

PROVINCE OF QUÉBEC
Ville de Rosemère

A Regular meeting of the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board was held in the boardroom of the Administration Centre, 235 Montée Lesage, Rosemere, QC on Wednesday, November 22, 2017 at 19:30 hours, at which were

Present: Jennifer Maccarone, Chairperson; Commissioners Dean Dugas, Vice-Chairperson; Guy Gagnon, Vicky Kaliotzakis, Peter MacLaurin, Anne McMullon and Ailsa Pehi, Parent Commissioners Sergio Di Marco and Bob Pellerin.

Absent: Commissioners Paolo Galati, Emilio Miglozzi; Parent Commissioner Stéphane Henley and Paul Lamoureux, Director General

Also present were: Frédéric Greschner, Assistant Director General; Stephanie Krenn, Director of Corporate Affairs and Secretary General; Robin Bennett, Director of Information Technology; Florence Delorme, Director of School Affairs and School Organization; Jérôme Dionne, Director of Material Resources and Transportation; Richard Greschner, Director of Human Resources; Geoff Hipps, Director of Pedagogical Services; Donna Abel, Assistant Director of Financial Resources; and Jocelyne Thompson-Ness, Administration Officer.

The Chairperson called the meeting to order.

TIME: 19:38 hours

"We [I] would like to begin by acknowledging that the land on which we gather is the traditional territory of the Kanien'keha:ka or Mohawk nation. The Mohawk Nation is also known as the "Eastern Door Keepers" and is a member of the Haudenosaunee Confederacy, which also includes the Seneca, Cayuga, Tuscarora, Onondaga and Oneida Peoples.

All those who gather here are counted as esteemed stakeholders in our community and most importantly friends."

1.0 Acceptance of Agenda

Acceptance of Agenda
CC-171122-CA-0042

Commissioner Sergio Di Marco MOVED THAT the agenda be approved as amended in document #SWLSB-2017/11/22-CA-001.

Carried unanimously

2.0 Approval of Minutes

2.1 October 25, 2017:

Commissioner Vicky Kaliotzakis MOVED THAT the minutes of the regular meeting of the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board held on October 25, 2017, having been received by all members prior to this meeting, be approved as corrected.

Carried unanimously

Approval of Minutes
 November 20, 2017
CC-171122-CA-0043

Commissioner Peter MacLaurin MOVED THAT the minutes of the special meeting of the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board held on November 20, 2017, having been received by all members prior to this meeting, be approved as presented.

Carried unanimously

3.0 Question Period

Stephanie McLellan, President of the Laurier Teachers Union (LTU), advised that she would also be representing the SEPB-Québec-FTQ Local 577 and the Professional Union during this question period as they have common concerns about the consultation process and more specifically, they have the following questions about the policy on inclement weather and emergency closing of establishments recently adopted.

In response to the questions from LTU, SEPB and the Professionals, the Chairperson noted:

Question #1: We are pleased to take part in any consultation process, but a written response to our concerns is not received prior to the Council adopting a policy. Should we not get the courtesy of a written response addressing the questions and concerns we raise prior to the decision being made? We cannot come prepared with appropriate questions or concerns if we are not aware.

- That an orientation cannot be provided as the Council has not yet approved the policy;
- The Council believes in transparency so after a decision is taken, if any of the unions or associations have questions, they are encouraged to contact a member of the Directorate to inquire if the policy was approved or declined.

Question #2: We are disappointed that the proposed *Inclement Weather and Emergency Closing of Establishments Policy* was adopted and that the vastness of our territory has not been considered. Due to our various staffing processes, employees are assigned to specific schools (Professionals) or can choose to work in any school in the territory (Teachers and Support Staff). As a result, staff does not necessarily live near their workplace. The LTU, SEPB 577, and the SWL Professionals raised this as a major concern during the consultation.

If Council is unwilling to reconsider this entire policy, we suggest that, minimally, the Board consider naming at least one (1) 'satellite' school in each region of Laval, Laurentians and Lanaudière thereby allowing employees a safer commute to work, within a reasonable amount of time and distance. This would ensure a safer commute, especially for the more precarious employees of the school board. Should an employee really have to be faced with the choice between a safe commute and a day's pay?

