

Minutes of the second (2nd) meeting of the 2008-2009 Sir Wilfrid Laurier Parents Committee held on Thursday November 6th, 2008 at 19:30 in the Boardroom of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board, 235 Montee Lesage, Rosemere, Quebec.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Silvana Di Medio	CRESTVIEW ELEMENTARY	Mario De Sousa	MOTHER TERESA JR HIGH
Violet Selby	GRENVILLE ELEMENTARY	Silva Rehel	MOUNTAINVIEW ELEM
Patricia Saputo	HILLCREST ACADEMY	Lisa Chartier	OUR LADY OF PEACE ELEM
Jennifer Maccarone	JOHN F KENNEDY	Kathleen Thompson	PIERRE E TRUDEAU ELEM
Dean Dugas	JOLIETTE ELEMENTARY	Cathal Marlow	PINEWOOD ELEMENTARY
Helena Muir	JOLIETTE HIGH	Luc Samson	ROSEMERE HIGH
Laurent Courion	JULES VERNE ELEMENTARY	Pablo Carrera	SOUVENIR ELEMENTARY
Andrew Sproule	LAURENTIA ELEM	Guy Gagnon	ST JUDE ELEMENTARY
Jennifer Boudreault	LAURENTIAN ELEMENTARY	Roberto Bomba	ST PAUL ELEMENTARY
Donald Beverly	LAURENTIAN REGIONAL	Angelo Grasso	ST VINCENT ELEMENTARY
Costanzo Colasante	LAURIER SR HIGH	Caroline Laverdure	STE-ADELE ELEMENTARY
Guy Goffredo	LAVAL JR HIGH	Orlando Prizio	TERRY FOX ELEMENTARY
John Colotouros	LAVAL LIBERTY HIGH	Chantal Pelletier	TWIN OAKS ELEMENTARY
Serge Duval	MCCAIG ELEMENTARY		
Andrew Simon	MORIN HEIGHTS ELEM		

ALSO PRESENT: Alain Guay, Deputy Director General; Steve Bletas, Chairperson of Council of Commissioners; Mario DiDomenico, Naz Facchino, Grace Nesi, Steve Mitchell, Commissioners

ABSENT: Arundel elem, Franklin Hill elem, Genesis elem, Lake of Two Mountains high, Rawdon elem, Ste-Agathe acad, SEAC

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

1. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Add 6.1 ERC, Pinewood

PC20081106-01 St. Vincent Elementary MOVED THAT the agenda is accepted with noted addition. Seconded by Pierre E. Trudeau Elementary.

Carried UNANIMOUSLY

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF October 2nd, 2008

PC20081106-02 Mountainview Elementary MOVED THAT the minutes of October 2nd, 2008 are accepted as presented. Seconded by Joliette Elementary.

This motion was carried on the following division:

For: Crestview elem, Grenville elem, Joliette elem, Joliette high, Jules Verne 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, Souvenir elem, St Paul elem, St Vincent elem, Twin Oaks elem
Abstain: Hillcrest Acad, JF Kennedy elem, Laurier Sr. high, Pierre E. Trudeau elem, Pinewood elem, St Jude elem, Ste Adele elem, Terry Fox elem

3. CHAIRPERSON'S Report

Chairperson reminded members that they are on this committee representing parents of the school and report back to your Governing Board. Report back factual information and motions and not opinions.

Parent Commissioners goal is to attend as many as possible standing committees and as ambassadors on parents committee's behalf and will attend special events if invited.

