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, October 25, 2023, and via videoconference at 19:30, at which were:

Present: Paolo Galati, Chairperson; Commissioner Bob Pellerin, Alternate Vice-Chairperson; Commissioners Donna Anber, Barbara Barrasso, Anick Brunet, and James Di Sano; Parent Commissioners Tara Anderson and Stéphane Henley; Frédéric Greschner, Interim Director General.

Also present: Roma Medwid, Interim Assistant Director General; Giovanna Ortona, Interim Secretary General and Director of the Legal, Corporate and Communications Department; Robin Bennett, Director of Information Resources; Lynda DaSilveira, Director of Pedagogical Services; Florence Delorme, Director of School Affairs and School Organization; Michel Dufour, Director of Material Resources and Transportation; Stephanie Krenn, Director of Human Resources; Chao Ling Pan, Director of Financial Resources; Maxeen Jolin, Coordinator of Communications; and Jocelyne Thompson-Ness, Administration Officer.

Present via Zoom: Commissioners Melissa Wall, Vice-Chairperson;

Absent: Commissioners Karla Abraham Di Francesco, Olivia Landry, and Parent Commissioner Chloée Alary

Guests (In-person):
Crestview Elementary School: Irene Tsimiklis, Principal; Sheila Lindsay, Special Education Technician; Vasiliki Psichoyos, Attendant; Nathalie Seupanya, Parent; and Spiro Pettas, Community member.

Laurier Teachers' Union: Stéphane Ethier, President; Melanie Massarelli, Director of Memebrship Welfare, Brian Benoit, Director of Pedagogical Affairs and Myriam Lévesque, General Chairperson.

Guests (Zoom): Commissioner Vincent Cammisano and Daniel Harvey, Assistant Director of Financial Resources

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

TIME: 19:32

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

Amendment to the Agenda

CC-231025-CA-0026

Commissioner Donna Anber MOVED THAT the *Engagement – Director of Financial Resources* be added to the agenda under item 10.3.2. Seconded by Parent Commissioner Tara Anderson.

Carried unanimously

Approval of the Agenda

CC-231025-CA-0027

Parent Commissioner Stéphane Henley MOVED THAT the October 25, 2023, agenda of the Council of Commissioners be approved as amended in document no. CC-SWLSB-2023/10/25-CA-001.

Carried unanimously

2.0 Recognition - Crestview

The Chairperson welcomed everyone to this evening's meeting noting that tonight the Council of Commissioners would like to recognize those who had contributed to bringing to fruition the *Communication Boards' Project* at Crestview Elementary School (CES).

The *Communication Boards' Project* is the brainchild of a parent and a Special Education Technician at CES after seeing the original vinyl language communication board in a magazine article. The pair brought the idea to the CES Home and School, who saw the benefit of such a project and invested the $3,000.00, required to make the boards.

The *Communication Boards*, which are bilingual, were unveiled on April 9, 2023, with one board in the school yard and three in key locations within the school building. The boards have pictures, symbols and words that will help non-verbal or minimally verbal students to communicate.

He extended congratulations, on behalf of the Council of Commissioners, to the CES Home and School for undertaking this project that will help enhance the learning experience of the students, with special mention to the President of the CES Home and School. He also thanked a community member who was able to secure a donation from the Hellenic Women's Federation of Laval and who also donated three of the smaller communications boards.

The school team at CES is seeing a very positive impact on the students with the installation of the communication boards.

The Chairperson invited Irene Tsimiklis, Principal; Sheila Lindsay, Special Education Technician; Vasiliki Psichoyos, Attendant; Nathalie Seupanya, Governing Board Chair and President of the CES Home and School; and Spiro Pettas, Community member, to the front to be recognized for this amazing initiative.

3.0 Signing of the LTU Local Arrangements

The Chairperosn invited the members of the Laurier Teachers' Union to come forward for the signing of the amended Local Arrangements. The amendments to bring the recall procedures for Adult Education and Vocational Training in line with those of the youth sector were approved on June 21, 2023. This evening is the formality of signing the said amendments to the Local Arrangements.

