

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, Rosemère, QC and via video conferencing on Thursday, June 25, 2020 at 19:30 hours, at which were:

Present at Administration Centre: Paolo Galati, Chairperson; Gaëlle Absolonne, Director General, Frédéric Greschner, Assistant Director General; Anna Sollazzo, Director of Corporate Affairs and Secretary General; Robin Bennett, Director of Information Technology; and Jocelyne Thompson-Ness, Administration Officer.

Present video conferencing: Vicky Kaliozakis, Vice-Chairperson; Bob Pellerin, Vice-Chairperson Alternate; Commissioners Anick Brunet, James Di Sano, Guy Gagnon, Peter MacLaurin, Anne McMullon, Emilio Miglozzi, and Parent Commissioners Tara Anderson, Anthony Beliotis and Stéphane Henley.

Also present via video conferencing were: Michel Dufour, Director of Material Resources and Transportation; Geoffrey Hipps, Director of Pedagogical Services; Stephanie Krenn, Director of Human Resources; Chao Ling Pan, Director of Financial Resources.

Absent: Commissioners Melissa Wall.

The Chairperson opened the meeting and welcomed everyone who is viewing the meeting online.

TIME: 19:32 hours

0.0 Recognitions

0.1 Adopt-a-Family Initiative

The Chairperson read the following statement honouring those who participated in the Adopt-a-Family Initiative:

"This evening the Council of Commissioners recognizes the Spiritual Care and Guidance, and Community Involvement Animators of our Pedagogical Services department for the adopt-a-family project. On behalf of Council, I would like to commend Dominic Di Stefano, Daniel Johnson and Cheryl Smith, who under the leadership of Lynda DaSilveira put this initiative together during a challenging period and for making a difference in the lives of 67 families of the SWLSB.

- *The purpose of this project was to provide emergency weekly groceries to support families in need, within our school board from April to June 2020 (12 weeks) during the COVID-19 crisis by mobilizing school board staff and aligning school resources.*
- *A total of 118 SWLSB employees answered the invitation to adopt-a-family by purchasing \$50 worth of weekly groceries and delivering them to a family in need from a SWLSB school starting April 2020 until the end of June 2020. *Some schools increased their weekly allotment per family at the discretion of the principal.*
- *Volunteers and families were linked by the region where they live in order to respect COVID-19 travel restrictions and guidelines.*
- *The Spiritual Animators linked as many volunteers with families as possible respecting privacy, confidentiality as well as COVID-19 health and safety protocols.*
- *A total of 15 schools participated in the Adopt-A-Family initiative representing all three regions of our School Board; Laval, Laurentides and Lanaudière.*

- *Administrators and secretaries collaborated to allot budgets for the families in their school, identify families who may need support to the Spiritual Animation team, process receipts and facilitate reimbursements in an efficient and timely manner.*
- *This project helped 67 families who received groceries on a weekly basis through a collective investment of over \$45000 to help our community.*

AND I am proud to announce that each family will receive a \$100 grocery card for the month of July because of the donations made by Parents Committee and the Council of Commissioners.”

He continued by expressing gratitude to the following volunteers on this initiative:

Andrée-Ann Côté, Abigail Lawrence, Amanda Diodati, Anna Tamburri, Carmen Cesta, Carolynn Roberts, Céline Sévigny, Christiane Beauchamp, Christina Chedel, Connie Procopio, Debbie Adams, Despina Mardas, Donna Desmarteaux, Dorinda Raymond, Edith Frenette, Elaine Dalbec, Gautama Swaminadhan, Geneviève Ducharme, Heather Usher, Heidi Klinger, Ian Ritchie, Isabel La Chance, Janet Sallie, Jennifer Schembri, Jessica Budd, Jessica Rooney, Josée Royer, Joy Fitzios, Karen Lorenz, Karen Stoddart, Karine Valiquette, Kelly Crowdis, Laurie Cruise, Laurie Leibov, Lee-Ann Mascis, Lena Toutikian, Lori Tanner, Lucia De Fanti, Mariateresa Volpe, Marie-Josée Dallaire, Melanie Demers, Melissa Jones, Melissa Tomasino, Merit-Anne Malek, Michelina Martino, Nadia Varano, Nathalie Giguère, Nicole Comeau, Noura Helal, Olivia Mancini, Penelope Fengos, Rosa Ferrulli, Sandra Malone, Sandy El Baramelgui, Sarah Leboeuf, Shannon Lemm, Sharon Larrissey, Shauna Boilard, Sheila Lindsay, Stephanie Wicki, Susan Cunningham, Tammy Joseph, Tjasa Korda, Wanda Niphakis.

0.2 Daycare Workers

The Chairperson paid homage to the daycare workers of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board with the following statement:

Shortly after the closure of all schools and centres because of the pandemic, the government announced that schools would be offering emergency daycares to the children of the frontline workers in the health sector. We had less 48 hours to turn around and be ready to open these daycare services that would respect the public health sanitary measures.

Five of our schools offered emergency daycare services during these very challenging times.

- *John F Kennedy Elementary*
- *Mountainview Elementary*
- *Rawdon Elementary*
- *Laurentia Elementary*
- *Laurentian Elementary*

The Council would like to thank the emergency daycare workers for their collaboration, sense of civic duty and for providing daily quality daycare services to the children and families under their care, in a context that was unknown for everyone.

We cannot thank our daycare workers without thanking a very special individual, Josée Pomminville.

