

PROVINCE OF QUÉBEC
Ville de Rosemère

A Regular meeting of the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board was held via videoconference on Wednesday, December 9, 2020 at 19:30 hours, at which were:

Present via videoconference: Paolo Galati, Chairperson; Parent Commissioner Adam Gordon, Vice-Chairperson; Commissioner Melissa Wall, Alternate Vice-Chairperson; Commissioners Karla Abraham Di Francesco, Donna Anber, Vincent Cammisano, James Di Sano, Olivia Landry, Bob Pellerin and Parent Commissioners Tara Anderson and Stéphane Henley; and Gaëlle Absolonne, Director General.

Present at Administration Centre: Anna Sollazzo, Director of Corporate Affairs and Secretary General; and Jocelyne Thompson-Ness, Administration Officer.

Also present via videoconference were: Frédéric Greschner, Assistant Director General; Robin Bennett, Director of Information technology; Florence Delorme, Director of School Affairs and School Organization; Michel Dufour, Director of Material Resources and Transportation; Geoffrey Hipps, Director of Pedagogical Services; Stephanie Krenn, Director of Human Resources; and Chao Ling Pan, Director of Financial Resources.

Absent: Commissioners Anick Brunet and Emilio Migliozi

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

TIME: 19:32 hours

The Chairperson welcomed everyone to the first fully virtual meeting of the Council of Commissioners.

0.0 Opening of Meeting

0.1 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."

0.2 Recognition – Student Reporters

The Chairperson welcomed the following students and congratulated them for being engaged and interested in the school board because this was reflected in their reporting for the Laurier News Bulletin:

- Carly Scallion from McCaig Elementary School – For the August edition, Ms. Scallion reported on the school board's Commitment-to-Success Plan, back-to-school plan and work done in the schools and centres over the summer months
- Isaac Carrol from Joliette High School and Aydan Gronick from Rosemere High School – For the November edition, Mr. Carrol and Mr. Gronick reported on bus safety and Educational Professional's Week. They also interviewed two school caretakers to find out how their jobs have changed since the arrival of COVID-19.

The Laurier News Bulletin has proven to be popular with the first two editions being viewed more than 7,000 times.

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.

1.0 Approval of the Agenda

Approval of the Agenda

Parent Commissioner Tara Anderson MOVED THAT the agenda be approved as presented in document no. SWLSB-2020/12/09-CA-001.

CC-201209-CA-0044

Carried unanimously

2.0 Approval of Minutes

2.1 November 11, 2020:

Approval of Minutes
November 11, 2020

Parent Commissioner Adam Gordon MOVED THAT the minutes of the regular meeting of the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board held on November 11, 2020, having been received by all members prior to this meeting, be approved as written.

CC-201209-CA-0045

Carried unanimously

3.0 Question Period

The Director of Corporate Affairs and Secretary General explained the parameters of the question period.

The Director of Corporate Affairs and Secretary General advised that no questions were received prior to this meeting.

4.0 Report from the Chairperson

The Chairperson began his report by noting that he hopes that everyone can rest and enjoy the holiday break. He expressed appreciation, on behalf of the Council, to students, teachers, and all employees for keeping everything running efficiently over the past ten months.

He continued his report highlighting:

- The visit to the two possible locations for the new school in Lanaudière in the Ville de St-Lin-Laurentides noting that the school would be promoted as a hub for the community as it would have two full-sized gyms. He thanked the Director of Material Resources and Transportation and his team for allowing Commissioner Bob Pellerin and himself to attend the location visit;
- Meetings of Selection Committees for various positions;
- The next meeting of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier Foundation will be in February;
- The Laval Junior Academy adopt-a-tree initiative.

In response to questions concerning the possible new school in the Ville de St-Lin-Laurentides, the Chairperson, with the assistance of the Directorate team, noted the following:

- A French immersion program is a school-based decision;
- A provisional Governing Board will be established for this new school in order to have input on some of the decisions that will need to be made;
- Promotion of the new school will be done as it gets closer to its opening.

