

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

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Angela Kosciuk	Hillcrest Academy	Lannie Richard	Mountainview Elementary
Alexandra Antonopoulos	John F. Kennedy Elementary	Andrew Viera	Our Lady of Peace Elementary
Bob Pellerin	Joliette High	Amber Lawrence	Rawdon Elementary
Samuel Lhémy	Jules Verne Elementary	Carla Tosti	Rosemere High
Xavier Pouchaim	Lake of Two Mountains High	Effie Kontakos	Souvenir Elementary
Tara Anderson	Laurentia Elementary	Christine Flynn	St Jude Elementary
Don Beverly	Laurentian Regional High	Patricia Sasso	St Paul Elementary
Tony Beliotis	Laval Senior Academy	Chiara Parisi	Terry Fox Elementary
Lisa Cipriani	McCaig Elementary	Nadia Zuccaro	SEAC Representative

ALSO PRESENT: Fred Greschner, Assistant Director General; Sergio Di Marco, Elementary Parent Commissioner

ABSENT: Arundel Elementary, Crestview Elementary, Franklin Hill Elementary, Genesis Elementary, Grenville Elementary, Joliette Elementary, Laurentian Elementary, Laval Junior Academy, Morin Heights Elementary, Pierre E. Trudeau Elementary, Pinewood Elementary, St. Vincent Elementary, Ste-Adele Elementary Ste-Agathe Academy, Twin Oaks Elementary

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

1. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Condolences on the death of Paul Lamoureux, a big loss for SWLSB

4.2 Special Orientation school

7.2 Non teacher substitutes

7.3 Access to specialist

PC20180503-01 Mountainview Elementary MOVED THAT the agenda is accepted. Seconded by Souvenir Elementary.

Carried UNANIMOUSLY

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES of April 5, 2018

Sainte Agathe Academy was present at the last meeting.

PC20180503-02 Rawdon Elementary MOVED THAT the minutes of February 1, 2018 are accepted with correction. Seconded by

This motion was CARRIED on the following division:

For: Joliette High, Jules Verne Elem, Laurentian Regional High, Laval Senior Acad, McCaig Elem, Mountainview Elem, Rawdon Elem, Rosemere High, Souvenir Elem, St. Jude Elem, St-Paul Elem, Ste Agathe Acad,

Abstain: Hillcrest Acad, John F. Kennedy Elem, Lake of Two Mountains High, Laurentia Elementary, Terry-Fox Elem, SEAC

3. QUESTION PERIOD

4. BUSINESS ARISING

4.1 Student Ombudsman update: Update

The position of the Student Ombudsman is currently vacant. On April 26, 2017, the Council of Commissioners named Vincenzo Guida, Lawyer and also our current Ethics Commissioner, to act as the interim Student Ombudsman until the engagement of a replacement.

The next step for our Secretary General will be to post the position in the months to come. We will be following normal procedures including the consultation with the Parents Committee as per article 220.2 of the Education Act.

4.2 Special Orientation School

At the last meeting Mr. Greschner spoke about the introduction of a special orientation school. LRHS would like to be consulted on it as they feel it will impact their enrolment. Mr. Greschner will be presenting this in his report.

5. NEW BUSINESS

5.1 Consultation – Policy on Respect for Diversity

In members packages.

In response to a question from St. Jude Elementary, this is a brand new policy so the official resolution number has not been issued yet.

In response to a question from Souvenir Elementary there is no internal document for student's rights at the school board.

9.0 – Appendix A – the appendix is not there yet as the policy is still under review. McCaig wonders how would we put this into place without knowing what is in the appendix? Mr. Greschner responded that the appendix is for information and once it is complete it will be presented for information.

PC20180503-03 McCaig Elementary MOVED THAT the Policy on Respect for Diversity is approved as written noting that the parents committee has not seen Appendix A. Seconded by St. Jude Elementary.

