

# PARENT COMMITTEE

2012/2013



**COMMISSION SCOLAIRE SIR-WILFRID-LAURIER**  
**SIR WILFRID LAURIER SCHOOL BOARD**

## **Annual Report** **Message from the Chairperson**

Our Parent Committee consists of a group of devoted volunteers, working together to support all the students of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board, as we seek to improve student education and performance, both in and out of the classroom. I believe it is the goal of each member to add value to our Committee and to work together within our community, with our School Board and Council of Commissioners.

Over the course of the 2012/2013 school year Parent Committee undertook many issues concerning the education of our students, participated in consultations, presentations and training sessions. From Bill 56, to School Organization and Enrollment Criteria, we have worked through government budget compressions and examination procedures, school board elections and the future of English education in Québec. In short, we had a full year and should be pleased with our dedication and hard work.

I am proud to have been elected Chairperson of this Committee, and wish to thank all the 2012/2013 Elected Representatives, Alternates, School Board and Commissioners for their support and assistance in making our last year one for which we can be proud. I would like to extend a special thanks to Lisa Chartier for her generous support as Vice-Chair; Susan O’Keeffe who always answered my calls and helped our meetings run smoothly; our Parent Commissioners - Roberto Bomba, Angela Martorana and Angelo Grasso; Jocelyn Thompson for never complaining when I made changes to our packages; the PC Executive; and our Director General, School Board representatives, and our Council of Commissioners who generously gave their time in attending our meetings and lending their support to our concerns.

“At the end of the day, the most overwhelming key to a child’s success is the positive involvement of parents.”  
-Jane D. Hull

Looking forward to continued success in 2013/2014,

***Jennifer Maccarone,***  
***2012/2013 Chairperson,***  
***Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board Parent Committee***

# Our Members

Renée Beausejour	Arundel Elementary
Paul Leal	Crestview Elementary
Vacant	Franklin Hill Elementary
Diana Cugliandro	Genesis Elementary
Kellie Drouin	Grenville Elementary
Patricia Saputo	Hillcrest Academy
Jennifer Maccarone	John F Kennedy Elementary
Dean Dugas	Joliette Elementary
Bob Pellerin	Joliette High
Joseph Sabo	Jules Verne Elementary
Vicki Gormley	Lake of Two Mountains High
Roseanne Carusone	Laurier Sr. High
Julie Chacra	Laurentia Elementary
Derek Braney	Laurentian Elementary
Andy Simon	Laurentian Regional High
Francisco Couto	Laval Liberty High
Rosalind Hoenig	Laval Jr. High
Carla Tosti	McCaig Elementary
Magalie Sephton	Morin Heights Elementary,
Angela Martorana	Mother Teresa Jr. High
Kyle Snell	Mountainview Elementary
Lisa Chartier	Our Lady of Peace Elementary
David Mollott	Pierre E Trudeau Elementary
Frank D'Onofrio	Pinewood Elementary
Sonia Massicotte	Rawdon Elementary
Ann Gill	Rosemere High
Rino Vetrone	Souvenir Elementary
Julie Laroche	Ste-Adele Elementary
Tommy Lapierre	St Jude Elementary
Roberto Bomba	St Paul Elementary
Ross Blandino	St Vincent Elementary
Ron Cole	Ste-Agathe Academy
Antoinette Noviello	Terry Fox Elementary
Loukas Nitsos	Twin Oaks Elementary
Adelina Lepanto	SEAC

## **Executive**

Jennifer Maccarone, Chairperson  
 Lisa Chartier, Vice-Chair  
 Antoinette Noviello, Secretary  
 Patricia Saputo, Treasurer  
 Roberto Bomba, Elementary Parent  
 Commissioner  
 Angela Martorana, Secondary Parent  
 Commission (*mid-year replacement of Angelo Grasso, former PC Representative of Laurier Senior*)  
 Franciso Couto, Transportation Advisory

## **Recording Secretary**

Susan O'Keeffe

## **External Committee Representatives**

EPCA Director, Patricia Saputo  
 EPCA Delegate, Andy Simon  
 EPCA Delegate, Antoinette Noviello  
 SEAC, Adelina Lepanto

## **Meeting Dates**

October 4, 2012  
 November 1, 2012  
 December 6, 2012  
 February 7, 2013  
 March 14, 2013  
 April 4, 2013  
 May 2, 2013  
 June 6, 2013

SWLSB Parent Committee is comprised of 26 Elementary school representatives and 10 Secondary school representatives.

Ours is the third largest English school board in the Province of Québec. Our territory encompasses the administrative regions of Laval, Lanaudière, and the Laurentides, spanning over 35 000 square kilometers. The student population is over 15 000 students.



# Our Work

## **Consultations Discussion/Response**

Enrollment Criteria 2013/2014  
 Calendar 2013/2014  
 Budget Building Process  
 Deeds of Establishment  
 Commissioner for District 19

## **Items Addressed at Meetings**

*Internal Rules of Procedure and Financial Policy* - Members are consulted each year regarding the PC rules of procedure, as well as our financial policy; these documents are updated as required to ensure our meetings function at the height of their capacity. Changes were made to improve our definitions and terms while the finance policy remained static.

*Bill 56* - Members were provided with information to share with their Governing Boards in support of the new Bill, and its' implementation at our schools, in the form of an Anti-Bullying-Anti-Violence plan of action.

