

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, February 24, 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, 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 Ling Pan, Director of Financial Resources; and Jocelyne Thompson-Ness, Administration Officer

Absent: Commissioner Emilio Migliozi.

Guests: Irene Agosto, Principal, Mountainview Elementary School; Kelly Crowdis, Pedagogical Consultant; Puja Lal, Teacher at Laval Junior Academy; Karen Lorenz, Principal, Rosemere High School; Mathieu McGrandle-Belair, Caretaker, Mountainview Elementary School; and Jessica Walker, Attendant, Rosemere High School.

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

TIME: 19:31 hours

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 Kaniien'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 Recognition

1.1 Employees / Alumni Laurier News Bulletin

The Chairperson welcomed everyone to the meeting and advised that the Council of Commissioners would like to recognize six employees of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board (SWLSB) who also happen to be alumni. These six people were approached and generously agreed to participate in the third edition of the Laurier News Bulletin. The Council of Commissioners is pleased to recognize:

- Jessica Walker, who graduated from Joliette High School and is now an Attendant at Rosemere High School;
- Karen Lorenz, who graduated from Chomedey Polyvalent High School, now known as Laval Senior Academy, and is now Principal of Rosemere High School;
- Kelly Crowdis, who graduated from Rosemere High School and is now a Pedagogical Consultant in Pedagogical Services;

- Lynda Davis, who graduated from Lake of Two Mountains High School and is now the School Secretary of the same school she graduated from. Unfortunately, Ms. Davis could not join us this evening;
- Mathieu McGrandle-Belair, who graduated from Rosemere High School and is now a Caretaker at Mountainview Elementary School; and
- Puja Lal, who graduated from Western Laval High School, now known as Laval Senior Academy, and is now a Teacher at Laval Junior Academy.

Since being a part of the third edition of the Laurier News Bulletin and speaking about why they love their job, the interviews were so genuine that they will be used, with their permission, for the upcoming recruitment campaign on social media. The recruitment campaign is to help build a bank of future employees. The video of these six interviews was presented.

The Chairperson noted that it is very inspirational to listen to these ambassadors as they speak with passion and dedication.

He thanked the ambassadors for attending the meeting, for being engaged, for fostering relationships with the students so that they can strive to achieve their very best and for choosing the SWLSB as their place of employment.

2.0 Approval of the Agenda

Approval of the Agenda

Parent Commissioner Tara Anderson MOVED THAT the agenda be approved as amended in document no. SWLSB-2021/02/24-CA-001.

CC-210224- CA-0075

Carried unanimously

3.0 Approval of Minutes

3.1 January 27, 2021

Approval of Minutes
January 27, 2021

Commissioner Karla Abraham Di Francesco MOVED THAT the minutes of the Regular meeting of the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board held on January 27, 2021, having been received by all members prior to this meeting, be approved as written and exempt from public reading by the Secretary General.

CC-210224-CA-0076

Carried unanimously

3.2 February 1, 2021

Approval of Minutes
February 1, 2021

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 February 1, 2021, having been received by all members prior to this meeting, be approved as written and exempt from public reading by the Secretary General.

CC-210224-CA-0077

Carried unanimously

4.0 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.

On a "point of order" Parent Commissioner Adam Gordon noted that Commissioner Anick Brunet moved the special Council minutes of February 1, 2021, but that she was not present at said meeting.

The Director of Corporate Affairs and Secretary General confirmed that the Council's internal rules of procedure indeed state that a Commissioner must be present at a meeting in order to move them.

The Chair requested if any commissioner present at the meeting would want to move the approval of the minutes of the special meeting of the Council of Commissioners held on February 1, 2021. Commissioner Donna Anber agreed and moved said motion. The approval of the council remained unanimous.

5.0 Report from the Chairperson

The Chairperson welcomed everyone noting that COVID-19 has not prevented the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board from accomplishing great things while ensuring the safety and security of its students and employees. He thanked parents for their adaptability and support during this time. He also thanked the teachers for being flexible with the continued demands, the caretakers for ensuring that the schools and centres are clean and safe, and the school administration for keeping things positive for their students and staff.

