

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, January 27, 2021, 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, Anick Brunet, Vincent Cammisano, James Di Sano, Olivia Landry, Emilio Migliozi, Bob Pellerin and Parent Commissioners Tara Anderson and Stéphane Henley; and Gaëlle Absolonne, Director General.

Also present via videoconference were: Frédéric Greschner, Assistant Director General; Anna Sollazzo, Director of Corporate Affairs and Secretary 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 Lyng Pan, Director of Financial Resources; and Jocelyne Thompson-Ness, Administration Officer

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

TIME: 19:31 hours

The Chairperson welcomed everyone to the first fully virtual meeting of the Council of Commissioners for 2021.

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."

1.0 Approval of the Agenda

Approval of the Agenda

CC-210127-CA-0065

Commissioner Karla Abraham Di Francesco MOVED THAT the agenda be approved as presented in document no. SWLSB-2021/01/27-CA-001.

Carried unanimously

2.0 Approval of Minutes

2.1 December 9, 2020:

Approval of Minutes
December 9, 2020

CC-210127-CA-0066

Commissioner Vincent Cammisano MOVED THAT the minutes of the Regular meeting of the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board held on December 9, 2020, having been received by all members prior to this meeting, be approved as written and exempt from public reading by the Secretary General.

Carried unanimously

2.2 December 17, 2020:

Approval of Minutes
December 17, 2020

CC-210127-CA-0067

Commissioner Olivia Landry MOVED THAT the minutes of the Special meeting of the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board held on December 17, 2020, having been received by all members prior to this meeting, be approved as written and exempt from public reading by the Secretary General.

Carried unanimously

2.2 January 20, 2021:

Approval of Minutes
January 20, 2021

CC-210127-CA-0068

Commissioner Donna Anber MOVED THAT the minutes of the Special meeting of the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board held on January 20, 2021, having been received by all members prior to this meeting, be approved as written and exempt from public reading by the Secretary General.

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 welcomed everyone to the first virtual meeting of 2021. He went on to advise of the sad news that the school board lost two students this week, Brayden Odell, a grade 5 student at Arundel Elementary School, and James Florent, a student at Mountainview High School. He extended the school board's deepest sympathies to both families. COVID-19 was not a factor in either passing.

He went on to thank Pedagogical Services for deploying the Grief Team to both communities and for the supportive school employees.

A moment of silence was held in honour of Braydon and James.

The Chairperson noted that COVID-19 has not prevented the school board from being able to do great things and it has been able to do so without impacting the safety and security of its students and employees. He thanked the following:

- All stakeholders, especially the parents/guardians for ensuring that the health protocols are being followed because this has contributed to a decrease in the daily numbers;
- Teachers for be able to adapt to the ever changing delivery of education;
- All categories of the maintenance staff for keeping the schools and centres clean and safe.

This New Year, 2021, gives everyone a fresh start and, even though the future is out of our control, we can make ourselves and the world a little better every day.

He continued by presenting his monthly report, noting:

- January 8, 2021 – The MEQ held a press conference to announce its new \$11,000,000.00, province wide pedagogical support for students through tutoring. He also gave an exclusive interview, reflecting on the 2020 year, to The North Shore News;

- January 10, 2021 – Attended the 1st Annual Embracing Diversity Conference. On behalf of the Council, he thanked the organizers: Parent Commissioner Stéphane Henley; Robin Bennett, Director of Information Technology; Justine Dansereau, Pedagogical Consultant; Maxeen Jolin, Coordinator of Communications; Susan O’Keeffe, Graphic Arts technician and Silvia Patella, Assistant Director of Pedagogical Services; for all of their time and effort put in to make this event a huge success;
- Various internal and external meetings virtually attended throughout the month of January.

