

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

**A special 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, November 29, 2023, and via videoconference at 6:00 p.m., at which were:

**Present:** Paolo Galati, Chairperson; and Frédéric Greschner, Interim Director General.

**Present via videoconference:** Commissioner Melissa Wall, Vice-Chairperson; Commissioner Bob Pellerin, Alternate Vice-Chairperson; Commissionners Donna Anber, Barbara Barrasso, Anick Brunet, Vincent Cammisano, and James Di Sano; and Parent Commissioner Tara Anderson.

**Also present:** Giovanna Ortona, Interim Secretary General and Director of the Legal, Corporate and Communications Department; Robin Bennett, Director of Information Resources; and Nathalie Senecal, Assistant Director of Human Resources.

**Also present via videoconference:** Lynda DaSilveira, Director of Pedagogical Services; Florence Delorme, Director of School Affairs and School Organization; Michel Dufour, Director of Material Resources and Transportation; Chao Ling Pan, Director of Financial Resources; Maxeem Jolin, Coordinator of Communications; and Jocelyne Thompson-Ness, Administration Officer.

**Absent:** Commissioner Olivia Landry and Parent Commissioners Chloée Alary and Stéphane Henley.

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

The Interim 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: 18:02**

**1.0 Opening of Meeting**

**1.1 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.*

## 2.0 Approval of the Agenda

Approval of the Agenda  
CC-231129-CA-0033

Commissioner Donna Anber MOVED THAT the November 29, 2023, agenda of the special meeting of the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board be approved as presented in document no. CC-SWLSB-2023/11/29-CA-001.

**Carried unanimously**

At the request of the Chairperson, the Interim Secretary General and Director of the Legal, Corporate and Communications Department explained the parameters of the question period and drew attention to where people online can type in their questions. Question period is not a platform for debate.

## 3.0 2022-2023 Financial Statement and External Auditor's Report

2022-2023 Financial  
Statement and External  
Auditor's Report  
CC-231129-FR-0034

WHEREAS section 286 of the *Education Act* requires a school board to submit annual financial statements;

WHEREAS the firm Amyot Gélinas s.e.n.c.r.l. has completed the audit of the records and statements of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board for the period ending June 30, 2023;

WHEREAS, in accordance with section 286 of the *Education Act*, a public notice was given on November 11, 2023;

WHEREAS the school board has a preliminary surplus of \$31,722,804.13;

WHEREAS the 2022-2023 Financial Statements, prepared according to the Canadian Public Sector Accounting Standards, show the following:

Beginning Accumulated Surplus:	\$1,701,277.41
Restatement of prior years:	<u>(33,160,195.80)</u>
Restated beginning deficit:	(31,458,918.39)
<u>Current Year:</u>	
Revenues:	\$259,176,181.67
Expenses:	<u>227,453,377.54</u>
Total Current Year Surplus:	31,722,804.13
Ending Accumulated Surplus:	\$263,885.74

Commissioner Bob Pellerin MOVED THAT, on the recommendation of the Audit Committee, the 2022-2023 audited Financial Statements of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board for the period ending June 30, 2023, be received by the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board as submitted.

**Carried unanimously**

#### 4.0 Vacant Commissioner Seat

##### 4.1 Letter of Resignation

The Chairperson drew attention to the letter of resignation received from the Commissioner for Electoral Division no. 2, Karla Abraham Di Francesco.

##### 4.2 Initiation of a Call for Nominations for Candidates

The Chairperson thanked Ms. Abraham Di Francesco for her years of service to the school board and wished her the best, on behalf of the Council, in her future endeavours.

