

Minutes of the fourth (4th) meeting of the 2020-2021 Sir Wilfrid Laurier Parents Committee held on Thursday January 7th, 2021 at 7:15 p.m. via ZOOM videoconferencing.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Laura Orzea	Crestview Elementary	Tanya Khan	Morin Heights Elementary
Dalia Gonzalez	Franklin Hill Elementary	Lannie Richard	Mountainview Elementary
Lina Aristeo	Genesis Elementary	Spiros Mitzinis	Our Lady of Peace Elementary
Michelle Deslauriers	Grenville Elementary	Tania Mitchell	Pierre E. Trudeau Elementary
Jenny Georgiopoulos	Hillcrest Academy	Jennifer St-Roch	Pinewood Elementary
Jennifer Subaihi	John F Kennedy Elementary	Stephannie Hamel	Rawdon Elementary
Vanessa Pietraroia	Joliette Elementary	Jossie Tortorici	Rosemere High
Richard Alary	Joliette High	Christos Strifas	Souvenir Elementary
Sheila Lindsay	Jules Verne Elementary	John Critchley	St. Jude Elementary
Adam Gordon	Lake of Two Mountains High	Michelina Capozzi	St. Paul Elementary
Tara Anderson	Laurentia Elementary	Marcelo Iaconvella	St. Vincent Elementary
Karrine Morrison	Laurentian Elementary	Chloée Alary	Ste-Adele Elementary
Donald Beverly	Laurentian Regional High	Barbara Barrasso	Terry Fox Elementary
Evan Goudis	Laval Junior Academy	Tania Cundari	Twin Oaks Elementary
Ailsa Pehi	Laval Senior Academy	Tony Beliotis	SEAC Representative
Lisa Cipriani	McCaig Elementary		

ALSO PRESENT: Gaëlle Absolonne, Director General; Fred Greschner, Assistant Director General; Paolo Galati, Chairperson; Robin Bennett, Director of Information Technology; Chao Ling Pan, Director of Financial Resources; Carol Totoda, Learn Quebec; The alternate delegates from Franklin Hill Elementary, Mountainview Elementary, Terry Fox Elementary, Lake of Two Mountains High, Laval Junior Academy, SEAC

ABSENT: Arundel Elementary, Ste-Agathe Academy

The chairperson called the meeting to order at 7:18 pm

1. WELCOME, INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS, AND OPENING OF MEETING

The chairperson welcomed everyone.

2. ROLL CALL

3. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF THE LAND

McCaig Elementary read the acknowledgement of the land.

4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Add: 11.1 Letters from EPCA

PC20210107-01 Rawdon Elementary MOVED THAT the agenda be accepted with the addition. Seconded by Joliette High.

Carried **UNANIMOUSLY**

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES of December 3, 2020

PC20210107-02 Laval Junior Academy MOVED THAT the minutes of December 3, 2020 be accepted. Seconded by Terry Fox Elementary.

This motion was CARRIED on the following division:

For: Crestview Elem, Franklin Hill Elem, Grenville Elem, Hillcrest Acad, John F. Kennedy Elem, Joliette Elem, Joliette High, Jules Verne Elem, Lake of Two Mountains High, Laurentia Elementary, Laurentian Regional High, Laval Junior High, McCaig Elem, Morin Heights Elem, Mountainview Elem, Pierre E. Trudeau Elem, Pinewood Elem, Rawdon Elem, St. Jude Elem, St. Vincent Elem, St. Paul Elem, Ste-Adele Elem, Souvenir Elem, Terry Fox Elem, SEAC

Abstain: Genesis Elem, Laurentian Elem, Laval Senior Academy, Our Lady of Peace Elem, Rosemere High, Twin Oaks Elem
 (25-0-6)

6. QUESTION PERIOD

The questions asked in the public forum will be answered during the school board report.

7. SPECIAL PRESENTATION – Carol Toteda – Learn Quebec

Welcome to Carol Toteda from Learn Quebec.

