

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, January 31, 2024, and via videoconference at 19:30, at which were:

Present: Paolo Galati, Chairperson; Commissioners Melissa Wall, Vice-Chairperson; and Bob Pellerin, Alternate Vice-Chairperson; Commissioners Barbara Barrasso, Vincent Cammisano, James Di Sano, Stéphane Henley and Désirée Ramacieri; Parent Commissioners Chloée Alary and Tara Anderson; Russell Copeman, Director General.

Also present: Frédéric Greschner, Assistant Director General; Giovanna Ortona, Interim Secretary General and Director of the Legal, Corporate and Communications Department; Robin Bennett, Director of Information Resources; Daniel Harvey, Director of Financial Resources; Maxeen Jolin, Coordinator of Communications; and Jocelyne Thompson-Ness, Administration Officer.

Present via Zoom: Commissioner Anick Brunet; Lynda DaSilveira, Director of Pedagogical Services; Florence Delorme, Director of School Affairs and School Organization; Michel Dufour, Director of Material Resources and Transportation; and Stephanie Krenn, Director of Human Resources.

Absent: Commissioner Donna Anber.

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: 19:31

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 Swearing in of New Commissioners

The Chairperson informed the audience that the newly appointed commissioner for electoral division no. 4, Stéphane Henley, has been involved with the school board for many years. He has been Parent Commissioner for SEAC since 2016 and will continue to be a great asset to this school board. He invited the Director General to swear in Mr. Henley.

The Director General witnessed the oath of office of Mr. Henley.

The Chairperson congratulated Mr. Henley and Commissioner Désirée Ramacieri. Ms. Ramacieri was appointed as Commissioner of electoral division no. 2 on December 15, 2023, and took her oath of office on December 21, 2023.

2.0 Approval of the Agenda

Approval of the Agenda
CC-240131-CA-0057

Parent Commissioner Chloée Alary 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

3.0 Approval of Minutes

3.1 October 25, 2023

Approval of Minutes
 October 25, 2023
CC-240131-CA-0058

Commissioner James Di Sano MOVED THAT the minutes of the regular meeting of the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board held on October 25, 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

3.2 November 29, 2023

Approval of Minutes
 November 29, 2023
CC-240131-CA-0059

Commissioner Vincent Cammisano MOVED THAT the minutes of the special meeting of the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board held on November 29, 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

3.3 December 18, 2023

Approval of Minutes
 December 18, 2023
CC-240131-CA-0060

Parent Commissioner Tara Anderson MOVED THAT the minutes of the special meeting of the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board held on December 18, 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

3.4 January 15, 2024

Approval of Minutes
 January 15, 2024
CC-240131-CA-0061

Commissioner Désirée Ramacieri MOVED THAT the minutes of the special meeting of the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board held on January 15, 2024, 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 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.

5.0 Report from the Chairperson

The Chairperson welcomed the new Director General and members of the audience to the meeting noting that for the 2023-2024 school year, due to the Common Front strike action, it has been a few months since a regular meeting has been held.

He went on to present the events of the past three months as follows:

- October 26, 2023 – Attended the inaugural Retirement Celebration and Milestone Gala. This event was to express the school board's gratitude to its retirees for their years of service and to those employees who have 5, 10, 15, 20 and 25 plus years of service. There were 40 retirees and more than 250 current employees present. Special thanks to Laurentian Regional High School (LRHS) music teacher, Bob Stagg, and his students Julia and Griffen, as well as illusionist and Rosemère High School alumni, Nick Circelli, for entertaining the gala attendees;
- October 27, 2023 – Attended the Pink in the City Gala, which is a symbol of hope for those fighting breast cancer. The students in the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board (SWLSB) participate in the Raise Craze initiative to be able to donate to this cause. They embody an inspiring example for all students, province-wide;
- January 28, 2024 – Represented the school board at the cheque presentation at the MUHC for the 2023 Pink in the City fundraiser. This event raised \$325,000.00, for the MUHC Breast Clinic, \$80,000.00, of which came from the SWLSB's Raise Craze initiative. The students raised \$40,000.00, and AVON Canada matched it. A special thank you to Daniel Johnson, Spiritual Care Animator, for always leading by example and supporting the students throughout the school board in many endeavours;
- October 28, 2023 – Attended the SWLSB Game Day with Commissioners Vincent Cammisano and James Di Sano. At the game between the Montréal Alouettes and the Hamilton Tiger Cats, two SWLSB students, Bianca and Zack, each received a \$500.00, bursary. The Alouettes won the game and headed to the Grey Cup;
- December 20, 2023 – Pierre Elliott Trudeau Elementary School students and staff were treated to a once-in-a-lifetime experience because the Montréal Alouettes won the Grey Cup and the team surprised the students and staff by bringing it to the school. While the Grey Cup was at the school everyone learned about the history of the Grey Cup and the type of perseverance needed to be able to win such a prestigious athletic award. Congratulations to the principal and vice-principal for organizing this special event. The Chairperson attended the event with Commissioner Barbara Barrasso;
- November 9, 2023 – Attended the Remembrance Day Ceremony at LRHS with Commissioner Donna Anber and Parent Commissioner Chloée Alary. This ceremony is very special in that it is a student lead event that is beautiful and emotional;