4. QUESTION Period

5. BUSINESS Arising

5.1 Healthy eating & Active living policy

- 4.6.3 Sports power drinks, energy boosting drinks, high caffeine drinks, should be banned from being sold in schools. Schools cannot tell parents not to send the drinks, however they can call parents to educate them. The final decision will be that of the parents though.
- 11.0 If school yard facilities do not exist in schools, will the government fund equipment or how will the board implement this equipment. Mr. Guay responded that the school board is trying to find ways with each individual school to find ways to improve the school yard.
- Parents of Morin Heights were concerned about lunch bags being monitored and kids being challenged for what they are bringing into school. The parents feel that the school has no business telling parents what to pack in their lunches. Mr. Guay responded that this is a delicate subject and the school can give guidelines to parents on what to put in lunches but ultimately it is the parents' responsibility. The principal needs to discuss with lunch supervisors that the only policing they should be doing of lunches is for allergy purposes only.
- In terms of fundraising for chocolates, they are not prohibited. Schools can send them home for fundraising, the government suggests that you do not sell, but if you want to sell, they recommend that sugar is not the first ingredient and that it have 70% cocoa content.

Rosemere High entered the building at 19:53 hrs

- 4.11 Effective date should read - School board policy applies as long as the food provider is on the premises.
- Page 7 – margarine salted, 100% vegetable oil, should also read non hydrogenated
- 9.2 – comment 2 – activities geared to “students” and not just girls
- 9.2.3 – offer elementary schools “additional” activities, not “more”
- 11.3 (page 11) third comment – “ensuring that children should not wear clothing that can get caught in equipment”
- Page 12 – paragraph 13, activities specifically geared to girls – strike out that paragraph
- 4.7 develop plans for food allergies – period, not just nuts, oil and almonds

Laurentia Elementary entered the meeting at 20:10 hrs

- Schools will have to take responsibility for items sold at a bake sale.
- Principals will be responsible to educate parents on a regular basis. Keep reminding them to follow and promote the healthy school policy.
- Energy pills need to be discussed as well.

PC20081106-03 Our Lady of Peace Elementary MOVED THAT the “Healthy eating and active living policy” is accepted the policy with the above recommendations. Seconded by St. Jude Elementary.

This motion is carried on the following division:

For: Crestview elem, Grenville elem, Hillcrest elem, JF Kennedy, Joliette elem, Joliette high, Jules Verne elem, Laurentian elem, Laurentian Regional high, Laurier Sr high, Laval Jr high, Laval Liberty high, McCaig elem, Morin Heights elem, Mother Teresa Jr high, Mountinview Elem, Our Lady of Peace elem, PE Trudeau elem, Souvenir elem, St Jude elem, St Paul elem, St Vincent elem, Ste-Adele elem, Terry Fox elem, Twin Oaks elem
Abstain: Laurentia elem, Pinewood elem, Rosemere high

5.2 Program of Studies – Elementary

PC20081106-04 St Jude Elementary MOVED THAT the Program of studies - Elementary is approved as presented. Seconded by Grenville Elementary.

This motion is carried on the following division:

For: Crestview elem, Grenville elem, Hillcrest elem, JF Kennedy, Joliette elem, Joliette high, Jules Verne elem, Laurentia elem, Laurentian elem, Laurentian Regional high, Laurier Sr high, Laval Jr high, Laval Liberty high, Morin Heights elem, Mother Teresa Jr high, Mountinview Elem, Our Lady of Peace elem, PE Trudeau elem, Rosemere high, Souvenir elem, St Jude elem, St Paul elem, St Vincent elem, Ste-Adele elem, Terry Fox elem, Twin Oaks elem
Abstain: McCaig elem, Pinewood elem

5.3 Program of Studies – Secondary

PC20081106-05 Joliette High MOVED THAT the Program of Studies – Secondary is approved as presented. Seconded by Our Lady of Peace Elementary

This motion was carried on the following division:

For: Crestview elem, Grenville elem, Joliette elem, Joliette high, Jules Verne elem, Laurentia elem, Laurentian elem, Laurentian Regional high, Laurier Sr high, Laval Jr high, Laval Liberty high, McCaig elem, Mother Teresa Jr high, Mountainview Elem, Our Lady of Peace elem, PE Trudeau elem, Rosemere high, Souvenir elem, St Paul elem, St Vincent elem, Ste-Adele elem, Terry Fox elem, Twin Oaks elem
Abstain: Hillcrest acad, JF Kennedy elem, Morin Heights elem, Pinewood elem, St Jude elem

5.4 Enrolment Criteria 2009-2010

PC20081106-06 Joliette elementary MOVED THAT the enrolment criteria for 2009-2010 is accepted as presented. Seconded by Our Lady of Peace elementary.

