

Minutes of the twelfth (12th) meeting of the 2020-2021 Sir Wilfrid Laurier Parents Committee held on Thursday, August 26, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. via ZOOM videoconferencing.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Laura Orzea	Crestview Elementary	Jason Stewart	Morin Heights Elementary
Dalia Ceron Gonzalez	Franklin Hill Elementary	Lannie Richard	Mountainview Elementary
Jennifer Subaihi	John F Kennedy Elementary	Tania Mitchell	Pierre E. Trudeau Elementary
Vanessa Pietraroia	Joliette Elementary	Jossie Tortorici	Rosemere High
Richard Alary	Joliette High	John Critchley	St. Jude Elementary
Sheila Lindsay	Jules Verne Elementary	Michelina Capozzi	St. Paul Elementary
Adam Gordon	Lake of Two Mountains High	Marcelo Iaconvella	St. Vincent Elementary
Tara Anderson	Laurentia Elementary	Chloée Alary	Ste-Adele Elementary
Karrine Morrison	Laurentian Elementary	Barbara Barrasso	Terry Fox Elementary
Evan Goudis	Laval Junior Academy	Natalie Codner	Twin Oaks Elementary
Lisa Cipriani	McCaig Elementary	Tony Beliotis	SEAC Representative

ALSO PRESENT: Gaëlle Absolonne, Director General; Fred Greschner, Assistant Director General; Anna Sollazzo, Secretary General and Director of Legal, Corporate and Communications; Robin Bennett, Director of Information Resources; Maxeen Jolin, Coordinator of Legal, Corporate and Communications; Paolo Galati, Chairperson; the alternate delegates from Mountainview Elementary and SEAC

ABSENT: Arundel Elementary, Genesis Elementary, Grenville Elementary, Hillcrest Academy, Laurentian Regional High, Laval Senior Academy, Our Lady of Peace Elementary, Rawdon Elementary, Souvenir Elementary, Ste-Agathe Academy

The chairperson called the meeting to order at 7:08 pm

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

Welcome to our guests.

2. ROLL CALL

3. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF THE LAND

McCaig Elementary read the acknowledgement of the land.

4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

PC20210826-01 SEAC MOVED THAT the agenda be accepted. Seconded by Joliette High.

Carried UNANIMOUSLY

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

5.1 Regular meeting of June 3, 2021

PC20210826-02 Mountainview Elementary MOVED THAT the minutes of June 3, 2021 be accepted. Seconded by Laurentia Elementary.

Carried UNANIMOUSLY

5.2 Special meeting of June 17, 2021

PC20210826-03 Joliette High MOVED THAT the minutes of June 17, 2021 be accepted. Seconded by Terry Fox Elementary.

Carried UNANIMOUSLY

6. Back to school 2021-2022

- The SWLSB chairperson and Director General welcomed the parents and staff back to school.

- The Director General gave an overview of the various measures, services and resources that the head office will offer to the school board.
- This year begins as a continuation of the last school year with some new measures.
- The year begins with a high school vaccination campaign, school elections and AGAs.
- The ministry has made it clear that the main objective is that all efforts will be made to ensure students are in person at school.
- Since June 2 the ministry has given two updates and there are still areas that the situation will evolve. The latest information following the press conference from August 24 – we are part of 9 regions that the procedural masks will be mandatory for all students, staff and visitors with the exception of PreK and K. Wearing of masks in all common areas, in class and in the bus where they will be assigned seats. The only exception is while students are outdoors and in Phys Ed classes.
- The vaccination passport will also take effect in our high schools.
- Summer has brought heat waves and if there are severely hot days students who are seated at their desks may remove their masks.
- The government will make available rapid tests to test those who have symptoms as well as close contacts. More information to come.
- The saliva test will remain in the Laval region.
- There are no classroom bubbles this year – mental health is at the forefront.
- ECAs are on and students will have to provide their vaccination passport at the high school level. The exception to this is if the activity is part of the student's regular school timetable – example: concentration subject, sport-études.
- The PowerPoint presented by the Director General will be sent to the PC chairperson for distribution to members. For more information on the back to school plan you can click on the links within the presentation. As well as contingency health measures a comprehensive guide was received from the ministry (it is only available in French right now). The link is also in the PowerPoint.
- There is a SWLSB back to school plan with links in the power point. A survey was sent to all families and staff members to ask their opinions and it was put into the plan. These statistics and feedback from parents are in the PowerPoint. Many of these elements will be covered by your school principal.
- Student schedules will be received first day of school
- School tours are available by appointment and all sanitary protocols must be followed.
- K and PreK orientations are taking place in schools
- Visitors and volunteers are allowed in the school providing sanitary protocols are followed.
- Teacher platforms will be communicated to parents.
- Mozaïk portal will be used and they will indicate the platform they are using on this.
- A table of the management of cases was presented to parents. If a positive case is confirmed the student will be isolated for 10 days and will be tested prior to returning to school. Close contacts will not have to isolate. They are presumed to be safe given the fact that they are wearing the masks at all times.
- In high school even if you are a close contact and want to participate in activities, you may only if you are double vaccinated. The ministry's reasoning is that everyone is supposed to be in masks so are deemed safe. They want all students to be in school.
- The vaccination campaign will continue in high schools in tandem with the CISSS in the regions.