Josée is a Daycare Technician but also the school board's Daycare Liaison. Council would like to applaud her for her professionalism, commitment and continued passion in ensuring that the SWLSB daycares offer top quality and safe services and that the daycare team across the school board work together for the well-being of all the children they service.

Josée was instrumental in supporting the emergency daycare teams. Her contagious energy is always appreciated by all who work with her. THANK YOU Josée for making a difference and for your continued support to our schools.

A special thank you to four ladies who worked with Josée Pomminville to ensure the smooth running of the emergency daycares during the pandemic:

- *Sharon McCulloch from Mountainview Elementary,*
- *Maria DiLillo from Laurentia Elementary*
- *Sharon Silverson for Cathy Seale from LES*
- *And Suzanne Beaudette from Rawdon Elementary*

Again: THANK YOU and enjoy your well-deserved summer break!!

He continued by expressing gratitude to the following:

Adele Fata, Alannah Ferreira Morris, Amanda Collins, Amanda Diodati, Andrea David, Anna Gianninni, Anna Tamburri, Anne-Marie Schmuck, Brigitte D'Agostini, Campbell Riddle, Carl Jung, Caroline Barrett, Cassandra Stroubakis, Chelsea Sanborn, Cherie Hurdle, Connie Valerio, Debra Searle, Despina Vafiadis, Diane Hollingsworth, Donna Desmarteaux, Diana Gavin, Effie Theodosiou, Ellen Muir, Gail Lang, Garyfallia Haskaris, Ghyslaine Massé, Ginette Linhares, Ilona Reisser, Jahaira Torres Leon, Jesse Mackay, Jessica Pirro, Joan Cameron, Josée Pomminville, Katie Boismenu-Moncrieff, Kelly Marsden, Kerry Ann Aggett, Kim Clarke, Kim Vautour, Laurie Bergerson, Line Motard, Lorrie Clifford, Louise Ladouceur, Lynn Belanger, Lynn Dubois, Lynn Martin, Maeve Brooks, Marcelle Dagenais, Margaret Markopoulos, Maria Di Lillo, Maria Di Novella, Maria Soulis, Marie Karamanoukian, Marlene Lalumiere, Marlene Melo, Marnie Robertson, Mary DiLella, Melanie Groulx, Natalie Gould, Natasha T. DeBonis, Pamela Fox, Pat Gilmour, Patty Weddle Klimas, Pierina Scalia, Rosie Caruana, Saba Asif, Savrina Valletta, Sarah Barette-Richard, Sharon Dupuis, Sharon McCulloch, Sharon Silverson, Shelly McCullough, Shirley McCartney, Stephane Leduc, Steve Narine, Suzie Legin, Tami Lees, Terri Selby, Tina Plouffe, Trisha Lyng.

0.3 Physical Education Teachers Initiative

The Chairperson congratulated an inventive group of Physical Education teachers noting:

"Being confined did not stop 30 SWLSB Physical Education Specialists from across the school board territory to join forces to make a video promoting wellness, staying active and eating well which are vital habits for a balanced life. These lifestyle habits are EVEN MORE important when people are isolated and going through a challenging situation like the one we experienced.

Within hours of posting the video on social media, it was viewed by thousands of people!

Congratulations to our Phys Ed team for coming together and promoting healthy lifestyle habits to our students. A special thank you to Deborah Graziani from Mountainview Elementary for leading this initiative and for an amazing production."

He continued by expressing gratitude to the following Physical Education Teachers on this initiative:

Adrian Pascaru, André Plourde, Chuck Drouin, Deborah Graziani, Gary Crosbie, Giancarlo Di Sano, James Vanderhoeven, Jason Bergola, Joseph Ricci, Kayla McNulty, Kristin Crowdis, Laura Delchev, Leslie Aggrey-Fynn, Mary Antioco, Matthew Bleeker, Peter Ridgway, Philippe Carrier, Ralph Leblanc, Reno Vaccaro, Robert Salisbury, Ryan Boutara, Sonia Biunno, Stephanie Racine, Steve Antonacci, Suhael Brohu, Suzanne Charbonneau, Suzanne Tepperman, Valerie Charette, Veronique Bond

0.4 Communications

The Chairperson drew attention to the remarkable work of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board Communications Team with the following statement:

“Throughout the 2019-2020 school year, and more specifically as we face the COVID-19 pandemic, the SWLSB Communications Team has been instrumental in supporting all our stakeholders. Maxeen Jolin and Susan O’Keeffe, with creativity and professionalism, through visuals and content-oriented communications, have ensured parents, student, staff and the public, are kept informed with timely information regarding the health, safety and education of our community.

They have ensured the promotion of English Speaking Education, and play a vital role in sustaining the vitality of our network. Leading the way through their dedication and work ethic, they consistently rise to every challenge they face with a positive attitude and positive mindset.”

The Chairperson called the meeting to order welcoming everyone who is viewing the meeting online and verified quorum with the Secretary General.

After roll call, the Director of Corporate Affairs and Secretary General confirmed quorum.

TIME: 19:53 hours

1.0 Opening of Meeting

1.1 Acknowledgement of the Land

“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.”

2.0 Approval of the Agenda

The following items were added to the agenda

12.0 VARIA

12.1 Council Letter to the MEES

12.1.1 Communication Practices by the MEES.....RES

12.1.2 Directive with Regards to a New Logo for SWLSB.....RES

12.2 Engagement – Coordinator of Information Technology.....RES

Approval of the Agenda

Commissioner Guy Gagnon MOVED THAT the agenda be approved as amended in document #SWLSB-2020/06/25-CA-001.

