

**PROVINCE OF QUÉBEC**  
**Ville de Rosemère**

**A regular meeting** of the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board was held in the boardroom of the Administration Centre, 235 Montée Lesage, Rosemère, Québec, on Wednesday, February 22, 2023, and via videoconference at 19:30, at which were:

**Present:** Paolo Galati, Chairperson; Commissioners Melissa Wall, Vice-Chairperson; Bob Pellerin, Alternate Vice-Chairperson; Donna Anber, James Di Sano and Parent Commissioners Chloée Alary, Tara Anderson and Stéphane Henley; and Gaëlle Absolonne, Director General.

**Also present:** Frédéric Greschner, Assistant Director General; Anna Sollazzo, Secretary General and Director of the Legal, Corporate and Communications Department; Robin Bennett, Director of Information Resources; Florence Delorme, Director of School Affairs and School Organization; Michel Dufour, Director of Material Resources and Transportation; Chao Ling Pan, Director of Financial Resources; Nathalie Senecal, Interim Director of Human Resources; Eloise Robichaud, Interim Director of the Legal, Corporate and Communications Department; and Jocelyne Thompson-Ness, Administration Officer.

**Present via videoconference:** Commissioners Anick Brunet and Vincent Cammisano; Maxeen Jolin, Coordinator of Communications.

**Absent:** Commissioners Karla Abraham-Di Francesco, Barbara Barrasso and Olivia Landry.

**Guests:** Léna Roberge, Student from Pinewood Elementary School; Evelyne Côté and Pascal Roberge, parents of Ms. Roberge; Tania Marchitello, Principal at Hillcrest Academy, Marisa Goffredo, Teacher at Hillcrest Academy and Nathalie Harvey, Transportation Technician.

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

**TIME: 19:31**

**0.0 Opening of Meeting**

**0.1 Acknowledgement of the Land**

*I would like to honour the existence of the First Peoples by acknowledging that the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board is on the traditional land of the Kanien'keha:ka or Mohawk nation.*

*The Mohawk Nation is also known as the "Eastern Door Keepers" and are a member of the Haudenosaunee Confederacy which also includes the Seneca, Cayuga, Tuscarora, Onondaga and Oneida Peoples.*

*In the spirit of truth, reconciliation, and collaboration, we honour our relationship with the Indigenous Community and respect the history, culture, and language of Canada's original peoples.*

**1.0 Approval of the Agenda**

Approval of the Agenda

Parent Commissioner Tara Anderson MOVED THAT the February 22, 2023, agenda of the Council of Commissioners be approved as presented in document no. CC-SWLSB-2023/02/22-CA-001.

**CC-230222-CA-0075**

**Carried unanimously**

## 2.0 Recognition – 2023 Bus Safety Program Solgan Contest

The Chairperson noted that this evening the Council is happy to be honouring the students and teachers who participated in the annual contest organized by Material Resources and Transportation. February is the perfect time for this recognition because it coincides with the 2023 School Bus Safety Campaign of the Fédération des transporteurs par autobus, *M'as-tu vu? / Did you see me?* To remind all drivers the importance of paying attention to school buses, signage, frequent stops and students entering and exiting the school bus and crossing the street.

The winner of the Grade 5 categories in the MRT contest is Léna Roberge, a student at Pinewood Elementary School for her drawing and slogan *Stay Seated to Stay Safe*. Congratulations to Ms. Roberge as the judges felt that her drawing and slogan best represented the theme of this year's campaign. Ms. Roberge and her class will receive a field trip before the end of this school year to a nearby park or nature centre. A certificate will be sent to the school for her.

In response to a question from the Chairperson, Ms. Roberge noted that people on the bus do not follow the rule that they need to be seated in order to be safe.

The Chairperson went on to welcome Tania Marchitello, Principal of Hillcrest Academy, and Marissa Goffredo, a teacher at Hillcrest Academy, representing the grade 6 classes of Ms. Goffredo and that of Mr. Alexandre Héту, winners of the Grade 6 category. The two grade 6 teachers worked the bus safety campaign into the grade 6 English Language Arts course and 43 students created taglines and art work to promote antibullying on the school bus. Some of the taglines included:

- Take a stand, lend a hand;
- No more fuss, no bully on the bus;
- Let the bullying out the window;
- Bus bullying is ride, so reflect on your attitude;
- Bullying is a key that opens no locks.

Congratulations to the teachers and their students. All of the students will be receiving an individual certificate of recognition.

