

**Minutes of the first (1<sup>st</sup>) meeting of the 2008-2009 Sir Wilfrid Laurier Parents Committee held on Thursday October 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2008 at 19:30 in the Boardroom of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board, 235 Montée Lesage, Rosemère, Quebec.**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Ronald Cole	ARUNDEL ELEMENTARY	Mario De Sousa	MOTHER TERESA JR HIGH
Silvana Di Medio	CRESTVIEW ELEMENTARY	Silva Rehel	MOUNTAINVIEW ELEM
Stephane Brisebois	FRANKLIN HILL ELEM	Lisa Chartier	OUR LADY OF PEACE ELEM
	GRENVILLE ELEMENTARY	Luc Samson	ROSEMÈRE HIGH
Dean Dugas	JOIETTE ELEMENTARY	Pablo Carrera	SOUVENIR ELEMENTARY
Helena Muir	JOLIETTE HIGH	Guy Gagnon	ST JUDE ELEMENTARY
Andrew Sproule	LAURENTIA ELEM	Roberto Bomba	ST PAUL ELEMENTARY
Jennifer Boudreault	LAURENTIAN ELEMENTARY	Angelo Grasso	ST VINCENT ELEMENTARY
Donald Beverly	LAURENTIAN REGIONAL	Cynthia Beyea	STE-AGATHE ACADEMY
Guy Goffredo	LAVAL JR HIGH	Chantal Pelletier	TWIN OAKS ELEMENTARY
John Colouros	LAVAL LIBERTY HIGH	Nathalie Riley	SEAC
Jenny DiBiase	MCCAIG ELEMENTARY		
Andrew Simon	MORIN HEIGHTS ELEM		

**ALSO PRESENT:** Anne-Marie Lepage, Director General; Steve Bletas, Chairperson of Council of Commissioners; Grace Nesi, Mario Di Domenico, Nick Milas, Commissioners

**ABSENT:** Hillcrest Acad, JF Kennedy elem, Jules Verne elem, Lake of Two Mountains high, Laurier Sr. high, PE Trudeau elem, Pinewood elem, Rawdon Elem & Middle, Ste Adèle elem, Terry Fox elem

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The Chairwoman called the meeting to order at 19:35 hrs

**1. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

- 4.4 Enriched programs; and
- 5.8 Autism Awareness Center

**PC20081002-01** Joliette Elementary MOVED THAT the agenda is accepted with noted additions. Seconded by Laval Jr. High .

**Carried UNANIMOUSLY**

**2. ELECTIONS**

**2.1 Procedures**

Anne Marie Lepage will be Chairperson of elections.

**2.2 Nomination of Chairperson or Elections and Scrutineers**

Mr. Bletas and Mr. Di Domenico will be scrutineers of elections.

**2.3 Election of Chairperson**

Laval Liberty High nominates Silvana DiMedio, Crestview Elementary – Congratulations Silvana.

**2.4 Election of Vice-Chairperson**

Crestview Elementary nominates Lisa Chartier, Our Lady of Peace Elementary – Congratulations Lisa.

**2.5 Election of Secretary**

Our Lady of Peace Elementary nominates Chantal Pelletier, Twin Oaks Elementary – Congratulations Chantal.

**2.6 Election of Treasurer**

Twin Oaks nominates Natalie Riley, SEAC – Nathalie accepts

Crestview Elementary nominates Silva Rehel, Mountainview Elementary, SEAC withdraws candidature – Congratulations Silva.

### 2.7 Election of Parent Commissioner – Elementary

Rosemère High nominates Lisa Chartier, Our Lady of Peace Elementary; Silva Rehel, Mountainview Elementary nominates himself – Congratulations Lisa.

**PC20081002-02** Mountainview Elementary MOVED THAT the ballots be destroyed. Seconded by Our Lady of Peace Elementary.

**Carried UNANIMOUSLY**

### 2.8 Election of Parent Commissioner – High School

St Vincent Elementary nominates Guy Goffredo, Laval Jr. High – Guy declined.  
Our Lady of Peace nominates Luc Samson, Rosemère High – Congratulations Luc.

