

PROVINCE OF QUEBEC

MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING OF THE SIR WILFRID LAURIER SCHOOL BOARD HELD ON 2012-08-21

A Special meeting of the Executive Committee of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board was held in the boardroom of the Administration Centre, 235 Montée Lesage, Rosemère, QC, on Tuesday, 2012-08-21:

Present Executive Members: Commissioners Edward Turchyniak, Chairman; Steve Mitchell, Vice-Chairman; Mario Di Domenico, Robert Dixon, Nick Milas, and Nancy Rupnik; Parent Commissioners Roberto Bomba and Angelo Grasso; and Robert Vallerand, Director General.

Present Executive Delegates: Commissioners Nazario Facchino, and Grace Nesi.

Also present were: Clifford Buckland, Interim Assistant Director General; Marie-Claude Drouin, Secretary General; Commissioners Carolyn Curiale and Peter MacLaurin; Jocelyne Thompson-Ness, Administrative Assistant.

Absent: Commissioners Merle Parkinson and Mike Pizzola.

The Chairman called the meeting to order.

TIME: 19:38 hours

1.0 ACCEPTANCE OF AGENDA:**EC-120821-CA-0010**

Parent Commissioner Angelo Grasso MOVED THAT the agenda be approved as presented.

Carried unanimously

2.0 APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

In response to questions from Commissioner Mario Di Domenico, the Director General noted that the Ethics Commissioner has 30 days in which to respond, investigate and publish a decision when a complaint is received.

Commissioner Nancy Rupnik entered the meeting.

TIME: 19:43 hours

He went on to review the process noting that all complaints to the Ethics Commissioner are confidential unless there is a conclusion of a breach to the Code of Ethics & Professional Conduct. If this is the case the decision rendered is public.

In the most recent complaint, which requires a decision, there were circumstances that required the Ethics Commissioner to request a delay in reporting given the vacation period, illness and no Council meeting until the end of August. The school board has been assured that a response would be available for the 2012-08-29 meeting of the Council.

The Executive Committee entered into discussion and it was noted that transparency is necessary when it comes to the application of any policy.

The Director General recommended that the policy be revisited so that the necessary changes can be made to reflect holiday periods and other times when offices are closed.

The Secretary General commented that the request for delay can be explained and that it did not interfere with the process. She concurred that the policy should be amended to include this scenario.

In response to a comment from the Chairman, the Director General noted that he and the Secretary General were both contacted concerning this matter during the vacation period but given that one witness is very ill a decision had to be made and the Ethics Commissioner was granted a delay as long as the 2012-08-29 deadline was respected.

Discussion continued and it was agreed that a legal opinion should be sought on the prescribed delay to render a decision.

EC-120821-CA-0011

Parent Commissioner Roberto Bomba MOVED THAT the minutes of the EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE meeting of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board held on 2012-07-10 having been received by all members prior to this meeting, be approved as corrected.

Carried unanimously

EC-120821-CA-0012

Commissioner Nick Milas MOVED THAT the Secretary General be mandate to seek a legal opinion on deferring from the Code of Ethics with respect to delays in the process for a complaint to the Ethics Commissioner.

THIS MOTION WAS CARRIED ON THE FOLLOWING DIVISION:	
Commissioners voting YEA:	Mario Di Domenico, Robert Dixon, Nick Milas, Edward Turchyniak
Commissioners voting to ABSTAIN:	Steve Mitchell, Nancy Rupnik

3.0 DIRECTOR GENERAL'S REPORT:

3.1 Director General's Report:

The Director General presented his report noting that the 2012-2013 school year is getting underway and commented on the following:

- The annual bus safety program will be launched with a press conference at Twin Oaks Elementary School on 2012-08-30;
- The MELS has authorized the following funding:
 - compensation will be given for the start up costs for the Carpentry Program;
 - 80% coverage of the rental for 5 years for the CDC Laurier-St-Eustache;
 - education for native students from the Oka reserve at Lake of Two Mountains High School; and
 - compensation for the housing of the Polyvalent Lavigne after its fire in September 2011.
- the MELS authorized a deficit budget and the school board must have a recovery plan in place by the end of October 2012 so further cuts are being discussed by the Directors. The plan will be monitored by the MELS;
- there was a delay in the mailing of the secondary IV and V transcripts by the MELS and given the high failure rate in some subjects there was increased registration making it necessary to cap registration in summer school at 680 students but arrangements were made for all who wished to write the August exams to do so. Any who failed these exams will have another opportunity to write in January 2013;
- a successful teacher recall was held on 2012-08-24;

- Joliette Elementary School (JES) will move into its new building on Friday, 2012-08-24, set up will take place the week of 2012-08-27 and classes will begin on 2012-09-05;
- Commission scolaire des Samares has made a request to use the old Joliette Elementary School for the 2012-2013 school year as it has a serious mold problem in its elementary school in Joliette and, in exchange, the board is loaning the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board fibers for the fibre optic network at the new JES;
- 2012-09-04 will be a student holiday due to the Provincial elections.

