

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, January 26, 2022, 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, 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 Higgs, 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.

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

TIME: 19:33 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 Olivia Landry MOVED THAT the agenda be approved as presented in document no. SWLSB-2022/01/26-CA-001.

CC-220126-CA-0051

Carried unanimously

2.0 Approval of Minutes – December 15, 2021

Approval of Minutes
December 15, 2021

Commissioner Donna Anber MOVED THAT the minutes of the regular meeting of the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board held on December 15, 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-220126-CA-0052

Carried unanimously

3.0 Question Period

The Secretary General and Director of Legal, Corporate and Communications explained the parameters of the two 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.

4.0 Report from the Chairperson

The Chairperson welcomed everyone to the first meeting of the New Year noting that 2021 was a difficult year and that 2022 is a new beginning. He asked that everyone to stay positive, even though the next few months will continue to be a challenge. The school board will continue to make the safety of its students and staff the number one priority. COVID-19 and its variants have not prevented the school board from moving ahead, although the paths taken may be varied.

He thanked the parents for their patience and for encouraging their children to follow the guidelines set out to keep them safe, the teachers and school and centre teams for their dedication to their students and profession, the head office for providing services and support to the schools and centres, and to the management team for keeping everything running.

He went on to present his monthly report:

- January 7 & 18, 2022 – The second addition of the Embracing Diversity Conference was held for employees and parents, respectively. A special thank you to SEAC and the organization committee for this event;
- January 14, 2022 – An interview with Global Morning News on classroom safety for the return of the student to class on January 17, 2022.

Community Comments from Commissioners

- Commissioner Donna Anber advised that all students that attend Ste-Agathe Academy will now have access to its breakfast program five days a week due to the generosity of its sponsors;
- Commissioner Bob Pellerin thanked Franklin Hill Elementary School for the invitation to go caroling with them. Unfortunately, the event was cancelled but he hopes that they try again next year;
- Commissioner Anick Brunet commended Genesis Elementary School students and staff for its toy, food and warm clothing drive for a local shelter. The goods were delivered the Friday before Christmas. This was a wonderful initiative and she hopes that it becomes a tradition at Genesis and that other schools look into doing something similar.

5.0 Report from the Director General

The Director General presented her month report noting the following in relation to the Commitment-to-Success Plan (CTPS):

Orientation 3: *Develop a learning and working environment that promotes health, safety and well-being* – She attended the Embracing Diversity Conference and it was a privilege to have been there to hear about equality, equity and justice. The conference provided excellent food for thought for those in attendance;

Orientation 2: *Offer students a variety of choices through 21st century programs and curriculums* – Re-registration and registration for the 2022-2023 school year will begin on January 31, 2022. This is a period that encourages parents and future parents to consider the services offered to each school community provided by this school board. The corporate web site provides all of the information a parent needs to re-register or register their child(ren). She named some reasons why parents, future parents or, even future employees, may consider the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board (SWLSB) as a place to learn and work: it is described as a family by many employees when asked to describe the school board in one word (most common word), inclusive, diverse, bilingual, a great place to learn, grow, work; and student oriented, as can be attested to with its 88.1 percent graduation rate;

Upcoming Opportunities

- February 9, 2022 – Governing Board training on school/centre budgets, school fees and finances;
- Vocational Training Programs
 - There are areas of the job market that need employees and the SWLSB can help with the following programs that will begin shortly:
 - January 31, 2022 - Construction Business Management;
 - February 15, 2022 – Starting a Business;
 - February 17, 2022 – Professional Sales Program;
 - February 21, 2022 – Computing Support;
 - March 27-29, 2022 – Laval Senior Academy (LSA) will be hosting the 21-22 edition of the Regional Hydro-Québec Science Fair. A video of what programs LSA offers was viewed.

6.0 Business Arising

There were no items.

7.0 Decision Items

7.1 Legal, Corporate and Communications

7.1.1 2020-2021 Annual Report

2020-2021 Annual Report

CC-220126-CA-0053

WHEREAS section 220 of the *Education Act* requires every school board to prepare an annual report giving the population in its territory an account of the implementation of its commitment-to-success plan and the results obtained;

WHEREAS the Advisory Committee – Administration reviewed the 2020-2021 Annual Report of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board at its meetings of December 8, 2021, and January 19, 2022, and provided feedback;

Commissioner Vincent Cammisano MOVED THAT, on the recommendation of the Advisory Committee – Administration, the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board adopt the 2020-2021 Annual Report of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board, as per document no. CC-SWLSB-2022/01/26-CA-0002.

