

Minutes of the SEVENTH (7th) meeting of the 2010-2011 Sir Wilfrid Laurier Parents Committee held on Thursday May 5th, 2011 at 7:00 pm in the Boardroom of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board, 235 Montée Lesage, Rosemère, Québec.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Susan Jung	CRESTVIEW ELEMENTARY	David Mollot	PIERRE E. TRUDEAU ELEM
Dean Dugas	JOLIETTE ELEMENTARY	Suzanne Albert	RAWDON ELEMENTARY
Patricia Saputo	HILLCREST ACADEMY	Tracy Friedman	SOUVENIR ELEMENTARY
Christopher Tracton	LAKE OF TWO MOUNTAINS HIGH	Guy Gagnon	ST JUDE ELEMENTARY
Lori Dziewirz	LAURENTIAN ELEMENTARY	Pat Pietracupa	ST VINCENT ELEMENTARY
Jeff Matheson	LAURENTIAN REGIONAL HIGH	Danielle Gareau	STE-AGATHE ACADEMY
Morton Jaquays	LAVAL JR HIGH	Antoinette Noviello	TERRY FOX ELEMENTARY
Francisco Couto	LAVAL LIBERTY HIGH	Dori Raymond	TWIN OAKS ELEMENTARY
Angelo Grasso	MOTHER TERESA JR HIGH		
Andy Simon	MORIN HEIGHTS		
Lisa Chartier	OUR LADY OF PEACE ELEM		

ALSO PRESENT: Anne-Marie Lepage, Director General

ABSENT: Arundel elem, Franklin Hill elem, Genesis elem, Grenville elem, John F. Kennedy elem, Joliette high, Jules Verne elem, Laurentia elem, Laurier sr. high, McCaig elem, Mountainview elem, Pinewood elem, Rosemere high, St. Paul elem, Ste-Adele elem, SEAC.

The Chairperson called the meeting to order at 7:07 pm

1. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Add:

- 4.1 Consultation process for the policy regarding learning in Adult Education and Vocational Training
- 5.2 Lobster Fest tickets
- 7.1 Calendar of meeting
- 7.2 Amendments to the by-laws
- 7.3 Calendar for monthly meetings 2011-2012 Parents Committee
- 7.4 Parents Committee pamphlet in schools agenda
- 7.5 Telephone systems in schools
- 7.6 Training for supervisors and attendants

PC20110505-01 Souvenir Elementary MOVED THAT the agenda is accepted with additions. Seconded by Terry Fox Elementary.

Carried UNANIMOUSLY

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF April 4th, 2011

PC20110505-02 Joliette Elementary MOVED THAT the minutes of April 4th, 2011 are accepted as presented. Seconded by Our Lady of Peace Elementary.

This motion was CARRIED on the following division:

For: Crestview elem, Joliette elem, Lake of Two Mountains high, Laval Liberty high, Mother Teresa Jr. high, Our Lady of Peace elem, Pierre E Trudeau elem, Rawdon elem, Ste-Agathe acad, Terry Fox elem, Twin Oaks elem
Abstain: Laurentian elem, Laurentian Regional high, Hillcrest acad, Souvenir elem, St. Vincent elem

3. CHAIR'S Report

- As presented in the package
- We will need to make a future amendment to internal rules and procedures to add to our internal rules that the Vice Chairperson can open and chair the meetings in the absence of the Chairperson and if both are away then a member of the executive committee can open and chair the meeting.

PC20110505-03 Souvenir Elementary MOVED THAT while the rules of internal procedure are being reviewed, in the event that the Chairperson is unable to attend the meeting that the Vice-Chairperson can open and run the meeting and in the absence of both the Chair and Vice-Chair that, with their knowledge, a member of the executive committee can open and run the meeting. Seconded by Our Lady of Peace Elementary.

Carried UNANIMOUSLY

Laval Jr. High entered the meeting at 7:22 pm

Morin Heights Elementary school entered the meeting at 7:30 pm.