- November 11, 2023 – Attended Remembrance Day Ceremonies in Laval and at the National War Memorial in Ottawa with Commissioners Barbara Barrasso and James Di Sano. This day holds special significance for the SWLSB, its Student Leadership Team and Jules Verne Elementary School. Thank you again to Daniel Johnson, Spiritual Care Animator, for his involvement in coordinating Remembrance Day events and fostering a sense of unity and remembrance within the school community;
- November 10, 2023 – Attended a meeting as vice-president of the Quebec English School Boards Association (QESBA) along with its president and executive director. The meeting was hosted by the Montréal Chamber of Commerce where an Economic Update from Éric Girard, Member of the National Assembly for Lac-Saint-Jean and Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Municipal Affairs, was presented;
- November 10, 2023 – Attended the Laurentia Elementary School Poker Night fundraiser with Commissioners James Di Sano, Désirée Ramacieri, Bob Pellerin and Parent Commissioners Chloée Alary and Tara Anderson. The event was to raise money for basketball uniforms and other activities;
- November 19, 2023 – Attended the Saint Vincent Elementary School Holiday Market. This event was very well attended by students, parents, and staff from the school and other schools of the SWLSB. Congratulations to the principal, the school team and the Home and School Association;
- November 22, 2023 – Attended La Fondation du Cosmodôme Gala with the Assistant Director General and the Assistant Director of Pedagogical Services. It was a very informative evening learning about its mission and understanding the planet and universe. The purpose of the gala was to raise money for student activities at the Cosmodôme;
- November 29, 2023 – A special meeting of the Council was held to name Russell Copeman as the new Director General of the SWLSB;

The Chairperson welcomed the new Director General of the table.

- December 10, 2023 – Attended the English Parents' Committee Association's Annual General Meeting with the President of QESBA, Joe Ortona (EPCA);
- December 22, 2023 – Attended the Rosemère High School Annual Community Breakfast with Commissioner Barbara Barrasso, Parent Commissioners Chloée Alary and Tara Anderson, and the Interim Director General and Interim Assistant Director General. Congratulations to the Principal, school team and students for making this event so meaningful;
- January 27, 2024 – Attended the Mountainview Elementary School Comedy Night fundraiser with Commissioners Barbara Barrasso, James Di Sano, Désirée Ramacieri and Parent Commissioner Tara Anderson. Congratulations to the school on this special event.

Community Comments

- Commissioner Barbara Barrasso extended congratulations to:
 - Twin Oaks Elementary School on its holiday concert where Pre-K stole the show;
 - Terry Fox Elementary School for its holiday food drive for AGAPE in Laval. Congratulations to the students and staff in both schools for all of their efforts;
 - Our Lady of Peace Elementary School will be holding a Comedy Night on February 17, 2024;
- Commissioner Bob Pellerin noted that Joliette High School is holding a gloves and mittens drive so if anyone has any of these items to donate, please let him know;
- Parent Commissioner Tara Anderson extended congratulations to:
 - Grenville Elementary School for its beautiful Christmas concert;
 - the Laurentia Elementary School girls' team on their silver medal won at the RESQ Championnat régional scolaire Mini-Basket Laurentides-Lanaudière. The girls' and boys' teams from Morin Heights Elementary School placed fourth in this event;
 - Mountainview Elementary School on a successful comedy night fundraiser.

Commissioner Vincent Cammisano left the meeting.

