

Minutes of the fifth (5th) meeting of the 2012-2013 Sir Wilfrid Laurier Parents Committee held on Thursday March 14th, 2013 at 7:15 pm in the Boardroom of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board, 235 Montée Lesage, Rosemère, Québec.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Dianna Cugliandro	GENESIS ELEMENTARY	Rosalind Hoenig	LAVAL JR HIGH
Patricia Saputo	HILLCREST ACADEMY	Carla Tosti	MCCAIG ELEMENTARY
Jennifer Maccarone	JOHN F KENNEDY ELEMENTARY	Magalie Sephton	MORIN HEIGHTS ELEMENTARY
Dean Dugas	JOLIETTE ELEMENTARY	David Mollott	PIERRE E TRUDEAU ELEMEN
Debbie Dann	JOLIETTE HIGH	Ann Gill	ROSEMERE HIGH
Joseph Sabo	JULES VERNE ELEMENTARY	Roberto Bomba	ST PAUL ELEMENTARY
Vicki Gormley	LAKE OF TWO MOUNTAINS	Ross Blandino	ST VINCENT ELEMENTARY
Andrew Simon	LAURENTIAN REGIONAL HIGH	Antoinette Noviello	TERRY FOX ELEMENTARY
Vicki Kaliozakis	LAVAL LIBERTY HIGH	Costa Lambrakis	TWIN OAKS ELEMENTARY
Angelo Grasso	LAURIER SR. HIGH		

ALSO PRESENT: Stephanie Vucko, Director General; Nick Milas, Chairman of the Council of Commissioners,

ABSENT: Arundel elem, Crestview elem, Franklin Hill elem, Franklin Hill elem, Grenville elem, Laurentia elem, Laurentian elem, Mother Teresa Jr. high, Mountainview elem, Our Lady of Peace elem, Pinewood elem, Rawdon elem, Souvenir elem, St Jude elem, St. St. Vincent elem, Ste-Adele elem, Sainte-Agathe acad, Twin Oaks elem, SEAC

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

1. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Welcome to Stephanie Vucko, Director General, Nick Milas, Chairperson and Gaëlle Absolonne, Director of School Organization and Transportation.

PC20130307-01 Hillcrest Academy MOVED THAT the agenda is accepted with additions. Seconded by Laurier Sr. High

Carried UNANIMOUSLY

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF February 7th, 2013

Add in 7.1: The parent committee delegate should be asked to present the PC award at the graduation, and if they are not available any parent representative of the Governing Board.

PC201302014-02 Joliette Elementary MOVED THAT the minutes of February 7th, 2013 are accepted with correction. Seconded by Laval Jr. High.

This motion was CARRIED on the following division:
For: Hillcrest acad, John F Kennedy elem, Joliette elem, Lake of Two Mountains high, Laurentian Regional high, Laurier Sr. high, Laval Jr. high, McCaig elem, Rosemere high, Terry Fox elem
Abstain: Genesis elem, Joliette high, Jules Verne elem, Laval Liberty high, Morin Heights elem, Pierre E Trudeau elem

3. CHAIR'S REPORT

4. QUESTION PERIOD

4.1 Presentation from RCP-3L

M. Claude Racine presented an overview of the RCP-3L including their purpose, mandate and membership benefits. He mentioned the RCP-3L is a committee of elected parents, consisting of membership across the 3L region, established with the objective of sharing best practices, concerns and information amongst stakeholders. To date no member has ever disaffiliated and he expressed the hope that our committee would remain as the views of the English parent community are appreciated. They do not receive any government funding; with a dotted-line to the FCPQ, the RCP-3L has supported parent concerns at the government level through this committee, although they do not personally prepare briefs or platforms for MELS to consider. They do have yearly meetings with government officials who present their action plans. Annual Reports are prepared, although this committee has never received a copy to date. The Chair will follow-up on this and provide documentation to the PC once received.

Twin Oaks entered the meeting at 7:35 p.m.

5. BUSINESS ARISING

5.1 STL Cheque Off-Set

In response to the question from the last meeting concerning parents signing off on their STL cheques on the re-registration form, Ms. Absolonne responded yes it is possible but it is very cumbersome. Schools already have a form in schools that allows parents to sign off the STL cheque to put towards school fees. The STL cheques are very different from school fees and parents are not obliged to sign these cheques over. Ms. Absolonne explained the process to refund these STL cheques. Any STL money at the end of the year not cashed cannot be given to schools because it is given back to the MELS. New this year, the Transportation department can keep 50% of it but will use it to service children.

STL contracts are being renegotiated for five years. The four Laval high schools have been consulted, the junior schools want status quo but the senior schools want to start earlier. The time asked for LLHS is to start 8:31 and finish 3:06; LSHS start 8:40 and finish at 3:20. There has been a verbal approval from all parties, but Ms. Absolonne is waiting for written confirmation. The STL busses are dedicated to just our students.

St. Paul Elementary entered the meeting at 8:30 p.m.

In response to a question from Pierre E Trudeau, once a year all bus drivers attend a compulsory training session at the School Board. In April 2013 all of the bus drivers will be attending training specifically on bullying in conjunction with the anti bullying law that was passed.