*Use of Schools in Laval and High School Consultations* - Our Committee received information regarding the use of schools, specifically as it concerns Terry Fox Elementary and St-Paul Elementary, Twin Oaks Elementary and Our Lady of Peace Elementary, and the Laval Junior and Senior High Schools. New school zones have been redefined and special considerations identified for the Elementary schools. The establishment of Ad Hoc Committees for each group was also launched and Members provided valuable feedback, as decisions are made to provide for long-term growth and stability for all schools.

*Enrollment Criteria* - The 45-day consultation resulted in Parent Committee rejecting the original document as presented, and our approval of a revised version in January 2013.

*Food and Nutrition Policy* - It was brought to the attention of PC that the Food and Nutrition Policy is too vague and that suppliers may not be following the policy as required.

*Laval High School Transportation Contract* - The renewal of this contract brought positive changes for our students and Board. Improved service, reduced spend and access to technology are a few of the benefits resulting from these negotiations.

*STL Cheque Set-Off* - A new system will be put in place so the school fees will have a stub at the bottom, enabling parents to transfer their checks toward the student school fees.

*Virtual Summer School* - A new system enabling our students in outlying regions to attend summer school was established.

*New Commissioners for Districts 18 and 19* - Our Committee was consulted on the election of Commissioner for District 19, however, a new Québec Government decree obliged our Board to proceed with a formal by-election for the position of Commission in District 18.

*Letters to MEELS* - Secondary IV Math, Science and History Exams; Budget Compressions/Cut-Backs to Special Needs Communities in our Schools.

**In 2012, the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board amended its 2007-2012 Strategic Plan to comply with the five new goals of the Ministère de l'Éducation, du Loisir et du Sport, which are:**

- 1. Increase graduation and qualification rates before age 20.**
- 2. Improve Mastery of English Mother Tongue and French Second Language.**
- 3. Improved levels of retention in school and academic success among certain target groups, especially among handicapped students or students with learning or adjustment difficulties.**
- 4. Healthier and safer school environments.**
- 5. Increase number of students under the age of 20 enrolled in vocational training.**

# Presentations/Events

## **Adult Education & Vocational Training**

These classes are offered in small, individualized groups with experienced and knowledgeable staff. SWLSB students have priority into these programs, followed by any student under 18 years of age. A 5-day per week program, consisting of 30 hours and an internship are available with flexible hours. The number of students per class is 15-24, which creates an environment beneficial to the success of our students.

## **Learn Québec**

The Committee welcomed this group who presented their services regarding e-learning and support to all English school boards, teachers, parents and students. Parents are encouraged to share information about this resource with their Governing Boards and parent communities.

## **RCP-3L**

This group presented their mandate, purpose and membership benefits. Consisting of elected parents across the 3L region with the objective of sharing best practices, concerns and information amongst stakeholders. Our Committee is the only English community represented, and this group is particularly interested in our success rate. However, it has been difficult to maintain representation from our Committee. We elected to renew our membership within this group for another term.

## **Supporting Community Literacy in Urban and Rural Québec**

Dr. Robert Savage, Associate Professor, Faculty of Education, McGill University presented statistics and items of interest regarding the sociology and accessibility related to literacy. This prompted our Committee to establish a Literacy Mandate, still established, to help support our communities through early literacy and book exchange/donation programs.

## **LCEEQ Conference**

The Chairperson attended this conference and shared dialogue regarding the long-term effects of budget cuts and the viability of educational services to the English educational community. A position paper was subsequently sent to the Government regarding the preservation of services for our students.

## **Governing Board Training**

Board-wide sessions regarding Bill 56 and Board functions were offered early in the year and were well-attended. Parents recommended that schools request individual training sessions so more GB members can be exposed.

## **Parent Committee Award**

Our Committee presented an annual Outstanding Effort Award to one graduating student from each of our schools. The graduate is selected on the basis of outstanding effort, not necessarily derived from academic achievement, but through consistent performance, improvement and attitude.

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5. Increase number of students under the age of 20 enrolled in vocational training.



## Recommendations for 2013/2014

Although we had a productive year, I believe there is much more our group can accomplish if we can to work together and support our stakeholders. Some recommendations for the coming year:

- ☼ Continue to offer training workshops for Governing Board and perhaps PC Members, particularly the new parents that come on board each year.
- ☼ Create our own SWLSB Parent Committee website. This should be a source of communication and information resource for all parents and should include meeting dates, agendas minutes, useful information, links, and be kept updated regularly. A personalized website would also allow our Committee to promote the importance of our group and attract new members. Roles, expectations, procedures and such could be promoted so members are well prepared and informed.
- ☼ Continue to play an active role within the EPCA and support their endeavors. Provide this Committee with recommendations regarding the needs of our students and parents, and how they can best represent our concerns at the Government level.
- ☼ Address and educate parents regarding the upcoming changes to the Enrollment Criteria, Use Schools as it pertains to Laval high schools, overcrowding in Sector 1 elementary schools, as well as any other new laws concerning our children. The establishment information sessions for parents would be useful in support of this.
- ☼ Ensure and support parent representation is maintained on the various committees at the Council of Commissioners, Standing Committees and Executive, as well as participation in special meetings.
- ☼ Reinstate Parent Commissioner reports in an effort to promote dialogue at meetings, keep parents informed and ensure transparency.
- ☼ Encourage all parents to plan and participate in SEAC-coordinated activities. This is an opportunity for Parent Committee to join SEAC by offering a joint conference, or create our own lecture/workshop.

***Respectfully submitted,***

***Jennifer Maccarone,  
2012/2013 Chairperson,  
Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board Parent Committee***

*Today I shall  
behave, as if this is the day  
I will be remembered.*

- Dr. Seuss