TIME: 20:06

6.0 Report from the Director General

The Director General expressed that the past thirteen days in his new position have passed quickly. He thanked the Assistant Director General, for being indispensable, and the head office team for being so welcoming and accommodating as he begins this new chapter. He has attended several meetings, made some school visits and had contact with stakeholders.

He continued noting the following:

- February 5-9, 2024, is Teacher Appreciation Week, a time to highlight the dedication and importance of teachers;

Commissioner Vincent Cammisano returned to the meeting.
20:08

TIME:

- Re-registration and registration for the 2024-2025 school year began on January 22, 2024. This is a very important time for the English school community and recently, certain social media platforms have blocked paid advertising. Therefore, it would be appreciated if everyone could repost school board advertising on their personal social media;
- Plan de rattrapage (the Plan) – This is a catch-up plan for students sanctioned by the Ministère de l'Éducation (MEQ) in order to make up for the time lost due to the recent Common Front strike actions. The students of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board (SWLSB) were fortunate to only have lost eight school days whereas some schools in the French sector lost 22 school days.

The MEQ has provided funding for this Plan and directive for how it is to be used. The directive indicates that:

- The Plan must be decentralized to the schools;
- The funding, if not used entirely, can be used for summer school and carried forward into September 2024;
- Employees have to volunteer to participate in the application of the Plan.

The administration and Pedagogical Services have been developing the Plan for the SWLSB, working closely with the schools. The intensive tutoring methods suggested are co-teaching, in-class tutoring, lunch and/or after school clinics, weekend exam preparation for the high school students, and the pullout model whereby students are removed from class for tutoring.

From the Human Resources perspective, some teachers have already volunteered, part-time teachers without a full workload could increase it by volunteering, and, if required, external resources could be engaged.

There will be no disruption to the reporting deadline for the current term as there are no changes being made to the school calendar.

As for the timeline, the schools have to submit their plans by February 2, 2024, and the school board plan has to be submitted to the MEQ by February 7, 2024. The list of students that will benefit the most from the tutoring will be forwarded to the schools on February 5, 2024.

Thank you to Pedagogical Services, Human Resources, Financial Resources, Information Resources, principals and teachers for all of the input for the organization of this plan.

Proud Moments

- In a recent issue of Mon Joliette, a weekly paper, a profile of the new school in Saint-Lin-Laurentides was featured. The construction of the new school is going well and it has been receiving very favourable comments.

Upcoming Dates

- The PREL's Hooked on School Days will take place from February 12 to 16, 2024, and, once again, Laurent Duvernay-Tardif is the Ambassador for this event;
- Ongoing registration for Francization and Basic English;
- Upcoming registration for Vocational Training Programs
 - Stationary Engine Mechanics – cohort will begin on February 7, 2024;
 - Contractor for All Buildings – cohort will begin on February 14, 2024;
 - Construction Business Management – cohort will begin on February 22, 2024;
 - Accounting Studies – cohort will begin on February 28, 2024;
 - Secretarial Studies – cohort will begin on March 11, 2024.

7.0 Business Arising

There were no items for business arising.

8.0 Decision Items

8.1 Legal, Corporate and Communications

8.1.1 Nomination of Replacements

8.1.1.1 Member of the Executive Committee

Nomination of Replacements

WHEREAS a seat on the Executive Committee of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School became vacant on December 15, 2023;

Member of the Executive Committee

WHEREAS said seat needs to be filled for the balance of the current term of the Executive Committee;

CC-240131-CA-0062

Parent Commissioner Chloée Alary MOVED THAT the Council of Commissioners name Vincent Cammisano to the Executive Committee of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board, effective January 31, 2024.

Carried unanimously

The Chairperson congratulated Commissioner Cammisano on being named to the Executive Committee.

Commissioner Cammisano thanked the Council for this appointment.

8.1.1.2 Chairperson of the Advisory Committee – Student Success

Nomination of Replacements

WHEREAS the position of Chairperson on the Advisory Committee – Student Success became vacant on December 15, 2023;

Chairperson of the Advisory Committee – Student Success

WHEREAS this position needs to be filled for the remainder of the 2023-2024 school year or until replaced;

CC-240131-CA-0063

Commissioner Anick Brunet MOVED THAT the Council of Commissioners name Barbara Barrasso as the Chairperson of the Advisory Committee – Student Success, effective January 31, 2024.

