

**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, March 31, 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.

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

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

**TIME: 19:30 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 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."*

The Chairperson shared sad news with the Council as the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board has lost three members of its student family, one student from Franklin Hill Elementary school and two students from Rosemere High School. The passing of these students was in no way related to COVID-19.

A moment of silence was held in memory of these students and the Chairperson expressed deepest sympathy on behalf of the school board to the parents and families of these students, as well as their friends and members of the school community.

**1.0 Approval of the Agenda**

Commissioner Olivia Landry asked that an item be added to Varia.

Approval of the Agenda

Parent Commissioner Stéphane Henley MOVED THAT the agenda be approved as amended in document no. SWLSB-2021/03/31-CA-001.

CC-210331- CA-0083

Carried unanimously

## 2.0 Presentation

### 2.1 Launch of the New Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board Website

The Chairperson advised everyone present that the Council is excited to be launching the new Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board website this evening. The original website was launched in 2006 so an upgrade was long overdue plus, at the end of December 2020, Microsoft stopped supporting the modern protocols so changes needed to be made. Communications and Information Technology worked closely this past year to redesign the website and are to be congratulated on the result.

The Coordinator of Communications and Public Relations thanked Corporate Affairs and Information Technology teams for all of the support provided on this project. She went on to present and review the new website.

The Chairperson thanked everyone who was involved in the development of this new website as it is now more interactive and mobile friendly.

## 3.0 Approval of Minutes

### 3.1 February 24, 2021

Approval of Minutes  
February 24, 2021

Commissioner James Di Sano MOVED THAT the minutes of the Regular meeting of the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board held on February 24, 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-210331-CA-0084

Carried unanimously

### 3.2 February 26, 2021

Approval of Minutes  
February 26, 2021

Commissioner Bob Pellerin MOVED THAT the minutes of the Special meeting of the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board held on February 26, 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-210331-CA-0085

Carried unanimously

## 4.0 Question Period

The Director of Corporate Affairs and Secretary General explained the parameters of the question period. She drew attention to where people online can type in their questions.

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

## 5.0 Report from the Chairperson

The Chairperson commended the students and staff for their adaptability during these unprecedented times and for respecting the health protocols noting that now is not the time to let one's guard down because there are new variants in the province. Everyone needs to work together to ensure that the school is kept safe, including parents who have been important partners throughout this pandemic.

A special thank you to teachers, caretakers and administrators for doing what is necessary to keep everything running smoothly.

On December 17, 2020, the Council adopted a resolution urging the Premier and public health to prioritize the vaccination of all employees in the education sector and on January 6, 2021, a formal request was made to the Minister of Education. To date, a response has not been received. The government has said that school boards are essential services but they are not treating it as such.

Commissioner Anick Brunet entered the meeting.

**TIME: 19:58 hours**

He went on to present his monthly report noting:

#### March 29-31, 2021

- A special caucus of the Council was held and it was decided that the hybrid model would be kept for six of the nine high schools because the Minister of Health and Social Services had announced that Québec was now in a third wave of the COVID-19 pandemic due to the rise of variants;
- Unions have expressed the concerns of their respective members to the school board;
- Students at St-Paul and Terry Fox Elementary Schools are participating in on-line learning;
- In-person classes at McCaig Elementary School were suspended until further notice so those students are also participating in on-line learning;
- After the Council caucus a press release was done stating that the school board would maintain hybrid classes for secondary 3, 4 and 5 in six of its nine high schools;
- The decision to maintain hybrid classes drew media attention so the Chairperson was interviewed and in these interviews it was stressed that, while it would be ideal to have everyone in class, the safety and well-being of everyone at the school board was a priority.

#### Proud Community Comments from all Commissioners

- Grenville Elementary School is reading a story about the survival of a young boy after a plane crash and it will be interactive as the students go outside to examine pieces of a plane and learn some survival skills;
- An elementary teacher at Ste-Agathe Academy applied for and received an entrepreneurial grant. The grant will be used as follows: phase one of the project is to plant and grow vegetables and phase two is to construct a greenhouse on the school property. The grade six students are responsible for the project and hope to grow and sell the vegetables as a way to raise funds for school activities and, maybe, supply the cafeteria;
- Laval Junior Academy issued certificates to those who participated in its Adopt-a-Tree initiative;
- The Parent Participation Organization at Rosemere High School has designed posters and banners for the secondary 5 area of the school to give encouragement to the students as they near the end of their high school years.