Carried unanimously

7.1.2 Presentation of 2020-2021 Annual Report

The Chairperson advised that, in order to meet the requirement of the Education Act, school boards and school service centres must provide an annual report to the population on its Commitment-to-Success Plan and the results achieved for each objective. An annual report also provides the opportunity to reflect on what has been achieved, analyze the data and make sure that what has been done is in line with the objectives of the school board and the targets set out by the Ministère de l'Éducation (MEQ).

It is hard to believe that the 2020-2021 Annual Report is, once again, being presented publicly via Zoom. That being said, COVID-19 has not prevented the school board from undertaking some great accomplishments, while facing the challenges, resulting in prevailing resilience. During the past year the school board has made the safety and security of its students and staff a priority, which could not have happened without all stakeholders being able to adapt and work together.

The accomplishment achieved by the school board could not have happened without the efforts of the 2,000 committed, competent and compassionate employees, who are to be thanked for their contributions that have allowed the school board to thrive and achieve its objectives.

He drew attention to his message within the 2020-2021 Annual Report highlighting

- The popularity of Pre-Kindergarten
- The School Board and its various committees going virtual
- Various infrastructure Upgrades
- The launch of the new Website.

The Chairperson turned the presentation of the 2020-2021 Annual Report over to the Director of Pedagogical Services, the Director of Material Resources and the Director of Financial Resources.

The Director of Pedagogical Services reviewed the four objectives related to pedagogical services, as follows:

- The results are based on a seven-year cohort therefore, the results in this annual report are from 2019 with the 2012 cohort. The comparison is between the provincial results and those of the school board;

Objective 1: By 2030, reduce the gap in success rates between various groups of students by 50%

- The 2019 provincial results show that there is a 9.1 percent gap between girls and boys while the gap for this school board is 6.6 percent. The goal for 2022 is to reduce this gap to 6.2 percent;
- Students with handicaps, social maladjustments or learning difficulties have a 30.1 percent gap provincially, while the gap for this school board is 26.3 percent, so the province and the school board are both seeing a reduction in the gap annually;
- For students starting high school in a milieu défavorisé the provincial the gap is 7.5 percent whereas the gap for this school board is negative 0.2 percent. This a difficult cohort to follow given that the provincial *Indice de défavorisation* changes on an annual basis;

Objective 2: By 2030, reduce to 10% the proportion of students starting public secondary school at age 13 or older

- This school board does not promote the retention of its students at the elementary level and, because of this, we are below the 5 percent target that we have set. That being said, there are rare occasions when retention of the student is in their best interests;

Objective 3: By 2030, have 85% of students under that age of 20 obtain a first diploma (SSD or DVS), and 90% obtain a first diploma or qualification

- The current provincial target, which is expected to be achieved by the end of 2022, is set at 84 percent and 85 percent by 2030. The school board is very pleased to note that in 2019 it reached 87.7 percent and is expected to be at 88 percent by the end of 2022 and 90 percent by 2030;

Objective 4: By 2030, increase to 90% the success rate on the composition component of the Elementary 6 (Cycle 3, Year 2) language of instruction ministerial examination in the public system

- This is specific to the English sector so there is no baseline for comparison because, in the French sector, this is done at the grade 4 level;
- This school board promotes an English education and a bilingual future and these results show that by the end of Elementary 6 the results are high in both English and French;
- The results in English Language Arts and French Second Language for secondary V continue to yield results in the 90th percentile.

The Director of Material Resources and Transportation continued the presentation commenting on the final objective.

Objective 5: By 2030, ensure that all school buildings are in good condition

- The maintenance of the buildings is a challenge when trying to provide a 21st century learning environment due to their age and condition but over \$10,000,000.00, was invested in 2020-2021 for improvements;
- Additional Project Managers have been engaged to ensure that the planned projects are realized;
- The intent is to invest an additional \$14,000,000.00, in 2022-2023;
- All of the school board buildings were inspected during December 2021, as the condition of each building was necessary in order to have the necessary the data for each for entry into a new government program that will allow the MEQ can go at any time to see the condition of any building in any school board or school service centre. The department is currently finishing up the data entry for this school board in this new program.

The Director of Financial Resources commented on the financials contained in the annual report noting:

- In 2020-2021, the school board managed an \$187,000,000.00, budget;
- After the annual audit for the 2020-2021 school year, the school board showed a deficit of \$14,800,000.00, that can be attributed to the following:
 - COVID-19 – this was an extraordinary event that incurred significant expenses that were not budgeted;
 - Retro for collective agreements and pay equity;
 - While the school board did receive provisional funding for its COVID-19 expenses, a request had been made to the MEQ to refund the additional COVID-19 expenses in the amount of \$4,400,000.00, and the recent retro for collective agreements and pay equity in the amount of \$10,700,000.00.

