

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, March 27, 2024, and via videoconference at 19:30, at which were:

Present: Paolo Galati, Chairperson; Commissioner Melissa Wall, Vice-Chairperson Commissioner Bob Pellerin, Alternate Vice-Chairperson; Commissioners Donna Anber, Barbara Barrasso, Anick Brunet, Vincent Cammisano, James Di Sano, Stéphane Henley and Désirée Ramacieri; Parent Commissioners Chloée Alary, Tara Anderson and Elena Ferrato; and Russell Copeman, 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; Daniel Harvey, Director of Financial Resources; Stephanie Krenn, Director of Human Resources; Michael Quinn, Assistant Director of Pedagogical Services; Maxeen Jolin, Coordinator of Communications; and Jocelyne Thompson-Ness, Administration Officer.

The Chairperson called the meeting to order welcoming everyone who is viewing the meeting online and verified quorum with the Interim Assistant Director of the Legal, Corporate and Communications Department. 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

CC-240327-CA-0079

Parent Commissioner Tara Anderson MOVED THAT the March 27, 2024, agenda of the Council of Commissioners be approved as presented in document no. CC-SWLSB-2024/03/27-CA-001.

Carried unanimously

2.0 Approval of Minutes – February 21, 2024

Approval of Minutes

February 21, 2024

CC-240327-CA-0080

Commissioner Bob Pellerin MOVED THAT the minutes of the regular meeting of the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board held on February 21, 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

3.0 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.

4.0 Report from the Chairperson

The Chairperson welcomed everyone to the meeting noting that he hoped that everyone had a restful spring break that will see them through the final months of the 2023-2024 school year.

He presented his monthly report as follows:

- February 27, 2024: Attended the Canadian School Boards Association (CSBA) Board of Directors meeting in Edmonton, Alberta, representing the Quebec English School Boards Association (QESBA). The meeting provided the opportunity to exchange information and best practices with other Canadian school boards. A meaningful discussion took place with the Alberta Minister of Education, the Honourable Demetrios Nicolaides, who sees education as a partnership with school boards;
- March 15, 2024: Attended the 190th Annual Irish Society St-Patrick's Day Luncheon as a member of the QESBA Executive Committee;
- March 15, 2024: Attended the Crestview Elementary School Comedy Night fundraiser with Commissioners Donna Anber, Barbara Barrasso, Vincent Cammisano, James Di Sano and Désirée Ramacieri. The funds raised from this event will be used for technological advancements for the students. The principal and the organizational committee for this event are to be congratulated;
- March 22, 2024: Attended the Sainte-Agathe Academy Variety Show in the company of Commissioners Donna Anber and Désirée Ramacieri, Parent Commissioner Chloée Alary and the Director General. Congratulations to the principal and staff for the organization of this special event and to the students for taking on the challenge to perform;

Commissioner Donna Anber stated that it was a sold-out event and that, while the student performances were outstanding, it must be noted that there were many staff members who were part of the 80 acts;

- March 24 to 26, 2004: Attended the opening and closing ceremonies of the 2024 Montréal Regional Science and Technology Fair (the Fair) at Laval Senior Academy along with Commissioner Barbara Barrasso and the Director General. Congratulations to the 19 Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board students who had projects entered in the Fair that showcased their dedication to science and technology. The following are to be congratulated and thanked:

- The Steering Committee for the time and effort put into making the Fair a success while ensuring that the students had an enriching experience;
- The school team, Information Resources, Material Resources and Transportation, Pedagogical Services and Communications for all of the assistance provided to the Steering Committee;
- The partners of the Fair;

The Chairperson noted that the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board students will be invited to the April 24, 2024, meeting of the council to be recognized for their participation and achievement. He advised that Nathan Aruna and Christos Velmachos, students at Laval Senior Academy, will be attending the Regeneron International Science and Engineering Fair in Los Angeles, California, in May 2024. These two students also represented Québec at the same fair in Dallas, Texas, last year;

- March 27, 2024: SWLSB Hockey Finals: Attended the RSEQ Mini-League Ice Hockey Tournament involving SWLSB' elementary schools, with Commissioners Barbara Barrasso and Anick Brunet, and Parent Commissioner Elena Ferrato. The event showcased the comradery amongst the students competing, on and off the ice, from Crestview, Genesis, Hillcrest, Jules Verne, Laurentian, McCaig, Our Lady of Peace, Pierre-Elliott-Trudeau, Souvenir, Saint-Paul, Saint-Vincent, Terry Fox and Twin Oaks Elementary Schools. There were games and skills competitions that led to a final game between Terry Fox Elementary School and Twin Oaks Elementary School with the latter coming out as the winner. Thank you to everyone who participated in the event.

