

Minutes of the tenth (10th) meeting of the 2020-2021 Sir Wilfrid Laurier Parents Committee held on Thursday, June 3, 2021 at 7:15 p.m. via ZOOM videoconferencing.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Laura Orzea	Crestview Elementary	Jason Stewart	Morin Heights Elementary
Dalia Gonzalez	Franklin Hill Elementary	Lannie Richard	Mountainview Elementary
Theresa Andrusko	Genesis Elementary	Tania Mitchell	Pierre E. Trudeau Elementary
Jenny Georgiopoulos	Hillcrest Academy	Kristin Crowdis	Rosemere High
Jennifer Subaihi	John F Kennedy Elementary	Christos Strifas	Souvenir Elementary
Vanessa Pietraroia	Joliette Elementary	John Critchley	St. Jude Elementary
Richard Alary	Joliette High	Mike Panichella	St. Paul Elementary
Sheila Lindsay	Jules Verne Elementary	Marcelo Iaconvella	St. Vincent Elementary
Adam Gordon	Lake of Two Mountains High	Chloée Alary	Ste-Adele Elementary
Tara Anderson	Laurentia Elementary	Barbara Barrasso	Terry Fox Elementary
Donald Beverly	Laurentian Regional High	Natalie Codner	Twin Oaks Elementary
Evan Goudis	Laval Junior Academy	Tony Beliotis	SEAC Representative
Jossie Tortorici	McCaig Elementary		

ALSO PRESENT: Gaëlle Absolonne, Director General; Fred Greschner, Assistant Director General; Paolo Galati, Chairperson; The alternate delegates from Laval Junior Academy, Terry Fox Elementary, SEAC; Tina Opong, EPCA Director

ABSENT: Arundel Elementary, Grenville Elementary, Laurentian Elementary, Laval Senior Academy, Our Lady of Peace Elementary, Pinewood Elementary, Rawdon Elementary, Ste-Agathe Academy

The chairperson called the meeting to order at 7:17 pm

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

Welcome to our guests.

2. ROLL CALL

3. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF THE LAND

Hillcrest Academy read the acknowledgement of the land.

4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Add: 10.4 Meeting format 2021-2022

Add: 10.5 Graduations/Prom Ceremonies

10.3 Residential school resolution will be covered immediately after approval of the Agenda

9.3 The EPCA consultation will be done when the EPCA Director joins us

PC20210603-01 Joliette Elementary MOVED THAT the agenda be accepted with the additions. Seconded by Franklin Hill Elementary.

Carried UNANIMOUSLY

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES of May 6, 2021 and from the special meeting of May 20,2021

PC20210603-02 Joliette High MOVED THAT the minutes of May 6, 2021 be accepted. Seconded by Hillcrest Academy.

Carried UNANIMOUSLY

PC20210603-03 Ste-Adele Elementary MOVED THAT the minutes of May 20, 2021 be accepted. Seconded by Laval Junior Academy.

Carried UNANIMOUSLY

6. QUESTION PERIOD FROM THE PUBLIC

There were no questions.

7. REPORTS

7.1 PC Chairperson

Thank you:

- For choosing SWLSB to send your children to.
- To the delegates and alternates for your dedication to your community.
- To the parents who get involved in schools.
- To schools who have welcomed the Chair to their GBs this year.
- Teachers and support staff employees.
- The SWLSB Chairperson of the Council of Commissioners.
- The DG and ADG and directorate for their support.
- Communications Department of the SWLSB.
- Jocelyne Thompson for all her help.
- We have made it through the pandemic this far, it is almost over. Together we are stronger.
- Looking forward to seeing new and familiar faces at PC next year.
- Thank you to the PC Executive Committee

7.2 School Board

7.2.1 General Directorate

The SWLSB Chairperson thanks the parents for their commitment.

In memory of the 215 children whose remains were discovered in unmarked graves on the grounds of an old residential school in Kamloops, B.C., all schools, centres and head office of the SWLSB are lowering their flags to half-mast.

Vaccination partnership with education sector

Originally the dates of the vaccinations were June 14-15-16. We were advised yesterday of the caretaker's union going on strike so we had to go to Plan B. The DG highlights the work of Maxeen Jolin in the Communications Department who was able to meet with *santé publique* to organize new dates. We would like to thank the Transportation team for the organization of the buses and the CISSS for their partnership.

