

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, December 15, 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 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: Frédéric Greschner, Assistant Director General; Anna Sollazzo, Secretary General and Director of Legal, Corporate and Communications; Robin Bennett, Director of Information Resources; Michel Dufour, Director of Material Resources and Transportation; Geoffrey Hipps, Director of Pedagogical Services; Stephanie Krenn, Director of Human Resources; Chao Ling Pan, Director of Financial Resources; Maxeen Jolin, Coordinator of Communications and Jocelyne Thompson-Ness, Administration Officer.

Absent: Commissioner Karla Abraham Di Francesco.

Guests: Nancy Bennett, Principal of Grenville Elementary School; Tracy McTavish, Teacher at Grenville Elementary School; Meghann Wicki, Teacher at Grenville Elementary School; Erika Alarie and Lincoln Hall, Students at Grenville Elementary School; Tania Marchitello, Principal of John F. Kennedy Elementary School; Daphne Di Marco and Sofia Mansour, Students at John F. Kennedy Elementary School; Ève Boucher, Student at Rosemere High School; and Joseph Savastanos and Andrew Wylie, Students at Laval Senior Academy.

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

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 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

Commissioner Anick Brunet MOVED THAT the agenda be approved as presented in document no. SWLSB-2021/12/15-CA-001.

CC-211215-CA-0042

Carried unanimously

2.0 Recognition – FitBit Initiative at Grenville ES

The Chairperson welcomed Nancy Bennett, Principal of Grenville Elementary School; and her teachers Tracy McTavish and Meghann Wicki, to the meeting noting that these two teachers and their students have been walking all around the world and recently finished a tour of Greece.

The Principal of Grenville Elementary school thanked the Council for the opportunity to present its FitBit initiative as the school is very proud of it. The initiative will take place throughout the year. She also thanked Commissioner Donna Anber, Parent Commissioner Adam Gordon and the Director General for their most recent visit to the school, as the students really enjoyed having them there.

Ms. Wicki thanked the Council for the honour of being recognized and for the opportunity to present this initiative to them as the students are very grateful for being able to do this project. Erika Alarie and Lincoln Hall are also present this evening will share their FitBit initiative experiences.

She went on to note that this initiative was planned over the summer months to address some of the challenges of virtual learning and the thought of bringing travel and fitness into the classroom was an interesting concept. Arrangements were made for each student to be loaned a FitBit device and they now keep track of their steps and follow the health measures provided by the device. They recently completed a 42 kilometer marathon to Athens, Greece, during the first month of school this year. The next projects with the FitBit will involve *Percy Jackson and the Olympians* book series and in the spring they will do one with the classic *Call of the Wild*. The students keep track of all the data in a journal. This initiative would not be successful without the assistance of Ms. MacTavish.

Ms. Alarie and Mr. Hall presented their experiences with the FitBit noting:

- They like tracking their steps and seeing their progression when they add them to their journal;
- The initiative is fun to do as a class and with their friends;
- They love to visit the different cities and they especially liked running through New York City;
- They learn a lot from making a graph of their steps, as they go up and down depending on the day and how many steps were taken, everyone's graph is different.

Ms. MacTavish congratulated Ms. Wicki on coming up with the great initiative and thanked the Principal for her support. The students are excited by the initiative and have commemorated it with T-shirts and enjoy the fact that they can celebrate their successes as they complete each leg of the journey. Part of the initiative is very technical and the students are very good with any of the challenges it presents.

Ms. Alarie and Mr. Hall thanked the Council, their teachers and Principal for allowing them to come this evening.

The Chairperson thanked the students, teachers and Principal of Grenville Elementary School for being present this evening because it is always an honor for the Council to hear about how the students are being engaged in their learning.

The Grenville Elementary School students, teachers and Principal left the meeting.

TIME: 19:43 hours

3.0 Approval of Minutes – November 24, 2021

Approval of Minutes
November 24, 2021

CC-211215-CA-0043

Commissioner Melissa Wall MOVED THAT the minutes of the regular meeting of the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board held on November 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.