- Learn Quebec offers FREE educational services, workshops and resources to teachers, students (not for Kindergarten or grade 1), parents and community www.learnquebec.ca, all from the comfort of your own home.
- Learn services English schools in the province. Over 13,000 students use this service.
 - Online and blended learning (at the request of the school boards)
 - Online tutoring adapted to students needs
 - Summer school
 - Subject help
 - How to's – simple tasks for students
- Sessions are October to February, April through June exams. Learn is adapting to the needs of the community during the pandemic.
- To make an appointment www.learnquebec.ca/tutoring
- The Lake of Two Mountains alternate delegate suggested to offer summer sessions to students through Learn to get them caught up as a lot are behind because of the pandemic. Carol will bring this suggestion back to the board of directors.
- Joliette Elementary is interested in the statistics of users per school in school board. The Learn Quebec annual report will give this information.
- Crestview Elementary how long does it take to get the service? Carol suggests to make the request as soon as possible. Could be up to two weeks to get the first appointment. Once the first appointment has been made, the follow ups are quicker.
- Lake of Two Mountains High – in response to a question the parents are the ones who should bring the subject of Learn to their GB if they would like a presentation.
- Carol will send the chairperson a link to a survey for parents to fill out.

8. NEW BUSINESS

8.1 Budget Building Survey – Mr. Chao Ling Pan, Director of Financial Resources

- Welcome to Mr. Pan who presented and explained the annual budget building survey to members.
- This is an annual consultation before starting to build the budget for the next school year. The consultation is until February 11.
- Each GB will receive this survey in addition to the PC. All results are gathered and brought back to the Resource Allocation Committee to look at and formulate the orientation in terms of the budget for the following school year.
- Terry Fox Elementary asked that the PDF in question 3 be sent by email as the link won't open. He will send this to the chairperson who will send to members. Any other questions members have please go through your principal and he will answer.
- Souvenir Elementary asked why the windows that should have been changed in his school did not get done at the last minute. This is something related to the MRT department as they pay this through their budget. Once the budget is allocated the department works within their own budget.
- PC will complete this survey at the February meeting.

8.2 Parents Committee brochure

- The PC brochure on the school board website is outdated. PC² has come up with an updated document that was presented to members. It will be shared by e-mail to members for review and suggestions.
- Once it is final, the communications department will design a pdf document that parents can download.

9. REPORTS

9.1 School Board

9.1.1 General Directorate

Covid update:

As of January 5, 2021:

- Total number of positive cases since August: 323
- Schools/centres with current active Covid cases: 14

Procedures when there is a confirmed COVID case:

- Schools send letters to parents
- SWLSB remains in constant communication with local CISSS
- Regular updates of current cases available on SWLSB website

Educational services for distance education during class isolation:

- Devices are deployed, when required. If any parent has received a device for their child, please make sure it is returned once your child is back in the school.
- School emergency protocol put in place for educational services (minimum service to students from MEQ)
- The DG gave an update on government measures starting January 11 for elementary, high and AEVT. Parents received an email with these updates. All students at the elementary level from Grades 1 to 6 have to wear face coverings in hallways, common areas and school grounds. Grades 5 and 6 must wear in class and on the bus. High school and AEVT students must wear procedural masks at all times. We have sufficient procedural masks to give out as the government will be giving us 2 procedural masks per day for each student and staff member.
- Emergency daycares offered in all our elementary schools with daycares from December 17, 2020 to January 8, 2021. Registrations in 17 schools (out of 23 schools offering daycares)
- Emergency daycares are open for front line workers. The list is available on the government website: <https://www.quebec.ca/>
- In response to a question from Hillcrest Academy the DG responded that she would not like to answer as she is not the expert on why elementary students are not required to wear procedural masks, that would be a question for public health. This is a government requirement.