5.0 Report from the Director General

The Director General presented her monthly report, as follows:

- MEQ Directives for the holiday period :
 - As of December 17, 2020, all elementary and high school students will not be in class physically. Elementary students will return to in-school classes on January 4, 2021, and high school on January 11, 2021. Distance education is to be provided for all high school students as of January 4;
 - For Adult Education and Vocational Training instruction will be at a distance until January 11, 2021;
 - Emergency daycare will be available for frontline workers on December 17 and 18, 2020, in all schools with daycare services. Those who require daycare services must register through the government website;
- Proud Moments
 - The North Pole took over JFK – a wonderfully creative and engaged staff turned the school into a really fun place for this special time of year;
 - The annual bus safety program was presented differently this year due to COVID-19, with Material Resources and Transportation creating videos to promote this important program. The videos are available on YouTube;
- Upcoming Events and Opportunities
 - Embracing Diversity Conference – January 4, 2021, for employees, and January 10, 2021, for parents. This event is free for parents and will also offer a special session for students and families in collaboration with Educazoo;
 - CDC Pont-Viau will be offering an Industrial Drafting course beginning on January 18, 2021;
 - Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board families and Facebook friends are being invited to vote on the best decorated door for the board-wide door decorating contest and the results will be public.

In closing her report she thanked everyone for their commitment to English education, to employees for their caring nature and expertise, to parents for being collaborative and supportive, and to Commissioners for their dedication and passion, and wished everyone a happy holiday season and a well-deserved rest.

6.0 Business Arising

6.1 Enrolment Criteria - Consultation Feedback

Enrolment Criteria
Consultation Feedback

CC-201209-TS-0046

WHEREAS the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board's policy on enrolment criteria, policy no. 2014-TS-04: *Enrolment Criteria*, is reviewed on an as-needed basis;

WHEREAS amendments to said policy were made, in particular, to the registration period, whereby new students will be registering at the same time as those who are re-registering;

WHEREAS the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board adopted resolution no. CC-200923-TS-0004, authorizing for consultation the amendments to said policy;

WHEREAS the consultation period ended on November 27, 2020;

WHEREAS the Parents' Committee of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board has been consulted on policy no. 2014-TS-04: *Enrolment Criteria* and its feedback was received and taken into consideration;

WHEREAS the registration period for students, in accordance with the revised policy, is as follows:

- Registration period: Begins the **last full week** of January until the end of February;
- Re-registration period: Begins the **last full week** of January until the end of January;

Commissioner Melissa Wall MOVED THAT, on the recommendation of the Corporate Committee, the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board adopt revised policy no. 2014-TS-04: *Enrolment Criteria*;

AND THAT this policy be in effect until replaced.

Carried unanimously

7.0 Decision Items:

7.1 Human Resources

7.1.1 Engagement – Vice-Principal – Rosemere HS

The Chairperson, as a member of the Selection Committee, noted that the recommended candidate for the position of Vice-Principal at Rosemere High school is very competent.

Engagement of Vice-Principal
Rosemere HS

WHEREAS the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board adopted resolution no. CC-170125-HR-0050, approving the 2017-2018 Organizational Chart for Management Staff;

CC-201209-HR-0047

WHEREAS the position of Vice-Principal at Rosemere High School is currently vacant;

WHEREAS, in accordance with section 5.2.1 of policy no. 2000-HR-02: *Regulating the Working Conditions of Management Staff Represented by the Association québécoise des cadres scolaires – Sir Wilfrid Laurier Section* AND section 8.2 of policy no. 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 the selection committee held interviews on November 19, 2020;

Commissioner Olivia Landry MOVED THAT, on the recommendation of the selection committee, the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board engage **Shannon Rudolph** as Vice-Principal at Rosemere High School, effective December 10, 2020, in accordance with policies no. 2000-HR-02 and no. 2000-HR-01 on the working conditions of management staff of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board.

Carried unanimously

The Director General congratulated Ms. Rudolph and welcomed her to the administrative team.

Ms. Rudolph thanked the Council for its vote of confidence and expressed that she is excited to be a part of the team.