This motion was carried on the following division:

For: Crestview elem, Grenville elem, JF Kennedy elem, Joliette elem, Joliette high, Laurentia elem, Laurentian Elem, Laurentian Regional high, Laval Jr. high, Laval Liberty high, Mother Teresa Jr high, Mountainview elem, Our Lady of Peace, Rosemere high, Souvenir elem, St Paul elem, St Jude elem, St Vincent elem, Terry Fox Elem, Twin Oaks elem
Abstain: Hillcrest acad, Jules Verne elem, Laurier Sr. high, McCaig elem, Morin Heights elem, PE Trudeau elem, Pinewood elem, Ste Adele elem

5.5 Internal rules of procedure

The committee unanimously agrees that the rules that are in force now will remain in force

5.6 PC Action Plan

- Safety remains the number 1 concern
- Enriched programs in schools – this has been brought to commissioners, elementary and high school principals and will be going to management committees within a week. Certain criteria will be set and contribution from parents will be encouraged once something has been proposed.
- Healthy and nutrition in schools
- Gym time in schools
- Green schools
- Qualifications of substitute teachers, and quality of lists – Mr. Guay responded that the HR department is going to universities to recruit qualified substitutes. Gives free flu shots to employees to help prevent illnesses. Several schools agree with this. Mr. Guay responded that they want qualified teachers. Recommends that this be brought back to the HR standing committee and will come back with comments. This committee has unanimously asked Silvana to write a letter to the school board on behalf of parents committee and all parents to bring forward concerns on non qualified teachers in schools. When there are situations like this, contact Mr. Guay immediately.
- If there are kids in schools who are coded and need help, contact the school board to ask where they can get services for this special need.
- St Jude recommends that the parent committee put together a communications committee to put together a 411 booklet of who to call for specific issues.
- This committee recommends that we choose one topic per meeting to brainstorm and go back to our schools to ask their opinions so that it can be discussed this at meetings. The topics will be chosen at a meeting. Next month communications will be discussed, please go back to your schools and discuss what it is that you would like to see in a communications booklet.

5.7 Election of Parent alternates to SEAC

No new names were brought forward. Please

Hillcrest MOVED THAT Jennifer Maccarone JFK as alternate to seac. Seconded by our lady of peace.

Carried UNANIMOUSLY

5.8 Governing Board Training sessions

November 24th there will be a session

5.9 Bill 88

- Was adopted to take effect after the elections. No details are for sure yet. Some changes will be:
- Chairman elected by universal suffrage
- Reduction from 19 to 9 plus chairman – 10 - the chairperson will campaign to be chairperson only. Will have to decide if they want to be a commissioner or a chairperson, cannot run for both.
- Three parent commissioners – elementary, secondary and special needs – 2 year terms; only one will sit on executive
- Coop members – anyone from outside, ie: health care, non voting member
- If commissioners surpass 10 – 4 parent commissioners to be chosen from parents committee
- GB will have a requirement that training be given to members.
- Every board will establish a by-law for procedures on complaints from parents or students.
- English school boards asked for derogation because of the size of territories.
- Once the provincial election has taken place, modalities of this bill will be looked at.
- Reduce commissioner's mandate to three years to coincide with municipal elections. This will cost more money for our board.

6. NEW BUSINESS

6.1 ERC

Pinewood reiterates that parents should have the right to choose their own religious studies and encourages parents to do something about it.