Initiation of a call for  
Nominations for Candidates

WHEREAS the Commissioner seat for Electoral Division no. 2 became vacant on November 16, 2023;

**CC-231129-CA-0035**

WHEREAS the vacancy must be filled within 30 days in accordance with section 199 of the *Act Respecting School Elections*;

WHEREAS the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board wishes to initiate a notice to seek external nominations for the vacant position of commissioner in Electoral Division no. 2;

WHEREAS the consultation of the Parents' Committee by the Interim Secretary General and the Chairperson will occur on December 7, 2023, to receive comments or recommendations on the candidacies presented by December 8, 2023;

WHEREAS the Chairperson will call for a caucus meeting to review the nominations for the position of Commissioner on December 18, 2023;

WHEREAS a new commissioner for Electoral Division no. 2 will be appointed on December 18, 2023, and will be sworn in at the next regular meeting of the Council of Commissioners;

Parent Commissioner Stéphane Henley MOVED THAT the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board approve the proposed timeline, as contained in document no. SWLSB-2023/11/29-CA-002;

AND THAT the above-mentioned actions be executed by the Interim Secretary General immediately.

**Carried unanimously**

#### 5.0 Division of Territory – November 2024 School Elections

Division of Territory

WHEREAS the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board adopted resolution no. CC-230531-CA-0121, approving the proposal for the division of territory for the November 3, 2024, school elections;

November 2024  
School Elections

**CC-231129-CA-0036**

WHEREAS, in accordance with section 9 of the *Act Respecting School Elections*, the division of territory was published in the Montreal Gazette on June 14, 2023, for consultation by the electors for a period of 15 days;

WHEREAS there were no responses received by the June 29, 2023, deadline;

WHEREAS section 9.6 of the *Act Respecting School Elections* requires the Council of Commissioners to adopt a resolution approving the division of territory before December 31 of the year preceding the year in which the general election for which the division is required is to be held;

Parent Commissioner Chloée Alary MOVED THAT, on the recommendation of the Advisory Committee – Administration, the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board approve the division of territory for the November 3, 2024, school elections as contained in document no. SWLSB-2023/11/29-CA-003.

**Carried unanimously**

#### **6.0 Vocational Training Authorization – Renewal Request – High Pressure Welding**

Vocational Training  
Authorization

WHEREAS the Council of Commissioners adopted resolution no. CC-180523-AE-0130, requesting a provisional authorization from the Ministère de l'Éducation for the AVS 5734 High-Pressure Welding program;

Renewal Request

WHEREAS this request was in partnership with the Centre de services scolaire des Mille-Îles (CSSMI) and the Centre de services scolaire de la Rivière-du-Nord (CSSRDN);

High Pressure Welding

**CC-231129-AE-0037**

WHEREAS this program is taking place at the Construc-Plus Vocational Centre;

WHEREAS the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board wishes to support the CSSMI and the CSSRDN with this renewal of the provisional authorization for 2024-2025, 2025-2026 and 2026-2027;

WHEREAS the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board wishes to request a renewal of the provisional authorization to offer the AVS 5734 High-Pressure Welding program;

Commissioner James Di Sano MOVED THAT, on the recommendation of the Advisory Committee – Student Success, the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board request a renewal of the provisional authorization from the Ministère de l'Éducation for the following program:

- AVS 5734 High-Pressure Welding

**Carried unanimously**

The Interim Director General left the meeting.

**TIME: 18:15**

## 7.0 Addition of a New Ventilation System – Twin Oaks ES

Addition of a New  
Ventilation System

WHEREAS a new ventilation system is required in the original portion of the building at Twin Oaks Elementary School;

Twin Oaks ES

WHEREAS public call for tenders no. 23-174-01 was issued for the addition of a new ventilation system at Twin Oaks Elementary School and opened on November 9, 2023;

**CC-231129-MR-0038**

WHEREAS the conformity of all bidders has been verified;

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 award the contract for the addition of the new ventilation system at Twin Oaks Elementary School to Constructions Seni inc., for a total cost of \$3,493,854.00 before taxes or \$3,734,466.99 net taxes;

AND THAT the engagement above be conditional to the receipt of all contractual documents;

