

Minutes of the FOURTH (4th) meeting of the 2013-2014 Sir Wilfrid Laurier Parents Committee held on Thursday February 6, 2014 at 7:15 p.m. in the Boardroom of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board, 235 Montée Lesage, Rosemère, Québec.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Renée Beausejour	Arundel Elementary (via teleconf)		
Sarah Taylor	Crestview Elementary	Helen Xiarchos	Laval Liberty High
Christina Liburdi	Franklin Hill Elementary	Patrick Leprehon	McCaig Elementary
Lina Aristeo	Genesis Elementary	Lisa Chartier	Our Lady of Peace Elementary
Jennifer Maccarone	John F Kennedy Elementary	Frank D'Onofrio	Pinewood Elementary
Dean Dugas	Joliette Elementary	Carla Tosti	Rosemere High
Debbie Dann	Joliette High	Rino Vetrone	Souvenir Elementary
Christopher Tracton	Lake of Two Mountains High	Shaun McMahon	St Jude Elementary
Mylène Melançon	Laurentian Elementary	Roberto Bomba	St Paul Elementary
Andy Simon	Laurentian Regional High	Sandra Morselli	Sainte-Agathe Academy (via teleconf)
Angela Martorano	Laurier Sr. High	Sergio Di Marco	Terry Fox Elementary
Kevin Yanicki	Laval Jr High	Pamela Crompton	SEAC

ALSO PRESENT: Johanne Brabant, Secretary General; Tina Korb, Director of Educational Services; Richard Greschner, Director of Human Resources; Nick Milas, Chairman of the Council of Commissioners; Elio Lattanzio, Commissioner; parent guests

ABSENT: Grenville Elementary, Hillcrest Academy, Jules Verne Elementary, Laurentia Elementary, Morin Heights Elementary, Mother Teresa Jr High, Mountainview Elementary, Pierre E. Trudeau Elementary, Rawdon Elementary, St Vincent Elementary, Ste-Adele Elementary, Twin Oaks Elementary

The Chairperson called the meeting to order at 7:19 pm

1. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

PC20140206-01 St Paul Elementary MOVED THAT the agenda is accepted as with additions. Seconded by Souvenir Elementary.

Carried **UNANIMOUSLY**

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF December 5th, 2013

PC20140206-02 Joliette Elementary MOVED THAT the minutes of December 5th, 2013 are accepted as presented. Seconded by Joliette High.

This motion was **CARRIED** on the following division:

For: Crestview Elem, Franklin Hill Elem, John F Kennedy Elem, Joliette Elem, Lake of Two Mountains High, Laurentian Elem, Laurentian Regional High, Laurier Sr. High, Laval Jr. High, Laval Liberty High, McCaig elem, Souvenir Elem, St Paul Elem, Ste-Agathe Adac, Terry Fox Elem.
Abstain: Arundel Elem, Genesis Elem, Joliette High, Our Lady of Peace Elem, Pinewood Elem, Rosemere High, St Jude Elem, SEAC

3. CHAIR'S REPORT

On March 19th, 2014 there will be a Governing Board Training on Finance and Consultations. Please reply to the invitation so that they know how many people will be in attendance.

4. QUESTION PERIOD

No questions

5. BUSINESS ARISING

5.1 E-vote: Rejection of Deeds of Establishment & 3-year Plan

PC20140206-03 In an e-vote sent to members 98% of those who responded rejected the Deeds of Establishment & 3-Year Plan as it was presented.

5.2 E-Vote: Letter to Commissioners

PC20140206-04 PC mandated the Chairperson to write a letter to the Council of Commissioners with regard to their dismissal of PC's response to the Deeds of Establishment & 3-Year Plan. A letter was sent on January 20th, 2014.

5.3 Next steps: Deeds of Establishment & 3-Year Plan

A resolution was made from the Laurier Sr. Governing Board to mandate the Secondary Parent Commissioner to organize a meeting with all four Governing Boards of the Laval High schools and the Governing Board Chairs and Vice-Chairs of the elementary schools in Laval.

