

Minutes of the SECOND (2nd) meeting of the 2011-2012 Sir Wilfrid Laurier Parents Committee held on Thursday November 3rd, 2011 at 7:00 pm in the Boardroom of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board, 235 Montée Lesage, Rosemère, Québec.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Renée Beauséjour	ARUNDEL ELEMENTARY	Stephanie Vandystadt	MCCAIG ELEMENTARY
Paul Leal	CRESTVIEW ELEMENTARY	Magalie Sephton	MORIN HEIGHTS ELEMENTARY
Diana Cugliandro	GENESIS ELEMENTARY	Luigi Broccoli	MOTHER TERESA JR HIGH
Patricia Saputo	HILLCREST ACADEMY	Kyle Snell	MOUNTAINVIEW ELEMENTARY
Jennifer Maccarone	JOHN F KENNEDY ELEMENTARY	David Mollot	PIERRE E. TRUDEAU ELEM
Dean Dugas	JOLIETTE ELEMENTARY	Guy Gagnon	ROSEMERE HIGH
Christopher Tracton	LAKE OF TWO MOUNTAINS HIGH	Michael Civitarese	SOUVENIR ELEMENTARY
Andy Simon	LAURENTIAN REGIONAL HIGH	Tommy Lapierre	ST JUDE ELEMENTARY
Angelo Grasso	LAURIER SR. HIGH	Roberto Bomba	ST PAUL ELEMENTARY
Rosalind Hoenig	LAVAL JR HIGH	Estelle Fleurant	STE-ADELE ELEMENTARY
Morten Jacquays	LAVAL LIBERTY HIGH	Antoinette Noviello	TERRY FOX ELEMENTARY

ALSO PRESENT: Robert Vallerand, Interim Director General; Linda Di Domenico, Director, Human Resources; Nick Milas, Commissioner

ABSENT: Franklin Hill elem, Grenville elem, Joliette high, Jules Verne elem, Laurentia elem, Laurentian elem, Our Lady of Peace elem, Pinewood elem, Rawdon elem, St Vincent elem, Ste-Agathe acad, Twin Oaks elem, SEAC

The outgoing Chairperson called the meeting to order at 7:11 pm

1. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Add: 4.3 Nomination of EPCA Delegate
7.2 2012-2013 School Calendar
9.2 Measure cost of last set of cuts

PC20111103-01 St Paul Elementary MOVED THAT the agenda is accepted as with additions. Seconded by Terry Fox Elementary.

Carried **UNANIMOUSLY**

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

At last months meeting Rosalind Hoenig was not here for Laval Jr High School, it was Lisa Chartier.
In 11.3 Bus Fees; replace "it is" felt with "LRHS" felt

PC20111102-02 Mother Teresa Jr. High MOVED THAT the minutes of October 6, 2011 are accepted with corrections. Seconded by Terry Fox Elementary.

This motion was CARRIED on the following division:

For: Arundel elem, Genesis elem, Hillcrest acad, Joliette elem, Lake of Two Mountains high, Laurentian Regional high, Laurier Sr. high, Morin Heights elem, Mother Teresa Jr. high, Pierre E.Trudeau elem, St. Paul elem, Ste-Adele elem, Terry Fox elem

Abstain: Crestview elem, Laval Jr. high, McCaig elem, Mountainview elem, Souvenir elem

3. CHAIR'S REPORT

- Copies of "English community of Laval" focus sessions– please take copies of pamphlets to your school
- Governing Board sessions were held and went very well. If you have any suggestions please forward them to Marie-Claude Drouin. The Nov 29th session is for the Chairpersons of Governing Boards.
- Update on e-mails – please verify e-mail addresses in your packages.
- The chairperson received a follow up on Video conferencing. The costs were discussed for holding it in Rawdon. Are we interested in Lachute? The discussion held last month there was consensus to have the meetings in person. This committee would like in person meetings rather than video conferencing.
- December 1st meeting we will have a Christmas cocktail – everyone is welcome.
- Welcome Nick Milas, Commissioner.