Carried unanimously

4.0 Question Period

The Secretary General and Director of Legal, Corporate and Communications explained the parameters of the question periods and drew attention to where people online can type in their questions for the second question period.

She further confirmed that there were no questions received for the first question period and that the second question period is for questions related to agenda items only.

5.0 Report from the Chairperson

The Chairperson thanked everyone for attending this evening noting that it has been a year of challenges beyond our control and that, with the help of the stakeholders, the school board has been able to reach goals and make each day better for its students, all while keeping everyone safe. COVID-19 and its new variant has increased the challenge of keeping everyone safe but the school board continues to adhere to all public health protocols with the cooperation of parents and employees. Everyone is to be thanked for working to keep the COVID-19 numbers low, students for listening and following the rules, parents for being great partners, administrators and teachers for adapting to the ever-changing demands, and caretakers for ensuring that the public health sanitary protocols are followed.

He wished everyone a very happy and well-deserved holiday break.

He presented his monthly report noting:

- December 14, 2021 – Attended a Quebec English School Boards Association Executive Committee meeting where Bill 9: *An Act respecting the National Student Ombudsman* was discussed. A brief will be drafted for presentation;
- The second annual Embracing Diversity Conference will be held on January 18, 2022, for Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board families and it is a free event;
- At the 2021 Laurentian Regional High School (LRHS) Remembrance Day ceremony Indigenous veterans were honored through a video that was written and produced by a former LRHS student, Rowen Draper, and narrated by Ethan Picard a current student at LRHS. The video was shown for the Council.

Community Comments from Commissioners

- Commissioner Melissa Wall noted that on December 1, 2021, she attended the *Santa Bus* event at Mountainview Elementary School whereby Santa arrived by bus and each class had the opportunity to see their arrival and view a short show. She also informed the Council that Ms. Mann's grade six class at St-Jude Elementary School participated in a Christmas card contest put on by the Régie de Police du Lac des Deux-Montagnes and that one of the students had their drawing selected for the card. Three members of the Police went to the school to surprise the student with their win. The student and their family received an invitation to visit the station for a tour;
- The Chairperson noted that Communications has been using student images in the school board's marketing and that it would be a good idea to approach the Principals about also using student artwork for this purpose;
- Commissioner Vincent Cammisano congratulated everyone at Souvenir Elementary School, Laval Junior Academy and others who collected and donated food to AGAPE, as their generosity is very much appreciated.

6.0 Report from the Director General

The Director General welcomed everyone to the meeting. She introduced Ms. Daphne Di Marco and Ms. Sofia Mansour, grade five students at John F. Kennedy Elementary School (JFK), who will be helping her present her monthly report this evening.

Ms. Di Marco and Ms. Mansour explained how they are being engaged at school through listening to the Student Voice, daily circles, the buddy program, the leadership program, and the Game Changers group that help others. They also noted that they received the honor of being Principal for a day with their Principal, Ms. Marchitello. During their day as Principal they were able to greet the students as they came to school, performed recess and lunch duty and attended a restorative circle to help students. They also had the opportunity to meet and interview the Director General of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board about her job. They also toured the school to point out areas that would eventually require improvements. The Director General also had questions for them about the school to which they advised that it is a school that is joyful, respectful and kind.

The Director General noted that the upcoming video of the students at JFK is a testament that they are engaged.

The video was viewed.

Ms. Di Marco and Ms. Mansour highlighted the CTPS Orientation 5: *Engage students in physical activities for 60 minutes a day* noting the Souvenir Elementary School staff VS students basketball game on November 30, 2021, and the head office initiative *Bouger = Santé with Marcelin Cantin*, which took place for fifteen minutes once a week for ten weeks with the head office staff.

The Director General noted that for CTPS Orientation 3: *Develop a learning and working environment that promotes health, safety and well-being*, the school board partners with the health sector, especially during this pandemic and asked the Coordinator of Communications, as a member of the SWLSB Covid Team, to give more details about the vaccinations campaigns.