### 2.9 Election of Representative to 3L

The 3L is the regional group of 8 school boards in the Laurentides, Laval, Lanaudière regions. Meetings are 1<sup>st</sup> Friday of every month. Twin Oaks Elementary nominates Nathalie Riley, SEAC – Congratulations Nathalie.  
SEAC nominates Helena Muir, Joliette High – Congratulations Helena.  
St Vincent Elementary nominates Roberto Bomba, St Paul Elementary – Congratulations Roberto.

### 2.10 Nomination to Advisory Committee on Transportation

Laval Liberty High nominates Guy Goffredo, Laval Jr high – Congratulations Guy .

### 2.11 Nomination to Advisory Committee on SEAC

There are 4 positions of 2 year mandates and 9 alternate one year terms available:  
Donato Proce – Crestview Elementary  
Tania Potvin – Pierre E Trudeau Elementary  
Helena Muir – Joliette High  
Patty Klimas – St Jude Elementary

**PC20081002-03** Laval Jr High MOVED THAT the above four parents are named as members of the SEAC for the years 2008-2009/2009-2010. Seconded by St. Jude Elementary

**Carried UNANIMOUSLY**

The Chairwoman asked members to go back to your GB and Principal and ask if there are parents who are interested in sitting on this committee as an alternate.

## 3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF June 5<sup>th</sup>, 2008

**PC20081002-04** Our Lady of Peace Elementary MOVED THAT the minutes of June 5<sup>th</sup>, 2008 are accepted as presented. Seconded by Laval Liberty High.

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

**For: Arundel elem, Crestview elem, Joliette high, Laurentia elem, Laval Liberty high, Our Lady of Peace elem, Rosemère high, Souvenir elem, St Jude elem, St Paul elem, St Vincent elem, Twin Oaks elem, SEAC**  
**Abstain: Franklin Hill elem, Genesis elem, Grenville elem, Joliette elem, Laurentian elem, Laurentian Regional high, Laval Jr high, McCaig elem, Morin Heights elem, Mother Teresa Jr high, Mountainview elem, Ste-Agathe acad**

## 4. BUSINESS Arising

### 4.1 Healthy eating & Active living policy

### 4.2 Program of Studies – Elementary

### 4.3 Program of Studies – Secondary

Members received the above three consultation documents in their packages. Please read these and be ready to vote at the next meeting. A suggestion from Rosemère High with regards to the nutrition policy is that the energy drinks be banned from schools altogether.

Sainte Agathe Academy enquired as to whether there were microwaves in elementary schools. Only a handful of schools have them. The committee entered into discussion on the pros and cons of microwaves in schools.

#### **4.4 Enriched Programs**

Silvana Di Medio was asked by this committee last year to write a letter expressing the parents' interest in offering programs for gifted children in elementary schools. This letter was read at the Council of Commissioners meeting and a favourable response was received. The Council would like to look at expanding on this issue. The school board will develop programs in elementary and secondary schools. Mme Lepage went on to say that there is no obligation in the reform to have these programs but this would be a plus for our board if we were to offer them. School boards are welcome to develop programs to enrich the programs already offered in their schools. In order for this to be successful this needs involvement from principals and teachers to develop them and bring them to fruition.

### **5. NEW BUSINESS**

#### **5.1 Election of Recording Secretary**

**PC20081002-05** Our Lady of Peace Elementary MOVED THAT Susan O'Keeffe is engaged as Recording Secretary of the Parents Committee for the 2008-2009 school year at a rate of \$70.00 per meeting plus \$10.00 for every half hour after 22:00hrs. Seconded by Laurentia Elementary.

