

Minutes of the third (3rd) meeting of the 2008-2009 Sir Wilfrid Laurier Parents Committee held on Thursday December 4th, 2008 at 19:30 in the Boardroom of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board, 235 Montée Lesage, Rosemère, Québec.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Ronald Cole	ARUNDEL ELEMENTARY	Mario De Sousa	MOTHER TERESA JR HIGH
Silvana Di Medio	CRESTVIEW ELEMENTARY	Silva Rehel	MOUNTAINVIEW ELEM
Lori Rinaldi	GENESIS ELEMENTARY	Lisa Chartier	OUR LADY OF PEACE ELEM
Violet Selby	GRENVILLE ELEMENTARY	Kathleen Thompson	PIERRE E TRUDEAU ELEM
Patricia Saputo	HILLCREST ACADEMY	Cathal Marlow	PINEWOOD ELEMENTARY
Dean Dugas	JOLIETTE ELEMENTARY	Luc Samson	ROSEMERE HIGH
Karen MacInnes	LAKE OF TWO MOUNTAINS	Pablo Carrera	SOUVENIR ELEMENTARY
Andrew Sproule	LAURENTIA ELEMENTARY	Guy Gagnon	ST JUDE ELEMENTARY
Jennifer Boudreault	LAURENTIAN ELEMENTARY	Roberto Bomba	ST PAUL ELEMENTARY
Costanzo Colasante	LAURIER SR HIGH SCHOOL	Danielle Gareau	SAINTE AGATHE ACADEMY
Guy Goffredo	LAVAL JR HIGH SCHOOL	Chantal Pelletier	TWIN OAKS ELEMENTARY
John Colotouros	LAVAL LIBERTY HIGH		
Andrew Simon	MORIN HEIGHTS ELEM		

ALSO PRESENT: Alain Guay, Assistant Director General, Mario DiDomenico, Tom Mouhteros Commissioners

ABSENT: Franklin Hill elem, JF Kennedy elem, Joliette high, Jules Verne elem, Laurentian Regional high, McCaig elem, St Vincent elem, Rawdon elem, Terry Fox elem, SEAC

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

1. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Add 6.1 Outlawing of Christmas in our schools

PC20081204-01 Joliette Elementary MOVED THAT the agenda is accepted with the addition. Seconded by Hillcrest Academy.

This motion was CARRIED on the following division:

For: Arundel elem, Grenville elem, Genesis elem, Hillcrest elem, Joliette elem, Lake of Two Mountains high, Laurentia elem, Laurentian elem, Laurier Sr high, Laval Jr high, Laval Liberty high, Morin Heights elem, Mother Teresa jr.High, Mountainview elem, P.E. Trudeau elem, Pinewood elem, Souvenir elem, St. Jude elem, St. Paul elem, Ste-Agathe acad, Terry Fox elem, Twin Oaks elem
Against: Crestview elem, Our Lady of peace elem

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF November 6th, 2008

PC20081204-02 Hillcrest Academy MOVED THAT the minutes of November 6th, 2008 are accepted as presented. Seconded by Our Lady of Peace Elementary.

This motion was CARRIED on the following division:

For: Crestview elem, Grenville elem, Hillcrest Acad, Joliette elem, Lake of Two Mountains high, Laurentia elem, Laurentian elem, Laurier Sr. high, Laval Jr high, Laval Liberty high, Morin Heights elem, Teresa Jr high, Mountainview elem, Our Lady of Peace elem, P.E. Trudeau elem, Pinewood elem, Souvenir elem, St. Jude elem, St Paul elem, Terry Fox elem, Twin Oaks elem
Abstain: Arundel elem, Genesis elem, Lake of Two Mountains high, Ste-Agethe acad

3. CHAIRPERSON'S Report

- A response was received from the MELS to a letter written by the Chair of Crestview Elementary on the protocol for fundraising food items in the school. Copies were made and is available to members should they want one.
- I am safe DVD's passed out to members who did not get them last year. This DVD is for the Governing Board Members and staff only and should not be shown to students.
- The Chairperson will attend the next Council of Commissioners meeting where the subject of the qualified teacher letter will be brought up in person.

