request.

8. QUESTION PERIOD

In response to a question from Souvenir Elementary, if there are field trips, schools will not be allowed to charge parents for them. The government will give about \$25 per student for this. In most of our regions, this will not cover more than a bus. The governing board has the say on where the \$25 per child is spent for field trips. This will be a deficit for our system. We are working on a plan on how to be able to support field trips. This will also affect all of the places that students take these trips as schools will not be able to afford to go to them. It will also have an impact on some of our specialty programs in schools. More information on this will be forthcoming.

Commissioner Guy Gagnon asked if members know that there is going to be a voice camp in Rosemere and Laval during the summer. See the SWLSB Facebook page for more information.

9. ADJOURNMENT

Have a great summer – see you in October

Winners of the Lobster Gala tickets - St Jude Elementary, Souvenir Elementary, Mountainview Elementary, Laval Senior Academy, Laval Junior Academy, Rosemere High, Joliette High, Laurentia Elementary, Hillcrest Academy and Terry Fox Elementary. Alternates are Sainte Agathe Academy and Parent Commissioner Sergio Di Marco

PC20180607-08 Terry Fox Elementary MOVED THAT the meeting is closed at 9:55 p.m. Seconded by Souvenir Elementary.

Carried UNANIMOUSLY

Minutes approved _____, 2018

Chairperson

Secretary

Respectfully submitted by:
Susan O'Keeffe, Recording Secretary