The Interim Director General thanked everyone involved in the negotiation of these amendments notably the Assistant Director of Human Resources.

4.0 Official Launch of the 2023-2027 Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board Commitment-to-Success Plan

The Chairperson of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board welcomed everyone to the official launch of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board's 2023-2027 Commitment-to-Success Plan (CTSP) noting that this will be the guide to student success over the next four years. It has been developed with the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board's (SWLSB) mission and core values. The initial CTSP was adopted on June 21, 2023, and sent to the Ministère de l'Éducation (MEQ) for approval. The MEQ returned it with its recommendations and the final version of the CTSP was adopted on September 27, 2023. On September 28, 2023, the Sous-ministre congratulated the school board on its great work and gave approval of the CTSP.

The approval by the MEQ of the 2023-2027 CTSP is a testament to the dedication of all internal and external stakeholders who helped shape it, especially the CTSP working table. The school board is committed to ensuring that all stakeholders are kept up to date on the progress of the CTSP through the year.

The Interim Director General noted that the school board is proud that many stakeholders participated in the consultation process because their input helped create the declaration of services for the next four years, which is in line with the mission and vision of the school board. The declaration of services, while dedicated to all stakeholders, is student-focused and strives to provide a positive climate where everyone feels safe, respected, nurtured and accepted while recognizing the uniqueness of all individuals; the declaration of services also promotes consistent, transparent and honest communication with everyone while ensuring honesty, integrity and accountability in all undertakings from employees and commissioners. The Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board has an 88.3 percent graduation and qualification rate that makes it number one in the Laval, Laurentides and Lanaudière regions and in the top ten within the Québec.

The Interim Assistant Director General advised that the MEQ Strategic Plan sets the orientations and objectives for all educational institutions. This school board has selected students, employees and bilingualism as its three orientations and there are nine objectives between these three orientations. She reviewed the challenges faced by the school board and the need to gather precise data on what can be done to alleviate these challenges:

- At-risk students;
- School climate;
- Employee recruitment, retention and professional learning;
- Effects of the COVID-19 pandemic;
- Equity, diversity and inclusion;
- Data-informed decision-making; and
- School life and community relationships.

The Director of Pedagogical Services presented the CTSP indicators noting that the first MEQ objective is for 86.8 percent of the student population to receive a first diploma by 2026-2027. This school board is already ahead of the game with its current graduation and qualification rate of 88.3 percent and is hoping to achieve 89.9 percent by 2026-2027.

She noted that the first four CTSP indicators are academic, followed by modernizing and enhancing vocational training, development of new educational projects and improving the climate of caring, well-being and safety for students.

She went on to advise that the results of the CTSP will be monitored over the next five years with a focus on:

- Fostering a culture based on data and research;
- Basing decisions on evidence-based research and data;
- Evaluating the results and impacts of various initiatives;
- Implementing a culture of data that will provide valuable insights into student progress;
- Fostering a collaborative environment where stakeholders can work together in achieving the goal of improving student success.

The Coordinator of Communications presented and reviewed the branding of the 2023-2027 CTSP noting that the tree represents strength, growth and unity; the trunk the school board's core values, the colourful leaves represent all of the stakeholders, diversity and inclusivity. The two people sitting underneath the tree are non-gender to represent equality and, again, inclusivity.

The visuals can be used in different ways with the goal being to have people remember the three orientations Learn, Work, Grow or Students, Employees and Bilingualism, given that stakeholder feedback showed that with the last CTSP not many stakeholders were aware of the five objectives. All branding will be bilingual and Communications is developing promotional tools for use by all the schools, centres and the head office.