Carried unanimously

The Chairperson congratulated Commissioner Barrasso on being named as Chairperson of the Advisory Committee – Student Success.

Commissioner Barrasso thanked the Council for this opportunity.

8.2 Material Resources and Transportation

8.2.1 Engagement of Contractor – Replacement of Roof – Crestview ES

Engagement of Contractor
Replacement of Roof

Crestview ES

CC-240131-MR-0064

WHEREAS a section of the roof at Crestview Elementary School requires renovation;

WHEREAS public call for tenders no. 23-152-01 was published for the partial roof renovation at Crestview Elementary School and the bids were opened on January 15, 2024;

WHEREAS the conformity of all bidders has been verified;

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 award the contract for the partial roof renovation at Crestview Elementary School to Toitures V. Perreault, for a total cost of \$1,340,902.00, before taxes, or \$1,433,246.57, 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

8.2.2 Engagement of Contractor – Partial Replacement of Windows and Doors – LJA

Engagement of Contractor
Partial Replacement of
Windows and Doors

LJA

CC-240131-MR-0065

WHEREAS some windows and exterior doors need to be replaced at Laval Junior Academy;

WHEREAS public call for tenders no. 23-188-02 was published for the partial replacement of exterior doors and windows at Laval Junior Academy and opened on January 15, 2024;

WHEREAS the conformity of all bidders has been verified;

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 partial replacement of exterior doors and windows at Laval Junior Academy to Construction Pinard & Rousseau Inc., for a total cost of \$1,600,598.58, before taxes, or \$1,710,827.80, 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

8.3 Financial Resources

8.3.1 Access to Revenu Québec's Website

In response to questions, the Director of Financial Resources noted that access to the Revenu Québec's website allows for the management of the PST and GST. He also noted that as a public body, the school board receives around 90 percent of the taxes back.

Access to Revenu Québec's Website

WHEREAS the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board engaged a new Director of Financial Resources on October 25, 2023;

CC-240131-FR-0066

WHEREAS the school board is required to name someone to oversee Revenu Québec's *My Account for Businesses* online services;

WHEREAS the person named to oversee Revenu Québec's *My Account for Businesses* online services must also have access to Revenu Québec's portal;

Commissioner Bob Pellerin MOVED THAT the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board name Daniel Harvey, Director of Financial Resources, as the person responsible for Revenu Québec's *My Account for Businesses* online services for the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board;

AND THAT the Chairperson, as well as the Director General, and in their absence or with their knowledge, the Assistant Director General, be authorized to sign all documentation concerning Revenu Québec's *My Account for Businesses* online services;

FURTHER THAT this resolution replaces resolution no. CC-180523-FR-0133.

Carried unanimously

In response to a question from Parent Commissioner Tara Anderson concerning the bid for the replacement of the windows and doors at Laval Junior Academy, the Assistant Director of Material Resources and Transportation advised that there was a miscalculation made by the lowest conformable bid and they realized that it would be impossible for them to take on the project, so the school board went with the next lowest conformable bidder.

The Interim Secretary General and Director of the Legal, Corporate and Communications Department confirmed that the amounts of the newly recommended contractor are conformable.

9.0 Information Items

9.1 SWL Foundation Report

There was no report.

Commissioner James Di Sano informed the Council that the Valentine's Day Gala has been cancelled.

9.2 Parent Commissioners' Reports

9.2.1 Parents' Committee Report

The report can be found in the meeting package.

9.2.2 SEAC Report

Commissioner Stéphane Henley advised that SEAC is working on its annual workshop for parents and that it has sent its recommendation for his replacement as SEAC Parent Commissioner to the Parents' Committee for discussion and decision tomorrow evening at its regular meeting.

9.3 Report of QESBA

The report can be found in the package.

10.0 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.

11.0 Correspondence

The correspondence can be found in the package

12.0 Varia

There was no varia.

13.0 Adjournment

The Chairperson thanked everyone for being present this evening noting that we are halfway through the 2023-2004 school year. He reminded everyone online that the council meetings are open to the public to attend in person should they wish to do so.

He welcomed the new Director General to the SWLSB family noting that he is looking forward to working with him.

Commissioner Désirée Ramacieri MOVED the adjournment of the meeting.

Carried unanimously

TIME: 20:36

NEXT MEETING → REGULAR → February 21, 2024

M^e Giovanna Ortona, Interim Secretary General

Paolo Galati, Chairperson