

PROVINCE OF QUEBEC

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE SIR WILFRID LAURIER SCHOOL BOARD HELD ON FEBRUARY 26, 2014

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, Rosemere, QC on Wednesday, February 26, 2014.

Present: Commissioners Nick Milas, Chairman; Nazario Facchino, Vice-Chairman; Georges Benoit, Steve Bletas, Robert Dixon, Guy Gagnon, Steve Kmec, Elio Lattanzio, Peter MacLaurin, Emilio Migliozi, Steve Mitchell, Albina Pace, Merle Parkinson, Mike Pizzola, William Pollock, Nancy Rupnik, and Edward Turchyniak; Parent Commissioners Roberto Bomba and Angela Martorana; and Stephanie Vucko, Director General.

Also present were: Eileen Kelly, Assistant Director General; Johanne Brabant, Secretary General; Gaëlle Absolonne, Director of School Organization; Robin Bennett, Director of Information Technology; France D'Aoust, Director of Financial Resources; Frédéric Greschner, Director of Complementary Services; Richard Greschner, Director of Human Resources; Tina Korb, Director of Educational Services; Maxeen Jolin, Coordinator of Communications; and Jocelyne Thompson-Ness, Administrative Assistant. Several other persons were also in the audience.

Absent with regret: Commissioners Mario Di Domenico and Grace Nesi.

The Chairman called the meeting to order.

TIME: 19:33 hours

1.0 ACCEPTANCE OF AGENDA:

Commissioner William Pollock requested that item 5.3 Commissioners Remuneration, be removed from the agenda.

CC-140226-CA-0075

Commissioner William Pollock MOVED THAT the agenda be amended as presented in document #SWLSB-2014/02/26-CA-001.

THIS MOTION WAS CARRIED ON THE FOLLOWING DIVISION:	
Commissioners voting YEA:	Georges Benoit, Steve Bletas, Robert Dixon, Nazario Facchino, Guy Gagnon, Steve Kmec, Elio Lattanzio, Peter MacLaurin, Emilio Migliozi, Nick Milas, Steve Mitchell, Albina Pace, Merle Parkinson, William Pollock, Nancy Rupnik, Edward Turchyniak
Commissioners Voting NAY::	Mike Pizzola

2.0 APPROVAL OF MINUTES**CC-140226-CA-0076**

Commissioner Steve Kmec MOVED THAT the minutes of the REGULAR meeting of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board held on 2014-01-29 having been received by all members prior to this meeting, be approved as written.

THIS MOTION WAS CARRIED ON THE FOLLOWING DIVISION:	
Commissioners voting YEA:	Georges Benoit, Steve Bletas, Robert Dixon, Nazario Facchino, Guy Gagnon, Steve Kmec, Elio Lattanzio, Peter MacLaurin, Emilio Migliozi, Nick Milas, Albina Pace, Merle Parkinson, Mike Pizzola, William Pollock, Nancy Rupnik, Edward Turchyniak
Commissioners ABSTAINING:	Steve Mitchell

2.1 INTRODUCTION CENTRE DIRECTOR MULTI SERVICE CENTRE

The Director General introduced Stéphane Bédard, the new Centre Director of the Multi Service Centre. Mr. Bédard is an employee of the Commission scolaire de la Seigneurie-des-Mille-Iles and has an extensive background in Adult Education & Vocational Training, is bilingual and his leadership and loyalty is to all students. He is anxious to meet with the team to see how things function in the English sector.

Mr. Bédard was welcomed by the Chairman and the Director General and he was presented with a Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board pin.

Mr. Bédard thanked everyone for their support and indicated that this new centre will be a good example of a partnership for everyone.

In response to comments from Commissioner Steve Kmec, the Coordinator of Communications advised that the funding for the Multi Service Centre comes from both the Federal and Provincial Governments therefore it is necessary to ensure that both Governments are present at the press conference officially announcing the centre. Scheduling is sometimes difficult and often there are last minute changes that make it necessary to cancel a press conference. Once a new date is selected everyone will be advised.

3.0 QUESTION PERIOD

There were no questions.

