

Minutes of the SEVENTH (7<sup>th</sup>) meeting of the 2011-2012 Sir Wilfrid Laurier Parents Committee held on Thursday May 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2012 at 7:00 pm in the Boardroom of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board, 235 Montée Lesage, Rosemère, Québec.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Renée Beausejour	ARUNDEL ELEMENTARY	Dave Mollot	PIERRE E TRUDEAU ELEMENTARY
Paul Leal	CRESTVIEW ELEMENTARY	Frank D'Onofrio	PINEWOOD ELEMENTARY
Diana Cugliandro	GENESIS ELEMENTARY	Guy Gagnon	ROSEMERE HIGH
Patricia Saputo	HILLCREST ACADEMY	Eugene Sakellaropoulos	SOUVENIR ELEMENTARY
Jennifer Maccarone	JOHN F KENNEDY ELEMENTARY	Tommy Lapierre	ST JUDE ELEMENTARY
Dean Dugas	JOLIETTE ELEMENTARY	Roberto Bomba	ST PAUL ELEMENTARY
Christopher Tracton	LAKE OF TWO MOUNTAINS HIGH	Sylvain Fréchette	ST VINCENT ELEMENTARY
Andy Simon	LAURENTIAN REGIONAL HIGH	Estelle Fleurent	STE-ADELE ELEMENTARY
Angelo Grasso	LAURIER SR HIGH	Antoinette Noviello	TERRY FOX ELEMENTARY
Rosalind B. Hoenig	LAVAL JR. HIGH	Dori Raymond	TWIN OAKS ELEMENTARY
Morton Jaquays	LAVAL LIBERTY HIGH	Adelina Lepanto	SEAC
Magalie Sephton	MORIN HEIGHTS ELEMENTARY		

**ALSO PRESENT:** Robert Vallerand, Director General; Cliff Buckland, Assistant Director General

**ABSENT:** Franklin Hill elem, Grenville elem, Joliette high, Jules Verne elem, Laurentia elem, Laurentian elem, McCaig elem, Mother Teresa Jr. High, Mountainview elem, Our Lady of Peace elem, Rawdon 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**

**PC20120502-01** SEAC MOVED THAT the agenda is accepted as with additions. Seconded by Terry Fox Elementary

Carried **UNANIMOUSLY**

**2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Discussion was held on the point last month concerning a member who resigned because she felt her comments were not taken as valid. The members did not remember this incident happening. The chairperson reiterated that everyone's comments are valuable

**PC20120502-02** Joliette Elementary MOVED THAT the minutes are approved as presented. Seconded by Laurentian Regional High.

This motion was **CARRIED** on the following division:

**For:** Arundel elem, Crestview elem, Genesis elem, Hillcrest acad, Joliette elem, Lake of Two Mountains high, Laurentian Regional high, Laurier Sr. high, Laval jr. high, Laval Liberty high, Pierre E. Trudeau elem, Rosemere High, St Jude elem, St Paul elem, Terry Fox elem, Twin Oaks elem, SEAC

**Abstain:** John F Kennedy elem, Morin Heights elem, , Pinewood elem, Souvenir elem, St Vincent elem, Ste-Adele elem

**3. CHAIR'S REPORT**

- 2012-2013 School calendars for all schools were sent to members. Crestview did not receive theirs.
- The secretary will sign up for the "I right the wrong" on behalf of the Parents Committee.
- Thank you to the Communications' Department for their efforts in putting together the pamphlet so quickly.
- There are still 13 schools who have not responded to the Outstanding Effort Award, the schools were named and the Chairperson has asked members to ask their schools to send in the names.
- NPI in Laval statistics have been provided. They do have monthly meetings and give information on English services provided in the area.

**4. BUSINESS ARISING**

**4.1 Nomination of RCP-3L delegate**

No names were brought forward.

#### **4.2 Letter to RCP-3L re: position on government cuts to education**

The letter was sent out and a response was sent back immediately by the Commission Scolaire de Laval thanking us for the initiative. They wanted to meet us tomorrow evening but considering that there is an RCP-3L meeting the same night, they would like to see if the other school boards are interested to meet with us as well. They will bring it up at the meeting tomorrow night

#### **4.3 Letter to MELS re: budget cuts**

A proposed letter was drafted. Mr. Vallerand is not able to announce the figures and their impact until all of the pertinent committees have been met. The minimum that our board will estimate that we may be cut back is \$1.7M. The committee feels that the letter needs to be sent out without these numbers. The chairperson read the letter and Terry Fox agreed to fix the grammar and spelling errors before it goes out.

