

PROVINCE OF QUEBEC

MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE SIR WILFRID LAURIER SCHOOL BOARD HELD ON 2013-12-18

A special meeting of the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board was held in the boardroom of the Administration Centre, 235 Montée Lesage, Rosemere, QC on Wednesday; 2013-12-18.

Present: Commissioners Nick Milas, Chairman; Nazario Facchino, Vice-Chairman; Georges Benoit, Steve Bletas, Mario Di Domenico, Robert Dixon (via Videoconference), Guy Gagnon, Steve Kmec, Elio Lattanzio, Emilio Migliozi, Steve Mitchell, Albina Pace, Merle Parkinson, Mike Pizzola (via telephone); William Pollock, and Nancy Rupnik; Parent Commissioners Roberto Bomba and Angela Martorana.

Also present were: Eileen Kelly, Assistant Director General; Johanne Brabant, Secretary General; Gaëlle Absolonne, Director of School Organization; France D'Aoust, Director of Financial Resources; Frédéric Greschner, Director of Complementary Services; Richard Greschner, Director of Human Resources; Tina Korb, Director of Educational Services; Tina Russo, Interim Assistant Director of Material Resources; Maxeen Jolin, Coordinator of **Communications**; and Jocelyne Thompson-Ness, Administrative Assistant. Several other persons were also in the audience.

Absent: Commissioners Peter MacLaurin, Grace Nesi, and Edward Turchyniak; and Stephanie Vucko, Director General.

The Chairman called the meeting to order.

TIME: 19:48 hours

The Chairman wished everyone a Happy Holiday and all the best for the New Year.

Parent Commissioner Roberto Bomba requested that item 4.0 Question Period, be moved to item 1.0. Commissioner Steve Kmec accepted this amendment.

Commissioner Steve Kmec MOVED acceptance of the agenda.

Carried unanimously

4.0 QUESTION PERIOD

In response to questions from the parents and stakeholders in the audience, the Chairman and the Assistant Director General, with assistance from Directors, noted:

- a timeline will be included as part of the consultation package for the Laval high schools;
- the physical school will have a new address with respect to Laurier Senior and Laval Junior High Schools but it's operation will remain status quo for the 2014-2015 school year;
- a cost analysis is being prepared;
- there will be minimal moving costs incurred;
- the space within each of the buildings will be used efficiently and the Principal and school personnel will be consulted on its organization;
- an inventory of equipment in the schools is being done and a plan for the movement of specific items will be developed with input from the school;
- in Phase I all programs that currently exist at the 4 schools will be maintained;
- status quo was one of several options tabled for consideration but it was not retained as a model for presentation at Council;
- all efforts will be made to ensure that the proposal to resolve the registration imbalance in the Laval high schools is successful in every phase and beyond;

- the consultation to resolve the registration imbalance in the Laval high schools is a public consultation and the school board will be holding Town Hall meetings to hear the opinions and concerns of its stakeholders;
- the consultation is a public consultation so any stakeholder may submit a proposal for consideration;
- students will have access to the school of their choice, within the enrolment criteria, and the schools will be staffed accordingly;
- re-registrations will be held from January 20 to 24, 2014; and registrations from January 27 to February 28, 2014;
- an evaluation of the space available within the two buildings is being conducted;
- the deeds must be adopted prior to the enrolment criteria because it indicates where each school will be located whereas the three-year plan is required in order to plan the programs within the school;
- the Education Act (R.S.Q., Chapter I-13.3) requires that each Governing Board receive the enrolment criteria 15 days prior to the start of the registration period;
- all concerns brought up during the pre-consultation period were discussed;
- the continued postponement of addressing the registration imbalance increases the level of stress and the school board wishes to create stability for the students;
- open houses have been planned in the high schools in order for parents to visit the buildings and see what programs each school will be offering for the 2014-2015 school year;
- over the years the school board has always tried to do what is best for its students with the least possible impact and despite its best efforts it was pointed out that when the injunction was served just prior to the start of the 2013-2014 school year, that not enough had been done to resolve the registration imbalance;
- a more positive perception of the Laval high schools needs to be developed;
- the school board has mentioned the benefits of the proposed models frequently noting that it opens many programs to the students, allows them to be in the same location with their friends; reduces oversized classes, etc.;
- discussions will take place with the various stakeholders as part of the consultation;
- consultation needs to take place as feedback will assist in making the best decisions concerning the students;
- the school board loses approximately 100 students to other institutions outside the territory of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board on an annual basis;
- since the start of the consultation on the deeds and three-year plan, calls have been received from persons thinking about sending or returning their children to the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board;
- a transition plan will be included as part of the consultation package for Phase II and will cover all aspects of the process;
- there is sufficient space in the 2323 boul. Daniel-Johnson building to house both junior high schools so there will be no capping;
- Mother Teresa Junior High School currently has a certain square footage assigned to it but this can be adjusted as required with the administration of the two schools;
- Council has the power to approve or adopt a resolution and once it is approved or adopted only the Council can amend or rescind it, if the need arises;
- the staffing process will be respected and teachers will have a choice; and
- when a school is in a building on its own it is understood that it has the use of the whole building unless the school board has space reserved for its use. When there are two schools within one building the space is identified for each school and at this time the specifics have not yet been determined.