He invited the Commissioners to comment on proud moments from their respective communities, noting that this will be presented on a monthly basis. Several Commissioners noted that following:

- The virtual open house at Lake of Two Mountains High School. The Principal and the school team are to be congratulated on this innovative presentation of the school for new and returning students;
- The wonderful work being done by Information Technology to ensure that the more rural regions have access to some form of internet, such as the use of LTE Modems (portable wireless modems);
- Participation by Laurentian Regional High School in the first annual Zoom seminar for parents on the CÉGEP application process and how to accompany their child. Congratulations to the Principal and Guidance Counsellor at LRHS for making this possible;
- Genesis Elementary School has been authorized to have a pre-kindergarten beginning in the 2021-2022 school year. There are twenty students registered at this time;
- Laval Senior Academy will be holding a virtual open house on Thursday, January 21, 2021;
- In the Deux-Montagnes region there is a publication called Community Connections that is published six times per year. In the most recent edition the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board was featured in an article about the caretaker at Mountainview Elementary School, Mathieu McGrandel-Belair, and had four Rosemere High School students contribute articles: Genevieve Alexander, “Unexpected positives from pandemic”; Brianna Fasoli “The New Year’s Solution: How a Silver Lining can Save 2021”; Alexia Gervasi, “Zoom Academy, the pros and cons; and Bianca Lamarre, “Taking teens’ emotional temperature”.

5.0 Report from the Director General

The Director General presented her monthly report, as follows:

Attendance at Events:

- December 14, 2020 – Attended a workshop for employees to use effective coping strategies to stay mentally strong and healthy. Human Resources is to be commended for taking the initiative to organize this workshop through the school board’s Employee Assistance provider, Morneau Shepell;
- January 4 & 10, 2021 – Embracing Diversity Conference for employees, January 4, 2021, and parents, January 10, 2021. This was a worthwhile event, a lot was learned and it is hoped that this can become an annual event. Congratulations to the organizers of the event Parent Commissioner Stéphane Henley; Silvia Patella, Assistant Director of Pedagogical Services; and Justine Dansereau, Pedagogical Consultant;
- January 25, 2021 – Summit on Evaluation for Elementary Schools looked at evaluation and assessment for distance learning. There were approximately 457 attendees at this summit. There will be a similar session for Secondary and Adult Education and Vocational Training on January 29, 2021. Thank you to Pedagogical Services for making this summit possible;

Proud Moments

- A virtual open house at Lake of Two Mountains High School and an upcoming one at Laval Senior Academy;
- Community Connections feature on the McGrandel-Belair family and the fact that two generations work for the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board as part of our maintenance staff;
- Our Centre Director for CDC Pont-Viau on Global News promoting Vocational Training and the centre's project "Adopt a Senior Pen Pals", which matches students in the Health Care programs at CDC Pont-Viau with seniors in the Laval area;

Upcoming Events and Opportunities

- The MEQ has announced new funding for the following :
 - Adult Education and Vocational Training will receive a province-wide investment of \$91,500,000.00, over the next two years to align offers of training with the labour market, recognition of acquired competencies, literacy upgrade, etc.;
 - The Youth Sector will be receiving an additional \$10,000,000.00 province-wide for Measure 15021: Support for teaching (COVID) and \$13,900,000.00 for a new province-wide, Measure 15022: Well-Being (Students and staff). This translates into \$138,000.00, for Measure 15021 and approximately \$200,000.00, for Measure 15022;
- January 28, 2021 – Pedagogical Services has organized a virtual conference for families of secondary V students to review the CEGEP application process and answer parents' questions - hosted by Guidance Counsellors;
- February 1-5, 2021 – It is Teacher Appreciation Week, let's take the time to recognize their commitment to the students and their ability to adapt;
- February 15-19, 2021 – Hooked on School Days, which is to encourage students to persevere with their education. The event is also promoted by the RLPRÉ (Laval), PREL (Laurentides) and CRÉVALE (Lanaudière).

6.0 Business Arising

There was no business arising.