CC-200625-CA-0114

Carried unanimously

3.0 Approval of Minutes

3.1 May 27, 2020:

Approval of Minutes
May 27, 2020

Commissioner James Di Sano MOVED THAT the minutes of the regular meeting of the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board held on May 27, 2020, having been received by all members prior to this meeting, be approved as written.

CC-200625-CA-0115

Carried unanimously

3.2 June 5, 2020:

Approval of Minutes
June 5, 2020

Parent Commissioner Stéphane Henley MOVED THAT the minutes of the special meeting of the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board held on June 5, 2020, having been received by all members prior to this meeting, be approved as written.

CC-200625-CA-0116

Carried unanimously

4.0 Question Period

In response to a question from the Chairperson, the Director of Corporate Affairs and Secretary General confirmed that no questions were received for the first question period.

The Director of Corporate Affairs and Secretary General explained the parameters of the question periods, as follows:

- As per the rules of procedure, the parameters regarding question periods must be explained to the public prior to the first question period;
- The agenda provides for two 20 minute question periods;
 - **For the first question period**, questions are to be addressed to the Chair either by fax or by email by 13h00 the day of the meeting;
 - The **second question period** must be restricted to questions pertaining to agenda items discussed at the meeting;
 - The purpose of these questions periods are restricted to answering questions only, and not to enter into debates or conversations;
- For the members of the public who might be present in the boardroom:
 - Each speaker is allowed 5 minutes to present all their questions.
 - After each speaker's 5 minute presentation, the Chairperson will provide any available answers.
- For the members of the public who are using the link provided on the school board website to view this meeting, you may type your questions in the Q&A Section of our website. Please make sure to type your full name before all your questions.
- For any questions not related to agenda items, please consult the school board website. A FAQ section has been created in the COVID-19 dossier in which you will find answers to Frequently Asked Questions regarding the current extraordinary circumstances. Within this FAQ section, you will also find a link in which you may send the school board your questions and it will make sure to answer them in best possible delays.

5.0 Report from the Chairperson

The Chairperson presented his monthly report noting the following events:

- May 28, 2020 – HOPE Fest was held for the very first time. It was an on-line event that showcased the talented students of the school board. To date over 20,000 people have viewed this Facebook Live event;
- June 12, 2020 – 2020-2021 SWLSB Wall Calendar – Congratulations to Sofia Jafari and all other students whose drawings were selected for the 2020-2021 edition of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board wall calendar;

- June 18, 2020 – Attended the Souvenir Elementary School Drive-In Graduation with Commissioners James Di Sano and Vicki Kaliozakis and the Director General. The dedication of the administrators and school personnel was very visible and, even though students were confined to their cars, their excitement was very present. Parents, family and friends cheered them on as they were called up and awarded their grade 6 graduation diploma on the big screen;
- June 23, 2020 – The 2020-2021 tax brochure was finalized and includes information on the school board's position on Bill 40 and its decision to participate in the legal action with the Quebec English School Boards Association.

In response to a question from the Chairperson, the Director of Corporate Affairs and Secretary General noted that it is hoped that a judgement will be rendered quickly in this court challenge.

Commissioner Guy Gagnon, on behalf of the Commissioners, thanked the school board administration for all of the hard work that goes on behind the scenes to ensure that as a Council they are always well prepared and have all of the current information in order to make informed decisions.

6.0 Report from the Director General

The Director General presented her monthly report noting the following:

- June 18, 2020 - Drive-In Graduation Ceremony for Souvenir Elementary School – attended the event with the Chairperson and Commissioners James Di Sano and Vicky Kaliozakis. The graduating class of 87 students were cheered on by their parents, families, friends, the school administration, teachers and staff as they walked up to receive their grade 6 diploma while their image was projected on the big screen. The school teams throughout the school board are to be commended for their creativity and passion, especially during this difficult time, as they all found different ways to honor the grade 6 and secondary 5 students as they move into a new chapter in their lives. Congratulations to all graduating students of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board;
- Summer School 2020 – Summer school will run from July 13 – 31, 2020 with the support of LEARN Québec. Summer school would normally cost \$250 but this year parents of students registered at this school board will only have to pay \$100, as the school board will be covering the balance;
- Back-to-School 2020 – Information is being prepared for parents and staff with the new information recently received from the MEES that defines the new norm for schools. As more information is made available things will be fine-tuned so that the school board can continue to offer a safe and secure learning environment. Updates will be provided in August 2020;
- January 4, 2021 – Embracing Diversity – This is the new date for this event as COVID-19 made it impossible to hold it on March 31 and April 1, 2020. It will still be the first of its kind for the English community and will be presented in a hybrid format, on-site and virtually.

The Director General thanked the Chairperson and the Commissioners for all the work they have put in during the 2019-2020 school year. By law, the Council only has to meet 4 times per year but this year there have been 9 regular meetings and 11 special meetings. This demonstrates the level of commitment this group of elected officials has for our students and the school board community. Council and Executive Committee meetings are not the only meetings attended there is also the Corporate Committee and the Pedagogical Committee, which prepare the Commissioners for the decisions that will need to be taken.

She continued thanking all stakeholders for the support received this past school year and wished everyone a well-deserved summer vacation.