He noted that it is important now to not let one's guard down as there is much to learn about the new COVID-19 variants that have recently appeared.

He continued with the presentation of his monthly report noting:

February 1-5, 2021 – Teacher Appreciation Week: He and the Director General made a video to thank all the teachers for their resilience, passion, skills and talent during the past year as we have navigated the uncharted waters of COVID -19 together and to let them know how proud the school board is of the work they do on behalf of the students;

February 2 & 5, 2021 – He was interviewed by Global Montreal concerning the closure of Hillcrest Academy due to COVID-19 and the introduction of saliva testing at the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board as part of a pilot project. The tests have been distributed to Hillcrest Academy and St-Paul and Twin Oaks Elementary Schools for students to take at home, while students at Laval Senior Academy will take the test at school and public health will collect the tests and have them processed. Additional schools in Laval will receive the saliva testing kits after the March break and it is hoped that all schools in Laval will have these tests by the beginning of April. Public Health selected the schools and school boards that would be a part of the pilot project. It is hoped that if the pilot project is successful, all schools will be able to have the saliva tests. There were several other interviews concerning the saliva tests:

- February 13, 2021, in the Montreal Gazette;
- February 17, 2021, on Global Morning News;
- February 24, 2021, in Cittadino Canadese;

February 12, 2021 – Several Members of the National Assembly, Francine Charbonneau, Deputy for Mille-Îles, Saul Polo, Deputy for Laval-des-Rapides; Guy Ouellette, Deputy for Chomedey; and Monique Sauvé, Deputy for Fabre; generously donated funding for the purchase of technological equipment to help ensure that all students who require a device during COVID-19 have access to one. Thank you to these thoughtful MNA's;

February 12, 2021 – The 2020-2021 graduating grade six class from Genesis Elementary School were the recipients of a donated pizza lunch. Many thanks to Frank and his team, for their pizza lunch and continued support of Genesis Elementary School. Commissioner Vincent Cammisano was also present at this event.

February 24, 2021 – PINK Shirt Day: This is an initiative started by two students from Nova Scotia who had witnessed someone being bullied because he wore a pink shirt. This day is now celebrated in 180 countries and on this day everyone should proudly wear a pink shirt to combat bullying;

Highlights from Council members:

- Laurentian Regional High School held Grad Dress Day for two days in February hoping to bring some normalcy to this time of year when most secondary V students are thinking about their upcoming prom. There was formal wear for both the female and male students;
- The Principal of Laurentia Elementary School is to be congratulated on securing a grant for the arts and for working with a local dance studio so that every student will be able to go to the dance studio once a week for a period of time to learn some form of dance with their class bubble;
- For PINK Shirt Day, Pierre Elliott Trudeau Elementary School is being treated to TCBY frozen treats;
- McCaig Elementary School and Rosemere High School planned many nice events to honour their teachers during Teacher Appreciation Week;
- McCaig Elementary School has a virtual fundraising event coming up in the spring;
- The John F. Kennedy Elementary School team is to be applauded for its Social Emotional Learning (SEL) strategy and it would be nice to see other schools get on board with this initiative;
- The Chairperson of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board is to be thanked for always ensuring that the community is aware of what is going on at all levels of the school board;
- For Teacher Appreciation Week the Jules Verne Elementary School Home & School Association decided that there would be a special treat once a month for the balance of the school year;
- The COVID-19 team, Directorate, school administration and staff are all to be commended for the lengths they have gone to in order to reassure everyone that they are safe and secure.