7.0 Decision Items:

7.1 Corporate Affairs and Secretary General

7.1.1 2019-2020 Annual Report

2019-2020 Annual Report
CC-210127-CA-0069

WHEREAS section 220 of the *Education Act* requires every school board to prepare an annual report giving the population in its territory an account of the implementation of its commitment-to-success plan and the results obtained;

WHEREAS the Corporate Committee reviewed the 2019-2020 Annual Report of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board at its January 20, 2021, meeting and provided feedback;

Parent Commissioner Stéphane Henley MOVED THAT the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board adopt the 2019-2020 Annual Report of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board, as per document no. SWLSB-2021/01/27-CA-0002;

Carried unanimously

7.1.2 Public Presentation of the 2019-2020 Annual Report

The Chairperson welcomed everyone to the public presentation of the 2019-2020 Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board Annual Report. This presentation is being held in accordance with section 220 of the *Education Act*, which requires all school boards and school service centres to prepare an annual report for its stakeholders that contains data on the Commitment-to-Success Plan and the results for each objective and orientation, and the financial results. There are many words that could describe the past year but the word proud would be the one that best describes how the Council of Commissioners feels about how this school board has handled an unprecedented 2019-2020 school year.

He went on to draw attention to some highlights found in his Chairperson's message in the annual report:

- The impact of COVID-19 on education required some quick resourcefulness on many levels and Information Technology and Pedagogical Services rose to the occasion, respectively, through the supply of devices for all who required them, technological support for employees working from home and students undertaking distance education; and by providing the students with a Learning Backpack with online resources carefully selected by the Pedagogical Consultants;
- The continued operation of the Council of Commissioners, with the support of Information Technology, through virtual Council meetings that are livestreamed for the public. The boardroom has been upgraded to allow for optimal videoconferencing and live streaming that will be used more frequently once life returns to a more normal pace;
- Although the pandemic has changed many things it has not changed the Council's ability to recognize special moments within the school board.

The Chairperson invited the Director of Pedagogical Services, the Director of Material Resources and Transportation, and the Director of Financial Resources to present, respectively on the Commitment-to-Success Plan (CTSP) and the financial results.

The Director of Pedagogical Services noted that the CTSP was adopted in June 2018 and that there are five orientations and five objectives. The results being presented this evening are from 2018 and 2019. He went on to note the following:

Objective 1: By 2030, reduce the gap in success rates between various groups of students by 50%

- The 2018 results are based on a seven year cohort and, while the objective has not yet been reached, the school board is doing relatively well but more work is required if the objective is to be achieved before or by 2030;

Objective 2: By 2030, reduce to 10% the proportion of students starting public secondary school at age 13 or older

- This is in reference to students who repeat a grade. This is an avenue that is only taken when it really benefits a student. The school board is currently at 3.7 percent, which is below the target set for 2022 of 5 percent;

Objective 3: By 2030, have 85% of students under the age of 20 obtain a first diploma (SSD or DVS), and 90% obtain a first diploma or qualification

- The school board is working hard to achieve this objective;

Objective 4: By 2030, increase to 90% the success rate on the composition component of the Elementary 6 (Cycle 3, Year 2) language of instruction ministerial examination in the public system:

- The MEQ mandated objective has been adapted for the Anglophone sector for the Elementary 6 and the school board does very well in this objective;

The Director of Material Resources and Transportation presented the following objective

Objective 5: By 2030, ensure that all school buildings are in good condition:

- There has been a significant investment in the school board buildings over the past year;
- In 2020-2021, there will be \$14,000,000.00, invested in school buildings with a focus on those that are in the worst condition.

The Director of Financial Resources noted that 2019-2020 was a very difficult year for the service to manage the finances due to the impact of COVID-19. The year saw increased expenses for personal protection equipment (PPE), refunds of school fees, increased transportation services due to MEQ directives, increased services to students, etc. The most interesting result of the 2019-2020 school year was that there was a surplus of \$95,000.00.

The Chairperson thanked the Directors for their presentations. He continued by taking the opportunity to applaud all employees for being resilient, creative, caring, professional, loyal and committed to their work during these difficult times. He thanked students and their families for their resilience, patience, understanding and adaptability throughout COVID-19. To the members of Council, he thanked them for their continued support and dedication to English public education, and for always doing what is right for the students. We all have a reason to be proud.