The Interim Director General thanked the Director of Pedagogical Services, the Director of School Affairs and School Organization, the Director of Information Resources, the Centre Directors, respectively, of Adult Education and Vocational Training; the Principals of Hillcrest Academy and Saint-Agathe Academy, the Coordinator of Communications, the former Director General, Gaëlle Absolonne, and retired Director of Pedagogical Service, Geoffrey Hipps, for bringing the 2023-2027 CTSP to life.

The Chairperson thanked everyone who participated in this CTSP for a job well done.

5.0 Approval of Minutes – September 27, 2023

Approval of Minutes

September 27, 2023

Parent Commissioner Tara Anderson MOVED THAT the minutes of the regular meeting of the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board held on September 27, 2023, having been received by all members prior to this meeting, be approved as written and exempt from public reading by the Secretary General.

CC-231025-CA-0028 **Carried unanimously**

6.0 Question Period

The Interim 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. Question period is not a platform for debate.

There are no questions for the first question period.

7.0 Report from the Chairperson

The Chairperson advised that the Council will be fighting for as new school for the Crestview community and that a letter has been sent to the Ministre de l'Éducation requesting an in-person meeting on the urgent needs of the school. He will keep everyone updated on the response to this letter.

He went on to present his monthly report noting:

- September 28, 2023
  - A collaborative *Terry Fox Run* was held at Saint-Paul Elementary School whereby Genesis, Jules Verne, Saint-Paul and Saint-Vincent Elementary Schools participated. He and Commissioner Barbara Barrasso did the walk along. The principal of the host school and her colleagues from the other schools are to be congratulated on this initiative. A special guest joined the event, Alex Villalta, who is a survivor of the same cancer that as Terry Fox;
  - Attended the *Welcome Back* at Terry Fox Elementary School soon after the completion of the run with Commissioner Barbara Barrasso and enjoyed the waffles made by the Home and School Association. There were a lot of smiling faces enjoying waffles;
- September 30, 2023: Attended the Laurentian Regional High School (LRHS) Class of 2023 graduation ceremonies with the Interim Director General, Outgoing Parents' Committee Chair, Adam Gordon; and the President of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier Foundation, Archie Cifelli. Congratulations to the Principal of LRHS and her team for a beautiful ceremony;
- October 1, 2023: Attended the Laval Senior Academy Class of 2023 graduation ceremonies with Commissioners Barbara Barrasso and James Di Sano and the Interim Director General. It was a proud moment to attend this event with the 450 graduates. Congratulations to the Prinicpal and his team;
- October 5, 2023: Attended the Phoenix Alternative High School graduation with Commissioner Donna Anber and the Assistant Director of Pedagogical Service, Roberto Di Marco. This ceremony is always very special because those graduating have overcome so much in order to graduate. These students now have the tools needed for the future thanks to the principal and her team of dedicated people;
- October 7, 2023: LRHS held its annual Golf Tournament on a very rainy and windy day, which did not deter some golfers. The dinner was held at the school and received assistance from the WOTP students at the school who helped with the meal preparations. He attended the dinner with Commissioner James Di Sano and Parent Commissioner Tara Anderson;
- October 12, 2023: CDC Pont-Viau held a welcome event for the students of the International Student Program. He attended with Commissioner Barbara Barrasso, the Interim Director General, the Director of School Affairs and School Organization, and the Centre Director and her team. He is proud to have been on hand to welcome these students who have shown confidence in the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board by selecting it as the place to further their education;
- October 13, 2023: It was *Fall Family Day* at John F. Kennedy Elementary School with Commissioner Barbara Barrasso. It was a fun event with many smiling faces. The principal, her team and the Home and School Association are to be thanked for such a great event;

