

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, December 10, 2025, and via videoconference at 19:30, at which were:

Present: James Di Sano, Chairperson; Donna Anber, Vice-Chairperson; Commissioners Heather Appleby, Barbara Barrasso, Benny Catania, Noémia Onofre de Lima, Bob Pellerin, and Melissa Wall; Parent Commissioners Chloée Alary and Tanya Minchella; Student Representative to the Council Emma Lavictoire; Substitute Student Representative to the Council Oleksii Sivokon; Selena Mell, Interim Director General; and Anne-Marie Lavoie, Interim Assistant Director General/Director of Human Resources.

Present on Zoom: Commissioner Désirée Ramacieri and Parent Commissioner Elena Ferrato.

Also present: Anna Sollazzo, Secretary General and Director of the Legal, Corporate and Communications Department; Robin Bennett, Director of Information Resources; Lynda da Silveira, 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; Maxeen Jolin, Coordinator of Communications; and Susan O'Keeffe, Recording Secretary.

Guests: Francesco Vignone, Laval Junior Academy student and family; Fabienne Alary, Laurentian Regional High student and family.

Absent: Student Representative Maya Lavictoire; Substitute Student Representative Amritha Venkata Krishnan; Heather Halman, Interim Director of Adult Education and Vocational Training;

The Chairperson called the meeting to order, and verified quorum with the Secretary General and 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

The Vice-Chairperson read the 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'kehá: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 Recognition

Fabienne Alary

This evening, the Council is very proud to recognize an outstanding student athlete from Laurentian Regional High School, Fabienne Alary.

On November 29, Fabienne competed in the regional qualification event for the 60th edition of the *Jeux du Québec*, which will take place in Blainville from February 27 to March 7, 2026.

Fabienne represented the Laurentians in short track speed skating and won all three of her races, earning the gold medal in the 14-year-old category.

With this achievement, Fabienne has officially qualified to represent the Laurentians at the 2026 *Jeux du Québec*. The short track competitions will take place from February 28 to March 3, and she will also participate in the opening ceremony on February 27, walking into the arena with athletes from across the province.

The *Jeux du Québec* is the largest multisport event in Québec. More than three thousand athletes aged 12 to 17 will take part in a spirit of camaraderie, with nineteen sports represented. Being selected to compete at this level is an impressive honour.

Fabienne, we are so happy that you could join us this evening. This is a remarkable accomplishment that reflects talent, discipline, and dedication. Fabienne's mother, Parent Commissioner Chloé Alary sits at the Council of Commissioners table. Congratulations, Chloé, a part of Fabienne's success is certainly attributable to her parents' support and guidance.

Fabienne, your Sir Wilfrid Laurier family is very proud of you, and we wish you continued success in the 2026 games.

Francesco Vignone

This evening, Council is very proud to recognize Francesco Vignone, a student from Laval Junior Academy (LJA) and an alumnus of Saint-Vincent Elementary School, for his remarkable journey on the television show *Quel Talent!*

Francesco's very first performance on the show captured the attention of hundreds of thousands of viewers across Québec and made a strong impression on the judges. His talent and confidence on stage were so striking that judge Rachid Badouri stood up in applause, and the entire audience followed and Judge Serge Denoncourt, who is known for being a very critical judge, addressed him directly in Italian and told him he would sign a contract with him on the spot.

Francesco continued to impress throughout the competition with his exceptional voice, a voice that many have compared to Pavarotti. It is powerful, emotional, and gives goosebumps from the very first note. His stage presence, and his ability to connect with the audience is admirable. His journey brought pride to his family, to LJA, to Saint-Vincent ES, and to our entire school board community. He was a shining star through his candidness, charm, confidence, humility, and exceptional talent.

Francesco, we are extremely proud of you. Your dedication to perfecting your voice and your ability to deliver on such a large and often intimidating national platform are inspiring.

We look forward to seeing where your artistic path will lead next. From the 2025 Star Fest to *Quel Talent!* to who knows what is yet to come.

2.0 Approval of the Agenda

Approval of the Agenda Commissioner Noémia Onofre de Lima MOVED THAT the December 10, 2025, agenda of the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board be approved as presented in document no. CC-SWLSB-2025/12/10-CA-001.

Seconded by Commissioner Barbara Barrasso.

Carried unanimously

3.0 Approval of Minutes**3.1 November 26, 2025**

Approval of Minutes Commissioner Barbara Barrasso MOVED THAT the minutes of the regular meeting of the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board held on November 26, 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 Benny Catania.

