

Minutes of the SIXTH (6th) meeting of the 2011-2012 Sir Wilfrid Laurier Parents Committee held on Thursday April 5th, 2012 at 7:00 pm in the Boardroom of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board, 235 Montée Lesage, Rosemère, Québec.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

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|---------------------|----------------------------|-----------------|-----------------------------|
| Paul Leal | CRESTVIEW ELEMENTARY | Josée McGrath | MOTHER TERESA JR. HIGH |
| Diana Cugliandro | GENESIS ELEMENTARY | Kyle Snell | MOUNTAINVIEW ELEMENTARY |
| Patricia Saputo | HILLCREST ACADEMY | Dave Mollot | PIERRE E TRUDEAU ELEMENTARY |
| Dean Dugas | JOLIETTE ELEMENTARY | Guy Gagnon | ROSEMERE HIGH |
| Christopher Tracton | LAKE OF TWO MOUNTAINS HIGH | Roberto Bomba | ST PAUL ELEMENTARY |
| Andy Simon | LAURENTIAN REGIONAL HIGH | Sergio Di Marco | TERRY FOX ELEMENTARY |
| Angelo Grasso | LAURIER SR HIGH | Dori Raymond | TWIN OAKS ELEMENTARY |
| Rosalind B. Hoenig | LAVAL JR. HIGH | Adelina Lepanto | SEAC |
| Morton Jacquays | LAVAL LIBERTY HIGH | | |

ALSO PRESENT: Cliff Buckland, Assistant Director General, Steve Bletas, Chairman of the Council of Commissioners, Johanne Brabant, Strategic Plan Advisor, Ed Turchyniak, Chairman of the Executive Committee, Tom Mouhteros, Mike Pizzola, Steve Kmec, Nick Milas, Grace Nesi, Bobby Dixon, Commissioners

ABSENT: Arundel elem, Franklin Hill elem, Grenville elem, John F Kennedy elem, John F. Kennedy elem, Joliette high, Jules Verne elem, Laurentia elem, Laurentian elem, McCaig elem, Morin-Heights elem, Our Lady of Peace elem, Pinewood elem, Rawdon elem, Souvenir elem, St Jude elem, St Vincent elem, Ste-Adele elem, Ste-Agathe acad.

In the absence of the Chairperson, the Vice-chairperson called the meeting to order at 7:16 p.m.

1. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

PC20120405-01 Laurier Senior High MOVED THAT the agenda is accepted as with additions. Seconded by Twin Oaks Elementary.

Carried UNANIMOUSLY

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

PC20120405-02 Joliette Elementary MOVED THAT the minutes are approved as presented. Seconded by Rosemere High School.

This motion was CARRIED on the following division:

For: Crestview elem, Joliette elem, Lake of Two Mountains high, Laurentian Regional High, Laurier Sr high, Mother Teresa Jr. high, Mountainview elem, Pierre E Trudeau elem, Rosemere high, St Paul elem,

Abstain: Genesis elem, Hillcrest acad, Laval Jr, high, Terry Fox elem, Twin Oaks elem, SEAC

3. CHAIR'S REPORT

The chairperson made members aware that at a previous meeting a parent delegate's perception was that her comments were not taken as valid thus resulting in her resignation. All comments are welcomed.

SEAC workshops April

The Parents Committee Outstanding effort Award, information has been sent to schools. Please let your principals know that a name is needed by April 30th. Certificates and trophies need to be prepared.

4. BUSINESS ARISING

4.1 Nomination – SEAC alternates (three alternate positions available)

PC20120405-03 SEAC MOVED THAT Pamela Feres, Morin-Heights & Laurentian Regional High School; Rodica Teleman, Our Lady Of Peace Elementary; & Melanie Parkinson, Pierre E. Trudeau Elementary are named as delegates to the SEAC. Seconded by Twin Oaks Elementary

This motion is CARRIED on the following division:

For: Crestview elem, Genesis elem, Hillcrest acad, Joliette elem, Lake of Two Mountains high,

Laurentian Regional High, Laurier Sr high, Laval Jr, high, Mother Teresa Jr. high,
 Mountainview elem, Pierre E Trudeau elem, Rosemere high, St Paul elem,
 Twin Oaks elem, SEAC
 Abstain: Terry Fox elem,

4.2 Nomination of RCP-3L delegate

No names brought forward

4.3 Deeds of Establishment & 3 Year Plan

Joliette Elementary is getting a new school and has asked for new deeds.

PC20120405-04 Laurier Sr. High School MOVED THAT the deeds of establishment and three year plan are approved as presented with the notation that Joliette Elementary will have a new school in 2012 and will need a new deeds of establishment and three year plan. Seconded by Laval Jr. High.

This motion is CARRIED on the following division:
 For: Crestview elem, Genesis elem, Hillcrest acad, Lake of Two Mountains high,
 Laurentian Regional High, Laurier Sr high, Laval Jr, high, Mother Teresa Jr. high,
 Mountainview elem, Pierre E Trudeau elem, Rosemere high, St Paul elem,
 Terry Fox elem, Twin Oaks elem, SEAC,
 Abstain: Joliette Elementary

4.4 Update on recycling containers and compactors

A letter is in the members packages explaining this initiative.

The letter does not explain the costs or who is assuming them, which is what the members wanted to know. Mr. Buckland will check into this.