4.0 REPORT FROM THE CHAIRMAN:

4.1 *Chairman's Report:*

The Chairman commented on his monthly report noting the following:

- that the second part of the Focus Session for Commissioners took place on February 15, 2014 at the Administration Centre and Commissioners who had not been able to attend the first session were invited and several took advantage of this opportunity. It was well received by everyone present;
- the enlargement project for Twin Oaks Elementary School is still pending at the level of the Ministère de l'Éducation, du Loisir et du Sport (MELS) so until a decision is taken the school will require additional portables for the 2014-2015 school year;
- the upcoming interviews for Student Ombudsman; and
- events at which the Chairman and/or Commissioners were present during the past month.

The Chairman went on to advise the Council that the Commission scolaire des Affluents (CSDA) and the Ville de Repentigny continue to employ pressure tactics with respect to moving the location of Franklin Hill Elementary School so that CSDA can have the current building and land as its population in that area is growing.

On February 20, 2014, a copy of a letter addressed to Marie Malavoy, Ministre de l'Éducation, du Loisir et du Sport; from Scott McKay, Deputy for Repentigny in the Québec National Assembly, supporting the Commission scolaire des Affluents (CSDA) request to obtain Franklin Hill Elementary School for its own. In conversation with Mr. McKay on February 21, 2014, the Chairman advised him that the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board had done its due diligence before building Franklin Hill Elementary School and that this school board is not in any way interested in an exchange of school buildings. He also advised him that the school was nearing capacity and that the offer of land from the Ville de Repentigny on which to build a new school was not suitable.

The Director General has advised Chantal Beaulieu, Assistant Deputy Minister, Services à la communauté anglophone et aux affaires autochtones, of the letter to the Ministre and the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board's position on the issue. A letter has also gone to the Franklin Hill Elementary School community, due to an article in the local newspaper, to reassure them that their school is not being given away.

The Council entered into discussion and the Chairman, with the assistance of the Director General, responded to questions and concerns as follows:

- there is room to expand at Franklin Hill Elementary School (FHES) and given that enrollment is increasing for the school annually the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board may also have to expand the school so there is no possibility of ceding this building to the Commission scolaire des Affluents;
- each school board is looking after its own best interests;
- the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board will not cede the school or land and this has been made clear to the Deputy for Repentigny and the Ville de Repentigny;
- the Deputy for Repentigny, Scott McKay, indicated in the conversation that he had received some misinformation on this issue; and
-
- the dossier is now in the hands of the Ministère de l'Éducation, du Loisir et du Sport (MELS).

CC-140226-CA-0077

WHEREAS the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board has been approached by the Commission scolaire des Affluents, with the support of the Ville de Repentigny, to consider an exchange of Franklin Hill Elementary School for a new construction in Repentigny;

WHEREAS, after an evaluation of the needs of that region and discussions with the Ville de Repentigny, the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board informed the Ville and the Commission scolaire des Affluents that such an exchange did not meet the needs of Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board's clientele in that region;

WHEREAS the Chairman of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board was copied on a letter from Scott McKay, Member of the National Assembly for Repentigny, to the Ministre de l'Éducation, du Loisir et du Sport, Marie Malavoy, requesting her intervention in taking Franklin Hill Elementary School from this school board;

WHEREAS comments made to the media by the Chairman of the Commission scolaire des Affluents is causing concern for students, parents and staff which has required intervention from the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board to reassure them that no change is planned;

WHEREAS the Director General of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board has advised the Assistant Deputy Minister, Services à la communauté anglophone et aux affaires autochtones, Ministère de l'Éducation, du Loisir et du Sport, of the pressure being received;

Commissioner George Benoit MOVED THAT the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board fully supports the position expressed by the Director General in her letter to Mme Chantal Beaulieu, Assistant Deputy Minister, Services à la communauté anglophone et aux affaires autochtones, Ministère de l'Éducation, du Loisir et du Sport, dated February 21, 2014, where she clearly states that the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board is not considering the cession or exchange of the Franklin Hill Elementary School with Commission scolaire des Affluents.

Carried unanimously

In response to questions from Commissioner Steve Kmec, the Director General noted that there is always a cost associated with the installation and removal of portables but that the costs are covered by the Ministère de l'Éducation, du Loisir et du Sport (MELS). A plan is being developed concerning the need for additional portables at Twin Oaks Elementary School. She would provide additional information when available.