7.0 Business Arising:**7.1 Management Agreements****7.1.1 AQCS**

Management Agreements

AQCS

CC-200625-HR-0117

WHEREAS the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board adopted resolution #CC-200513-HR-0098, authorizing for the consultation of the amendments to policy #2000-HR-02: Regulating the Working Conditions of Management Staff Represented by the Association québécoise des cadres scolaires – Sir Wilfrid Laurier Section;

WHEREAS the consultation period ended on June 12, 2020;

WHEREAS the Association québécoise des cadres scolaires – Sir Wilfrid Laurier Section has been consulted on the proposed amendments to policy #2000-HR-02: Regulating the Working Conditions of Management Staff Represented by the Association Québécoise des cadres scolaires – Sir Wilfrid Laurier Section and its feedback taken into consideration;

Commissioner Anne McMullon MOVED THAT, on the recommendation of the Corporate Committee, the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board adopt the amendments to policy #2000-HR-02: Regulating the Working Conditions of Management Staff Represented by the Association québécoise des cadres scolaires – Sir Wilfrid Laurier Section;

AND THAT this policy be in effect until replaced.

Carried unanimously**7.1.2 SWLAA**

Management Agreements

SWLAA

CC-200625-HR-0118

WHEREAS the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board adopted resolution #CC-200513-HR-0099, authorizing for the consultation of the amendments to policy #2000-HR-01: Regulating the Working Conditions of Management Staff Represented by the Sir Wilfrid Laurier Administrator's Association;

WHEREAS the consultation period ended on June 12, 2020;

WHEREAS the Sir Wilfrid Laurier Administrators Association has been consulted on the proposed amendments to policy #2000-HR-01: Regulating the Working Conditions of Management Staff Represented by the Sir Wilfrid Laurier Administrator's Association and its feedback taken into consideration;

Parent Commissioner Stéphane Henley MOVED THAT, on the recommendation of the Corporate Committee, the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board adopt the amendments to policy #2000-HR-01: Regulating the Working Conditions of Management Staff Represented by the Sir Wilfrid Laurier Administrator's Association;

AND THAT this policy be in effect until replaced.

Carried unanimously

8.0 Decision Items:

8.1 Financial Resources

8.1.1 2020-2021 Initial Budget

The Director of Financial Resources advised the Council that the school board budget for 2020-2021 is balanced at \$186,784,537.00 noting that assumptions had to be made for some of the budgeting due to lack of information from the Ministère de l'Éducation et de l'Enseignement supérieur (MEES) and the presented budget does not consider COVID19 related financial impacts. He went on to highlight the following from the budget:

- Enrolment projections;
- The budget details concerning revenues and expenses;
- The percentages of sources of revenues noting that a balancing grant is received from the MEES as well as compressions;
- The MEES allocations by category;
- Teacher posts account for \$79,926,021.00 of the budget. An external consultant was engaged to analyze the teacher envelope and there was a deficit of 17.57 posts between the 865.41 posts funded versus the 882.98 allocated. There has to be remedial resources at the elementary level, from provincial collective agreement, but only nine posts are funded but 39.85 are required so the school board is in a deficit position from the beginning;
- Other educational expenses \$7,487,941.00 – the largest portion of this budget are the allocations to the schools;
- Mesures d'appui et petits milieux \$10,924,014.00 – a large portion of this amount are the measures allocated to the schools;
- Special Needs \$9,870,507.00 – the majority of this budget, 57.9%, is allocated to the Parity Committee that oversees the allocation of the funds for special education attendants and technicians, with the next largest portion of this budget, 35.2%, being allocated to Pedagogical Services professionals;
- Adult Education – enrolment is declining so there is less funding so it is anticipated this budget will be in a deficit for 2020-2021;
- Vocational Training – there has been a small increase in funding for 2020-2021. Construc-Plus is not included in the calculation as a thorough forecast has not yet been completed for this budget;
- Local needs financing;
- Self-financing activities – the funding from these activities helps the school board balance the budget;
- Capital investment – increased for Information Technology by approximately \$1,200,000.00 for 2020-2021 and for maintenance of buildings by approximately \$7,400,000.00, a 50% increase over 2019-2020
- The budget timeline for 2020-2021.

The Council entered into discussion and the following was noted:

- The school board was given a timeline to balance its budget but the MESS has not followed its own rules so the school board had to make assumptions. This is unacceptable as the necessary information was not received in order to make proper decisions;
- Working on assumptions makes the budget numbers almost fictitious;
- The Director of Financial Resources and his team are to be commended for completing a balanced budget without all the necessary information.

WHEREAS in accordance with the Education Act (CQLR, chapter I-13.3), the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board must adopt and submit to the Ministère de l'Éducation et de l'Enseignement supérieur (MEES) its operating, investment and debt service budget for the 2020-2021 school year (the "budget");

WHEREAS the 2020-2021 budget was build based on the consultation budget parameters presented on May 29, 2020;

WHEREAS the budget is balanced for the 2020-2021 school year based on a typical school year;

WHEREAS the 2020-2021 budget does not include potential financial impacts caused by the COVID-19 in revenues, additional expenditures and costs savings;

WHEREAS the MEES needs to consider financial adjustments related to transportation, staffing and other additional costs currently predicted due to the COVID-19 pandemic;

WHEREAS directives from the MEES with regard to the treatment of incremental costs due the COVID-19 remains to be disclosed;