This motion was CARRIED on the following division:
 For: Hillcrest Acad, John F. Kennedy Elem, Joliette High, Jules Verne Elem, Lake of Two Mountains High, Laurentia Elementary, Laurentian Regional High, Laval Senior Acad, McCaig Elem, Mountainview Elem, Rosemere High, Souvenir Elem, St. Jude Elem, St-Paul Elem, Terry-Fox Elem, SEAC
 Abstain: Rawdon Elementary

5.2 Consultation – School Daycare Services Policy

8.4 School In Daycare "is" (typo)

PC20180503-04 SEAC MOVED THAT the School Daycare Services Policy is approved as written with the correction of the typo in 8.4. Seconded by Souvenir Elementary.

This motion was CARRIED on the following division:
 For: Hillcrest Acad, John F. Kennedy Elem, Joliette High, Jules Verne Elem, Lake of Two Mountains High, Laurentia Elementary, McCaig Elem, Mountainview Elem, Rosemere High, Souvenir Elem, St. Jude Elem, St-Paul Elem, Terry-Fox Elem, SEAC
 Abstain: Rawdon, Laval Senior Academy, Laurentian Regional High

5.3 Renewal of Website maintenance contract

An independent website is owned by the Parents Committee. The domain name is up for renewal. Suggestions are

- a) Keep as is and update as we are doing.
- b) Create a subcommittee that know more on websites and they will take care of populating it.
- c) Cancel the website and use the school boards website
- d) Keep only a few of the domain names

Currently there is a contract with an independent person who updates it. Members feel if it is not current that we should not keep it as it represents an expense of almost \$500 this year. PC can use the SWLSB website to put on the agendas, minutes and list of its members. The members entered into discussion on the merits of a website versus a Facebook page. The FB page could be the responsibility of the Secretary.

Our Lady of Peace Elementary entered the meeting at 7:34 p.m.

PC20180503-04 Joliette High MOVED THAT the parents committee keeps the website. Seconded by Laval Junior Academy.

This motion was DEFEATED on the following division:
 For:
 Against: Hillcrest Acad, John F. Kennedy Elem, Joliette High, Jules Verne Elem, Lake of Two Mountains High, Laurentia Elementary, Laurentian Regional High, Laval Senior Acad, McCaig Elem, Mountainview Elem, Our Lady of Peace Elementary, Rawdon Elem, Rosemere High, Souvenir Elem, St. Jude Elem, St-Paul Elem, Terry-Fox Elem, SEAC

A subcommittee was formed to review this and see how to promote PC on social media . Tara Anderson, Laurentia Elementary, Lisa Cipriani, McCaig Elementary, Amber Lawrence, Rawdon Elementary and Bob Pellerin, Joliette High will meet to discuss and bring back suggestions to the next meeting.

5.4 June 7th Potluck dinner

PC20180503-05 SEAC MOVED THAT the parents committee will organize a potluck dinner for the June meeting. Seconded by Our Lady of Peace Elementary.

Carried UNANIMOUSLY

6. REPORTS

6.1 School Board Report

- Thank you for the condolences on Paul Lamoureux.
- One of the things Paul was given for a mandate as Director General was to promote and make our school board better and come up with ways to keep our students from leaving for other boards. This is one legacy that we will be working on. The idea is to keep the students that we are losing, not to take students from other schools. Mr. Greschner presented a PowerPoint on the idea of a 240 school. In response to a question from LTMHS, the specialty schools that we are losing our students to are public schools who offer programs that we do not. They are able to use entrance exams for admission. Our Lady of Peace commented that this school would elevate the perception of our school board. Laurentian Regional High is concerned that they would lose some of their top students to this school – they are already below the maximum capacity of their school and cannot afford to lose any more. The targeted students are those who are leaving us. This school would not be a large school and it would not have much of an impact on our other schools. We are trying to give a comparable option to parents who are putting their children in public schools in other boards. In response to a question from St Jude Elementary, the specialized school will not create an elitist group as we are trying to offer something different. It will be a school to offer programs to students who are leaving anyway and might stay if we offer the programs that they are leaving us for. The other schools will offer programs that will not be offered in the specialty schools. These programs are already offered in our schools and are doing well. Perception is a battle and we need to promote this as an alternate school that offers different special programs than the other high schools. We will not stop the great special programs we already have in our other high schools. We will market this school in a positive addition to our school board. In response to a question from SEAC, if we follow the timeline, we hope to have it opened for the 2019-2020 school year. In response to a question from Hillcrest Academy, we can either put it in an existing school or reshuffle to have its own building. The process to request a 240 school requires the mandate from parents, so Mr. Greschner will try to have a package on this to go to governing boards within a week. In response to a comment by Rawdon Elementary, students in all of our territories will be welcome to write the exam to get into the school and should they get in and parents are willing, they can drive them to the school. Lake of Two Mountains commented that perhaps they board could come up with a way that students from further areas could board at the new school if they are accepted. In response to a question from St Jude, students would still need an eligibility certificate to get into this school. The chairperson asks members to bring this back to their governing boards for a resolution and come back next month ready to vote here.