Commissioner Barbara Barrasso advised that over 150 students participated and that, in order for them to do so they had to be in good standing at school, which was not a problem because they all really wanted to participate. The Kariganis Trophy for the most sportsmanship went to Crestview and Our Lady of Peace Elementary Schools who played as a combined team as neither school had enough players to make a full team. It is about having fun and meeting new people not about winning. Also, the Chairperson of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board strapped on his skates and skated with the students for the Skills Competition;

Community Comments

- Commissioner Donna Anber congratulated Oliver Rusu, a student at Ste-Agathe Academy, on being awarded great distinction for his project entry at the 2024 Montréal Regional Science and Technology Fair. She also noted that Arundel Elementary School is a small school with limited resources and, recently, the school has partnered with École de la Vue, for free eye exams for Kindergarten 4 and Kindergarten 5 students. This is a very positive community partnership;
- Commissioner Bob Pellerin noted that the students and staff of Rawdon Elementary School participated in the Rawdon St-Patrick's Day parade on March 17, 2024;
- Commissioner Barbara Barrasso thanked Parent Commissioner Elena Ferrato for the invitation to the Pink in the City Inspiration Breakfast on February 27, 2024, noting that the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board's very own Director of Pedgagical Services was a panellist for the celebration of women.

The Director of Pedagogical Services noted that this event was extraordinary with over 400 people in attendance. It was an honour to have been invited by the Pink in the City organization, who raises funds for breast cancer awareness and research, to be on this panel. A Chief Justice from the federal Court spoke to those present about being a judge and what it took to reach the bench. A special thank you to Spiritual Care Animator, Daniel Johnson, for his work with the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board students on this project;

- Commissioner Anick Brunet advised that on March 30, 2024, the Genesis Elementary School choir will be singing at the Laval Rockets' hockey game.

The Chairperson noted that, besides the choir singing at the Laval Rockets' game the Sir Wilfrid Laurier Foundation will be selling tickets for a 50-50 draw to raise money;

- Commissioner Désirée Ramacieri noted that the Parent Participation Organization of Laurentia Elementary School has adopted a new initiative whereby the left over pizza from the monthly pizza lunch is donated to *Le book humanitaire* in Saint-Jérôme;

5.0 Report from the Director General

The Director General presented his monthly report noting the following:

Building Bridges

- The school and centre visits are going well and the goal of visiting all of them by the end of the school year will be achieved;
- The Deputy Minister of Education, Carole Arav, recently visited the Laurentian region including the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board. Her visit allowed for her to see the various challenges and important issues faced by this school board and the centres de services scolaires;
- The school board is now a part of the Commission d'étude et d'expertise en Formation générale des jeunes which is a working group of the FCSSQ (Fédération des centres de services scolaires du Québec). While the anglophone sector is not an official member of this group, an invitation was extended to the Association of Directors General of English School Boards for Québec to name an observer and he indicates that he was selected;

2024-2025 Administrative Assignments

- The annual process is underway and the goal is to reduce as many interim positions as possible within the schools and centres and replace them with permanent positions in order to ensure stability;
- There will still be interim positions but only minimally;

Saint-Lin Update

- The project is advancing very well;
- The school board will take possession of the building on April 19, 2024;
- The school should be ready to receive students by the beginning of the 2024-2025 school year;

Proud Moments

- March 22, 2024: Attended the Ste-Agathe Academy Variety Show. He noted that he will attend as many activities as he can in the schools and centres;

- March 26, 2024: Attended the awards and closing ceremony of the Montréal Regional Science and Technology Fair (the Fair) at Laval Senior Academy, the host of this event. There were 17 high schools and one CÉGEP that participated in the Fair and over \$30,000.00, in prizes were given out. Laval Junior Academy, Laval Senior Academy and Ste-Agathe Academy were three of the schools that participated. Pictures and information on the Fair can be found on the school board's website;

Upcoming Dates

- April is Autism Acceptance Month and principals and governing boards are encouraged to organize activities or participate in activities;
- April 22, 2024, is Earth Day and schools and centres are encouraged to participate;
- Vocational Training has ongoing registration for francization courses, a cohort for Professional Sales will begin on April 8, 2024, and a cohort for School Daycare Educator will begin on May 21, 2024.