Several parents thanked the Commissioners who took the time to attend several Governing Board meetings in recent weeks to discuss the Laval high schools.

In response to a question concerning the sports programs being at risk if enrolment decreases in the Laval high schools, the Chairman indicated that he would provide the information at a later time, not having this information on hand.

1.0 2014-2015 DEEDS OF ESTABLISHMENT & THREE-YEAR PLAN

1.1 Three-Year Plan:

The Secretary General presented the three-year plan for the allocation and destination of immovables.

WHEREAS the Council of Commissioners adopted resolution #CC-131127-CA-0051 authorizing for consultation the three-year plan portion of policy #2014-CA-02: Deeds of Establishment and Three Year Plan for Allocation and Destination of Immovables;

WHEREAS the consultation period expired on December 18, 2013, and feedback was received on the three-year plan for the allocation and destination of immovables and taken into consideration;

WHEREAS the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board wishes to proceed with Phase I and change the addresses of Laurier Senior and Laval Junior High Schools, effective July 1, 2014;

Commissioner Albina Pace MOVED THAT the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board approve the three-year plan portion of policy #2014-CA-02: Deeds of Establishment and Three Year Plan for Allocation and Destination of Immovables.

AND THAT the addresses of Laurier Senior and Laval Junior High Schools be changed as follows, effective July 1, 2014:

School	Current Address 2013-2014	New Address 2014-2015
Laurier Senior High School	2323, boul Daniel-Johnson Laval (Québec)	3200, boul. du Souvenir O. Laval (Québec)
Laval Junior High School	3200, boul. du Souvenir O. Laval (Québec)	2323, boul Daniel-Johnson Laval (Québec)

After receiving permission from the Chairman, Parent Commissioner Angela Martorana read the following statement on behalf of the Chair of the Parents Committee:

On behalf of Parent Committee I respectfully request you take note of the following:

The SWLSB Parent Committee has voted to reject both the Deeds of Establishment and 3-Year Plan documents as a whole.

To elaborate, our Committee has voted against the Phase 1 implementation as it impacts the Laval high schools. Members have been careful to point out they are not voting against change, nor are they voting against either of the proposed models in the upcoming Laval High School Consultation. In fact, our representatives have made it clear that they are in support of change, in whatever form this takes, but not without a comprehensive implementation plan, including a timeline, to support it.

With the many factors that must be considered before moving forward with your decision, I want to thank-you on behalf of Parent Committee, for taking into careful consideration the result of our vote on this important consultation. Your respect for our members, and their informed opinions, is meaningful and appreciated.

Kind regards,

Jennifer Maccarone, PC Chairperson

Commissioner Steve Bletas noted that uncertainty currently exists and made the following statement:

Mr. Chairman,

After attending the Governing Boards of the 4 Laval High Schools & the Parents Committee ,as well as getting the feedback from the Teachers Association and the Administrators Association as well as the Students Groups of the 4 high schools, we the commissioners are there to listen to all concerns. what came out of all of this is their rejection of the deeds of establishment & 3-year plan.

That being said, I would like to put an amendment on the table . I would like to remove the deeds of establishment of MTJHS, LJHS, LLHS & LSHS & that it remain status quo for the year 2014 -2015 only , thereby eliminating Phase 1 & during the 2014-2015 advance the consultation period , organize town halls, focus sessions & information sessions involving the students, parents, teachers, administrators, commissioners, board administrators in preparation of Phase 2.

Commissioner Steve Bletas proposed that the resolution be amended by approving the deeds of establishment and three-year plan for all schools except Laurier Senior, Laval Junior, Laval Liberty and Mother Teresa Junior High Schools; and that status quo be maintained for these schools; further that the consultation to take place on phase II begin in January 2014. Commissioner Albina Pace accepted the amendment.

