

Minutes of the sixth (6th) meeting of the 2018-2019 Sir Wilfrid Laurier Parents' Committee held on Thursday, April 4th, 2019 at 7:15 p.m. in the Boardroom of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board, 235 Montée Lesage, Rosemère, Québec.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Dalia Ceron Gonzalez	Franklin Hill Elementary	Cynthia Ronci	Mountainview Elementary
Charbel Mourad	Hillcrest Academy	Frank D'Onofrio	Pinewood Elementary
Damiano Ferraro	John F Kennedy Elementary	Amber Lawrence	Rawdon Elementary
Richard Alary	Joliette High	Carla Tosti	Rosemere High
Adam Garonce	Jules Verne Elementary	Effie Kontakos	Souvenir Elementary
Adam Gordon	Lake of Two Mountains High	Mike Panichella	St. Paul Elementary,
Tara Anderson	Laurentia Elementary	Christine Flynn	St. Jude Elementary
Don Beverly	Laurentian Regional High	Bernard Sharpe	Ste-Adele Elementary
Douglas Howarth	Laval Senior Academy	Billie Chasiotis	Terry Fox Elementary
Lisa Cipriani	McCaig Elementary	Nathalie Codner	Twin Oaks Elementary

ALSO PRESENT: Gaëlle Absolonne, Director General; Paolo Galati, Chairperson; Vicky Kaliozakis, Emilio Migliozi, Commissioners; Donna Abel, Assistant Director of Financial Services; Michael Quinn, Assistant Director of Pedagogical Services; Elaine Dalbec, Pedagogical Consultant

ABSENT: Arundel Elementary, Crestview Elementary, Genesis Elementary, Grenville Elementary, Joliette Elementary, Laurentian Elementary, Laval Junior Academy, Morin Heights Elementary, Pierre E. Trudeau Elementary, Our Lady of Peace Elementary, St. Vincent Elementary, Ste-Agathe Academy, SEAC Representative

The Chairperson called the meeting to order at 7:15 pm

1. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Add:

- 7.1 School Taxes
- 7.2 Bill 21
- 7.3 New Homeschooling policy
- 7.4 Communication from schools to parents
- 7.5 PC minutes on school board website

PC20190404-01 Rawdon Elementary MOVED THAT the agenda be accepted with additions. Seconded by St. Jude Elementary

Carried **UNANIMOUSLY**

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES of March 14, 2019

Rawdon Elementary was present at the last meeting.

7.1 Typo - should say passion instead of passionate

PC20190404-02 Laurentia Elementary MOVED THAT the minutes of March 4, 2019 be accepted with corrections. Seconded by Laval Senior Academy

This motion was CARRIED on the following division:

For: Franklin Hill Elem, Jules Verne Elem, Lake of Two Mountains High, Laurentia Elem, Laurentian Regional High, Laval Senior Acad, Rawdon Elem, Rosemere High, Souvenir Elem, St Jude Elem, Twin Oaks Elem

Abstain: John F. Kennedy Elem, Joliette High, McCaig Elem, Mountainview Elem, Pinewood Elem

Terry Fox entered the meeting at 7:22; St-Paul entered the meeting at 7:23; Hillcrest Academy entered the meeting at 7:24

3. QUESTION PERIOD

4. BUSINESS ARISING

4.1 Budget Building 2019-2020

1 You are: **Parents' Committee Chairperson**

2 If you are a Governing Board Chair, what is your school or centre? If you are not, please go to the next question.

Respondent skipped this question

3 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 **Very 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 **Not so important**