- October 16, 2023: Attended a conference sponsored by the Quebec English School Boards Association (QESBA) entitled *The Fight Against Bill 40: What is at Stake*, at the English Montreal School Board (EMSB). There was an overview of Bill 40, its legal challenges and Bill 40: The French Sector Experience. A panel discussion was also held. On August 2, 2023, the judge rendered a decision in favour of the English community;
- October 18, 2023
    - Attended the inauguration of the Ste-Agathe Academy Outdoor Classroom with Commissioners Donna Anber and Barbara Barrasso, Parent Commissioners Chloée Alary and Tara Anderson and the Interim Director General. The secondary V students delivered very moving speeches about this project. Congratulations to the principal, the entire school team and community partners for supporting the project;
    - Attended the Laval Senior Academy Open House with Commissioners Barbara Barrasso and James Di Sano and the Interim Director General. Congratulations to the three vice-principals, in the absence of the principal, and the school team for providing an informative evening that highlighted the school's programs and successes for parents whose children will be entering the senior high school in 2024-2025;
- October 19, 2023: Attended the Rosemere High School Open House with Commissioners Barbara Barrasso, James Di Sano and Olivia Landry and the Interim Assistant Director General. It was a very positive evening and the principal and her amazing team made up of staff and students are to be congratulated;
- October 21, 2023
    - Attended the QESBA Professional Development (PD) and Annual General Meeting (AGM). The PD session focused on important factors of school boards, as well as the roles of commissioners and school directors. He will be invited to provide a training session for this school board. At the AGM, Joe Ortona, Chairperson of the EMSB, was elected as the new President of QESBA
    - After the QESBA AGM, he attended the Joliette High School Class of 2023 graduation ceremonies with the Alternate Vice-Chairperson, Bob Pellerin, Commissioner James Di Sano, Parent Commissioner Tara Anderson and the Interim Assistant Director General. Congratulations to all of the graduates and to the principal and the school team for this special ceremony;
- October 24, 2023: Attended the Laval Junior Academy Open House with Commissioners Barbara Barrasso and James Di Sano and the Interim Director General. The principal and his team are to be congratulated on this event. Special mention goes to the administration team from Laval Senior Academy who was also present to assure parents of students entering high school that there is continuity with the programs between the junior and senior schools;
- Invited everyone to reserve their spot at the Laurentia Elementary School *Poker Night Fundraiser* which is being held on November 10, 2023;

Community Comments

- Commissioner Donna Anber advised those present that:
  - Arundel Elementary School received $5,000.00 from La Samaritaine in Mont-Tremblant so that it can continue its breakfast program;
  - Grenville Elementary School's Terry Fox Run raised $4,600.00;
  - Morin Heights Elementary School (MHES) hosted the first cross-country run for elementary schools in the Laurentians;
  - The Class of 2023 of Lake of Two Mountains High School held a graduation ceremony which she attended with Commissioners Barbara Barasso and James Di Sano, and the Interim Director General.
- Parent Commissioner Tara Anderson congratulated Morin Heights Elementary School on its initiative of using used milk bags to make mats for the homeless;
- Commissioner Barbara Barrasso Attended the Twin Oaks Elementary School movie night with the Chairperson and Parent Commissionner Tara Anderson. She also highlighted the school's honey bee project and the Earth Rangers. The Earth Rangers are an after-school group that help keep the school environmentally aware and help keep the beehive healthy;
- Commissioner James Di Sano extended congratulations to the Rosemere High School Class of 2023.

8.0 Report from the Interim Director General

The Interim Director General presented his monthly report highlighting the

- Celebration of school board employees with National School Support Staff Day on September 28, 2023; National Custodian/Caretaker Day on October 2, 2023, and School/Centre Administrators Week from October 16 to 20, 2023;

Proud Moments *Wins*

- Celebrating the graduations of the class of 2023 with six of the high schools;
- Attending the welcome lunch for the International Student Program (ISP) on October 12, 2023, at CDC Pont-Viau. There are two new cohorts beginning for LPN (Licensed Practial Nurse) and Accounting and Starting a Business. The school board has welcomed 55 new ISP students since the start of the school year;
- Attended the cross-country run for the northern elementary schools on October 18, 2023, at MHES that saw over 200 grades five and six students participate. A special thank you to Ryan Whitehouse, Teacher at MHES, for organizing this event;

Upcoming Dates

- Beginners and intermediate Spanish are being offered a CDC Lachute beginning on October 30, 2023;
- CPR Training is being offered on Saturday, November 18, 2023, at CDC Pont-Viau;
- On November 30, 2023, CDC Pont-Viau will be holding its annual Open House and everyone is welcome.

