

Minutes of the FIFTH (5th) meeting of the 2011-2012 Sir Wilfrid Laurier Parents Committee held on Thursday March 1st, 2012 at 7:00 pm in the Boardroom of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board, 235 Montée Lesage, Rosemère, Québec.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Paul Leal	CRESTVIEW ELEMENTARY	Kyle Snell	MOUNTAINVIEW ELEMENTARY
Mario Lisio	GENESIS ELEMENTARY	Guy Gagnon	ROSEMERE HIGH
Dean Dugas	JOLIETTE ELEMENTARY	Tommy Lapierre	ST JUDE ELEMENTARY
Andy Simon	LAURENTIAN REGIONAL HIGH	Roberto Bomba	ST PAUL ELEMENTARY
Angelo Grasso	LAURIER SR HIGH	Sylvain Frechette	ST VINCENT ELEMENTARY
Magalie Sephton	MORIN HEIGHTS ELEMENTARY		

ALSO PRESENT: Robert Vallerand, Director General, Eric Dunn, EPCA Representative

ABSENT: Arundel elem, Franklin Hill elem, Grenville elem, Hillcrest adac, John F. Kennedy elem, Joliette high, Jules Verne elem, Lake of Two Mountains elem, Laurentia elem, Laurentian elem, Laval Jr. high, Laval Liberty high, McCaig elem, Mother Teresa Jr. high, Our Lady of Peace elem, Pierre E. Trudeau elem, Pinewood elem, Rawdon elem, Souvenir elem, Ste-Adele elem, Ste-Agathe acad, Terry Fox elem, Twin Oaks elem, SEAC

In the absence of the Chairperson, the Vice-chairperson called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

1. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Add: 7.1 Recycling containers
7.2 I right the wrong

PC20120301-01 St. Jude Elementary MOVED THAT the agenda is accepted as with additions. Seconded by Crestview Elementary.

Carried **UNANIMOUSLY**

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

PC20120301-02 Morin-Heights MOVED THAT the minutes are approved as presented. Seconded by St. Laurentian Regional.

This motion was **CARRIED** on the following division:
For: Crestview elem, Joliette elem, Laurentian Regional high, Laurier sr. high,
Morin Heights elem, Mountainview elem, Rosemere high, St. Jude elem,
St. Paul elem
Abstain: Genesis elem, St. Vincent elem

3. VICE-CHAIR'S REPORT

A Thank you letter was received from Shelley Lecky of CDC Pont Viau for allowing her to make her presentation last month. Guy Gagnon reported on his participation in the Strategic Plan Focus session on February 22nd. Guy Gagnon attended the Blue and Gold variety show at Laurier Sr. High.

4. BUSINESS ARISING

4.1 Nomination – SEAC alternates (three alternate positions available)

No names brought forward

4.2 Nomination of RCP-3L delegate

No names brought forward

4.3 Minutes of meetings

With reference to the change in the motion of the minutes of December 2011, the Chairperson reported that she made a mistake and sent the wrong minutes in for distribution last month. She altered the motion thinking she was in her right, but once she was made aware that the change should not have been made, she changed it back to the original one, but sent the wrong ones in for members to approve. She had written in her monthly report that she could not change the wording of the motion.

4.4 Budget building process 2012-2013

A) Top priorities to “School Board Budget Priorities” are:

- 1) **Services for students**, Spiritual Animator, Special needs Technicians and Attendants, Guidance Counsellors, Speech Therapists, Psychologists, Library personnel.
- 2) **Extracurricular Activities**, sports, activities, libraries, late bussing for these activities.
- 3) **IT infrastructure**, wiring and equipment, training on new equipment and technology and in school technology support.

B) Top priorities to “System efficiency” are:

- 1) **IT increased use of IT** such as videoconferencing, webinars.
- 2) **Printing** encouraged use of electronic communication.
- 3) **Payroll and Taxation** centralized with other school boards.

PC20120301-03 St. Vincent Elementary MOVED THAT the priorities for the budget building process of 2012-2013 as listed above are approved as presented. Seconded by Genesis Elementary.

Carried **UNANIMOUSLY**

4.5 Response to letter sent to Jacques Theriault, EPCA

Eric Dunn of the English Parent Committees Association (EPCA) was on hand and gave a brief presentation. He gave a history on how the EPCA was formed and what they are looking forward in the future.

Their immediate priorities are to establish themselves. They are slowly getting off the ground and setting up. Currently 8 of the 9 Quebec English School Boards are members of the EPCA (Eastern Townships SB is not a member). Contacts have been established with representatives of the MELS. Some communications have gone out in the last little while, such as a letter to the MELS with regards to the accessibility to CEGEP acceptances for the English population. Recently a letter with regards to the inequality in taxation rates for English school boards in some areas was also sent to the MELS.

He reiterated that the EPCA is there to serve and willing to work on items brought to its attention by the member parent committees. The two letters mentioned above are examples of such issues brought the EPCA via member Parent Committees. Communications should be routed through the Delegates. The EPCA’s lack of visibility was brought up and Mr. Dunn mentioned that this is something they are working on. They have a website is in the works and a Facebook page is in place. They are also in the process of hiring a part time secretary to do the paper work.

5. NEW BUSINESS

5.1 Deeds of establishment and 3 Year Plan

There are two documents for each school. Please read your schools only and come back with comments at next month’s meeting.

