

PROVINCE OF QUÉBEC
Ville de Rosemère

A **special meeting** of the Executive Committee of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board was held in the boardroom of the Administration Centre, 235, montée Lesage, Rosemère (Québec) and via videoconference, on Monday, August 29, 2022, at 19:00 hours, at which were:

Present: Paolo Galati, Chairperson; and Gaëlle Absolonne, Director General.

Present via videoconference: Commissioner Bob Pellerin, Vice-Chairperson; Commissioners Donna Anber, James Di Sano, and Parent Commissioner Adam Gordon.

Also present: Commissioner Karla Abraham Di Francesco; Parent Commissioner Tara Anderson; Frédéric Greschner, Assistant Director General; Anna Sollazzo, Secretary General and Director of the Legal, Corporate and Communications Department; Robin Bennett, Director of Information Resources; Marilyne Demers, Assistant Director of Material Resources and Transportation; Priscilla Lingaya, Coordinator of Material Resources (Purchasing); and Jocelyne Thompson-Ness, Administration Officer.

Absent: Commissioners Vincent Cammisano and Olivia Landry

0.0 Opening of Meeting

In response to a request from the Chairperson, the Secretary General and Director of the Legal, Corporate and Communications Department verified that quorum is achieved. The Vice-Chairperson called the meeting to order.

TIME: 19:01 hours

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

EC-220829-CA-0005

Commissioner Vincent Cammisano MOVED THAT the special agenda be approved as presented in document no. EC-SWLSB-2022/08/29-CA-001.

Carried unanimously

3.0 Transportation Contracts 2023-2027

3.1 Buses

The Assistant Director of Material Resources and Transportation provided an update on the status of the transportation contracts noting:

- The Fédération des transporteurs par autobus (FTA), after negotiations with the MEQ, has brought two negotiated offers to its members but not all have accepted the offer so the MEQ has appointed a mediator to continue negotiations until an agreement is reached;

- The school board works with ten transporters, nine excluding the Société du transport de Laval, and an offer has been made to all resulting in an agreement in principle with four, one has refused the proposal outright and countered with a significantly higher offer, so there are five with which the school board does not have an agreement;
- At this time, there will be transportation available on Wednesday, the first day of school, to more than half of the students of this school board and, it is hoped, that a few more transporters will be added by that time;
- The school board is requesting an extension of the current contracts, in the form of an addenda, as the modalities of the new contracts have yet to be concluded provincially so a full contract cannot be offered until that time. Once the addenda is signed then transportation can be offered. It is in the best interests of the school board to sign the addenda and continue negotiations;
- The parents have been kept informed on the transportation situation;
- The schools that might not have transportation on Wednesday have been asked to prepare contingency plans to handle the increase in traffic around their respective schools prioritizing the safety and security of everyone involved;
- Parents of those students who will be without transportation on Wednesday have been advised that they will be responsible of transporting their children to school until such time as an agreement is reached with the transporter for their respective school;
- Other challenges include the possibility of the transporters refusing to provide transportation as a pressure tactic to get the MEQ to agree to their demands, a strike by the bus drivers and the ongoing lack of bus drivers.

The Coordinator of Transportation advised that the focus will now be on settling the berline contracts for the transportation of special needs students.

He went on to answer questions, with the assistance of the Director General and the Assistant Director of Material Resources and Transportation; as follows:

- There are two transporters that provide berlines, Group Renaud and Transport Shiro;
- Berlines were not a part of the negotiations between the MEQ and the FTA but the MEQ is aware of this fact and it will be addressed. If the transporters refuse to provide the berlines this will be directed to the FTA;
- The MEQ provided fuel compensation for the buses but not for the berlines;
- Arundel Elementary School and Ste-Agathe Academy will have 75 students without transportation. Transportation for these schools is provided by Centre de services scolaire des Laurentides;
- Students who attend Rawdon, Joliette Elementary Schools and Joliette High School will have transportation given that the Centre de services scolaire des Samares has signed with its transporters;
- It is expected that Autobus Campeau will be signing its agreement tomorrow so there will be transportation for Morin Heights and Ste-Adèle Elementary Schools;
- There is one route in the Lachute area that could be problematic;
- The schools that will be impacted the most on Wednesday will be those is the lower Laurentians and Laval.