We are also seeking a response as to why there is a need to make these policy changes. Who will provide us with this answer?

Question #3: For SEPB 577, daycares are to remain open to all regular and sporadic users. How are Daycare Technicians able to call in the appropriate number of Educators if they will not know how many students will arrive when classes are canceled or suspended? This could create staffing and potential budget concerns due to overstaffing and, as well, organization of activities will also be an issue.

- It is important to remember that inclement weather is natural in this area of Québec and that there cannot be different standards for different types of employees, as everyone must be treated the same way. It is not reasonable to expect some employees to report to work when other categories are not required to do so. This is also a reality in other sectors such as the health, retail, fire and police whereby, despite terrible road conditions, they are required to report to work. Employees are not being asked to make a choice but to plan accordingly when inclement weather is pending. Safety is always at the forefront;
- The only students who would have access to daycare on these days would be those registered as regular users and registered for that specific day. In the event that the school is uncertain, it is always possible to poll the parents of all the regular users ahead of time asking them whether they would avail themselves of these services when transportation is cancelled and classes suspended.

The Chairperson thanked them for bringing their concerns to the attention of the Council. Safety is always a concern of the Council. She also noted that if the daycare providers were unable to make it to the school there would be other staff that could be called upon to manage the students present.

In response to an additional question from Stephanie McLellan, the Chairperson indicated that the notion of satellite schools would be taken into consideration.

4.0 Reports from the Chairperson and the Director General

4.1 Chairperson's Report:

The Chairperson presented her monthly report noting:

- Events attended such as the L'Or du Roi, which is the French version of last year's Golden Touch. There were many students from this school board that participated in this event, which was a wonderful opportunity for partnering with other school communities; the English Parents Committee Association (EPCA) annual general meeting where an annual review of the Quebec English School Boards Association (QESBA) was presented; the Laval Senior Academy CLC Community Conversations "It Takes a Village", which was very interesting;
- The QESBA held its annual general meeting and professional development session recently with excellent guest speakers on Aboriginal people, schools and vision, entertainment by students from Laurentian Regional High School;
- The Laurier Stars of the Starfest event was a wonderful evening showcasing the talent of current and former students;
- A meeting with Kathleen Weil, Minister responsible for Relations with English Speaking Québécois to discuss some of the important issues for the English community;
- A meeting with the Fédération des commissions scolaires du Québec (FCSQ) to discuss the future of education in Québec.

She went on to announce that she had attended a closed-door meeting with the Ministre de l'Éducation, du Loisirs et du Sport and the Ministre des Finances which has resulted in an agreement on schools taxes. She is very proud of the Council and of all communities that have worked hard to see this dossier heard and considered. The following details were noted:

- There will be three separate tax rates that will be normalized rather than harmonized, given that this school board lies on three different territories;
- This agreement also affects five other schools boards in the same situation;
- Discussions are being held concerning compensation measures in order to create equity, as not all tax rates in the province are equal;
- The new school tax process will be in place for 2018-2019;
- There will be a regional tax board to decide what the rate will be;
- A Bill will be deposited in the National Assembly to change the law to reflect the agreement concerning school taxation. This Bill will meet with resistance from the Coalition Avenir Québec (CAQ) and the Part Québécois (PQ);
- A meeting is scheduled for December 1, 2017 to receive feedback for changes to the proposed Bill;
- The Ministère de l'Éducation et de l'Enseignement supérieur (MEES) will provide grants for deficits incurred with the reduced tax rate;
- A measure of confidence was requested so that the reduced tax rate will be in the law so that it will be perpetual;
- A request to have the law include electronic school tax bills as an option so that bills would not have to be printed and mailed, which is the current law.

In response to a question from Commissioner Vicky Kalotzakis, the Chairperson noted that the MEES is asking that all taxpayers contemplating transferring school boards are being asked to wait because of the pending new law. Taxpayers who have left the school board could be invited to return.

In closing, the Chairperson stated that it is important for school taxation to be by representation as it is the only thing that the English community controls.