4. ELECTIONS

4.1 Nomination – Election of 2 Representatives to RCP-3L

Since no names were put forward, we will bring this back.

4.2 Nomination – Election of 4 alternates to SEAC

PC20111102-03 Mother Teresa Jr. High MOVED THAT Claudette Pavia, St. Vincent; Martine Larose-Reda, McCaig; Lorie Barnes, Arundel; Rodica Teleman, Our Lady of Peace are nominated as alternate delegates to the SEAC. Seconded by Laurier Sr. High.

Carried UNANIMOUSLY

4.3 Nomination of EPCA Delegate

Since no names were put forward, we will bring this back.

St. Jude Elementary entered the meeting at 7:18 pm.

5. QUESTION Period

Nick Milas welcomed new faces around the table and suggested that we explain what the expectations are when asking for people to join new committees such as EPCA and RCP-3L. He wishes our committee all the best for the year. Members of the various committees mentioned that these meetings are once a month.

6. BUSINESS Arising

6.1 PC Internal rules of procedures

The internal rules of procedures document was distributed in packages and have suggestions made by Marie-Claude Drouin.

PC20111102-04 Hillcrest Academy MOVED THAT the internal rules of procedures are approved with corrections noted on documents in packages. Seconded by Mountainview Elementary.

Carried UNANIMOUSLY

6.2 PC Internal Financial Policy

9.1 Members reimbursed to a maximum of \$25.00

11.1 Change the fee to .015

PC20111102-05 Crestview Elementary MOVED THAT the internal financial policy is approved with the changes listed above. Seconded by Mother Teresa Jr. High.

Carried UNANIMOUSLY

6.3 Sustainable Development Policy

The Laurentian Regional High School delegate shared thoughts from their Governing Board that the document did not have much advancement in the cause. The only thing that really addressed anything was the recycling part. They feel that the report addresses the things they already do. Crestview sent their own response with suggestions concerning environment, school grounds etc. The chairperson would like this committee to come up with their own suggestions for this policy. If any suggestions are received she will let them know at the school board.

PC20111102-06 Hillcrest Academy MOVED THAT the SDP is accepted with as presented with suggestions already submitted from Laurentian Regional High and Crestview Elementary. Seconded by Joliette Elementary.

This motion was CARRIED on the following division:

For: Genesis elem, Hillcrest acad, Joliette elem, Laurier St. high, Mother Teresa jr. high, Mountainview elem, Pierre E Trudeau elem, Souvenir elem, St. Jude elem, St. Paul elem, Ste-Adele elem, Terry Fox elem

Against: Crestview elem, Laurentian Regional

Abstain: Arundel elem, Lake of Two Mountains high, Rosemere high, Laval Jr. high
McCaig elem, Morin-Heights elem

Rosemere High School entered the meeting at 7:28 p.m.

John F. Kennedy entered the meeting at 7:30

6.4 Videoconferencing update

Discussed in Chairperson's report.

6.5 Bus safety introduction in Elementary schools and bus idling updates

Mr. Vallerand explained that we have a multi level program, which is a 30 minute presentation. In Kindergarten and level 1, rather than taking them outside to climb onto a bus, the teachers felt it was more effective to use visual aids. They are also given activity booklet that is discussed as a group and various exercises can be done in the booklet. The cycle 2 students are given a 45 minute presentation where a bus comes into lot and given an insight into emergency exits and safety behaviour and how to behave on a bus. Cycle 3 students are given a 45 minute inside presentation, with questions and answers. They are also shown a movie on safety where they are asked to spot the errors.