WHEREAS the adjusted standardized assessment of taxable immovables before exemption that was used to determine the balance subsidy was of \$9,670,15,264 on May 1, 2020, in accordance with the Education Act and the budgetary rules for the 2020-2021 school year;

WHEREAS the school tax proceeds, which were of \$14,432,212 on May 1, 2020, were determined by taking into account:

- an adjusted standardized assessment of taxable immovables of \$25,000 and less in the amount of \$35,404,586, and
- an adjusted standardized assessment of taxable immovables of more than \$25,000 in the amount of \$9,634,752,678;

_____ MOVED THAT, on the recommendation of the Audit Committee, the Council of Commissioners adopt the operating, investment and debt service budget for the 2020-2021 school year, providing for revenues of \$186,784,537 and expenses of \$186,784,537, subject to the authorization of the Minister, in accordance with section 279 of the Education Act;

AND THAT it be submitted to the Ministère de l'Éducation et de l'Enseignement supérieur (MEES).

Commissioner Emilio Miglioizzi proposed an amendment to the resolution in order to correct an error in one of the amounts.

Amendment to Resolution
CC-200625-FR-0119

Commissioner Guy Gagnon MOVED THAT in the 7th Whereas of the proposed resolution for the 2020-2021 budget the number \$9,670,15,264 be corrected to read \$9,670,157,264. Seconded by Commissioner Peter MacLaurin.

Carried unanimously

2020-2021 Initial Budget

CC-200625-FR-0120

WHEREAS in accordance with the Education Act (CQLR, chapter I-13.3), the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board must adopt and submit to the Ministère de l'Éducation et de l'Enseignement supérieur (MEES) its operating, investment and debt service budget for the 2020-2021 school year (the "budget");

WHEREAS the 2020-2021 budget was build based on the consultation budget parameters presented on May 29, 2020;

WHEREAS the budget is balanced for the 2020-2021 school year based on a typical school year;

WHEREAS the 2020-2021 budget does not include potential financial impacts caused by the COVID-19 in revenues, additional expenditures and costs savings;

WHEREAS the MEES needs to consider financial adjustments related to transportation, staffing and other additional costs currently predicted due to the COVID-19 pandemic;

WHEREAS directives from the MEES with regard to the treatment of incremental costs due the COVID-19 remains to be disclosed;

WHEREAS the adjusted standardized assessment of taxable immovables before exemption that was used to determine the balance subsidy was of \$9,670,157,264 on May 1, 2020, in accordance with the Education Act and the budgetary rules for the 2020-2021 school year;

WHEREAS the school tax proceeds, which were of \$14,432,212 on May 1, 2020, were determined by taking into account:

- an adjusted standardized assessment of taxable immovables of \$25,000 and less in the amount of \$35,404,586, and
- an adjusted standardized assessment of taxable immovables of more than \$25,000 in the amount of \$9,634,752,678;

Commissioner Emilio Migliozi MOVED THAT, on the recommendation of the Audit Committee, the Council of Commissioners adopt the operating, investment and debt service budget for the 2020-2021 school year, providing for revenues of \$186,784,537 and expenses of \$186,784,537, subject to the authorization of the Minister, in accordance with section 279 of the Education Act;

AND THAT it be submitted to the Ministère de l'Éducation et de l'Enseignement supérieur (MEES).

Carried unanimously

8.1.2 School Taxes 2020-2021

School Taxes
2020-2021

CC-200625-FR-0121

WHEREAS Bill 3: *An Act to establish a single school tax rate*, was adopted into law on April 16, 2019;

WHEREAS the objective of this law is to establish a single school tax rate for the province of Québec;

WHEREAS this objective has been achieved;

Commissioner Bob Pellerin MOVED THAT the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board approve the 2020-2021 school tax rate of 0.10540.

Carried unanimously

Parent Commissioner Anthony Beliotis entered the meeting via Zoom.

TIME: 20:27 hours

8.2 Material Resources and Transportation

8.2.1 Change Orders – Renovation Project – LSA - Washroom

Change Orders
Renovation Project
LSA - Washroom

CC-200625-MR-0122

WHEREAS the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board adopted resolution #CC-191023-MR-0029, awarding the contract for the bathroom renovation project at Laval Senior Academy to Berloy Construction Inc., for a total cost of \$1,466,995.00 before taxes or \$1,568,023.28 net taxes;

WHEREAS the Executive Committee the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board adopted resolutions #EC-2001229-MR-0034, EC-200226-MR-0039, EC-200325-MR-0044 and EC-200429-MR-0048, approving various change orders in the amount of \$114,768.66, before taxes or \$122, 672.49 net taxes;

WHEREAS during the project additional change orders occurred relating to various modifications (structure, concrete walls, rental of outdoor washroom, plumbing, removal and replacement of hand dryers and soap dispensers, and a credit for returning hand dryers) in the amount of \$34,175.37, before taxes or \$36,528.94 net taxes;

Commissioner James Di Sano MOVED THAT, on the recommendation of the Corporate Committee, the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board approve the change orders in the amount of \$34,175.37, before taxes or \$36,528.94 net taxes

AND THAT the total cost of the project, including the change orders, be increased to \$1,615,939.03, before taxes or \$1,727,224.71\$ net taxes;

AND THAT the Chairperson, or in their absence or with their knowledge the Vice-Chair, as well as the Director General, or in their absence or with their knowledge the Assistant Director General, be authorized to sign all documentation concerning this project;

FURTHER THAT the Director of Material Resources and Transportation be authorized to sign documentation concerning this project, as per By-Law no BL2008-CA-01: Delegation of Functions & Powers of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board.