In response to a question from Commissioner Albina Pace, the Coordinator of Communications indicated that for Commissioners who did not attend either of the Focus Sessions it would be difficult for them to complete the questionnaire as the results could be taken out of context so its value would not be the same as if they had received the coaching provided by the session animator.

The Director General commented on the Young Authors Conference noting that one of the activities for the students was to complete a post card as to why "I love my English school" and she presented some of the cards, which helps bring in to focus why school boards exist.

In response to a complaint from Commissioner Robert Dixon, the Director General indicated that a card of thanks was sent for a donation made to Laurentian Regional High School based on the contact information that was provided to her office.

4.2 Director General's Report:

The Director General reviewed her monthly report noting the following activities:

- e-pushes for potential school closures due to inclement weather;
- the promotion of the Arundel Nature & Science Centre for spring break activities;
- the increased use of Facebook;
- the initiative of peer tutoring at Laurier Senior High School to improve school success;
- a visit at Pierre Elliott Trudeau Elementary School by Luca "Lazylegz" Patuelli, who has Arthrogryposis and has had 16 surgeries, to spread his message that you can do anything even if you have limitations;
- career planning at Laurentia Elementary School to expose students to the possibilities for the future;
- the science fair at Laurier Senior High School; and
- a Kindergarten iPad project at Pinewood Elementary School to assist with socialization.

5.0 BUSINESS ARISING

5.1 Engagement of Director of Material Resources:

The Assistant Director General advised that the Selection Committee for the position of Director of Material Resources has a candidate for recommendation this evening.

CC-140226-HR-0078

WHEREAS the Director of Material Resources tendered his notice of resignation, effective 2013-11-15;

WHEREAS this position was posted on three occasions:

- Posted 2013-10-31 closed 2013-11-13;
- Posted 2013-12-05 closed 2013-12-18;
- Posted 2014-01-24 closed 2014-02-06; and

WHEREAS a Selection Committee held interviews on 2014-02-12;

Commissioner Steve Kmec MOVED THAT, on the recommendation of the Selection Committee, the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board engage **Jérôme Dionne** to the position of Director of Material Resources, effective on a date to be mutually agreed upon.

Carried unanimously

Mr. Dionne thanked the Council for its vote of confidence and provided some background on his work and personal history.

In response to a question from Commissioner Steve Kmec, the Director General noted that Mr. Dionne needs to advise his current employer that he has been engaged as the new Director of Material Resources for the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board and it is hoped that he will be able to join us within the next two weeks.

5.2 Tripartite Committee – LRHS Pool Rejuvenation Project:

The Assistant Director General advised the Council that since the school board became involved in this rejuvenation project the initial budget had to be adjusted due to the increased material costs.

CC-140226-MR-0079

WHEREAS the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board approved resolution #CC-100127-MR-0085, mandating the Director of Material Resources to submit to the Ministère de l'Éducation, du Loisir et du Sport (MELS) for consideration a shared cost project for the rejuvenation of the pool at Laurentian Regional High School with the Commission scolaire de la Rivière-du-Nord and the MRC d'Argenteuil;

WHEREAS the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board approved resolution #CC-120509-MR-0108, authorizing the presentation of the shared cost pool rejuvenation project to the Ministère de l'Éducation, du Loisir et du Sport (MELS) within **Phase II** of the Programme de soutien aux installations sportives et récréatives;

WHEREAS the Ministère de l'Éducation, du Loisir et du Sport (MELS) was approached in June 2013 to reconsider the funding for this partnership project due to the increase in construction costs since 2010;

WHEREAS, on December 6, 2013 the Fonds pour le développement du sport et de l'activité physique advised the Commission scolaire de la Rivière-du-Nord that the funding for the pool rejuvenation project at Laurentian Regional High School had been authorized;

WHEREAS distribution of the costs of the partnership project have increased to take into account the increase in construction costs with the increase to the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board being 24 590,25\$;

Commissioner Robert Dixon MOVED THAT the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board approve the new distribution of costs for the partnership project for the pool rejuvenation project at Laurentian Regional High School as follows:

	Original Cost	New Cost 2013	Difference
Ministère de l'Éducation, du Loisir et du Sport (MELS)	1 639 254,00\$	1 721 317,50\$	82 063,50\$
MRC d'Argenteuil	655 740,00\$	688 527,00\$	32 787,00\$
Commission scolaire de la Rivière-du-Nord	491 805,00\$	516 395,25\$	24 590,25\$
Commission scolaire Sir-Wilfrid-Laurier	491 805,00\$	516 395,25\$	24 590,25\$
Total :	3 278 604,00\$	3 442 635,00\$	164 031,00\$

Carried unanimously

6.0 DECISION ITEMS:**6.1 FINANCIAL RESOURCES****6.1.1 Budget Building Process 2014-2015:**

The Director General advised that the Council's support is required in order to move this document into consultation.

CC-140226-FR-0080

WHEREAS the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board is commencing its budget building process for the 2014-2015 school year;

WHEREAS section 275 of the Education Act (R.S.Q., Chapter I-13.3) requires that a school board make public the objectives and principles governing budget allocations;

WHEREAS the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board has drafted its "2014-2015 Budgetary Process";

Commissioner Merle Parkinson MOVED THAT, on the recommendation of the Executive Committee, the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board authorize for consultation the "2014-2015 Budgetary Process", as contained in document #SWLSB-2014/02/26-FR-001.

AND THAT the consultation begins on February 27, 2014 and ends on April 7, 2014.

Carried unanimously

6.2 COMMUNICATIONS & CORPORATE AFFAIRS**6.2.1 CRÉ Laval – Regional Youth Entente:**

The Director General noted that this is a renewal of an existing entente and that, while the funding is within her delegation, the CRÉ Laval requires a resolution. This entente will be reviewed to see if the school board is benefiting from what the CRÉ Laval offers.

CC-140226-CA-0081

WHEREAS the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board entered into a partnership in April 2006 with the Conférence régionale des élus de Laval (CRE-Laval), Ville de Laval, Commission scolaire de Laval and CEGEP Montmorency, concerning the "Regional Youth Entente" for community volunteer work;

WHEREAS this partnership was renewed by resolution #CC-110330-CA-0072;

WHEREAS it has been determined that this "Regional Youth Entente" continues to be beneficial to the students of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board in heightening their community action awareness;

WHEREAS the Directorate supports the renewal of the entente;

Commissioner Elio Lattanzio MOVED THAT the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board advise the Conférence régionale des élus de Laval (CRE-Laval), of its intent to renew the entente in order to continue to be a full participant in the "Regional Youth Entente", effective immediately.

AND THAT the Chairman, and in his absence or with his knowledge the Vice-Chairman, as well as the Director General, and in her absence or with her knowledge the Assistant Director General, be authorized to sign all documentation concerning this entente.

Carried unanimously

6.2.2 *Arundel Nature & Science Centre:*

Sub-Committee

The Arundel Nature & Science Centre (ANSC) would like to establish an official sub-committee.

CC-140226-CA-0082

WHEREAS the Council of Commissioners approved resolution #050126-CA-0094, changing the name of the Arundel Forest Management Sub-Committee to the Arundel Management Sub-Committee with no official mandate;

WHEREAS the Council of Commissioners approved resolution #0500525-CA-0176, reconfiguring the Arundel Management Sub-Committee as a Sub-Committee of the Executive Committee with a mandate to report to the same;

WHEREAS the Council of Commissioners approved resolution #CC-100929-CA0018, changing the name of the Arundel Nature Centre (ANC) to the Arundel Nature and Science Centre (ANSC);

WHEREAS section 193.1 of the Education Act (R.S.Q., Chapter I-13.3) allows only the Council of Commissioners to establish other committees to assist it in the exercise of its functions or the examination of specific matters;

Commissioner Peter MacLaurin MOVED THAT, on the recommendation of the Executive Committee, the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board approve that the name of the Arundel Management Sub-Committee be changed to the Arundel Nature and Science Centre Sub-Committee.

AND THAT the Arundel Nature and Science Centre Sub-Committee be reconfigured to become a sub-committee of the Council of Commissioners.

