

Minutes of the fifth (5th) meeting of the 2008-2009 Sir Wilfrid Laurier Parents Committee held on Thursday February 5th, 2009 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	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
Jennifer Maccarone	JOHN F KENNEDY ELEM	Natalie Riley	ROSEMERE HIGH
Dean Dugas	JOLIETTE ELEMENTARY	Pablo Carrera	SOUVENIR ELEMENTARY
Helena Muir	JOLIETTE HIGH	Guy Gagnon	ST JUDE ELEMENTARY
Laurent Courion	JULES VERNE ELEM	Roberto Bomba	ST PAUL ELEMENTARY
Marietta Destounis	LAKE OF TWO MOUNTAINS	Angelo Grasso	ST VINCENT ELEM
Andrew Sproule	LAURENTIA ELEMENTARY	Chantal Pelletier	TWIN OAKS ELEMENTARY
Costanzo Colasante	LAURIER SR HIGH	Nathalie Riley	SEAC
Guy Goffredo	LAVAL JR HIGH		
John Colotouros	LAVAL LIBERTY HIGH		
Mario De Sousa	MOTHER TERESA JR HIGH		

ALSO PRESENT: Alain Guay, Assistant Director General; Steve Bletas, Chairman of the Council of Commissioners; Steve Mitchell, Mario DiDomenico, Commissioner

ABSENT: Arundel elem, Franklin Hill elem, Laurentian elem, Laurentian Regional high, McCaig elem, Morin Heights elem, Rawdon elem, Ste-Adele elem, Ste-Agathe acad, Terry Fox elem,

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

1. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Welcome to Alain Guay, Steve Bletas, Steve Mitchell and Mario DiDomenico

Add 6.2 FCPQ Survey

Add 6.3 Expulsions at Joseph Hermes school

Add 6.4 Evaluation Procedures for children in schools

PC20090205-01 St. Paul Elementary MOVED THAT the agenda is accepted with the noted additions. Seconded by Pierre E Trudeau Elementary.

Carried UNANIMOUSLY

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF January 15th, 2009

PC20090205-02 Joliette Elementary MOVED THAT the minutes of January 15th, 2009 are accepted as presented. Seconded by John F. Kennedy.

This motion was carried on the following division:

For: Crestview elem, Hillcrest acad, John F Kennedy elem, Joliette elem, Joliette high, Jules Verne elem, Laurier Sr high, Laval Jr high, Laval Liberty high, Pierre E Trudeau elem, Pinewood elem, Souvenir elem, St Paul elem, St Vincent elem, Twin Oaks elem,
Abstain: Genesis elem, Grenville elem, Lake of Two Mountains high, Mother Teresa Jr. high, Mountainview elem, Our Lady of Peace elem, Rosemere High, St Jude elem, SEAC

3. CHAIRPERSON'S Report

The Sir Wilfrid Laurier Foundation is holding its first Lottery. Tickets are \$100.00 each and only 1315 have been printed. Schools will be asked to participate in selling them and every ticket sold by the school will get \$10.00 given back to them. There are several great prizes with grand prize being a Volvo S60. The draw will be held at the Lobsterfest on June 11th, 2009.

4. QUESTION Period

In response to a question from Pierre E. Trudeau Elementary on school surpluses, Mr. Guay responded that the School board is in a recovery plan for the next five years. In previous years the trend has been that schools have only spent 20% of their surpluses. The schools are being asked to continue this trend for the next three years. This does not mean that the school cannot spend their surpluses if they have already earmarked a project to them. If they have a project in mind they may proceed with it. This does not apply to school designated and self financed funds, measures, special projects, and governing board allocations.

5. BUSINESS Arising

5.1 Election Parent Alternate Members to SEAC

PC20090205-03 SEAC MOVED THAT Kelly Ann Donaldson, Morin Heights and Danielle Desrosiers, Sainte Agathe Academy are nominated to the SEAC as alternate delegates. Seconded by St Jude.

Carried UNANIMOUSLY

This leaves 5 alternate delegate places left on SEAC.

5.2 PC Action Plan: Update on Communication Pamphlet

The first meeting was held tonight and it was decided that a "Who do I talk to" pamphlet would be prepared for parents on who to call with questions on everything to do with school life and children. This will give direction to parents on where they go when they need help with anything. Several ideas were discussed and the second meeting will be held next month to elaborate and move forward. There is no timeline set yet, but hopefully something will be available for the next school year to hand out with registration packages. Guy Goffredo offered his services for graphics and making up a prototype that the committee was more than happy to accept.

5.3 Enriched/Talented & Gifted committee update

A meeting was held Monday February 2nd with the members from the parents committee, Steve Bletas and several commissioners. Everyone is trying to push this ahead as soon as possible as it is recognized that there is a need for this in our board. Many ideas were put forward and information on what parents would like was discussed on special programs, accelerated programs, concentration programs. This meeting was to give the school board an idea on what parents would like. Monday February 9th there will be a caucus with commissioners to decide what direction to take this and following that the parents will reconvene and make recommendations. This program will be open to any student and if only one school is open and entrance type exams will be taken. It is hoped that these schools will open up in all of our areas so that everyone can benefit. The communication between parents and commissioners was excellent. Minutes of this meeting were taken and Silvana will share these in summary with Parents Committee next month. There will be serious criteria to get into these programs. The timeframe is to have something set for Secondary 1-2-3 admission in 2010-2011. The program must be ready to be promoted by this fall in order to compete with private schools.

Last Monday there was a meeting with Administrators and many are interested in getting involved in this project.