4 If the MEES supplemental allocations ("mesures") 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?

- 15011 AGIR AUTREMENT - Support local initiatives and implement intervention strategies in elementary and high schools (IMSE 8, 9, 10) **Keep**
- 15012 SOCIAL SOLIDARITY - Purchase of food and beverages respecting the orientations of the politique-cadre Pour un virage sante à l'école ; breakfast, lunch, and snacks **Keep**
- 15014 SECONDARY AIDE - Support Math, Science, Technology, and ELA for students at risk at High Schools **Keep**
- 15015 READING AND WRITING - Resources for learning strategies for literacy and numeracy at the elementary level (K-1-2) **Keep**
- 15016 BREAKFAST PROGRAM - Provide breakfast to pre-school and elementary (IMSE 8,9,10) School needs to apply on their own **Keep**
- 15021 INDIVIDUALIZED HELP - Homework support for regular and at risk students. It may also focus on support for parents **Keep**
- 15022 WELLNESS - ACTIVE YOUTH - Promotion of healthy lifestyle, physical activities including extra-curricular activities **Keep**
- 15023 ON THE MOVE - Promotion of physical activities, minimally 60 minutes/day. Schools must adhere to the Programme Force 4 du Grand Defi Pierre Lavoie **Let go**
- 15024 PARENTS ACTIVITIES - Support to parents, promotion of school life and challenges. Organization of speakers, conferences on the topic of cognitive development, academics (Math, ELA).. **Let go**
- 15025 STARTING RIGHT - Support to elementary students (K-1) At the K level, technical resource is provided 1/day week whereas grade 1 level, a resource teacher or professional 2 days/week **Keep**
- 15026 SECONDARY SUPPORT - Support vulnerable high school students, to prevent dropouts, intimidation, and drugs/alcohol usage. **Keep**
- 15027 HELPING HAND - Support planning for vulnerable youth in elementary grades 2 to 6. Aide pour la mise en oeuvre des plans d'intervention. Allocation à priori. **Keep**
- 15031 ANTI-BULLYING - Promote ABAV plan, foster a safe and conducive learning environment **Keep**
- 15103 READ IN SCHOOL - Purchase books, resources, reading materials (numerical or printed) **Keep**
- 15166 ADULT ED SUPPORT Funding for new or current professional resources to support FGA students with special needs. **Keep**
- 15170 SCHOOL INITIATIVES - Stimulate school initiatives (support to at risk students, literacy and numeracy, technology, intercultural education, well-being activities, pd for teachers, transition activities) **Keep**
- 15186 SCHOOL OUTING - Relaunch school trips in cultural milieu. Also available for Adult education. **Keep**
- 15197 VOCATIONAL EDUCATION SUPPORT - Funding for new or current professional resources to support VOC ED students with special needs. **Keep**
- 15200 CPR TRAINING SECONDARY III STUDENTS - For CPR course in Sec. 3. **Keep**
- 15212 ACQUISITION OF BOOKS (YOUTH) - Purchase of books for pre-school and elementary, cycle 1. Promote the pleasure of reading, starting to write and development of reading competencies. **Keep**
- 15214 EDUCATIONAL MATERIAL 4-YR - Purchase of educational resources for K4 authorized by the Minister. **Keep**

- 15230 INSPIRING SCHOOL - To expose students to various activities, field trips and projects to stimulate their talents and abilities. To expose students to culture, science, physical and entrepreneurial activities or specific projects. **Keep**
- 15312 INTEGRATION EHDAA - Support for special needs students integrating into regular settings, promote safe learning environment, enhance social development, and all other initiatives promoting learning. May also be used to coordinate ABAV **Keep**
- 15510 SMALL SCHOOLS - Support for small schools **Keep**
- 15540 VILLAGE SCHOOLS - Improve the quality of teaching, support the classrooms, and promote the socialization of students **Keep**
- 15560 SMALL COMMUNITIES - Enrich small community schools **Keep**

5 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?

- Plans for playground and additional resources; Better maintenance of school yards winter and summer;
- Techno-pedagogical materials;
- Safety on School Buses: increase numbers of cameras and/or qualified supervisor for problematic buses;
- Technical maintenance of technology;
- Social workers in schools, add behavior tech/support staff.

6 Please choose 1 budgetary priority in line with the Commitment-to-Success Plan: Orientation 1: **Retain and support quality employees: Professional development**

7 Please choose 1 budgetary priority in line with the Commitment-to-Success Plan: Orientation 2: **Offer students a variety of choices through 21st century programs and curriculum: Techno-pedagogical tools**

8 Please choose 1 budgetary priority in line with the Commitment-to-Success Plan: Orientation 3: **Develop a learning and working environment that promotes health, safety and well-being. Building repair and maintenance**

9 Please choose 1 budgetary priority in line with the Commitment-to-Success Plan: Orientation 4: **Increase the level of literacy competencies among the adult population on the school board's territory: Night programs/flexible programs**

10 Please choose 1 budgetary priority in line with the Commitment-to-Success Plan: Orientation 5: **Engage students in physical activities 60 minutes a day. Sporting materials and equipment**

11 Would you see any other topics to prioritize in any of the 5 orientations that were not mentioned above?

- Multi-sensory adapted indoor/outdoor equipment for students with special needs;
- Arts Education;
- Educational materials: toys for K.

