

Minutes of the THIRD (3rd) meeting of the 2017-2018 Sir Wilfrid Laurier Parents Committee held on Thursday December 7th, 2017 at 7:15 pm in the Boardroom of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board, 235 Montée Lesage, Rosemère, Québec.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Franco Pellicciotti	Crestview Elementary	Bilal Sirhan	Pierre E. Trudeau Elementary
Michael Arfani	Hillcrest Academy	Frank D'Onofrio	Pinewood Elementary
Alexandra Antonopoulos	John F. Kennedy Elementary	Amber Lawrence	Rawdon Elementary
Bob Pellerin	Joliette High	Carla Tosti	Rosemere High
Samuel Lhémy	Jules Verne Elementary	Effie Kontakos	Souvenir Elementary
Xavier Pouchain	Lake of Two Mountains High	Christine Flynn	St Jude Elementary
Tara Anderson	Laurentia Elementary	Thomas McCuiston	Ste-Adele Elementary
Douglas Howarth	Laval Junior Academy	Jo Morrissey	Ste-Agathe Academy
Tony Beliotis	Laval Senior Academy	Laura Wittebol	Twin Oaks Elementary
Lisa Marie Cipriani	McCaig Elementary	Nadia Zuccaro	SEAC Representative
Lannie Richard	Mountainview Elementary		

ALSO PRESENT: Jennifer Maccarone, Chairperson; Fred Greschner, Assistant Director General; Paolo Galati, Vicky Kaliozakis, Anne McMullon, Ailsa Pehi, Commissioners; Sergio Di Marco, Elementary Parent Commissioner; Heather Halman, Centre Director, Adult Education; Richard Greschner, Director, Human Resources; Rhonda Boucher, President, EPCA

ABSENT: Arundel Elementary, Franklin Hill Elementary, Genesis Elementary, Grenville Elementary, Joliette Elementary, Laurentian Elementary, Laurentian Regional High, Morin Heights Elementary, Our Lady of Peace Elementary, St Paul Elementary, St Vincent Elementary, Terry Fox Elementary

The Chairperson called the meeting to order at 7:34 pm

1. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

PC20171207-01 Pierre E Trudeau Elementary MOVED THAT the agenda is accepted. Seconded by Mountainview Elementary

Carried UNANIMOUSLY

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES of November 2, 2017

PC20171207-02 Laval Senior Academy MOVED THAT the minutes of November 2, 2017 are accepted as presented. Seconded by Pinewood Elementary.

This motion was CARRIED on the following division:
 For: Hillcrest Acad, Joliette High, Jules Verne Elem, Lake of Two Mountains High, Laurentia Elem, Laval Junior Elem, Laval Senior Acad, McCaig Elem, Mountainview Elem, Pierre E. Trudeau Elem, Pinewood Elem, Rosemere High, Souvenir Elem, St. Jude Elem, Ste-Adele Elem, Ste-Agathe Acad,
 Abstain: Crestview Elem, John F. Kennedy Elem, Twin Oaks Elem, SEAC

3. QUESTION PERIOD

4. BUSINESS ARISING

4.1 Consultation – Deeds of Establishment & Three-Year Plan

E-vote held December 1, 2017

Whereas, the student population of St-Jude Elementary is on the incline and the ever-growing school needs to have a resource room and stands united against room 122 being used as a union office for the SEPB577.

Whereas St-Jude Elementary has pushed over the past two years to remove the union use of this office but were strongly encouraged to drop the issue.

Whereas St-Jude Elementary is content to have a verbal entente with the city of Deux-Montagnes for the amelioration of their schoolyard, but they would like something written and signed.

Whereas St-Jude Elementary has been waiting for over 12 years for this entente to be completed so that they may start the process on amelioration of the schoolyard.

Whereas McCaig Elementary School requests to add the following to the Three-Year Plan for the Allocation of Immovables, in the AGREEMENT section. "A rental agreement exists between the school and 9307-4979 Québec Inc. Prématernelle de Rosemère/Rosemère Pre-School, represented by Mrs. Carla Arrage, for the use of one (1) classroom with access to playground, gym, library based on availability, for the period of August 31st, 2017 to Friday June 22nd, 2018. Agreement to be renewed annually."

Whereas Rosemere High School would like "Sir William Laurier School Board" corrected to "Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board".