The Coordinator of Communications advised that the vaccine campaign for students aged 5-11 is underway in the Laval, Laurentides and Lanaudière regions until December 21, 2021. Parents have received the information for their region on how the vaccination will work. The MEQ has announced that every student will receive a box of 5 rapid tests to have at home to use if they have COVID-19 symptoms. Before the holiday break, these tests will be distributed.

The report of the Director General continued with Ms. Di Marco and Ms. Mansour highlighting CTPS Objective 5: *Ensure that the infrastructure is conducive to 21st century learning and working*, noting that Laval Senior Academy has recently added door decals on the front door of the school to promote its diversity and school programs. LSA has also recently undergone major renovations to its auditorium.

The Director General reminded everyone of the following upcoming opportunities:

- Embracing Diversity Conference on January 18, 2022, which is open to all parents;
- Laval Senior Academy will be hosting the 2022 edition of the Montréal Regional Science & Technology Fair from March 27-29, 2022. This is a true partnership with the schools and departments to make this event successful. A special thank you to Heather Mcpherson, Science teacher at the school, for all of her involvement and contribution towards organizing and hosting the fair.

She went on to thank Ms. Di Marco and Ms. Mansour for assisting with her report, wished them a Happy Holiday and told them to check their school mailbox for something special. She also commended the leadership skills of the Principal of JFK, Ms. Tania Marchitello, for being a great leader.

The Principal of JFK thanked the Director General for her kind words and wished everyone the best of the season.

The Chairperson noted that he is always inspired by the students who come to Council. He thanked the students and the Principal of JFK, on behalf of the Council and to have a nice relaxing holiday break.

7.0 Business Arising

7.1 Correction to Document – Conflict of Interest Forms

Correction to Document

Conflict of Interest Forms

CC-211215-FR-0044

WHEREAS sections 175.4 of the *Education Act* and 6.8 of the *Code of Ethics & Professional Conduct for Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board* requires that any Commissioner with a direct or indirect interest in any enterprise which could place their personal interests in conflict with those of the school board disclose such interests in writing to the Director General;

WHEREAS the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board adopted resolution no. CC-211124-FR-0032, approving procedure no. 2021-FR-04: *Procedure on the Declaration of Conflict of Interest*;

WHEREAS, after its adoption by the Council of Commissioners on November 24, 2021, it was observed that the procedure included in the meeting package was not the correct version;

WHEREAS the correct version had been presented on November 17, 2021, to the Audit Committee for recommendation to the Council of Commissioners;

Commissioner Bob Pellerin MOVED THAT the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board confirm their approval of the correct version of procedure no. 2021-FR-04: *Procedure on the Declaration of Conflict of Interest* as contained in document no. SWLSB-2021/12/08-FR-001;

AND THAT resolution no. CC-211124-FR-0032, be rescinded.

Carried unanimously

8.0 Decision Items

8.1 Central Students' Committee

8.1.1 Appointment of Student Representatives to Council

Commissioner Olivia Landry, Chairperson of the Central Students' Committee (CSC), advised that the first meeting of the CSC was held on November 30, 2021. There were many great discussions and the students nominated Ève Boucher and Joseph Savastano as the Student Representatives to the Council. Andrew Wylie is also present to be nominated as a substitute representative. She is pleased that the Council has taken this initiative.

All of the nominated students are members of the Student Council in their respective schools.

Each student introduced and provided background information on themselves, as well as their desire to bring the student voice to the table in order to improve the educational experience for all.

The Chairperson noted that having a student voice on the Council has been a long standing wish and that it is a privilege to have these incredible students bring a new perspective to the table.

Appointment of Student
Representatives to
Council

CC-211215-CA-0045

WHEREAS the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board adopted policy no. 2021-CA-27: *Student Representation at the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board* (the Policy);

WHEREAS, in accordance with the Policy, the Central Students' Committee held its first meeting on November 30, 2021 and elected its two (2) Student Representatives and their substitutes;

WHEREAS the Policy states that the Council of Commissioners appoints the Student Representatives by resolution;

Commissioner James Di Sano MOVED THAT, on the recommendation of the Central Students' Committee, the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board appoint Ève Boucher and Joseph Savastano as Student Representatives to the Council of Commissioners;

AND THAT Andrew Wylie be named as substitute Student Representative.

