

**Minutes of the THIRD (3<sup>RD</sup>) meeting of the 2010-2011 Sir Wilfrid Laurier Parents Committee held on Thursday December 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2010 at 7:00 pm in the Boardroom of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board, 235 Montée Lesage, Rosemère, Québec.**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Ronald Cole	ARUNDEL ELEMENTARY	Frank D'Onofrio	PINEWOOD ELEMENTARY
Susan Jung	CRESTVIEW ELEMENTARY	Suzanne Albert	RAWDON ELEMENTARY
Diana Cugliandro	GENESIS ELEMENTARY	Kathleen Thompson	ROSEMERE HIGH
Patricia Saputo	HILLCREST ACADEMY	Tracy Friedman	SOUVENIR ELEMENTARY
Dean Dugas	JOLIETTE ELEMENTARY	Tommy Lapierre	ST. JUDE ELEMENTARY
Wezlee Thompson	LAURENTIAN ELEMENTARY	Roberto Bomba	ST PAUL ELEMENTARY
Stephen Clark	LAURENTIAN REGIONAL HIGH	Pat Pietracupa	ST. VINCENT ELEMENTARY
Joseph Najar	LAURIER SR. HIGH	Kristine Young	STE-ADELE ELEMENTARY
Morton Jaquays	LAVAL JR HIGH	Danielle Gareau	STE-AGATHE ACADEMY
Francisco Couto	LAVAL LIBERTY HIGH	Antoinette Noviello	TERRY FOX ELEMENTARY
Andy Simon	MORIN HEIGHTS ELEMENTARY		
Angelo Grasso	MOTHER TERESA JR HIGH		
Lisa Chartier	OUR LADY OF PEACE ELEM		
Anne-Marie Regimbal	PIERRE E. TRUDEAU ELEM		

**ALSO PRESENT:** Alain Guay, Assistant Director General; Marie-Claude Drouin, Secretary General, Steve Bletas, Chairman of the Council of commissioners; Ed Turchyniak and Steve Kmec, Commissioners; and members of the audience

**ABSENT:** Franklin Hill elem, Grenville elem, John F. Kennedy elem, Jules Verne elem, Lake of Two Mountains high, Laurentia elem, McCaig elem, Mountainview elem, Ste-Agathe acad, Twin Oaks elem, SEAC.

The Chairperson called the meeting to order at 7:04 pm

**1. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Add under Varia: Eco friendly wax on gym floors, Lice policy, School bus safety

**PC20101202-01** Pierre E Trudeau Elementary MOVED THAT the agenda is accepted with additions. Seconded by Joliette Elementary.

This motion was CARRIED on the following division:

For: Arundel elem, Crestview elem, Genesis elem, Hillcrest elem, Joliette elem, Laurentian elem, Laurentian Regional high, Morin Heights elem, Mother Teresa Jr. high, Pierre E Trudeau elem, Pinewood elem, Rawdon elem, Rosemere high, Souvenir elem, St. Jude elem, St. Paul elem, St. Vincent elem, Ste-Adele elem, Terry Fox elem  
Abstain: Laurier Sr. High

**2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF November 4<sup>th</sup>, 2010**

In 9.0 Varia, Sainte Agathe Academy is credited with the school bus comment.

**PC20101202-02** Joliette elementary MOVED THAT the minutes of November 4<sup>th</sup>, 2010 are accepted with correction. Seconded by Rosemere High.

This motion was CARRIED on the following division:

For: Arundel elem, Crestview elem, Genesis elem, Hillcrest elem, Joliette elem, Laurentian elem, Mother Teresa jr high, Pierre E. Trudeau elem, Pinewood elem, Rawdon elem, Rosemere high, St. Paul elem, St. Vincent elem, Terry Fox elem  
Abstain: Laurentian Regional high, Laurier St. high, Morin-Heights elem, Souvenir elem, St. Jude elem, Ste-Adele elem

**3. CHAIR'S Report**

- Reports sent by e-mail
- Thanks for Antoinette Noviello for sending out the invitation
- Thanks to Mr. Bletas and the commissioners for kindly offering to pay for our cocktail holiday goodies for this evening. All wine and drinks are courtesy of the Parents' Committee.

- Anyone who does not receive their packages one week prior to the meeting, please get in touch with either Patricia Saputo or Jocelyn Thompson at the school board to advise so that it can be sent in time for the meeting.
- An invitation to the SWLF gala was received. The committee will purchase two tickets to the gala and draw names.