7. DIRECTOR GENERAL'S Report

7.1 Alain Guay, Deputy Director General

- Safety and security going well, safety committee meets every few weeks. One topic is student supervisor. It was agreed to start training them. Mr. Ron Kessler came to speak to supervisors about safety and their roles. The supervisors embraced this training session and would like more.
- Ped day workshops for teachers are always held
- A workshop was held for support staff on how to deal with difficult phone callers.
- Training and workshops for Principals workshops will be from 3 pm-5pm. This way Principals spend more time in schools and are continuously trained on important issues. Three workshops have been held, HR, Financial Resources and how to handle discipline
- Last year the foundation gave bursaries of \$100.00 per elementary school and \$500.00 to high schools.
- The foundation is helping get the exploration labs in the CLC centers. These labs are hands on teaching for vocational education. By developing partnerships with businesses they are hoping to get financing for these labs as well.
- Foundation gala is January 8th, 2009. Alain Choquette, magique and humour. Please support this as the money comes back into the school. A lottery from now until lobster fest with the grand prize being a Volvo. Lots of other very interesting prizes. Tickets are \$100.00 each. Only 1100 tickets being sold.

7.2 Steve Bletas, Chairperson of the Council of Commissioners

- GB training session will be on November 24th, 2008. Location to be determined, but looking at doing it at the CLC's in Laval and Lachute. A second one will be held in April on budget and a third one in May on subject time allocation and general assemblies. Different sessions will be teaching different things that GB needs to know and vote on. Information will be sent this week. JHS would like a session closer to their region. Silvana will speak to Marie Claude. It is recommended that parents, teachers and administrators take these courses.
- Focus sessions will be held on November 10th at LSHS in the afternoon. In the evening it will be held at Administrative center and on November 13th at LRHS in the afternoon. All stakeholders will be present. These sessions will be excellent where people can discuss safety issues. Reporting will be done by students or parents. All ideas will be collated and policies could be made. Mr. Bletas is happy to see this active participation. Mr. Goffredo will be added to the evening session at the Administrative center. A parent is needed for the afternoon session at LSHS. Morin Heights will attend the session at Laurentian Regional High. If anyone else would like to attend, please let Mr. Bletas know.

McCaig left the meeting at 21:36 hrs

8. TREASURER’S Report

The new treasurer did not get anything from last year and will work with Silvana during the month to get this report up to date for next month. Members are reminded that they must submit their claims within three months. The financial policy will be sent to all members so that they know what they are allowed to claim.

9. PARENTS COMMISSIONER’S Report

- Have schools received the medic alert pamphlets. All schools should receive these pamphlets within the next couple of weeks. Thank you to St Jude.
- McCaig elementary has received financing from the MELS to enlarge by 8 classes and one gymnasium. There are a few schools looking at different requests and the board is waiting for approval from the MELS.
- 2.7 million deficit. For more information see the website
- 34 minute conference call from CLC with astronaut in space with kids from Crestview. This astronaut attended Crestview elementary.
- Did the school receive the letter from MELS
- LEARN online teaching resource available to students, free tutoring for children. Passwords are available at the schools; see your principal and he will tell you where to get them from.

10. RCP-3L Report

No report was provided.

11. SEAC Report

No report was provided.

12. BRAINSTORMING/ROUND TABLE Session

12.1 PPO and/or Home and School

Joliette Elementary needs information on PPO and how it runs. Governing board must approve that PPO can fundraise and PPO will advise the governing board what they are fundraising for. It is really important to work together with the PPO. GB also consults the PPO on various issues.

13. QUESTION Period

14. CLOSURE of meeting

PC20081106-07 Pierre E Trudeau MOVED THAT the meeting is adjourned at 22:41 hrs. Seconded by Our Lady of Peace Elementary.

Carried UNANIMOUSLY

Respectfully submitted by:
Susan O’Keefe, Recording Secretary

Minutes approved _____, 2008

Chairperson _____ Secretary _____