4.1.2 Class Action Suit – Financial Contributions Required from Parents:

Class Action Suit
Financial Contributions
CC-171122-CA-0044

WHEREAS the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board (SWLSB), like 67 other school boards in Québec, is involved in the class action concerning the financial contributions required from parents, which was authorized by the Superior Court of Québec on December 6, 2016;

WHEREAS the legal grounds of this class action concerning the financial contributions required from parents are based in particular on the *Education Act* and the applicable rules that only the National Assembly or the Government may amend on a proposal from the Ministre de l'Éducation, du Loisir et du Sport;

WHEREAS the class action has serious financial implications for the SWLSB and could adversely affect the quality and diversity of educational services provided to students within the school board's territory;

WHEREAS the judicial conclusions of the class action could jeopardize certain public school programs promoting school perseverance and academic success, thereby calling into question the financing of public schools;

WHEREAS the outcome of the class action could put the SWLSB in a budget deficit situation, despite the school board's consistently excellent budget management;

WHEREAS it has become necessary to reflect on the desired practices and method of financing in relation to the financial contributions required from parents and the SWLSB wishes to actively take part in this reflection;

WHEREAS it is imperative and urgent that the Ministre de l'Éducation, du Loisir et du Sport become actively involved in developing financial and legislative solutions concerning this issue;

Commissioner Dean Dugas MOVED THAT the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board ask the Ministre de l'Éducation, du Loisir et du Sport to become actively involved in developing financial and legislative solutions in connection with this class action against 68 school boards in Québec, in an effort to maintain and develop public schooling;

AND THAT this resolution be submitted to the Chairpersons of the other 67 school boards involved in the class action concerning the financial contributions required from parents, to the Quebec English School Boards Association and to the Fédération des commissions scolaires du Québec.

Carried unanimously

4.2 Director General's Report:

The Assistant Director General presented his report as acting Director General noting:

- The MEES confirmed that the school board would be receiving approximately 400 new registrations from the Tosh community, as its girls will begin homeschooling. Updates will be provided as the registrations begin and the school board will approach the MEES to request additional funding to support the registration of these new students;
- There was a consultation on the budget rules adopted by the Conseil du trésor noting that one of the big items is the handling of how the school boards identify students to be validated for coding. The current process is for the school boards to send a dossier for each student to the MEES and wait for its decision but now the school board will have to decide to keep the current practice or go with the MEES suggestion of a sampling of 10% or 20 dossiers and apply a refusal rate calculated on the school board's success rate for the past two years;
- The school board is currently reviewing its practices.

The Chairperson provided an update on the Director General noting that he is looking very forward to returning to work.

5.0 Business Arising:

5.1 Sale of Building – 171 Mary, Lachute:

Sale of Building
171 Mary
CC-171122-MR-0045

WHEREAS the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board adopted resolution #CC-150629-CA-0202, authorizing the Director of Material Resources and Transportation to begin the process with the Société québécoise des infrastructures for the sale of the building located at 171 Mary Street in Lachute;

WHEREAS the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board adopted resolution #CC160427-MR-0077, authorizing the Director of Material Resources and Transportation to present the Centre d'entraide d'Argenteuil's offer to purchase the building located at 171 Mary Street in Lachute, in the amount of 500 000,00\$, to the Ministère de l'Éducation et de l'Enseignement supérieur (MEES) for analysis and approval;

WHEREAS, in a letter dated August 15, 2017, the Ministère de l'Éducation et de l'Enseignement supérieur (MEES) authorized the sale of the building located at 171 Mary Street in Lachute, in the amount of 500 000,00\$, to the Centre d'entraide d'Argenteuil;

Parent Commissioner Bob Pellerin MOVED THAT, on the recommendation of the Director of Material Resources and Transportation, the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board, approve the sale of the building located at 171 Mary Street in Lachute, in the amount of 500 000,00\$, to the Centre d'entraide d'Argenteuil;

AND THAT, as per the Public Infrastructure Act, it is the Société Québécoise des infrastructures (SQI) that delivers the services required by public bodies to acquire or dispose of an immovable;

