



COMMISSION SCOLAIRE SIR-WILFRID-LAURIER
SIR WILFRID LAURIER SCHOOL BOARD

Special Council Highlights July 9, 2025

The Council adopted the following resolutions:

Request to the government to
withdraw the budget cuts
announced on June 12, 2025

CC-250709-CA-0002

WHEREAS the government, despite repeated promises and assurances that education is its top priority and that it would not cut services in education, has already demanded significant budget cuts from the education network during the 2024–2025 school year, including:

- approximately \$400 million in building maintenance cuts, in July 2024;
- a hiring freeze, in November 2024;
- approximately \$200 million in cuts in December 2024, on the eve of the December holiday break;
- approximately \$70 million cut from the catch-up plan, on the eve of the 2025 March break;
- renovation, expansion, and school construction projects put on hold by the CAQ government;

WHEREAS the government's recent demand for over \$570 million in cuts for 2025-2026, issued just days before the end of the 2025 school year and after staff assignments had already been completed, will directly impact services to students;

WHEREAS the draft budgetary rules and parameters communicated by the government on June 12, 2025, would require the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board to cut \$12.1 million from its 2025-2026 budget;

WHEREAS the government only provided for a consultation period of one business day, from June 12, 2025, to June 13, 2025, and indicated in a presentation to staff that it expected to submit the final version of the budgetary rules to the Treasury Board at the end of June, likely for approval in July;

WHEREAS it is not possible to implement budgetary cuts of this scale without significant impacts on direct services to students;

WHEREAS the timing of these announcements, after significant staffing decisions have been made pursuant to deadlines under applicable collective agreements, severely constrains the school board's options to attempt to implement these cuts;

WHEREAS the Council of Commissioners is committed to providing the necessary support to students and protecting students' access to quality educational services;

WHEREAS the Council of Commissioners is responsible for exercising the community's right to management and control of the allocation of funding for minority language education in its territory under section 23 of the *Charter of Rights and Freedoms* (the "Charter"), for the benefit of its students and community;



WHEREAS the Council of Commissioners is committed to protecting services and initiatives implemented to respond to the particular needs of its increasing student population and to protect community vitality, such as the following:

- Effective school transportation in its vast, rural territory to ensure access to an English school;
- Access to professional services and support for students with special needs, whose numbers are increasing at a faster rate than enrolment in our English schools;
- Central Board office services that support and relieve administrative tasks in schools and centres, among others;

WHEREAS the proposed changes to the budgetary rules, developed without meaningful consultation of the school network as required by section 472 of the *Education Act*, are unreasonable;

WHEREAS the proposed changes to the budgetary rules unjustifiably constrain the exercise of management and control over the allocation of funding in violation of section 23 of the Charter;

WHEREAS section 279 of the *Education Act* provides that a school board cannot submit a deficit budget without authorization from the Minister;

WHEREAS the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board has assessed its financial situation and concluded that it is neither feasible, nor responsible to fully implement the cuts proposed on June 12, 2025, for 2025-2026 given their expected impact on services to students and in light of its particular circumstances;

Parent Commissioner Chloée Alary MOVED THAT the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board calls on the government to revise the draft budgetary rules in order to withdraw the budget cuts;

AND THAT, to be adequately prepared in the event that the government was to maintain these unjustified budgetary constraints, the Council of Commissioners mandate the Director General to request authorization to submit a deficit budget following its presentation and approval by the Council of Commissioners.

Seconded by Commissioner Bob Pellerin

Carried unanimously

Nominations to the Board of Directors – QESBA

CC-250709-CA-0003

WHEREAS the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board is entitled to two seats on the Quebec English School Boards Association (QESBA) Board of Directors;

WHEREAS by virtue of the QESBA Constitution, one of the two nominations must be either the Chairperson or Vice-Chairperson of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board;

Commissioner Bob Pellerin MOVED THAT James Di Sano and Donna Anber be named on the Quebec English School Boards Association (QESBA) Board of Directors as representatives of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board for the 2025-2027 term.

Seconded by Commissioner Benny Catania

THIS MOTION WAS CARRIED ON THE FOLLOWING DIVISION:	
Commissioners and Parent Commissioners voting YEA:	Chloée Alary, Donna Anber, Tara Anderson, Heather Appleby, Anick Brunet, Benny Catania, James Di Sano, Elena Ferrato, Noémia Onofre de Lima and Bob Pellerin
Commissioners and Parent Commissioners ABSTAINING:	Barbara Barrasso

