

**Minutes of the fourth (4<sup>th</sup>) meeting of the 2012-2013 Sir Wilfrid Laurier Parents Committee held on Thursday February 7<sup>th</sup>, 2013 at 7:15 pm in the Boardroom of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board, 235 Montée Lesage, Rosemère, Québec.**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Renée Beauséjour	ARUNDEL ELEM (via teleconfer)	Rosalind Hoenig	LAVAL JR HIGH
Paul Leal	CRESTVIEW ELEMENTARY	Carla Tosti	MCCAIG ELEMENTARY
Kellie Drouin	GRENVILLE ELEMENTARY	Angela Martorano	MOTHER TERESA JR HIGH
Patricia Saputo	HILLCREST ACADEMY	Lisa Chartier	OUR LADY OF PEACE ELEM
Jennifer Maccarone	JOHN F KENNEDY ELEMENTARY	Frank D'Onofrio	PINEWOOD ELEMENTARY
Dean Dugas	JOLIETTE ELEMENTARY	Ann Gill	ROSEMERE HIGH
Bob Pellerin	JOLIETTE HIGH	Rino Vetrone	SOUVENIR ELEMENTARY
Vicki Gormley	LAKE OF TWO MOUNTAINS	Tommy Lapierre	ST JUDE ELEMENTARY
Julie Chacra	LAURENTIA ELEMENTARY	Roberto Bomba	ST PAULELEMENTARY
Derek Braney	LAURENTIAN ELEMENTARY	Ross Blandino	ST VINCENT ELEMENTARY
Andrew Simon	LAURENTIAN REGIONAL HIGH	Ronald Cole	STE-AGATHE ACADEMY
Francisco Couto	LAVAL LIBERTY HIGH	Antoinette Noviello	TERRY FOX ELEMENTARY
Angelo Grasso	LAURIER SR. HIGH	Pamala Crompton	SEAC

**ALSO PRESENT:** Cliff Buckland, Interim Assistant Director General; Nick Milas, Chairman of the Council of Commissioners, Elio Lattanzio, Commissioner

**ABSENT:** Franklin Hill elem, Genesis elem, Jules-Verne elem, Morin-Heights elem, Mountainview elem, Pierre E Trudeau elem, Rawdon elem, Ste-Adele elem, Twin Oaks elem

The Chairperson called the meeting to order at 7:18 pm

**1. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Add: 9.1 STL cheque off set  
9.2 LCEEQ Discussion

**PC20130207-01** Joliette Elementary School MOVED THAT the agenda is accepted with additions. Seconded by Hillcrest Academy.

Carried UNANIMOUSLY

**2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF December 6<sup>th</sup>, 2012**

**PC20130207-02** Laurier Sr. High MOVED THAT the minutes of December 6<sup>th</sup>, 2012 are accepted as presented. Seconded by Our Lady of Peace Elementary.

This motion was CARRIED on the following division:  
For: Crestview elem, John F Kennedy elem, Joliette elem, Lake of Two Mountains elem, Laurentian elem, Laurier Sr. high, Laval Jr. high, McCaig elem, Mother Teresa Jr. high, Our Lady of Peace elem, Pinewood elem, Rosemere high, Souvenir elem, St Vincent elem, Ste-Agathe acad, SEAC  
Abstain: Grenville elem, Hillcrest Acad, Joliette high, Laurentia elem, Laurentian Regional high, Laval Liberty high, St Jude elem, St Paul elem  
Terry Fox elem.

**3. CHAIR'S Report**

As presented in member's packages.

**4. PRESENTATION**

The committee welcomed Dr. Robert Savage, Associate Professor, Faculty of Education, McGill University McGill who is here to make a presentation to us on "Supporting Community Literacy in Urban and Rural Quebec." The Chairperson will e-mail the presentation to all members.

The committee discussed other programs similar to the one Dr. Savage presented but are disappointed that more money is not given from the MELS for these. Members also feel that books are important for early literacy; however technology is being used more and more. There needs to be a balance between the two, this will be a challenge for the future.

Mr. Buckland reported that there is a new regulation coming from MELS next year that the schools in low socio economic areas will be able to open a preschool and have funding from the MELS.

## 5. QUESTION Period

## 6. BUSINESS Arising

### 6.1 PC Objective for 2012-2013

This was discussed during Dr. Savage's presentation. It will be brought back to discuss further at the next meeting.

### 6.2 2013-2014 Enrollment Criteria (E-VOTE)

**PC20130207-03** In an e-vote on the *2012-TS-04 - Enrollment Criteria 2013-2014 - Final Draft 2012-12-11v2* the vote was as follows:

**12 for 3 against, 18 abstentions**

### 6.3 2013-2014 School Calendar

The information was sent to members to review.

- ✓ Hillcrest parents wondered why the first day of school is on a Friday and the last day is on the Monday.
- ✓ Crestview staff would prefer the two ped days in November for teacher conference be out back.
- ✓ Genesis Elementary would like consideration given to starting school on August 23, 2012 and finishing on June 20, 2013. (suggestion received via e-mail)

Mr. Buckland responded that the calendar is done with respect to collective agreements and the teachers union is consulted on it.

### 6.4 French instruction in our schools

St Jude elementary schools' community feel that one of the most important things in their school is having more French in their time allocation. They do not feel there is enough or that the program is strong enough. Mr. Buckland responded that the time allocation is left to the discretion of each school.