7.2 Financial Resources

7.2.1 Statement of Unpaid Taxes

Statement of Unpaid Taxes WHEREAS section 339 of the *Education Act* (“the Act”) requires the Director General to prepare a statement of the school taxes due and owing by owners;

CC-201209-FR-0048

WHEREAS section 340 of the Act stipulates that the statement prepared as per section 339 be submitted to the Council of Commissioners for approval;

Parent Commissioner Stéphane Henley MOVED THAT, on the recommendation of the Corporate Committee, the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board approve the statement prepared on December 1, 2020, in the amount of \$1,669,707.32.

Carried unanimously

7.2.2 Budget Building 2021-2022 – Authorization for Consultation

Budget Building 2021-2022 Authorization for Consultation WHEREAS the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board is commencing its budget building process for the 2021-2022 school year;

CC-201209-FR-0049

WHEREAS section 275 of the *Education Act* requires a school board to establish the objectives and principles governing the allocation of its revenues;

WHEREAS the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board has drafted its 2021-2022 Budget Consultation Survey;

WHEREAS said consultation survey was presented to the Audit Committee on December 2, 2020, as well as to the Resource Allocation Committee on October 23, 2020, and November 27, 2020;

Commissioner Karla Abraham Di Francesco MOVED THAT, on the recommendation of the Audit Committee, the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board authorize for consultation the 2021-2022 Budget Consultation Survey, as contained in document no. SWLSB-2020/12/09-FR-001;

AND THAT the consultation begin on December 10, 2020, and end on February 11, 2021, with the Governing Boards, the Parents’ Committee, the Association québécoise des cadres scolaires – SWL Section and the Sir Wilfrid Laurier Administrators’ Association.

Carried unanimously

7.3 Material Resources and transportation

7.3.1 PQI 2021-2031

In response to a question from Commissioner Melissa Wall, the Director of Material Resources and Transportation noted that these are new requests for buildings. The Ville de St-Lin-Laurentides is being looked into for the school that was granted in the last PQI for the Lanaudière region.

PQI 2021-2031

CC-201209-MR-0050

WHEREAS, on an annual basis, the government allocates funds to school boards to help build and enlarge schools and centres;

WHEREAS school boards must present their requests through the PQI (Plan québécois des infrastructures) on an annual basis;

WHEREAS the priority needs of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board have been evaluated;

Commissioner Donna Anber MOVED THAT, on the recommendation of the Corporate Committee, the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board approve the requests below as part of the *Plan québécois des infrastructures 2021-2031*:

Region	Project		Budget
Laval	Crestview Elementary School	1. Request for 4 portable classrooms	\$42,000,000.00
		2. Request for construction of new school	
Laurentians	New School (Mirabel area)	1. Request for 2 portables	\$35,000,000.00
		2. Request for new construction in Saint-Jérôme / Mirabel area	
	New School (Sainte-Marthe-sur-le-Lac area)	1. Request for 4 portables	\$26,000,000.00
		2. Request for new construction in Sainte-Marthe-sur-le-Lac area	
Sainte-Adèle Elementary School	1. Request for one single gymnasium	\$5,700,000.00	

AND THAT the Director of Material Resources and Transportation be mandated to submit the above requests to the Ministry of Education and to sign or submit any relevant documentation in this regard.

Carried unanimously

7.3.2 Engagement of Contractor – Portables – Joliette ES

The Council entered into discussion on the need for portables at Joliette Elementary School (JES) noting that the need to install portables is somewhat urgent as the school is growing quickly.

In response to questions, the Director of Material Resources and Transportation noted:

- Four portables are required;
- The life expectancy of a portable is ten or more years and the portables at JES would be needed for a maximum of three years;
- When the portables are no longer needed the company they are leased from comes and removes them;
- The portables will be fully accessible from the current school building through a corridor as well as from directly outside.

