

Minutes of the FOURTH (4th) meeting of the 2021-2022 Sir Wilfrid Laurier Parents Committee held on Thursday January 13th, 2022 at 7:15 p.m. via ZOOM videoconferencing.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Laura Orzea	Crestview Elementary	Evan Goudis	Souvenir Elementary
Dalia Ceron Gonzalez	Franklin Hill Elementary	Kate Gross	St. Jude Elementary
Theresa Andrusko	Genesis Elementary	Tammy Lalonde	St. Paul Elementary
Jenny Georgiopoulos	Hillcrest Academy	Chloée Alary	Ste-Adele Elementary
Vanessa Pietraroia	Joliette Elementary	Barbara Barrasso	Terry Fox Elementary
Steve Samanez	Jules Verne Elementary	Nathalie Codner	Twin Oaks Elementary
Tara Anderson	Laurentia Elementary	Richard Alary	Joliette High
Karrine Morrison	Laurentian Elementary	Adam Gordon	Lake of Two Mountains High
Karl Trottier	McCaig Elementary	Chloée Alary	Laurentian Regional High
Jason Stewart	Morin Heights Elementary	Polizoi Christodoulakis	Laval Junior Academy
Lannie Richard	Mountainview Elementary	Theresa Andrusko	Laval Senior Academy
Luca Arnaldi	Our Lady of Peace Elementary	Kristin Crowdis	Rosemere High
Tania Mitchell	Pierre E. Trudeau Elementary	Tony Beliotis	SEAC Representative
Patrick Belanger	Pinewood Elementary		

ALSO PRESENT: Gaëlle Absolonne, Director General; Stephanie Krenn, Director, Human Resources; Chao Ling Pan, Director, Financial Resources; Robin Bennett, Director, Information Resources; Bob Pellerin, Commissioner; the alternate delegates from Hillcrest Academy, Laurentia Elementary, Terry Fox Elementary, Lake of Two Mountains High, Laval Junior Academy, SEAC

ABSENT: Arundel Elementary, Grenville Elementary, John F Kennedy Elementary, Rawdon Elementary, St. Vincent Elementary, Ste-Agathe Academy

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

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

The chairperson welcomed the members and guests.

2. ROLL CALL

3. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF THE LAND

Hillcrest Academy read the acknowledgement of the land.

4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

11.1 FB Website approvals

11.2 French Immersion in our schools

PC20220113-01 Joliette High MOVED THAT the agenda be accepted with the additions. Seconded by Laval Junior Academy.

Carried **UNANIMOUSLY**

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 4, 2021

PC20220113-02 Franklin Hill Elementary MOVED THAT the minutes of November 4, 2021 be approved. Seconded by Terry Fox Elementary.

Carried **UNANIMOUSLY**

6. QUESTION PERIOD FROM THE PUBLIC

There were no questions.

7. PRESENTATIONS

7.1 School Calendars

Ms. Stephanie Krenn, Director of Human Resources was present to inform and explain the guidelines and parameters of the 2022-2023 school calendars.

- There must be 200 days in a school year of which 180 are teaching days.
- First day for students August 31, 2022; last day for students June 22, 2023.

- Christmas break – December 26, 2022 to January 6, 2023
- Winter break – February 27 to March 3, 2023
- There are 20 pedagogical days – 5 floating ped days, 3 can be scheduled prior to March. 2 must be kept in case of inclement weather closures.
- Schools who use transportation from Centre de service des Laurentides and des Samares must align with their school calendars.
- The calendars for Joliette and Rawdon, des Samares has established 2 different calendars, depending on whether there are 2 or 3 reporting terms. Two ped days will be changed depending on how many reporting periods there are.
- In response to a question from Terry Fox Elementary Alternate, our schools take advantage of Truth and Reconciliation day to hold various activities in school to educate students. Furthermore, in Quebec September 30 is attestation day and this is the day the ministry uses to count the number of students in school boards to finance us for the school year.
- In response to a question from Pinewood, some years the winter break does not align with the francophone boards. Next school year was verified and only 2 francophone boards do not align.
- In response to a question from Laurentia Elementary, placing ped days is a difficult task. They are primarily to use for reporting periods and pedagogical training for staff. She will look at November 1 as a ped day but cannot make any promises.
- In response to a question from Lake of Two Mountains High, since June 24 falls on a weekend, the law allows the school boards to choose either the Friday or the Monday as the holiday.
- Members should consult with their GBs and at next month's meeting feedback can be brought forth and the chairperson will send this to the school board.