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

**Carried unanimously**

## 8.0 Engagement of Interim Assistant Ethics Commissioner

Engagement of Interim  
Assistant Ethics  
Commissioner

WHEREAS the Council of Commissioners adopted resolutions no. CC190925-CA-0010 and CC-190925-CA0011 naming Alternate Ethics Commissioners #1 and #2;

**CC-231129-CA-0039**

WHEREAS the Alternate Ethics Commissioners #1 and #2 have informed the school board that they are unavailable for an undetermined time period;

WHEREAS section 9.1.4 of by-law BL2009-CA-17: Code of Ethics and Professional Conduct for Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board mandates the Council of Commissioners to name by resolution a substitute to replace the Ethics Commissioner if he is absent or unable to perform his duties;

Commissioner Vincent Cammisano MOVED THAT the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board name, on a temporary basis, **M<sup>e</sup> Frédéric Henri** as Alternate Ethics Commissioner effective immediately until the position is posted and filled through a selection committee;

AND THAT the Alternate Ethics Commissioner be remunerated only when dealing with a complaint in accordance with the rate indicated in the *Regulation Respecting the Remuneration of Arbitrators* (CQLR, c. C-27, r.6).

**Carried unanimously**

**9.0 Nomination of a Director General**

The Chairperson expressed appreciation to everyone for their patience given that this process of selecting a new Director General took some time.

Nomination of a  
Director General

**CC-231129-CA-0040**

WHEREAS the Council of Commissioners adopted resolution no. CC-230705-CA-0006 commencing the process of hiring and selected to carry out part of the process independently and engage external support in accordance with section 4.1.1 of Policy no. 2012-CA-21 – Policy for the recruitment and hiring of a Director General and an Assistant Director General (hereinafter the “Policy”);

WHEREAS the Council adopted resolution no. CC-230705-CA-0008 naming a Selection Committee for the hiring of a Director General in accordance with section 4.2.1 of the Policy;

WHEREAS the Selection Committee, as per section 4.2.5.5 of the Policy, must provide a recommendation to the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board;

WHEREAS the members of the Selection Committee were unanimous in its recommendation for the position of Director General;

Commissioner Barbara Barrasso MOVED THAT the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board engage Russell Copeman to the position of Director General of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board effective January 15, 2024;

AND THAT the Chairperson of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board be authorized to sign all documentation relating to the Contract of Employment.

**Carried unanimously**

The new Director General, Russell Copeman, accompanied by the Interim Director General entered the meeting

**Time: 18:18**

The Chairperson welcomed Mr. Copeman to the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board noting that he has had the opportunity to work with him over the past five years as a member of the Quebec English School Boards Association (QESBA) and that he is very passionate about education. The Council is confident that he is a forward-thinking leader and are looking forward to working with him.

Mr. Copeman thanked the Council for its confidence in him and adds that he is delighted to be joining this school board. Being the director general is an exciting challenge and he is looking forward to working with the entire team. He noted that he is looking very forward to working with the Interim Director General as he is a very much admired and a key member of this school board. He noted that he is very passionate about English education and hopes that he can help the school board to continue to achieve exceptional results while serving students of all ages in the best way possible.

The Chairperson thanked Mr. Copeman for the kind words. He continued by thanking the Interim Director General, on behalf of the Council, for doing an exceptional job. The Interim Assistant Director General was also thanked for accepting to replace the Assistant Director General while he assumed the role of Interim Director General.

Mr. Copeman will be joining the school board officially on January 15, 2024.

**10.0 Question Period**

The Interim Secretary General and Director of the Legal, Corporate and Communications Department confirmed there were no questions.

**11.0 Adjournment**

The Chairperson thanked everyone for being present this evening and again expressed his appreciation to the new and interim Directors General.

Commissioner Anick Brunet MOVED the adjournment of the meeting.

**Carried unanimously**

**TIME: 18:29**

**NEXT MEETING → REGULAR → December 13, 2023**