## **6.0 Report from the Director General**

The Director General presented her monthly report noting:

- The Ministère de l'Éducation du Québec (MEQ) has announced that the \$10,000,000.00, budget for the tutoring measure has been doubled and that the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board will be receiving an additional \$133,390.00, for this purpose;
- The MEQ will be holding a Summit on Educational Success on March 31 and April 1, 2021, and the three themes will be Educational Success and Catching Up, Assessment and Psychological Support and Mental Health and Wellness in schools. What has been learned from COVID-19 and best practices will be shared.

### Proud Moments

- The 2021 Virtual Montreal Regional Science & Technology Fair – Laval Senior Academy did very well at this event winning several awards and one student qualified for the provincial event. Ten schools participated in the event, two of which were public. Congratulations to Heather Mcpherson, science teacher at LSA, and all of the students who participated;
- Laval Senior Academy will host the 2021-2022 Montreal Regional Science & Technology Fair;
- The new Adult Education and Vocational Training billboard advertising on route 117 and Cleroux in Laval;
- Advertising of Virgin Radio of the Institutional and Home Care Assistance Program that will begin at CDC Pont-Viau on April 12, 2021;
- The Communications team is to be congratulated for all of the publicity it does.

### Upcoming Opportunities

- April is World Autism Awareness month and April 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2021, is the day for its celebration.

The Director General concluded her report with a special thank you to the Management team for its inspiration and support provided over the past year to their students and staff. All students, staff and parents are also to be congratulated on their contributions, flexibility, adaptability and overall support during this pandemic. Commissioners are also to be thanked for their unwavering support over the past year.

## **7.0 Business Arising**

There was no business arising.

## **8.0 Decision Items**

### **8.1 Material Resources and Transportation**

#### **8.1.1 Engagement of Professionals – Architects and Engineers**

Engagement of  
Professionals – Architects  
and Engineers

WHEREAS the Ministère de l'Éducation (MEQ) has authorized the construction of a new school for the Lanaudière region under the PQI 2020-2030;

**CC-210331-MR-0086**

WHEREAS a public call for tenders was made for professional services for the construction of a new school in the Lanaudière region and tenders were opened on February 8, 2021, as follows:

- Lot no. 1: Architects
- Lot no. 2: Engineers – Civil and Structural
- Lot no. 3: Engineers – Mechanical and Electrical

WHEREAS members of the Selection Committee met on March 16, 2021, and submitted their evaluations of the bids received;

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 contracts for professional services as follows:

Lot no.	Profession	Contract Awarded to
1	Architect	Bergeron Thouin Associés Architectes Inc.
2	Engineer – Civil and Structural	GBI Experts-Conseils Inc.
3	Engineer – Mechanical and Electrical	Bouthillette Parizeau Inc.

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 – Washroom Renovation Projects – McCaig ES & Rosemere HS**

Engagement of Contractor WHEREAS washroom renovations are required at McCaig Elementary School and Rosemere High School;

Washroom Renovation Projects – McCaig ES & Rosemere HS WHEREAS a public call for tenders was made for renovations to the washrooms at McCaig Elementary School and Rosemere High School and tenders were opened on March 11, 2021;

#### **CC-210331-MR-0087**

WHEREAS the conformity of all bidders has been verified;

Commissioner Olivia Landry MOVED THAT, on the recommendation of the Corporate Committee, the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board award the contract for renovations to the washrooms at McCaig Elementary School and Rosemere High School to Services de Rénovation Parabole Inc., for a total cost of \$483,685.00, before taxes, or \$516,995.16, 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**

### **8.1.3 Engagement of Contractor – Washroom & Shower Renovation Project – LRHS**

Engagement of Contractor WHEREAS renovations are required at Laurentian Regional High School for selected first floor washrooms and the showers in the locker rooms;

Washroom & Shower Renovation Project LRHS WHEREAS a public call for tenders was made for the washroom and shower renovation project at Laurentian Regional High School and tenders were opened on March 11, 2021;