Carried unanimously

8.3 Adult Education and Vocational Training / Service aux entreprises

8.3.1 Vocational Training Program Authorizations – Secretarial Studies – Legal & Computer Graphics

Vocational Training
Program Authorizations
Secretarial Studies – Legal
& Computer Graphics

CC-200625-AE-0123

WHEREAS Orientation #2 of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board's Commitment-to-Success Plan requires that the school board offer students a variety of choices through 21st century programs and curriculums;

WHEREAS Objective #3 of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board's Commitment-to-Success Plan requires that the school board graduate a greater number of students from high school or vocational training before the age of 20;

WHEREAS Vocational Training is a priority for Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board to support increased accessibility to programs for students in our territory;

WHEREAS the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board wishes to offer "Secretarial Studies - Legal" and "Computer Graphics" in English;

WHEREAS the job prospects for the 2019-2023 period for legal administrative assistants are good according to the labour market information provided by Emploi-Québec's *IMT en ligne* website;

WHEREAS the job prospects for the 2019-2023 period for graphic designers and illustrators are excellent according to the labour market information provided by Emploi-Québec's *IMT en ligne* website;

Commissioner Vicky Kaliozakis MOVED THAT, on the recommendation of the Pedagogical Committee, the Council of Commissioners of the Sir-Wilfrid-Laurier School Board request authorization from the Ministère de l'Éducation, de l'Enseignement supérieur to offer the following programs:

- AVS 5726 Secretarial Studies - Legal
- DVS 5844 Computer Graphics

Carried unanimously

8.4 Date, Time and Place of Council and Executive Committee Meetings 2020-2021

8.4.1 Council

Date, Time and Place of
Council and Executive
Committee Meetings
2020-2021

Council

CC-200625-CA-0124

WHEREAS section 162 of the Education Act (CQLR, Chapter I-13.3) indicates that the Council of Commissioners must, by by-law, fix the day, time and place of its regular meetings;

WHEREAS no by-law may be adopted by a school board unless public notice is given according to section 392 of the Education Act (CQLR, Chapter I-13.3);

WHEREAS said public notice must indicate the object of the by-law, the day appointed for its adoption and the place where the draft may be examined;

WHEREAS public notice was given with regard to the amendments to By-Law #BL2000-CA-05: Day, Time & Place of Regular Meetings of the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board and a copy of the draft by-law was sent to each governing board and to the parents' committee;

Parent Commissioner Anthony Beliotis MOVED THAT, on the recommendation of the Corporate Committee, the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board approve the amendments to by-law #BL2000-CA-05: Day, Time & Place of Regular Meetings of the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board;

AND THAT this by-law becomes effective upon the publication of a public notice to that effect, in accordance with section 394 of the Education Act (R.S.Q., Chapter I-13.3).

Carried unanimously

8.4.2 Executive Committee

Date, Time and Place of
Council and Executive
Committee Meetings
2020-2021

Executive Committee

CC-200625-CA-0125

WHEREAS in accordance with sections 162 and 182 of the Education Act, the day, time and place of the regular meetings of the Executive Committee must be fixed by by-law.

WHEREAS no by-law may be adopted by a school board unless public notice is given according to section 392 of the Education Act;

WHEREAS said public notice must indicate the object of the by-law, the day appointed for its adoption and the place where the draft may be examined;

WHEREAS public notice was given with regard to the amendments to By-Law #BL2008-CA-15: Day, Time & Place of Regular Meetings of the Executive Committee of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board and a copy of the draft by-law was sent to each governing board and to the parents' committee;

Parent Commissioner Tara Anderson MOVED THAT, on the recommendation of the Corporate Committee, the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board approve the amendments to by-law #BL2008-CA-15: Day, Time & Place of Regular Meetings of the Executive Committee of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board;

AND THAT this by-law becomes effective upon the publication of a public notice to that effect, in accordance with section 394 of the Education Act.

Carried unanimously

9.0 Information Items

9.1 SWL Foundation Report:

There was no report.

9.2 Parent Commissioners Reports

9.2.1 Parents Committee Report:

The report can be found in the meeting package.

9.2.2 SEAC Report:

There was no report.

9.3 Report of QESBA

There was no report.

10.0 Question Period

The Director of Corporate Affairs and Secretary General confirmed that questions had been received from Adam Gordon, Chair of the Parents Committee.

In response to Mr. Gordon's questions the Director General responded as follows:

- The transportation budget has been established on a normal school year;
- It has been brought to the attention of the MEES that the parameters for transportation have to be examined carefully so there may be further information forthcoming;
- The budget for the 2020-2021 school year has been reduced, given that the current Council is only in place until November 1, 2020, due to upcoming school board elections;
- School boards are not financed by the MEES for school elections and the 2014 school elections cost in the neighbourhood of \$350,000.00.

The Chairperson thanked Mr. Gordon and the Parents Committee for its support this past school year.

In response to a question from the Chairperson, the Director of Corporate Affairs and Secretary General confirmed that there were no additional questions.

11.0 Correspondence

There was no correspondence.

12.0 Varia

12.1 Council Letter to the MEES

12.1.1 Communication Practices by the MEES

The Chairperson noted that the upcoming resolution is an important one as it sends a clear message to the Ministère de l'Éducation et de l'Enseignement supérieur ("MEES") and the Coalition Avenir Québec ("CAQ") government that the existing Council of Commissioners deserve to be respected while still in office. In recent months the MEES and the CAQ have been bypassing the Chairpersons of the school boards and dealing directly with the Directors General.