6.0 Business Arising

6.1 Program of Study for Secondary School - Section 8.0

Program of Study for
Secondary School

Section 8

CC-240327-ED-0081

WHEREAS the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board adopted resolution no. CC230621-ED-0144, approving the amendments to policy no. 1999-ED-04: *Program of Studies for Secondary School*, with the exception of section 8.0, in order to accommodate a pilot project for a new summer program;

WHEREAS the results of the pilot project on the new summer program were assessed and presented to the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board, who then adopted resolution no. CC231218-ED-0048, authorizing an additional consultation on section 8.0 of policy no. 1999-ED-04: *Program of Studies for Secondary School* from January 8, 2024, to February 6, 2024;

WHEREAS 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 SEP-B-Québec-FTQ Local 577 were consulted on section 8.0 of the policy and feedback was received and taken into consideration;

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 approve the amendments to section 8.0 of policy no. 1999-ED-04: *Program of Studies for Secondary School*, as per document no. SWLSB-2024/03/27-ED-001.

Carried unanimously

7.0 Decision Items

7.1 Human Resources

7.1.1 Appointment of a Director of Human Resources

The Chairperson advised the Council that the appointment of the candidate to the position of Director of Human Resources was approved unanimously by the Selection Committee.

The Director of Human Resources noted that all of the candidates had very good qualities and that the recommended candidate has been in human resources for 20 years, 16 of which were with this school board.

Appointment of a Director of Human Resources WHEREAS the position of Director of Human Resources will become vacant as of June 4, 2024;

CC-2400327-HR-0082

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* (the Management Policies), have been applied;

WHEREAS this position was posted and a Selection Committee held interviews on March 19, 2024;

Commissioner Barbara Barrasso MOVED THAT, on the recommendation of the Selection Committee, the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board appoint Anne-Marie Lavoie as Director of Human Resources, in accordance with the Management Policies of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board, effective May 29, 2024.

Carried unanimously

Ms. Anne-Marie Lavoie entered the meeting.

TIME: 19:46

The Chairperson, on behalf of the Council, congratulated Ms. Lavoie on being named as the new Director of Human Resources noting that she was previously an employee of the school board and that the interview showed that she has gained a lot of experience in her time away and that she has the best interest of the school board at heart.

Ms. Lavoie thanked the Council for this opportunity and added that she is looking forward to the challenge and returning to the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board family.

The Chairperson noted that this appointment is bittersweet because it means that the retirement of the current Director of Human Resources, Stephanie Krenn, is fast approaching. On behalf of the Council, the Chairperson thanked Ms. Krenn for her dedication to education and her many years with the school board.

7.2 Legal, Corporate and Communications

7.2.1 Naming of New School in Saint-Lin-Laurentides

The Chairperson invited the Coordinator of Communications to explain the process undertaken to name the new school in Saint-Lin-Laurentides.

The Coordinator of Communications provided information on the contest to name the new school in Saint-Lin-Laurentides, as follows:

- All of the employees, 217 in total, of the schools affected by the rezoning, namely Franklin Hill, Joliette, Laurentia, Pierre Elliott Trudeau, Pinewood and Rawdon Elementary Schools, and the 258 families that are registered at the new school, were sent information on the contest;
- The timeline for the contest was as follows:
 - March 13-22, 2024: Time period during which names could be submitted for the new school. There were 51 name suggestions received;
 - March 25, 2024: The New Elementary School Committee reviewed the name suggestions received and selected three of them:

- Achigan Elementary School, for the river that runs through the heart of Saint-Lin-Laurentides and that has played a big role in the town's history as well as its commercial endeavours;
- Heritage Elementary School, to honour the roots of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board as Saint-Lin-Laurentides is the birthplace of Sir Wilfrid Laurier;
- Laurier Elementary School, which captures the essence of the various name proposals received while representing a harmonious blend of the proposals that honour the legacy of Sir Wilfrid Laurier;
- March 26-27, 2024: The three names were sent back to all of the registered families and all of the employees of the schools impacted by the opening of the new school asking for them to vote on their favourite. The voting closed today, March 27, 2024, at 15:00;
- The results of the vote earlier today are:
 - Achigan Elementary School: 31 votes or 16 percent;
 - Heritage Elementary School: 87 votes or 44 percent;
 - Laurier Elementary School: 80 votes or 40 percent;
- Development of a logo will be done once the school is open, the students and staff are present, and a Governing Board has been named.