#### **CC-210331-MR-0088**

WHEREAS the conformity of all bidders has been verified;

Commissioner Karla Abraham Di Francesco 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 washroom and shower renovations at Laurentian Regional High School to Construction Irénée Paquet & Fils Inc., for a total cost of \$819,811.51, before taxes, or \$875,949.22, 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**

#### **8.1.4 Engagement of Contractor – Installation of Access Ramp & Classroom Renovation Project - LJA**

Engagement of Contractor WHEREAS renovations are required at Laval Junior Academy to transform four existing classrooms into adaptive spaces for special needs students and for the installation of an access ramp for those with reduced mobility;

Installation of Access Ramp & Classroom Renovation Project - LJA

**CC-210331-MR-0089**

WHEREAS a public call for tenders was made for the renovations of four classrooms and the installation of an access ramp at Laval Junior Academy and tenders were opened on March 15, 2021;

WHEREAS the conformity of all bidders has been verified;

Commissioner James Di Sano 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 renovation of four classrooms and the installation of an access ramp at Laval Junior Academy to Banexco Inc., for a total cost of \$559,700.00, before taxes, or \$598,245.14, 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.

**Carried unanimously**

## **8.2 Financial Resources**

### **8.2.1 Variable Credit Contract – Caisse Desjardins Thérèse-De Blainville**

Commissioner James Di Sano recused himself due to a conflict of interest.

Variable Credit Contract – WHEREAS the Ministère de l'Éducation (MEQ) has increased the maximum short-term borrowing limits for the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board;

Caisse Desjardins Thérèse-De Blainville

**CC-210331-FR-0090**

WHEREAS with the increase of the maximum short-term borrowing limits, the Caisse Desjardins Thérèse-De Blainville requires an updated variable credit contract;

Parent Commissioner Adam Gordon MOVED THAT, on the recommendation of the Audit Committee, the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board authorize borrowings from Caisse Desjardins Thérèse-De Blainville by means of the variable credit contract as per document no. SWLSB-2021/03/31-FR-001;

AND THAT the Director General and the Director of Financial Resources be authorized to sign for and in the name of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board this variable credit contract, as well as any other document deemed useful or necessary to give full effect to this contract.

**Carried unanimously**

Commissioner Di Sano returned to the table.

## **9.0 Information Items**

### **9.1 SWL Foundation Report:**

Commissioner Vincent Cammisano noted that the next meeting of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier Foundation will be in April 2021.

The Chairperson reminded everyone that the Laurier Gala and HopeFest will be held virtually on May 28, 2021, at 7:30 p.m. and encouraged all students to audition.

## **9.2 Parent Commissioners Reports**

### **9.2.1 Parents' Committee Report:**

The report is in the meeting package.

Parent Commissioner Tara Anderson advised the Council that the upcoming Parents' Committee meeting has been moved from April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021, to April 8, 2021.

### **9.2.2 SEAC Report:**

The report is in the meeting package.

## **9.3 Report of QESBA**

The report is in the package.

Commissioner Melissa Wall noted that on April 15, 2021, the trial on the challenge on Bill 40 begins and that it will be closely watched by minority groups throughout Canada because the results of this trial will impact minority groups.

## **10.0 Question Period**

In response to a question from a member of the online audience, the Chairperson noted that under Varia a resolution will be presented that will see all high school students return to in-person classes, with additional safety measures in place, on April 6, 2021.

A member of the online audience expressed heartfelt condolences to the three families that lost their child.

The Chairperson noted that the two question periods held during the Council meeting are important and reminded everyone that they do not have to wait for a Council meeting to ask their questions as they can send questions to himself or the Secretary General any time and that they will be answered within a reasonable delay.

## 11.0 Correspondence

There is no correspondence.