St Jude Elementary commented that the historical data choice is on the paper version of the survey but is not an option on the online survey. The Director General will verify.

Sainte Adele Academy entered the meeting by VCU at 7:56

PC20190404-03 Laval Senior Academy MOVED THAT the Budget Building 2019-2020 survey document be approved. Seconded by Lake of Two Mountains High.

Carried UNANIMOUSLY

Rosemere High left the meeting at 8:15

4.2 Policy on School Fees Charged to Parents – Youth Sector

Unclear in 6.1.5 -Put a period after musical instruments and make head phones a different sentence.

PC20190404-04 Joliette High MOVED THAT the School Fees Charged to Parents document be approved with the noted correction. Seconded by Souvenir Elementary.

Carried UNANIMOUSLY

4.3 Addendum – E-vote

Tabled to next meeting.

5. NEW BUSINESS

5.1 Sexuality Education - Presentation

Welcome to Michael Quinn, Assistant Director of Pedagogical Services and Elaine Dalbec, Pedagogical consultant who are here to present an overview on the new sexuality education program. The PowerPoint for this presentation is in members packages.

- This program is compulsory in all the schools in the province in this year.
- In response to a question from Laurentian Regional High, online sexual content is a topic in the program.
- In response to a question from Laurentia Elementary, there will be teacher training – the teachers who are comfortable will likely be teaching it, but they have applied for a PDIG to have workshops for all who are teaching it. There has already been training and it has been well received. They have asked all teachers in schools for topics that are important so there is a game plan for next year. Could there be info sessions for parents – some sort of a bridge for parents who don't understand what is being taught in school. There are downloadable pdfs of the material being taught at school. Fondation Marie Vincent are coming in to give training sessions to teachers and administrators. There is a lot of sharing practices between the schools as well.
- In response to a question from Hillcrest Academy, the school decides which teacher will teach it. There could be a variety of teachers teaching and making sure all subject areas are covered. Michael Quinn remarked that the schools have found innovative ways to teach this – it is a school-based decision on when and how it will be taught.
- In response to a question from Laval Senior Academy, there will be workshops and information sessions given to high schools starting this year and moving into next year. Relationship consent is covered a lot in the program. Gender identity and gender expression was the number one topic for more professional development and they have found a trainer for it.
- In response to a question from Franklin Hill, the Fondation Marie Vincent will come to train staff and this training will give the staff the decision making tools to be able to handle disclosure.
- Parents have a vital role in this teaching. There will be bulletins that will be sent to parents with information on what is taught to students. Members asked if these bulletins could it be sent by e-mail as some kids don't bring papers home.
- In response to a question from Laurentian Regional High, the governing boards are not responsible to approve the topics of the course but the approach that it will be taught. There will be 5 to 15 hours per year.
- In response to a question from Mountainview Elementary, the in school administrator should be the go to person to make sure it is being taught. There will be an end of year report. There is no evaluation for students on this.
- In a follow-up question from Mountainview Elementary, when there is a lack of professional resources in the schools, or there is no one available who speaks English, the head office needs to know so that they can follow up on it and make sure there is a professional provided.
- Mr. Quinn explained the process to be exempt from the program. If your child is exempted from the program it is for certain content only, not the entire class, and the exemption process must be done every year.

In response to a comment from the Council Chair on the statistics stated in the UNESCO video, Mr. Quinn responded that the stats are verifiable. He went on to say that, it is important that they are verifiable.

6. REPORTS

6.1 School Board's Report

Director General

- In the process of recruiting personnel.
- Governing board training session was held on budget and school fees.
- April 16 there will be a SEAC conference on Ways to support language development. It will be offered at the head office and you can watch it online from home.