Engagement of Contractor
Portables - Joliette ES

WHEREAS Joliette Elementary School has reached its capacity and requires temporary classrooms (portables) in order to alleviate overcrowding;

CC-201209-MR-0051

WHEREAS a public call for tenders was made for the rental and installation of temporary classrooms (portables) and tenders were opened on November 5, 2020;

WHEREAS the conformability of all bidders has been verified;

Commissioner Bob Pellerin MOVED THAT, on the recommendation of the Corporate Committee, the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board award the contract for the rental and installation of temporary classrooms (portables) at Joliette Elementary School to SM Construction Inc., for a total cost of \$998,500.00, before taxes, or \$1,067,264.20, net taxes;

AND THAT the Chairperson or, in their absence or with their knowledge, the Vice-Chairperson 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

7.4 Pedagogical Services

7.4.1 Amendments to Resolutions

7.4.1.1 Summit School

Commissioner Melissa Wall noted that the amounts for the ententes for non-integrated students are fully funded by the MEES.

Amendments to
Resolutions

WHEREAS the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board adopted resolution no. CC-201111-ED-0036, approving the payment of the invoice received from the Summit School for educational services to be provided to sixty-five (65) students in the amount of \$1,591,747.00;

Summit School

CC-201209-ED-0052

WHEREAS the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board has received a revised list of students from the Summit School that shows a decrease of one student;

Commissioner James Di Sano MOVED THAT, on the recommendation of the Corporate Committee, the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board amend resolution no. CC-201111-ED-0036, by changing the amount to be paid to read \$1,567,828.00 and by replacing the grid with the following:

Level	Number of Students	Cost Per Student	Cost of Services 2020-2021
Pre-K			
Kindergarten			
Elementary	38	\$24,893.00	\$945,934.00
Secondary	26	\$23,919.00	\$621,894.00
Total Cost	64		\$1,567,828.00

Carried unanimously

7.5.1.2 Montreal Oral School for the Deaf

The Director of Pedagogical Services noted that these are challenging times and that this error was overlooked.

Amendments to
Resolutions

WHEREAS the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board adopted resolution no. CC-201111-ED-0039, approving the payment of the invoice received from the Montreal Oral School for the Deaf for educational services to be provided to ten (10) students in the amount of \$285,580.00;

Montreal Oral School for the
Deaf

CC-201209-ED-0053

WHEREAS the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board revised the list of students from the Montreal Oral School for the Deaf and noted that one student needed to be added to the total number of students at the Pre-K level;

Commissioner Vincent Cammisano MOVED THAT, on the recommendation of the Corporate Committee, the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board amend resolution no. CC-201111-ED-0039, by changing the amount to be paid to read \$312,619.00 and by replacing the grid with the following:

Level	Number of Students	Cost Per Student	Cost of Services 2020-2021
Pre-K	3	\$27,039.00	\$81,117.00
Kindergarten	1	\$27,039.00	\$27,039.00
Elementary	7	\$29,209.00	\$204,463.00
Secondary			
Total Cost	11		\$312,619.00

Carried unanimously

8.0 Information Items

8.1 SWL Foundation Report:

The Chairperson advised that the next meeting of the Foundation is in February 2021 and there will be a new executive. The school board will be naming its two members to the Foundation shortly.

8.2 Parent Commissioners Reports

8.2.1 Parents Committee Report:

The Vice-Chairperson noted that the Parents Committee is doing much better with the time management of its meetings. The December meeting had presentations from a Speech Language Pathologist and the new President of the English Parents Committee Association (EPCA). LEARN Québec has been invited to present in January 2021 and a workshop on the COVID-19 pandemic is being considered.

8.2.2 SEAC Report:

Parent Commissioner Stéphane Henley noted that at its last meeting SEAC discussed joining the Parents Committee Facebook page, the development of a SEAC Award and the Embracing Diversity event.

8.3 Report of QESBA

Commissioner Melissa Wall noted that she has sent the list of QESBA Committees with vacant positions to all Commissioners and that anyone who may be interested in being on one of these committees to please advise the Chairperson of the school board.