4.5 "I right the wrong" Bill 56 – Bullying

Explanation on this bill was sent via e-mail to members. The website is the declaration that all individuals do not accept bullying. Discussion ensued on Bill 56 and its weaknesses versus what is written in the website. Mr. Buckland commented that the school board and several committees are looking at this bill to identify our strengths and weaknesses and how we can do a better job.

PC20120405-05 Crestview Elementary MOVED THAT the Parents Committee supports the declaration on the "I right the wrong" website against the bullying. Seconded by Mother Teresa Jr. High.

This motion is CARRIED on the following division:
 For: Crestview elem, Genesis elem, Hillcrest acad, Joliette Elementary Lake of Two
 Mountains high, Laurentian Regional High, Laurier Sr high, Laval Jr, high,
 Mother Teresa Jr. high, Mountainview elem, Pierre E Trudeau elem,
 St Paul elem, Terry Fox elem, Twin Oaks elem, SEAC,
 Abstain: Rosemere High

5. NEW BUSINESS

5.1 Strategic Plan

Johanne Brabant was here to present the Strategic Plan which is going into consultation for 60 days. The school board engaged in a process with all stakeholders to develop this plan that will last for the next 5 years. It will drive all stakeholders to reach the goals set out by the MELS over the next years.

This is out for consultation until May 29th. The questionnaire is in the packages and members are asked to fill it out. Members are asked to read it and make sure to come back to next month's meeting ready to comment and respond to it. The chairperson will also send it out and ask members to respond to the secretary.

In response to a question from Crestview, this document is on the website so anyone can go and answer it. The committee thanks Johanne for her presentation

Morten Jacquays entered the meeting at 7:42 pm

5.2 School Board survival task force – going public

The future of school boards is at risk. Focus sessions have been held looking for response to the government's initiative to abolish school boards. A proposal from the government will be sent soon and the task force will get together to focus on it and plan a pro active plan of action to respond to it. The committee is interested in knowing if there was a cost savings when the school boards were diminished in 1998. No information is coming out of the MELS right now. There will be a meeting on May 24th of all Chairs and DG's of school boards to come up with ideas of where we need to merge services.

What can the parents committee do in order to promote in the news the qualities and speak on behalf of the school board? Parents are the strongest force and best advocate for this. We must change their negative attitude and explain to them exactly what the school board does. Once parents know what school boards actually do, they come on board. Not all parents will get on board, but we must push the qualities of the school boards. We really need to publicize what school boards do. The English school board is the only true voice of our English community. QEASBA is doing a survey with questions to the population about school boards. Our energies should be used to promote our school board. The SEAC delegate mentioned their spring conference being held on April 26th and if the committee could put something together she could be sure it is distributed at this conference. Rosemere High will forward some information to Communication Services who will put together a document quickly before this conference.

Some suggestions to promote school boards that came around the table are:

1. Invite your MNA's to their governing board meetings and declare how you feel about the school boards and ask how they will declare themselves on the issue at the next election.
2. Make our school board visible to all parents.
3. Focus on what works in our school board, our successes and promote this.
4. Start a petition to get the support of our parents in the community to send to the minister.
5. One unified statement of all stakeholders showing support.

PC20120405-06 Laurier Sr High MOVED THAT we approach the French counterpart on the FCP3L to see if we can meet with them and discuss school boards to ask how they are responding to this. Seconded by Rosemere High.

Carried UNANIMOUSLY

5.3 Letter to MELS regarding budget cuts to SWLSB of \$1.6M

Our portion is now \$2.2M. A caucus was held with commissioners last week to look at numbers MELS declared none of the cuts will affect the students. This is unrealistic. The government needs to look at where the problem areas are and focus on those areas. Our school board functions well on the little amount of money we receive. Once the budget parameters are out this committee can decide on a plan of action.

PC20120405-05 Roberto Bomba MOVED THAT the committee will begin the process of writing a letter to the government denouncing the budget cuts. Seconded by Lake of Two Mountains High.

Carried UNANIMOUS

6. REPORTS

6.1 School Board's Report

- March 24th there was a workshop on bullying and how this situation will be addressed.
- Administrative staffing process has begun and will be finalized by the end of the month
- Interview process will be held next week for the Assistant Director General
- Star-Fest, Laurier Gala and Lobsterfest are in the planning stages.
- Meeting with the Laval schools on organizing the Laval high schools were held.

6.2 Parents Commissioners’ Report

As presented in packages.

6.3 Treasurer’s Report

Expenses will be paid in the near future.

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)

As presented in packages.

Spring conference will be held on April 26th. All parents are welcome to attend.

6.6 EPCA Report (English Parents Committee Association)

As distributed in packages.

The committee would like Morton to speak to RCP-3L about the future of school boards and the budget cuts and what their action plan is.

7. VARIA

In response to a comment from Crestview, Mr. Buckland reported that there will be coordinating among all schools next year for their general assembly of parents and meet the teachers nights. The committee would like Mr. Buckland to coordinate with the schools that they do not organize anything the first Thursday of every month as this is Parents Committee.

8. QUESTION Period

9. CLOSURE OF MEETING

PC20120405-07 Laurier Sr. High MOVED THAT the meeting is closed at 9:30 pm. Seconded by Twin Oaks Elementary

Carried **UNANIMOUSLY**

Respectfully submitted by:
Susan O’Keeffe, Recording Secretary

Minutes approved _____, 2012

Chairperson _____ Secretary _____