

**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 Monday, December 18, 2023, and via videoconference at 12:30 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; Commissioners Donna Anber, Barbara Barrasso, Anick Brunet, Vincent Cammisano, James Di Sano; Parent Commissioners Chloée Alary and Tara Anderson.

**Also present:** 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; Daniel Harvey, Director of Financial Resources; Maxeen Jolin, Coordinator of Communications; and Jocelyne Thompson-Ness, Administration Officer.

**Also present via videoconference:** Nathalie Senecal, Assistant Director of Human Resources.

**Absent:** Parent Commissioner Stéphane Henley and Roma Medwid, Interim Assistant Director General.

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: 12:33**

**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-231218-CA-0041

Parent Commissioner Tara Anderson MOVED THAT the December 18, 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-2023/12/18-CA-001.

**Carried unanimously**

### 3.0 Recall of Functions and Powers from the Executive Committee

The Interim Secretary General and Director of the Legal, Corporate and Communications Department advised that the deeds of establishment and three-year plan policy needs to be adopted before registration for the 2024-2025 school year. The power to adopt this policy is assigned to the Executive Committee so in order for the Council of Commissioners to undertake the adoption at this meeting the functions and powers must be from said committee. The functions and powers will be returned once the resolution is adopted.

Recall of Functions and Powers from the Executive Committee

WHEREAS by-law no. BL2023-CA-01: *Delegation of Functions & Powers of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board* delegates various functions and powers to the Executive Committee of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board;

**CC-231218-CA-0042**

Commissioner Bob Pellerin MOVED THAT the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board recall the powers delegated to the Executive Committee in order to approve an urgent resolution.

**Carried unanimously**

### 4.0 Deeds of Establishment and Three-Year Plan

#### 4.1 Deeds of Establishment

Deeds of Establishment and Three-Year Plan

WHEREAS the Executive Committee of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board adopted resolution no. EC-231025-TS-0010, authorizing for consultation the Deeds of Establishment for the 2024-2025 school year;

Deeds of Establishment

**CC-231218-CA-0043**

WHEREAS the consultation period expired on December 11, 2023, and feedback was received from the Governing Boards of all schools and centres and from the Parents' Committee, and taken into consideration;

Parent Commissioner Chloée Alary MOVED THAT the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board approve the final version of the Deeds of Establishment for the 2024-2025 school year, as contained in document no. CC-SWLSB-2023/12/18-TS-001.

**Carried unanimously**

#### 4.2 Three-Year Plan

Deeds of Establishment and Three-Year Plan

WHEREAS the Executive Committee of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board adopted resolution no. EC-231025-TS-0011, authorizing for consultation the Three-Year Plan for the Allocation and Destination of Immovables for the 2024-2025, 2025-2026 and 2026-2027 school years;

Three-Year Plan

**CC-231218-CA-0044**

WHEREAS the consultation period expired on December 11, 2023, and feedback was received from the Parents' Committee and taken into consideration;

Commissioner James Di Sano MOVED THAT the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board approve the final version of the Three-Year Plan for the Allocation and Destination of Immovables for the 2024-2025, 2025-2026 and 2026-2027 school years, as contained in document no. CC-SWLSB-2023/12/18-TS-002.

**Carried unanimously**

## 5.0 Return of Functions and Powers to the Executive Committee

Return of Functions and Powers to the Executive Committee

Commissioner Bob Pellerin MOVED THAT the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board reinstate the powers delegated to the Executive Committee, as per by-law no. BL2023-CA-01: *Delegation of Functions and Powers of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board*.

CC-231218-CA-0045

Carried unanimously

## 6.0 Statement of Unpaid Taxes

In response to an inquiry from the Chairperson, the Director of Financial Resources noted that the amount of the unpaid taxes as of November 24, 2023, is in line with the outstanding amounts recorded at this time in the previous three years. Final notices will be sent in January 2024 through bailiff.