**PC20101202-03** Mother Teresa Jr High MOVED THAT the Parents Committee will purchase 2 tickets to the Sir Wilfrid Laurier Foundation gala on January 13<sup>th</sup>, 2011 at \$225.00/each. Seconded by Rosemère High.

Carried UNANIMOUSLY

Congratulations to Antoinette Noviello, Terry Fox and Patricia Saputo, Hillcrest Academy. Three alternates in case the winners cannot make it will be Pat Petracupa of St. Vincent, Kathleen Thompson of Rosemere High and Tracy Friedman of Souvenir.

#### 4. PRESENTATION – PARENTS COMMITTEE functions, powers & responsibilities

Marie-Claude Drouin, Secretary General of the school board is here tonight to present the powers and responsibilities and procedures of bylaws and policies for Governing Board. Copies of the presentation were distributed to members and Marie-Claude explained it to members.

*Morton Jaquays entered the meeting at 7:15 p.m.*

*Lisa Chartier entered the meeting at 7:20 p.m.*

*Francisco Couto entered the meeting at 7:30 p.m.*

Thank you to Marie Claude Drouin for her presentation.

#### 5. QUESTION period

#### 6. BUSINESS arising

##### 6.1 Nominations for SEAC alternatives

**PC20101202-04** Our Lady of Peace Elementary MOVED THAT Adele Leeming, Mountainview Elementary and Elia Russo, Crestview Elementary are nominated as parent alternatives to the SEAC. Seconded by Laval Jr. High.

Carried UNANIMOUSLY

#### 7. NEW BUSINESS

#### 8. REPORTS

##### 8.1 School Board's Report – Steve Bletas and Alain Guay

###### Steve Bletas

- Patricia Saputo introduced Mr. Alain Guay, Assistant Director General of the School board
- Congratulations to Morton Jaquays who was elected Chairperson of the EPCA
- Accelerated learning program at Mother Teresa – 2 full classes have been chosen for the 2011-2012 school year with 10 on the waiting list. There will be future discussion on the northern areas having an accelerated learning program. There is no statistics yet on this program as it is brand new.
- Video conferencing will be starting in January – there is portable video conferencing available for out of town schools should the weather be bad. Members would have to make arrangements to get access to the schools.
- Congratulations to our school board as we are the only board that has 4 Governing Board training sessions in the same year.
- Professional Development session of English school boards – 2 day sessions and workshops. An informative workshop was given by Steve Bletas and Anne-Marie Lepage. Chairs and Vice Chairs stayed after the sessions to listen to some interesting guest speakers.
- In January there will be a town hall meeting involving all stakeholders of the school board to find out what their feelings are on school boards.

- Discussion was held on the Dominican Republican news report. This was an exchange between two countries on different teaching techniques. This was authorized by the previous Minister of Education. The school boards did not pay for this; it was paid through a grant.
- Go Publique is a campaign that was initiated by Quebec English School Boards association. Last spring there was a large advertising campaign. There are still funds left and beginning at the end of January 2011 there will be a pamphlet going to several stakeholders in communities informing what public education is all about, local media coverage and a video put together by a former student of our school board showing off and previewing public education. This video will be on the website.

### **Alain Guay**

- Tuesday afternoon at around 3:00 the school bus drivers of Societe Transport de Laval decided to call in sick for pressure tactics because they are in negotiations. The school board only found out at 4:00 and they had 10 minutes to inform the schools. The administrators of the schools dealt with it immediately. This took extra time but it all worked out well. Yesterday morning Alain Guay went to the school and has been in contact with the STL. He has asked for a full report, but it is not available now, it will be reviewed and put on the web site for parents to read. Laurier Sr. high and Laval Liberty were the two schools affected. The STL made a complaint right away and it was pointed out that school bus transportation could be an essential service.
- In Alain Guay's first week as Director of Transportation services, since George Paquette retired, it was a busy one. There were two "inclement weather" days. Northern schools were closed. Radio stations sometimes give wrong information so please check our web site. We also have a facebook page where important information is posted, please take time to join it if you have not already done so. Friday was a Ped day in most schools, only the northern schools were closed. Usually on Ped days daycares are open, however there were too many calls indicating that people could not get to work. There were many accidents reported and it was decided that all buildings would be closed as employees could not make it in. It is never an easy decision to close schools so Alain apologized to anyone who was disrupted. Gaelle Absolonne will be the new Director of Transportation starting January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2011. There will be meetings held in the next week on emergency preparedness. In response to a question from Laval Liberty, usually when there is a school closure, the buildings are closed.
- Alain gave a small presentation on the Magic School Bus tour. It was an eye opener to Mr. Leo Lafrance as we explained all of the great things that happen in our schools and some of the challenges, such as sharing busses with other boards and long bus rides for students,
- Arundel thanked Alain Guay for his and the boards help for the schools whose children experienced long bus rides. Some of the children had their route changed and is now reducing their travel time. A thank you letter was received from the Ste-Agathe parent delegate for the changes.
- Mr. Guay talked about the school calendar for next year and is having meetings with the French school boards to try to have the same days off and spring break. Linda Di Domenico will be at the next meeting to talk about the school calendar.

