

Minutes of the SIXTH (6th) meeting of the 2013-2014 Sir Wilfrid Laurier Parents Committee held on Thursday March 13, 2014 at 7:15 p.m. in the Boardroom of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board, 235 Montée Lesage, Rosemère, Québec.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Chabel Mourad	Hillcrest Academy	Lisa Chartier	Our Lady of Peace Elementary
Jennifer Maccarone	John F Kennedy Elementary	David Mollot	Pierre E. Trudeau Elementary
Dean Dugas	Joliette Elementary	Frank D'Onofrio	Pinewood Elementary
Bobby Pellerin	Joliette High	Johanne Bernier	Rosemere High
Christopher Tracton	Lake of Two Mountains High	Alisa Pehi	Souvenir Elementary
Andy Simon	Laurentian Regional High	Roberto Bomba	St Paul Elementary
Angela Martorano	Laurier Sr. High	Sandra Morselli	Ste-Agathe Academy (via teleconf.)
Helen Xiarchos	Laval Liberty High	Sergio Di Marco	Terry Fox Elementary
Patrick Leprehon	McCaig Elementary	Deni Guerrera	Twin Oaks Elementary
Dorinda Raymond	Mother Teresa Jr High	Pamela Cripton	SEAC
Lyne Charbonneau	Mountainview Elementary		

ALSO PRESENT: Stephanie Vucko, Director General; France D'Aaoust, Director of Financial Resources; Richard Greschner, Director of Human Resources; Nick Milas, Chairman of the Council of Commissioners; Elio Lattanzio, Commissioner; parent guests

ABSENT: Arundel Elementary, Crestview Elementary, Genesis Elementary, Grenville Elementary, Jules Verne Elementary, Laurentia Elementary, Laurentian Elementary, Laval Jr High, Morin Heights Elementary, Rawdon Elementary, St Jude Elementary, St Vincent Elementary, Ste-Adele Elementary,

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

1. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

PC20140313-01 Terry Fox Elementary MOVED THAT the agenda is accepted as with additions. Seconded by McCaig.

Carried **UNANIMOUSLY**

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF February 6th, 2014 and February 27th, 2014

PC20140313-02 Joliette Elementary MOVED THAT the minutes of February 6th, 2014 are accepted as presented. Seconded by John F Kennedy.

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

For: John F. Kennedy Elem, Joliette Elem, Lake of Two Mountains High, Laurentian Regional High, Laurier Sr. High, Laval Liberty High, McCaig Elem, Mountainview Elem, Our Lady of Peace Elem, Pinewood Elem, St Paul Elem, Ste-Agathe Acad, Terry Fox Elem, SEAC

Abstain: Hillcrest Acad Joliette High, Mother Teresa Jr. High, Pierre E. Trudeau Elem, Rosemere High, Souvenir Elem, Twin Oaks Elem.

PC20140313-03 MTJH MOVED THAT the minutes of February 27th, 2014 are accepted as presented. Seconded by LLHS

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

For: John F. Kennedy Elem, Lake of Two Mountains High, Laurentian Regional High, Laurier Sr. High, Mountainview Elem, Our Lady of Peace Elem, St Paul Elem, Souvenir Elem, Ste-Agathe Acad, Terry Fox Elem, SEAC

Abstain: Hillcrest Acad, Joliette Elem, Joliette High, Laval Liberty High, McCaig Elem, Mother Teresa Jr. High, Pierre E. Trudeau, Pinewood Elem, Rosemere High

3. CHAIR'S REPORT

As in packages

4. QUESTION PERIOD

5. BUSINESS ARISING

5.1 Phase 1 – Next Steps

As a next step in the process pertaining to Phase 1, the SWLSB Parent's Committee has retained the services of a legal firm to represent our interests, ensuring the well-being of our children, as expressed by the parents, is taken into consideration as Council and the School Board move forward with the implementation of Phase 1. A letter was sent to the Chairman and the Director General.

Laurier Senior High reported that the meeting that was to take place with the four Laval High Schools did not take place in view of the fact that there were other things moving forward.

An e-mail received from Laval Junior High School, the Chairperson was asked to confirm that "a joint financial request was received by the two Jr. High School Principals to begin to align the building equitably with Smart Boards and wiring. They are pooling their monies to ensure this is done equally across the building. During the LJHS GB meeting they were told by the principal that the Smart Boards and wiring are being done 100% off the school's books. The monies that are being pooled by MTJH and LJHS are specifically for a Wi-Fi project. It was repeated several times that all transition work regarding Smart Boards and hard wired work was being done and paid by the school Board.

5.2 Consultation: Use of Laval High Schools / Phase 2

In Stephanie's report

5.3 2014 / 2015 School Calendar

May 9th and 13th ped days – most schools are opposed to having two PED days in the same week. It is difficult for all calendars to align as we share bussing in our outlying areas. We try to accommodate everyone.