Statement of Unpaid Taxes

WHEREAS section 339 of the *Education Act* requires the Director General to prepare a statement of the school taxes due and owing by owners;

CC-231218-FR-0046

WHEREAS section 340 of the *Education Act* stipulates that the statement prepared as per section 339 be submitted to the Council of Commissioners for approval;

Commissioner Vincent Cammisano MOVED THAT, on the recommendation of the Audit Committee, the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board approve, in accordance with sections 339 and 340 of the *Education Act*, the statement prepared by the Director of Financial Resources for the Director General for school taxes outstanding as of November 24, 2023, in the amount of \$1,220,084.00.

Carried unanimously

## 7.0 2024-2025 Budget Building – Authorization for Consultation

2024-2025 Budget Building

WHEREAS the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board is commencing its budget building process for the 2024-2025 school year;

Authorization for Consultation

WHEREAS section 275 of the *Education Act* requires a school board to establish the objectives and principles governing the allocation of its revenues;

CC-231218-FR-0047

WHEREAS the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board has drafted its 2024-2025 Budget Consultation Survey;

WHEREAS said survey was presented to the Audit Committee on November 29, 2023, as well as to the Resource Allocation Committee on November 28, 2023;

Commissioner Anick Brunet MOVED THAT, on the recommendation of the Audit Committee, the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board approve that the Budget Consultation Survey, as contained in document no. CC-SWLSB-2023/12/18-FR-001, be authorized for consultation;

AND THAT the consultation begin on December 19, 2023, and end on February 17, 2024, with the Governing Boards, the Parents' Committee, the Association québécoise des cadres scolaires – Sir Wilfrid Laurier Section, the Sir Wilfrid Laurier Administrators' Association and the Special Education Advisory Committee.

Carried unanimously

### 8.0 Program of Studies for the Secondary School – Section 8 – Authorization for Consultation

In response to a request from Commissioner Donna Anber, the Interim Director General advised that the participation of the Student Representatives to the Council of Commissioners in consultations would be reviewed to see if this would be feasible.

Program of Studies for the Secondary School	WHEREAS the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board adopted resolution no. CC-230621-ED-0144 approving the amendments to sections 1.0 through 7.0 of policy no. 1999-ED- 04: Program of Studies for Secondary School (hereinafter the "Policy"), as per document no. SWLSB-2023/06/21-ED-001;
Section 8	
Authorization for Consultation	WHEREAS the new summer program pilot project has concluded and section 8.0 of the Policy must be revisited in order to reflect amendments in light of the new summer program model;
<b>CC-231218-ED-0048</b>	Commissioner Melissa Wall MOVED THAT, on the recommendation of the Advisory Committee – Student Success, the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board authorize for consultation Section 8.0 of the Program of Studies for the Secondary School policy, as contained in document no. CC-SWLSB-2023/12/18-ED-001;
	AND THAT this consultation be for a period of thirty (30) days with the Governing Boards, the Parents' Committee, 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 January 8, 2024, and ending on February 14, 2024.

**Carried unanimously**

### 9.0 Engagement of Contractor – Replacement of Doors and Windows – Mountainview ES

Engagement of Contractor	WHEREAS windows and exterior doors need to be replaced at Mountainview Elementary School;
Replacement of Door and Windows	WHEREAS public call for tenders no. 23-163-01 was issued for the replacement of windows and exterior doors at Mountainview Elementary School and opened on November 28, 2023;
Mountainview ES	WHEREAS the conformity of all bidders has been verified;
<b>CC-231218-MR-0049</b>	Commissioner Barbara Barrasso 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 replacement of windows and exterior doors at Mountainview Elementary School to Jomaco inc., for a total cost of \$901,048.86 before taxes, or \$963,101.84 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**

**10.0 Engagement of Contractor – Rental and Installation of Additional Portables - PETES**

Engagement of Contractor WHEREAS the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board adopted resolution CC-220330-MR-0073 for the installation of four modular classrooms at Pierre Elliott Trudeau Elementary School;

Rental and Installation of Additional Portables

WHEREAS six additional modular classrooms are needed to meet increasing enrollments;