### **8.2 Treasurer's Report**

No report tonight

### **8.3 Parents Commissioners' Report**

PC reports distributed in packages.

- Laval bus trouble has hopefully been solved. Thank you to Alain Guay and his team.
- Thanks to Marie Claude Drouin for her work in hiring the student ombudsman
- Would like to approach the board to see if the "whom should I call" pamphlet could be added to the pages that the school board puts into the agendas every year. This will be brought up at the Communications and Public Relations committee. Parents Committee would like to send some remaining pamphlets to the schools so that they can be ready for registration period in January. School organization will get approximate numbers and will let Silvana Di Medio know so she can send them out through internal mail. A letter will be included to the Principals with the direction of what to do with the pamphlets.
- Thank you to Marie-Claude for her training session for governing board chairs and vice chairs last month.

- Update on the bus training sessions – school organization is looking into restructuring the training program and it will be brought back to the committee.

#### **8.4 RCP-3L Report**

No report this month.

There is a seminar open to everyone, Saturday December 4<sup>th</sup> in Ste Therese. If anyone is interested in going or would like details, please see Morton Jaquays for details.

#### **8.5 SEAC Report**

No report this month

#### **8.6 EPCA Report**

Report distributed in packages.

Congratulations to Morton on his appointment to Chairperson of EPCA

### **9.0 VARIA**

#### **9.1 Eco friendly wax on gym floors**

Morin Heights Elementary brought up the discussion on the new eco friendly wax. He complains that it was put on the gym floor and children are sliding everywhere because it is too slippery making it dangerous for the children. They have asked for someone to come to see it. The secondary parent commissioner will look into this.

#### **9.2 Lice policy**

Morin Heights delegate brought up the discussion on what the boards' policy is on lice. He went on to say that it seems that the school board thinks it is ok to admit children to school with nits in their hair and supports parents who want to send them back home. There has been an outbreak at Morin Heights and children are being allowed to come back before all the nits are gone. The school needs some support and they do not know who to go to. Marie-Claude Drouin responded that the school board does not have a policy on lice. It is at the school level and is a Governing Board issue. She went on to say that these questions come up every year and what parents are told is when your child has lice and nits, they go home, use the shampoo, remove the nits and then they are allowed back. This is a Minister of Health policy. When the parents say that they have done the treatment, the board has the obligation to admit the child. The child should be checked and if any nits are found, the child is sent back home. Either a volunteer checks the child's hair or the parents come in to check.

Joliette elementary, in conjunction with the CLSC developed a policy in their school. Pierre E Trudeau brings the parents into the school to actually educate them to what it looks like.

#### **9.3 School bus safety**

There is a problem at St. Vincent with misbehaving on the bus. How many times can children strike out before they are removed from the bus? Marie Claude Drouin responded that in the Education Act we must offer transportation and that there are particular cases that are handled on a case by case basis and decisions are based on the best interest of all parties in conjunction with the Education Act. There have been cases where children have been removed from the bus. Some of the parents perceive that the rights of the bullies outweigh the rights of the well behaved.

In response to a question from Souvenir, the rules that apply in school also apply on the bus.

#### **9.4 Eco Friendly wrapping paper**

Laval Jr. high brought forward a fundraising idea on eco friendly wrapping paper. If you are interested, please read the literature he brought. Envelopes were handed out to each member to bring back to their schools.

### **10. QUESTION Period**

Mr. Ed Turchyniak commented that just because you are not present at the previous meeting, you do not necessarily have to abstain from voting. He went on to say that perhaps there should be procedures put on the school website and the board website.

**11. CLOSURE OF MEETING**

**PC20101202-05** Our Lady of Peace Elementary MOVED THAT the meeting is closed at 9:26 pm. Seconded by Mother Teresa Jr. high.

**Carried UNANIMOUSLY**

Respectfully submitted by:  
Susan O’Keeffe, Recording Secretary

Minutes approved \_\_\_\_\_, 2011

Chairperson \_\_\_\_\_ Secretary \_\_\_\_\_