

Minutes of the SECOND (2nd) meeting of the 2013-2014 Sir Wilfrid Laurier Parents Committee held on Thursday November 7th, 2013 at 7:15 p.m. in the Boardroom of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board, 235 Montée Lesage, Rosemère, Québec.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Maria Tsakonas	Crestview Elementary	Andrea Sisto	Morin Heights Elementary
Lina Aristeo	Genesis Elementary	Dori Raymond	Mother Teresa Jr High
Kellie Drouin	Grenville Elementary	Heidi Patekar	Mountainview Elementary
Charbel Mourad	Hillcrest Academy	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
Joseph Sabo	Jules Verne Elementary	Samantha Schatrowski	St Jude Elementary
Christopher Tracton	Lake of Two Mountains High	Roberto Bomba	St Paul Elementary
Mylène Melançon	Laurentian Elementary	Nadia Marsillo	St Vincent 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	Deni Guerrera	Twin Oaks Elementary
Helen Xiarchos	Laval Liberty High		
Patrick Leprohon	McCaig Elementary		

ALSO PRESENT: Stephanie Vucko, Director General; Gaëlle Absolonne, Director of School Organization and Transportation; Beverly White, Learn Quebec; Robin Bennett, Director of Information Technology; Nick Milas, Chairman of the Council of Commissioners; Naz Facchnio, Vice-Chairperson of the Council of Commissioners and parent guests.

ABSENT: Arundel Elementary, Franklin Hill Elementary, Laurentia Elementary, Laurentian Elementary, Pierre E. Trudeau Elementary, Rawdon Elementary, Ste-Adele Elementary, Ste-Agathe Academy, SEAC

The Chairperson called the meeting to order at 7:17 pm

1. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

- 6.3.1 Rezoning versus enrolment criteria
- 9.1 Janitorial Services
- 9.2 GB Training
- 9.3 Scheduling
- 9.4 Nutrition Policy

PC20131107-01 Our Lady of Peace Elementary MOVED THAT the agenda is accepted as with additions. Seconded by Rosemere High School

Carried **UNANIMOUSLY**

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF October 3rd, 2013

PC20131107-02 Mountainview Elementary MOVED THAT the minutes of October 3rd 2013 are accepted as presented. Seconded by Joliette High.

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

For: Hillcrest Academy, John F Kennedy Elementary, Joliette Elementary, Joliette High, Jules Verne Elementary, Lake of Two Mountains High, Laurier Sr. High, Laval Jr High, McCaig Elementary, Morin Heights Elementary, Mother Teresa Jr High, Mountainview Elementary, Our Lady of Peace Elementary, Pinewood Elementary, Rosemere High, Souvenir Elementary, St Paul Elementary, St Vincent Elementary, Terry Fox Elementary, Twin Oaks Elementary
Abstain: Crestview Elementary, Genesis Elementary, Grenville Elementary, Laval Liberty High, St. Jude Elementary

3. CHAIR'S REPORT

As in members packages.

Please read the section on the workshop that was attended by the Chairperson and the High School parent Commissioners.

4. QUESTION PERIOD

In response to a question from a parent in the audience, stating that there is no option for the out of zone student who wishes to re-register at Mother Teresa Jr High, Ms. Absolonne responded that the tie breaker is 6.3 of the enrolment criteria, the electronic system of the lottery.

Ms. Vucko responded that the Council of Commissioners is in discussions about the models of the high schools for next school year. The Laval situation will require a big change and there have been several stakeholders who were pre-consulted on three models. The Council is working on a permanent solution where they are hopeful that they will not have to apply the enrolment criteria next year. The enrolment criteria are difficult to apply and not everyone is happy. If there is space out of zones are accepted.

5. PRESENTATION, LEARN QUEBEC, Bev White

The committee welcomed Bev White from Learn Quebec. She started her presentation by announcing that if school ever wants to have a presentation at their school, someone from LEARN would be happy come and make one.

- Minority language funding pays for LEARN.
- SOS Learn is online help for students.
- Each student of our school board has a login in and password so that they can go on the LEARN site for help and online tutoring. Students must register by December 12th in order to benefit from the tutoring; however the Bookflix and Discovery Education are available all of the time. There is also a section called Success Checker, where high school students can study material and then test themselves. Students can their user names and passwords from the school.
- Summer school – instead of going to summer school, there is an online summer school. It was a huge success last summer and is an alternate way to look at summer school.
- Ms. Vucko went on to say that the School Board is using ZEN live now to hold meetings instead of in house meetings.
- SWLSB has more than doubled our enrolment for registration at LEARN. It's important to register so there are enough online teachers. They will match the registrations to the number of tutors. These are regular teachers teaching these subjects during the day. There are usually 5 students in the classroom at one time.
- Feedback from students is collected around the province and shared with the Director Generals.

Ms. White encouraged members to spread the word!