AND THAT the composition of the Arundel Nature and Science Centre Sub-Committee is: a minimum of three (3) and a maximum of five (5) commissioners named on an annual basis by the Council of Commissioners, the Director General or her delegate; a Director, an Administrator and the staff assigned to ANSC.

AND THAT the mandate of the Arundel Nature and Science Centre Sub-Committee is to establish the vocation, set the objectives and provide the Council of Commissioners with alternatives to ensure these objectives are achieved, such as facilitating, encouraging and promoting the use of the Arundel Nature and Science Centre (ANSC) to schools and other groups, the whole within all the policy guidelines of the school board with emphasis on the school board's strategic plan.

AND THAT the Arundel Nature and Science Centre Sub-Committee submit a report on its activities to the Executive Committee of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board.

FURTHER THAT the Executive Committee submits the results of this report to the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board.

Carried unanimously

Nominations to Sub-Committee

The Secretary General asked for nominations to the ANSC Sub-Committee.

Commissioner Peter MacLaurin nominated Commissioner William Pollock. Commissioner Pollock accepted the nomination.

Commissioner Robert Dixon nominated Commissioner Peter MacLaurin. Commissioner MacLaurin accepted the nomination.

Commissioner Edward Turchyniak nominated Commissioner Robert Dixon. Commissioner Dixon accepted the nomination.

Commissioner Steve Bletas nominated Commissioner Mike Pizzola. Commissioner Pizzola accepted the nomination.

Commissioner Elio Lattanzio nominated Commissioner Guy Gagnon. Commissioner Gagnon declined the nomination.

Commissioner Guy Gagnon nominated Commissioner Elio Lattanzio. Commissioner Lattanzio accepted the nomination.

CC-140226-CA-0083

Commissioner Merle Parkinson MOVED THAT the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board name the following Commissioners to the Arundel Nature & Science Centre (ANSC) Sub-Committee:

Robert Dixon	Mike Pizzola
Elio Lattanzio	William Pollock
Peter MacLaurin	

Carried unanimously

Mandate to Director General

CC-140226-CA-0084

WHEREAS the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board operates the Arundel Nature and Science Centre (ANSC) located in the Municipality of Arundel, Quebec;

WHEREAS the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board is the only public school board in Québec to operate such a facility;

WHEREAS research has shown that outdoor education improves the student success at many levels, increases motivation, cooperation, self-esteem, learning, reduces bullying, depression, and provides positive improvements to EHDAA students, all of which motivates students to stay in school and helps humans reconnect with nature;

WHEREAS ANSC was established in 1960 and has been an essential component of outdoor education since that time for the former Laurentian School Board and now the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board;

WHEREAS in 2005 the ANSC was recognized through an award from the MRC des Laurentides for its sustainable development in forest and recreational activities;

WHEREAS ANSC is used by many educational, youth and private groups on a regular basis to increase their understanding of science and nature;

WHEREAS ANSC is regularly used by many other private and public schools, colleges, universities and youth organisations to facilitate their programs or use our programs to enhance their students understanding of science and nature;

WHEREAS ANSC has operated at a deficit for a number of years;

WHEREAS the Arundel Nature and Science Centre Sub-Committee would like to organize fund raising activities to improve its annual financial results;

WHEREAS the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board wishes to maintain the services offered at ANSC in a fiscally responsible manner;

Commissioner Nancy Rupnik MOVED THAT, on the recommendation of the Executive Committee, the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board mandate the Director General to develop a development plan (marketing, sponsorship, fund raising) for the Arundel Nature and Science Centre (ANSC) with the assistance of outside expertise.

AND THAT in order to provide the best services possible, the Director General considers ANSC as part of the annual school board staffing plan.

Carried unanimously

6.2.3 Nominations to Selection Committee – Student Ombudsman:

The Director General advised the Council that the next step in the process for naming a new Student Ombudsman is to nominate Commissioners to a Selection Committee. As the school board will continue to share the Student Ombudsman with the English Montreal School Board (EMSB) the interviews will be held on either March 17 or 18, 2014 at EMSB. She recommended that an alternate also be named.

Commissioner Steve Bletas nominated Commissioner Nick Milas, Chairman, to the Selection Committee for the Student Ombudsman. The Chairman accepted the nomination.