In response to a comment from Commissioner Mario Di Domenico, the Secretary General advised that once the report of the Ethics Commissioner is presented and the sanctions read at a Council meeting all Commissioners will receive a copy of the report unless the Ethics Commissioner states otherwise in the final report.

In response to a question from Commissioner Robert Dixon, the Director General noted that the air purification system is still being reviewed by CSST and if its report indicates changes need to be made they will be done accordingly. The MELS monies can only be used to cover the start up costs.

In response to a concern expressed by Parent Commissioner Angelo Grasso, the Director General noted that he has been aware of the problem with the secondary IV math exam and the fact the quality of the exam did not represent the guidelines of the course. This matter is being addressed at several levels such as the English Directors General, Quebec English School Boards Association (QESBA), DEEN, and other education affiliates.

4.0 INTERIM ASSISTANT DIRECTOR GENERAL'S REPORT:

4.1 Interim Assistant Director General's Report:

The Interim Assistant Director General advised the Executive Committee that the focus for the 2012-2013 school year is to look at the Laval high schools situation with the Principals, follow-up on Bill 56 concerning violence and bullying, and the continued support of the schools and Principals.

He presented a letter requesting that his term as Interim Assistant Director General end in conjunction with the Director General.

5.0 BUSINESS ARISING:

5.1 Timeline for the Hiring of a Director General & Assistant Director General:

This item was moved to the end of the agenda.

6.0 DECISION ITEMS:

6.1 RECOMMENDATIONS TO COUNCIL

6.1.1 Director of Information Technology:

There was no recommendation.

7.0 INFORMATION ITEMS**7.1 Director's Reports:**

Due to the summer vacation period there were no reports.

The Secretary General provided an update on various ongoing legal cases.

7.2 Parent Commissioners Report:

Parent Commissioner Angelo Grasso advised that the English Montreal School Board (EMSB) has opted out of the English Parents Committee Association (EPCA).

7.3 Draft Council Agenda:

There was no report.

8.0 DISCUSSION TOPIC

There was no discussion topic.

9.0 QUESTION PERIOD:

Commissioner Carolyn Curiale advised that the Quebec English School Boards Association (QESBA) will be holding a news conference on Thursday to ask the candidates for Premier some significant questions. The timing of this may appear to be off given that the televised debates will have already taken place but advice of media relations persons indicated that this tact would produce responses from the candidates as the pressure of the debates has passed.

10.0 CORRESPONDENCE:

There was no correspondence.

11.0 VARIA:**11.1 LRHS Golf Tournament:**

In response to a request from Commissioner Robert Dixon, the Director General advised that he will speak with the Director of Financial Resources concerning fundraising activities.

Commissioner Grace Nesi excused herself for evening.

TIME: 21:04 hours

5.0 BUSINESS ARISING:**5.1 Timeline for the Hiring of a Director General & Assistant Director General:**

The Secretary General presented and reviewed the options available concerning the timeline for the hiring of a Director General and an Assistant Director General.

The Executive Committee entered into discussion and it was noted that in order to locate the best possible candidate for the position it might be necessary to use a human resources consulting firm and, possibly, look outside of Québec.

In response to several questions, the Secretary General advised that it would be prudent for the current Director General and the Interim Assistant Director General to remain for a transition period.

Commissioner Peter MacLaurin and Parent Commissioner Angelo Grasso excused themselves for the evening.

TIME: 21:37 hours

Discussion continued.

The Chairman took a straw vote and it was agreed by the members of the Executive Committee that its recommendation to the Council is to hire the Director General prior to the Assistant Director General and that the timeline presented for this option should be recommended at the 2012-08-29 meeting of the Council of Commissioners.

12.0 ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING:

Commissioner Nancy Rupnik MOVED the adjournment of the meeting.

Carried unanimously

TIME: 21:46 hours

NEXT MEETING ⇒ REGULAR ⇒ 2012-09-18