Ms. Goffredo thanked the Council for the honour of being invited this evening and that she is very pleased to represent her colleague and all of their students. The students were advised of winning the award and were thrilled, the link to watch online was provided to them all so some may be watching online. She noted that the project, besides the art work and slogans, involved discussions and a reading response on what happens when you are a bully, a victim or a bystander and what should you do. The students had a lot of fun and gained more understanding on the topic of bullying.

The Chairperson thanked all of the teachers boardwide who participated in the MRT contest as it shows how much a teacher can influence students to take on a project that involves time and effort. Congratulations to all.

In response to a question from the Chairperson, the Principal of Hillcrest Academy, deferred to Ms. Goffredo, who noted that the students are not yet aware that they will be going on a field trip as winners of the Grade 6 category sometime in June 2023 after the Grade 6 MEQ exams.

The Chairperson asked that he be advised when the field trip will take place because he would like to be there to either see the students off or welcome them back as it is important to highlight the successes of our students. He asked that a press release be done for the winners of the 2023 Bus Safety Campaign Contest.

He further noted that the art work of the two Hillcrest Academy grade 6 classes will be displayed in the school hallways.

### 3.0 Approval of Minutes

#### 3.1 December 14, 2022

Approval of Minutes  
December 14, 2022

CC-230222-CA-0076

Parent Commissioner Stéphane Henley MOVED THAT the minutes of the regular meeting of the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board held on December 14, 2022, 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**

#### 3.2 January 16, 2023

Approval of Minutes  
January 16, 2023

CC-230222-CA-0077

Commissioner Bob Pellerin MOVED THAT the minutes of the special meeting of the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board held on January 16, 2023, 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 the Legal, Corporate and Communications Department explained the parameters of the two question periods of 20 minutes each and drew attention to where people online can type in their questions for the second question period.

She noted that the second question period is for questions related to agenda items only.

The Secretary General and Director of the Legal, Corporate and Communications Department advised that one question has been received prior to the meeting from Suzanna Jakalian, a teacher at Twin Oaks Elementary School, *How has SWLSB ensured teachers' and students' safety (mental and physical) while promoting integration?*

The Chairperson thanked Ms. Jakalian for her question noting that mental and physical safety is a high priority for the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board (SWLSB) and that it strives to improve on this on a daily basis. The SWLSB has a policy for students with special needs that outlines the vision of all students attending a local school be in an inclusive setting. That being said, integration can be challenging but each case is unique and is handled by providing customized support to each student. Training is also available to the teachers and school staff in prevention, de-escalation, mental health and well-being because every situation is different. He noted that teachers, other employees, parents and other stakeholders do not have to wait until a Council meeting to ask a question they can reach out at any time to himself or any other Commissioner.

The Secretary General and Director of the Legal, Corporate and Communications Department advised that there were no other questions received for this first question period.

### 5.0 Report from the Chairperson

The Chairperson welcomed everyone of the first Council meeting of 2023 noting that last week the 100<sup>th</sup> day of school for 2022-203 was celebrated. He went on to highlight the following from his monthly report:

- January 17, 2023 – Attended the Genesis Elementary School Open House with Commissioner James Di Sano. Thank you to the principal and the school team for showcasing the school and the devotion of the staff to student success;
- January 18, 2023 – Attended the St-Paul Elementary School Open House with Commissioner Barbara Barrasso. Thank you to the principal and the school team for using the simulation of a regular school day to promote its qualities;
- January 19, 2023 – participated in a live CBC Daybreak interview on the Souvenir Elementary School Sensory Room with the school principal. Thank you again to the Panagiotopoulos Family for its generous donation of this sensory room;
- January 21, 2023 – Attended the McCaig Elementary School Open House with Commissioner James Di Sano. The Principal and the school team are to be congratulated for taking the time to hold this open house on a Saturday morning;
- January 25, 2023 – A virtual Town Hall meeting was held to receive feedback on the school board's Commitment-to-Success Plan (CTSP) and the results of the survey conducted in the fall of 2022. The input from stakeholders on the CTSP is very important as it provides thoughts on what the school board can do to make itself a better place to learn, work and grow;
- January 26, 2023 - Attended to Lake of Two Mountains High School Open House noting that it was a pleasure to listen to one of the students play guitar, who was also taking requests from those present. Thank you to the principal and the school team;
- February 9, 2023 – The Sir Wilfrid Laurier Foundation (SWLF) held its first ever Valentine's Day and raised money for sensory equipment for the schools. The entertainment was provided by the Soul Station Orchestra. Sponsors of the event are thanked for their generosity and everyone who attended is thanked for continuing to support the SWLF and public education;
- February 10, 2023 – Attended the Crestview Elementary School Comedy Night with Commissioners Barbara Barrasso, Vincent Cammisano and James Di Sano;
- February 17, 2023
  - Due to an unforeseen snowstorm on December 23, 2022, Rosemere High School had to postpone its annual Community Breakfast and MeriFest. The principal and the school team are to be congratulated on making sure that this holiday event took place. Commissioners Barbara Barrasso and Olivia Landry were also in attendance;
  - Attended the Our Lady of Peace Comedy Night with Commissioners Barbara Barrasso, Vincent Cammisano and James Di Sano. Laughter is a powerful medicine so thank you to the principal and school team for this wonderful evening.

