

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, July 9, 2025, and via videoconference at 12:00 p.m., at which were:

Present: James Di Sano, Chairperson; Anna Sollazzo, Secretary General and Director of the Legal, Corporate and Communications Department.

Present via Zoom: Donna Anber, Vice-Chairperson; Commissioners Heather Appleby, Barbara Barrasso, Bob Pellerin, Désirée Ramacieri and Melissa Wall; Parent Commissioner Tara Anderson; and Russell Copeman, Director General.

Also present via Zoom: Selena Mell, Assistant Director General; Robin Bennett, Director of Information Resources; Anne-Marie Lavoie, Director of Human Resources; and Jocelyne Thompson-Ness, Administration Officer.

Absent: Commissioners Anick Brunet, Benny Catania, Noémia Onofre de Lima; and Parent Commissioners Chloée Alary and Elena Ferrato.

The Chairperson called the meeting to order and asked the Secretary General and Director of the Legal, Corporate and Communications Department if all procedures to call this special meeting were followed. The 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: 12:02

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 is 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-250709-CA-0001

Parent Commissioner Elena Ferrato MOVED THAT the July 9, 2025, 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-2025/07/09-CA-001.

Seconded by Parent Commissioner Chloée Alary.

Carried unanimously

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

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

WHEREAS the position of Principal at Mountainview High School is currently vacant;

WHEREAS according to by-law no. BL2023-CA-01: *Delegation of Functions and Powers of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board*.

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

4.0 Nominations to the Board of Directors - QESBA

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

QESBA 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;

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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: | |
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| 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, Bob Pellerin |
| Commissioners and Parent Commissioners ABSTAINING: | Barbara Barrasso |

5.0 Question Period

There were no questions

6.0 Adjournment of the meeting

Adjournment of Meeting

Commissioner Benny Catania MOVED THAT the meeting be adjourned.

CC-250709-CA-0004

Seconded by Commissioner Elena Ferrato.

Carried unanimously

TIME: 12:12

NEXT MEETING → REGULAR → September 25, 2025

M^e Anna Sollazzo, Secretary General

James Di Sano, Chairperson