Rosemere high left the meeting at 7:30 p.m.

7.2 Budget Building Survey

- Mr. Chao Ling Pan was present to explain the budget building process to members.
- This consultation ends February 14. PC has two meetings to discuss this. Adam will prepare a document for members and please review this with GBs over the next month so that the committee can at the February meeting
- In response to a question from Joliette Elementary, the survey is not targeted to a specific school or area. It is for the global picture. If there are specific needs that schools want, this should be addressed at the local governing board.

8. BUSINESS ARISING

8.1 Consultation Deeds of Establishment and 3-Year Plan

This was presented to PC at the November meeting.

- Ste Adele Elementary – the school has a long-term rental with karate.
- Laurentia Elementary – the school has a long-term rental with karate.
- Hillcrest Academy – has a yearly summer camp that rents from the school.
- Morin Heights Elementary – the daycare service is no longer accurate. It is not in the school anymore.

PC20220113-03 Laurentia Elementary MOVED THAT the Deeds of Establishment and 3-Year Plan be approved with the corrections listed above. Seconded by Terry Fox Elementary.

Carried UNANIMOUSLY

9. REPORTS

9.1 General Directorate Report

9.1.1 General Directorate

Since last PC meeting...

- **November 8** | info session for interested candidates to become administrators
- **Careers section on SWLSB website** | currently seeking to fill positions for maintenance, professionals and teachers: <https://www.swlauriersb.qc.ca/en/careers/>
- Visit our website! Share the information in your network! Like and reshare the posts on social media!

Back to school 2022 – Updates

Sanitary Measures

Rapid Tests

- By the end of January: distribution of rapid auto-tests to elementary school students.
- February: Third distribution of rapid auto-tests to elementary school students.
- One box of 5 rapid auto-tests per student at the elementary level. (January and February)
- If they tested positive, after isolating for 5 days, elementary students must do a rapid auto-test before coming back to school. High school students come back after 5 days (if double vaccinated); 10 days (not double vaccinated).

Procedural Masks

- Regular distribution of procedural masks in sufficient quantities.
- Masks must be worn at all times in transportation, in common areas, in class.: Exception: Pre-K and K students AND when eating. Obligatory in transportation.
- Masks to be changed when wet or humid.
- N95 masks will be available to a certain classification of teachers. The ministry will give N95 masks to teachers who teach in contained classrooms.

Hygiene Measures

- Regular replenishment of hand sanitizers, cleaning and disinfecting products in all schools/centres.
- Essential habits remain important: hand washing, physical distancing, wearing masks.
- Maintenance staff will continue to diligently clean and disinfect high-touch points.

Learning

Distance Learning

Week of January 10: for all students

- Elementary: [minimum services to students as per MEQ](#)
- High school: as per regular schedule
- AE: as per regular schedule
- VT: as per schedule or on-site

In-Person Learning

Week of January 17: for all students

- All school/centre staff is considered an essential worker and can get tested in a screening clinic. This also includes school bus drivers.
- If employees have access to rapid tests, this should be prioritised rather than go to screening clinics.
- Rapid tests will be available in all schools/centres should students or staff develop symptoms at school.
- No extra-curricular activities (ECA) until further notice.
- We are working on deployment of staff in case we are short staffed. It could be possible that some classes go into distance learning if we do not have enough staff, but the priority remains all schools stay open.

Reporting

Report Card

Postponed by two weeks: February 11

- End of term. Varies slightly from one school to another. Check with your local school.

Air Quality

CO₂ Readers – Thank you to the MRT and IR departments who have worked diligently on this.

- Priority 1 and 2 schools to be completed by January 17 for return to in-person learning. Principals will receive a PowerPoint to present to GB
- 23 schools to be completed by this Friday, January 14.
- All other schools/centres to be installed once we receive the equipment.

Communication Is Key

- In times where information travels fast and changes often, stay in touch with tools at the tip of your fingers:
- Social media ([Facebook](#), [LinkedIn](#))
- SWLSB [website](#)

- SMS [mass notification system](#) (you must opt in to receive SMS messages) Late buses, school closures and any emergency messages are sent out via this system.
- [Mozaik](#) Parent Portal
- Friendly reminder: It is important that your email address is accurate in MOZAIK in order to receive e-mails and SMS messages from the SWLSB.

Proud Moments

JANUARY 7: EMBRACING DIVERSITY 2nd edition for employees. 124 participants from all categories of personnel attended this conference.