Transportation Contracts 2023-2027	WHEREAS school bus transportation is required for all schools of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board (the "SWLSB");
Buses EC-220829-MR-0006	<p>WHEREAS the five-year contracts for school bus transportation services have ended on June 30, 2022 for all transporters contracting with the SWLSB, as this was the case for most school boards and school service centres in Québec;</p> <p>WHEREAS the government has hired a mediator in order to negotiate provincially the terms and conditions of transportation contracts directly with the <i>Fédération des Transporteurs par autobus</i> (the "Federation");</p> <p>WHEREAS the government and the Federation have reached an agreement in principle as to the financial contribution to be given to transporters for school bus transportation services for the next six (6) years;</p> <p>WHEREAS the exact modalities to be included in the contracts are not yet finalized;</p> <p>WHEREAS notwithstanding the agreement reached provincially with the Federation, not all individual transporters have accepted this agreement;</p> <p>WHEREAS the Advisory Committee on Student Transportation has been consulted and recommends to extend the contracts of all transporters who have agreed to such an extension, until the provincial negotiations are finalized;</p> <p>WHEREAS this extension would allow for students of the SWLSB to benefit from transportation services for the 2022-2023 back-to-school period;</p> <p>Commissioner James Di Sano MOVED THAT, on the recommendation of the Advisory Committee on Student Transportation, the Executive Committee of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board authorize the Director General to sign all necessary documentation to extend, on a monthly basis, the contracts with all transporters who agree to do so, and this, until all negotiations are finalized provincially;</p> <p>AND THAT said contracts be extended according to the same terms and conditions, to the exception of the financial contribution to be given to the transporters which will be equivalent to all amounts agreed upon provincially and any other financial measure granted by the government.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Carried unanimously</p>

3.2 Berlines

The Chairperson noted that the contracts for the berlines, like the buses, will most likely also be extended on a month-to-month basis until the negotiations are final.

Transportation Contracts 2023-2027	WHEREAS school bus transportation is required for all schools of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board (the "SWLSB");
Berlines EC-220829-MR-0007	<p>WHEREAS the five-year contracts for school bus transportation services, including berlins, have ended on June 30, 2022 for all transporters contracting with the SWLSB, as this was the case for most school boards and school service centres in Québec;</p> <p>WHEREAS the government has hired a mediator in order to negotiate provincially the terms and conditions of transportation contracts directly with the <i>Fédération des Transporteurs par autobus</i> (the "Federation");</p> <p>WHEREAS the government and the Federation have reached an agreement in principle as to the financial contribution to be given to transporters for school bus transportation services for the next six (6) years;</p>

WHEREAS the exact modalities to be included in the contracts are not yet finalized and transportation of students by berline was not considered in this agreement in principle;

WHEREAS negotiations are still ongoing, notably to solve the situation regarding transportation by berline;

WHEREAS the Advisory Committee on Student Transportation has been consulted and recommends to extend the contracts of all transporters of berlines who have agreed to such an extension, until the provincial negotiations are finalized;

WHEREAS this extension would allow for students of the SWLSB transported by berline to benefit from transportation services for the 2022-2023 back-to-school period;

Commissioner Donna Anber MOVED THAT, on the recommendation of the Advisory Committee on Student Transportation, the Executive Committee of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board authorize the Director General to sign all necessary documentation to extend, on a monthly basis, the contracts with all transporters of berlines who agree to do so, and this, until all negotiations are finalized provincially;

AND THAT said contracts be extended according to the same terms and conditions, to the exception of the financial contribution to be given to the transporters which will be equivalent to all amounts agreed upon provincially and any other financial measure granted by the government.

Carried unanimously

The Chairperson expressed appreciation to the Material Resources and Transportation and the Directorate teams for working diligently to ensure that as many students as possible have transportation to and from school on Wednesday.

He also expressed his appreciation to Christopher Skeete, Member of the National Assembly for Sainte-Rose, for his assistance in contacting Jean-François Roberge, Ministre de l'Éducation.

7.0 Adjournment

Commissioner Bob Pellerin. MOVED the adjournment of the meeting.

Carried unanimously

TIME: 19:22 hours

NEXT MEETING → REGULAR → September 28, 2022