5.2 PC Objective for 2012/2013

A suggestion was made to work on a project to promote Early Literacy - In an effort to support our communities by promoting early literacy, the SWLSB Parent Committee will develop and create a tool that will educate our parents and schools on available programs and creative ideas for their own program development. A small committee consisting of Laval Junior, Terry Fox Elementary and JFK Elementary has been formed with a potential project launch date to coincide with the 2013/2014 school year. Information regarding the progress of this mandate will be presented to this committee as it is available.

PC201302014-03 Laval Jr. High MOVED THAT the Parents Committee supports the Early Literacy project as presented above. Seconded by Joliette High.

Carried UNANIMOUSLY

5.3 Process for Replacement of Commissioner Vacancy, District 18

Members received information in their package

5.4 Budget Building Process 2013-2014

- 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**, including adding more access points, new wiring and equipment, re-wiring of outdated electrical inputs 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) **School Fee collection:** School board become more responsible or partner with the school to collect school fees in order for schools to be able to collect them more efficiently.
- 3) **Payroll and Taxation** centralized with other school boards.

PC201302014-04 Jules Verne Elementary MOVED THAT the 2013-2014 Budget Building priorities for the Parents committee are approved as listed above. Seconded by Laurier Sr. High

Carried UNANIMOUSLY

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

Mr. Buckland responded that it was difficult to pinpoint the specific reasons regarding the poor results. It was not just a translation issue, but more related to high class marks given by teachers, poorer results related to the exams, and the combination of the two resulting in lower grades for individual students. It is more complicated than first assumed. It is his understanding that the Ministry has recognized this issue and has developed some strategies to avoid the same circumstances this year.

Therefore, when informing the MELS of the parent's concern regarding last year's results we will base it on the hope that the Ministry, School Boards, and individual schools should do everything in their power to ensure that the confusion that existed last year is not to be repeated and where results were distributed late and so an inordinate number of students were forced to find a place in summer school programs.

MELS has taken some suggestions and will take measures for this not to happen again.

PC201302014-05 Laval Jr. high MOVED THAT the Chairperson will write a letter to MELS expressing concerns and hopes that the provincial exams for this year reflect the curriculum taught as outlined by the MELS. Seconded by Laurier Sr. High.

Carried UNANIMOUSLY

The Chairperson will prepare the letter and send to members for their input and suggestions.

Laurentian Regional High added that the students from the northern areas were not as equipped to get to summer school to re-do these courses.

5.6 LCEEQ Position Paper – Future of English Education in Quebec

Laurentian Regional High School has concerns that there are so many territories in our school board and we are not receiving the funds that we may be entitled to in remote areas.

Mrs. Vucko responded that the board is presently collecting data on what committees within our territory this board sits on. She went on to say that we have three regions and often the money is very minor for the amount of work that needs to be done to get it, however this school board does receive measures and grants.

6. NEW BUSINESS

6.1 Deeds of Establishment & 3 Year Plan

Tabled; please bring forth changes that pertain to your school next month

7. REPORTS

7.1 School Board's Report

Ms. Vucko has been spending many days visiting schools. This has been put on hold for a while as the staffing for 2013-2014 school year has begun. The school board is reviewing high school pathways. There will be some positive changes made for Phoenix Alternative School next year and it will not be closing.

There will be Summer school meetings next week to explore a blended face to face and virtual summer school program partnered with Learn Quebec. The infrastructure will need to be looked at. It is in the preliminary talks now.

School board partnership agreements and strategic action plans are being revisited and they are making revisions to it aligning it with what was received as feedback from MELS.

Ms. Vucko is very excited as there is growth heading deeper into the 21st century. She is working with very supportive directors and is excited to be at our board.

In response to a question from Joliette Elementary, we are permitted to open one 4 year old Pre K next year, but only in schools that have a socio-economic rating of 9 or 10. We are presently looking at our possibilities, and the options of supporting pre-existing programs in one of our school, and will make a decision soon,

7.2 Treasurer’s Report

The RCP3L invoice has not been paid yet. Do we want to remain part of this group? Are the needs of the English parent community being represented in this group? Hillcrest responded that the RCP3L and FCPQ are willing to still let us buy the literature that they offer in English.

PC201302014-06 Laurier Sr. High MOVED THAT we pay the invoice for RCP3L for \$210. Seconded by Jules Verne Elementary.

Carried UNANIMOUSLY

Members are encouraged to put their names forth as a delegate.

7.3 Council Highlights (Parent Commissioners Report)

In members packages.

7.4 RCP-3L Report

No report this month.

7.5 SEAC Report

No report this month.

7.6 EPCA Report

In members packages.

She went on to say that the EPCA Brief on Bill 14 will be presented on March 25th to MELS. (included in packages). Congratulations were given to this group for this initiative.

EPCA have received 4 CV’s for a permanent DG.

Members question if the alternate delegate can sit on EPCA or other committees or does it have to be the delegate.

8. VARIA

8.1 Board Sports Coordinator

Laurentian Regional High would like to see the job of the sports coordinator dossier given to someone who can do it.

9. Question Period

10. Closure of Meeting

Next meeting April 4th, 2013

PC20130314-07 Joliette High MOVED THAT the meeting close at 10:10 pm. Seconded by St Paul.

Carried UNANIMOUSLY

Respectfully submitted by:
Susan O’Keeffe, Recording Secretary

Minutes approved _____, 2013

Chairperson _____ Secretary _____