Carried unanimously

3.2 Special Council – December 4, 2025

Approval of Minutes Commissioner Benny Catania MOVED THAT the minutes of the special meeting of the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board held on December 4, 2025, having been received by all members prior to this meeting, be approved as written and exempted from public reading by the Secretary General.

Special Council – December 4, 2025 Seconded by Commissioner Bob Pellerin.

Carried unanimously

4.0 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.

There were no questions submitted for the first question period.

5.0 Report from the Chairperson

The Chairperson began with a quote from Nelson Mandela. *“It is in the spirit of working together that we achieve what none of us could achieve alone.”* He noted that as the year comes to a close, sincere gratitude is extended to all who have contributed to the SWLSBs shared mission. From the commissioners to the management team, from Union and Association leaders to staff members, and to the families who support them at home. Thank you for your collaboration, dedication, and integrity.

Council of Commissioners Updates

Governance

A by-election for Electoral Division 9 will be held in March 2026. More details will be posted on the SWLSB social media and web page.

General Directorate

The Council of Commissioners continues to have unwavering confidence in:

- Interim Director General: Ms. Selena Mell
- Interim Assistant Director General: Ms. Anne-Marie Lavoie

Transparency

Visit the Council of Commissioners page on the SWLSB website to access the minutes, the agenda, and more information. The Council Highlights are shared on social media and web page.

The SWLSB registration period starts January 5, 2026.

Professional Development

QESBA/CEOQ Training Session: How Compliance Demonstrates Diligence

Meetings

December 1: QESBA - Executive Committee

December 3: SWLSB - Executive Committee (Absent)

December 4: SWLSB – Special Council

December 5: QESBA – Board of Directors Meeting (Mrs. Anber)

Proud Moments

At this evening's meeting, Council recognized:

- Fabienne Alary, from Laurentian Regional High
- Francesco Vignone, from Laval Junior Academy

Visit the SWLSB Facebook page, as well as your respective school Facebook pages, to see all the proud moments that define our school board.

School and Centre Events

November 29

- Christmas Bazar – Morin Heights ES (Mrs. Anber)
- Holiday Market – Jules Verne ES (Mrs. Minchella and Mr. Catania)

November 30

- Holiday Fair – Crestview ES (Mrs. Minchella)

December 6

- Open House – McCaig ES (Mr. Catania)
- Milk and Cookies with Santa – Pinewood ES (Mr. Pellerin and Mr. Catania)
- Holiday Market – Lake of Two Mountains HS (Mr. Catania)
- Holiday Market – Saint-Vincent ES (Mr. Catania)

December 7

- Craft Fair – Laurentian ES – (Mrs. Mell)

Community Event

December 3

Christmas Cocktail, Hosted by the Casa D'Italia, for leaders of Montréal's Italian-Canadian Community

Upcoming School and Centre Visits

- Mountainview High School
- Laval Elementary and High Schools
- Adult Education and Vocational Training Centres
- Construc-Plus

Press Release

QESBA, The Illusion of a Crisis: Laicity as a Political Structure

The QESBA has publicly opposed the government's decision to table yet another bill on laicity, Bill 9: *An Act respecting the reinforcement of laicity in Québec*, only weeks after adopting Bill 94.

Highlights

On December 4, appreciation was extended to the members of AQCS for their ongoing support of teachers, staff, students, and families. Their professionalism, care, and often behind-the-scenes efforts exemplify the organization's core values of service, collaboration, and integrity.

On December 6, the lives lost in the tragic 1989 École Polytechnique shooting were solemnly honoured, reaffirming a collective commitment to creating safe, inclusive, and respectful learning environments where every individual is valued and protected.

December 10 is International Human Rights Day.

5.1 Community Highlights from Commissioners

Commissioner Donna Anber

- The Christmas markets were a tremendous success. In Morin Heights, \$5,000 was raised. The funds will help cover transportation for their winter programs.
- Northern schools also continued their longstanding tradition of giving. Despite being small and not always situated in socio-economically advantaged areas, these schools consistently contribute generously to local food drives. In some cases, schools with as few as 70 students collected remarkable amounts. A heartfelt acknowledgement goes out to these small schools with big hearts.

Commissioner Barbara Barrasso

- Agapè is working hard to feed 1,000 families this season, but the shelves remain far from full. For anyone able to help, LJA is still running its food drive and welcomes contributions from the community.
- This Saturday, the Terry Fox ES event will bring families together at their Holiday Market, with opportunities to take photos with Santa and Mrs. Claus.
- Athletics brought schools together in meaningful ways. The mini hockey tournament brought Heritage ES and Joliette ES to join forces to form a team, allowing students to participate. It was especially uplifting to see a northern school take part, with students showing tremendous excitement.

