Minutes of the sixth (6th) meeting of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier Parents Committee held on Thursday April 3rd, 2003 at 19:30 in the Boardroom of Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board, 235 Montee Lesage, Rosemere, Quebec.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Josée Dumoulin  ARUNDEL ELEM
Delcie Cabral  CRESTVIEW ELEM
Chris Arnaoutelis  HILLCREST ACAD
Dean Dugas  JOLIETTE ELEM
Merle Parkinson  JOLIETTE HIGH
Francisco Couto  JULES VERNE ELEM
Ghislaine Tanner  LAKE OF TWO MOUNT HIGH
Kim Wilson  LAURENTIAN ELEM
Ilene Geringer Smith  LAURENTIAN HIGH
Jack Dos Santos  LAVAL CATHOLIC HIGH
Beverly Schofield  LEWIS KING ELEM
Steve Mitchell  MCCAIQ ELEM
Shelley Sargeant  MORIN HEIGHTS ELEM

Marguerite Aubut  MOUNTAINVIEW ELEM
Guy Goffredo  OUR LADY OF PEACE ELEM
Rudolphe Moley  PIERRE E TRUDEAU ELEM
Mike Pizzola  ROSEMERE HIGH
Mike Possian  SACRED HEART
Domenic Bravi  ST PAUL ELEM
Cathy Humchack  STE AGATHE ACAD
Danielle Gareau  STE ADELE ELEM
Linda Iaconetti  TERRY FOX ELEM
Richard Perrier  TWIN OAKS
Robert Carr  WESTERN LAVAL HIGH

Also present: Giordi Rosa, Director General; Maria Olivier, FCPPQ/3L Representative and members of the public

ABSENT: Genesis Elem, Grenville Elem, Holy Rosary Elem, John F, Kennedy Elem, Laurentia Elem, Rawdon Elem, St. Jude Elem, Robert Vallerand, Deputy Director General and Jocelyne Thompson, Admin. Assistant

The Chairperson called the meeting to order at 7:40 p.m.

1.0 APPROVAL/ADDITIONS to the Agenda:
Add 7.2 Cafeteria Services Update
Add 7.3 Strategic Planning Consultation
Add 7.4 Budget Reductions
Table 4 and 6.1 to next meeting

PC030403-01 Ste-Adele Elementary  MOVED THAT the agenda be accepted with noted changes. Seconded by Twin Oaks Elementary
Carried UNANIMOUSLY

2.0 APPROVAL of Minutes from February 5th, 2003:
In 3.0 clarify that the Chairperson apologized for the length of the “in camera” and not the “in camera” itself.

PC030403-02 Western Laval MOVED THAT the minutes of February 5th, 2003 be accepted with noted correction. Seconded by Morin Heights

This motion was carried on the following division:


Abstain: McCaig Elem, Joliette High, Rosemere High

3.0 QUESTION Period:
Mr. Modlin enquired as to if there were problems with space in the schools in Mascouche. Mr. Rosa responded that a press release was made today announcing that there would be a new school built in Repentigny ready to open in September 2004. He also announced that the Board will receive funding for the extension/renovations at Joliette High School.
Laval Catholic High School thanked Ilene Geringer-Smith for her determination in making sure that Parents Committee members knew that last months meeting had been cancelled. Mrs. Smith apologized on not being able to reach Laurentia Elementary, but stated that several attempts were made.
Lewis King entered the meeting at 7:45 p.m.

4.0 PRESENTATION ON BULLYING & TAXING – E. Maniatis
   Tabled to next meeting

5.0 CHAIRMAN’S Report

   5.1 Report
      See report attached
      The letter from the PC on clarification of the enrolment criteria is attached.

   5.2 Correspondence
      As distributed

6.0 BUSINESS Arising:

   6.1 SWLSB Drug Intervention Policy
      Tabled to next meeting

7.0 NEW Business:

   7.1 SWLSB Proposed Budget Consultation
      Mr. Rosa distributed an information document on the proposed budget for the 2003-2004 school year. Members are
      asked to read over this document with their schools GB and come back with ideas. The Parents Committee must
      submit their ideas by May 15th, 2003. Mr. Rosa went on to explain the Boards’ accumulated debt and how it ended
      up that way. An independent firm has been working with the Board for four months matching revenues with
      expenses and looking for reasons they are running deficits. There have already been cuts in spending and any
      commitments not spent yet this year have been cancelled. The debt will be 5 million accumulated at the end of this
      school year. Mr. Rosa reported that a three year recovery plan must be submitted to the MEQ. There will be no new
      hiring, maintaining current, hopefully less spending, no new spending and more revenues due to an increase in
      enrolment over the next few years. This should help to recover the debt in three years. There have been no definite
      cuts yet, but the schools operating budget will remain the same for the school year 2003-2004. Mr. Rosa also
      cautioned parents and schools not to guess where cuts will be made.
      The Committee entered into a lengthy discussion and there were many concerns and questions. The Committee
      insists that these cuts are not to be on the backs of the children. The Parents Committee suggested that a special
      meeting be held on April 29th, 2003 at Pierre E. Trudeau Elementary school in order to respond to questions and
      concerns. Mr. Rosa agreed and asked that Governing Board Chairpersons, the Parents Committee delegate and one
      other Governing Board member attend. PC delegates are to confirm the number of people from their school attending
      to Ilene Geringer by April 24th.