9.0 Business Arising

There were no items for business arising.

10.0 Decision Items

10.1 Legal, Corporate and Communications

10.1.1 Monitoring and Review Report - RARC

Monitoring and Review Report - RARC

CC-231025-CA-0029

WHEREAS the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board is subject to the *Act respecting contracting by public bodies*, as well as its rules, directives and policies, including the *Directive concernant la gestion des risques en matière de corruption et de collusion dans les processus de gestion contractuelle* adopted by the Conseil du trésor;

WHEREAS the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board adopted resolution no. CC-191211-CA-0053, approving procedure no. 2020-CA-26: *Organizational Framework for Managing Corruption and Collusion Risks in Contract Management Processes* (the Procedure);

WHEREAS section 6.3.4 of the Procedure requires the Contract Rules Compliance Monitor (RARC) to prepare an annual monitoring and review report on the Framework and submit it to the chief executive officer of the school board (Council of Commissioners) for approval;

Commissioner James Di Sano MOVED THAT, on the recommendation of the Advisory Committee – Administration, the Council of Commissioners approve the monitoring and review report on the third Risk Management Plan Concerning Corruption and Collusion in Contract Management Processes of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board (July 1, 2022, to June 30, 2023), as contained in document no. SWLSB-2023/10/25-CA-002.

Carried unanimously

10.2 General Directorate

10.2.1 Entente sectorielle en persévérance scolaire et réussite éducative Lanaudière 2023-2026

Entente sectorielle en persévérance scolaire et réussite éducative Lanaudière 2023-2026

CC-231025-AE-0030

WHEREAS the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board (SWLSB) is a member of Éducation Lanaudière;

WHEREAS the participation of the SWLSB in the *Entente sectorielle en persévérance scolaire et réussite éducative – Lanaudière 2023-2026* (the Agreement) will benefit the students in the Lanaudière region through the promotion of initiatives and an offer of services with respect to student success and perseverance;

WHEREAS the SWLSB wishes to contribute to the social, cultural and economic development of the Lanaudière region by providing a high level of education and qualifications;

WHEREAS, to participate in the Agreement, the SWLSB must agree to a financial commitment of $500 annually for a three-year period;

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 Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board's participation in the *Entente sectorielle en persévérance scolaire et réussite éducative – Lanaudière 2023-2026*;

AND THAT a financial commitment of $500 annually from 2023 to 2026 be authorized;

FURTHER THAT the Chairperson or, in their absence or with their knowledge, the Vice-Chairperson as well as the Director General or, in their absence or with their knowledge, the Assistant Director General be authorized to sign all documentation concerning the Agreement.

Carried unanimously

10.3 Human Resources

10.3.1 Policy on the Suspension of Classes and/or Emergency Closure of Establishment(s) during unusual and unpredictable circumstances or inclement weather – Authorization for Consultation

Policy on the Suspension of Classes and/or Emergency Closure of Establishment(s) during unusual and unpredictable circumstances or inclement weather

WHEREAS the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board adopted resolution no. CC-171025-HR-0027, approving policy no. 2006-HR-07: Suspension of classes and/or emergency closure of establishment(s) during unusual and unpredictable circumstances or inclement weather;

WHEREAS it has become necessary to amend this policy in order to reflect the current reality of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board;

Authorization for Consultation

Commissioner Melissa Wall MOVED THAT, on the recommendation of the Advisory Committee – Administration, the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board authorize for consultation the amendments to the Suspension of classes and/or emergency

CC-231025-HR-0031

closure of establishment(s) during unusual and unpredictable circumstances or inclement weather policy, as contained in document no. CC-SWLSB-2023/10/25-HR-001;

AND THAT this consultation be for a period of thirty (30) days with the Association québécoise des cadres scolaires – Sir Wilfrid Laurier Section, the Sir Wilfrid Laurier Administrators' Association, the Laurier Teachers' Union, SPPOQA (Syndicat des professionnelles et professionnels de l'Ouest de Québec Anglophone), CSN-S18 and the SEPB-Québec-FTQ Local 577, beginning on October 26, 2023, and ending on November 24, 2023.