#### Community Comments

- Commissioner Donna Anber Donna gave a shout out to the northern schools that take advantage of all the snow to organize and participate in outdoor activities. She also noted that on February 23, 2023, Ste-Agathe Academy is holding a talent show and invited everyone to attend;
- Commissioner James Di Sano congratulated a student from Terry Fox Elementary School who had the honour of being flag bearer this evening at the final game of the Rivalry Series between the Canadian and United States Women's National Hockey teams;
- Parent Commissioner Tara Anderson congratulated the students of Grenville Elementary School for their beautiful Christmas concert. She also congratulated Souvenir Elementary School on its hilarious Comedy Night.

## 6.0 Report from the Director General

The Director General presented her monthly report highlighting:

### Orientation 1: Retain and support quality employees

- February 5-11, 2023 – Annual Teacher Appreciation Week where the dedicated teachers of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board are celebrated;
- February 6 to March 17, 2023 – Special thanks to Human Resources team for providing a 90-minutes online training with Isabelle Fontaine on *How to add greater meaning to our work and our life*. This training is available 24 hours a day until March 17 for all employees;
- February 14, 2023 – Attended a breakfast with the Ministre de l'Éducation, Bernard Drainville, at the invitation of the Quebec English School Board Association (QESBA). During the breakfast the Ministre explained his seven priorities and announced an injection of \$81,000,000.00 in the vocational training sector;
- February is Black History Month and there are many activities to celebrate this throughout the school board with workshops, projects, assemblies, etc. Thank you to Pedagogical Services for providing pedagogical tools to all schools and centres to promote Black History Month;
- February is also re-registration and registration period for the 2023-2024 school year. Even though the school board accepts registration throughout the year it is important that as many reregistrations and new registrations are received during the month of February. Thank you to the generosity of alumni who allowed themselves to be highlighted in the annual registration campaign;
- A new map of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board has been published and show all of the buildings and their locations. This is a good promotional tool for parents looking for a school;
- As today is *Pink Shirt Day* there is no better way to explain this initiative than through two students from Grenville Elementary School (GES). The students also made buttons to wear today along with their pink shirts. The school spirit and climate at GES is incredible and the principal and the school team lead by example;

A video prepared by GES for *Pink Shirt Day* was viewed.

The Chairperson noted that many do not realize how large the territory of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board is. GES is a perfect example of how unique and distinct a small community school can be and how its staff play an important role and donate personal time to the growth of the students. All of the schools and centres within the school board have their own unique qualities and are distinct.

## 7.0 Business Arising

There was no business arising.

## 8.0 Decision Items

### 8.1 Legal, Corporate and Communications

#### 8.1.1 Self-administered Insurance Plan

Self-administered Insurance Plan WHEREAS the cost of civil liability insurance premiums charged by private insurers has risen significantly over the last five (5) years;

WHEREAS the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board, along with sixty-two (62) other school boards and service centres, has participated in a feasibility study carried out by the Fédération des centres de services scolaires du Québec in cooperation with a risk management and actuarial consulting firm and a legal firm to determine the possibility of a self-administered insurance plan;

WHEREAS this study has demonstrated the feasibility and viability of a self-administered insurance plan in the form of a reciprocal union (hereafter, the Union) as provided for under the *Insurers Act* (CQLR, ch. A-32.1);

WHEREAS the actuarial analyses indicate that the viability of the Union depends on the commitment of its members for the first five-year period;

WHEREAS participation in the Union will offer a level of protection that is equal to and sometimes superior to the level of protection provided by private insurers;

WHEREAS the premiums to be paid will be at an equal or a lesser cost, taking into consideration the estimated increases to be expected from private insurers as well as the fact that the Union will have accumulated a significant reserve fund to ensure its sustainability;

WHEREAS, to participate in the self-administered insurance plan, the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board, as a member of the Union, must designate a representative from among its senior executives and senior staff;

Commissioner Melissa Wall MOVED THAT, on the recommendation of the Advisory Committee – Administration, the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board approve the participation of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board in the self-administered insurance plan with all other participating school boards and service centres for a period of five (5) years;

FURTHER THAT the Director General be authorized to sign the Member Agreement on behalf of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board and to take any necessary measures or sign any necessary documents to give full effect to its provisions;

AND THAT the Secretary General and Director of the Legal, Corporate and Communications Department or their interim be designated as representative of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board.

