

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 Thursday, September 25, 2025, and via videoconference at 19:30, at which were:

Present: James Di Sano, Chairperson; Commissioners Heather Appleby, Barbara Barrasso, Désirée Ramacieri, and Melissa Wall; Parent Commissioners Chloée Alary and Elena Ferrato; and Russell Copeman, Director General.

Present on Zoom: Donna Anber, Vice-Chairperson.

Also present: Anna Sollazzo, 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; Anne-Marie Lavoie, Director of Human Resources; Maxeen Jolin, Coordinator of Communications; and Jocelyne Thompson-Ness, Administration Officer.

Absent: Commissioners Anick Brunet, Benny Catania, and Bob Pellerin; Student Representatives to Council, Maya Lavictoire and Andressa Reginato; and Selena Mell, Assistant Director General.

The Chairperson called the meeting to order, welcoming everyone who is viewing the meeting online and verified quorum with the Secretary General and Director of the Legal, Corporate and Communications Department. Quorum has been achieved.

TIME: 19:30

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 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.

1.0 Approval of the Agenda

Approval of the Agenda

CC-250925-CA-0005

Parent Commissioner Chloée Alary MOVED THAT the September 25, 2025, agenda of the Council of Commissioners be approved as presented in document no. CC-SWLSB-2025/09/25-CA-001.

Seconded by Parent Commissioner Elena Ferrato.

Carried unanimously

2.0 Approval of Minutes

2.1 June 25, 2025

Approval of Minutes

June 25, 2025

CC-250925-CA-0006

Commissioner Désirée Ramacieri MOVED THAT the minutes of the regular meeting of the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board held on June 25, 2025, having been received by all members prior to this meeting, be approved as written and exempted from public reading by the Secretary General.

Seconded by Commissioner Melissa Wall.

Carried unanimously

2.2 July 9, 2025

Approval of Minutes

July 9, 2025

CC-250925-CA-0007

Commissioner Barbara Barrasso MOVED THAT the minutes of the special meeting of the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board held on July 9, 2025, having been received by all members prior to this meeting, be approved as written and exempt from public reading by the Secretary General.

Seconded by Commissioner Donna Anber.

Carried unanimously

3.0 Question Period

The 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.

Two questions have been submitted for the first question period by Jessica Thibault Côté.

1. Why do people who have no teaching related experience/education see before qualified people for every job? (Ie. always the same time gap and they are ahead)? Doesn't this go against the collective agreement?

The Chairperson noted that, for now, as per the board's past practice, all substitute teachers will continue to be considered in the same tier. The school board's procedures fully respect the collective agreement. This being said, the Human Resources Department may review this practice in the next few months to ensure the best support to our school and students.

2. There are some people with qualified and/or who have teaching related experience/4th year university students whose accounts still don't work. Scolago confirmed it is not on their end. I have sent proof of preferred lists not working for the past two weeks to the school board and all I keep getting is "we will assess the situation." Why did someone who is unqualified (no teaching/teaching education experience) get their account fixed before me even though she wrote after me?

The Chairperson advised that the Human Resources Department is answering all requests as quickly as possible. Considering the high volume of requests, the Human Resources team is currently experiencing delays for certain requests that are more complex than others. We thank everyone for their patience and understanding in this regard. The teams will get back to you as quickly as they can.

4.0 Report from the Chairperson

The Chairperson advised that a bilingual copy of his full report is available to the public.

He went on to quote Andrew Carnegie:

"Teamwork is the ability to work together toward a common vision. It is the fuel that allows common people to attain uncommon results."

He presented his monthly report noting:

Council of Commissioners Updates

- The Council meeting highlights will now be posted on social media, along with the website, in an effort to improve transparency so please visit the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board (SWLSB) Facebook page;
- Parent Commissioner Tara Anderson has tendered her resignation and it has been accepted. Ms. Anderson is to be thanked immensely for her many years of service and dedication to the parents of the SWLSB. The Council wishes Ms. Anderson the best in her future endeavours;
- The 2025-2026 budget will be presented at the regular meeting of the Council on October 29, 2025;
- September 30, 2025, is *Truth and Reconciliation Day*, so please remember to wear an orange shirt on this day as a symbol of remembrance, respect and reconciliation. The school board will hold a flag-raising ceremony of its newly acquired *Truth and Reconciliation* flag at 9:30 a.m. at the Administration Centre;
- The new advisory committees' structure is being implemented this year with the establishment of the following committees: Audit, Central Students', Governance and Ethics, Human Resources and Student Success. This new structure will allow for more fruitful discussions with the Council and members of the senior management, help shape policy and enable more effective governance.