Parent Commissioner Chloée Alary

- At LRHS, the students in the Kitchen Brigade/la Tablée des chefs demonstrated impressive skills and compassion as they prepared 75 litres of soup for donation to a local organization, le Carrefour des femmes du grand Lachute.

Commissioner Bob Pellerin

- Special thanks were extended to the Chairperson for visiting so many Holiday fairs this season. There is growing curiosity about which fair featured the best cookies.

6.0 Report from the Interim Director General

The Interim Director General noted that since the last council meeting:

- 30 school/centre visits to date
- Meeting with school board counterparts (1) (English School Boards)
- Forum MEQ-DG (1)
- Laurentian Elementary School Holiday Craft Sale
- QESBA (Quebec English School Boards Association) Training
- MEQ meetings (2)

Proud Moments

- Various interesting events are happening in schools.

Upcoming Events

- The registration period begins January 5, 2026.
- Open House
 - Saint-Jude Elementary, January 8, 2026, from 6 to 8 p.m.
 - Souvenir Elementary, January 15, 2026, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.
- Christmas Break | December 22 to January 4
- January 5 | Board-wide pedagogical day
- January 8 | Parents' Committee at 7:15 p.m.
- March 20 | SWLSB-Rocket Laval Game Day at 7 p.m. \$5 from each ticket sale goes back to the Sir Wilfrid Laurier Foundation.

7.0 Business Arising

There were no items for business arising.

8.0 Decision Items

8.1 Financial Resources

8.1.1 2024-2025 Financial Statement and Auditor's Report

The Director of Financial Resources reported that the 2024–2025 Financial Statement and the Auditor's Report were presented to the Audit Committee on November 12, 2025.

The external auditor presented three reports: the *Effectif scolaire* verification, the agreed-upon procedures on financial information, and the audit of the financial statements.

For the AEVT clientele, no discrepancies were identified.

For the youth sector, approximately 300 tests were performed, with only one discrepancy noted. This result was reported as excellent, and the discrepancy was successfully reconciled.

The audit report included a qualified opinion relating to Asset Retirement Obligations (ARO). This qualification is standard across all school boards and French service centres, as the auditor is unable to validate this specific information.

The financial results show a deficit of \$8 million. A portion of this deficit was offset by the accumulated surplus at the beginning of the year, resulting in a net deficit of \$6 million after these adjustments. Commissioner Bob Pellerin thanked the Director of Financial Resources for walking the Audit Committee through this process.

2024-2025 Financial Statement and Auditor's Report

CC-251210-FR-0041

WHEREAS section 286 of the *Education Act* requires a school board to submit annual financial statements;

WHEREAS the firm Amyot Gélinas s.e.n.c.r.l. has completed the audit of the records and statements of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board for the period ending June 30, 2025;

WHEREAS, in accordance with section 286 of the *Education Act*, a public notice was published;

WHEREAS the school board has a preliminary surplus of \$1,979,721;

WHEREAS the 2024-2025 Financial Statements, prepared according to the Canadian Public Sector Accounting Standards, show the following:

Beginning Accumulated Surplus:	\$1,979,721
Current Year:	
Revenues:	\$255,844,139
Expenses:	<u>\$264,522,386</u>
Total Current Year Deficit:	(\$8,678,247)
Ending Accumulated Deficit:	(\$6,698,526)

Commissioner Bob Pellerin MOVED THAT, on the recommendation of the Audit Committee, the 2024-2025 audited Financial Statements of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board for the period ending June 30, 2025, be received by the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board as submitted.

Seconded by Commissioner Benny Catania.

Carried unanimously

8.2 Material Resources and Transportation

8.2.1 Engagement of Contractor – Renovation Project for Suspended Ceiling and Ventilation System Modifications at Phoenix Alternative High School

Engagement of Contractor – Renovation Project for Suspended Ceiling and Ventilation System Modifications at Phoenix Alternative High School

CC-251210-MR-0042

WHEREAS the suspended ceiling must be renovated and the ventilation system must be modified at Phoenix Alternative High School;

WHEREAS public call for tenders no. 25-186-01 was published and the bids were opened on November 26, 2025;

WHEREAS the conformity of all bidders has been verified;

Parent Commissioner Chloée Alary MOVED THAT, on the recommendation of the Director of Material Resources and Transportation, the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board award the renovation project contract for suspended ceiling and ventilation system modifications at Phoenix Alternative School to Les Constructions Justriel Inc., for a total cost of \$912,527.00 before taxes, or \$975,370.45 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.