Commissioner Bob Pellerin thanked everyone who has been involved with this new school project as the community has been very much looking forward to this project for some time.

Naming of New School in
Saint-Lin-Laurentides

WHEREAS the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board will be opening a new elementary school for the 2024-2025 school year in Saint-Lin-Laurentides;

CC-240327-CA-0083

WHEREAS the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board launched a contest for all families registered at this new elementary school and the employees of the six (6) schools impacted by the rezoning, inviting them to propose a name;

WHEREAS the results of the contest were brought to the New Elementary School Committee for its input and recommendation;

WHEREAS the New Elementary School Committee reviewed the results of the contest and recommended that three (3) names for the new elementary school in Saint-Lin-Laurentides be sent to all the families registered AND THAT each family be asked to choose one (1) name from these three (3) for recommendation to the Council of Commissioners;

WHEREAS the families registered for the new elementary school in Saint-Lin-Laurentides have submitted their respective recommendations AND THAT the following three (3) names received the most votes:

Elementary School

Achigan Elementary School

Heritage Elementary School

Laurier Elementary School

Commissioner Vincent Cammisano MOVED THAT, on the recommendation of the New Elementary School Committee, the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier assigns the name of Heritage Elementary School to the new elementary school in Saint-Lin-Laurentides.

Carried unanimously

The Chairperson congratulated the community on Heritage Elementary School.

Commissioner Bob Pellerin noted that the name of the new school is quite appropriate given that there is a small house in Saint-Lin-Laurentides that is a heritage site because it actually was the home of Sir Wilfrid Laurier.

7.3 Material Resources and Transportation

7.3.1 Engagement of Contractor – Task Order Contract – Plumbing

Engagement of Contractor WHEREAS, as per the *Regulation respecting construction contracts of public bodies*, “a public body may enter into a task order contract with one contractor or more when the procurement requirements are recurrent and the monetary value of the construction work, the rate or frequency are uncertain”;

Task Order Contract

Plumbing

CC-240327-MR-0084

WHEREAS public call for tenders no. 23-209-09 was published for a plumbing work task order contract and the bids were opened on February 27, 2024;

WHEREAS the call for tenders was divided in three regional lots (respectively eastern region, northern region and western region) allowing for each bidder to submit a bid in one or more lots;

WHEREAS the conformity of all bidders has been verified;

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 award a three-year task order contract (1 year + 2 optional periods of one year each) for plumbing work as follows:

Lot	Rank (from lowest to highest bid)	Name of Contractor	Total amount for 3 years before taxes
1 Eastern region	1	Mécanicaction inc.	\$115,050.00
	2	Construction Raytech (2014) inc.	\$122,850.00
	3	Construction Nazar inc.	\$129,862.50
	4	Oslo Construction inc.	\$160,728.75
	5	Av-Tech inc.	\$177,735.00
2 Northern region	1	Mécanicaction inc.	\$115,050.00
	2	Construction Raytech (2014) inc.	\$122,850.00
	3	Construction Nazar inc.	\$129,862.50
	4	Av-Tech inc.	\$177,735.00
	5	Oslo Construction inc.	\$189,701.55
3 Western region	1	Mécanicaction inc.	\$115,050.00
	2	Construction Raytech (2014) inc.	\$122,850.00
	3	Construction Nazar inc.	\$129,862.50
	4	Oslo Construction inc.	\$160,728.75
	5	Av-Tech inc.	\$177,735.00

AND THAT, as per the *Regulation respecting construction contracts of public bodies*, "if the task order contract is entered into with several contractors, the performance requests are made to the contractor who submitted the lowest price, unless the contractor cannot perform the contract, in which case the other contractors are solicited according to their respective rank," the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board will solicit the other conformable contractors who submitted a bid, according to their respective rank, as indicated in the table above;

AND THAT the engagement of the contractors 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 these contracts.