An e-mail was received from Ste- Agathe Academy Governing Board to clarify that the Board Wide PED Day is scheduled for Friday, February 13th and not Monday, February 9th. At Ste. Agathe Academy, they strongly recommend that the Laval calendar stays the way it was presented because the Northern schools will be part of the professional development day. Ste. Agathe Academy would not have to be spending their own funds to release teachers and it would be equal opportunity for all.

As an example, November 22nd was a ped day for everyone except for Ste. Agathe Academy and Arundel Elementary; February 10th was a ped day for everyone except the northern schools. High School Jamboree Tournaments were held on those days which our students took part of. The students at Ste. Agathe Academy missed two days of school to attend and the school had to fund the release of the teachers. We have another Elementary Basketball Tournament that our students are taking part of on Monday, March 17th at Rosemère High which once again the Laval schools have a ped day but not the northern schools.

There is also the issue of the Annual Teachers Convention held in November every year which the Laval schools have a ped day however Ste. Agathe Academy and Arundel Elementary do not. For Ste. Agathe Academy, this has a negative impact of the functioning of the school as teachers wish to attend the convention resulting with the need of many substitute teachers, not the ideal situation for the students and once again the school has to fund the release of the teachers. Teachers have the right to attend the Annual Teachers' Convention as per their collective agreement and a ped day should be scheduled for this event also.

PC20140313-04 Our Lady of Peace Elementary MOVED THAT the Parents Committee approves the calendar as presented. Seconded by McCaig Elementary.

This motion was carried on the following division:

This motion was CARRIED on the following division:

For: Hillcrest Acad, Joliette Elem, Joliette High, John F. Kennedy Elem, Lake of Two Mountains High, Laurentian Regional High, Laurier Sr. High, Laval Liberty High, McCaig Elem, Mother Teresa Jr. High, Mountainview Elem, Our Lady of Peace Elem, Pinewood Elem, Rosemère High, St Paul Elem, Souvenir Elem, Ste-Agathe Acad, Terry Fox Elem, SEAC
Against: Pierre E. Trudeau Elem, Sainte-Agathe Acad

5.4 Outstanding Effort Awards

PC20140313-05 Joliette Elementary MOVED THAT the parents committee will give the Outstanding Effort Award as a \$40 gift certificate to Chapters and a certificate to graduating students of elementary and secondary schools. Seconded by Joliette High.

Carried UANIMOUSLY

The chairperson will send an e-mail to the principals. It is nice if a parent committee rep gives out the award

6. NEW BUSINESS

6.1 Budget Building Process

The committee welcomes Mrs. France D'Aoust the Director of Financial Resources who is present tonight to give a PowerPoint presentation on the impact of Bill 25 and Bill 63. The Government cuts that were made to the equalization grants last year were passed on to tax payers as SWLSB is not in a position to recover that money through surplus as was suggested by the MELS. If the School Board is obliged to refund the tax money this could have an impact on services to students. To date, any cutbacks have not impacted students.

Bill 63 limits the maximum amount that a school board can tax a taxpayer. So because of the cuts made, it means we will have a shortfall of money. By 2016 there will be no equalization grants.

We do not represent anywhere near the 32% as we educate only 19% of students. Stephanie has written to MELS. If this Bill goes through the reimbursements will not be large as taxpayers might expect as there will be a new roll next year. The perception is that taxpayers will get back half the money because that is what is being said in the media. This Bill may not pass and will not look into it until after the elections. A plan is in place and SWLSB will cut as much as possible in other places so that there is little impact on services to students.

Ms. D'Aoust presented the document on the budget building process. In it is the explanation on investment section, budget priorities and measures that are decentralized and how they are decentralized. It is the same document, only it is more detailed and more transparent. The PC and GB voice is important on this document so feedback is key. Last year's priorities were technology and complementary services.

The Chairman asked that members please review this document and go back to your governing boards for feedback so that everyone is ready to discuss this at the next meeting. Please send the chairperson the suggestions in advance of next meeting. The PC would like to come forward with a uniform voice.

Ms. Vucko encourages members to encourage their GB's to align with strategic plan and school MESA's.

6.2 SEAC – Approval of new Alternate Member

PC20140313-06 Terry Fox Elementary MOVED THAT Patricia Sasso, from Terry Fox Elementary is approved as an alternate delegate to the SEAC. Seconded by Our Lady of Peace Elementary.

7. REPORTS

7.1 School Board's Report

Stephanie Vucko gave a PowerPoint presentation.