12- to 17-year old

- Procedures different for each region: Laval, Laurentides, Lanaudière
- Partnership with each CISSS
- Hybrid model: vaccinated at school (some HS) or in vaccination centres (transported)
- Staff not vaccinated yet will be able to take advantage of this campaign (for first dose only)
- Information videos | Example: <https://youtu.be/IZLsS9YLwEc>
- Since May 25, families can also make appointments on *clicsante* for children 12 years old and over

Dates:

- Laval: June 11 (LSA), June 18 (LJA)
- Laurentides: June 8 (LTM), June 11 (LRHS & SAA) & June 18 (RHS)
- Lanaudière: June 11 (JHS, JES, RES, Pinewood)

Procedural masks in schools survey results

804 respondents

- 507 Elementary
- 297 High School & Adult Sector
- 84% wear the mask provided by the school/centre
- 13% wear a procedural mask brought from home
- 3% wear double masks: one from home and the mask provided by the school/centre
- Right now, the target is to not start the school year with masks. This will be dependent on how many are vaccinated and if we can keep our numbers low.
- A chart with the responses of those who have had negative effects from wearing masks was presented and will be sent along with the PowerPoint presentation to the Chairperson.

Online summer school 2021 reminder <https://www.swlauriersb.qc.ca/en/schools/summer-school/>

Dates | Online from July 5 to July 23, 2021.

- Registration period | Online from June 28 (8:00 am) to July 2, 2021 (noon)
- We are still in the process of recruiting teachers.

- Cost per course: \$250
- Summer school is for secondary students who:
- Have received a grade between 50% and 59%
 - Need a course to graduate
 - Are current students of SWLSB

Proud moments

- Recognition lunches offered by several Rosemère citizens to the entire staff of McCaig & RHS. Thank you to the Café de la Gare and the former parents and teacher who delivered these lunches.
- Campaign: Awareness and prevention of domestic violence in Argenteuil. Thank you to Melanie Bujold for her implication. There were 10 different partners who took part in this campaign. This will enable English services to be offered in the area.
- Hope Fest 2021 – Great success! Featured 16 acts from students across the school board. 75 videos were received. Cousin Vinny hosted the event. The Laurier Gala, a celebration of success was also included in this evening, where almost 200 students were honored in 5 different categories. Thank you to the PC for their donation of 5 x \$100 bursaries to the Laurier Gala portion.

Upcoming events and opportunities

Partnership between CDC Vimont & ConstrucPlus - a 2 in 1 opportunity!!!

- Complete a Diploma of Vocational Studies (DVS) (Preparing and Finishing Concrete or Welding and Fitting)
- Pursue general education (SSD) courses on Fridays or during evenings.
- Great opportunity to get two diplomas simultaneously: DVS + SSD

Stress & anxiety in children and teenagers for families of St-Jude, Mountainview and Lake of Two Mountains

- June 7, 2021 at 6:15 p.m. via ZOOM
- If anyone is interested in this type of workshop please discuss it with your principal.

SWLSB retirement virtual celebration

- June 10, we thank our retirees for their dedication and commitment to public education and for making a difference in the lives of so many students and colleagues.

Thank you to all the parents for their commitment. The DG, ADG and the SWLSB Chairperson wish everyone a great summer. Take some needed time to connect with those most important to you.

The presentation will be sent to the Chairperson to send to members.

7.3 PC Vice-Chairperson

No report this month.

7.4 Secretary

7.4.1 Facebook sub-committee

In members' packages.

7.5 Treasurer

In members' packages.

7.6 Parent Commissioner

In members' packages. The Council minutes will be sent to members.

In response to a question from Twin Oaks Elementary, WOTP is the Work Oriented Training Path program. These are high school students in a program that leads to a qualification to integrate into the work force.

7.7 EPCA (English Parents Committee Association)

No report this month.

7.8 RCP-3L

No report this month.

7.9 SEAC

In members' packages.

7.10 Transportation Advisory

Nothing to report this month

8. BUSINESS ARISING

8.1 By-law establishing procedures for the examination of complaints from students or parents

PC20210603-04 Joliette High MOVED THAT the By-law establishing procedures for the examination of complaints from students or parents is approved as presented. Seconded by Hillcrest Academy.

Carried UNANIMOUSLY

8.2 Reconsideration of a decision affecting a student

PC20210603-05 Laurentia Elementary MOVED THAT the Reconsideration of a decision affecting a student is approved as presented. Seconded by Terry Fox Elementary.

Carried UNANIMOUSLY

8.3 Policy on school fees charged to parents

PC20210603-06 Jules Verne Elementary MOVED THAT the Policy on school fees charged to parents as presented. Seconded by Laval Junior Academy.

