

Minutes of the sixth (6th) meeting of the 2008-2009 Sir Wilfrid Laurier Parents Committee held on Thursday March 12th, 2009 at 19:30 in the Boardroom of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board, 235 Montee Lesage, Rosemere, Quebec.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Ronald Cole	ARUNDEL ELEMENTARY	Silva Rehel	MOUNTAINVIEW ELEM
Silvana Di Medio	CRESTVIEW 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
Helena Muir	JOLIETTE HIGH	Pablo Carrera	SOUVENIR ELEMENTARY
Laurent Courion	JULES VERNE ELEM	Guy Gagnon	ST JUDE ELEMENTARY
Karen MacInnes	LAKE OF TWO MOUNTAINS	Roberto Bomba	ST PAUL ELEMENTARY
Guy Goffredo	LAVAL JR HIGH	Angelo Grasso	ST VINCENT ELEM
John Coloutouros	LAVAL LIBERTY HIGH	Nathalie Riley	SEAC
Jenny Di Biase	MCCAIG ELEMENTARY		
Andy Simon	MORIN HEIGHTS ELEM		
Mario De Sousa	MOTHER TERESA JR HIGH		

ALSO PRESENT: Anne-Marie Lepage, Director General, Linda DiDomenico, Interim Director, Human Resources

ABSENT: Franklin Hill elem, Genesis elem, JF Kennedy, Laurentia elem, Laurentian elem, Laurentian Regional high, Laurier Sr. high, McCaig elem, Rawdon elem, Ste-Adele elem, Ste-Agathe acad, Terry Fox elem, Twin Oaks elem

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

1. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Add: 6.3 Textbooks (5 mins);

6.4 Parent representation in educational system (5 mins)

The committee welcomes Mrs. Linda Di Domenico, Interim Director of Human Resources to the meeting

PC20090312-01 Pierre E Trudeau MOVED THAT the agenda is accepted with the noted additions. Seconded by Joliette Elementary.

Carried UNANIMOUSLY

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF February 5th, 2009

6.3 not the right "of" anyone

PC20090312-02 Hillcrest Academy MOVED THAT the minutes of February 5th, 2009 are accepted with correction. Seconded by Laval Jr High .

This motion was carried on the following division:

For: Arundel elem, Crestview elem, Grenville elem, Hillcrest acad, Joliette elem, Joliette High, Jules Verne elem, Laurier Sr. high, Laval Jr. high, Mother Teresa Jr high, Our Lady of Peace elem, Pierre E Trudeau elem, Pinewood elem, Souvenir elem, St Jude elem, St. Paul elem, St Vincent elem, SEAC
Abstain: Arundel elem, Lake of Two Mountains high, McCaig elem, Morin Heights elem, Rosemere high

3. CHAIRPERSON'S Report

- Governing Board training session will be held at the CLC Laval, in Laval Liberty and CLC Lachute, in LRHS at 19:00 hrs on March 31st. School budgets, financial reports, daycare and school fees policy will be the topics of the evening. If you have any questions you would like answered, please e-mail them to Jocelyne Thompson at the school board before the meeting.
- Silvana forwarded an e-mail from the FCPQ on bill 88 with directions on how it would be implemented to all members.
- The FCPQ Homework survey that was handed out at last meeting should be handed in before the end of the meeting.

4. QUESTION Period

5. BUSINESS Arising

5.1 Election Parent Alternate Members to SEAC

There are still 5 places available for alternate delegates.

5.2 PC Action Plan: update on Communication Pamphlet

A meeting will be held after the Parents Committee meeting tonight. If anyone has ideas, please submit them before the end of the meeting.

5.3 Enriched/Talented & Gifted Committee update

The next meeting will be meeting March 19th with Mr. Bletas. More information will come at the next meeting

6. NEW BUSINESS

6.1 2009-2010 Budget Building Process

Human Resources

1. Behaviour technicians and attendants
2. Resource teachers
3. Extra secretarial help

Physical Resources

1. Workbooks
2. Buildings (schoolyard/grounds/bathrooms)
3. Computers and technology

Central Level Funding

1. Mentoring/ IT training for teachers
2. Transportation and Bus monitors
3. More academic accelerated programs, adapt different levels of teaching within the same classroom

School Operations

1. Books
2. Better streamlining and training when hiring student supervisors
3. More discretionary funds

PC20080312-03 Mountainview Elementary MOVED THAT the parents committee approves the above noted priorities for the budget building process for the 2009-2010 school year. Seconded by Mother Teresa Jr. High.

Carried UNANIMOUSLY

6.2 2009-2010 School Calendar

Mrs. Di Domenico was here to explain how the calendar for 2009-2010 was developed. This will go out for a 60 day consultation and our feedback will be appreciated. This committee will vote on the calendar at the April's meeting. The calendars for the SWL schools with shared bussing were not distributed yet, as the school board is still waiting for those school commissions to establish their calendars.

6.3 Textbooks

Luc (High school Parent Commissioner) will send the final version of this textbook resolution from the Commissioners before the next meeting so that proper discussion can be held and a resolution supporting or encouraging them can be voted on.