6.0 Report from the Director General

The Director General thanked the Chairperson for highlighting the students and staff for their resilience, their commitment and for ensuring that the school board is in the forefront with the sanitary measures. She went on to present her monthly report, as follows:

- The Ministère de l'Éducation (MEQ) advised earlier today that there will be some additional sanitary measures that will come into effect after the March break:
 - March 8, 2021 – Students in grades one through six in elementary schools that are a part of the Montreal Metropolitan Area (MMA), which is 17 elementary schools in this school board, will have to wear a pediatric procedural mask. Those outside of the MMA will wear a regular face covering;
 - March 15, 2021 – the remaining nine elementary schools outside of the MMA will begin wearing pediatric procedural masks;
 - The pediatric procedural masks will have to be worn in class, in all common areas of the school and on the school bus. Letters to this effect will be sent to the school community;

Proud Moments

- The professionals of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board (SWLSB) are to be thanked for their dedication and expertise that has been used in the creation of many training sessions during COVID-19 that are designed for the families of the SWLSB. During the months of January and February, four workshops were held on various topics and 250 families attended. There will be more workshops coming in March;
- A virtual internal recruiting session was held to build the bank of candidates for Vice-Principal positions on February 23, 2021. Congratulations to the Human Resources team for putting together this informative session as it provides an opportunity for our own employees to seek new challenges and promotions. Eighteen employees participated;

Upcoming Events and Opportunities

- Spring break is March 1-5, 2021, and the school board will be providing four emergency daycares for parents who are frontline workers. Special thanks goes to the employees of the daycares at Hillcrest Academy, Joliette, McCaig and Pinewood Elementary Schools for being present to offer the services;
- On March 8, 2021, there will be an information session on the Private Security Guarding program. This program is evolving due to the pandemic and these people are also considered to be front line workers as they ensure that all the health and safety protocols are being respected. Please promote as spaces are still available;
- On March 10, 2021, there will be a virtual Governing Board Workshop on school budgets, finances and school fees;
- The Québec government has designated March 11, 2021, as a day of remembrance for those we have lost to COVID-19. Flags will be lowered to half-mast and there will be a minute of silence beginning at 1:00 p.m.

In closing, the Director General wished all stakeholders an enjoyable and restful spring break.

7.0 Business Arising

There was no business arising.

8.0 Decision Items

8.1 Material Resources and Transportation

8.1.1 Engagement of Contractor – Masonry, Roof & Interior Renovation Project – Hillcrest Academy

The Director of Material Resources and Transportation advised that the lowest conformable bidder was requested to provide additional documents to complete the bid and when they did not, the school board was required to award the contract to the next lowest conformable bidder.

In response to a question from the Chairperson, the Director of Corporate Affairs and Secretary General advised that this was a clear legal situation with regard to the missing documentation and that the awarding of the contract to the next lowest conformable bidder meets the legal requirements as stated in recent jurisprudence.

Engagement of Contractor
Masonry, Roof & Interior
Renovation Project

WHEREAS renovations to the masonry, roof and sections of the interior are required at Hillcrest Academy;

Hillcrest Academy

WHEREAS a public call for tenders was made for the masonry, roof and interior renovation project at Hillcrest Academy and tenders were opened on January 28, 2021;

CC-210224-MR-0078

WHEREAS the conformability of all bidders has been verified;

Commissioner James Di Sano MOVED THAT, on the recommendation of the Director of Material Resources and Transportation, the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board award the contract for the masonry, roof and interior renovation project at Hillcrest Academy to Roland Grenier Construction Limitée for a total cost of \$1,507,215.00, before taxes, or \$1,611,013.13, 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

8.1.2 Engagement of Contractor – Bus Loading Zone & Parking Project – Mountainview ES

Engagement of Contractor
– Bus Loading Zone &
Parking Project –
Mountainview ES

WHEREAS the parking lot at Mountainview Elementary School requires an expansion in order to safely accommodate all the vehicles;

WHEREAS a new bus loading zone is also required;

CC-210224-MR-0079

WHEREAS a public call for tenders was made for the bus loading zone and parking lot expansion project at Mountainview Elementary School and tenders were opened on January 21, 2021;

WHEREAS the conformability of all bidders has been verified;

Commissioner Melissa Wall 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 bus loading zone and parking lot expansion project at Mountainview Elementary School to Excavation Villeneuve (2528-4340 Québec Inc.), for a total cost of \$474,494.00, before taxes, or \$507,171.22, 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

8.2 Financial Resources

8.2.1 Call for Tender – Bailiff Services

In response to questions, it was noted:

- The actual contract is for three years with the option of extending for an additional two years, one year at a time, so the school board would have to advise the service contract provider three months prior to the end of the three year contract if it wishes to extend it for a fourth year. This same process would apply for undertaking a fifth year;
- The school board is under no obligation to enact the additional two years;
- The two optional years provides flexibility.