PC 20171201 Carla Tosti MOVED THAT the SWLSB Parents Committee approves the 2018-2019 Deeds of Establishment and the 2018-2019 to 2020-2021 Three-Year Plan for the Allocation and Destination of Immovables with the above requests and conditions corrected.

This motion was CARRIED on the following division:

For: Arundel Elem, Crestview Elem, Franklin Hill Elem, Genesis Elem, Hillcrest Acad, Joliette High, Jules Verne Elem, Laurentia Elem, Laurentian Regional High, Laval Junior Acad, Laval Senior Acad, McCaig Elem, Mountainview Elem, Our Lady of Peace Elem, Pierre E. Trudeau Elem, Pinewood Elem, Rawdon Elem, Rosemere High, Souvenir Elem, St Jude Elem, St Paul Elem, Ste-Agathe Acad, Terry Fox Elem, Twin Oaks Elem, SEAC

Abstain: Ste-Adèle Elem

4.2 Student Athletic Program

Mr. Greschner verified with the Secretary General and the notion of conflict of interest does not apply here. The student athlete program is an offer of service to schools. Schools receive many of them on a regular basis. The final say belongs to each Governing Board to approve, or not, if they wish to implement. It is a school based local decision.

Rawdon Elementary entered the meeting at 7:38 p.m.

5. NEW BUSINESS

5.1 Adult Education (presentation by Mrs. Heather Halman, Centre Director)

Heather Halman, Centre Director of Adult Education was here to make a presentation of courses, pre-requisites and options available in Adult Education.

In response to a question from Laval Junior Academy, Ms. Halman explained that it is difficult to give a percentage of success as students come sometimes for just one course so these marks are not counted in the success rate, however Adult Education does contribute to the global graduation rate of the school board.

In a follow up question, yes, immigrants need to have the right paperwork and visa and are accepted into Adult Education. Online courses could be available wherever there is a desire to take them.

In response to a comment from Rawdon Elementary, courses are available in the Lanaudière area.

In response to a question from Sainte-Agathe Academy, there are blended, virtual, online and/or distance learning options available. Students can come get the books and go to a CLC in their area and have a teacher in real time to learn. Students who attend where there is a virtual teacher have a better success rate than those who try to do the courses on their own.

Thank you to the Parents Committee for allowing AEVT and SAE to take the time to show the services available.

5.2 School Fees (presentation by Mrs. Rhonda Boucher, EPCA President)

There is a class action law suit regarding school fees against the school boards in the province. EPCA has been mandated, along with other lobby groups to come up with a report of findings on what the school board versus the parents should provide for education. The EPCA went one step further to ask what the ministry should be providing.

Everyone is asked to take two minutes to fill out the survey. This survey is available on the EPCA Facebook page. The deadline

is December 15th to fill this out, however they will continue to send feedback after this date. The chairperson will send the link to members who are asked to send it to their governing boards and everyone they know.

Jennifer Maccarone went on to say that school fee situation is of great importance because field trips and specialized programs will be in jeopardy as schools will not be allowed to charge for these if this class action goes through. If we are not in a position to ask parents to subsidize then we will not be able to offer them. There will be a settlement, but at the end of the day, it puts the programs we can offer in the school board in significant jeopardy. We need these programs in our board to attract students. She went on to say that at the school board level, they are not making a decision yet until they are aware that the minister is at the table to discuss this. This pay out will cost a couple of million dollars for our board as the insurance companies have stated they will not pay for this.

In response to a question from Twin Oaks on the expectation to disseminate the survey – parents are expected to send it to as many people in their community as possible. The principal is not expected to send it through the school.

In response to a question from Ste-Adele Elementary, the lunchtime supervision fee is not part of the class action.

Pierre E Trudeau mentioned that the SWLSB does not have a large response to date to this survey. It is important that parents ask for this to be answered.

In response to a question from LJA, the private schools are able to ask for this funding from their parents. There are some private schools who are subsidized by the government. The chairperson encourages parents to speak of the potential outcome of this class action should it go through. At SWLSB we take care of our own, students are not prohibited from activities because they cannot afford it.

The December 15th deadline does not stop anyone from sending communication to the ministry.

One issue being lobbied is the abolishment of the funding to private schools. This will be a difficult conversation, however if the class action goes through, it WILL be talked about.

One of the things the survey is meant to do is to have a strong voice to send to the government.

In addition to the survey, is there a pamphlet that highlights the key issues that can be sent to parents so that they know exactly the implication? QESBA is having a one pager of highlights that will be sent to the chairperson to send to members.