5.2 Reimbursement of mileage expenses for non-voting delegates

Laurentian Elementary does not have a PC delegate as no one was voted in at the fall General Assembly. They would like to be able to designate someone to attend the monthly meetings without voting privileges, but would like their mileage paid.

This committee’s response was that we have a financial policy that was voted in and it is important to respect the policy. The school is more than welcome to sit in and participate in the meetings as a non-voting member and perhaps they could ask their Governing Board to reimburse them.

6. REPORTS

6.1 School Board's Report

- There will be a lot of discussion at meetings on the budget cuts coming in this year. The reduction over the next three years will be 600 million. An analysis was done on these cuts and the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board's share is 1.6 million. At last night's Council meeting the revised budget was voted on and it contains a deficit of 1.2 million.
- A lot of mention on use of technology, today a link to the Laurier News was sent via e-mail to all employees and parents. Letters of thanks on the quality of the Laurier News have already been received.
- The Schools participated in Perseverance scolaire, to heighten awareness on stay in school projects. Mr. Vallerand congratulated schools in the northern region, in particular Laurentian Regional High School who did a walkabout to promote a stay in school movement.
- Our schools participated in "We day" at Theatre St. Denis today. There were many guest speakers.
- The Videoconferencing at last week's focus session from Joliette, Lachute and Ste-Agathe that involved parents, students and employees was very successful
- "I right the wrong" campaign was just announced by the MELS. Mr. Vallerand assured this committee that the Council of Commissioners takes bullying seriously. A focus session will be taking place on March 24th with Commissioners and Directors present. An action plan will be put together as asked for in Bill 56. If members of parents committee would like to hear the experts that we are engaging, Mr. Vallerand would be happy to facilitate him attending one of our meetings. We can do it tentatively in April or May as a backup. Please extend an invitation to other members of GB and Mr. Vallerand will ask the Administrators to make it known in the schools.
- The Criteria for selection of a principal was sent out to GB for their submission. Please be sure your governing boards respond to this document as the staffing plan will be done in the very near future. The input from governing boards is a valued opinion.

6.2 Parents Commissioners' Report

- At the Council of Commissioners meeting all SWLAA members were present to show their concern at with regards to the budget cuts. They are not willing to support cuts that would have an impact at the school level.
- Nancy Bennett from Grenville was presented Canada's outstanding Principal award as the only principal from Quebec to be awarded.
- There is a Study group that was formed on the future of high schools in the Laval area. There are a few options; status quo, one junior and one senior high. There will be future meetings that will involve the chairs of governing boards at the elementary levels.
- SWL Foundation is working on the Laurier Gala and this year instead of the circus group it will be students of our school board performing at the Star-Fest.

6.3 Treasurer's Report

No one here tonight to report.

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

No report

6.5 SEAC Report (Special Education Advisory Committee)

Written report in packages. The SEAC representative apologized for not being here tonight.

6.6 EPCA Report (English Parents Committee Association)

No report

6.7 Bus safety committee

The committee met and decided that they would hold a competition where secondary level students would prepare a web based video on bus safety. There is ongoing discussion with the school board. There will be four subjects, bullying

on the bus, proper behaviour waiting for the bus and what to do if your child gets home and no one is home. This will be put into place and be launched in September when school starts.

7. VARIA

7.1 Recycling containers and compactors

There are new recycling bins that were given to the schools. These bins and their pickup comes with a fee. Some schools are wondering why they have to pay for this when they were getting it for free before through the town, when we are talking about budget cuts in schools. This is a significant yearly cost. St Jude is asking other schools to ask if they had free recycling and now must pay. Mr. Vallerand will look into this and get information. He has asked that this be put on the next agenda to be addressed in greater detail.

7.2 I right the wrong

On the MELS sponsored website www.irightthewrong.com, details are given about the government’s objectives with Bill 56. You can fill out the declaration of support. Everyone on this committee is invited to go take a look and be prepared to discuss at the next meeting . whether this parents committee wants to sign this declaration of support as a group. Guy Gagnon will send the link to all members to take a look and we will discuss it at next month’s meeting.

Mr. Vallerand responded that although this is a government initiated project, they have gone on to say that there is no money to support this bill. The people, who will be facing these issues, are the teachers and administrators and they will have no additional resources with which to work with in order to enforce this. It is a nice publicity campaign by the government that makes the school boards look like they are doing nothing about bullying.

8. QUESTION Period

In response to a question from Joliette Elementary, Mr. Vallerand will respond by e-mail whether or not their “criteria for selection of a principal” has been received.

In response to a question from Crestview, the “criteria” from previous years is kept on file. Schools would like their previous criteria sent back to them to either add or subtract to it. Mr. Vallerand went on to say that a member of the governing board of the school in question will be asked to sit on the selection committee for administrators where there is a vacancy.

Digital citizenship resources are available online dcp.lpbsb.qc.ca. A link to this site can be put on our website.

Make sure your Administrators respond to the Parents committee citizenship awards.

9. CLOSURE OF MEETING

PC20120301-04 Laurier Sr. High school MOVED THAT the meeting is closed at 10:01 pm. Seconded by St. Paul Elementary.

Carried UNANIMOUSLY

Respectfully submitted by:
Susan O’Keeffe, Recording Secretary

Minutes approved _____, 2012

Chairperson _____ Secretary _____