Carried unanimously

The Chairperson is honoured to say that the resolution naming the Student Representatives and a substitute to the Council was unanimous and congratulated the students. The school board is marking a moment in history by having students as a part of the Council.

8.1.2 Swearing in of Student Representatives

The Chairperson advised those present that the Student Representatives and substitute would now be sworn in.

The Director General swore in Ève Boucher, Joseph Savastano and Andrew Wylie as Student Representatives to the Council of Commissioners. All signed their oath of office and presented it before the camera. She noted that once the oaths were received she would sign them and send them a copy.

The Chairperson congratulated the students on behalf of the Council and that everyone is looking forward to their input and ideas.

The students thanked everyone noting they too are looking forward to working with the Council.

8.2 Human Resources

8.2.1 Engagement of an Assistant Director of Financial Resources

The Director of Human Resources advised that the recommended candidate met all the criteria in the posting and that that the Selection Committee is please to make this nomination.

Engagement
of an Assistant Director of
Financial Resources

CC-211215-HR-0046

WHEREAS the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board adopted resolution no. CC-210623-HR-0133, approving the Organizational Chart for Management which became effective as of the 2021-2022 school year;

WHEREAS the position of Assistant Director of Financial Resources will be vacant as of January 21, 2022;

WHEREAS policies no. 2000-HR-01: *Regulating the Working Conditions of Management Staff Represented by the Sir Wilfrid Laurier Administrators' Association* and no. 2000-HR-02: *Regulating the Working Conditions of Management Staff Represented by the Association québécoise des cadres scolaires – Sir Wilfrid Laurier Section*, have been applied (the Management Policies);

WHEREAS this position was posted and a Selection Committee held interviews on December 7, 2021;

Parent Commissioner Stéphane Henley MOVED THAT, on the recommendation of the Selection Committee, the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board engage Pierre-Olivier Verdon as Assistant Director of Financial Resources in accordance with the Management Policies of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board, effective January 10, 2022.

Carried unanimously

The Chairperson congratulated Mr. Verdon and welcomed him to the team.

The Director of Human Resources advised that Mr. Verdon sends his regrets for not being able to attend this evening's meeting due to an exam and that he thanked the Council for their nomination.

Commissioner Melissa Wall left the meeting.

TIME: 20:34 hours

8.2.2 Engagement of a Coordinator of Financial Resources

The Director of Human Resources advised that the Selection Committee is please to recommend the selected candidate as they come with experience in the education sector and have demonstrated strong leadership and technical skills.

Engagement of a
Coordinator of Financial
Resources

WHEREAS the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board adopted resolution no. CC-210623-HR-0133, approving the Organizational Chart for Management which became effective as of the 2021-2022 school year;

CC-211215-HR-0047

WHEREAS the position of Coordinator of Financial Resources is currently vacant;

WHEREAS policies no. 2000-HR-01: *Regulating the Working Conditions of Management Staff Represented by the Sir Wilfrid Laurier Administrators' Association* and no. 2000-HR-02: *Regulating the Working Conditions of Management Staff Represented by the Association québécoise des cadres scolaires – Sir Wilfrid Laurier Section*, have been applied (the Management Policies);

WHEREAS this position was posted and a Selection Committee held interviews on December 8, 2021;

Commissioner Vincent Cammisano MOVED THAT, on the recommendation of the Selection Committee, the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board engage Caroline Morin as Coordinator of Financial Resources in accordance with the Management Policies of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board, effective January 17, 2022.

Carried unanimously

Commissioner Melissa Wall returned to the meeting.

TIME: 20:37 hours

The Chairperson and Director General congratulated Ms. Morin and welcomed her to the team.

8.3 Financial Resources

8.3.1 Statement of Unpaid Taxes

The Director of Financial Resources noted that the statement of unpaid taxes is a requirement under the *Education Act*.