Call for Tender –
Bailliff Services

WHEREAS the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board has a recurring expense for bailiff services for the collection of unpaid school taxes;

CC-210224-FR-0080

WHEREAS the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board will be seeking a new supplier via public tender to be published on the SEAO system, the electronic tendering system approved by the Government of Québec;

WHEREAS, in accordance with article 46 of the *Regulation respecting certain service contracts of public bodies*, the chief executive officer of the public body must approve any service contract exceeding three (3) years before the contract can be issued;

WHEREAS the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board desires the flexibility and price advantage of a longer-term contract with the possibility of including two additional renewal options of one (1) year each for a total maximum term of five (5) years;

WHEREAS a selection committee is scheduled to meet on April 7, 2021, and submit its results for approval by the Council of Commissioners on April 28, 2021;

Commissioner Bob Pellerin MOVED THAT, on the recommendation of the Director of Financial Resources and the Director of Material Resources and Transportation, the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board approve the publication of a call for tenders for a bailiff services contract of three (3) years with the possibility of an annual extension of up to five (5) years.

Carried unanimously

9.0 Information Items

9.1 SWL Foundation Report:

Commissioner James Di Sano noted that the most recent meeting of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier Foundation (SWLF) was the first for himself and Commissioner Vincent Cammisano and that it is an honour to represent the school board in this capacity. He noted that the SWLF is planning to host the Laurier Gala in May in a hybrid format.

The Chairperson commented that last year the SWLF did not celebrate the Laurier Gala due to COVID-19 but the school board did host the first annual Hope Fest in its place with the blessing of the SWLF. In recent discussions with the SWLF this year's event will be a hybrid of the Laurier Gala and Hope Fest. It is important to recognize student success and highlight student talent. The event will be on May 28, 2021, and will be hosted by Cousin Vinny.

The Coordinator of Communications & Public Relations noted that the event has been posted on Facebook and that an email to all parents looking for student talent has been sent out.

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.

Due to the inclement weather the February meeting was cancelled therefore the next meeting will on March 16, 2021.

9.3 Report of QESBA

Commissioner Melissa Wall advised that the loan of service of Russell Copeman to the English Montreal School Board (EMSB) as its Interim Director General, has been extended until the end of March. Kimberly Hamilton, who is acting as the Interim Executive Director of QESBA, while Mr. Copeman is at EMSB, is doing a wonderful job. QESBA is preparing for the Bill 40 court challenge that is due to begin shortly. This case will receive a lot of attention country wide by minority rights groups.

The Chairperson noted that the court challenge will begin on April 13, 2021, and is expected to last approximately two weeks, but that it could take the judge a few months to render a decision.

10.0 Question Period

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

She did note that a Mr. Parent had congratulated the school board Ambassadors honoured earlier this evening.

The Chairperson thanked everyone for taking the time to be present this evening noting that this meeting highlights a lot of the work done during the month. He also noted that with the virtual format of the meeting allows for anyone within or beyond the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board territory to attend the meeting.

11.0 Correspondence

There is no correspondence.

12.0 Varia

There was no varia.

13.0 Adjournment

The Chairperson wished everyone a restful and well deserved spring break. He also encouraged everyone to continue to respect the health protocols and to wear a mask.

Parent Commissioner Stéphane Henley MOVED the adjournment of the meeting.

Carried unanimously

TIME: 20:41 hours

NEXT MEETING ⇒ REGULAR ⇒ March 31, 2021