A discussion was held on the transportation issue of raising the minimum age for parents to accompany their children to the bus stop in the mornings and after school. The previous discussion topic was to add to the existing transportation policy that parents of K and including cycle 1 must be present in the morning and afternoon at their child's bus stop. Parent Commissioner Angelo Grasso encouraged members that instead of trying to raise the age, perhaps we can sensitize parents to making sure that their children are not sporadic bus users and to use others in their community to be there for each others children. In the current policy when the parent of a kindergarten child is not present to pick their child up, the child is returned to the school. If we put this into a policy it obliges all parents of cycle 1 children to be present at the stop and there will most definitely be an extra cost to the parents whose children must be taken back to the school if no one is there to pick them up at the stop. Putting into the policy will also oblige parents to be there who may not otherwise.

Mme. Lepage added that the problem with it in a policy it creates a problem for other parents who are waiting for their children at the stop that they will have to wait longer for their children should a child have to be returned to a school. This delays the route for the other parents waiting for their children.

Please take all the information back to your governing boards and make informed decisions at the next meeting in June.

4. BUSINESS Arising

4.1 Consultation process on the evaluation of learning in Adult Educational and Vocational training.

They have developed a policy and the board is looking for feedback on contents on the policy. Some minor adjustments were made.

PC20110505-04 Joliette Elementary MOVED THAT the policy on the evaluation of learning in Adult Educational and Vocational Training is approved as presented. Seconded by Mother Teresa Junior high.

Carried UNANIMOUSLY

5. NEW BUSINESS

5.1 May 10th Strategic Plan Focus session

On May 10th there will be a Focus session on the Strategic Plan. This will help us revise the strategic plan which will guide us for 5 years. The current one was extended for one year in order to get all the Management and Educational Success agreements signed. The school board is looking for directions for years to come and at actions that we will prioritize for the next 5 years. Stakeholders from all school board community are invited to attend. This focus session will be held simultaneously by video conference in Rosemere, Lachute, and Rawdon. The Parents Committee is asked to send 7 members. Attending will be: Patricia Saputo of Hillcrest Academy; Andy Mason of Morin Heights, Suzanne Albert of Rawdon elem, Jeff Matheson of Laurentian Regional alternate; Antoinette Noviello of Terry Fox; Dori Raymond of Twin Oaks. The alternate delegate from Laurentian Elementary and Pierre E Trudeau will call their delegates to see if they can go and if they can't Lisa Chartier of Our Lady of Peace Elementary will attend. The St. Vincent alternate is also available to go if need be.

5.2 Lobster Fest tickets

PC20110505-05 Souvenir Elementary MOVED THAT the parents committee will purchase 6 tickets to the SWL Foundation Lobster fest for June 16th, 2011 at a cost of \$150 each for a total of \$900 and be drawn from the schools who have attended at least one meeting for the 2010-2011 year. Seconded by Mother Teresa Jr. High.

Carried UNANIMOUSLY

Congratulations to: Crestview, Ste-Adele, Pierre E Trudeau, Ste-Agathe Academy, Terry Fox and Mountainview.
 Alternates are: Rosemere high, John F Kennedy, Genesis, Jules Verne, St. Vincent, and Laurentian Regional