## 12.0 Varia

### 12.1 Return to School for Secondary 3, 4 & 5 Students

The Chairperson advised that on March 26, 2021, the MEQ directed that secondary 3, 4 and 5 students would return to in-person classes on a full-time basis as of this past Monday, March 29, 2021. The school board was ready to follow the directive but with the announcement by the Minister of Health and Social Services that Québec has entered the third wave of COVID-19, the Council held a caucus with its members and the Director General, Assistant Director General and the Secretary General to discuss this directive. After discussing the directive, it was decided that the school board would move to hybrid classes for secondary 3, 4 and 5 students in order to ensure that all safety measures were in place and strengthened before anyone returned to the classroom. These students will return to class on April 6, 2021.

The Director General noted that the schools and centres diligently follow the health and safety protocols that have been put in place and that any extra measures needed are provided. In this case the school board has hired additional supervisors, maintenance staff and security guards to focus on ensuring that the health and safety protocols are followed. From the beginning of the school day until it ends there is a full-time caretaker present in every building to ensure that highly used areas are kept clean. Schools and centres are sanitized daily and Plexiglas has been added in areas where it is required to protect employees. The Management team meets frequently to receive updates and to discuss health and safety protocols.

The Chairperson stated that at any time, if the school board feels that any school or centre is unsafe, that school or centre will return to online classes.

In response to an indication from the Vice-Chairperson, the Chairperson noted that the question periods for this meeting have concluded and that any questions can be sent to himself or the Secretary General and they will be answered in writing within a reasonable delay.

Commissioner Melissa Wall noted that there has been a lot of information sent out on this issue and that by having secondary 3, 4 and 5 return to school on April 6, allows time for the high schools to organize for the return to in-person classes. Everyone is to be assured that the school board will react quickly to any situation that arises.

In response to a question from Commissioner Donna Anber, the Director General noted that a letter has been prepared and will be sent to all parents after the meeting this evening.

Progressive Return to  
School for Secondary 3, 4,  
& 5 Students

**CC-210331-CA-0091**

WHEREAS the Premier of Québec, François Legault, announced on March 23, 2021, that Secondary 3, 4 and 5 students would return to in-school classes, full-time, as of March 29, 2021;

WHEREAS, since said announcement, the COVID-19 situation evolved and confirmation was given by the public health authorities that Québec had officially entered into a third wave;

WHEREAS members of the Council of Commissioners expressed their concerns to the Director General, given that the safety and well-being of all students and staff is an utmost priority for the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board as clearly stated in its Commitment-to-Success Plan;

WHEREAS on March 30, 2021, all classes for Secondary 3, 4 and 5 students were suspended for six (6) high schools;



WHEREAS Secondary 3, 4 and 5 students resumed their original hybrid schedules today, March 31, 2021;

WHEREAS the evolving situation, the concerns raised by staff members and parents, as well as the additional information provided by the health authorities needed to be efficiently and properly assessed, while respecting the reality of each region and school;

WHEREAS additional safety and security measures will be put in place, where required;

WHEREAS the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board recognizes the importance of mental health and therefore wishes to welcome all of its students full-time in school as soon as possible;

WHEREAS the Council of Commissioners wishes to outline that the governmental authorities must allow for a reasonable delay to be given to each school team as to allow proper planning, scheduling as well the implementation of security measures;

WHEREAS the Council of Commissioners wishes to outline the extraordinary work of all its staff members as well as their adaptability and resilience.

Commissioner Vincent Cammisano MOVED THAT the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board mandate the Director General to maintain a temporary hybrid schedule for all Secondary 3, 4 and 5 students of Laval Senior Academy, Sainte-Agathe Academy, Joliette High School, Laurentian Regional High School, Rosemère High

School and Lake of Two Mountains High School and that preparations be made for the full-time return on April 6, 2021 with all additional security measures in place, where required;

FURTHER THAT a letter be sent to the Minister of Education, Mr. Jean-François Roberge, with regard notably to the importance of consulting and communicating directives in a timely fashion while giving school teams adequate time and flexibility to operationalize these directives.

**Carried unanimously**

### **13.0 Adjournment**

The Chairperson thanked everyone for attending the meeting and asked that over this holiday for everyone to think of family, count the many blessings that we all have and to have a Happy Easter and Passover.

Parent Commissioner Tara Anderson MOVED the adjournment of the meeting.

**Carried unanimously**

**TIME: 20:49 hours**

**NEXT MEETING ⇒ REGULAR ⇒ April 28, 2021**