Commissioner Guy Gagnon nominated Commissioner Peter MacLaurin to the Selection Committee for the Student Ombudsman. Commissioner MacLaurin accepted the nomination.

Commissioner Merle Parkinson nominated Commissioner Nancy Rupnik as the alternate to the Selection Committee for the Student Ombudsman. Commissioner Rupnik accepted the nomination.

CC-140226-CA-0085

WHEREAS the contract of the Student Ombudsman for the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board expired on November 30, 2013 and was extended until a replacement was found;

WHEREAS the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board approved resolution #CC-131127-CA-0057, approving the continued partnership with the English Montreal School Board for the shared services of a Student Ombudsman, the establishment of a Selection Committee and the process for the selection via invitation;

WHEREAS the English Montreal School Board and the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board have agreed that the Selection Committee must include two (2) Commissioners from each school board;

Commissioner Albina Pace MOVED THAT the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board nominate the following Commissioners to the Student Ombudsman Selection Committee:

Peter MacLaurin	Nancy Rupnik (Alternate)
Nick Milas	

AND THAT a recommendation be brought to the Council of Commissioners once the selection process has been completed.

Carried unanimously

6.2.4 Nomination of Returning Officer – November 2, 2014 School Elections:

The Director General advised the Council that the position of Returning Officer is delegated to her position under the law and that this has been discussed at length by the Director General's tables. The consensus is that a Director General should not hold this position.

The person being proposed for this position at the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board is someone who knows the community and the Commissioners, Linda Di Domenico.

In response to a question from Commissioner Elio Lattanzio, the Director General indicated that the hourly rate for election employees is established by the Ministère de l'Éducation, du Loisir et du Sport (MELS).

The Secretary General indicated at for the elections in 2007 the hourly rate was 41\$ and once the new rate is known the Council will be advised. She also indicated that a budget will be built for the purpose of the elections from the school board's budget.

The Council entered into discussion and the Director General, with the assistance of the Directorate team, noted:

- the expenses for a school board election come out of the school board budget and includes the position of Returning Officer;
- the budget for school election planning during 2013-2014 is 40 000\$;
- under the new accounting rules a school board can no longer set aside monies from its budget for school election purposes on an annual basis so all school boards face the same problem with these monies having to come out of the 2014-2015 budget;
- the possibility of any conflict of interest on the part of the Returning Officer has been examined and it is not an issue; and
- with respect to maps of the electoral divisions and the electoral list when more information is known about their distribution it will be shared.

CC-140226-CA-0086

WHEREAS section 22 of An Act respecting school elections (chapter E-2.3) appoints the Director General of a school board as the returning officer ex officio;

WHEREAS the Director General has the right to refuse to act as such with the authorization of the Council of Commissioners;

WHEREAS the Council of Commissioners can appoint another person to replace the Director General as returning officer;

Commissioner Edward Turchyniak MOVED THAT, on the recommendation of the Director General and Executive Committee, the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board appoint **Linda Di Domenico** as its Returning Officer for the November 2, 2014 school elections.

AND THAT the Returning Officer is paid in accordance with the Regulation respecting the tariff of remuneration and expense of the members of the electoral staff as established by the Directeur des Élections du Québec.

AND THAT the mandate of the Returning Officer shall enter into force February 27, 2014.

AND THAT the school board shall reimburse the Returning Officer travel and meal costs incurred in the exercise of his functions, at the rate provided for in policy #1999-FR-01: Travel and Representation Expenses Reimbursement Policy for the Members of the Council of Commissioners and the Employees of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board.

AND THAT the Returning Officer shall oversee employee engagement for each of the steps of the school board elections process, making recommendations to the school board based on remuneration rules.

AND THAT the Returning Officer will collaborate in the preparation of the budget for the school board elections of November 2, 2014 and see to its management.

FURTHER THAT the Returning Officer shall attend training provided relative to the November 2, 2014 school board elections.