The Council entered into discussion and the following comments were made;

- the mandate to the Director General was to come up with a solution to resolve the registration imbalance and that mandate has been respected;
- the Directorate has good intentions but it appears that the proposed plan will create a greater imbalance;
- the junior high schools need to be on equal ground before any movement can be made;
- the community is against this model for rectifying the imbalance;
- the Council may have the authority to make the decision about the registration imbalance but it does not have the moral authority;
- all students need to be treated equally;
- if status quo is maintained the lottery will take place in the spring of 2014
- last year there was a lot of anguish over the implementation of the lottery so by having the two junior schools in the same building allows all the students coming into high school to be together and no lottery will have to take place;
- the specialized programs, ALP and ATOMS, are not accessible to students off the island of Laval, due to the lack of space, so with the junior schools both in the same building it opens more student places that would provide off island students the opportunity to make an out-of-zone request;
- the capacity of 2323 Daniel-Johnson building has been proven to be more than adequate to house the two junior high schools and the space will be prorated on the needs of each school;
- this decision has been delayed for many years and, as difficult as the change may appear, it is being done in order to provide a better educational experience for the students;
- with both junior schools in the same building it will decrease the number of oversized classes which will provide for a better academic experience for the students;
- deferring the decision will not resolve the issue;
- there are other schools and issues that need the attention of the Directorate;
- the enrolment criteria must be developed and applied as per the Education Act (R.S.Q., Chapter I-13.3);
- moving forward does not mean status quo. The proposed models are what are considered to best suit the future needs of the Laval student population as it will allow for the school board to eventually request a new high school in the east end;

- the enrolment criteria will not be valid until the three-year plan and deeds of establishment are adopted; and
- the process must be followed accordingly so that there is no room for litigation.

On a “point of privilege”, Commissioner Steve Bletas asked that the consultation for the 2015-2016 school year be expedited to begin in January 2014 and that all necessary Town Halls and focus sessions be organized as such and include all stakeholders and students.

CC-131218-CA-0065

WHEREAS the Council of Commissioners adopted resolution #CC-131127-CA-0052 authorizing for consultation the three-year plan portion of policy #2014-CA-02: Deeds of Establishment and Three Year Plan for Allocation and Destination of Immovables;

WHEREAS the consultation period expired on December 18, 2013, and feedback was received on the three-year plan for the allocation and destination of immovables and taken into consideration;

WHEREAS the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board wishes to proceed with Phase I and change the addresses of Laurier Senior and Laval Junior High Schools, effective July 1, 2014;

Commissioner Albina Pace MOVED THAT the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board approve the three-year plan portion of policy #2014-CA-02: Deeds of Establishment and Three Year Plan for Allocation and Destination of Immovables, with the exception of Laurier Senior, Laval Junior, Laval Liberty and Mother Teresa Junior High Schools.

AND THAT status quo be maintained for Laurier Senior, Laval Junior, Laval Liberty and Mother Teresa Junior High Schools.

FURTHER THAT the consultation period for phase II be advanced to January 2014.

THIS MOTION WAS DEFEATED ON THE FOLLOWING DIVISION:	
Commissioners voting YEA:	Steve Bletas, Mario Di Domenico, Steve Mitchell, Albina Pace, Mike Pizzola
Commissioners voting NAY:	Georges Benoit, Robert Dixon, Nazario Facchino, Guy Gagnon, Steve Kmec, Elio Lattanzio, Emilio Migliozi, Nick Milas, Merle Parkinson, William Pollock, Nancy Rupnik

Commissioner Steve Mitchell stated that it offends him that the Commissioners are not listening to the parents.

Parent Commissioner Roberto Bomba stated that it must be made clear that when the vote is taken this evening that the Council consulted the Parents Committee, who in turn consulted the Governing Boards and who, upon receipt of feedback, rejected the deeds of establishment and three-year plan proposed by the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board.

Commissioner Mario Di Domenico stated that the Council is out of step with the community as students, teachers, parents and school administrators all oppose the recommendation to resolve the registration imbalance in the Laval high schools.

Commissioner Steve Bletas stated that it is sad that the community was not listened to and that those who did not attend the Governing Board meetings, to which all Commissioners were invited, should have been present.

Commissioner Guy Gagnon noted that his vote did take into consideration the Laval high schools, given that the Council was chastised by the community for holding the transfer lottery in the spring of 2013, and that he does understand the anxiety involved but if the junior schools have more student places it opens up opportunities to students off the island of Laval. He does not foresee an exodus of students to other school boards and private schools.

CC-131218-CA-0066

WHEREAS the Council of Commissioners adopted resolution #CC-131127-CA-0052 authorizing for consultation the three-year plan portion of policy #2014-CA-02: Deeds of Establishment and Three Year Plan for Allocation and Destination of Immovables;

WHEREAS the consultation period expired on December 18, 2013, and feedback was received on the three-year plan for the allocation and destination of immovables and taken into consideration;

WHEREAS the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board wishes to proceed with Phase I and change the addresses of Laurier Senior and Laval Junior High Schools, effective July 1, 2014;

Commissioner Guy Gagnon MOVED THAT the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board approve the three-year plan portion of policy #2014-CA-02: Deeds of Establishment and Three Year Plan for Allocation and Destination of Immovables.