**Carried UNANIMOUSLY**

#### **5.2 Date, Time and Place of meetings**

Meetings for the 2008-2009 Parents Committee will be held on Thursday, October 2<sup>nd</sup>, November 6<sup>th</sup>, December 4<sup>th</sup>, January 15<sup>th</sup>, February 5<sup>th</sup>, March 12<sup>th</sup>, April 2<sup>nd</sup>, May 7<sup>th</sup>, and June 4<sup>th</sup> at 19:30 hrs at the Administrative center located at 235 Montée Lesage, Rosemère, Quebec.

**PC20081002-06** Mountainview Elementary MOVED THAT the meetings are as listed above. Seconded by Souvenir Elementary.

**Carried UNANIMOUSLY**

#### **5.3 2009-2010 Enrolment Criteria**

Please read the consultation document and be ready to vote on this at the next meeting. The Parents Committee has played a big part in the consultation in enrolment criteria in the past. The only change in this document is that the Grandfather clause has been removed.

#### **5.4 PC Internal rules of procedure 2008-2009**

Please read the rules and come back prepared to discuss and make suggestions at the next meeting.

#### **5.5 Chairperson's Annual Report**

Included in your packages.

#### **5.6 Parent Commissioner's Report**

- First meeting, Secondary 4 books discussed. History, ERC and math books received. Science books coming soon;
- Enrolment is up this year. The board is looking at getting new schools;
- Foundation Gala will be held on January 8<sup>th</sup>, 2009 Chateau Royal; and
- Almost all cameras have been installed in the schools.

#### **5.7 PC Action Plan**

Each year the PC takes on two or three projects that they think are important and set sub committees to see through to the end. Members are asked to think about important issues and send in suggestions on what they would like to see as an action plan. This will be tallied by Twin Oaks and in November the ideas will be brought forth.

#### **5.8 Autism Awareness Centre**

Information sheet was passed around. If you know anyone who would be interested in attending please pass it along. Everyone is welcome to attend even if they do not have children in our board.

## 6. DIRECTOR GENERAL'S Report

- Safety – last year a project was approved to install camera systems in high schools and adult education centers to increase safety practices. Very innovative technology was installed. Camera systems installed are working on our network with IP system. Images can be watched as they are happening and can rewind. Very clear system, no mistakes. The foundation supported the school board in helping to finance these systems. Almost all of the high schools are completed.
- Interactive video conferencing at LLHS and Laurentian Regional high. Distance training, conferences can be held. These rooms can be open to the community.
- Interactive group offers homework programs at schools. Service is a program about teambuilding, time management, a lot of positive tools for students. Can be funded through homework and wellness grant from the government that your schools receive. The Principals have been given this information.
- Booklet to promote professional services within the board was distributed to members. This lists all of the services that our school board offers.
- Sport etude soccer program offered in Laval Jr. This is not the same as the concentration programs. It is a condensed version of the academic portion so that they have more time for their sport outside of the school facility.
- Mme Lepage's objectives for this year are:
  - **Communication** – important to increase visibility in school visits;
  - **Planning** – having a corporate calendar of events and meetings for the year to give all stakeholders the time they need to plan;
  - **Continued improvement** – look at new ways and services to make improvements to services we have in our schools – needs to address the financial situation as we are in deficit. We are in a recovery plan at the moment to get back to a healthier situation;
  - **Partnerships** – accomplished many things with the help of partners, learn from other peoples best practices, seek involvement of potential partners. For example we have an entente with the Foster Pavilion to get services in drug counselling for our high school student. Tel Jeunes was translated into English. Vocational education would like to develop more services for trades for students to develop more courses in the trades industry for children who are better hands on learners.
- School visits are going well. Mme. Lepage is attending schools on Thursday mornings and is enjoying them. Encourages parents to feel comfortable to come to these meeting with questions and concerns.

In response to a question from St. Paul Elementary, the total cost to the foundation for the installation of cameras is \$50,000.00. The board invested \$100,000.00. The total cost of installation is around \$250,000.00.

Mother Teresa suggested that the children be more involved in these galas that the foundation holds. Mr. Bletas responded that for next years school calendars, students art works will be involved. Artwork could be displayed in the school board.