Commissioner Peter MacLaurin commented that, as a minority, the English school boards have taken a stand and should be voicing concerns as the government is attempting to dilute the excellence that each school board has established. The Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board has been in the forefront of forward thinking education and should be very proud of this fact.

Communication Practices
by the MEES

CC-200625-CA-0126

WHEREAS the Government of Quebec enacted Bill 40 "An Act to amend mainly the Education Act with regard to school organization and governance" on February 8th, 2020 ("Bill 40");

WHEREAS within that same law it is provisioned that English language school boards are to remain in place until November 2020;

WHEREAS since the adoption of the law, the Ministère de l'Éducation et de l'Enseignement supérieur ("MEES") has been communicating, for all matters, directly with the Director Generals of all English language school boards and therefore bypassing their respective chairperson;

WHEREAS according to Bill 40, the official spokesperson of each English language school board remains the chairperson until November 2020;

WHEREAS Section 23 of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms grants an exclusive power of management and control over minority language instruction and facilities to rightsholders or their representative;

WHEREAS the members of the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board have been duly and legally elected by their communities as the representatives and governing body of our school board;

Commissioner Peter MacLaurin MOVED THAT the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board formally request to be recognized and acknowledged as the point of contact for the MEES for all governance matters;

AND THAT the MEES respect the role of the members of the Council of Commissioners and of its chairperson, as well as the communication channels with regard to governance matters as was previously the case, before the adoption of Bill 40;

FURTHER THAT a copy of this resolution be sent to all concerned parties, as per Document #SWLSB-2020/06/25-CA-003, which includes but not limited to, the Minister of Education, Jean Francois Roberge, and the Premier, Francois Legault.

Carried unanimously

12.1.2 Directive with Regards to a New Logo for the SWLSB

The Chairperson noted that these two resolutions will be sent with a letter to the Minister of Education and will be cc'd to the following:

François Legault, Premier of Québec; Dominique Anglade, Leader of the Official Opposition; Manon Massé, Leader of the Second Opposition Group; Pascal Bérubé, Leader of the Third Opposition Group; Marwah Rizky, MNA for Saint-Laurent and Official Opposition Critic for Education; Christine Labrie, MNA for Sherbrooke and Second Opposition Group Critic for Education; Véronique Hivon, MNA for Joliette and Third Opposition Group Critic for Education; Christopher Skeete, MNA for Sainte-Rose and Parliamentary Assistant to the Premier for Relations with English-Speaking Quebecers; Danielle McCann, MNA for Sanguinet, Minister of Higher Education; All Members of the National Assembly representing the territory of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board; Dan Lamoureux, President of QESBA; David Birnbaum, MNA for D'Arcy-McGee; Geoffrey Kelley, President of APPELE-Québec; Jennifer Maccarone, MNA for Westmount-Saint-Louis; Kathleen Weil, MNA for Notre-Dame-de-Grâce; all Chairs of the English school boards of Québec; and all Chairs of the Governing Boards of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board.

He went on to note that taking away the logo of a school board removes a huge chunk of its identity, an identity that has been built over the past 22 years, and now the MEES is trying to erase this for all school boards.

In response to a comments from Commissioners, the Chairperson noted:

- A press release will be done concerning these two resolutions and posted on the school board's social media;
- All points made are valid;
- The fact that the English school boards are in court fighting for section 23 of the Charter of Rights and Freedoms could result in a significant decision if the CAQ is successful in squashing the rights of English school boards but the decision could also have a negative impact on small French school boards throughout Canada, who will be watching the results of the court challenge carefully.

Several Commissioners stated that the English community have always been good citizens but that now is time to stand up for its constitutional rights and those of its students and ensure that parents understand why the school board has undertaken the court challenge. There are things within education that need to be fixed but taking away control will not fix anything. Minorities worldwide need to stand up can be counted and ensure that the world understands their importance to the global community.

At the suggestion of Commissioner Emilio Migliozi, the Chairperson asked that all Commissioners in favour of the following resolution raise their hands and state "yes". All Commissioners complied.

Directive with regards to a
New Logo for the SWLSB

CC-200625-CA-0127

WHEREAS the Government of Quebec enacted Bill 40 " An Act to amend mainly the Education Act with regard to school organization and governance" on February 8th, 2020 ("Bill 40");

WHEREAS one of the stated intentions of Bill 40, as presented by the Minister of Education, Jean Francois Roberge, was to provide a framework of decentralization of the decisional process;

WHEREAS on June 11, 2020 the MEES issued a directive changing the name, logo, and all branding relating to school boards, including the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board ("SWLSB");

WHEREAS said directive does not include any wording in English for the new naming convention being prescribed;

WHEREAS in this same directive, instructions are given dictating that email addresses be converted to the “.gouv.qc.ca” internet domain suffix;

WHEREAS all Quebec government services also use the “.gouv.qc.ca” internet domain suffix;

WHEREAS the Council of Commissioners of the SWLSB does not believe that these new directives are in line with the stated objective of providing a framework of decentralization of the decisional process;

WHEREAS Section 23 of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms ("Charter") grants an exclusive power of management and control over minority language instruction and facilities to rightsholders or their representatives;

WHEREAS the members of the Council of Commissioners of the SWLSB have been duly and legally elected as representatives and governing body of our school board;