The Chairperson will send an invitation to all those parties involved provided she receives all the invitation details from the Parent Commissioner. The consensus at this table is that the Laval stakeholders are interested. The Secondary Parent Commissioner will speak to the four high schools and get back to the Chairperson and she will forward the information to all those involved.

PC20140206-05 Our Lady of Peace Elementary MOVED THAT the Parents Committee will seek legal advice on the moving forward of Phase 1. Seconded by McCaig Elementary.

This motion was carried on the following division:
 For: Arundel Elem, Crestview Elem, Franklin Hill Elem, John F Kennedy Elem, Joliette High, Lake of Two Mountains High, Laurentian Elem, Laurentian Regional High, Laurier Sr. High, Laval Jr. High, Laval Liberty High, McCaig Elem, Our Lady of Peace Elem, Pinewood Elem, Souvenir Elem, St Jude Elem, St Paul Elem, Ste-Agathe Adac, Terry Fox Elem, SEAC
 Abstain: Genesis Elem, Joliette Elem, Rosemere High,

5.4 PC Project – Website update

The website design is underway with a standard template chosen. It will be sent to members for their viewing. Please forward the Chairperson content that you would like to see on this site. Parents will also have an opportunity to blog on the website.

PC20140206-06 Our Lady of Peace Elementary MOVED THAT the Parents Committee will spend \$200 to hire a designer to prepare a Parents Committee logo for the website. Seconded by SEAC.

Carried UNANIMOUSLY

5.5 Nutrition Policy

Mrs. Johanne Brabant, Secretary General was present to answer questions submitted,

Who is responsible for the hiring of the caterers in the high schools? The Material Resources Department in cooperation with the High School Administration.

Do the Governing Boards have a say in the food that is on the menu? They may make suggestions to either add or remove items on the menu in conjunction with the School Administration. These suggestions may be taken under consideration with the dietician and the Material Resources department.

Is anyone at the school board advised of price increases by the providers? If the caterer wishes to increase prices, they must advise the Material Resources department. Without prior notification the caterer cannot increase prices. A letter from the interim MR Director was sent to the caterer asking them not to increase prices during the school year. If they do increase prices, the School Administration should report this to the Material Resources Department. It was made clear in the letter that the poutine and fruit slushies were to be removed from the menu. Dairy board increases are made randomly and are automatic and will be passed on to the providers.

Can we have the note at the end of Annex 1 of the Nutrition Policy removed as it simply serves to negate the entire document? Without the note, school fundraisers such as chocolate bars and bake sales could not happen. Mrs. Brabant will confirm this with the Material Resources Department.

There are some issues with the Crestview Elementary cafeteria caterer. Mrs. Brabant asked that the school send the complaint to Material Resources. The chairperson asked that Crestview send it to her and she will pass on the information.

More questions were asked that Mrs. Brabant will get the answers for next month's meeting:

How are caterers hired? Through tendering process?

Who advises the Administration from Material Resources of the price increases?

6. NEW BUSINESS

6.1 2014-2015 School Calendar – Richard Greschner

Mr. Richard Greschner distributed the various different calendars to members to review. There are three different calendars for our School Board as some areas of our territory share bussing with other school boards.

Mr. Greschner explained the calendar to members highlighting:

- In the Teachers collective agreement, they must work 200 days – 180 teaching days, 20 ped days
- First day for students – September 2, 2014
- Last day for students – June 23, 2015

Jennifer will send an e-mail copy of the calendars to all members.

Please bring these calendars to your Governing Boards for consultation and come back next month for a resolution.

6.2 SEAC – Approval of new Alternate Member

PC20140206-07 Crestview Elementary MOVED THAT Natalina Pace as an alternate delegate on the SEAC. Seconded by Our Lady of Peace Elementary.

Carried UNANIMOUSLY

6.3 Financial Literacy in our Schools

Information was included in the Chairpersons report. EPCA would like to know if any of our schools are interested in adding this to our schools and they will send a letter to MELS.

There is currently a financial program being developed and is in consultation with the MELS to implement a program at the high school level. Mrs. Korb cannot comment on it now, as she has not seen the program yet.