AND THAT the Director of Material Resources and Transportation will contact the Société québécoise des infrastructures (SQI) to pursue the sale;

AND THAT, as requested in the Ministère de l'Éducation et de l'Enseignement supérieur's (MEES) letter of approval dated August 15, 2017, the contract of sale must include a right of first refusal clause in favour of the school board, under which the Centre d'entraide d'Argenteuil shall, if it wishes to dispose of the immovable, first offer it to the school board at the price the Centre d'entraide d'Argenteuil initially paid;

AND THAT, the Chairperson, as well as the Director General, and in his absence or with his knowledge the Assistant Director General, be authorized to sign all documentation concerning this sale;

FURTHER THAT a copy of this resolution be sent to the Mayor of the Ville de Lachute.

Carried unanimously

6.0 Decision Items:

6.1 Corporate Affairs & Secretary General

6.1.1 Composition and Term of Executive Committee:

The Council agreed that the composition and term remain status quo for the purposes of continuity.

Composition and Term of
Executive Committee
CC-171122-CA-0046

WHEREAS section 179 of the Education Act requires that the Council of Commissioners establish an Executive Committee composed of the number of voting members of the council it determines, including the Chairperson of the school board, and a co-opted commissioner, if any, and a commissioner representing the parents' committee;

WHEREAS the Council of Commissioners determines the term of office of the members of the committee;

WHEREAS the term of office of the current Executive committee will end on November 26, 2017;

Commissioner Anne McMullon MOVED THAT the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board establish an Executive Committee composed of:

Chairperson (1)
Commissioners (4)
Parent Commissioner (1)

AND THAT the term of office of the Executive Committee be a one-year mandate, effective November 27, 2017 to November 27, 2018.

Carried unanimously

6.1.2 Nomination of Scrutineers for Executive Elections:

Nomination of Scrutineers
CC-171122-CA-0047

Commissioner Vicky Kaliotzakis MOVED THAT the Assistant Director General and the Secretary General be appointed as the Scrutineers for the Elections of the Executive Committee

Carried unanimously

6.1.3 Nomination and Election of Executive Committee Members:

The Chairperson called for nominations for seat #1 on the Executive Committee.

Commissioner Guy Gagnon nominated himself.

There were no further nominations.

The Chairperson called for nominations for seat #2 on the Executive Committee.

Commissioner Dean Dugas nominated Commissioner Anne McMullon. Commissioner McMullon accepted the nomination.

There were no further nominations.

The Chairperson called for nominations for seat #3 on the Executive Committee.

Parent Commissioner Sergio Di Marco nominated Commissioner Dean Dugas. Commissioner Dugas accepted the nomination.

There were no further nominations.

The Chairperson called for nominations for seat #4 on the Executive Committee.

Commissioner Peter MacLaurin nominated Commissioner Vicky Kaliozakis. Commissioner Kaliozakis accepted the nomination.

Commissioner Ailsa Pehi nominated herself.

There were no further nominations.

The Chairperson called for the vote.

After counting the ballots, the Scrutineers declared Commissioner Vicky Kaliozakis elected to Seat #4 of the Executive Committee

The Chairperson reminded all Commissioners that they are always welcome to participate in the Executive Committee meetings even though they are not voting members.

Commissioner Guy Gagnon MOVED THAT for the destruction of the ballots.

Carried unanimously

Parent Commissioner

The Chairperson called for nominations for the Parent Commissioner seat on the Executive Committee.

Parent Commissioner Bob Pellerin nominated Parent Commissioner Sergio Di Marco. Parent Commissioner Di Marco accepted the nomination.

There were no further nominations.

Parent Commissioner Sergio Di Marco was acclaimed.

Nomination and Election of
Executive Committee
CC-171122-CA-0048

Commissioner Guy Gagnon MOVED THAT the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board name the following to the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board Executive Committee:

Jennifer Maccarone, Chairperson	Vicky Kaliozakis
Dean Dugas	Anne McMullon
Guy Gagnon	Sergio Di Marco, Parent Commissioner

Carried unanimously

6.1.4 Election to Appeals Review Committee:

The Chairperson called for nominations to the Appeals Review Committee.