Ventilation in buildings update

- Letter from the MEQ received on November 27. A sampling of buildings to be tested for the following:
 - 1) level of CO2
 - 2) humidity level
 - 3) temperature(inside)
- Data was compiled by our MRT Department and sent to MEQ by December 16, 2020 (for CDC Pont Viau, CDC Vimont, LSA and St Vincent)
- December 17, 2020: Special meeting of the Council of Commissioners - adopts a resolution to go to tender to purchase air purifiers
- December 21, 2020: Public tender until January 20, 2021
- January 27, 2021: Council of Commissioners will adopt a resolution to award contract to supplier
- If you would like to know what kind of ventilation system is in your school, please ask your principal.

Next steps:

- Presentation of testing results at respective GB meetings
- Installation of equipment (air purifiers) within tender parameters
- Our school board has been investing in an energy reduction project that helps in reducing the energy consumption in our buildings. Several initiatives have taken place with more to come that will help with the reduction of greenhouse emissions. To date we have saved 25% on our energy bills.
- The Embracing Diversity conference that was held for employees had 352 participants (292 SWLSB, 60 external) and was a great success. Thank you to Stephane Henley and the team from PSD who helped organize this conference.
- Social Integration Services (SIS) at the adult centre were approached by Injections Triplast, (a packaging services company) to help them sort some equipment for future distribution. This exciting partnership is directly aligned with our Adult Education priority to have our vulnerable students of age 21 and above contributing to the job market.
- Registration period begins January 25, 2021.

- Computing Support course begins at the vocational training centre on February 1, 2021.
- Private Security Guard course begins March 8, 2021.
- In the PowerPoint report there is a link for all of the VT courses offered at our centres.
- Embracing Diversity FREE conference this Sunday for all SWLSB families. Deadline to register is January 8.

Questions:

- Will children have to wear masks in Phys Ed. The DG will be attending a meeting with the ministry to ask the many questions that have been submitted so far. We are waiting to get these questions answered before sending a communique to parents with a clearer picture.
- Will grades 5 and 6 be supplied masks? No, as they are not required to wear procedural masks they should come to school with their own. We DO have masks in all the buildings in case they lose them or forget to bring their own. Public health says teenagers and adults are more likely to spread the virus. The DG will ask the question of why grades 5 & 6 students are not required to wear procedural masks to the minister tomorrow. Because procedural masks are compulsory they will be provided to the high school students.
- How will masks be distributed to HS students? The schools are responsible to distribute them in the way that works for their own school.
- Will students who are allergic to procedural masks be able to wear their own? yes.
- Will students need to wear them outside? The DG will get the precision at the press conference on Friday. Right now, it says it is compulsory on school grounds.
- In response to a question from Souvenir Elementary, the call to tender for the air purifiers was published on SEAO on December 22. All of the specifications for the air purifiers are in the tender.
- Will we force our staff to take the vaccine? No, we won't.
- Will there be greater reprimands for staff not wearing PPE for both elementary and high school. Wearing PPE is compulsory for all employees and if they are not please bring it to the attention of your principal.
- Are there any updates on teacher negotiations? The DG has not heard any further details. Once we have news, the communities will be informed.
- LSA – What kinds of pressure tactics can parents expect? In the past some of the tactics were no ECAs, however it will be difficult for pressure tactics during the pandemic. There has been no information given to date.
- LSA – Clarification from the chair that council passed a resolution to tell the ministry that we are purchasing air purifiers and to ask them to refund them given that they are mandating students back to school.
- LSA – Where in the chain are teachers on the list to be vaccinated? We do not know what level they are at but want to be sure that because teachers are our front-line workers that they be at the top.
- LSA – Clarification on the 90% - this is the PPE refund.
- LSA – How much has been spent on elections to date? Close to \$100,000 right now because they have been postponed twice. Employees were paid and cards were sent out to all electors twice. Council is asking for the entire election process to be reimbursed.
- Laurentia – why is Laurentia already on the PreK list for 2021-2022. Mr. Greschner will follow up with SASO.
- Hillcrest – is there a possibility that students could fail their year, or is it a no child is left behind. The DG is looking forward to hearing the press conference as evaluation of learning will be discussed. Adjustments are expected to address this concern at the press conference and as soon as we have the answer it will be communicated to parents.
- Mountainview – Understood that two letters are sent when there is a covid case in a school – one to the entire school population and one to the class/bus/daycare group affected. There are different types of letters send, depending on the covid case. There are letters for the global population and letters for the classes with students who test positive. There are also letters for daycare and buses. During the holiday period if anyone tested positive, it is an active case but they have not been in school so no letters have been sent. The delegate says that letters went to some parents and not all. The DG will verify this.
- McCaig – clarify the re-registration procedure for in school students as well as virtual campus. Re-registration period will go through Mozaik Portal. The ADG will enquire about the virtual campus. The registration period will start the same week and can be done online and some in school appointments will be made.