Many of the chairs at other school board committees enquired if we are interested in implementing financial literacy program at our elementary schools. Members feel this is a great initiative and the sooner we educate our kids on this, the better for them. Important to learn at a young age to plan for the future and spend wisely. Children these days have a skewed perspective of finances. There are concerns on where to add this concept in our already loaded curriculum. In the high school level there are electives so it could be offered as one, however the elementary schools do not have this option. Some of the schools already have a program with the Caisse Desjardins.

PC20140206-08 St. Paul Elementary MOVED THAT the SWLSB Parents' Committee approves the Chairperson to write a letter to the MELS asking for Financial Literacy Education to be added to the curriculum in primary and secondary schools. Seconded by Our Lady of Peace Elementary.

Carried UNANIMOUSLY

6.4 Outstanding Effort Awards

In the past this was given to a graduating student in each school for Outstanding Effort. The school makes the recommendation and the student receives a certificate and a \$50 gift certificate from Chapters, a framed certificate of achievement and their name engraved on a wall plaque.

This will be tabled to the next meeting when the treasurer can provide the members with a financial statement to look at.

7. REPORTS

7.1 School Board's Report

Johanne Brabant and Tina Korb presented the School Board report through a PowerPoint presentation.

- Enhanced communication with parents through E-pushes
- Direct mailing to daycares.
- Laval High Schools button with information on the website
- Parenting in the 21st century workshop

- Mountainview Elementary Times Newspaper put together by students.
- Défi Pierre Lavoie team at Crestview encouraging students to eat well and get fit.
- Mobylys Foundation supporting schools in bringing the community into the school to help with student success. A video was produced with the school staff at SAA presents the school, their needs and invites the community to get involved. There will be a launch of this video shortly. Mobylys works with the PREL, the cost to the school is minimal and if the cannot pay and are interested and have a need both parties will find a way to subsidize it.
- Virtual museums with Crestview Staff visiting Australia's Great Barrie Reef.
- Teacher Appreciation Week
- Budget consultations coming up. On our agenda for next month with a presentation from the Director of Finance.
- Spring Break coming up
- Registration ends the end of February

Members would like copies of these PowerPoint presentations to show their Governing Boards.

This committee thanks Mrs. Brabant and Mrs. Korb.

7.2 Treasurer's Report

A revised budget will be sent to the Chairperson to distribute to members by next month. This will be discussed at the next meeting. Please give expense reports to the treasurer.

7.3 Parents Commissioners' Report

As in the members package.

Highlight on Bill 63 – this is the Bill that addresses the school boards in Quebec who passed the MELS cuts to boards on to the tax payers. This money has to be recuperated over the next two years. An audit committee has been struck to look at the feasibility of these refunds. Our Board is not in a position to reimburse these with the further cuts coming from the MELS.

The Director of Financial Resources will be present at next month's meeting to explain this to the parents.

7.4 RCP-3L Report (Regroupement des comités des parents de Laval, Laurentides et Lanaudière).

As in the members packages.

The Parents Committee would like François Paquet to come and present the forthcoming changes to the Council of Commissioners. There is a need to understand the Parents Commissioner portion for elections as it pertains to this committee in order for it to be effective to us. Please send the questions to the Chairperson in advance. She will forward them to Mr. Paquet so that he is prepared when he presents.

7.5 EPCA Report (English Parents Committee Association)

As in members packages.

A questionnaire on what conferences parents would like to see will be sent to parents.

The chairperson sends the links from EPCA as she receives them.

7.6 SEAC Report (Special Education Advisory Committee)

As in members packages.

- Jennifer Maccarone – SEAC Chair
- Pamela Cripton – SEAC Delegate to PC
- Hoping to have a more profound committee this year. In the process of planning the spring conference. Members are eager to discuss policies and procedures that have not been updated in many years. These will be in consultation next year.
- PC will collaborate more closely with SEAC as they are to some extent as extension of this committee.
- The principal is responsible to advise parents with special needs children when the SEAC meetings are.
- Ask the board to send an E-push to parents to announce the meetings.
- Jennifer will include the dates of the meetings in an e-mail to members.
- Ongoing difficulty to get quorum, have made a resolution to make 4 parents quorum.
- SEAC has not been updated on the School Boards website in over two years. The chairperson advised that they will have their own tab on the new PC website. The dates of the meetings are important to know for parents. The Chairperson will send these dates out.