6. BUSINESS ARISING

6.1 PC Internal Rules of Procedure

PC20131107-03 Mother Teresa Jr. High MOVED THAT the Internal Rules of Procedure are accepted as presented. Seconded by Mountainview Elementary.

Carried UNANIMOUSLY

Sainte Agathe joined the meeting via Teleconference at 8:30

6.2 PC Internal Financial Policy

PC20131107-04 St Paul Elementary School MOVED THAT the Internal Financial Policy is accepted as presented. Seconded by Joliette High.

Carried UNANIMOUSLY

6.3.1 Rezone versus Enrolment Criteria

Ms. Absolonne explained the difference between rezoning and the Enrolment Criteria. Rezoning is for specific schools and only a few are involved as it is for overcrowding only. The Enrolment criteria involve all schools. If there are no overcrowding issues, there is no rezoning. Rezoning comes from a mandate from the Council of Commissioners. We have challenges in our school board because of the huge territory we have.

Rezoning is still a sensitive issue for Terry Fox because of the grandfathering of the siblings for only one year. The parents, who have children grandfathered in Kindergarten this year, would like them to be allowed to remain at Terry Fox. They see a significant decrease in the Kindergarten classes and parents want their children to move onto the upper grades. In the absence of Mr. Milas from the room, the Chairperson asked that Mr. Facchino note this when the vote comes to Council

6.3.2 Enrolment Criteria 2014-2015

PC20131107-05 St. Paul Elementary MOVED THAT the enrolment criteria are approved as presented. Seconded by Joliette Elementary.

Carried **UNANIMOUSLY**

6.4 2012-2013 PC Project

The Chairperson suggested that the Parents Committee get their own website. There would be a content management system which would allow any designated person today, or in the future, to easily manage and update any content, imagery, titles, blog, forum of the website. The Parents Committee's objective should be to ensure sure parents have access to information as they need it, and in a timely manner. The website could include all agendas, minutes, links to other important websites, a blog to share topical information, and a forum to exchange ideas and ask questions. Mr. Bennett of SWLSB IT and Ms. Vucko said that this site could be hosted on the SWLSB server. The secretary of the Parents Committee and the Chair would be responsible to maintain the website content. The parents committee would be encouraged to send in comments of what they want on this site.

PC20131107-05 Terry Fox Elementary MOVED THAT the Parents Committee will use some of its surplus to develop a website. Seconded by St. Paul Elementary.

Carried **UNANIMOUSLY**

A quote will be sent to members for their approval.

6.5 Information Technology in our Schools

The committee welcomes Robin Bennett, Director of Information Technology Department who gave a PowerPoint presentation on where we are as a school board in terms of information technology.

The Executive Committee has given a mandate to develop a plan for a vision. We are attempting to bring our students up to the 21st century, but this problem is province wide and there is not a lot of funding for sustainable development. We need to grow quickly but we have no funding.

Mr. Bennett will forward this presentation to the Chairperson to send out to the members.

Many schools commented on the lack of technician time in their schools, but because of the huge increase in equipment over the years, and no increase in staffing it takes time. When the Technicians do get to schools, there are often surprises. The School Board understand that parents are frustrated because so are they, but a plan is being put together and hopefully you will notice change by the end of the year. We are looking into a long term vision and a long term plan and goal to keep this technology up to date.

6.6 Use of Schools in Laval – High School Consultation

Ms. Vucko wanted members to understand that we are not in consultation yet – we are in pre-consultation.

There are 3 potential models for the Laval high schools. All of the information is on the meetings and composition of committee members is on the website.

Sector 1 is a priority this year as there is overcrowding. Different stakeholders have been met and all information and highlights from the meeting are on the website. There is an AdHoc button on the home page and all information is there.

We are a growing School Board, which is a good thing, but in order for us to request a new school or an enlargement of an existing school, all of our sectors must be over capacity for 5 years. The good news is we are growing, but there will be pains that will go along with it. Ms. Vucko suggested to parents that the best thing they could do is to go to the school you are zoned for.

Concerning the high schools in Laval, the next step is the Council of Commissioner will discuss things as a group to see what the implications will be. They are moving towards a decision on the Laval situation and then it will go into an official yearlong consultation period. A package will be prepared and a public consultation with various groups to collect information will be held. The first level of change for these schools will happen next fall, and phase 2 will be a permanent change the following school year. Any of the three models have two phases. Public consultations are part of this and Governing Boards and Parents Committee will be the parental bodies that they will take the suggestions from.

7. NEW BUSINESS

7.1 SEAC Update

There has been a bit of a delay in launching the committee this year as we have learned SEAC is actually an extension of Parent Committee and has not been running as per the Education Act (i.e. Commissioners are not elected members). The first meeting of SEAC will be held on December 5th at 6pm, just before Parent Committee, at which time they will look at how to expand the SEAC to give better support to our children and parents. SEAC's vision is to play a bigger role.

PC20131107-05 St. Paul Elementary MOVED THAT Lisa Fennessey of Sainte-Agathe-Academy and Jennifer Maccarone of John F Kennedy are approved as delegates to the SEAC committee. Seconded by Our Lady of Peace Elementary.

