

PROVINCE OF QUÉBEC
Ville de Rosemère

A special meeting of the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board was held in conference room 36A of the Administration Centre, 235 Montée Lesage, Rosemère, Québec, on Thursday, June 2, 2022, and via videoconference at 19:00 hours, at which were:

Present: Paolo Galati, Chairperson; Parent Commissioner Adam Gordon, Vice-Chairperson; Parent Commissioner Tara Anderson; Gaëlle Absolonne, Director General; Anna Sollazzo, Secretary General and Director of the Legal, Corporate and Communications Department; and Julie Jasmann, Communications Consultant.

Present via videoconference: Commissioners Donna Anber, Anick Brunet, Vincent Cammisano, Bob Pellerin, Parent Commissioner Stéphane Henley; Frédéric Greschner, Assistant Director General; Robin Bennett, Director of Information Resources; Florence Delorme, Director of School Affairs and School Organization; Geoffrey Hips, Director of Pedagogical Services; Chao Ling Pan, Director of Financial Resources; Nathalie Senecal, Interim Director of Human Resources; Maxeen Jolin, Coordinator of Communications; and Jocelyne Thompson-Ness, Administration Officer.

Absent: Commissioners Karla Abraham Di Francesco, James Di Sano, Olivia Landry and Melissa Wall.

The Chairperson welcomed everyone to the meeting.

The Chairperson called the meeting to order and confirmed quorum with the Secretary General and Director of the Legal, Corporate and Communications Department.

The Secretary General and Director of the Legal, Corporate and Communications Department confirmed quorum and advised that all legal requirements for this meeting were followed.

TIME: 19:01 hours

1.0 Opening of Meeting

1.1 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."

2.0 Approval of the Agenda

Approval of the Agenda
 CC-220602-CA-0115

Parent Commissioner Stéphane Henley MOVED THAT the agenda of the special meeting of the Council of Commissioners be approved as presented in document no. CC-SWLSB-2022/06/02-CA-001.

Carried unanimously

3.0 Bill 96

The Chairperson informed those present that Bill 96 violates constitutional rights, which is why the SWLSB is lending its support to the English Montreal School Board (EMSB) as it pursues legal action against this bill.

He continued noting that it is important for the English community to stick together and encouraged other English-language groups, such as the English Parents' Committee Association of Québec and the Québec Community Groups Network, to also lend their support to the EMSB.

Bill 96

CC-220602-CA-0116

WHEREAS *An Act respecting French, the official and common language of Québec* (Bill 96) was adopted on May 24, 2022;

WHEREAS the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board (SWLSB) has always proudly promoted *An English Education, A Bilingual Future*;

WHEREAS the members of the Council of Commissioners of the SWLSB are elected to represent their English school communities located in the Laval, Laurentides and Lanaudière regions;

WHEREAS the SWLSB is part of a legal action to declare Bill 40 unconstitutional due to its infringement of the English-speaking Community's rights to control and manage its educational institutions as per section 23 of the *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms*;

WHEREAS the Council considers that parts of Bill 96 contravene the English-speaking community's rights to manage and control its educational institutions under section 23 of the *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms*;

WHEREAS the Council does not believe that the Québec Government has acted in the best interest of Québec citizens, whether English-speaking or French-speaking, with the adoption of Bill 96;

WHEREAS the Council wishes to support Resolution no. 22-05-26-4 adopted by the English Montreal School Board with regard to its court challenge against Bill 96.

Commissioner Vincent Cammisano MOVED THAT the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board support the English Montreal School Board's legal challenge in defence of English-speaking Quebecers' rights to control and manage our educational institutions under section 23 of the *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms*.

Carried unanimously

4.0 Question Period

The Secretary General and Director of the Legal, Corporate and Communications Department reminded everyone that this question period is for questions related to the agenda items of this meeting and drew attention to where people online can type in their questions.

She noted that there were no questions but a comment thanking the Council for its support.

5.0 Adjournment

The Chairperson noted that this special meeting can be looked upon as a historic event because it is another step in the process for the protection of English-language rights.

Parent Commissioner Tara Anderson MOVED the adjournment of the meeting.

Carried unanimously

TIME: 19:08 hours

NEXT MEETING → REGULAR → June 22, 2022