PARTNERSHIPS: The Learning Exchange (TLE)

- Not-for-profit organization providing free, one-on-one or group tutoring for adult learners.
- Located at CDC Vimont (Adult Education building on des Laurentides boulevard).
- Committed to lifelong learning and the promotion of literacy.
- TLE has recently created a Family Literacy Video Series: <https://tleliteracy.com/tles-family-literacy-series/>
 - [How to Raise-a-Reader](#)
 - [How Reading Helps Kids Grow](#)
 - [Ways to Help Kids Love Reading](#)
 - [Learning Through Creative Play](#)
 - [Family Literacy Inside and Outside the Home](#)

Grenville Elementary' s Skating Rink

- GES has its own outdoor skating rink

Opportunities

January & February Re-Registration & Registration Periods

Re-Registration (January 24 to 28, 2022)

- For **current** SWLSB students
- Online process through [Mozaik Portal](#) (easy access)
- Info available on [SWLSB website](#) and at local school

Registration (January 24 to February 28, 2022)

- For **new** students
- On-site registration OR distance registration (phone or virtual)
- Info available on [SWLSB website](#) and at local school

Upcoming dates to remember

SEAC – Embracing Diversity conference, January 18

Open House – St. Jude Elementary – January 25

Montreal Regional Science Fair, hosted by Laval Senior Academy – March 27, 28 & 29, 2022

CEGEP Application deadline –

- January 13, 2022 | Applications for admissions open (SRAM)
- March 1st | Application deadline for Round 1
- Various CEGEPS have upcoming open houses, information sessions and live chat sessions
 - [Vanier College](#)
 - [Dawson College](#)
 - [John Abbott College](#)

- Thank you to Ms. Anwar, Principal at LRHS for sharing a [PowerPoint on information on CEGEPs](#).
- Thank you to PC members for your dedication to your children.

- Hillcrest Academy – is there a percentage of students or staff that have to be missing before a school switches to virtual. Is this done by school or by class? There is no percentage per se. We will do everything possible to avoid closing a class. Once we consult the unions we will have a list in the order to deploy our personnel in case we have a shortage in schools. There could be some disruption of services in the next week, but we do not foresee a complete school shut down.

- Would a school like Hillcrest who have so many cases be prioritized for CO₂ readers? The priority is not designed this way. It is based on the data collected last year during the testing in the buildings. Priority 1-2 and some of 3 are being done now.
- Laurentia Elementary - There have been rumours that parents may be asked to volunteer if lack of staff. If this is the case what would the protocols be concerning background checks etc.? The ministry did allow us to go to parents for support. They have given the precision that it will be for supervision only, not to replace a teacher. Anyone who comes into our schools must pass a background check.
- Souvenir Elementary - Students come back after 5 days if vaccinated, 10 days if not. How will schools know for sure if the student has been vaccinated? This will be based on an honour system, we cannot ask for proof, we are counting on family honesty.
- LTMHS – is there any value in PC passing a resolution asking the government to provide rapid tests for 12- and 13-year olds and homeschooling students? Mandate EPCA to ask for this? The DG responded that they have made the request at the ministry level that rapid tests be made available to all.

9.1.2 SWLSB Chairperson

Bob Pellerin was present to represent the Council of Commissioners. On behalf of the Council, wishing everyone a happy new year and thank you the PC for your commitment.

9.2 PC Chairperson

It has been quiet.

Thank you to the DG, management, teachers and everyone involved in their flexibility to adjust to the ever-changing rules.

9.3 Vice-Chairperson

9.3.1 PC² Report

A short meeting was held in October to try to get traction on the FB page. Several ideas were brought forth but it is still in discussion.

9.4 Secretary

Nothing to report.

9.5 Treasurer

There is no further information on the online expense forms.

9.6 Facebook Sub-committee

Report in members' package.

Please like and share the FB page.

9.7 Parent Commissioners

In members' package.

9.8 EPCA (English Parents Committee Association)

Last meeting in December – short and just housekeeping. It was the first meeting since the elections.

9.9 RCP-3L

- Meeting just before Christmas. SEAC brought our concerns about staying in the membership. They see the value of us remaining members and want us to stay.
- Invited the chairperson of the RCP-3L to come to a PC meeting to explain why they want us at the table. She is happy to attend. The chairperson will reach out to her.

9.10 SEAC

In members' package.

Everyone is welcome to attend the Embracing Diversity conference – the topic is inclusivity.

9.11 Transportation Advisory

In members' package.