**Carried unanimously**

### **8.1.2 Authorization for Consultation - Legal Coordinator**

Authorization for Consultation

WHEREAS the legal demands of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board (SWLSB) are increasing on an annual basis;

Legal Coordinator

WHEREAS there is a need to have an additional legal resource available within the SWLSB to support these additional legal demands;

**CC-230222-CA-0079**

WHEREAS the SWLSB wishes to create a new position of Coordinator of Legal Affairs, which will impact the current organizational chart;

WHEREAS, in accordance with policy no. 2000-HR-01: *Regulating the Working Conditions of Management Staff represented by the Sir Wilfrid Laurier Administrators' Association* and policy no. 2000-HR-02: *Regulating the Working Conditions of Management Staff Represented by the Association québécoise des cadres scolaires – Sir Wilfrid Laurier Section*, a joint meeting of the Professional Relations Committees of both associations has been held to present the necessity for creating this position;

WHEREAS, also in accordance with the above-mentioned policies, any changes to the administrative structure requires that both associations be consulted;

Commissioner Donna Anber MOVED THAT, on the recommendation of the Director General, the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board authorize a consultation on the creation of the position of Coordinator of Legal Affairs, as contained in document no. SWLSB-2023/02/22-HR-001;

AND THAT this consultation be for a period of fifteen (15) days with the Association québécoise des cadres scolaires – Sir Wilfrid Laurier Section and the Sir Wilfrid Laurier Administrators' Association beginning on February 23, 2023, and ending on March 10, 2023.

**Carried unanimously**

## **8.2 Material Resources and Transportation**

### **8.2.1 Agreement – Installation of Seismic Equipment – Rosemere HS**

Agreement

Installation of Seismic  
Equipment

Rosemere HS

**CC-230222-MR-0080**

WHEREAS the Government of Canada, represented by the Minister of Natural Resources Canada, has approached the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board for permission to install and operate a seismic station at Rosemere High School to monitor seismic waves produced by earthquakes, explosions and other seismic sources;

WHEREAS the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board supports this project and wishes to enter into an agreement with the Government of Canada;

WHEREAS this agreement would be for a period of thirty (30) years, with an option of an additional twenty (20) years;

WHEREAS entering into this agreement will be at no cost for the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board;

Commissioner Anick Brunet MOVED THAT, on the recommendation of the Advisory Committee – Student Success, the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board enter into an agreement with the Government of Canada, represented by the Minister of Natural Resources Canada, for the installation and operation of a seismic station at Rosemere High School;

AND THAT the Director of Material Resources and Transportation be mandated to sign all documentation concerning this agreement.

**Carried Unanimously**

### **8.2.2 Professional Fees – Civil and Structural Engineering – New School in Saint-Lin-Laurentides**

Professional Fees

Civil and Structural  
Engineering

New School in Saint-Lin-  
Laurentides

**CC-230222-MR-0081**

WHEREAS the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board adopted resolution no. CC-210331-MR-0086, approving the list of professional firms selected for the construction of a new school in the Lanaudière region;

WHEREAS GBI Experts-conseils Inc., the firm selected to provide civil and structural engineering services for this project, has submitted its professional fees in the amount of \$356,881.91, before taxes, or \$381,459.47, net taxes;

WHEREAS additional charges were incurred due to the updated final estimates of the construction costs, which had an impact on the estimate of the civil and structural engineering fees;

WHEREAS, due to these additional charges, the professional fees for GBI Experts-conseils Inc. increased from \$356,881.91, before taxes, or \$381,459.47, net taxes, to \$649,642.54, before taxes, or \$694,381.80, net taxes.

Parent Commissioner Chloée Alary MOVED THAT, on the recommendation of the Advisory Committee - Student Success, the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board approve the increase in professional fees submitted by GBI Experts-conseils Inc.;

AND THAT the Director of Material Resources and Transportation be authorized to sign all documentation regarding the above-mentioned professional fees.