Carried UNANIMOUSLY

8. REPORTS

8.1 School Board's Report

- Ms. Vucko apologized for not being at the meeting last month. Moving forward, Eileen Kelly, Assistant Director General or she, will be present at our meetings.
- Communication practices – e-pushes are being used to get information out to parents. If you get something, please look at it and forward it to parents who may not be receiving them.
- A list of some of the important recognition dates was distributed to members. The Board recently missed the Principal appreciation week, but it will be acknowledged at a future meeting. Please let your parents know and perhaps something could be done in your schools. This week will be promoted more widely next year.
- Sign up to SOS Learn to try it – it is incredible.
- Inclement weather policy is being developed and we are in discussions with all stakeholders. If the weather is bad, the reason we close schools is because the bus cannot get there, however cars can. The Board is collecting data from various school boards to see what they do for storms. Ms. Vucko encouraged parents to go back to their schools and let their community know that during a storm if you are unsure if your child's school is open, to please call 450-621-5600, go to our website or our Facebook page. These are the places where the information will be most accurate on the closures. We have no control over what the radio stations say once we give the message to them. If the school is open, please send your child to school. The team is up at 3:00 a.m. when there is a storm, and the decision is not taken lightly.
- A PowerPoint with a glimpse on the fantastic things that are happening in our schools was presented. The members were very impressed and would like a copy of this presentation to show at their schools. Ms. Vucko responded that she will send it to school administrators and they can show it at their governing boards.

8.2 Treasurer's Report

As in members packages.

8.3 Parents Commissioners' Report

In package

- November 27th is the meeting where the Enrolment Criteria will be voted. An e-push will be sent the following day with the results and on the website. There is more transparency and information is being disseminated quickly.
- Members noted the principals need to take into consideration the other meetings within the school board as there are a lot of conflicting dates. All of these dates are in the corporate calendar and should be considered before setting dates for meet the teacher night, open houses and report card evenings. This is a problem that happens regularly and the parents who want to attend the meetings cannot. Ms. Vucko responded that sometimes these are calendar constrictions,
- A Focus session was held in Arundel last month with the commissioners on leadership and problem solving. This was very informative and positive and they are hoping to hold another one in the spring.

8.4 RCP-3L Report (Regroupement des comités des parents de Laval, Laurentides et Lanaudiere)

- Laval Junior reported that he attended his first meeting in Ste-Eustache which was very informative. Parent representative from the French counterparts had an open exchange on current issues affecting all our students such as bullying and budget cuts.

- The Annual General Meeting is to be held on November 16th and the representative asked that he be accompanied, at a cost of \$35/person, in order to best represent the size of our population. Our Lady Peace tentatively accepted to participate.

8.5 SEAC Report (Special Education Advisory Committee)

No report this month.

8.6 EPCA Report (English Parents Committee Association)

As in members packages.

9. VARIA

9.1 Janitorial Services

The recent cutbacks in caretaking services are affecting very many schools. Members are reporting that their schools are not as clean and that some rooms are closing because there is not time to clean them.

Ms. Vucko clarified that there have not been cutbacks, but decreased enrolment and this means closing classrooms. The School Board is aligning itself according to the ministry norms. We have more services than we are supposed to have. In the meantime Ms. Vucko will bring this information to the director of MR and the administrators as they are supposed to manage their teams.

She went on to say that every adjustment takes patience as the caretaker needs to adjust to the new schedule.

9.2 GB Training

We have a new Secretary General – we need to move forward with GB training and hopefully we will get some dates soon. The financial training and the GB chairs training is being asked for regularly. These trainings are held in places where there is video conferencing. These are very informative meetings and the committee is looking forward to attending them.

9.3 Scheduling

Covered in the Parent Commissioners report

9.4 Nutrition Policy

Members are concerned about the introduction of poutine and slushies (or smoothies) at their school cafeterias. Ms. Vucko will look into this matter as in the Nutrition Policy it is very clear what is allowed and not allowed in the cafeterias.

Members feel that the GB members should have the right to vote on the addition of foods as long as it adheres to the nutrition policy. In addition if there is a price change this should be brought to GB to be voted on. There is also a clause in the Nutrition Policy that allows for caterers to provide food that does not adhere to the policy.

11. QUESTION Period

Nick Milas and Naz Facchnio introduced themselves to the new members and wish everyone a good year.

In response to a question from a parent, Ms. Vucko will look into schools charging parents for additional supervision and attendant hours..

The conflict of interest forms should be signed by parents and teachers of the Governing Boards.

12. CLOSURE OF MEETING

PC20131105-09 St. Paul Elementary MOVED THAT the meeting is closed at 10:02 pm. Seconded by Genesis Elementary.

Carried **UNANIMOUSLY**

Respectfully submitted by:
Susan O'Keeffe, Recording Secretary

Minutes approved _____, 2013

Chairperson _____ Secretary _____