WHEREAS part of the power of management includes the adoption of image and communication strategies;

WHEREAS the SWLSB has been using its current logo since 2006;

WHEREAS the SWLSB has been using the internet domain of “swlauriersb.qc.ca” since 2000;

WHEREAS the SWLSB is committed to the success of its students and over the years has developed a Commitment to success plan that is unique and distinct. A plan that reflects the objectives of the MEES and more importantly also addresses the specific needs of its stakeholders across its whole geographical region;

WHEREAS the Council of Commissioners of the SWLSB firmly believes that its success has been rooted in this unique and distinct approach. A vision that is reflected in the corporate identity adopted by the SWLSB, and that these identifiers are part of the communication plan established by the SWLSB;

WHEREAS the Council of Commissioners of the SWLSB believes that associating the mission of its school board to a common internet domain of “.gouv.qc.ca” further dilutes its visibility in the public eye, rendering it indistinguishable from any other government service. In fact further erasing its unique identity, which in turn violates our rights according to section 23 of the Charter;

WHEREAS the Council of Commissioners of the SWLSB believes that the new identifications being imposed by the MEES will have a homogenizing effect rendering it but a franchise of the Government of Quebec, and thus stripping it of its identity and uniqueness and ultimately impacting its success;

Commissioner Guy Gagnon MOVED THAT the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board retains the right to its identity and image as accorded by Section 23 of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms;

FURTHER THAT a copy of this resolution be sent to all concerned parties, as per Document #SWLSB-2020/06/25-CA-003, which includes but not limited to, the Minister of Education, Jean Francois Roberge, and the Premier, Francois Legault.

Carried unanimously

12.2 Engagement – Coordinator of Information Technology

The Chairperson noted that Commissioners Peter MacLaurin and Emilio Migliozi and himself were part of the Selection Committee for this position and that the person selected is a testament to the excellent personnel this school board has engaged over the years.

The Director of Human Resources provided background information on the selected candidate noting that she has been an Analyst in the department for the past 12 years and that she will be an asset to the Management team.

Engagement
Coordinator of Information
Technology

WHEREAS the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board adopted resolution #CC-170125-HR-0050, approving the Organizational Chart for Management Staff;

WHEREAS the position of Coordinator of Information Technology is currently vacant;

CC-200625-HR-0128

WHEREAS, in accordance with section 5.2 of policy #2000-HR-02: Regulating the Working Conditions of Management Staff Represented by the Sir Wilfrid Laurier Section Association des cadres scolaires du Québec AND section 5.2.1 of policy #2000-HR-01: Regulating the Working Conditions of Management Staff represented by the Sir Wilfrid Laurier Administrators' Association, a Selection Committee was established to conduct interviews;

WHEREAS this position was posted and a Selection Committee held interviews on June 17, 2020;

Commissioner Emilio Migliozi MOVED THAT, on the recommendation of the Selection Committee, the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board engage **Isabel La Chance** as Coordinator of Information Technology, effective June 29, 2020, in accordance with the Regulation Governing the Working Conditions of Management Staff of School Boards and the Management Policies of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board.

Carried unanimously

The Chairperson and the Director General congratulated Ms. La Chance and welcomed her to the Management team.

13.0 Adjournment

The Chairperson read the following into the minutes:

"Tonight, is the last council of the school year and I can tell you it's a bittersweet one for the members of Council.

In education, 2019-2020 is a year we will never forget. It's had its many hardships but it's also had many accomplishments.

Before the official recognition part of the meeting, I would like to express Council's deep appreciation for the commitment the Sir Wilfrid Laurier school Board employees have demonstrated during these uncertain times.

I am so proud to be the Chairperson of our school board. We have witnessed so many beautiful stories and initiatives on our school board, schools and centres social media platforms.

Our school board certainly knows how to come together when the going gets tough.

Thank you to the head office teams for supporting our schools and centres and for making sure communications were sent in a timely manner. Thank you for adapting so quickly to a working from home reality and for continuing to offer quality services to our stakeholders despite the difficult context. Thank you for keeping connected, despite the isolation of the confinement.

Thank you to our emergency daycare teams for being there and accompanying our families, day in day out!

Thank you to our caretakers, for making sure our buildings were safe and met Public Health sanitary guidelines.

Thank you to our teachers for their adaptability and for quickly learning new ways of teaching and for reaching out and connecting with our students and families.

Thank you, to the principals, vice-principals and centre directors for being positive leaders in a time of uncertainty and for supporting your teams.

Thank you to our unions and associations for your openness and your flexibility.

Thank you to each and every one of you, who have been working countless hours all while keeping up with your regular duties in addition to all the added COVID-19 responsibilities that nobody could have planned.

Council would like to give a special shout out to our parents and students. We know it's been hard and we appreciate your understanding and patience while we were navigating through these uncharted waters.

And lastly, on my personal behalf, I would like to thank my fellow Commissioners for their continued support during this past school year. We don't always see eye to eye, but we always come together for the good of our students and staff and I am very appreciative of that.

We are more than a school board. We are a family. And as Ms. Absolonne and I have said time and time again these past few weeks: we will get through this together."

He wished everyone a safe and healthy summer.

Parent Commissioner Tara Anderson MOVED the adjournment of the meeting.

Carried unanimously

TIME: 21:46 hours

NEXT MEETING ⇒ REGULAR ⇒ September 23, 2020