St. Jude went on to say that they are questioning this program. Their governing board feels that the K program starts too late (starts in November) and they would like the students to go into the bus. Mr. Vallerand responded that the first few weeks of the student year is hectic, especially in a school setting for kindergarten. With all of the activities already going on for students, the teachers feel that there would be little retention. The bus policy of this board requires that children of that age be brought to and from the bus stop, so the parents are in a position to highlight the safety of a bus to their own children. Laurier Sr. high went on to say that they have had this discussion at the Transportation standing committee and that we are the only school board that does it that early. Most others do it in January or February. Putting children that young into a bus to teach, they do not listen, they are too interested in the bus itself so it is not productive to their learning. There was a suggestion to have this bus program done more times during the year as repetition to young children will benefit them. Mr. Vallerand will suggest purchasing extra kits so that the teachers can reinforce this during the year. The course for K-1 could be done at the end of the day so that it is fresh in their minds as they go out onto the bus at the end of the day. A discussion on high school safety on the busses was discussed. Video cameras can be put onto the buses when there are ongoing problems. Please contact the transportation department for these problems.

Laval Liberty entered the meeting at 7:49 pm

With reference to idling, in the winter time the school windows are closed and if they are turned off for too long they take too long to heat. The regulation is that the idling time should not exceed 5 minutes. If you are aware that this is not being respected, please let the school board know and they will intervene. The bus company risk a fine from government agencies should they idle for too long as well.

6.6 PC objective for 2011-2012

Last month members were asked to forward suggestions to the secretary. He received one suggestion.

- Look at putting together info package to parents to encourage them to have a plan B for transportation. What happens if someone is not there to pick them up at the stop or no one is home when they arrive?

A subcommittee of Rosemere High, Lake of Two Mountains, Pierre E Trudeau, John F Kennedy, Genesis and Laurier Sr will get together to work on this pamphlet.

Mr. Vallerand applauds this objective. Once this is completed Mr. Vallerand will make sure it is translated. It will also be put on the all websites, school boards and schools.

PC20111102-07 Mother Teresa Jr High **MOVED** THAT the objective for this year will be putting together an information package to parents to encourage them to have a plan B for transportation. Seconded by Lake of Two Mountains.

Carried UNANIMOUSLY

7. NEW Business

7.1 2012-2013 Enrolment Criteria

Documents are in packages for information. Please read these and bring comments/suggestions to next month's meeting. In response to a question from Laurentian Regional High School, there is not much change to the enrolment criteria. They maintained cluster zones in Laval which were supposed to be done away with and are redefining school capacity, taking into consideration the wait for students to get coded.

7.2 2012-2013 School Calendar

The committee welcomed Linda Di Domenico who will present the calendar. The calendar is for all schools except the 5 schools that are transported by Commission Scolaire des Samares, and Commission Scolaire des Laurentides. We make every effort to align ours with theirs; we have to follow their calendars in order to have the transportation required. For 2012-2013 the spring break was considered and all boards will have theirs in the same week. Mrs. Di Domenico explained the holidays and ped day choices. Most of these are done with respect to collective agreements.

Please bring back comments or suggestions to the next meeting so that it can be voted on.

8. REPORTS

8.1 School Board's Report

In response to a question from Hillcrest Academy, the student enrolment is 13,897.

In response to a question from St. Jude regarding the transferring of responsibilities from school boards to schools, Mr. Vallerand responded that this news just erupted last week. Many of the members of the Liberal caucus were unaware of this proposal. This initiative was defeated at the Liberal convention. In order to reduce costs it is unrealistic to assume that we could download all of the jobs to the schools. We could not ask our principals to do all this extra work. Nothing is clear at this moment but there is plenty of discussion from various groups. There is no guarantee that our funding will be maintained at this level. Mr. Vallerand will commit that as soon as he is made aware, he will make every effort to communicate this information to this committee. We must band together in order to ensure the financial implications to our boards. As many people do not know what school boards do, it is important for those who do, to highlight its value. One of the mandates is to increase the visibility of the school board and to underline the tasks that it takes on that could not be done in schools.