Statement of Unpaid Taxes WHEREAS section 339 of the *Education Act* requires the Director General to prepare a statement of the school taxes due and owing by owners;

CC-211215-FR-0048

WHEREAS section 340 of the *Education Act* stipulates that the statement prepared as per section 339 be submitted to the Council of Commissioners for approval;

Commissioner Emilio Migliozi MOVED THAT, on the recommendation of the Audit Committee, the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board approve the statement prepared on December 2, 2021, in the amount of \$1,311,054.66.

Carried unanimously

In response to questions from Commissioner Donna Anber, the Director of Financial Resources noted:

- For the current school year, the school board billed for almost \$6,500,000.00, in school taxes of which, at this time, \$903,175.55, has not been collected or 13.89 percent;
- The unpaid school taxes must be looked at year-by-year because, while the current school year indicates that there is 13.89 percent of school taxes that remain outstanding, it must be remembered that the unpaid accounts continue to be collected by sending annual reminders and that the unpaid balances are only for that specific school year;
- If the bailiff is unsuccessful in the collection process there are other options to be considered for collection. It must be noted that the last resort for the school board for collection would be the seizure of salary.

8.3.2 Budget Building 2022-2023 – Authorization for Consultation

In response to a question from the Vice-Chairperson and, with the permission of the Chairperson, Parent Commissioner Stéphane Henley advised that SEAC would hold a special meeting prior to the Embracing Diversity workshop.

Budget Building
2022-2023

WHEREAS the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board is commencing its budget building process for the 2022-2023 school year;

Authorization for
Consultation

WHEREAS section 275 of the *Education Act* requires a school board to establish the objectives and principles governing the allocation of its revenues;

CC-211215-FR-0049

WHEREAS the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board has drafted its 2022-2023 Budget Consultation Survey;

WHEREAS said consultation survey was presented to the Audit Committee on December 8, 2021, as well as to the Resource Allocation Committee on November 26, 2021;

Parent Commissioner Tara Anderson MOVED THAT, on the recommendation of the Audit Committee, the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board authorize for consultation the 2022-2023 Budget Consultation Survey, as contained in document no. SWLSB-2021/12/15-FR-002;

AND THAT the consultation begin on December 16, 2021, and end on February 14, 2022, with the Governing Boards, the Parents' Committee, the Association québécoise des cadres scolaires – Sir Wilfrid Laurier Section, the Sir Wilfrid Laurier Administrators' Association and the Special Education Advisory Committee.

Carried unanimously

8.4 QESBA

8.4.1 Nominations to QESBA Board of Directors

Nominations to QESBA
Board of Directors

CC-211215-CA-0050

WHEREAS the Constitution and By-Laws of the Quebec English School Boards Association (QESBA) require that its member school boards nominate two (2) of their elected members to the QESBA Board of Directors, one of which must be either the Chairperson or Vice-Chairperson;

WHEREAS the term of office on the QESBA Board of Directors is two (2) years;

Parent Commissioner Adam Gordon MOVED THAT the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board nominate Paolo Galati and Donna Anber to the Board of Directors of the Quebec English School Boards Association (QESBA) for the 2021-2023 mandate.

Carried unanimously

The Chairperson congratulated Commissioner Anber on her nomination.

9.0 Information Items

9.1 SWL Foundation Report:

There was no report.

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:

The report can be found in the meeting package

9.3 Report of QESBA

The report of the QESBA can be found in the meeting package.

10.0 Question Period

The Secretary General and Director of Legal, Corporate and Communications advised that there were no questions but there were positive comments on the participation of the students from John F. Kennedy Elementary School in the report from the Director General.

11.0 Correspondence

There was no correspondence.

12.0 Varia

There was no varia.

13.0 Adjournment

The Chairperson, on behalf of the Council, wished everyone a Happy Holiday and best wishes for a happy and healthy New Year, and to please continue to respect the health protocols.

Commissioner Anick Brunet MOVED the adjournment of the meeting.

Carried unanimously

TIME: 20:50 hours

NEXT MEETING ⇨ REGULAR ⇨ January 26, 2022

Anna Sollazzo, Secretary General

Paolo Galati, Chairperson