6.4 Parent representation in education system

Pinewood discussed the dropout rate within school boards of Quebec and his personal views on what he thinks public education should be and how to evaluate the learning using a panel of qualified parents. He believes parents should be part of a committee that helps establish the education and evaluation needed for children to succeed.

The committee entered into a discussion and agreed that using parents to police the education system would not work.

7. REPORTS

7.1 Directorate's report

- Mme Lepage thanks parents and is happy to be at the meeting tonight.
- SWL school board took part in the Jeux du Quebec offering room and board to the athletes. Thanks to the staff at McCaig and Rosemere High and Material Resources for all their hard work making this available to the children. The council will be acknowledging the kids within our board for their participation and success in these games.
- Meeting with Minister of Education on several issues including textbooks was held with the Mme Courchesne, Steve Bletas and Mme. Lepage. She reiterated that it was a priority for this school board to have the English textbooks ready for next year but they must be books from Quebec. It is hopeful that they will be translated by then. The board must buy from approved materials from Quebec or we will not be funded for them. Mme. Lepage explained to the Minister that the SWLSB will offer our services as a pilot project if needed for these books. The topic of textbooks she realizes is an important topic. Educational Services Department is making sure our board is represented in strategic committees for textbooks.
- The responses from the Focus session that was held in the fall on respect and responsibility are still being tallied and will be presented at the next month's meeting. This committee would like a presentation on the summary at the next meeting. Mme. Lepage will ask Ms. Deborah Kellman and Ms. Mona Segal from Educational Services to attend.
- The CDC Laval has put forth a request to have vocational education in a construction trade – plumbing. One way to improve the already very good success rate would be to increase these programs specifically for boys. The board is really trying to bring these programs into the board. Right now it is a provincial offer of service for all 9 English boards with all wanting to have vocational programs. Other boards within the area have requested plumbing and hopefully within the next few weeks we will get a response and that this board will be the one selected to offer this course and be able to offer it to all people within our area. If we can accept this program it would mean a new building. This course would be a viable option to our boys in the territory. Plumbing was picked because a needs analogy was done to see what employment was needed and it had to be a trade that was not offered in other English boards.
- By April 15th administrative assignments will be done. These will be announced at the May meeting.

7.2 Treasurers report

- As distributed and explained.
- There will not be as much money this year to the schools for graduation awards. Some options would be trophy, plaque and \$30 to \$35.00 certificate from Chapters or just a trophy and plaque with the certificate. The PC delegates should be presenting these awards at the grad.
- The expense forms from October and November were lost but copies were put on Jocelyn's desk and will be issued within the next 3-4 weeks.

7.3 Parent Commissioners report

- Student from MTHS read a letter to the board regarding the student body's disappointment in school hour changes for the Laval high school starting and finishing hours.
- Mr. Bletas and Mme Lepage met with Mme Courschesne to discuss the following:
 - Aquatic center in Laval
 - Possibility of starting a 4-yr old kindergarten (would most likely start at Grenville)
 - English school books will be accessible at same time as French books
 - Enlargement of Adult Ed at Pont-Viau
 - Discussed construction area for adult ed in lower Laurentians
 - Discussed meetings had with parents and commissioners and caucus meeting held

- Government decreed bill 88: Some powers will be enacted by July/2009 such as: budgetary parameters needing to be based on strategic plan, commissioners needing to attend GB meetings throughout the year, and formation of committee or place where parents and students can place their complaints. The following powers will be enacted at some time later: composition of Council, Parent Commissioners election, and composition of executive committee
- No election for 2009; possibility of twinning with municipal elections which would be in 2013

7.4 RCP-3L report

Will e-mail the report to Silvana and she will e-mail it to members.

7.5 SEAC report

- Parents guide is nearly complete.
- SEAC is hosting a workshop in May. Subjects have not been decided yet. Professional staff from the school board will be giving these workshops. This will be communicated through the principals, advertising and the web site.
- One resignation on SEAC, an alternate took the place so there are 6 alternate positions available. Next meeting March 30th, 2009.
- Communicating the dates of the meetings has been a problem as many members are not receiving dates of meetings. This will be looked into.
- If child was on an IEP last year, it is not automatically done the year after without parent’s knowledge. They should be re-evaluated every year. IEP’s have been a problem for a long time.
- If a child is taken out of a regular English class and given resource time the parents need to be advised. If parents are not advised they should see their Principal.

8. OPEN DISCUSSION

In response to a question from Joliette Elementary School regarding the recovery plan, parents do not have any say where the cuts will occur. The schools have been asked not to spend more than 20% of their surpluses, as this has been the practice over many years anyway. However if you have already started a project you will not be stopped. Most schools have prepared resolutions allocating their surpluses. What have been cut are some personnel services.

9. QUESTION Period

10. CLOSURE of meeting

Next meeting April 2nd, 2009, Lisa Chartier will be chairing the meeting.

PC20090312-04 Our Lady of Peace Elementary MOVED THAT the meeting is adjourned at 21:33 hrs. Seconded by Laval Jr. High.

Carried UNANIMOUSLY

Respectfully submitted by:
Susan O’Keeffe, Recording Secretary

Minutes approved _____, 2009

Chairperson _____ Secretary _____