- Souvenir – have the principals been given the results of the air quality tests yet? It will likely be February before the results are sent to schools.
- Public - 30 minutes of education is not enough. If the confinement for all had had been extended, 1300 devices have been made available to elementary school children and the emergency protocols for schools would have taken place for distance learning.
- Genesis – is there enough resources at the school level for everyone when they do online learning. If an employee's connectivity is not working well at home they are able to go to school to teach from there. There are enough zoom licenses that more than one teacher can go online at one time. Teachers have had a lot of training on three platforms - Zoom, Teams and Google Classroom. All teachers across the board have been offered training on all of the platforms. The three extra ped days that the ministry mandated will be PD days that will focus on various types of learning activities for teachers to teach online. Ped services offers workshops to all schools on online teaching and have been doing it since the beginning of the school year. TELUQ also developed a program for teachers to go online to learn.
- Rawdon – attention span of a 7-year-old for 30 minutes of online learning is tough. Is there anything that caters more to younger students? With loaned out devices what is the parent's liability should something happen to the device? It is a challenge for younger students which is why it was important for them to get back to school as soon as possible. When parents receive a device there is a form that they have to sign – we know accidents happen – but with over 4000 devices circulating, we need parents to be vigilant with these items.
- Mountainview alternate – Are staff members required to supply a negative test before coming back to school after their 14-day quarantine. No, they are not.
- The masks that were defective and recalled were not distributed in any of our schools.

9.1.2 SWLSB Chairperson

- Happy New Year to all
- A letter sent to Mr. Roberge from the council was shared with members. In the letter, the council passed resolutions asking:
 1. that the government reimburse the school boards for the purchase of air purifiers.
 2. that employees in the education sector be prioritized in the vaccination campaign.
 3. that the government reimburse all election expenses. Elections have been postponed twice and because of this, it has cost the school board extra.
 4. for full reimbursement for PPE for staff. School boards are reimbursed 90% for PPE.

9.2 PC Chairperson

Foregoing report due to the lengthy evening

9.3 PC Vice-Chairperson

Some schools are reporting difficulties or challenges implementing ABAV plans in schools.

9.4 Secretary

9.4.1 Facebook sub-committee

In members' packages.

9.5 Treasurer

In members' packages.

9.6 Parent Commissioner

In members' packages with two corrections.

- The transportation videos are for all elementary levels not just grade 2.
- The new VP at RHS is Shannon Rudolph.

9.7 EPCA (English Parents Committee Association)

- EPCA has partnered with the FCPQ to have English content in a magazine called école branchée. FCPQ have been publishing this magazine for years. It is geared towards online learning. EPCA will be putting out articles in the magazine that will be coming out in February. The content chosen for the magazine is based on feedback from the survey from November and December. All of the content done in English was done for the English community in English (it was not translated from French to English). It is being translated to French for the French sector. Their content will be translated for English as well.
- More information to come in two weeks – another partnership EPCA has with a new group that will go toward a website. There will be English and French resources for parents.