The Chairperson thanked the Directors for their presentations.

The Chairperson went on to state

“The Council of Commissioners takes this opportunity to applaud all SWLSB employees who have not only been resilient, creative and caring during these challenging times, but who remained professional, loyal and committed to their work.

We know, it’s not easy and we value and appreciate each one of you. Council is very proud to have such outstanding individuals contributing to the success of the school board.

The Council would also like to thank our students and families for their patience, adaptability and understanding as we navigated these uncertain times together. This past year has clearly demonstrated that we are stronger when we work together.

I would like to thank my fellow commissioners for their continued support and dedication to English public education. Thank you for all that you do.

*As I’ve said before, I could not be prouder to be part of a school board that knows how to come together when the going gets tough. We are more than a school board. **We are a family.** Thank you.”*

7.2 Material Resources and Transportation

7.2.1 Engagement of Contractor – Renovation of Classrooms – Mountainview ES

Commissioner Melissa Wall noted that this was a project that was brought forward during the last school year and that it was put aside due to the bids being too high. She thanked the Mountainview Elementary School Community for its patience and the Material Resources and Transportation team for being able to receive appropriate bids.

The Material Resources and Transportation noted that by retendering the project brought savings of close to \$600,000.00, from the original bid received last school year.

Engagement of Contractor	WHEREAS classrooms at Mountainview Elementary School require renovations;
Renovation of Classrooms Mountainview ES	WHEREAS a public call for tenders was published for the renovation of classrooms at Mountainview Elementary School and the tenders were opened on December 14, 2021;
CC-220126-MR-0054	<p>WHEREAS the conformity of all bidders has been verified;</p> <p>Parent Commissioner Tara Anderson MOVED THAT, on the recommendation of the Advisory Committee – Student Success, the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board award the contract for the renovation of classrooms at Mountainview Elementary School to Roland Grenier Construction Ltée, for a total cost of \$1,129,215.00, before taxes, or \$1,206,981.21, net taxes;</p> <p>AND THAT the engagement above be conditional to the receipt of all contractual documents;</p> <p>FURTHER THAT the Director of Material Resources be authorized to sign all documentation concerning this project.</p>

Carried unanimously

7.2.2 Engagement of Contractor – Addition of Modular Classrooms – Laurentia ES

Engagement of Contractor WHEREAS the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board adopted resolution no. CC-200331-MR-0081 for the rental and installation of two modular classrooms at Laurentia Elementary School;

Addition of Modular Classrooms

Laurentia ES WHEREAS these modular classrooms are the property of AMB Modulaire (AMB Tresec Inc.);

CC-220126-MR-0055 WHEREAS two additional modular classrooms are needed to meet increasing enrolments;

WHEREAS the City of Saint-Jerôme will not allow the installation of modular classrooms in front of the school building;

WHEREAS it has been determined that the additional modular classrooms need to be connected to the existing modular classrooms to minimize the impact on the schoolyard;

WHEREAS AMB Tresec Inc. will not allow another contractor to modify their property to gain access to the tunnel and staircase;

WHEREAS the required modifications to the existing modular classrooms must be performed by AMB Tresec Inc. to maintain the current warranty;

Commissioner Donna Anber MOVED THAT, on the recommendation of the Advisory Committee – Student Success, the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board approve the contract by mutual agreement (*de gré à gré*) with AMB Tresec Inc. for the rental and installation of two additional modular classrooms for a 36-month term for a total cost of \$486,000.00, before taxes, or \$519,469.61, net taxes;

AND THAT the Director of Material Resources be authorized to sign all documentation concerning this project.

Carried unanimously

7.2.3 Participation in CAG Tender – Acquisition of Printing Cartridges

Participation in CAG Tender – Acquisition of Printing Cartridges WHEREAS the Centre d'acquisitions gouvernementales (CAG) will be conducting public tender no. 2022-8025-60 to acquire printing cartridges;

CC-220126-MR-0056 WHEREAS the Conseil de Trésor has decreed that all acquisitions of original or compatible printing cartridges be done through the CAG;

WHEREAS the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board wishes to participate in this tender for a period of thirty-six (36) months;

WHEREAS the estimated cost of printing cartridges is of \$180,000.00, before taxes, for the term of the contract;

Commissioner Emilio Migliozi MOVED THAT, on the recommendation of the Advisory Committee – Student Success, the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board approve the participation of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board in public tender no. 2022-8025-60 to acquire printing cartridges;

AND THAT the Director of Material Resources and Transportation be authorized to sign documentation concerning the participation of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board to this tender;

FURTHER THAT the Director of Material Resources and Transportation be authorized to sign all purchase orders.