School elections

- All information concerning school elections is on our website
- September 19 is the advanced poll, September 26 is voting day. Polls are open from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. The same schools will be used for both days.
- You will be receiving a notice of registration at your home soon. Verify you are on the electoral list. You may also call 1-800-election to find out if you are on the list. When you receive the notice please verify the information. The Revision Commission is on September 1-3- and 7. Changes must be sent to us by September 7 in order to be on the list.
- In addition to parents whose child attends a SWLSB school, anyone who does not have a child in English or French school can get their names on our list.
- The special covid measure information for voting by mail is on the website. Also, if you are in a CHLSD. There is a form on the website to fill out and a kit will be sent out. The deadline to request a kit to vote by mail is September 16.
- Cliff Buckland, a retired principal who has experience is our returning officer.

John F. Kennedy left the meeting at 7:43.

- In response to a comment from SEAC voters must be 18 as of polling day. Those who are not on the list who will turn 18 prior to voting day can fill out a sheet to get their names on the list.
- The list of schools for voting is on the website.
- We are recruiting staff – please apply if interested – we require many people to help.

School Annual General Assemblies (AGA)

- AGAs must be held prior to September 30 – members are elected onto GB and on PC. Schools are sending out invitations. A training on GB will be held on October 13.
- AGAs can be held in person or online. Schools will choose the best option for them.
- GB and PC is a great opportunity to get involved
- A video capsule on GBs was presented to parents.

Varia from the DG and ADG

- We continue with our *Commitment to success plan* – our guide to student success.
- Proud moments - renovations in many of our buildings occurred during the summer. Thank you to the material resources division for their hard work. 11 million was invested in 13 of our schools.
- Welcome to PreK and K postcards were sent to our newest students. You can find some photos posted on the SWLSB FB page.
- AEVT opportunities – 2 for 1 diploma opportunities for students. This is a partnership with Construc Plus and our two centres in Laval.
- Many programs available in our AEVT centres. Visit www.bilingualtraining.ca
- Trying to improve getting information to parents right away.
- A new corporate website was made last year with a section for families. Please visit this section as there is a lot of information and resources.
- There is a section on SEAC on this site with a lot of information and resource. Visit www.swlauriersb.qc.ca and click on the families button.
- STL – you can track your bus.
- Yellow bus – Mozaïk parent portal – you can access the transportation information for your child with the times. Berline pick-ups will be contacted a couple of days prior to the beginning of school.
- Mozaïk parent portal – we would like this to be a one stop shop for parents. There are various modules in this portal. Everything you need to know is available on the parent portal.
- On September 13 one of the consultants will offer two sessions to parent communities on the Mozaïk parent portal. These will be done virtually.
- All schools and centres will send welcome information to parents. If you have a specific question, please call your school or centre.
- The SWLSB chairperson spoke about the uniqueness of the three regions in our school boards. Photos were presented to the members with the impressive activities happening in the schools.

The DG, ADG and Chairperson wish everyone a fantastic school year.

The PC thanks everyone for their reports.

- Terry Fox Elementary - **Clarification on the ECAs passport mandatory for high school students** – this is for students 13 years and over.
- Laurentia – **masks – will they be provided by the school? Do they have to be procedural?** They have to be procedural and are given by the school.
- SEAC – **vaccination passports – concerned about giving equal opportunity to children as he believes there is a lot of politics on this. Who are we to decide what activity is essential to a child. As a school board is there any way that we cannot segregate students.** This is a government directive – it is not a school board decision. We have an obligation to follow their directives. We need to foster positive conversations about this with the children.
- SWLSB Chair – This is a concern for everyone at the SWLSB and we are sensitive to all students needs. All situations will be looked at. If we feel a student is going either way we have the staff in place who will collaborate to bring them back on track.