6. REPORTS

6.1 School Board Report

- The Town hall summary report was prepared and distributed to all those who attended. It has been shared with Administrators and we will be reviewing it with members of the leadership team of directors and assistant directors at the board office to see what actions can be made from this document. These will be fit into next year's action plan. Mme. Lepage is thankful for the participation and great response from all those who attended. Looking forward to other opportunities in the future. Manon Monette, Mme Lepage's assistant is preparing pochettes of all the documents that were distributed; the invitation, attendance, questions and summary document to share with our colleagues of other English school boards on how we went out to our community for their opinions. We are the first board in Québec to do this.
- SWLSB has an Autism shared program with Learn and Giant steps. They have had a second meeting and Mme. Lepage is pleased to see the trend we are following to move efficiently and bring positive realisations. Next week SEAC is having a conference that will include a speaker from Giant steps. We will be requesting permission from this speaker to film this session so that others who are not present can benefit from it. We are trying to reach out to teachers who are teaching these students and those who are working with them in classes. Mme Lepage attended a very interesting class room setting at Giant Steps with children who have autism who were discussing it among each other and what challenges they face with Autism. We are trying to model best practices and how we can work our way to having information available on our website for parents who can benefit from this expertise. We are networking with universities to get them to come to our board to do action research.
- Looking for feedback on the fall conference that SEAC usually has – “what if” (this is not even in the planning stages yet, but it is a thought) we would use the Learn network to make key note speakers available throughout the province for conferences like this. Mme Lepage would like to know if parents would be interested in coming to these video conferencing conferences. Parents Committee members think it is a great idea and believe parents would come depending as long as the theme is interesting and who the speaker is and who the target is. It must be interesting enough for parents to want to come out. Parents with children with special needs feel that there is not enough in the community for their children so they will jump at the chance to have something offered to them. Perhaps ask the parents of these children what they need and what they are looking for. This type of conference goes way beyond SEAC's ability to organize as it is huge, but with the help of the provincial parents committee, they could help make it happen. If we could recruit high school students for free babysitting it may get more parents out. Angelo Grasso attended the conference last year and the information given out was valuable to all those who attended. There are benefits to doing it with several school boards, as we can have one speaker on one topic and another school board can have a speaker on another topic. A suggestion was made to have a central place and do webcasting so that you can be in your home or office. Being a webcast it is recorded and can be played at another time.
- In response to a question from Mother Teresa Jr. High, the budget parameters were received for 2011-2012. This document is in consultation with the school boards until May 13th. This information has been shared with Administrators and Directors with a timeline of actions to embark upon. SWLSB is in a different situation as we are already in a recovery plan. Our feedback will be given to the Ministry and MNA's of the Laval region. We have requested a meeting of the Laval caucus to present the impact it will have on a board like ours. Nothing has been decided yet; it is still in the planning stages. Members expressed their frustration over these proposed cuts.
- In response to a question from Joliette elementary, the policy on the code of conduct will be going out for consultation. This policy will only include employees. In response to another question, the Administrative assignments were announced last week at council. There were 12 changes made.
- Follow up to the Magic School bus tour, although there has been no money given, but there is awareness and they were impressed with the variety of programs in our board. In terms in concrete realizations, there have been no answers. The Vocational training request, received authorization for a carpentry course and we are in the process of looking for a rental facility. Mme. Lepage and Monsieur Hogue, the Director of Material Resources will be

meeting Monday with DG of St-Eustache for potential rental locations. Working together with CS Seigneurie des Milles Iles to get bilingual center with more programs and hope for answers shortly.

St. Jude entered the meeting at 8:20 pm.

6.2 Treasurer's Report

- Balance \$5757.00; please remit expense claims to Susan O'Keefe.

6.3 Parents Commissioners' Report

- Copy included in your package
- Angleo presented the part of the PC pamphlet that will be included in the agendas for schools. Members would like this to include the phone numbers of whom to call.
- In response to a question from St Jude, Mme. Lepage reported that the staffing plans are being worked on now. There are different timelines for each group of employees. There is skeleton staffing done for teachers right now but they are looked at again in June and again in September.

6.4 RCP-3L Report

- Parent Committee Chairpersons' meeting of April 28th, 2011 was cancelled as too few people were available for this meeting.
- Mme. Lauraine Langlois from the DRLLL came and presented her organization and explained how things work there. (documents will be e-mailed to members) They are the porte-parole of the ministry working with the School Boards regarding vast policies. They are a public entity and as such we have access to their services.
- Convention – things are coming along – there will be some workshops available in English (more to follow in this regard, after the next meeting) Question: Is the PC willing to give a donation towards this convention, if so, how much? CSDL gave \$ 150.00, so did the CSRMI.
- Next meeting May 6th, 2011

PC20110505-06 Twin Oaks MOVED THAT the SWLSB parents committee will give a donation of \$150.00 to help with the costs of the convention. Seconded by Laval Jr. High.