Carried unanimously

8.0 Information Items

8.1 SWL Foundation Report:

There was no report.

8.2 Parent Commissioners' Reports

8.2.1 Parents' Committee Report:

The report can be found in the meeting package.

8.2.2 SEAC Report:

The report can be found in the meeting package.

8.3 Report of QESBA

There was no report.

8.4 Central Students' Committee Report

Commissioner Olivia Landry advised that the next meeting of the Central Students' Committee would be held on February 8, 2022.

9.0 Question Period

The Secretary General and Director of Legal, Corporate and Communications advised that there was a question concerning the statistics on what makes the SWLSB the greatest school board in Canada.

The Chairperson noted that the SWLSB is great because it ranks within the top ten school boards/school service centres in the province, it is ranked first in the Laval, Laurentides and Lanaudière regions and it continuously strives to be better in order to provide the best education possible for its students.

10.0 Correspondence

The Chairperson drew attention to the correspondence in the meeting package.

11.0 Varia

11.1 N95 Masks

The Chairperson noted that as a school board that embraces inclusion and diversity and whose number one priority is safety of the students and employees it is absolutely necessary to make the MEQ aware that, while the English sector does not have regional and supraregional schooling services for students with disabilities, social maladjustments or learning difficulties; it does have students who are either fully integrated into a regular classroom or a contained class. The school board feels that in order adequately protect its staff the MEQ should be providing N95 masks to any employee who requests one not just those who provide regional or supraregional schooling services.

N95 Masks

CC-220126-CA-0057

WHEREAS the *Directives for Educational Institutions in the Context of the COVID-19 Pandemic* (the Directives) issued by the Ministère de l'Éducation du Québec (MEQ) on January 13, 2022, state that *N95-type masks will be provided to staff working with students with disabilities, social maladjustments or learning difficulties who attend classes providing regional or supraregional schooling services, as well as staff working with students at specialized private schools, due to the close contact required when providing services to these students and the difficulty of respecting the health guidelines in force;*

WHEREAS, while the Directives may reflect the realities of schools offering regional or supraregional special education services, they do not reflect the inclusion reality of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board (SWLSB);

WHEREAS students with disabilities, social maladjustments or learning difficulties within the SWLSB are either included in specialized classes within a regular school setting or integrated into regular classes, as the school board does not provide regional or supraregional special education services;

WHEREAS these students have needs that are similar to those attending regional or supraregional schools;

WHEREAS many SWLSB employees work closely with students with disabilities, social maladjustments or learning difficulties outside the context of regional or supraregional services;

WHEREAS Orientation 3 of the SWLSB Commitment-to-Success Plan states that the school board wishes to *develop a learning and working environment that promotes health, safety and well-being;*

WHEREAS the Council of Commissioners feels very strongly that all employees working in a school or centre environment should have N95 masks made available to them if they so require, no questions asked, in order to ensure that these employees feel safe while at work;

Commissioner Stéphane Henley MOVED THAT the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board firmly request that the Ministère de l'Éducation make the N95 masks available to all employees of the education sector so as to allow said employees to choose between a procedural mask and the N95 mask;

AND THAT sufficient quantities of the N95 mask be delivered in a timely fashion;

FURTHER THAT a copy of this resolution be sent to Premier François Legault; the Minister of Education, Jean-François Roberge; the Minister of Health and Social Services, Christian Dubé; the Interim Director of Public Health, Dr. Luc Boileau; and to the members of the National Assembly of the opposition parties responsible for the Education dossier.

THIS MOTION WAS CARRIED ON THE FOLLOWING DIVISION:	
Commissioners & Parent Commissioners voting YEA:	Karla Abraham Di Francesco, Tara Anderson, Vincent Cammisano, James Di Sano, Paolo Galati, Adam Gordon, Stéphane Henley, Emilio Migliozzi, Bob Pellerin, Melissa Wall
Commissioners & Parent Commissioners ABSTAINING:	Donna Anber, Anick Brunet, Olivia Landry

12.0 Adjournment

The Chairperson thanked everyone for their passion as part of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board family as we are stronger together.

Commissioner James Di Sano MOVED the adjournment of the meeting.

Carried unanimously

TIME: 20:38 hours

NEXT MEETING ⇒ REGULAR ⇒ February 23, 2022

Anna Sollazzo, Secretary General

Paolo Galati, Chairperson