PETES

**CC-231218-MR-0050**

WHEREAS the current modular classrooms are the property of AMB Tresec Inc. and are rented by the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board;

WHEREAS the city of Blainville has authorized the installation of the modular classrooms in the schoolyard next to the existing modular classrooms;

WHEREAS AMB Tresec Inc. will not allow another contractor to modify their property to allow access to the tunnel and staircase;

WHEREAS the required modifications to the existing modular classrooms must be performed by AMB Tresec Inc. to maintain the current warranty;

Commissioner Donna Anber MOVED THAT, on the recommendation of the Advisory Committee on Student Success, the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board approve the contract by mutual agreement (gré à gré) with AMB Tresec Inc. to install six additional modular classrooms for a 48-month term for a total cost of \$2,433,000.00 before taxes or \$2,600,554.63 net taxes;

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

**Carried unanimously**

**11.0 Nomination of a Commissioner for Electoral Division no. 2**

Nomination of a Commissioner for Electoral Division No. 2

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

**CC-231218-CA-0051**

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

WHEREAS the Council of Commissioners approved resolution no. CC-231129-CA-0035, initiating call for nominations for candidates to submit their interest by December 6, 2023;

WHEREAS a notice seeking external nominations for the vacant position of commissioner in electoral division no. 2 was issued by the school board on November 30, 2023;

WHEREAS three (3) eligible applications were received for the position of Commissioner for electoral division no. 2;

WHEREAS eligible candidates had the opportunity to present themselves at the December 7, 2023, meeting of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board Parents Committee;

WHEREAS the Parents' Committee was consulted on December 7, 2023, and feedback was received and shared with the Council of Commissioners;

WHEREAS a caucus meeting of the Council of Commissioners was held to review the candidacies received;

WHEREAS the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board would like to thank all persons who applied for the vacant commissioner seat in electoral division no. 2;

Parent Commissioner Chloée Alary MOVED THAT the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board appoint Désirée Ramacieri as Commissioner for electoral division no. 2, effective December 18, 2023.

**Carried unanimously**

The Chairperson congratulated Ms. Ramacieri on her nomination noting that the decision was unanimous. She will be sworn in later this week.

Ms. Ramacieri thanked the Council for the opportunity noting that she is very excited to take on this new challenge.

## **12.0 Nomination of an Assistant Director of Financial Resources**

The Chairperson noted that there were very good candidates for this position.

The Director of Human Resources thanked the Assistant Director of Human Resources for replacing her on this Selection Committee noting that she was pleased to hear that the Selection Committee was unanimous in its decision.

Nomination of an Assistant  
Director of Financial  
Resources

**CC-231218-HR-0052**

WHEREAS the position of Assistant Director of Financial Resources is currently vacant;

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*);

WHEREAS this position was posted and a Selection Committee held interviews on November 30 and December 13, 2023;

Vincent Cammisano MOVED THAT, on the recommendation of the Selection Committee, the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board engage Mohammed Belrhiti as Assistant Director of Financial Resources in accordance with the Management Policies of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board, effective January 8, 2024.

**Carried unanimously**

The Chairperson congratulated Mr. Belrhiti and welcomed him to the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board.

Mr. Belrhiti thanked the Selection Committee and the Council for their confidence in him and noted that he is looking forward to the challenge and to contribute to the continued success of the school board.

The Interim Director General welcomed Mr. Belrhiti to the team noting that his experience will be invaluable.

The Director of Financial Resources welcomed Mr. Belrhiti to the Financial Resources Team noting that his previous experience with capital budgets and his technical knowledge will both be an asset.