Sainte-Adele Elementary left the meeting at 9:02 p.m.

5.3 School Calendar 2018-2019 (presentation by Mr. R. Greschner, Director of Human Resources)

Mr. Richard Greschner was here to present the school calendars to members. The calendars were sent to members by e-mail. Members are asked to take the calendars to the governing boards and bring back any feedback to the next meeting.

5.4 Procedures of Elections

5.4.1 Nomination/Election of Chairperson of Elections and Scrutineers

Carla Tosti nominates Jennifer Maccarone as scrutineer of elections.

5.4.2 Nomination/Election of Vice-Chair

Amber Lawrence, Rawdon Elementary nominates herself as Vice Chair – Congratulations

5.4.3 Nomination/Election of EPCA Director

Pierre E. Trudeau nominates Tara Anderson, Laurentia Elementary – Congratulations

5.5 Consultation – Appointment of Commissioner for electoral division #2

Melissa Wall, parent of three children in our school board presented herself as a candidate.
Mr. Don Beverly, parent of four children sent in a written statement read by the Chairperson.

PC20151207-03 Mountainview Elementary MOVED THAT on recommendation of the Parents Committee, Melissa Wall is endorsed to the Council as Commissioner for electoral division #2. Seconded by Souvenir Elementary.

Carried UNANIMOUSLY

PC20151207-04 St. Jude Elementary MOVED THAT the ballots be destroyed. Seconded by Pierre E. Trudeau Elementary

Carried UNANIMOUSLY

6. REPORTS

6.1 School Board's Report

- There will be a special council Friday morning to announce the new Commissioner for ward 2.
- The Laurier Stars was an amazing evening. The Chairperson reported that it is probably the best event she has ever attended. If you did not see it, make sure you attend the next one.
- We will have a normalized tax rate next year. In each administrative region, the lowest rate will be used. There will also be an additional rebate for everyone that is calculated based on your municipal assessment. Everyone in the administrative region will benefit from the normalized rate. Once the bill is deposited at the government, QESBA will be working on longevity so that this new law will stay in place for a long time. In response to a statement from Pierre E Trudeau concerning the procedural problems to get on an English system, this will not change for the near future but it is recognized as a problem.
- Jennifer Maccarone encourages all parents to go back to their communities and tell them if they switched to the French board, to please come back to the SWLSB, if for no other reason, so that they are eligible to vote in the next school board election. The board is looking at doing a public campaign to get our tax payers whose children are not in our board anymore, to come back. The cutoff date to switch back is April 1.
- A Souvenir parent approached Mr. Greschner to say she really enjoyed the GB workshop and appreciated it. The PC Chairperson asked that perhaps next year if the two dates could be chosen closer to each other.
- Souvenir elementary students will be singing the national anthem at the Rockets Game tomorrow night.
- January 16th there will be an open house fair with all elementary schools of Laval at Laval Junior Academy
- The SWL Foundation gala is on January 25th. This year every school got a grant for sensory equipment for their schools.
- CRC Robotics fair being hosted at Laval Senior Academy February 1- to 3, 2018.
- Vocational Training is currently registering for a cohort of auto mechanics. Mr. Greschner will send the advertisement to the chair to send to members. The course begins at the end of January 2018.
- Happy holidays from Jennifer and Fred.

6.2 Treasurers Report

In members packages.

6.3 Parent Commissioner Report

In members packages

6.4 RCP-3L

In members packages.

- Plan of action – they seem to be using the same plan as in previous years.
- The report attached shows the RCP-3L members from previous years.
- Both St Jude and Lake of Two Mountains will be present at the next meeting

6.5 SEAC

In members packages

The SEAC will be holding a series of conferences that will be open to all parents.

6.6 EPCA

- Major issue is the survey on school fees.
- Training for GB – organize one for online rather than be present at a meeting.
- 2 directors from each school board are represented on the committee.
- Thank you to Ms. Maccarone who came to the annual general meeting.

7. VARIA**8. QUESTION PERIOD****9. ADJOURNMENT**

PC20171207-05 McCaig Elementary MOVED THAT the meeting is closed at 9:37 p.m. Seconded by Pierre E Trudeau Elementary

Carried **UNANIMOUSLY**

Minutes approved _____, 2017

Chairperson

Secretary

Respectfully submitted by:
Susan O'Keeffe, Recording Secretary