7.2 Adult Education and Vocational Training / Service aux entreprises

7.2.1 Entente sectorielle en persévérance scolaire et réussite éducative – Lanaudière 2020-2023

Entente sectorielle en persévérance scolaire et réussite éducative - Lanaudière 2020-2023

CC-210127-AE-0070

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

WHEREAS the participation of the SWLSB in the *Entente sectorielle en persévérance scolaire et réussite éducative – Lanaudière 2020-2023* (the Agreement) will benefit the students in the Lanaudière region through the promotion of initiatives and an offer of services with respect to student success and perseverance;

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

WHEREAS, to participate in the Agreement, the SWLSB must agree to a financial commitment of \$500 annually for a three-year period;

Commissioner Donna Anber MOVED THAT, on the recommendation of the Pedagogical Committee, the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board approve the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board's participation in the *Entente sectorielle en persévérance scolaire et réussite éducative – Lanaudière 2020-2023*;

AND THAT a financial commitment of \$500 annually from 2020 to 2023 be authorized;

FURTHER 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 the Agreement.

Carried unanimously

8.0 Information Items

8.1 SWL Foundation Report:

The Chairperson noted that the next meeting of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier Foundation will be in February 2021.

8.2 Parent Commissioners Reports

8.2.1 Parents Committee Report:

The Parents Committee report can be found in the meeting package.

8.2.2 SEAC Report:

There was no report.

8.3 Report of QESBA

The Alternate Vice-Chairperson advised that the next meeting of the QESBA will be held on January 29, 2021.

9.0 Question Period

The Director of Corporate Affairs and Secretary General advised that no questions were received during the course of the meeting.

10.0 Correspondence

There is no correspondence.

11.0 Varia

11.1 Additional Pedagogical Support - Tutors

The Alternate Vice-Chairperson noted that since the initial Council discussion on this issue, additional information has been received from the MEQ, although there are still some clarifications pending.

Additional Pedagogical
Support - Tutors

WHEREAS, during a press conference held on January 8, 2021, the Premier announced additional pedagogical support for students via a pool of tutors;

CC-210127-CA-0071

WHEREAS clarifications on how these pedagogical support services will be applied were given today via a letter addressed to all director generals;

WHEREAS the Council of Commissioners wishes to request from the MEQ that these services remain available throughout the summer period so as to support students whose learning has been delayed due to the circumstances surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic;

Commissioner Karla Abraham Di Francesco MOVED THAT the Council of Commissioners formally request that the Ministère de l'Éducation du Québec confirm that the pedagogical support services will remain available throughout the summer period;

FURTHER THAT a copy of this resolution be sent to the Ministère de l'Éducation du Québec with the request that the response be given in a timely fashion and addressed directly to the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board.

Carried unanimously

11.2 Equitable Online Services

Equitable Online Services
CC-210127-CA-0072

WHEREAS the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board (SWLSB) recognizes the dedication and efforts of all its staff during this difficult time;

WHEREAS the SWLSB has made electronic devices available to all its students and staff should the government mandate a closure of schools and centres;

WHEREAS all schools and centres are therefore prepared to implement their emergency protocols if the situation requires it;

WHEREAS schools and centres must be able to continue meeting the learning needs of their students, despite the constantly evolving situation;

WHEREAS the Council of Commissioners always has the best interest of its students at heart;

Parent Commissioner Adam Gordon MOVED THAT the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board formally ask the Ministère de l'Éducation du Québec to provide school boards with clear directives in order to ensure that equitable online services are given to students at all levels of instruction and maximize educational services and learning opportunities for all;

AND THAT a copy of this resolution be sent to the Ministère de l'Éducation du Québec with the request that the response be given in a timely fashion and addressed directly to the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier school Board.

Carried unanimously

12.0 Adjournment

The Chairperson stated that COVID-19 changes the way we operate on a daily basis and that it is wonderful to be a part of a team where everyone pulls together to ensure that everything runs smoothly. As a team, we will come out of this pandemic stronger and better than ever.

Parent Commissioner Tara Anderson MOVED the adjournment of the meeting.

Carried unanimously

TIME: 20:35 hours

NEXT MEETING ⇒ REGULAR ⇒ February 24, 2021