Commissioner Vicky Kaliozakis nominated Commissioner Peter MacLaurin. Commissioner MacLaurin accepted the nomination.

Commissioner Guy Gagnon nominated Commissioner Vicky Kaliozakis. Commissioner Kaliozakis accepted the nomination.

Commissioner Peter MacLaurin nominated Parent Commissioner Bob Pellerin. Parent Commissioner Pellerin accepted the nomination.

Commissioner Dean Dugas nominated himself.

Parent Commissioner Sergio Di Marco nominated himself.

Commissioners Guy Gagnon and Anne McMullon volunteered to be alternates.

Appeals Review Committee
CC-171122-CA-0049

WHEREAS sections 9 thru 12 of the Education Act (R.S.Q., Chapter I-13.3) provides a school board with the option to designate a person or establish a committee to reconsider decisions taken affecting a student;

WHEREAS the Council of Commissioners wishes to establish an Appeals Review Committee to dispose of such issues in accordance with the Education Act (R.S.Q., Chapter I-13.3) and policy #2000-CA-03: Reconsideration of a Decision Affecting a Student;

Commissioner Guy Gagnon MOVED THAT the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board establish an Appeals Review Committee composed of five (5) Commissioners and the Director General or his delegate.

AND THAT the following Commissioners be named to the Appeals Review Committee* until replaced:

Sergio Di Marco
Dean Dugas
Vicky Kaliozakis

Peter MacLaurin
Bob Pellerin
Guy Gagnon, Alternate
Anne McMullon, Alternate

Carried unanimously

6.1.2 School Board Exemption from Construction Holiday:

Exemption from
Construction Holiday
CC-171122-CA-0050

WHEREAS the Ministère du Travail, de l'Emploi et de la Solidarité sociale has a by-law concerning the mandatory Québec (MESS) construction holidays;

WHEREAS said by-law is reflected in the Commission de la construction du Québec's (CCQ) respective collective agreements;

WHEREAS there are certain exemptions to this rule listed in the CCQ collective agreements such as all civil engineering work (streets, highways, bridges, etc.), residential construction work and maintenance, repairs and emergencies;

WHEREAS the majority of the construction projects for school boards must take place during the summer break when there are no students or employees present, commencing after the last day of school in June and concluding before the first day of school in August;

WHEREAS during the summer break period there are approximately 20 days lost due to pedagogical days, statutory holidays and the construction holidays therefore reducing the number of weeks allowed for the completion of a project in its entirety;

WHEREAS that construction specific to school boards should be considered as one of the notable exceptions to avoid delaying important construction and late deliveries on projects undertaken during the summer that could have a direct impact on the classroom and students;

WHEREAS the Quebec English School Boards Association has a mandate to support its member school boards on this initiative;

Commissioner Ailsa Pehi MOVED THAT the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board mandate the Assistant Director General to send this resolution and a formal request to the Commission de la construction du Québec (CCQ) requesting that general contractors and material resources teams of the school boards of Québec be permitted to work on school board construction projects during the two week summer construction holiday;

AND THAT a copy of this resolution be sent to the Ministère de l'Éducation et de l'Enseignement supérieur (MEES), the Ministère du Travail, de l'Emploi et de la Solidarité sociale (MESS) and the Quebec English School Boards Association (QESBA).

THIS MOTION WAS CARRIED ON THE FOLLOWING DIVISION:	
Commissioners & Parent Commissioners voting YEA:	Sergio Di Marco, Guy Gagnon, Vicky Kalitziakis, Peter MacLaurin, Jennifer Maccarone, Anne McMullon, Ailsa Pehi, Bob Pellerin
Commissioners & Parent Commissioners voting NAY:	Dean Dugas

6.1.6 Entente sectorielle en persévérance scolaire et réussite éducative – Lanaudière 2017-2020:

Entente sectorielle
Lanaudière
2017-2020
CC-171122-CA-0051

WHEREAS dropping out of school impacts not only the individual, but society as well;

