

Minutes of the NINTH (9th) meeting of the 2008-2009 Sir Wilfrid Laurier Parents Committee held on Thursday June 4, 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	Luc Samson	ROSEMERE HIGH
Violet Selby	GRENVILLE ELEMENTARY	Pablo Carrera	SOUVENIR ELEMENTARY
Patricia Saputo	HILLCREST ACADEMY	Guy Gagnon	ST JUDE ELEMENTARY
Jannifer Maccarone	JOHN F KENNEDY ELEM	Roberto Bomba	ST PAUL ELEMENTARY
Helena Muir	JOLIETTE HIGH	Angelo Grasso	ST VINCENT ELEM
Karen MacInnes	LAKE OF TWO MOUNTAINS	Danielle Gareau	SAINTE-AGATHE ACADEMY
Andrew Sproule	LAURENTIA ELEMENTARY	Chantal Pelletier	TWIN OAKS
Guy Goffredo	LAVAL JR HIGH		
Lisa Chartier	OUR LADY OF PEACE ELEM		
Kathleen Thompson	PIERRE E TRUDEAU ELEM		

ALSO PRESENT: Linda Di Domenico, Director Human Resources; Mario Di Domenico, Mike Pizzola, Commissioners

ABSENT: Arundel elem, Franklin Hill elem, Genesis elem, Joliette elem, Jules Verne elem, Laurentian elem, Laurentian Regional high, Laurier Sr high, Laval Laval Liberty high, McCaig elem, Morin Heights elem, Mother Teresa Jr high, Mountainview elem, Pinewood elem, Rawdon elem, Ste-Adele elem, Terry Fox elem

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

1. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Add: 6.1 Lobster Tales

Add: 8.1 Chairpersons closing statement

PC20090604-01 Pierre E Trudeau elementary MOVED THAT the agenda is accepted with additions. Seconded by St. Vincent elementary.

Carried UNANIMOUSLY

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF May 7th, 2009

Laurier Sr. was present at the last meeting

PC20090604-02 Souvenir Elementary MOVED THAT the minutes of May 7th, 2009 are accepted as presented. Seconded by St. Jude elementary.

This motion was CARRIED on the following division:

For: Crestview elem, Grenville elem, Hillcrest acad, John F Kennedy elem, Laval Jr. high, Our Lady of Peace elem, Souvenir elem, St Jude elem, St Paul elem, St Vincent elem, Ste-Agathe acad, Twin Oaks elem

Abstain: Joliette High, Lake of Two Mountains high, Rosemere high

3. CHAIRPERSON'S Report

- Silvana sent a letter concerning library cuts and received a response from the Director General. She attended the council meeting where the motion to abolish positions was passed. The vote was close.
- Please give your expense claims to Silvana.
- An e-mail was read from Steve Mitchell, Commissioner on the events of last meeting. He wanted the committee to know that they were not absent from last month's meeting on purpose. Silvana responded on behalf of the committee that it was not directed at the commissioners but at the School Board Direction that they were disappointed that no one was here for last month's meeting when it was such a hot topic. She cautioned members that when you are reporting at your GB, you need to be careful that it is the committees' opinion and not your own you are conveying.

4. QUESTION Period

- Mr. Mario Di Domenico commented that he never took it that it was directed at commissioners (see above Chairperson's report 3rd bullet for details).
- Mrs. Linda Di Domenico commented that the comments were duly noted by the direction and efforts will be made that it will not happen again. She went on to say that the parents committee is taken seriously.

5. BUSINESS Arising

5.1 PC Action Plan: update on Communication Pamphlet

The pamphlet was distributed and the members are very happy with the prototype. Thank you to Guy Goffredo for his excellent work. The aim is to get this out for September 2009. Please take it back and get suggestions and e-mail them to Silvana before June 30th.

St. Vincent commends the committee on this initiative and recommends that somewhere on the pamphlet it reads that it was put together by the Parents Committee.

GB20090604-03 Joliette High MOVED THAT the format of the pamphlet is approved. Seconded by Grenville Elementary.

Carried UNANIMOUSLY

5.2 Enriched/Talented & Gifted Committee update

Mrs. Di Domenico responded that various departments have been asked for opinions based on the number of students given, to look at what the impact would be on the schools, ie: Human Resources for staffing, Material resources for space, and Educational Services for educational programs. It is hopeful that groundwork will be prepared for next year to move forward in a concrete way and know all the logistics.

About 10% of the students from the three grades (grade 5-6 and secondary 1) were recommended by the teachers so it justifies having these programs. Mr. Robillard is looking at these students who were recommended compared to the three criteria for each of them. A little over 300 were recommended with approximately 182 from Laval.

5.3 FCPQ General Assembly Update

It was suggested that none of the English boards who will be forming the English Services Committee attend. Lester B Pearson and Eastern townships went as they will remain with the FCPQ, while the rest will form the English services committee.