Proud Moments

- The teams in Communications and Material Resources and Transportation are to be thanked for their tireless work in dealing with the suspension of certain bus routes due to recent challenges with electric buses, their dedication did not go unnoticed. It was a true team effort and the Council is grateful to everyone who made sure that the students travelled safely;
- The SWLSB community is cheering on Francesco Vignone, a student at Laval Junior Academy, as he competes in *Quel Talent!*;
- The SWLSB congratulates Delphine Labonté, a student at Laurentian Regional High School (LRHS), who won a bursary from *Fondation Le But* and *Fondation Aléo*. Ms. Labonté plays forward with the Étoiles Laurentides Lanaudière M18 AAA feminine hockey team;
- Many of the SWLSB Proud Moments can be found on its Facebook page, as well as those of the SWLSB schools and centres.

School, Centre and Community Events

- August 6, 2025 – Attended an event for the 60th Anniversary of the Ville de Laval;
- August 19, 2025 – Attended the Welcome Back lunch with the head office and management teams;
- September 2, 2025 – Visited John F. Kennedy Elementary School and Laval Junior Academy with the Assistant Director General for the first day of school;
- September 3, 2025 – Attended the launch of *Débarque-moi en toute sécurité*, the annual campaign with the Ville de Laval and the Laval Police Service;
- September 6, 2025 – Attended SWLSB Game Day with the Montreal Alouettes and witnessed two SWLSB students receive bursaries from the team;
- September 12, 2025 – Attended Welcome Back events at Genesis (movie night), Souvenir (movie night) and Saint-Vincent (a rodeo) Elementary Schools;
- September 14, 2025 – Attended the Fête de Quartier Val-des-Brises. The proceeds raised at this event will be donated to the SWLSB and Centre de services scolaire de Laval;
- September 19, 2025 – Attended the Saint-Paul Elementary School Welcome Back Carnival with Commissioners Barbara Barrasso, Anick Brunet and Benny Catania.

The Council extended appreciation to the dedicated administrators, employees and community volunteers who are so generous with their time for these events.

School and Centre Visits

- Visits are planned to the following:
 - Various Laval elementary and high schools;
 - Mountainview High School;
 - Adult Education and Vocational Training Centres;
 - Construc-Plus.

Highlights

- National School Support Staff Week runs from September 22 to September 26, 2025. The Council and the SWLSB would like to extend its gratitude to all the school support staff during this week that honours their hard work and dedication for making sure the schools run smoothly so that the students have a safe and welcoming environment;

4.2 Community Highlights from Commissioners

- Commissioner Barbara Barrasso noted that she had attended the Curriculum Night at Laval Junior Academy and that it was a very nice experience because the school had organized it so that the parents were able to meet with all of the teachers who teach their children;
- Commissioner Heather Appleby attended the Rosemère High School graduation ceremony on September 20, 2025, with the Chairperson and Commissioner Benny Catania;
- Commissioner Désirée Ramacieri advised that she had attended the inauguration of the new location of the Centre de pédiatrie sociale en communauté d'Argenteuil. This group has been a long-time partner with the SWLSB. She also reminded everyone of the LRHS Annual Golf Tournament being held on Saturday, October 11, 2025. The proceeds raised at this event are used to enrich student life at the school.

5.0 Report from the Director General

The Director General advised that the Assistant Director General sends her regrets for this evening's meeting as she is representing the school board at the CDC Pont-Viau graduation.

He went on to present his monthly report, noting the following:

- Since the opening of the 2025-2026 school year, there have been three school/centre visits, six visits to welcome students, parents, and employees on their first day of school and attendance at two graduations, undertaken by either the Assistant Director General or himself;
- Meetings with the Ministère de l'Éducation – six meetings through the Forum des DG and one meeting between the MEQ and the SWLSB, all related to the 2025-2026 budget. The six meetings were held to clarify certain aspects of the budget;
- Acted as a moderator on a panel at the Bishop's Forum for young leaders. It was a case study on community reaction to the government's Bill 40;
- The recent school bus transportation issue evolved as follows:
 - The Director General was advised at 10:35 p.m. on September 11, 2025, that the Lion electric buses belonging to companies that transport for the SWLSB were being removed from service for inspection;
 - This notice was received three hours after two of the SWLSB's sister school boards received the message;
 - The suspension of the electric buses affected 17 bus routes serving 11 schools for a period of two days;

- On Tuesday, September 16, 2025, a partial resumption of the electric buses occurred with full service being restored on September 17, 2025;
- The SWLSB transporters and the transportation team at the school board all deserve special thanks for their hard work and patience during this disruption.