**PC20120502-03** Pierre E. Trudeau MOVED THAT the a copy of the letter be sent to as a press release, all the main newspapers, television stations, Laval, North shore papers, all city MNA's that cover our region. Seconded by Rosemere High.

**Carried UNANIMOUSLY**

If anyone has contacts, please send them to Patricia. The letter will be sent to Maxeen Jolin in communication Services to send out as a press release.

#### **4.4 Update on recycling containers and compactors**

Although a letter was received, the committee wanted to know who was assuming the cost of this.

Mr. Buckland responded that they cost \$70.00 per and the schools will assume the cost. The extent of the recycling is way beyond what was being done in the past. They meet with the security requirements as they are more difficult to be vandalized. This is also part of the Green initiative that our Material Resources started. Mr. Vallerand will ask the assistant director of Material Resources to explain again the procedures to the Administrators.

#### **4.5 Strategic Plan**

The Parents Committee was asked to send their response to a survey on the Strategic Plan. We should respond on behalf of the Parents Committee. The questionnaire was answered and will be sent in to the school board.

### **5. NEW BUSINESS**

Sir Wilfrid Laurier Foundation's annual Lobster Fest is being held on June 14<sup>th</sup>, 2012. Four tickets will be purchased from this committee.

The Parents Committee brochure created in Partnership with the School Board can be put on the website.

### **6. REPORTS**

#### **6.1 School Board's Report**

- Thanks the Parents Committee for the support in preparing the pamphlet
- Very successful SEAC conference
- Budget parameters were received yesterday and are being analyzed.
- This Saturday, there is a practice for the Laurier Star Fest students who will be performing at the Laurier Gala.
- NPI Laurentians day May 31<sup>st</sup> where they will be looking at English services in the Laurentian area at the Imperia Hotel in Ste-Eustache.
- In response to a question from Hillcrest, concerning the commissioners' voters list, parents can contact the DGE website to see what school board they are registered to vote at. During the election process, the electoral list is published and candidates get a copy of it. You can still be registered on it during the 45 day campaign period.

#### **6.2 Parents Commissioners' Report**

Following the publication of an article in The Gazette on Thursday May 3, a number of members of the Parents Committee contacted the parent commissioners so as to have a better understanding of what had occurred. Unfortunately both parent commissioners had been unable to attend the special meeting of the Council of Commissioners convened by the Chairman Mr. Steve Bletas. Hence the parent commissioner Angelo Grasso contacted the board to see if the Director General (DG) would be available to attend the meeting on May 3. The DG indicated

that he would make himself available. During the commissioners' report, Commissioner Grasso deferred to the DG and asked that he explain the course of events that were the basis for the Gazette article.

Mr. Vallerand indicated that just prior to the regular meeting of the Council of Commissioners on April 25; he was presented with a letter from the Sir Wilfrid Laurier Administrators Association (SWLAA) asking him to look into incidents of interference in the administrators' ability to manage and lead their schools by a commissioner. The council went into camera to have a better understanding of this request and when resuming the business of the regular meeting two resolutions were adopted. One mandated the Director General assisted by the Vice Chair of the Council, the Chair and the Vice-chair of the Executive Committee to look into the allegations contained in the SWLAA letter. The second resolution dealt with alleged irregularities that took place during the entire posting and selection process for a new Assistant Director General (ADG) which was referred to the SWLSB Ethics Commissioner as a special mandate.

The working group looking into the SWLAA letter initiated its work following the Wednesday April 25 regular meeting and on Monday April 30 the Chairman of the Council of Commissioners convened a special meeting of the Council as is his prerogative under the Education Act. The two topics on the agenda for that special meeting included: The clarification on the mandate given to the Ethics Commissioner regarding the irregularities of the ADG posting and: The Chairman of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board.

