

Notes of the special meeting of the 2018-2019 Sir Wilfrid Laurier Parents Committee held on Wednesday, October 17th, 2018 at 7:30 pm in the Directorate room of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board, 235 Montée Lesage, Rosemère, Québec.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Charbel Mourad	Hillcrest Academy	Frank D'Onofrio	Pinewood Elementary (via teleconf)
Bob Pellerin	Joliette High	Amber Lawrence	Rawdon Elementary (via teleconf)
Adam Gordon	Lake of Two Mountains High	Carla Tosti	Rosemere High
Tara Anderson	Laurentia Elementary	Effie Kontakos	Souvenir Elementary
Don Beverly	Laurentian Regional High	Mike Panichella	St. Paul Elementary
Tony Beliotis	Laval Junior Academy	Mary Ann Barillaro	St. Vincent Elementary
Lisa Cipriani	McCaig Elementary (via teleconf)	Billie Chasiotis	Terry Fox Elementary
Aniarys Torralba Parra	Pierre E. Trudeau Elementary (via teleconf)	Anna Manousakos	Twin Oaks Elementary (via teleconf)

ALSO PRESENT: Stephanie Krenn, Interim Director of Corporate Affairs and Secretary General

ABSENT: Arundel Elementary, Crestview Elementary, Franklin Hill Elementary, Genesis Elementary, Grenville Elementary, John F Kennedy Elementary, Joliette Elementary, Jules Verne Elementary, Laurentian Elementary, Laval Senior Academy, Morin Heights Elementary, Mountainview Elementary, Our Lady of Peace Elementary, St. Jude Elementary, Ste-Adele Elementary, Ste-Agathe Academy, SEAC Representative

The Chairperson called the meeting to order at 7:45 pm

1. WELCOME

The chairperson welcomed the members to the discussion and explained the process. Members were asked to give their comments in a round table discussion. Only positive comments would be heard about each candidate. She went on to explain that the Parents Committee was asked to make a recommendation to the Council following the presentation of the two candidates for Chairperson, Ailsa Pehi and Paolo Galati. The Council would hear the recommendation but the ultimate decision was theirs and the person recommended may or may not be retained by them.

The Chairperson also explained that Parents Committee could choose not to recommend and let the council decide on their own.

Laval Junior MOVED THAT Parents Committee will make a recommendation to Council for the position of Chairperson and that the vote would be done by secret ballot. Seconded by Terry Fox Elementary.

This motion was CARRIED on the following division:

For: Hillcrest Acad, Joliette High, Lake of Two Mountains High, Laurentia Elem, Laval Junior Acad, McCaig Elem, Pierre E Trudeau Elem, Pinewood Elem, Rawdon Elem, Rosemere High, Souvenir Elem, St. Paul Elem, St. Vincent Elem, Terry Fox elem, Twin Oaks Elem.

Against: Laurentian Regional High

2. CHAIRPERSON RECOMMENDATION

All members mentioned that they feel it is important for Parents Committee to make a recommendation. They feel they are representatives of their school community and it is important that their voice be heard. Several members felt that the short time allotted to each candidate was not enough time to get to know them so they do not feel in a position to choose and will look for guidance from other members. Both candidates have different strengths and are very passionate and knowledgeable and it will be difficult to choose one. Three of the members of PC who were at the meeting via teleconference could not hear Ailsa's presentation so find it difficult to recommend. Some of the other comments were:

- LRHS: Leadership is key in the Chairperson position and we should choose the best person to lead.
- LJA and Saint Paul feel that Council has worked with them and are in the best position to choose. They know their weaknesses, strengths, and they feel Council should have the final say.
- JHS: Has worked with both candidates and they have parallel paths, but members should respect what the Council decides.
- LTMHS: Feels one candidate stands out more, but does not know how they work behind closed doors.

Laurentia Elementary asked the Chairperson to read the CVs.

Members were curious why the Chairperson received the CVs so late. Mrs. Krenn explained that they were waiting to hear about one candidate for commissioner to see if they were eligible to run and did not hear until the end of the day.

The Chairperson asked members what they would like to know off the candidates CVs. Joliette High went on to say that, perhaps just

their current position and anything relating to what they have done for education.

Mrs. Krenn explained the mandate of commissioners and chairperson to the members. They work on many aspects of the functioning of school boards ranging from material to human resources, adopting the budget, the commitment to success plan, ratifying policies after consultation. The council has an extensive role and is the political piece of the school board, the decisional body where they approve almost everything that the board does. The Chairperson is the leader but does not decide alone. The Chairperson automatically assumes a seat on the Executive Committee. They are the spokesperson for the board.

Hillcrest Academy went on to say one very important aspect of the Chairperson position is to bring together both the political and non-political arm of the school board and to make everyone feel safe. A good chairperson will be able to accomplish this.

The Chairperson read the relevant points of the CVs to members.

- Ailsa Pehi has 20 years of experience in administration and accounting.
- Paolo Galati is in the entertainment industry, produces the Laurier Gala and is a city councillor at the Ville de Laval. He has a Bachelor's degree in Marketing and Economics from Concordia University.

In response to a question from Souvenir Elementary, Joliette High responded that both candidates were vetted and there is no conflict of interest with one of them being a Laval city councillor and a chairperson.

McCaig Elementary has had the pleasure of seeing both candidates in the real world. Equally, on both sides they are very active in their communities. She went on to mention the strengths of Ailsa as being very implicated, steps up to the plate last minute, well spoken, goes to PC a lot. Paolo has been around at the GB level, he is well spoken, always prepared and thinks quickly on his feet. He can network and has many connections. They are both excellent candidates.

Souvenir Elementary stated that it is clear that they are both good candidates. The chairperson is the face of the school board and must represent them in a positive light. They must be able to speak well and on the spot.

Joliette High assured members that they both have strengths in speaking.

Hillcrest Academy asked the chair that once the recommendation is made that we tell the council that it was based on a secret vote and give the count.

The committee entered into a secret vote – the members on the phone will text Carla their vote. Mrs. Krenn will act as scrutineer.

Recommendation:

After a secret ballot vote, the Parents Committee recommends Paolo Galati with a division of 10 to 6. The Parents Committee wishes both candidates success and are confident they will both do well in the future.

In response to a question from St. Vincent Elementary, Mrs. Krenn advised members that it is wiser to wait until the Council ratifies the vote on October 24. The Chairperson explained to members that they were invited to listen to the candidates but that the recommendation will not be approved by the council until October 24 and should they discuss it at their schools and council takes a different direction then they would not have given correct information.

3. ADJOURNMENT

Rosemere High MOVED THAT the meeting is closed at 8:51 p.m. Seconded by Laval Junior Academy.

Carried UNANIMOUSLY

Respectfully submitted by:
Susan O'Keeffe, Recording Secretary