2025-2026 Budget

- In June 2025, the preliminary budgetary rules were received and required the SWLSB to cut over \$12,000,000.00;
- On July 16, 2025, the official MEQ budgetary rules were received and these new rules reduced the amount for the SWLSB was to cut to \$3,700,000.00. This will still make budgeting challenging because these final rules were received after many of the assignments and hiring decisions had already been made, making any changes difficult. The departments are all looking at what can be contributed to these cuts;
- The MEQ has added a new control mechanism to cap the number of remunerated hours for all school boards and centres de services scolaires. Everyone will have to track these hours so that they are not exceeded. If exceeded, there will be significant financial consequences.

2025-2026 Projected Enrolment

- Projected enrolment, as of September 10, 2025, currently stands at 12,512 students, which is a decrease of 113 students when compared to the 2024-2025 enrolment;
- The enrolment is being watched closely to see why it continues to decrease, especially in the Laval elementary schools.

Proud Moments

- On September 6, 2025, he was in attendance at the SWLSB Game Day with the Montreal Alouettes and was pleased to have taken part in the presentation of bursaries from the team to one student from Laval Junior Academy and another from Laval Senior Academy;
- Delphine Labonté, a student at LRHS, was the recipient of a \$1,500.00, bursary from *Fondation Le But* and *Fondation Aléo*;
- Francesco Vignone, a former student at Saint-Vincent Elementary School and a current student at Laval Junior Academy, gave an excellent performance on *Quel talent!* a Québec based talent search;
- Lina Hadid, a graduate of CDC Pont-Viau in Starting a Business, was recently featured on City News for the resilience she has shown as a Syrian-Canadian immigrant, a cancer survivor and an entrepreneur, who has launched her own natural skin care line. She will be a guest speaker at part 2 of the CDC Pont-Viau graduation on October 2, 2025;
- A heartfelt thank you goes out to all of the SWLSB support staff for *National School Support Staff Week* for all they contribute to education no matter the job they do.

Upcoming Events

- During the month of October, Lake of Two Mountains and Rosemère High Schools as well as Laval Junior Academy and Laval Senior Academy will each be holding an open house;
- Vocational Training Program offerings
 - Support for Assistive Services in Health and Social Services Institutions set to begin in September 2025;
 - Stationary Engine Mechanics began on September 1, 2025;
 - A Carpentry Bridge Program, which allows for the student to move from an AVS to a DVS via a flexible and rewarding pathway;
- Service aux entreprises (Qualification)
 - Training in Microsoft Copilot and Power Apps;
- September 30, 2025 – National Day of Truth and reconciliation
- October 2, 2025 – National Custodian/Caretaker Day;
- October 5, 2025 – World teacher Day;
- October 9, 2025 – Parents' Committee at 7:15 p.m.;
- October 13, 2025 – Thanksgiving;
- October 20-24, 2025 – National School/Centre Administrators Week.

In closing, the Director General wished everyone a happy and meaningful school year.

6.0 Business Arising

There were no items for business arising.

7.0 Decision Items

7.1 Human Resources

7.1.1 Appointment of In-School Administrator – Vice-Principal

Appointment of In-School
Administrator

WHEREAS the Vice-Principal position at Pierre Elliott Trudeau Elementary School is currently vacant;

Vice-Principal

WHEREAS this position was posted and a selection committee held interviews on September 18, 2025;

CC-250925-HR-0008

WHEREAS according to by-law no. BL2023-CA-01: *Delegation of Functions & Powers of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board*, the Council of Commissioners hires a person in a regular executive position;

Commissioner Heather Appleby MOVED THAT, on the recommendation of the selection committee, the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board appoint Mark Luigi Coletta to the position of Vice-Principal within the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board, effective October 6, 2025.

Seconded by Commissioner Melissa Wall

Carried unanimously

The Chairperson congratulated Mr. Coletta.

Mr. Coletta thanked the selection committee and the school board for this opportunity.

The Director General welcomed Mr. Coletta to the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board team.

7.2 Financial Resources

7.2.1 Commissioners' Remuneration 2025-2026

Commissioners'
Remuneration 2025-2026

WHEREAS the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board is composed of nine (9) elected Commissioners, one (1) elected Chairperson and three (3) Parent Commissioners;

CC-250925-FR-0009

WHEREAS the Québec Government *Decree no. 1216-2024*, establishes the maximum annual amounts of remuneration to be paid to Commissioners who are members of the Council of Commissioners;

WHEREAS the Audit Committee has reviewed the proposed distribution of the maximum annual amounts for Commissioners for 2025-2026;

Parent Commissioner Elena Ferrato MOVED THAT on the recommendation of the Audit Committee, the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board adopt the proposed remuneration for the 2025-2026 school year as presented in document no. CC-SWLSB-2025/09/25-FR-001.