The chairperson thanked the EPCA directors for their hard work.

Jules Verne Elementary left the meeting at 9:45

Pinewood Elementary left the meeting at 10:15

Genesis Elementary left the meeting at 10:16

John F. Kennedy left the meeting at 10:16

9.8 RCP-3L

No report

9.9 SEAC

In members' packages.

Embracing Diversity conference January 10, 2021.

9.10 Transportation Advisory

No report.

10. VARIA

11. QUESTION PERIOD

- How many of the 323 positive cases were due to communal transmissions within the school? The DG does not have the information and does not always get this information from public health.
- Elections update –no new information. Postponed until further notice.
- Some bus drivers not wearing masks – bus drivers have plexiglass dividing them from the students and because of this barrier they are not obliged to wear masks. The DG will verify if the directive has changed.
- Sec 3-4-5 will maintain one day in one day out when school starts. Parents can go to www.Quebec.ca - click on top and press on **new confinement measures**.
- Whose decision was it to give 30 minutes only per day to elementary students? The ministry mandated that there be a daily educational connection using different methods chosen by the teacher. Directives given were very different from high school and elementary schools. This is why the DG is happy that devices are available as if there is a second confinement there will be services from schools based on their emergency protocol plans for online learning.
- Why are students asked to submit a negative result and staff is not? Neither students or staff are asked to submit. Unless public health mandates it this is not asked.
- If we keep children home for the first two weeks will the school provide work to do at home? No, the ministry has been clear that school is compulsory and students must be in school so we must follow this directive.

St Paul Elementary left the meeting at 10:21

Rawdon Elementary left the meeting at 10:23

St Vincent Elementary left the meeting at 10:25

PC20210107-03 Laurentia Elementary MOVED THAT at 10:25 p.m. the meeting be extended 30 minutes. Seconded by SEAC.

Carried **UNANIMOUSLY**

11.1 Letters from EPCA

The meeting went in camera at 10:25 p.m.

The meeting resumed at 10:52 p.m.

*John F. Kennedy returned to the meeting.
Crestview Elementary left the meeting at 10:40*

PC20210107-04 Laval Senior Academy MOVED THAT the PC will use the letters provided by EPCA as a foundation and will retain feedback from PC members through a subcommittee that was created at the meeting of Jan 7, 2020. Seconded by Joliette High.

This motion was CARRIED on the following division:

For: Franklin Hill Elem, Grenville Elem, Hillcrest Acad, John F. Kennedy Elem, Joliette Elem, Joliette High, Lake of Two Mountains High, Laurentia Elementary, Laurentian Elem, Laval Junior High, Laval Senior Academy, Our Lady of Peace Elem, McCaig Elem, Morin Heights Elem, Mountainview Elem, Rosemere High, Pierre E. Trudeau Elem, St. Jude Elem, Ste-Adele Elem, Souvenir Elem, Terry Fox Elem, Twin Oaks Elem SEAC
Against: Laurentian Regional High
(22-0-1)

Subcommittee members:

Committee Chair: Laval Senior Academy

Members: McCaig Elementary, Terry Fox Elementary, Terry Fox Elementary Alternate, John F. Kennedy Elementary, SEAC.

An email will go out to all of PC tomorrow advising them of the committee and inviting others to join.

The sub-committee will meet 7 p.m. on Sunday, January 10, 2021 via Zoom

In response to a question from Laurentia Elementary, before the letters are submitted, they will be shared and feedback from members can be given. The letters cannot be picked apart and only major changes will be considered.

12. ADJOURNMENT

Next meeting: Thursday, February 4, 2021

PC20210107-05 Lake of Two Mountains High MOVED THAT the meeting be closed at 10:58 p.m. Seconded by SEAC.

Carried **UNANIMOUSLY**

Minutes approved _____, 2021

Chairperson

Secretary

Respectfully submitted by:
Susan O’Keeffe, Recording Secretary