Carried unanimously

10.3.2 Engagement – Director of Financial Resources

The Chairperson noted that, as a member of the Selection Committee, there were several excellent candidates and that the selected candidate received unanimous support.

Engagement

WHEREAS the position of Director of Financial Resources will be vacant as of November 6, 2023;

Director of Financial Resources

WHEREAS policies no. 2000-HR-01: *Regulating the Working Conditions of Management Staff Represented by the Sir Wilfrid Laurier Administrators' Association* and no. 2000-HR-02: *Regulating the Working Conditions of Management Staff Represented by the Association québécoise des cadres scolaires – Sir Wilfrid Laurier Section*, have been applied (the Management Policies);

CC-231025-HR-0032

WHEREAS this position was posted and a Selection Committee held interviews on October 24, 2023;

Commissioner Donna Anber MOVED THAT, on the recommendation of the Selection Committee, the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board engage Daniel Harvey as Director of Financial Resources, in accordance with the Management Policies of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board, effective November 6, 2023.

Carried unanimously

Mr. Daniel Harvey, entered the meeting. **TIME: 20:48**

The Chairperson, on behalf of the Council, congratulated Mr. Harvey on being named as the new Director of Financial Resources noting that the interview showed that he is very knowledgeable and sensitive to the needs of the school board.

Commissioner Vincent Cammisano entered the meeting. **TIME: 20:49**

Mr. Harvey thanked the Chairperson, the Council and the Selection Committee for their confidence in him and that he is excited for his new role. He noted that he has learned a lot this past year and that the current Director of Financial Resources has been a great mentor.

The Director of Human Resources noted that the Selection Committee was very pleased with the interview and that by naming Mr. Harvey to the position creates continuity and stability for the department.

The Interim Director General also extended his congratulations noting that Mr. Harvey's remarkable skill set will continue to grow as he settles into a leadership position.

11.0 Information Items

11.1 SWL Foundation Report

There was no report.

11.2 Parent Commissioners' Reports

11.2.1 Parents' Committee Report

The report can be found in the meeting package.

11.2.2 SEAC Report

There was no report.

11.3 Report of QESBA

The report of the QESBA can be found in the meeting package.

Commissioner Donna Anber congratulated the Chairperson on being the new Vice-President of the QESBA.

The Chairperson expressed his appreciation to the Council for nominating him as a candidate for the position.

11.4 Central Students' Committee Report

There was no report.

12.0 Question Period

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

There were no questions from the online audience nor the audience present in the boardroom.

13.0 Correspondence

The correspondence can be found in the package

14.0 Varia

There was no varia.

15.0 Adjournment

The Chairperson, on behalf of the Council, expressed appreciation to the Director of Financial Resources on the occasion of his departure for his five years of service with the school board. He has made a significant contribution to this school board, he will be missed and is wished the best in his upcoming venture.

The Director of Financial Resources thanked the Chairperson and the Council for the kind words and for giving him the opportunity to work for an organization filled with incredible talent. Leaving is bitter-sweet but he is leaving the department in the capable hands of his successor and the competent Financial Resources team.

Commissioner Anick Brunet MOVED the adjournment of the meeting.

Carried unanimously

TIME: 21:01

NEXT MEETING → REGULAR → November 22, 2023

Giovanna Ortona, Interim Secretary General | **Paolo Galati, Chairperson**