5.4 3RD Governing Board Training Session

The 3rd and final session this year will be held on June 8th, 19:00 hrs at the CLC in Laval Liberty and CLC in Laurentian Regional. The invitations have gone out to governing boards. Silvana met with Marie Claude for next years sessions and tentative dates have been set as 2nd week of October, 2nd week of March. The final one next year will be earlier.

6. NEW BUSINESS

6.1 Lobster Tales

There is enough money to send 6 members to the Lobster Tales.

GB20090604-04 Pierre E Trudeau MOVED THAT the parents committee sends 6 people to the Lobster Tales at a cost of \$150.00 per ticket - \$900.00. Seconded by Laval Jr, High.

Carried UNANIMOUSLY

Congratulations to Ronald Cole, Arundel; Dean Dugas, Joliette elementary; Lori Rinaldi; Genesis; Caroline Laverdure, Ste-Adele; Cynthia Beyea, Ste-Agathe; Costanzo Colosante, Laurier Sr high; (backups are Guy Goffredo, Laval Jr; Donald Beverly, Laurentian Regional; Oraldo Prizzio; Terry Fox; Dori Raymond; Twin Oaks)

7. REPORTS

7.1 School Board's report

Mrs. Di Domenico says it is a pleasure to be here tonight. The board is winding down the year and a few events have taken place.

- Laurier Gala where 250 children were honoured, very well appreciated by everyone. The new format this year of holding at the Olympia in Deux Montagnes was great as both elementary and high schools could be done on one night.

Laurentia Elementary entered the meeting at 20:10 hrs

- Retirement dinner took place last night. 46 retirees within the board and 43 attended. A very nice event and many people from the board, schools, and commissioners were present. This was an evening that was well appreciated by everyone.
- There will be online registrations for summer school that will simplify the process and speed it up. A pilot project for summer school this year has started where there will be a live classroom for sec 4 math, with a videoconferencing setup. They can be at home following the course. One will be at Laurentian Regional where teaching will be online. It allows the board to reach more students. Classroom courses will also be offered. This will be a two way link where the kids will be able to ask questions if they choose the videoconferencing.
- H1N1 flu seems to have calmed down. The countries moving into colder weather are being watched, we are entering summer, but come the fall we will be on high alert and monitoring the measures being recommended by the MELS so we will be ready to go in case it erupts in the fall season.

7.2 Treasurers report

Silvana prepared the budget and distributed it to members. Anyone who handed in March and April expense claims to Silva, please re-do them and give them to Silvana as they are MIA. Once claims are processed, Silvana will re-do the budget and send copies to members.

7.3 Parent Commissioners report

- Regarding Hillcrest's letter on transportation. It was looked at by the School Organization committee and Mr. Paquette wrote a response to the Principal and GB chair explaining why the policy would not be changed.
- Attended the Laurier gala – it was amazing and children were really happy.
- Some of the maintenance positions that were abolished, were positions that had not been replaced, (ie; retirees, sick leaves) so you may not notice any cutbacks. No one has been left without a job and no service to schools will be lost. At the elementary level, should the school have a particular need; the principal can call MR and request a caretaker. You will get one immediately if it warrants one. Mrs. Di Domenico responded that during the H1N1 outbreak, if a caretaker was out, he was replaced full time and not half time.
- The school board has always given more hours than recommended to some positions, however during this recovery period they are just going back to the norms of hours per school by the number of children per school.
- Registration as of May 19th was about 150 less student than last year. Over the summer months last year we gained 300 students, so are expecting the same.
- Lisa thanks the schools who invited her to their events during the year.

7.4 RCP-3L report

No report

7.5 SEAC report

No quorum at last meeting

8. VARIA

8.1 Chairperson's closing statement

Thank you for allowing her to be chair this year. Although everyone may not agree, we do the best we can. For next year if you plan on running for a position on any committee, it is a commitment you are making to the parents, school and students. If you choose to take on a position, there are responsibilities, and it is important that it is taken seriously.

Please do not run for something you do not plan on committing to. Thanks to Chantal for helping Silvana to do the food for tonight.

Nathalie reported that the English Parent’s Committee Association (EMCA) is officially running.

Souvenir Elementary enquired if all schools are participating in the medic alerts program. Mrs. Di Domenico will verify what schools are involved.

9. QUESTION Period

Happy summer to all!

10. CLOSURE of meeting

Record time – 1 hour!!!

PC20090604-05 SEAC MOVED THAT the meeting is adjourned at 20:37 hrs. Seconded by Souvenir Elementary.

Carried UNANIMOUSLY

Respectfully submitted by:
Susan O’Keeffe, Recording Secretary

Minutes approved _____, 2009

Chairperson _____ Secretary _____