Seconded by Commissioner Donna Anber.

Carried unanimously

8.2.2 Engagement of Contractor – Interior Renovation Project at Sainte-Agathe Academy

Engagement of Contractor – Interior Renovation Project at Sainte-Agathe Academy

CC-251210-MR-0043

WHEREAS the interior ground and first floor must be renovated at Sainte-Agathe Academy;

WHEREAS public call for tenders no. 25-189-01 was published and the bids were opened on November 20, 2025;

WHEREAS the conformity of all bidders has been verified;

Commissioner Donna Anber MOVED THAT, on the recommendation of the Director of Material Resources and Transportation, the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board award the contract for the interior renovation of the ground floor and first floor at Sainte-Agathe Academy to EMJ Construction Inc., for a total cost of \$687,137.00 before taxes, or \$734,458.41 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.

Seconded by Commissioner Melissa Wall.

Carried unanimously

8.2.3 Mutual Agreement Contract – Addition of Portable Classrooms at Mountainview ES

**Mutual Agreement
Contract – Addition of
Portable Classrooms at
Mountainview ES**

CC-251210-MR-0044

WHEREAS the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board adopted resolution CC-230116-MR-0070 for the installation and rental of four portable classrooms at Mountainview Elementary School;

WHEREAS two additional portable classrooms and washrooms are needed to meet increasing enrolment;

WHEREAS the current portable classrooms are the property of SMS Dion Inc. and are rented by the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board;

WHEREAS in order to minimize the impact on the school yard, the additional portables must be connected to the existing portable classrooms;

WHEREAS SMS Dion Inc. will not allow another contractor to modify their property;

WHEREAS the required modifications to the existing portable classrooms must be performed by SMS Dion Inc. to maintain the current warranty;

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 award, by mutual agreement, the contract to install two additional modular classrooms at Mountainview Elementary School to SMS DION Inc., for a 5-year term for a total cost of \$945,000.00 before taxes, or \$1,010,079.79 net taxes;

AND THAT the Director of Material Resources and Transportation be authorized to sign all documentation pertaining to this project.

Seconded by Commissioner Benny Catania.

Carried unanimously

9.0 Information Items

9.1 Advisory Committees' Reports

9.1.1 Audit Committee

There was no report for this item.

9.1.2 Governance and Ethics Committee

There was no report for this item.

9.1.3 Human Resources Committee

There was no report for this item.

9.1.4 Student Success

Commissioner Benny Catania extended appreciation to Daniel Johnson for his continued dedication and involvement in ensuring that operations run smoothly on the Central Students Committee (CSC). He noted that his reliability and steady leadership make a tremendous difference for students. Sincere thanks were also offered to Commissioner Elena Ferrato, Vice Chair of the CSC, for consistently being present and supportive, even on short notice. This level of commitment is recognized and truly appreciated.

Additionally, at the next CSC meeting, two students will be nominated to represent the SWLSB on the QESBA Student Advisory Committee.

Commissioner Donna Anber went on to report that the QESBA intends to introduce a project allowing two students to sit on the QESBA and provide their input. This initiative is a meaningful step toward elevating student voice and recognizing young people as essential partners in shaping the future of public education.

9.2 SWL Foundation Report

There was no report for this item.

9.3 Parent Commissioners' Reports

There was no report for this item.

9.3.1 Parents' Committee

There was no report for this item.

9.3.2 SEAC

There was no report for this item.

9.4 QESBA Report

The report can be found in the meeting package.

9.5 Central Students' Committee Report

There was no report for this item.

9.6 By-Election for Electoral Division 9 – March 22, 2026

The information can be found in the meeting package

10.0 Question Period (20 minutes)

The Secretary General and Director of the Legal, Corporate and Communications Department informed the Chairperson that there were no questions from the online audience.

11.0 Correspondence

There was no correspondence.

12.0 Varia

There were no items for varia.

13.0 Adjournment of Meeting

Adjournment of Meeting Commissioner Melissa Wall MOVED THAT the meeting be adjourned.

CC-251210-CA-0045 Seconded by Commissioner Donna Anber

Carried unanimously

TIME: 20 h 09

NEXT MEETING → REGULAR → January 28, 2026