In response to a question from Hillcrest Academy, the bus driver shortage is expected to get worse and the school board is looking into different options. The Lanaudière region has the highest impact. Notices are sent to parents once they know of the bus cancellations and they are asked to transport their children. Bus companies are trying to recruit drivers but it is difficult. The average age of bus drivers is close to, or retirement age.

10. NEW BUSINESS

10.1 February and March 2022 meeting format

- Maintain February as a virtual meeting format – members agree.
- For the March meeting the chairperson is investigating moving the hybrid model from LSA to the month of April. TBD.

11. VARIA

11.1 FB Website approvals

GB20220112-04 Laurentia Elementary MOVED THAT the PC approves to add both English and French news sources from CBC, CTV, TVA and Radio Canada, to the Facebook page. Seconded by Joliette Elementary.

Carried **UNANIMOUSLY**

11.2 French Immersion in our schools

The delegate from Genesis and LSA is concerned about the levels of French in schools, there is not enough consistent French taught in our schools. She would like to know what it takes to open up a French immersion or increase the French from elementary to high school. She has asked this question at her GB each year but at the time the question is asked she is told that the Subject Time Allocation STA is already complete for the following year.

Pierre E. Trudeau left the meeting at 9:10 p.m.

- The Director General explained that the STA is a yearly topic at GB. They approve how much time is allocated to each subject and which language it is taught in. This is a local GB decision. When it is brought to the GB level, the staff have already had the discussion, but it is up to the GB to accept or refuse. They cannot add or delete subjects, but they can give suggestions. The MEQ gives schools a certain amount of time that should be allocated for each subject. While discussing STA at the GB level, members have to take into consideration four referenced documents.
 1. Basic School Regulation - you will find how much time per subject that must be taught.
 2. The Education Act - explains what is in the power of the local GB.
 3. SWLSB – Program of studies for elementary schools, and
 4. SWLSB – Program of studies for high schools (both of these documents are on the SWLSB website)

If members would like, the pedagogical team can come to the PC to make a presentation on the French content in our schools.
- In response to a question from Genesis Elementary, schools have until the end of January to give their STA to Ped services for the following year. GB members can begin the discussion on STA for the next registration period now at your GB.

GB20220112-05 Genesis Elementary MOVED THAT a sub-committee be created to further discuss the topic of the level of French education in our schools. Seconded by Laval Junior Academy.

This motion was CARRIED on the following division:

For: Crestview Elementary, Franklin Hill Elementary, Genesis Elementary, Joliette Elementary, Jules Verne Elementary, Laurentia Elementary, Laurentian Elementary, Morin Heights Elementary, Mountainview Elementary, Our Lady of Peace Elementary, Pinewood Elementary, Souvenir Elementary, St. Jude Elementary, St. Paul Elementary, Ste-Adele Elementary, Terry Fox Elementary, Twin Oaks Elementary, Joliette High, Lake of Two Mountains High, Laurentian Regional High, Laval Junior Academy, Laval Senior Academy, SEAC

Abstain: Hillcrest Academy, McCaig Elementary
(23-0-2)

GB20220112-06 Franklin Hill Elementary MOVED THAT the delegates from Genesis Elementary, Terry Fox Elementary, SEAC, St. Jude Elementary, Ste Adele Elementary, Twin Oaks Elementary and Lake of Two Mountains High, and the alternates from Joliette Elementary, Laurentia Elementary, Terry Fox Elementary and Laval Junior Academy will form the subcommittee to discuss the level of French education in our schools.

AND THAT, the subcommittee will establish a chair at the first meeting. Seconded by Genesis Elementary.

Carried UNANIMOUSLY

Considering we are an English school board what is the maximum number of hours in French that can be taught? The Director General responded that all subjects except Math and English Language Arts can be taught in French.

SEAC expressed that maybe we should have a dedicated French immersion school. We cannot have all schools as immersion as we have many special needs students.

Rapid Tests – distribution to 12- and 13-year olds.

Send your feedback to the chairperson and he will share it with EPCA.

12. CORRESPONDANCE

13. QUESTION PERIOD FROM THE PUBLIC

No questions.

14. ADJOURNMENT

- PC Thursday, February 3, 2022, 7:15 p.m. (Zoom). If you cannot make a meeting please ask your alternate to attend.
- SEAC Tuesday, January 18, 2022, (Zoom) – Embracing Diversity Conference

PC20220113-07 McCaig Elementary MOVED THAT the meeting be closed at 9:37 p.m. Seconded by Joliette High

Carried UNANIMOUSLY

Minutes approved _____, 2022

Chairperson

Secretary

Respectfully submitted by:
Susan O'Keeffe, Recording Secretary