A discussion was held on various types of bullying. Mr. Vallerand responded that the school board is looking at verbal abuse and cyber bullying.

Hillcrest Academy has surpassed the number of students allowed in school before a vice-principal is allotted. There is also a problem where teachers are coming back part time and students have two and three different teachers for the same subject. Mr. Vallerand responded that the board tries not to move people during the year. The staff assistant has been released full time to act as the vice principal for the remainder of the year. Genesis responded that in their school the part time teachers manage part time very well.

8.2 Treasurer's Report

Please give expense reports to the treasurer. They must be the originals.

8.3 Parents Commissioners' Report

As presented in packages.

- Angelo pointed out the "Wall of Fame". If you have any students in your school you feel could qualify for this, please let the Council know.
- The talent portion of the Laurier Gala will be students from our school board.

- Question on the statement of unpaid taxes – they are paid in two instalments, so what shows on the financial statements include those instalments that are not due until November. An update after the second instalment will be brought to this committee.

8.4 RCP-3L Report (Regroupement des comites des parents de Laval, Laurentides et Lanaudiere)

- Elections, action plan, (how to get the English community more involved) colloque (cancelled due to poor registration). Why are we not more involved? What are we looking for in the RCP-3L, our added value? **Please send comments to the representative before the end of the month.** Do our schools have a class dedicated to only language? (for struggling children) We have resource teachers and attendants. Do we have adult education students taking the bus with regular school children? Some of our schools do it in areas where there is no public transportation on a space available basis only. Will not incur additional costs to do this. Do we have a program for pre-K for students at risk? If we do, can they use the daycare? We have three Pre-k programs and two of them the parents must pay for as it is not a funded part of the Quebec Educational Plan. At Arundel the pre-k integrates with the K. Where is the Parents Committee report addressed at your Governing Board meetings? Our schools have this as part of the reports on their agendas. Do we have any questions for them? This group is a parent member from all of the school boards in the 3L region (Laval, Laurentides, Lanaudiere) who exchange issues in school boards.
- Our committee would like our representative to ask the RCP-3L at what level their Parent Commissioners are involved.

8.5 SEAC Report (Special Education Advisory Committee)

No representative present.

8.6 EPCA Report (English Parents Committee Association)

General meeting to plan Annual General Assembly on November 12th. Morten stressed the importance of having three delegates from this committee. If anyone would like to attend the Annual General Meeting at the Chateauneuf Hotel in Laval is welcome to attend.

9. VARIA

The committee would like everyone who has reports to hand them in as written reports early enough to go out with the packages so that members can read them before the meeting as it helps the meeting move along faster.

9.1 Student incentives determined by teachers

What kind of incentives do schools give to students for behaviour? Paper money is used at some elementary schools. Some incentives are inappropriate: ie: having to pay to go to the bathroom! Reward systems work well with the exception of having to pay to go to the bathroom.

9.2 Measure cost of last set of cuts – Laurentian Regional High School

Is there a mechanism to measure the impact on the previous cuts made. What are the impacts to smaller schools that have lost janitorial services? In the smaller communities it means the evening activities cannot take place because there is no one to clean up afterwards. Some of these cuts have a real impact on the small community schools. He went on to say that the snow removal company removes the snow at a reduced cost, the town takes care of the grounds. What happens if they stop doing this?

Joliette Elementary went on to say that this involves the entire recovery plan.

Mother Teresa Jr. High commented that in some cities they are looking at more ecological bussing. Wants to know if the school board has investigated this?

Mr. Vallerand has taken note and will answer all questions in greater detail at next months meeting.

10. QUESTION Period

11. CLOSURE OF MEETING

PC20111102-08 St. Paul Elementary MOVED THAT the meeting is closed at 9:47 pm. Seconded by Genesis Elementary.

Carried UNANIMOUSLY

Respectfully submitted by:
Susan O’Keeffe, Recording Secretary

Minutes approved _____, 2011

Chairperson _____ Secretary _____