WHEREAS the economic consequences of dropping out of school are serious, considering that the revenue shortfall for the government amounts to 1.9 billion dollars annually;

WHEREAS the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board (SWLSB) is a member of Éducation Lanaudière;

WHEREAS the participation of the SWLSB in this entente will benefit the students in the Lanaudière region through the promotion of initiatives and an offer of services with respect to school success and school perseverance;

WHEREAS the SWLSB wishes to contribute to the social, cultural and economic development of the Lanaudière region through providing a high level of education and qualifications;

WHEREAS there is a financial commitment of \$500 annually for a three-year period for the SWLSB to participate in this entente;

Commissioner Dean Dugas MOVED THAT, on the recommendation of the Corporate Committee, the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board approve the SWLSB's participation in the *Entente sectorielle en persévérance scolaire et réussite éducative – Lanaudière 2017-2020*;

AND THAT a financial commitment of \$500 annually from 2017-2020 be authorized;

FURTHER THAT, the Chairperson, as well as the Director General, and in his absence or with his knowledge, the Assistant Director General, be authorized to sign all documentation concerning this entente.

Carried unanimously

7.0 Information Items

7.1 SWL Foundation

Commissioner Ailsa Pehi provided an update on the activities of the Foundation noting that the Stars of the Starfest held on November 16, 2017, was a great success with both current and former students performing. She extended appreciation on behalf of the Foundation to the Coordinator of Communications, the Principals of Crestview and St-Vincent Elementary School and Laval Junior Academy and the Graphic Arts Technician for all of their efforts in making this evening a success.

She continued noting the following:

- The January Gala will be on January 25, 2018 at the Embassy Plaza and tickets are on sale for \$225.00. The entertainment is The Directors Showband;
- The Foundation has two new members Anick Brunet, a parent of a Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board student; and Sandro Mussini, of Caisse Desjardins Thérèse-De Blainville;
- Each school received \$1,400.00 from the Foundation to purchase sensory equipment along with a list of what could be purchased. It is hoped that a demonstration of some of this equipment will take place at the January Gala;

In response to a question from Commissioner Vicky Kaliozakis, Commissioner Pehi noted that during the 2016-2017 school year the schools were surveyed as to what the school could benefit from and sensory equipment was selected most often. These sensory tools will assist students at all levels.

In response to a question from the Chairperson, the Coordinator of Communications noted that approximately \$2,000 was raised for the Foundation at the Stars of the Starfest.

7.2 Parent Commissioners Report:

Parent Commissioner Bob Pellerin extended thanks to the Assistant Director General and the Centre Director of CDC Pont-Viau for the informative presentation at the recent Parents Committee meeting noting that many appeared to be unaware of the existence Vocational Training and the programs it offers. He further noted the addition of the new SEAC Delegate to the Parents Committee and the development of the 2017-2018 Parents Committee budget

7.3 QESBA

The report of the QESBA was provided under item 4.1.

The Chairperson asked that those who wish to subscribe to the additional insurance offered by the QESBA to please contact the Administration Officer as soon as possible.

8.0 Question Period

There were no questions.

9.0 Correspondence

There was no correspondence.

10.0 Varia

10.1 RESQ:

The Vice-Chair advised the Council that, through his involvement in local sports in Lanaudière, he received an invitation from the Réseau du sport étudiant du Québec (RESQ) to attend a meeting to demystify its existence. The RESQ is a non-profit group whose mission is to promote sports and physical activity in the education sector with a goal of developing a student's school perseverance. Its current membership is made up of 2,928 schools, 64 CEGEPs and several universities. The school board needs to become more involved with this group even though transportation is an issue.

In response to questions, the Vice-Chairperson noted:

- Funding is provided for the teams the school board registers with the RESQ;
- There is a membership fee;
- The RESQ in Laval has merged with Sport Laval, so it is no longer a member of RESQ;
- Funding is provided through corporate partners, revenues and special projects.

11.0 Adjournment

Commissioner Peter MacLaurin MOVED the adjournment of the meeting.

Carried unanimously

TIME: 20:53 hours

NEXT MEETING ⇔ REGULAR ⇔ December 13, 2017