- Voc Ed training programs coming up. Some are in partnership with Commission scolaire de Laval. It is good to have partnerships with other school boards; it gives us the opportunity to offer more programs. Please promote our Voc Ed in your schools.
- There is a contest to celebrate the successes of women in men based Voc Ed programs – we have 4 girls from our centre who were nominated for this prize.
- Hydro Quebec Science Fair – 25 students from Laval Senior Academy and Rosemere High won a total of 44 awards. A testament to the quality of teaching in our schools.
- Autism awareness month is April.

The Director General will send her PowerPoint presentation to the Chairperson to send to members.

Many members mentioned that the e-mail sent out for the SEAC workshop had no attachment or information on it. The subject line stated February 19 rather than April. It seems that the parents are not receiving the proper information for SEAC conferences.

Souvenir Elementary mentioned that some employees in her school did not receive the initial information about the new messaging system so opted out when they received the text. The Director General will verify this.

Hillcrest Academy praised the Director General on the meet and greet. In response to a question, all of the candidates who arrived for the meet and greet had the proper qualifications.

John F Kennedy remarked that for the Voc Ed program on Construction Business management, the translation of the exam at the Regie du batiment is very poor and it makes it difficult for the English students to pass it. The Director General will look into this.

Council Chairperson

- Attended the ASL Leadership Summit, which was a very inspiring day. He would like to thank the organizers and team who prepare these events.
- Council passed a resolution to strongly oppose Bill 21
- Week of April 22 is Secretaries week

In response to a question from Laurentian Regional High, the Council Chair responded that until the bill has passed at the National Assembly there are no further actions planned.

6.2 Chair's Report

No report this month

6.3 Treasurer's Report

In members package.

CDC Vimont has approached the Parents' Committee to ask that there be two awards given to the centre – CDC Vimont and CDC Lachute have two separate graduations, as they are two different entities.

PC20180404-05 Souvenir Elementary MOVED THAT there be a graduating award given to CDC Lachute, and that the Chairperson should purchase the large plaque for the school and the individual plaque for the student. Seconded by Lake of Two Mountains High.

Carried UNANIMOUSLY

In response to a question from Hillcrest Academy, the decision on where to spend the balance of the PC money will be done in May or June.

6.4 Parent Commissioner's Report

In members package.

St Jude Elementary would like a clarification concerning the comments made under Varia in the minutes of the council meeting of February. At this meeting, Commissioner Anne McMullon asked for a clarification on whose responsibility it was to advise the council of the resignation of Hillcrest Academy as the parent commissioner. Commissioner Bob Pellerin asks if it could be the secretary of Parents' Committee and asks should a complaint be filed against her. St Jude Elementary held that position last year and is curious as to what it entails when a complaint is filed against a PC member and wonders why it would have been the responsibility of the PC secretary to advise council on this resignation.

The Council Chairperson responded that there was confusion as to who should have advised council on Hillcrest Academy's resignation when it occurred. He will send the clarification to the PC Chairperson.

McCaig Elementary went on to say that, she wondered if her integrity is being questioned and asked if he was referring to the PC secretary or the recording secretary as these two positions are often confused. She has asked the Council Chairperson directly for clarification and he again responded that he would look into it.

Souvenir Elementary is concerned what the optics are for either the secretary or the recording secretary as this statement is in the public minutes and makes either one look bad. She asked if this sentence could be removed from the minutes. The Director General explained that these minutes reflect what was said in the meeting so they cannot be changed, but she will have the statement clarified.

St Jude Elementary would like to know what the result of a complaint against a parent member would look like. The Director General does not think that this has ever happened.

It was made clear that it is not the responsibility of the Parents' Committee to advise Council on the resignation of a parent commissioner, but the Parents' Committee is very uncomfortable with this statement in the minutes, for either the secretary or the recording secretary and would like it clarified.

PC20180404-06 Souvenir Elementary MOVED THAT at 10 p.m. the meeting be extended 15 minutes. Seconded by Lake of Two Mountains High.

Carried UNANIMOUSLY

6.5 RCP-3L Report

In members package.

6.6 SEAC Report

In members package.

6.7 EPCA (English Parents Committee Association)

In members package.

Given that our current Quebec government has on numerous occasions stated that they plan on the abolishment of the current school board system and have referred to it in the School Governance Plan, the EPCA would like to seek the permission from all of its Parent's Committees across Quebec to join with the other Anglophone partners of Quebec to take a stand to protect our constitutional rights to manage our school boards.