She went on to comment on various dossiers of the QESBA, as follows;

- QESBA voted unanimously to loan its Executive Director, Russell Copeman, to the English Montreal School Board as Interim Director General until a new Director General is engaged. Kim Hamilton, Director of Communications and Special Projects, will be the Interim Executive Director of QESBA;
- QESBA met with the Minister of Education on November 6, 2020, concerning lines of communication and since this meeting chairpersons and the QESBA have begun to receive correspondence which had ceased during the court challenge;
- The Minister has assigned a fluently bilingual political aide to work as a liaison with the QESBA;

- The Bill 40 legal case will be going to court in April 2021 and it is expected to last two weeks. Many minority school boards throughout Canada are watching this case closely because if the ruling is in the favor of the English school boards it will be a landmark judgement;
- QESBA is to send a letter to the Ministry asking that school boards be reimbursed for COVID-19 related costs in a timely manner so that deficits will not have to be reported;
- Fundraising to cover the legal costs of the court challenge is being considered and, if undertaken, tax receipts will be issued;
- The Canadian School Boards Association's annual conference will be held from July 7-10, 2021, in a virtual format. Information to come.

9.0 Question Period

In response to several questions and comments from Renata Isopo, journalist from The Laval News, the Chairperson, with the assistance of other council members, gave the following precisions:

- The school board continues to pay annual membership fees to QESBA and while Mr. Copeman is on loan to the English Montreal School Board as Interim Director General he will be paid by them and not QESBA;;
- The QESBA is looking into fundraising funds for the Bill 40 court challenge.

10.0 Correspondence

There is no correspondence.

11.0 Varia

11.1 Cost of Personal Protective Equipment

Cost of Personal Protective Equipment

CC-201209-MR-0054

WHEREAS, due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board (SWLSB) has been under obligation to procure significant quantities of personal protective equipment (PPE) in order to meet the directives issued by the Ministère de l'Éducation (MEQ) and the public health authorities;

WHEREAS the SWLSB follows diligently the health and safety standards for all staff and students;

WHEREAS the SWLSB has incurred significant costs to date to purchase the required PPE;

WHEREAS, for the 2019-2020 school year, the SWLSB has not been fully funded for the purchase of the PPE;

WHEREAS the SWLSB continues to purchase PPE for the current school year;

WHEREAS these additional costs have an impact on students and staff;

Commissioner Adam Gordon MOVED THAT the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board formally request to the Ministère de l'Éducation to reimburse, in a timely fashion, all personal protective equipment costs for the 2020-2021 school year;

AND THAT this resolution be sent notably to the Ministère de l'Éducation with an accompanying letter signed by the Chairperson of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board requesting such reimbursement in the best interest of all students, staff and the entire Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board community.

Carried unanimously

11.2 Cost of School Elections

Cost of School Elections
CC-201209-CA-0055

WHEREAS school boards are obligated to cover the full cost of school elections, which take place every four years;

WHEREAS the cost to the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board (SWLSB) for a school election is approximately \$350,000.00;

WHEREAS the Government of Québec provides no financing for these school elections;

WHEREAS the Government of Québec has suspended on two occasions the school elections scheduled for November 1, 2020;

WHEREAS suspending the school election has incurred additional costs for the SWLSB;

WHEREAS, due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, school elections are expected to be more costly given the health and safety guidelines;

WHEREAS the Quebec English School Board Association (QESBA) has issued a letter to the Ministre de l'Éducation requesting that school boards be reimbursed for the added school election costs, as well as proper funding for the school elections once these are resumed;

WHEREAS the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board supports the request made by the QESBA;

Commissioner Melissa Wall MOVED THAT the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board formally requests that the Ministère de l'Éducation reimburse the school board for all additional costs incurred by the suspension of school elections on two occasions;

AND THAT proper funding be provided to all English-language school boards to cover school election costs;

FURTHER THAT this resolution be sent notably to the Ministère de l'Éducation with an accompanying letter signed by the Chairperson of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board.

Carried unanimously

12.0 Adjournment

The Director General wished all students, parents and employees the very best for 2021 as 2020 has been an unusual year but everyone has persevered and stuck together. Happy Holidays to all.

Parent Commissioner Tara Anderson MOVED the adjournment of the meeting.

Carried unanimously

TIME: 21:11 hours

NEXT MEETING ⇒ REGULAR ⇒ January 27, 2021