Following an in-camera session the following resolution was adopted:

*WHEREAS on April 25, 2012 by resolution #CC-120425-CA-0092, the Council of Commissioners decided to grant the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board Ethics Commissioner with a special mandate to report on allegations of irregularities during the conduct of the Assistant Director General posting process:*

*Commissioner Walter Fogel MOVED THAT the following precisions be added to the general allegations of irregularities as a complement to resolution #CC-120425- CA-0092 adopted on April 25, 2012:*

*Allegation #1: Did the telephone conversation between the Chairman of the Board and one applicant during the conduct of the Assistant Director General constitute a contravention to the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board Code of Ethics?*

*Allegation #2: Did the existing relationship between the Chairman of the Board and one of the applicants come to taint the fairness of the Assistant Director General selection process?*

*Allegation #3: Does the exchange of text messages between the Chairman of the Board and one applicant dealing with the conduct of the above mentioned process taint the fairness of the selection committee?*

This motion highlighted the allegations in regard to the irregularities in the ADG posting and the Chairman informed members of Council that he had no intention of relinquishing his mandate as Chairman of the Council. During the course of the day on Wednesday May 2 the Gazette reporter contacted a number of Commissioners, members of the senior executive as well as the Chairman of the Board. As mentioned in the Gazette article the Chairman gave the Gazette reporter an interview and went into considerable detail as to the allegations contained in the SWLAA letter even though the matter was still under study by the working group created at the request of the Council on April 25. The DG further indicated that all stakeholders are passionate about education be they parents, employees, members of council etc., but that normal communication channels should be followed where parental concerns are brought to the attention of commissioners.

In response to a question from Joliette Elementary, Mr. Vallerand responded that there were to be some abolition of Administrative posts due to declining enrolment in our board, and SWLAA (the Administrators Association) asked to have a 30 day consultation on these. (SWLAA agreed to reduce the consultation to 25 days in order to be able to announce the abolitions and assignments at the next Council meeting) This is why the posts were not announced at the April 25<sup>th</sup> Council of Commissioners meeting.

### **6.3 Treasurer's Report**

Expense reports will be brought to the school board on Monday May 7.

### **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)**

SEAC Spring Conference was such a success that there will be a second session held in October.

**6.6 EPCA Report (English Parents Committee Association)**

Next meeting will be on May 12<sup>th</sup>.

Parents Committee are being asked to write a 100 word essay on bullying in order to be put into a newsletter that the EPCA is putting together. There is no deadline. It is hopeful something will go out before the end of the school year. It was suggested to get in touch with Deb and Mona and ask them to write something. Mr. Buckland will get in touch with them.

**7. VARIA**

There will be a small cocktail at next month’s meeting to thank the parents for their commitment this year. Everyone is welcome.

**8. QUESTION Period**

Crestview asked that the policy on field trips be addressed with the Administrators. Some parents received a letter telling them that if children are not attending the field trip it was asked that parents keep their kids home. If they could also remind them that ECA’s need to be approved by the Governing Board.

At the beginning of the year there was a workshop on the powers of GB and there was an issue on fundraising. There was supposed to have been a follow up document and members would like to have this document before the end of the school year.

A discussion was held on parents who do not pay their school fees and what Administrators should be doing to get them to pay. During a round table, some parents believed schools should withhold activities and others think that children should not pay for their parents’ behavior. Schools need to inform parents on how important it is that they pay their school fees. Maybe some sort of a pamphlet should be prepared for parents on where exactly these fees go. It was also suggested that the school board be more involved in helping the individual schools with the collection of school fees especially in light of the MELS budget cuts.

Mr. Buckland appreciates the committees’ honesty on the issue of school fees. He understands the struggle that Administrators have regarding the school fee collection.

**9. CLOSURE OF MEETING**

Congratulations to these people who will be going to the Lobster Fest: Terry Fox, Our Lady of Peace, Mountainview, St. Paul (he asked that another school be drawn), Rawdon. The alternates chosen should any of these schools not be able to attend are: Ste-Agathe Academy, Ste-Adele, St Vincent, Souvenir and Mother Teresa Jr High.

**PC20120502-04** Laurier Sr. High MOVED THAT the meeting is closed at 9:40 pm. Seconded by Twin Oaks Elementary

Carried **UNANIMOUSLY**

Respectfully submitted by:  
Susan O’Keeffe, Recording Secretary

Minutes approved \_\_\_\_\_, 2012

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