It is mainly the same thing EPCA did for Bill 86, Bill 105 and are doing for Bill 21. These other groups include Quebec Federation of Home and Schools (QFHSA), Quebec Community Group Network (QCGN), Quebec English School Board Association (QESBA), Quebec Provincial Association of Teachers (QPAT), the Town-shippers and West Quebecers to name a few.

There is no legal and/or financial entanglements for EPCA, QCGN and QESBA; they have applied for grants from Heritage Canada to cover the cost of any legal fees, press conferences, material for parents and community and anything else that may come up.

We need to stand together in solidarity. The Anglophone community sent the Liberals a VERY STRONG MESSAGE regarding Bill 86 and Bill 105 that we will not let them take our constitutional rights to run our school boards away from the parents and Anglophone community.

The Anglophone parents, community, teachers and school boards put our children's well-being and success first. The CAQ's Bill 21 and the upcoming governance bill is sending the wrong message to our students. We need to fight for their future and our community.

PC20180404-07 Laurentia Elementary MOVED THAT the Sir Wilfrid Laurier Parents' Committee support the English Parents' Committee Association in joining the other Anglophone partners to take a stand to protect our constitutional rights to manage our school boards. Seconded by Souvenir Elementary.

This motion was CARRIED on the following division:

For: Franklin Hill Elem, Hillcrest Elem, John F. Kennedy Elem, Joliette High, Lake of Two Mountains High, Laurentia Elem, Laval Senior Acad, McCaig Elem, Mountainview Elem, Pinewood Elem, Rawdon Elem, Souvenir Elem, St. Paul Elem, St Jude Elem, Ste-Adele Elem, Terry Fox Elem, Twin Oaks Elem

Abstain: Laurentian Regional High, Jules Verne Elem

6.8 Face Book Page

Going well.

Please like the page and invite people.

The FB committee would like to add two sources to the approved list for posting on the page.

Sensory Spectrum.com and Greatschools.org

PC20180404-08 Laurentia Elementary MOVED THAT links from these two organizations be approved to be posted on the PC Facebook page. Seconded by Souvenir Elementary.

Carried **UNANIMOUSLY**

7. VARIA

7.1 School Taxes

In response to a question from Laval Senior Academy on how it will affect the education in schools and daycare with the reduction of taxes, Donna Abel, Assistant Director of Financial Resources responded that the MEES gives us the amount of taxes we need to collect based on the number of students in our school board. These taxes pay salaries at the head office and in schools. If we cannot collect the amount that the MEES tells us to collect, the government tops us up with the difference not collected.

7.2 Bill 21

If this bill passes, the existing teachers would be under the grandfather clause. The banning of religious symbols would apply to any new staff.

Terry Fox Elementary noted that if an employee changes school boards they would lose the right to wear them.

7.3 New Homeschooling policy

Rawdon Elementary mentioned that the policies on home schooling were changed and asked what the position of the board is.

The Director General responded that she has not had an opportunity to discuss this with Pedagogical Services yet as it is brand new. She will get the information.

7.4 Communication from schools to parents

Lake of Two Mountains High does not understand the letter that was sent to the parent community today about the rumour at his school. It mentions the word "codes" and many parents find this unclear.

The Director General responded that she was made aware of some posts on Instagram and snapchat that eluded to the fact, through pictures and coding, that there could be a threat to Lake of Two Mountains and Rosemere High. She went on to say that the police were called and it was investigated and it was deemed that there was no threat.

She thanks Lake of Two Mountains for the comment and encourages parents to please ask when they receive information that is not clear.

7.5 PC minutes on school board website

St Jude can't find the PC minutes on the SWLSB website.

The PC Chairperson had to remove the minutes because the web site that was indicated on them is now a porn site. (the website domain name that PC chose not to renew was purchased by another party) She is taking care of removing the website from all of the minutes and they will be put back on as soon as this is done.

8. QUESTION PERIOD

9. ADJOURNMENT

Next meeting – May 2, 2019

PC20190314-09 Souvenir Elementary MOVED THAT the meeting be closed at 10:14 p.m. Seconded by St. Jude Elementary

Carried **UNANIMOUSLY**

Minutes approved _____, 2019

Chairperson

Secretary

Respectfully submitted by:
Susan O'Keeffe, Recording Secretary