The committee entered into a lengthy discussion on the values and importance of French instruction in our English schools. The majority of parents would like to see more French language hours taught in their schools.

## 7. NEW BUSINESS

### 7.1 Process for replacement of Commissioner – Vacancy District 18

Mr. Tom Mouhteros has resigned his position. We have been advised that we are obliged to fill this vacancy via a by-election. The next school commissioners' election will be held in November 2014. This was announced January 16<sup>th</sup> and by law if there is a vacancy announced more than one year to the next election then we must have a by-election. There is a significant cost to our school board having this by-election. Any elector in district 18 who has an issue can address any other commissioner with their concerns.

### 7.2 Budget building process 2013-2014

Please come to the next meeting prepared to make suggestions. The chairperson will e-mail last year's suggestions that were submitted during this process.

### 7.3 Outstanding Effort awards

In the past, a \$25.00 gift card to Chapters, a plaque and a certificate were given to a graduating student in each school. The members would like to increase the amount of the gift certificate. The committee needs to determine a criteria for this award as some principals are unsure about whom to give this award to.

**PC20130207-04** Hillcrest Academy MOVED THAT the Parents Committee will continue the tradition of offering the Outstanding Effort Award to one graduating student per school. Seconded by Terry Fox.

Carried UNANIMOUSLY

**PC20130207-05** St Paul Elementary MOVED THAT the amount will change to a \$50.00 certificate. Seconded by Terry Fox elementary.

Carried UNANIMOUSLY

### 7.4 Secondary IV Math, Science and History exams – Letter to MELS

A letter was included in your packages from Lester B Pearson School board concerning the MELS exams in these subjects from last year. The pass rate was much lower than in previous years and in some cases the marks were given to parents too late for them to register their children in summer school. Complaints from many stakeholders in the province have been sent to the MELS. New this year was the exam was standardized throughout the province. Every student wrote the exact same exam and teachers were not allowed to see it to know what the focus of it was. Our summer school enrolment was double than in previous years. Mr. Buckland encouraged parental pressure to the MELS on this subject. Because our territory is so wide, the students in the northern areas do not have easy access to summer school. The parents in these areas would like to know if there is a possibility of having summer school at a northern school.

In response to a question from Terry Fox Elementary, Mr. Buckland will enquire what was on the summer school exam to see if the questions were similar to that of the June exam.

## 8. REPORTS

### 8.1 School Board's Report

- The new Director General, Stephanie Vucko, regrets not being here tonight as she is at an ADIGECS workshop.
- \$47,154 was raised through the Foundation Gala to support our students.
- 2013 Star Fest information was sent to schools.
- Re-registration period is this week for all students who attend one of our schools. Preliminary numbers will be available tomorrow.
- The registration period for students new to our school board will begin on Monday February 11.
- The Laval High schools consultation is continuing and by 2014 a decision on the future of these schools will be implemented.
- Bill 56 workshops continue. Each school must have their Anti-bullying program submitted by March. A cyber bullying policy will be worked on in conjunction with this.

The delegate from Terry Fox thanks the school board and Commissioners for their time and patience and open communication during Terry Fox/St Paul Elementary schools use of schools consultation period.

### 8.2 Treasurer's Report

RCP3L fees are due. Hillcrest Academy explained to the benefit of this group. This committee would like to know what value to us this committee brings. The chairperson will invite the Chair of the RCP3L to the next meeting for members to ask questions.

### 8.3 Parents Commissioners' Report

Council highlights are in packages.

Laurentian Regional enquired about the negotiations for bus contracts. He believed that there should have been negotiations with them for increased after school buses. They would like to have had an expansion of their services for the same money. The committee will invite Ms. Gaëlle Absolonne to a meeting to explain how negotiations are done.

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

The delegate was not present at the meeting.

#### **8.5 SEAC Report (Special Education Advisory Committee)**

Included in members packages.

#### **8.6 EPCA Report (English Parents Committee Association)**

Included in members packages.

### **9. VARIA**

#### **9.1 STL cheque off set**

Laval Liberty High school would like to know if the student re-registration forms could have a box to tick off where parents can agree to give their STL cheques to the school in lieu of school fees. The practice at the school board has been to mail the STL refund cheques only to those parents who have paid or made arrangements to pay their school fees. The parents whose fees are outstanding are invited to the school to pick up their cheques and given the option to sign it over to help pay their school fees. At the end of every school year Laval Liberty has cheques that parents have not claimed. They would like to know what happens with these cheques and can this money be deposited into their school to offset the outstanding fees.

#### **9.2 LCEEQ Discussion**

Tabled to next meeting. Please read the information in the packages and be prepared to discuss this at the next meeting.

### **10. QUESTION Period**

Next month there will be a follow up on the letter to the chief of police regarding the lockdown procedure.

### **11. CLOSURE OF MEETING**

Next meeting March 14<sup>th</sup>, 2013

**PC20130207-05** Grenville Elementary MOVED THAT the meeting close at 10:10 pm. Seconded by Terry Fox Elementary.

**Carried UNANIMOUSLY**

Respectfully submitted by:  
Susan O'Keeffe, Recording Secretary

Minutes approved \_\_\_\_\_, 2013

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