This motion was CARRIED on the following division:

For: Crestview elem, Hillcrest acad, Joliette elem, Lake of Two Mountains high, Laurentian elem, Laurentian Regional high, Laval Jr. high, Laval Liberty high, Morin Heights elem, Mother Teresa jr high, Our Lady of Peace elem, Pierre E. Trudeau elem, Rawdon elem, Souvenir elem, Ste-Agathe acad, Terry Fox elem, Twin Oaks elem
Abstain; St. Jude elem, St. Vincent elem

6.5 SEAC Report

6.6 EPCA Report

- QESBA formed a task force on the announcement from Mr. Charest regarding the English exchange program in the French system. They have drafted a letter that will be signed by several stakeholders of the English community letting Mr. Charest know that we deserve a role at the table to discuss this integration. They would like the same opportunity in the English schools to have children immersed in French. Copies of the letter were distributed. Hillcrest added that the Quebec Federation of Home and School Association (QFHSA) had their annual AGM and are too responding to the comments mainly on the grade 6 students ESL and on students with special needs and budgeting for that. Clarification needs to be made to him on whether the English students will get money for French second language. One of the ways they are hoping this would work would be to have half year in English and half in French.

7. VARIA

7.1 Town Hall meeting May 10th, 2011

Done in chairs report

7.2 Amendments to the bylaws

Done in chairs report

7.3 Calendar for monthly meetings 2011-2012 Parents Committee

PC20110505-07 Our Lady of Peace elementary MOVED THAT the proposed meetings for the 2011-2012 school year remain as the first Thursday of each month; October 26, November 2, December 1, 2011, no meeting in January, February 2, March 1, April 5, May 3, June 7, 2012. Seconded by Joliette elementary.

This motion was CARRIED on the following division:
For: Crestview elem, Hillcrest acad, Joliette elem, Lake of Two Mountains high, Laurentian elem, Laurentian Regional high, Laval Jr. high, Laval Liberty high, Morin Heights elem, Mother Teresa Jr high, Our Lady of Peace elem, Pierre E Trudeau elem, Rawdon elem, Souvenir elem, St. Jude elem, St. Vincent elem, Terry Fox elem, Twin Oaks elem
Abstain: Ste-Agathe acad

Although sometimes it is difficult, can delegates ask their schools to try not to schedule their parent evenings on the first Thursday of each month. Mme. Lepage responded that these dates will vary from school to school and it is sometimes hard to get all the days in sync with all the schools. Every effort is made to make sure that meetings and events are not scheduled on the same evenings. The school board is in the process of preparing its corporate calendar for 2011-2012 to be given to school administrators so that they can try to plan their evening meetings without a conflict. Should there be a night when there are too many schools that have their parent nights on the same night at a PC meeting, we could perhaps look at changing our date.

7.4 Parents Committee pamphlet in agenda

As discussed in Parents Committee report

7.5 Telephone systems in schools

Sainte-Agathe is wondering how much other schools are paying in telephone fees as their school is paying almost \$6,000.00 per year. These new phones should have had cost savings but they are not seen at Sainte-Agathe. She is to get back to us on the amount they were paying prior to the changes to the phone system.

7.6 Training for supervisors and attendants

Often people are chosen for lunch time supervisors and do not have any training. There should be standards for these positions. These positions are given to people and they must have a high school education. There is training and workshops available for those employees in the regular system a few times during the year. The hiring of the lunch time supervisors is at the discretion of the Principal. First aid training is done in each school for an employee who is present in the school every day. Schools should have the names of the first responders on the walls in each classroom.

8. QUESTION Period

9. CLOSURE OF MEETING

PC20110505- 08 Sainte-Agathe Academy MOVED THAT the meeting is closed at 9:17 pm. Seconded by Mother Teresa Jr. High.

Carried UNANIMOUSLY

Respectfully submitted by:
 Susan O’Keeffe, Recording Secretary

Minutes approved _____, 2011

Chairperson _____ Secretary _____