**13.0 Bill 96 Constitutional Challenge**

Bill 96 Constitutional  
Challenge

WHEREAS Bill 96, An Act respecting French, the official and common language of Québec, was assented to on June 1, 2022;

**CC-231218-CA-0053**

WHEREAS the same day the English Montreal School Board brought an application to challenge the constitutionality of numerous provisions of Bill 96 and the Charter of the French Language;

WHEREAS the English Montreal School Board's constitutional challenge to Bill 96 has been joined with the constitutional challenges of other parties and is progressing through the court system, though like all constitutional challenges, it is expected to be a lengthy process;

WHEREAS amendments to the Charter of the French Language that came into force on June 1, 2023, would require that English language school boards communicate with key institutions of the English-speaking community, such as the Quebec English School Boards Association, in French exclusively;

WHEREAS on September 29, 2023, the Office québécois de la langue française provided the English Montreal School Board with an interpretation of provisions of Bill 96 and the Charter of the French Language, which would effectively require that most internal written communications at the English Montreal School Board be conducted in French;

WHEREAS such an interpretation would also require that most written communications between commissioners of English-language school boards be conducted in French;

WHEREAS such an interpretation would also require that most written communications between English-language school boards be conducted in French;

WHEREAS the Québec Court of Appeal in its decision on the stay of Bill 40 recently reaffirmed that section 23 of the Canadian Charter prevents the province from interfering "with the linguistic and cultural concerns of the minority";

WHEREAS implementing provisions of Bill 96 and the Charter of the French Language, as interpreted by the Office québécois de la langue française, would fundamentally alter the linguistic culture;

WHEREAS implementing provisions of Bill 96 and the Charter of the French Language, as interpreted by the Office québécois de la langue française, would detract from the needs and priorities of the nine English language school boards, their students, parents and the broader community it serves;

WHEREAS all of these effects would lead to irreparable harm for the English-language community;

WHEREAS the Quebec English School Boards Association and all nine English school boards obtained a stay of Bill 40 in 2020, which was confirmed by the Québec Court of Appeal, based on the irreparable harm that implementing Bill 40 would cause to the English-speaking community, while waiting for a decision on the merits of the challenge;

Commissioner James Di Sano MOVED THAT the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board become an intervenor in the constitutional challenge put forward by the English Montreal School Board;

AND THAT the legal firm of Power Law be mandated to institute on its behalf the appropriate legal proceedings;

FURTHER THAT a budget be established and a financial contribution of \$15,000.00, plus all applicable taxes, be authorized for this mandate.

**Carried unanimously**

#### **14.0 Vacant Commissioner Seat**

##### **14.1 Letter of Resignation**

The Chairperson advised that the Interim Secretary General and Director of the Legal, Corporate and Communications Department received a letter of resignation from the Commissioner for Electoral Division no. 4, Olivia Landry.

##### **14.2 Initiation of a Call for Nominations for Candidates**

The Chairperson noted that it is with regret that the Council receives this letter of resignation. He went on to thank Ms. Landry for her contributions to the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board and wished her the best in her future endeavours. A plaque of recognition for her years of service will be sent to Ms. Landry.

Initiation of a Call for  
Nominations for Candidates

WHEREAS the Commissioner seat for Electoral Division no. 4 became vacant on December 15, 2023;

**CC-231218-CA-0054**

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. 4;

WHEREAS the consultation of the Parents Committee by the Interim Secretary General and the Chairperson will occur on January 11, 2024, to receive comments or recommendations on the candidacies presented by January 12, 2024;

WHEREAS the Chairperson will call for a caucus meeting to review the nominations for the position of Commissioner on January 15, 2024;

WHEREAS a new commissioner for Electoral Division no. 4 will be appointed on January 15, 2024, and will be sworn in at the next regular meeting of the Council of Commissioners;

Parent Commissioner Tara Anderson MOVED THAT the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board approve the proposed timeline, as contained in document no. SWLSB-2023/12/18-CA-002;

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

**Carried unanimously**



**15.0 Question Period**

The Interim Secretary General and Director of the Legal, Corporate and Communications Department noted that the 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.

**16.0 Adjournment**

Commissioner Donna Anber MOVED the adjournment of the meeting.

**Carried unanimously**

**TIME: 13:10**

**NEXT MEETING → REGULAR → January 31, 2024**