Carried unanimously

7.0 INFORMATION ITEMS

7.1 *SWL Foundation:*

Commissioner Edward Turchyniak advised the Council of the following upcoming Sir Wilfrid Laurier Foundation activities:

- Laurier Challenge Bike Rally will be held on May 25, 2014 at the Centre de la Nature in Laval;
- Laurier Gala & Star Fest will be held on May 29, 2014 at the Château Royal; and
- Lobster Fest will be held on June 12, 2014 at the Embassy Plaza.

In response to a question from Parent Commissioner Angela Martorana, Commissioner Turchyniak noted that any volunteers for the bike rally would be greatly appreciated and to contact the Foundation. A request for volunteers will be sent to the schools and home to the parents as the event draws closer.

7.2 *Parent Commissioners Report*

The report of the Parent Commissioners commented on:

- the Parents Committee is considering seeking legal counsel concerning the Deeds of Establishment;
- the development of a Parents Committee Web site;
- feedback received from Material Resources on the questions concerning the Nutrition policy and the notation that that department approves the cafeteria contracts for high schools while the elementary school Governing Boards approve the caterer and then forward the menu to the school board;
- consultation on the 2014-2015 school calendar with the Director of Human Resources;
- the possible teaching of financial literacy in the schools. Educational Services has indicated that this type of program is being developed by the Ministère de l'Éducation, du Loisir et du Sport (MELS) for implementation in secondary 4 and 5;
- the Outstanding Effort Awards for 2014; and
- monthly reports.

Parent Commissioner Angela Martorana advised the Council that since the report of the Parent Commissioners was submitted, the Parents Committee has taken the decision to seek legal counsel on the deeds of establishment. She will provide additional information when available.

7.3 *Report of the QESBA:*

The Chairman advised that he had attended a Quebec School Boards Association (QESBA) Board of Directors meeting on Friday, February 21, 2014, and that a lot of concern was expressed about the upcoming provincial elections. The school board elections are still going forward at this time.

In response to a question from Commissioner Edward Turchyniak, the Director General indicated that creating school boards with base student population of 35 000 was discussed during budget talks at the government level but there has been no additional discussion or information. The Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board does not have a large budget and it has a high graduation rate and that is the path that should continue to be followed.

7.4 *Update on Laval Schools:*

The Assistant Director General provided an update on the Laval schools noting that meetings are ongoing with all parties involved with the Laval high schools and that as the process moves forward the feedback and atmosphere is becoming more positive and cooperative.

The following is also taking place:

- the two junior schools have released monies from their surpluses to wire the new junior school building for the 21st century
- the librarians are taking inventory of their respective libraries in preparation for the move;
- Information Technology and Material Resources are meeting to discuss the relocation of equipment and the installation of Smart boards at 2323 boul. Daniel-Johnson;
- the planning for the installation of an elevator at 2323, boul. Daniel-Johnson;
- meetings with the RSEQ concerning the sports concentration programs;
- student councils are to meet to plan joint activities; and
- joint staff activities are also being planned.

The Director General extended her appreciation to the employees who came to the meeting to review the document being prepared for the consultation of phase II of the Laval high schools as their input was very much appreciated.

In response to a question from Commissioner Robert Dixon, the Director General noted that the timeline for the consultation on phase II is being respected.

In response to a question from Parent Commissioner Angela Martorana, the Director General advised that there have been several walkthroughs of the various labs and inventory has been taken. The movement of the chemicals is currently being addressed.

8.0 QUESTION PERIOD:

In response to questions from Lisa Chartier, the Director General, with the assistance of the Directorate team, noted:

- there will be more information available on the concentration programs at the Laval high schools at the March 26, 2014 meeting of Council;
- once the registration numbers for concentration programs are known and staffing is underway the school board will be able to determine which programs will be maintained; and
- all options are being considered when relating to any program offered in the Laval high schools and the school board intends to be as flexible as possible but one has to keep in mind the student numbers required to run a program and the budget.

9.0 CORRESPONDENCE:

The Chairman drew attention to correspondence in the package.

10.0 VARIA:

Commissioner Edward Turchyniak advised the Council that there will be no quorum for the March 17, 2014 Executive Committee meeting.

11.0 ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING:

Commissioner Emilio Miglioizzi MOVED adjournment of the meeting.

Carried unanimously

TIME: 21:03 hours

NEXT MEETING ⇌ REGULAR ⇌ 2014-03-26