4. QUESTION Period

5. BUSINESS Arising

5.1 Governing Board Training session feedback

- Please fill out the evaluation sheet attached in your packages and return it. Make sure if other members from your school were there that they fill it out also and send it to Jocelyne Thompson at the Administrative center.
- A suggestion was made that at the next meeting specific questions be laid out so those members who would like to attend know what the meeting will be about and be ready to discuss it.
- Members are to receive the power point presentation.

5.2 PC Action Plan – Parents Committee

The committee will prepare a communiqué pamphlet on “who’s who”, resources available and where to call for all the needs that parents can call for their children within the school board. St. Jude, Pierre E Trudeau, Mountainview, Morin Heights, OLP, Crestview and St Paul will be on this committee. A meeting will be called in the New Year.

5.3 Election of Parent alternate member to SEAC

PC20081204-03 Laval Jr High MOVED THAT Danielle Desrosiers of Sainte Agathe Academy is voted as an alternate parent representative on the SEAC. Seconded by Genesis Elementary.

This motion was CARRIED on the following division:

For: Arundel elem, Crestview elem, Genesis elem, Grenville elem, Hillcrest acad, Lake of Two Mountains elem, Laurentia elem, Laurentian elem, Laurier Sr. high, Laval Jr high, Laval Liberty high, Morin Heights elem, Mother Teresa Jr. high, Mountainview elem, Our Lady of Peace elem, Pierre E Trudeau elem, Pinewood elem, Rosemere high, Souvenir Elem, St Jude elem, St. Paul elem, Ste-Agathe acad, Twin Oaks elem
Abstain: Joliette elem

6. NEW BUSINESS

6.1 Outlawing of Christmas in our Schools

Pinewood read a statement written over his concern that our schools are not using the term “Christmas” but using the word Holiday instead. This is the time of year that Christmas is celebrated and it should be recognized as this holiday and not changed to the “Holiday Season”. This is true for all religious celebrations, their name should be used. It has become politically incorrect to use the real name of what the holiday is. Christmas is the holiday and should not be outlawed in our schools.

Mr. Guay responded that the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School board embraces Christmas here at the Administrative center and he hopes that the other schools in the board encourage Merry Christmas and any other holiday within their schools. The committee entered into a lengthy discussion on this topic.

7. DIRECTOR GENERAL'S Report

- The school board is closing the schools on Election Day but was encouraging schools to keep the daycares opened on December 8th. If your school decides not to keep the daycare open for any reason, it is a school decision. This extra day off will be used to host a management meeting on the subject of the budget and recovery plan. In the afternoon the administrators will have a workshop given by Marie Claude Drouin on copyrights and what are the rules when copying materials in schools. In response to a question from Arundel, this copyright workshop will be up to date on the newest copyright laws. Arundel will send the link on copyright laws to members.
- There is a Police R.V. in our parking lot. The Ste-Therese-de Blainville Police force has asked our permission to use our lot as a base station because there is a missing person in the neighbourhood and they needed a place for a command station in order to proceed with their investigation. The schools in the community were advised of this and although some extra safety measures were taken there is no danger involved. This missing person is not a danger to the community.
- In response to a question from Arundel concerning the 50% Principal/teacher workload in their school, Mr. Guay responded that he has spoken to their Principal and has not had the impression that she is having a hard time handling the workload.
- There is concern over the fact that the Laval high schools will be starting an hour later next year. Mr. Guay responded that this is because of the cost of bussing. Delaying the start by an hour will save hundreds of thousands of dollars in transportation costs. The school board tried everything to negotiate a lower price but just could not. He went on to say that there will be a meeting at the schools involved concerning this.
- On January 8th SWL Foundation will be holding their annual Gala. Tickets are \$250.00 each, (\$112.00 a tax receipt will be given). Mr. Guay encourages schools to get their parents and communities involved as all the money raised goes back into the schools.