8. VARIA

8.1 Daycare

Daycare costs come up many times. Ped day costs are expensive to parents with more than one child. On ped days can't schools just open the daycares and not have activities. Our Lady of Peace was told by her principal that the 7\$ a day is for 5 hours only, however upon verification the cost is for 10 hours and not 5.

Prepared answers to the Q & A submitted were distributed to members.

It is important to note that daycares are not obliged to be open on ped days. They can be open on ped days providing they are self-financing. If there are not enough children registered for the day and it is not self-financing the school has the option close their daycares on ped days. Schools can have activities on ped days in addition to having in house daycare as long as the numbers sustain the self-financing.

Schools are not obliged to have activities on ped days. The 7\$ may cover the 10 hours unless they are having activities that cost extra. If it surpasses the 10 hours, the governing board will determine the extra costs. Governing Board is responsible to approve the Daycare outing. There is usually a Day Care rep on the GB that brings this information to the members.

On snow days, are parents entitled to be reimbursed for these days because the daycare is closed. Mrs. Brabant will get the answer to this question.

A suggestion from Genesis Elementary was to survey the Daycare parents on the needs of their own particular daycare.

The documentation on Daycares will be e-mailed to members.

8.2 Policy on Asthma inhalers

In reference to a student in Ontario who died because he was not allowed to carry his asthma pump, does our school board have a policy on this. Generally in the elementary schools, the medications are kept in the general office and teachers are informed about any medication pertaining to their students. At the high school level, these are kept on the students but the information on them is kept in the office. There is no policy that exists in our board.

8.3 Recreation Technician

The position exists in the classification plan. Currently we have three, one at Arundel Nature and Science Centre and one each with 5 hours each at Rosemere High School and Laval Liberty High School. If schools want to have these positions it becomes part of the staffing plan that the principal puts together for his school.

9. QUESTION Period

Paul Leal, a parent says that in the Education Act the daycare can form a committee to govern the daycare. In lack of a committee the Daycare Technician in conjunction with the Administration is in charge of the fees. Some daycares have different fees for regular and part time users. Mrs. Korb responded that the Daycare Technicians do not supervise anyone and it is the principal's responsibility to govern them. A daycare committee does not supersede a governing board.

A parent in the audience, Vicky Kaliozakis, who was present at open house at Laval Junior asked if the programs that are in place at both Laval Junior High schools currently still be in place next year. At council it was answered that there is no guarantee on the programs. Schools try to offer as many electives and choices to students but it can only be offered if there are students to sustain these programs.

Recruiting for sports teams between high schools is being looked into and most of the commissioners want it to work. The RSEQ has to give permission for two different schools to play as one team. The parents have it in writing from the RSEQ that this will be accepted. Parents would like schools to be able to recruit students from the schools. (ie: Laval Liberty recruits students from Laurier Sr. to play on their sports teams) Nick Milas will get clarification on these questions.

If a student in one school does not get the program of his choice in his chosen high school in Laval next year, can they transfer to the other program. Students will be permitted to transfer as long as there is room in the school.

The communities need to have meetings where parents can ask their questions and have their concerns addressed, ensuring a uniformity of disseminated information, thereby removing all rumours. Mrs. Brabant will get the answers to the questions.

Mr. Milas stated that all the decisions made at the Council of Commissioners are made in the best interest of the students.

Crestview elementary would like to know if you are opposed to the subject time allocation, what recourse do you have if you are not satisfied. The Governing Board makes the decision on subject time allocation. Parents would have to lobby the Governing Board to change the allocation at their schools.

10. CLOSURE OF MEETING

PC20140206-10 St. Paul Elementary MOVED THAT the meeting is closed at 9:50 pm. Seconded by Genesis Elementary.

Carried **UNANIMOUSLY**

Respectfully submitted by:
Susan O'Keeffe, Recording Secretary

Minutes approved _____, 2014

Chairperson _____ Secretary _____