- Twin Oaks – **clarification on close contact – would not be removed but would not be able to participate in the high-risk activities – is this for a specified period.** To be able to take part in any of these activities – if you are part of concentration or sport etudes because it is part of educational services you can take part even without a vaccine. Only in the ECAs you will not be able to participate if not doubly vaccinated. If you are isolated as long as you are doubly vaccinated you may take part in activities. If you are not doubly activated you cannot participate in any ECA activity except if it is concentration of sport etudes.
- Laval Junior – **all elections held at schools will be filled with voters. The students will be attending class the next morning. Will the schools be sanitized prior to them coming to school the following days?** Everything will be disinfected and we will keep [places limited to people coming in to vote. There are only a few schools being used. We have equipment that sanitizes much faster.
- McCaig – **clarification on the protocols for positive testing. Elementary – if a positive case in a classroom they stay home in isolation for 10 days. In the ministry’s press conference and on page 2 of the document they said that everyone else would be tested on days 3 to 5 and again on day 7. What is the directive for elementary and high school.** We are meeting regularly with CISSS in every region. There is not a lot more information except the one we have all received. As we meet regularly we know the protocol will be more detailed and this will be communicated to parents. The ministry has said there will be rapid testing and will be part of the procedure when there is a positive case. We do not have much more information than that. **Follow-up – will the saliva tests and rapid tests only be available in areas where there is a low vaccination rate – what are the logistics in distributing the tests in schools. If a positive case is sent home, will the onus fall on the parents of close contact to have their child tested. What is the logistics for these parents.** We do not have all of the details right now but we are meeting a couple of times a week with the CISSS and they are evaluating what the protocol will be in each region. Based on our experience when the investigation takes place, we get supported with public health on what communication will go to parents and what they should be doing. We have a mass messaging system that all parents should sign into. Please make sure your child’s school has your up to date information on your coordinates.
- Laurentian Elementary – **will they be required to have masks on all day, in common areas and transportation.** They must wear masks full time except in Phys ed and recess.
- LTMHS – **in Phys ed during the day students do not have to wear a mask – is this the same after school if they participate in an ECA.** If it is an ECA they must show a passport fully vaccinated. It is certain ECAs that will require the passport – these are listed on the government website. The ECAs with close contact sports are the ones that require the passport. During class if you are part of a concentration, or in Phys ed when you are part of the same class you do not need a mask. If the sport is part of your educational plan and during the day in your stable class you do not need the vaccination passport, but when it is outside of school hours you do.
- Crestview – **is there any information on the application for the new school for Crestview.** For this year it was not retained, however we will submit again reviewing our strategy. We are working hard to make it happen.

St Vincent Elementary left the meeting at 8:30 p.m.

Pinewood Elementary left the meeting at 8:38 p.m.

- MHES – **are there contingency plans ready if needed?** All schools and centres have plans in place should a class or full closure takes place. The first goal is to keep students in school. At this point in time we do not have the step by step process but as soon as we know it will be communicated to parents.
- Ste Adele – **will parents have to give their consent prior to testing their children.** We will never test without parental consent. **When someone’s child has covid is it mandatory to have the test or can parents just isolate their child.** These letters are directives from public health and we rely on parental cooperation. Every day regardless of being aware of a positive test it is the duty of the parent to do the self-evaluation tool on their child prior to sending them to school. Public health is aware of who gets tested. If there are concerns we are in close contact with them.
- Laurentia – **communicate messaging system – Do parents have to re-sign up.** If you have signed up then you are registered. If you have concerns that you are not receiving messages please let us know. We have stats on who receives messages and when they are opened.
- SEAC – **when we send kids home who are positive, will there be school work sent home with them. How will this work? Will the non-vaccinated students get the same treatment as the vaccinated students. How will it work in high school?** When it is an individual isolation – work is sent home by the teacher – if it is a classroom or school shut down, within 48 hours it is the minimum service to students same as last year.

- LJA – **in cases of closure of schools or classrooms, will laptops be distributed.** Same as last year – students will receive laptops during classroom or school closure.
- Public – **PreK and K – during the two weeks of school entry – progressive – do they have access to daycare on the days they are not in school.** You have access to daycare when your kids are in school.
- Laura – LJA – **how dire is the situation of teachers. Will there be classes with no teachers?** We certainly hope not, but there is a shortage of personnel in all categories. As we speak there are still some vacant positions. We also attend hiring fairs during the school year. We post on social media. Please be a CRO and let people know if we are advertising that we need staff.

We are appreciative of parent's responses when we consult them. Your voice is important so please fill the surveys when we send them out.

7. QUESTION PERIOD FROM THE PUBLIC

There were no questions.

8. NEW BUSINESS

8.1 School Board elections September 26, 2021

Please get out and vote. Show the government that English education matters!
If you can, please help us by working at the elections.

SEAC – if we want it to be successful, the school board should ask the government to marry it with other elections – ex: municipal elections.
SWLSB Chair – we have asked the government many times to put them together.

8.2 School Annual General Assemblies (AGA)

Please encourage parents to get involved.

9. VARIA

SEAC – there is a form on the website for parents to join. Meetings are the first Tuesday of the month.

10. CORRESPONDENCE

11. QUESTION PERIOD FROM THE PUBLIC

12. ADJOURNMENT

Next meeting: Thursday, October 7, 2021
Thank you to everyone for joining this evening.

PC20210826-04 Joliette High MOVED THAT the meeting be closed at 9:10 p.m. Seconded by Crestview elementary

Carried UNANIMOUSLY

Minutes approved _____, 2021

Chairperson

Secretary

Respectfully submitted by:
Susan O'Keeffe, Recording Secretary