**Carried unanimously**

### **8.2.3 Participation in CAG Tender – Sports Materials and Equipment**

Participation in CAG  
Tender

WHEREAS the Centre d'acquisitions gouvernementales (CAG) will be conducting public tender no. 2023-7548-50 to acquire sports materials and equipment;

Sports Materials and  
Equipment

WHEREAS the CAG has opted to award the contract to all suppliers whose submitted price in respect of the acquisitions to be made does not exceed the lowest price by more than 10%;

**CC-230222-MR-0082**

WHEREAS the *Regulation respecting certain supply contracts of public bodies* requires authorization from the Council of Commissioners (*dirigeant de l'organisme public*) before the public body can participate in this type of tender;

WHEREAS the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board wishes to participate in this call for tender for the thirty-six (36) month contract, including one (1) renewal period of twelve (12) months, to be awarded by the CAG;

WHEREAS the Director of Material Resources and Transportation estimates that the purchase cost of sports materials and equipment for the school board is \$600,000.00, before taxes, for the term of the contract;

Commissioner Bob Pellerin 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. 2023-7548-50 to acquire sports materials and equipment;

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

FURTHER THAT all acquisitions be made in accordance with by-law no. BL2008-CA-01: *Delegation of Functions and Powers of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board.*

**Carried unanimously**



### 8.3 Human Resources

#### 8.3.1 Confidential Transaction

Confidential Transaction  
CC-230222-HR-0083

WHEREAS a confidential transaction was negotiated and signed by the parties involved in court file no. \_\_\_\_\_;

WHEREAS this transaction was conditional to the approval of the Council of Commissioners;

WHEREAS the essential elements of the transaction have been presented by the Assistant Director of Human Resources;

Commissioner James Di Sano MOVED THAT the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board ratify the transaction signed by the Assistant Director of Human Resources in court file no. \_\_\_\_\_.

**Carried unanimously**

The Chairperson thanked everyone for remembering to wear a shade of pink this evening as today is Pink Shirt Day, an event that supports anti-bullying.

### 9.0 Information Items

#### 9.1 SWL Foundation Report

Commissioner Vincent Cammisano informed the Council that the February 9, 2023, gala raised over \$15,000.00 that will be reinvested in the schools.

#### 9.2 Parent Commissioners' Reports

##### 9.2.1 Parents' Committee Report

The report is in the meeting package.

##### 9.2.2 SEAC Report

There was no report.

#### 9.3 Report of QESBA

Commissioner Donna Anber drew the Council's attention to the results of the Léger Marketing poll conducted for the Quebec Community Groups Network and the Association for Canadian Studies on the importance of English school boards.

The Chairperson noted that there are children eligible to attend English school and they do not so the school boards need to do better at recruiting these children and their families.

#### 9.4 Central Students' Committee Report

There was no report.

### 10.0 Question Period

The Secretary General and Director of the Legal, Corporate and Communications Department that, as explained earlier in the meeting, the second question period is for questions related to agenda items only.

In response to a question from the online audience, the Director of Pedagogical Services explained that the question refers to an alternative placement for a student with special needs whose educational services cannot be fully met by the school board. An alternative placement implies a school subsidized by the MEQ and the school board has ententes with several. When a student requires an alternative placement the school and the Pedagogical Services team determines what environment will best suit the needs of the student while respecting the enrolment qualifications of the school selected. The schools used by the school board for alternative placements are in Montréal and these alternative placements can only be accommodated if the school has space. If the school selected for an alternative placement does not have space, the support mechanisms provided to the student in their current school are reviewed and adjusted to meet the student's needs until such time a space becomes available. It is recommended that parents reach out to Pedagogical Services for more detailed information on services for special needs students.

The Secretary General and Director of the Legal, Corporate and Communications Department advised that there was a stakeholder comment about how proud they are to have the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board.

#### **11.0 Correspondence**

The Chairperson drew the Council's attention to the correspondence contained in the meeting package.

#### **12.0 Varia**

There was no varia.

#### **13.0 Adjournment**

The Chairperson thanked everyone for coming to the meeting this evening and asked everyone, in light of today's tragedy in Laval, to take a step back and reflect on everything we have to be grateful for and have a safe and healthy spring break.

Commissioner Vincent Cammisano MOVED the adjournment of the meeting.

**Carried unanimously**

**TIME: 20:42**

**NEXT MEETING → REGULAR → March 29, 2023**