Carried UNANIMOUSLY

8.4 Tree planting

On June 7 the tree will be planted at 6:15 p.m. at the head office. If anyone wants to attend please email the Chairperson to get your name on the list.

8.5 August PC meeting date

PC20210603-07 Lake of Two Mountains High MOVED THAT the next regular PC meeting will be on Thursday, August 26 at 7 p.m. Seconded by Laval Junior Academy.

Carried UNANIMOUSLY

9. NEW BUSINESS

9.1 PC hoodies

PC20210603-08 Joliette High MOVED THAT on the recommendation of the budget subcommittee, the PC will purchase hoodies for members and alternates at a cost not to exceed \$30 per hoodie; and the subcommittee will choose the colors. Seconded by Ste-Adele Elementary

Carried UNANIMOUSLY

Pierre E. Trudeau left the meeting at 8:35 p.m.

9.2 Internal rules update

WHEREAS the Parents' Committee (PC) created a rules and regulations sub-committee to review and propose updates to all PC internal rules documents;

WHEREAS the Rules and Regulations sub-committee met in April and May 2021 and reviewed the PC internal rules;

WHEREAS numerous updates have been proposed to meet the needs of today, bring more clarity to the overall rules, as well as structure them in a more logical manner.

PC20210603-09 Genesis Elementary MOVED THAT the on the recommendation of the PC Rules and Regulation sub-committee that the Sir Wilfrid Laurier Parents' Committee approve the updated Internal Rules as presented in the PC package. Seconded by Hillcrest Academy.

Carried UNANIMOUSLY

9.3 EPCA consultation

Welcome to Tina Oppong, an EPCA Director. She is looking for support from PCs on asking the government for training for teachers to increase their level of comfort with the topics of discrimination, anti-racism, and equity in order to engage in important discussions with all of their students. The document with the resources she spoke about will be shared with the Chairperson who will send it to the members.

PC20210603-10 Jules Verne Elementary MOVED THAT the PC will prepare a resolution of support to EPCA to be voted on through an e-vote. Seconded by Laurentia Elementary.

Carried UNANIMOUSLY

Request for climate change to be added to the Quebec educational curriculum

PC20210603-11 Hillcrest Academy MOVED THAT this subject be tabled to a future date. Seconded by Laurentia Elementary.

Carried UNANIMOUSLY

McCaig Elementary left the meeting at 9:02 p.m.

EVOTE – June 11, 2021

WHEREAS anti-racism refers to a form of action against racial hatred, bias, systemic racism, and the oppression of marginalized groups, usually structured around conscious efforts and deliberate actions to provide equitable opportunities for all people on an individual and systemic level.

WHEREAS the English Montreal School Board Parents' Committee adopted a resolution at a recent meeting in support of providing sensitivity training to all teachers and staff on how to have conversations on discrimination, anti-racism, and equity.

WHEREAS in June 2020, the Lester B. Pearson School Board established a Task Force on Equity and Inclusivity whose mandate largely encompassed the topics of systemic racism, inequity, and injustice in order to address racism and discrimination in all forms. This task force benefits from the collaboration of administrators, commissioners, staff, students, parents, and community representatives.

WHEREAS the members of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board parents' committee feel that, as parents, it is our responsibility to ensure that teachers and school staff are given adequate training to increase their level of comfort with the topics of on discrimination, anti-racism, and equity in order to engage in important discussions with all of their students.

GB20210611 - Adam Gordon MOVED THAT the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board parents' committee request that EPCA advocate with MEES and other educational partners in order to provide sensitivity training to all teachers and staff on how to have conversations on discrimination, anti-racism, and equity.

AND THAT a copy of this resolution be shared with the Chairman of The Sir Wilfrid Laurier Council of Commissioners, The SWLSB Director General, and The English Parents Committee Association.

9.4 PC meeting format October 2021

The first PC meeting of the year is long and there are many new members who have never sat on PC. In addition to regular PC business, during this meeting there are many subcommittees to have members be voted onto. Several of the members who arrive at the first meeting in October are new and there is not enough time in one meeting to fully explain everything. The Chairperson gave a presentation on how the PC could better start the year at its first meeting. He is proposing to have October's meeting in two parts, on the first and third Thursday of October.

PC20210603-12 Lake of Two Mountains High MOVED THAT the PC adopt the proposal given to members to have the first PC meeting of the 2021-2022 school year on the first and third Thursday of October. Seconded by Laurentia Elementary.

Carried UNANIMOUSLY

10. VARIA

10.1 PC Comedy night

The budget committee proposed that the PC host a completely free comedy night for all of our SWLSB stakeholders at the end of the year. This would give the PC some publicity and might inspire people to get involved in their GB and PC. It would be a family G rated show.