John F. Kennedy Elementary left the meeting at 8:37 p.m.

6.2 Chair Report

In members packages.

The Chairperson went to a “formation sur la loi publique” and really enjoyed it, it was very informative and if members ever have an opportunity to attend, they should.

6.3 Treasurer’s Report

Sent to members.

Committee is in healthy shape.

6.4 Parent Commissioners Report

Highlights are on the school board website.

Administrative assignments were given out at the last Council meeting with the goal being to maintain stability. There are vacancies in some schools that will be filled soon.

Souvenir Elementary commented that they are struggling with Vice-Principal stability.

6.5 RCP-3L Report

No report this month.

6.6 SEAC

In members packages.

SEAC has been holding mini conferences. These have been very popular.

In response to a question from McCaig Elementary, assistive technology begins at K and the students are recommended by the school team.

6.7 EPCA Report

In members packages. Will be passing out a sheet asking who has PPO's and a contact that EPCA can get in touch with to share ideas and explain what a PPO is responsible for.

7. VARIA

7.1 Memo – Bus incident

Rosemere High commented that she was wondering why all of the schools received the memo.

St. Paul and Souvenir Elementary commended SWLSB for sending the memo.

Mr. Greschner responded that once the media gets a hold of a story we have no control over what is reported. The media was not reporting correct information about how we were working to correct the situation and we needed to reassure parents that we took the incident seriously. It was not our intention to create anxiety, only to reassure that the proper measures were in place to take care of the situation.

7.2 Non teacher substitutes

LRHS has a problem getting qualified teachers to substitute when regular teachers call in sick. They have a list of non-qualified teachers who do a good job. It was reported to them that they would no longer be allowed to use non-qualified teachers, and this will be problematic for them. Mr. Greschner responded that the schools use the AESOP system to get qualified substitute teachers first but that there are some non-qualified teachers on this list. He explained that the board is not saying that schools cannot use non-qualified teachers but the priority must be to try and get qualified ones first. Many schools are by-passing the lists and going to the non-qualified first. HR will be coming up with a solution so that in an emergency non-qualified will still be able to be used providing attempts were made to get a qualified teacher.

In response to a question from St Jude, if a teacher is off for more than 20 days in a row a more permanent substitute teacher is found.

7.3 Access to specialists

Mountainview Elementary has a serious lack of professional services. Assessments are not being done in a timely manner and there are some specialists that have not been available to them at all this year and probably will not be.

Mr. Greschner explained that it is very difficult to recruit professionals to the board even though we have the money to pay them as they make more money in the private sector. The board is trying to do more in house assessments that can help when the health system is taking too long. Mr. Greschner explained the process of assessments to members.

Mountainview Elementary says that it is not only their school who is lacking and behind in assessments.

In response to a question from Laurentian Regional High Schools, the money earmarked for specialists cannot be spent on outside services brought in. It must be spent on salaried employees and not contract services.

In response to a comment from McCaig Elementary, Mr. Greschner responded that if she or anyone knows of professionals looking for work to please send along the CV's to the board. In addition to their own practice, they can be hired as part time salaried employees for the board.

8. QUESTION PERIOD

9. ADJOURNMENT

Next meeting June 7, 2018

PC20180503-06 Souvenir Elementary MOVED THAT the meeting is closed at 9:40 p.m. Seconded by Souvenir Elementary.

Carried **UNANIMOUSLY**

Minutes approved _____, 2018

Chairperson

Secretary

Respectfully submitted by:
Susan O'Keeffe, Recording Secretary