8. TREASURER'S Report

A report was distributed and explained by Mountainview.

PC20081204-04 Rosemère High MOVED THAT the Parents Committee will send two members to the Magic and Humour Sir Wilfrid Laurier Foundation gala event at a cost of \$450.00 for two tickets. Seconded by Laval Liberty High.

Carried UNANIMOUSLY

9. PARENTS COMMISSIONER'S Report

- Financial statements came out and the board is in a deficit. A recovery plan must be submitted to the MELS by December 15th, 2008. The objective of the recovery plan is that no measures will affect student services.
- School surpluses still a hot topic, please encourage your schools to designate these surpluses by a motion at your GB meeting as soon as possible. Some schools are still not getting their financial statements at Governing Board meetings. Governing Boards have a right to see their budget. It is EXTREMELY important to earmark your surpluses.
- STL busses are passing by clusters of students waiting to take the bus on many occasions. If this happens, parents must call STL and complain. Complain often as if there are no complaints nothing will be done. The more complaints made, the more likely they will rectify this situation.

10. RCP-3L Report

No report this month; an annual report is available to anyone who would like to read it.

11. SEAC Report

No report this month

12. BRAINSTORMING/ROUND TABLE Session

The Communiqué needs to be discussed and what direction the committee would like to go with it so that the sub-committee can work on it.

- Helping the parents find resources in and out of the school;
- Steps to resolving a problem in school, who to talk to first, second, etc;
- Help the staff in and out of school, if they are looking for resources where they can turn to;
- Organizational chart made of the hierarchy of the school board with some links in the community;
- SEAC will be promoted in this communiqué as well as transportation, taxation, adult and vocational education, maintenance of the schools, special needs for children.
- Once our communiqué is done, it can be used as a guideline for other schools to make their own with their own needs.

13. QUESTION Period

- In response to a question from Joliette Elementary, the enriched programs are being discussed right now. It is in its preliminary stages now and the hope is that it will be in all schools and not just one or servicing one area only. The parents committee's main goal is to ensure that all the schools have these programs. The school board is taking this very seriously. If anyone is interested in joining the sub-committee for this enriched program, please e-mail Silvana before the holidays. The committee entered into discussion on the pros and cons of an enriched program within classes. The sub-committee of the Parents Committee needs to get together to come up with ideas to give to the Board's sub-committee.
- Parents are still having a hard time understanding that we cannot get textbooks for our children. With the new reform, there are no English text books available to purchase. This board worked very hard on this and put pressure on the MELS to release the chapters of the English textbooks as they become available. The committee would like the freedom to go outside Quebec to buy their books. This school board brought this up to the MELS but it was turned down.

14. CLOSURE of meeting

- Congratulations to the two members who will be attending the SWL Foundation gala on January 8th, 2009 - Patricia Saputo, Hillcrest; and Lisa Chartier, Our Lady of Peace. In the event the winners cannot attend or do not want the tickets, alternate picks are (in the order chosen: Guy Goffredo, LJHS; Jennifer Maccarone, McCaig; Karen McInnes, LTMHS; and Costanza Colosante, LSHS.
- MERRY CHRISTMAS, HAPPY HANNUKAH...HAPPY NEW YEAR ☺
- Next meeting Thursday, January 15th, 2009 @ 7:30pm.

PC20081204-05 Our Lady of Peace Elementary MOVED THAT the meeting is adjourned at 22:36 hrs. Seconded by St. Paul Elementary.
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Carried UNANIMOUSLY

Respectfully submitted by:
Susan O'Keeffe, Recording Secretary

Minutes approved _____, 2009

Chairperson _____ Secretary _____