PC20210603-13 Hillcrest Academy MOVED THAT on recommendation of the budget subcommittee, the PC approves to move forward with the planning of a free comedy event, and that the talent and price will be provided by the subcommittee within the week and voted on through an e-vote. Seconded by Ste-Adele Elementary

Carried UNANIMOUSLY

10.2 PC YouTube page

The PC chair would like to create a YouTube page. The page will be used to promote PC events and archive any PC video footage. Only the PC Chair, Vice Chair and PC2 Chair will be able to post to it. The credentials of this page will be given to the communications department. We can extend the invitation to SEAC to participate.

PC20210603-14 Joliette High MOVED THAT the PC will create its own YouTube page as proposed. Seconded by Ste-Adele Elementary

Carried UNANIMOUSLY

10.3 Residential school resolution

WHEREAS in recent days our nation was shocked and saddened to learn that the remains of 215 children were found in a mass gravesite that was uncovered in Kamloops, British Columbia at a site that was previously a residential school;

WHEREAS more than 139 residential schools existed in Canada between the 1830's and 1997, taking in over 150,000 indigenous children. It is widely believed there are many more mass gravesites to be located;

WHEREAS the atrocious discovery in Kamloops was made possible using radar technology;

WHEREAS the communities and families affected by the residential school system deserve answers and closure;

WHEREAS the Parents' Committee of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier (SWLSB) school board call upon our Provincial and Federal government to prioritize the funding and use of radar technology to search the grounds of all residential schools;

PC20210603-15 Tara Anderson MOVED THAT the Parents' Committee of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier school Board honors the memory of the thousands of children who were sent to residential schools, and all those who never returned, including the 215 children found at the former "Kamloops Indian Residential School" in British Columbia;

AND THAT a copy of this resolution be shared with Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, Premier Francois Legault, the Chairperson of The SWL Council of Commissioners, the Director General of SWLSB, The English Parents' Committee Association, and that a copy be shared on the PC and SEAC Facebook page. Seconded by SEAC.

Carried UNANIMOUSLY

Franklin Hill Elementary left the meeting at 9:01 p.m.

Rosemere High left the meeting at 9:26 p.m.

10.4 Meeting format 2021-2022

For the upcoming school year, the PC meetings at a worst-case scenario will be virtual. If public health allows, we can offer hybrid meetings. Zoom is available to everyone and members who do not want to drive should be able to continue to participate virtually.

The Chairperson is looking at having PC on the road – going to different schools to have the meeting.

St. Paul Elementary left the meeting at 9:31 p.m.

Jules Verne Elementary left the meeting at 9:41

Crestview Elementary left the meeting at 9:42

10.5 Graduations/Prom Ceremonies

Laval Junior Academy spoke about parents and students who are upset over the fact that there are no graduations or prom ceremonies. He

feels like the school is being dismissive.

The SWLSB Chair responded that there have been discussions on this and feels no one is dismissing it. Council will meet and this subject will be brought up and discussed with the DG and her team.

Members entered into discussion and strongly agree that graduating students deserve their proms and celebrations.

The SWLSB Chairperson suggested to reach out to EPCA to ask that they voice this to the government as they have a strong voice.

PC20210603-16 SEAC MOVED THAT the PC put 100% confidence in the Council of Commissioners, the EPCA and the QESBA to advocate to the government for students to be able to hold graduating proms and ceremonies, and they may use the name of the SWLSB PC as they see fit. Seconded by Laval Junior Academy.

Carried **UNANIMOUSLY**

11. CORRESPONDENCE

12. QUESTION PERIOD FROM THE PUBLIC

- What is the Screening process for substitute teachers and lunch supervisors and what is the complaint process?
We have a process where every new employee must pass a judicial background check. All new employees must complete this form and a background check is done. Should there be a complaint about an employee, it should go through the principal or centre director of the specific school.
- What happens to the Final exams that are scheduled on strike days? Schools have been informed and it is a local school decision to make.
- Have we heard any indication of the minister extending the school year because of strike days? No, the end of the year is June 23 for students.

13. ADJOURNMENT

Next meeting: Thursday, August 26, 2021

PC20210603-17 Laurentia Elementary MOVED THAT the meeting be closed at 9:59 p.m. Seconded by Hillcrest Academy.

Carried **UNANIMOUSLY**

Minutes approved _____, 2021

Chairperson

Secretary

Respectfully submitted by:
Susan O'Keeffe, Recording Secretary