- Jerome Dionne new Director of Material Resources. Very happy to have him on board.
- Current enrollment for 2014-2015 13,371. Will be applying the enrollment Criteria in some of our schools.
- Two new portables in Twin Oaks. Anticipate getting approval for enlargement at Our Lady of Peace Elementary.
- Public consultation March 27th published documents, Date of meetings are April 10 sector 1, April 15 sector 2, April 24 sector 3. Documents will be brought to PC in advance of this. Encourage parents to attend these meetings. Looking for all comments, positive and negative.
- GB training March 19 at LLHS - Budget consultation and on April 22 at the Admin centre -, chairing a GB.
- Convened to Ministry as the French school board would like our school. We have said no in person and in writing and she will go to the MELS to say it in person. Reassurance that this will not happen. We anticipate an enlargement in coming years.
- Blue and Gold Review at LSHS, very entertaining evening
- Young authors conference
- FB page is a successful page.
- Peer tutoring in math at LSHS.
- Special visitor Lazy Legs Patuello visited Pierre E Trudeau.
- Career planning at Laurentia.

- Science fair at LSHS.
- Ipad at Pinewood. Board wide licenses on Board Q and Word Q.
- Arundel Nature Centre visits, encourage to go see it.
- Impact soccer game April 5th.
- Some schools may lose ped days due to snow days.
- New slogan – An English Education, A Bilingual Future.
- IT inventory plan is in place to align equitable across our schools. Expand the Pilot BYOD program in schools.
- Staff Administrator movement is at the April Council meeting.
- Students will not have access to go back to Twin Oaks once the new portables have arrived.
- An English Education, A Bilingual Future is a great tagline – there are lots of parents out there who may have the right to attend English school. Send them to the board and we will help them see if they are eligible. Put the eligibility criteria on the web site.
- Part of goal is doing a needs assessment in high schools to make a 21st century vision. Will survey the needs of the parents. We do have some bilingual programs in our schools.
- It is the law to fall in line with the Basic School Regulation.

7.2 Treasurer's Report

As in packages.

7.3 Parents Commissioners' Report

As in packages.

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

No meeting this month.

7.5 EPCA Report (English Parents Committee Association)

As in packages.

St Paul Elementary enquired if there has there been work done in terms of setting up an orientation or a long term plan for the upcoming years?

- Financial literacy being taking on a letter has been sent to the MELS.
- Exploring the drop our rate – how MELS calculates drop out in different boards – make it a realistic view
- Have a 5 year plan developed and sent to MELS – sent back that they do not want a5 year plan. MELS does not want 5 year
- Main plan is to advocate for English education – have been on the news – advocating for the military to get rights to an English education.
- Spring conference is being moved to the fall. EPCA is trying to attract sponsors to offset the costs for the conference. MELS inferred that if we get sponsors it will be deducted from the funding.

The Director General enquired how much the EPCA aligns itself with QESBA and bigger tables in the English school board. EPCA is just now finding their place to be part of these committees. She went on to say that the reason the SWLSB budget is so tight is because we choose to keep small English schools open in order to serve the English communities. There are very few NANS schools because the territory is so big. The parents need to advocate in the same lines as the QESBA. (NANS – a way of supporting low economic schools)

Message to take back – will the group align itself with these objectives. PC would like to hear more about it. 5 year plan on the website?

7.6 SEAC Report (Special Education Advisory Committee)

As reported by Jennifer. A written report will be prepared and sent to members.

8. VARIA

8.1 Snow Removal

McCaig is having a problem with their snow removal company where the ice and snow is not being removed. There is a disconnect between the company and the school. Calls are made and no answers are heard. A letter went to the board asking for changes to be considered next year.

The committee discussed the problems that many schools are having with snow removal and suggestions made are:

- Maps should be given to contractor of where work needs to be done so they know where to plow.
- Have a process of review where what happened this year is remembered the next time contracts go out.
- At the start of the season there should be a walk through done with administration of the school to see particulars.
- Custodians should be putting down the salt. If there is too much ice the administrators have been told to call the contractor.

Ms. Vucko responded that the SWLSB is in the final stage of 3 year process. SWLSB will be going to tender and presenting for resolution in April or May. Comments from schools should be sent to Mrs. Eileen Kelly so that as the tender process takes place this information can be used.

In the spring the gravel is an issue because it is dangerous for the children. Can the gravel be cleaned by the snow removal company sooner before the sweepers come in? Ms. Kelly will take this question to MR. Because they are using heavy machinery, it can damage the yard. There are all smaller machines that can do this. This needs to be looked at during the tendering process.

The contracts are three year contracts because the people who bid need stability and we can get lower bids. In general, our schools are satisfied with the contractors. Administrators need to get information to the board if they are not satisfied.

Nick Milas sits on QESBA – David Birnbaum, Executive Director is running for the Liberal Party. He will be a great asset for us if he is elected.

Can the ARCH group do a presentation? They have to contact Jennifer an e-mail request.

9. QUESTION Period

10. CLOSURE OF MEETING

PC20140313-07 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 _____.