Laurentia Elementary entered the meeting at 19:50 hrs.

6. NEW BUSINESS

6.1 2009-2010 Budget Building Process

Documentation was distributed to members. Please take the time to read this package. You will also be doing this at the governing board level but we need to submit a consultation from parents committee. You do not need to wait until you meet with your governing board to fill this out for parents committee. Speak to the parents of your school. Once you have read it, e-mail your three wishes per section to Chantal, Twin Oaks. Even if you have not discussed this with your own governing boards, please come back next month prepared to give an opinion on what the needs of your school are. March 12th is the next meeting. Please have your three choices sent to Chantal by February 20th.

6.2 FCPQ Survey

A survey on homework and assignments for elementary school students was distributed to members. Please fill it in and at the next meeting bring it back to Silvana and she will send it to the federation.

6.3 Expulsions at Joseph Hermes school

Pinewood Elementary spoke about students from this high school having been expelled from school for not attending the ERC course. Their parents tried to get them exempt from this course and when the school board refused, the children still did not attend the course and were expelled.

Discussion ensued and this committee thinks that it is not the right anyone to interfere with other school boards practices and are not prepared to give support on this unless there is more information given.

6.4 Evaluation Procedures for children in schools

John F Kennedy asked what the procedure is for the evaluation of a child for speech or occupational therapy. Nathalie Riley responded that the parents are not usually present during these evaluations, however if they ask to be present they can be. The results of these tests must be shared with the parents.

7. REPORTS

7.1 Directorate's report

- A workshop in finance for Governing Boards is being prepared and will be held some time after March break
- At your next Governing Board meeting, ask your Principals about your budgets and surplus/deficit in your school. The budget information should come directly from the school, but if your questions are not answered call Alain Guay. In response to a question from LLHS, the school numbers and the board numbers are the same. Some parents are concerned that their principals are making their own financial statements not using all the proper numbers.
- The school board is in recovery plan and had to present a 5 year plan to the MELS. The 5 objectives for recovery are outlined in a brochure that was distributed to members. All stakeholders of the SWLSB will receive this brochure. There are many small measures that will be put in place that will not be hard to implement but that will save lots of money in the end. Everyone is asked to do their part to help.

7.2 Treasurers report

- As reported. The unpaid amounts of October, November and December will be paid shortly as the expense forms have been misplaced.

7.3 Parent Commissioners report

- Recovery plan talks
- School hour change for Laval high schools is a hot topic. Meetings and presentations are scheduled on February 11th or around there with Governing Boards and School Organization Committee. Mr. Paquette will be at these meetings to answer questions and explain steps taken in how they arrived to this decision. Your Governing Boards will receive invitations.

7.4 RCP-3L report

- Meeting tomorrow. Silvana asked that Nathalie make sure Helena and Roberto are on the distribution lists for meetings so that they know in advance when the meetings are, as they have been receiving them at the last minute.
- General Assembly is in April 2009

7.5 SEAC report

- First meeting for info pamphlets from SEAC will be held in the next couple of weeks
- The committee now has a treasurer
- Helena has not received any notice of SEAC meetings from Complimentary Services. Nathalie reported that it is up to the school board to contact the schools of the delegates to get the information on them so that they know when the meetings are. Nathalie will speak to the secretary of Complimentary Services to ask if all members are contacted. It is felt that the communication between the board and the SEAC is not very good and needs to be looked at.

8. OPEN DISCUSSION

- Laval Jr posed a question to members on teacher’s absences. Many members responded that they have teachers absent very often in their schools and that they are being replaced by people who do not know the subject well. Mr. Guay responded that this board is putting a lot of effort into recruiting new teachers earlier. Parents Committee feels that long term absences should be addressed with parents and children. Mr. Guay will ask Anne Marie to put these notes into the newsletter for administrators that if a teacher is on long term absence that the parents should be informed. Short term replacements are usually replaced by whoever they can find and sometimes this leads to longer term but no one is informed on the situation. Mr. Guay asked that this topic be brought back to the next meeting. Members were told that if there are teachers missing for long periods of time with no explanation, call 911-Alain Guay.
- Mountainview elementary has a problem with their gym and really needs a new one. It is becoming dangerous for children. Mr. Guay responded that in the last 5 years there has been a lot of money injected into the schools for repairs. He suggested that they put this as their first priority on the budget building process. Mr. Guay will speak to Daniel Hogue on this issue and get back to them.
- At Laurentia GB it was reported that the math program was doing well. The teachers in fact are saying that this program is not working and have made requests for materials but cannot get any. Mr. Guay responded that the math consultants at the board are working with schools on programs and will verify with them to meet with these teachers to ask what they are missing. Rosemere High School reported that the grade 9 science teacher is saying that there are no materials to teach the kids, that they are grasping for anything to teach these children. Mr. Guay will look into this as well
- In response from Grenville on a 4-5 year old program, Mr. Guay responded that the school board does not receive funding from the government. Our ESD is looking into it seriously to see if they can get any money from anywhere to start this program, but in the meantime if schools want this it will have to be self financing.

9. QUESTION Period

10. CLOSURE of meeting

Next meeting March 12th, 2009

PC20090205-04 Rosemere High MOVED THAT the meeting is adjourned at 21:33 hrs. Seconded by Our Lady of Peace Elementary.

Carried UNANIMOUSLY

Respectfully submitted by:
Susan O’Keeffe, Recording Secretary

Minutes approved _____, 2009

Chairperson _____ Secretary _____