In response to a question from St Jude Elementary, the budget for camera installation is on target.

In response to a question from McCaig, the ministry provides funding for schools with financial needs communities. The ministry decides which schools are benefitting from this.

Training session will be held for Governing Boards. Possible dates within the fall will be suggested by next meeting.

Bill 88 – The Ministry is contemplating passing this new law that will change some governance rules that will affect many stakeholders within the school board. One of these is that they will allow the school board to claw back any surpluses that schools have. Our school board does not have the intention to do this, but will encourage schools to make a plan for these surpluses. There will be a reduction of commissioners from 19 to 9. There will be 4 Parent Commissioners. Several changes will happen that will affect Governing Boards, Parents Committees, and Commissioners but no one is aware of the impact until the actual law is passed some time in October. The changes in this bill will be e-mailed to Silvana and she will send them to members.

Mr. Bletas concluded that this board had opened 13 new schools and centers in 10 years. This spring there was a focus session on governance and accountability, bullying. Last April 23<sup>rd</sup> the council passed a resolution to hold a series of town hall meetings in schools concerning safety and security. There will be three sessions in November in various areas. Mr. Bletas distributed a paper on representation for these town hall meetings and encourages parent participation from the Parents Committee. The theme is security and safety in schools. When these meetings have been held, the group who initiated this will get together to look over it. Mr. Bletas cautioned parents to be prepared for these meetings. If you make a statement, be prepared to back this up.

**PC20081002-07** Laurentia Elementary MOVED THAT at 22:00 hrs, the meeting is extended one half hour. Seconded by Joliette Elementary

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

**For: Crestview elem, Franklin Hill elem, Genesis elem, Grenville elem, Joliette elem, Joliette high, Laurentia elem, Laurentian elem, Laurentian Regional high, Laval Jr. high, Laval Liberty high, McCaig elem, Morin Heights elem, Mother Teresa Jr. high, Mountainview elem, Our Lady of Peace Elem, Rosemere high, Souvenir elem, St Jude elem, St Paul elem, St Vincent elem, Ste Agathe Acad, Twin Oaks elem**

**Abstain: Arundel elem, SEAC**

The committee discussed copyright laws within our school board.

In response to a question from Joliette Elementary, the small schools in our board are Arundel Elementary, Grenville, Batshaw and Ste-Adèle.

**7. BRAINSTORMING/ROUND TABLE Session**

The following 6 parents from Parents Committee will be attending the Town Hall Meetings  
November 10<sup>th</sup> from 1:30-4:00 at Laurier Sr. high – Crestview Elementary and Franklin Hill Elementary  
November 10<sup>th</sup> from 7:00-9:30 at Administrative center – Mountainview Elementary and St Jude Elementary  
November 13<sup>th</sup> from 1:30-4:00 at LRHS – Laurentian Regional High and Joliette High

Joliette Elementary has a PPO for the first time and would like members input.

Laurentia Elementary enquired if other schools had a football program. Arundel Elementary has a touch rugby program. Ste Agathe Academy has flag football at their school.

Genesis would like to know how she can make her role known to the parents. Some chairpersons put out a blurb in their newsletters that the schools send out.

**8. QUESTION Period**

France Denault commented that the communication of SEAC has improved slightly, but suggested other ways to get SEAC known to parents. She encourages high school parents to get onto SEAC and to please encourage your Principal’s to pass out the pamphlets to all. These pamphlets could also be included in the report cards at the end of the year.

All newborns will have mandatory hearing testing. This was an initiative that SEAC worked on.

**9. ADJOURNMENT**

**PC20081002-08** Arundel Elementary MOVED THAT the meeting is adjourned at 22:35 hrs. Seconded by Joliette Elementary.

**Carried UNANIMOUSLY**

Respectfully submitted by:  
Susan O’Keeffe, Recording Secretary

Minutes approved \_\_\_\_\_, 2008

Chairperson \_\_\_\_\_ Secretary \_\_\_\_\_