Carried unanimously

7.3.2 Engagement of Contractor – Ventilation Project – Laurentian Regional High School (Blocks B and C)

In response to a comment from Commissioner Donna Anber concerning encouraging local contractors to bid on contracts, the Chairperson explained that all call for tenders are public and that the school board has no control over who has the lowest conformable bid.

The Director of Material Resources and Transportation noted that all bids for a project are opened on a specific date, at a specific time, and in a specific location, and that any prospective contractor who has submitted a bid for the project is welcome to attend the opening.

The Director General advised that all school boards and school service centres are required by law to use the SEAO (Système électronique d'appel d'offres du Gouvernement du Québec), where contractors go find contracts that they may wish to bid on. Every step of the tendering process is regulated.

<p>Engagement of Contractor Ventilation Project Laurentian Regional High School (Blocks B and C) CC-240327-MR-0085</p>	<p>WHEREAS blocks B and C of the ventilation system at Laurentian Regional High School require the replacement of certain components;</p> <p>WHEREAS public call for tenders no. 23-184-01 was published for ventilation work in blocks B and C at Laurentian Regional High School and opened on March 14, 2024;</p> <p>WHEREAS the conformity of all bidders has been verified;</p> <p>Commissioner Désirée Ramacieri 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 ventilation work in blocks B and C at Laurentian Regional High School to Construction P. Stafford inc., for a total cost of \$928,000.00, before taxes or \$991,909.04, net taxes;</p>
--	--

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

7.4 Financial Resources

7.4.1 Allocation of Resources 2024-2025

Allocation of Resources
2024-2025

WHEREAS the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board shall establish objectives and principles governing the allocation of its revenues in accordance with section 275 of the *Education Act*;

CC-240327-FR-0086

WHEREAS the annual budget consultation took place from December 19, 2023, to February 17, 2024, in accordance with section 193.3 of the *Education Act*;

WHEREAS the Governing Boards, Parents' Committee, Association québécoise des cadres scolaires – SWL Section (AQCS), Sir Wilfrid Laurier Administrators Association (SWLAA) and the Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) were consulted and their respective feedback received;

WHEREAS the Resource Allocation Committee must annually make a recommendation to the Council of Commissioners regarding the establishment of objectives and principles governing the allocation of its resources, in accordance with section 193.3 of the *Education Act* and the criteria determining the allocation of resources, in accordance with section 261 of the *Education Act*;

WHEREAS the Resource Allocation Committee completed its review of the annual budget consultation survey in order to establish the objectives and principles and the criteria of allocation of resources recommended in the Allocation of Resources 2024-2025 document;

Commissioner Stéphane Henley MOVED THAT, on the recommendation of the Audit Committee, the Council of Commissioners accept the recommendations of the Resource Allocation Committee for the 2024-2025 school year, as contained in document no. SWLSB-2024/03/27-FR-001.

Carried unanimously

The Chairperson reminded everyone online that there are advisory committee meetings prior to the Council and Executive Committee, whereby the items being presented this evening are discussed at length.

8.0 Information Items

8.1 SWL Foundation Report

Commissioner James Di Sano noted that the Sir Wilfrid Laurier Foundation would be doing a 50-50 fundraiser at the March 30, 2024, Laval Rockets' home game.

8.2 Parent Commissioners' Reports

8.2.1 Parents' Committee Report

The report can be found in the meeting package.

8.2.2 SEAC Report

Parent Commissioner Elena Ferrato advised the Council that the online workshop on March 19, 2024, on *The Impact of Stress on Children, Adolescents and Caregivers: Ways to Foster Well-Being*, with Dave Melnick, was very insightful and informative. There were approximately 100 people in attendance and the feedback received was positive. Several participants requested more workshops of this variety during the school year.

8.3 Report of QESBA

There was no report.

8.4 Central Students' Committee Report

Commissioner James Di Sano advised that the next meeting of the Central Students' Committee will be held on April 2, 2024, and that the Student Representatives to Council and alternates will be elected.

9.0 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.

10.0 Correspondence

There was no correspondence.

11.0 Varia

There was no varia.

12.0 Adjournment

Parent Commissioner Elena Ferrato MOVED the adjournment of the meeting.

Carried unanimously

TIME: 20:38

NEXT MEETING → REGULAR → April 24, 2024

Giovanna Ortona, Interim Secretary General

Paolo Galati, Chairperson