      The Chairperson called a 10 minute break at 10:00 p.m.

      Mountainview Elementary and Rosemere High left the meeting at 10:00 p.m.

   7.2 Cafeteria Services
      The Chairman reported that each school would be responsible to hire their own cafeteria service. The contractor must
      be prepared to sign a contract with the School Board and show proof of insurance. Each contractor will be charged a
      maintenance fee. The principals will propose a reasonable fee for their own school ranging from $200.00 to $600.00
      per year. The Chairperson also noted that the fee should be representative of the service the school receives and not
      according to the number of students in the school.

   7.3 Strategic Planning Consultation
      A sub-committee of Chris Arnaoutelis, Beverly Schofield and Steve Mitchell was struck to draft a response from the
      Parents Committee. If any other delegates have ideas, please forward them to Chris who will collate them and bring
      them to the meeting of May 1st to be discussed and forwarded to the school board. Although the deadline to submit is
      April 28th, Mr. Rosa said that he would wait the extra few days to get the brief from the Parents Committee.
PC030403-03 Terry Fox Elementary MOVED THAT the meeting be extended to finish the agenda. Seconded by Jules Verne Elementary.

This motion was defeated on the following division:
For: Joliette Elem, Ste-Agathe Acad, Terry Fox Elem, Laurentian Elem, Hillcrest Elem, Jules Verne Elem, Sacred Heart Middle, Lewis King Elem, Western Laval High, Twin Oaks Elem.
Against: McCaig Elem, St Paul Elem, Crestview Elem, Pierre E. Trudeau Elem, Ste-Adele Elem, Laurentian Regional High, Our Lady of Peace Elem, Arundel Elem, Laval Catholic High, Joliette High, Morin Heights Elem, Lake of Two Mountains High.

Crestview Elem and Arundel Elem left the meeting at 10:35 p.m.

PC030403-04 Jules Verne MOVED THAT the meeting be extended for one half hour. Seconded by Sacred Heart Middle.

This motion was carried on the following division:
For: McCaig Elem, St. Paul Elem, Joliette Elem, Ste-Agathe Acad, Terry Fox elem, Laurentian Elem Hillcrest Elem, Jules Verne Elem, Sacred Heart Middle, Lewis King Elem, Western Laval High, Twin Oaks Elem, Lake of Two Mountains High
Against: Pierre E. Trudeau Elem, Ste-Adele Elem, Laurentian Regional High, Laval Catholic High, Our Lady of Peace Elem, Joliette High, Morin Heights Elem

Joliette High, Pierre E. Trudeau Elem and Laurentian Regional High left the meeting at 10:40 p.m.

7.4 Budget Reduction
Western Laval High School read a letter opposing budget cuts that was written by their Governing Board. Copies will be sent to PC members. Mr. Rosa expressed concern that schools and parents were starting to guess where the cuts would be and again cautioned against it.

Morin Heights Elem left the meeting at 10:45 p.m.

8.0 FINANCIAL Report
Copies will be attached to next package

9.0 PARENT COMMISSIONERS Report
The laptop pilot project was discussed. Submissions have been received from Secondary Schools. Report card changes are underway. There is a program being put out by the MEQ called “What’s up after School?” and schools have hesitated getting involved in it as there is too much bureaucracy. There are parents who still do not understand the enrolment criteria. The children did very well at the Bell Science Fair. Linda Iaconetti asked that letters be sent to these children on behalf of the Parents Committee congratulating them.

10.03L Report
There will be a workshop on Bill 124. Maria will find out if we can have this workshop in English if there are enough people interested in attending.

11.0TRANSPORTATION Committee Report
No meeting has been held yet

12.0PARENT DELEGATE Round Table
Can the School Board translate Bill 124 and attach it with the minutes? Chris will look into this.

13.0ADJOURNMENT
As there was no longer quorum the meeting was informally adjourned at 10:52 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:
Susan O'Keeffe, Recording Secretary

Minutes approved at the meeting held on ________________________, 2003

_________________________________ Chairperson  ____________________________ Secretary