AND THAT the addresses of Laurier Senior and Laval Junior High Schools be changed as follows, effective July 1, 2014:

School	Current Address 2013-2014	New Address 2014-2015
Laurier Senior High School	2323, boul Daniel-Johnson Laval (Québec)	3200, boul. du Souvenir O. Laval (Québec)
Laval Junior High School	3200, boul. du Souvenir O. Laval (Québec)	2323, boul Daniel-Johnson Laval (Québec)

THIS MOTION WAS CARRIED ON THE FOLLOWING DIVISION:	
Commissioners voting YEA:	Georges Benoit, Robert Dixon, Nazario Facchino, Guy Gagnon, Steve Kmec, Elio Lattanzio, Emilio Migliozi, Nick Milas, Albina Pace, Merle Parkinson, William Pollock, Nancy Rupnik
Commissioners voting NAY:	Steve Bletas, Mario Di Domenico, Steve Mitchell, Mike Pizzola

Commissioner Steve Bletas left the meeting.

TIME: 21:30 hours

1.2 Deeds of Establishment:

The Secretary General presented the deeds of establishment for 2014-2015.

CC-131218-CA-0067

WHEREAS the Council of Commissioners adopted resolution #CC-131127-CA-0051 authorizing for consultation the deeds portion of policy #2014-CA-02: Deeds of Establishment and Three Year Plan for Allocation and Destination of Immovables;

WHEREAS the consultation period expired on 2013-12-18, and feedback was received on the deeds of establishment and taken into consideration;

WHEREAS the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board wishes to proceed with Phase I and change the addresses of Laurier Senior and Laval Junior High Schools, effective July 1, 2014;

Commissioner Nancy Rupnik MOVED THAT the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board approve the deeds of establishment portion of policy #2014-CA-02: Deeds of Establishment and Three Year Plan for Allocation and Destination of Immovables.

AND THAT the addresses of Laurier Senior and Laval Junior High Schools be changed as follows, effective July 1, 2014:

School	Current Address 2013-2014	New Address 2014-2015
Laurier Senior High School	2323, boul Daniel-Johnson Laval (Québec)	3200, boul. du Souvenir O. Laval (Québec)
Laval Junior High School	3200, boul. du Souvenir O. Laval (Québec)	2323, boul Daniel-Johnson Laval (Québec)

THIS MOTION WAS CARRIED ON THE FOLLOWING DIVISION:	
Commissioners voting YEA:	Georges Benoit, Robert Dixon, Nazario Facchino, Guy Gagnon, Steve Kmec, Elio Lattanzio, Emilio Migliozi, Nick Milas, Albina Pace, Merle Parkinson, William Pollock, Nancy Rupnik
Commissioners voting NAY:	Mario Di Domenico, Steve Mitchell, Mike Pizzola

Commissioner Steve Bletas returned to the meeting.

TIME: 21:32 hours

2.0 2014-2015 ENROLMENT CRITERIA:

The Secretary General presented the 2014-2015 enrolment criteria.

CC-131218-TS-0068

WHEREAS section 239 of the Education Act (R.S.Q., Chapter I-13.3) states that each year, the school board must adopt an enrolment criteria;

WHEREAS the section 193 (6) of the Education Act requires that the Parents' Committee be consulted on the enrolment criteria;

WHEREAS the consultation period expired on November 14, 2013;

WHEREAS the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board Parents Committee has been consulted on Policy #2014-TS-04: Enrollment Criteria 2014-2015 and its feedback received and taken into consideration;

WHEREAS the registration period for students for 2014-2015, as per the policy, is as follows:

- Re-registrations: From January 20 to 24, 2014
- Registrations: January 27 to February 28, 2014

Commissioner William Pollock MOVED THAT, on the recommendation of the Executive Committee, the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board adopt Policy #2014-TS-04: Enrollment Criteria 2014-2015.

Carried unanimously

3.0 COMMISSIONERS REMUNERATION

CC-131218-CA-0069

Commissioner Guy Gagnon MOVED THAT the topic of Commissioners remuneration be tabled.

Carried unanimously

5.0 ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING:

Parent Commissioner Roberto Bomba MOVED adjournment of the meeting.

Carried unanimously

TIME: 21:34 hours

NEXT MEETING ⇨ REGULAR ⇨ 2014-01-29

Johanne Brabant, Secretary General

Nick Milas, Chairman