Seconded by Parent Commissioner Chloée Alary

Carried unanimously

7.3 Material Resources and Transportation

7.3.1 Participation in a CAG Tender – Acquisition of Office Furniture

Participation in a CAG
Tender

WHEREAS the current Centre d'acquisitions gouvernementales (CAG) contract to acquire office furniture has expired;

Acquisition of Office
Furniture

WHEREAS the CAG will be conducting public call for tender no. 2025-8137-50 to acquire office furniture;

CC-250925-MR-0010

WHEREAS the CAG has opted to award the contract to all suppliers whose tender price does not exceed the lowest price by more than 10%;

WHEREAS the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board wishes to participate in this call for tender in order to benefit from the fifty-four (54) month contract to be awarded by the CAG;

WHEREAS the estimated cost of office furniture is \$414,000.00, before taxes, for the term of the contract;

Commissioner Melissa Wall MOVED THAT, on the recommendation of the Director of Material Resources and Transportation, the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board approve the participation of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board in public tender no. 2025-8137-50 to acquire office furniture;

AND THAT the Director of Material Resources and Transportation be authorized to sign all documentation concerning the participation of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board to this tender.

Seconded by Commissioner Barbara Barrasso

Carried unanimously

7.4 Legal Corporate and Communications

7.4.1 Amendments to the Procedure on *Advisory Committees*

Amendments to the
Procedure on *Advisory
Committees*

CC-250925-CA-0011

WHEREAS the Sir Wilfrid Laurier Council of Commissioners wishes to amend sections 4.1.3 and 7.1.3.3 of procedure no. 2013-CA-08: *Advisory Committees*;

Commissioner Noémia Onofre de Lima MOVED THAT the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board approve the amendments to procedure no. 2013-CA-08: *Advisory Committees*, as contained in document no. SWLSB-2025/09/25-CA-002.

Seconded by Commissioner Melissa Wall.

Carried unanimously

8.0 Information Items

8.1 Advisory Committee Reports

8.1.1 Audit Committee

The report for this committee can be found in the meeting package

8.1.2 Governance and Ethics Committee

There is no report.

8.1.3 Human Resources Committee

Commissioner Melissa Wall, Chairperson of the Human Resources Committee (HRC) advised that the HRC held its first meeting of the 2025-2026 school year on September 10, 2025. As the HRC is part of the new 'advisory committees' structure, the first meeting allowed for organization of the coming year. The HRC would like to begin the process of reviewing all policies and procedures related to Human Resources. The HRC would also like to discuss judicial record checks for commissioners.

She went on the express appreciation to the Director of Human Resources and her team for undertaking the new task of tracking teacher remunerated hours.

8.1.4 Advisory Committee on Student Success

There is no report.

8.2 SWL Foundation Report

The Chairperson informed the Council that the Sir Wilfrid Laurier Foundation accepted a donation from the community (proceeds from the Fête de Quartier Val des Brises) of approximately \$10,000.00. The Centre de services scolaire de Laval also received a matching donation.

8.3 Parent Commissioners' Reports

8.3.1 Parents' Committee

The first meeting of the Parents' Committee for the 2025-2026 school year is on October 9, 2025.

8.3.2 SEAC

The report can be found in the meeting package.

Parent Commissioner Elena Ferrato advised that the next meeting of SEAC is November 18, 2025, and that the committee is actively seeking new members. She reminded everyone that the SEAC meetings are open to the public and that they are online.

8.4 QESBA Report

The report can be found in the meeting package.

The Vice-Chairperson noted that the QESBA Annual general Meeting will be held online on October 25, 2025.

8.5 Central Students' Committee Report

There is no report for this item.

8.6 Executive Committee Meeting – August 27, 2025

The Chairperson drew attention to the decisions taken by the Executive Committee on behalf of the Council over the summer months as per the delegation of functions and powers.

8.7 Resignation of Elementary Parent Commissioner

The Chairperson advised that Tara Anderson, Elementary Parent Commissioner, has resigned and that her successor will be named at the first meeting of the Parents' Committee being held on October 9, 2025.

9.0 Question Period (20 minutes)

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 and there is no debate.

There were no other questions.

10.0 Correspondence

There was no correspondence.

11.0 Varia

The Director General expressed his appreciation to the Communications team for its support in keeping the families affected by the electric bus transportation situation informed.

12.0 Adjournment of Meeting

Adjournment of Meeting

Commissioner Barbara Barrasso MOVED THAT the meeting be adjourned.

CC-250925-CA-0012

Seconded by Commissioner Noémia Onofre de Lima.

Carried unanimously

TIME: 20:14

NEXT MEETING → REGULAR → October 29, 2025

M^e Anna Sollazzo, Secretary General

James Di Sano, Chairperson