

PROVINCE OF QUÉBEC
Western Québec School Board

Minutes of the **Council of Commissioners** meeting held on March 26, 2013 at the Western Québec School Board, 15 rue Katimavik, Gatineau, Québec, at 7:00 p.m.

PRESENT: Commissioners Brunke, Chiasson, Daly, Davidson, Garbutt, Gunn, Guy, Hendry (by telephone), Lanyi, Larivière (by videoconference), McCrank, O'Brien, Perry, Shea, Taylor, Wilson and Young (by videoconference), Parent Commissioner Komm and Gibbons

Personnel:

Director of Human Resources and Technology, M. Dubeau
Director of Education, M. Lothian
Director of Buildings, Equipment and Transportation, C. O'Shea
Assistant Director of Student Services, B. Burn

REGRETS: Commissioner Dexter

The Director General, Paul Lamoureux, Assistant Director General/Director of Education, Adult Education and Vocational Training, R. Ahern, and the Director of Legal Services/Secretary General, R. Vézina were also present.

Call to Order

The Chairman, Commissioner Chiasson, called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

C-12/13-189

Approval of Agenda

IT WAS MOVED by Commissioner Perry that the Agenda be approved with the following additions:

- 7.1.1 Forum for Young Canadians
- 7.1.2 D'Arcy McGee School Trip to Spain March 2014
- 12.1 Request for funding for PHS student (A. Taylor)

Carried unanimously

C-12/13-190

Approval of Minutes – February 26, 2013

IT WAS MOVED by Commissioner Wilson that the Minutes of a meeting held on February 26, 2013 be approved with the following correction:

- in the section Public Participation, the 4th paragraph should read Commissioner Wilson and not Commissioner Hendry.

Carried unanimously

Chairman's Remarks

The Chairman indicated that he has been forwarding all information as it is received.

Director General's Report

The Director General presented his written report. Topics covered included:

-Pre-K:

We have received notice that we will be funded for 1 full year for the Pre-K program for the schools in the socio-economic rank of 9 or 10. Rules specify that space must be available and that no additional funds for transportation will be granted. There will be no change to the Passe-Partout or Multi-age programs. We have 5 schools that are eligible (Dr. W. Keon, St-John's, Namur, Maniwaki Woodland and Queen Elizabeth). Maniwaki Woodland would be a good option because of the number of students that would benefit.

-Update: Namur:

Mr. O'Shea and Mr. Lamoureux along with Commissioner Brunke attended a Governing Board meeting last week. The Governing Board requested that an additional year of grand-fathering be granted. Some concerns were raised about additional transportation time.

-Update: St. Michael's:

Ms. Ahern and Mr. Lamoureux met with the Governing Board (Commissioner Wilson was present) two weeks ago. Explanations were given about enhanced French delivery. Details were provided in terms of staffing, delivery models, etc..

-Reminder: Meeting at Heritage Hall at 6:00 pm. A bus will be leaving the Board Office at 5:15 pm for anyone requiring transportation.

-Planning and Review – Setting dates:

It was agreed that a meeting be scheduled April 15th at 7:00 pm.

-Update on school board elections:

We should be receiving a decision from the Minister by April 15th as to our request for five additional electoral divisions.

-Commissioner Ward 2:

R. Vézina provided details as to what has been done to publicize the availability of this position. Candidates have until April 19th to submit their application.

Education Committee Report – March 20th, 2013

Commissioner O'Brien mentioned that a meeting was held on March 20th and that the minutes of this meeting will be available at the next Council meeting.

C-12/13-191

Forum for Young Canadians

IT WAS MOVED by Commissioner Daly that Council approve the request for funding (in the amount of \$200 each) for the Forum for Young Canadians for D'Arcy McGee students Cora Hansen and Den Jakupi.

Carried unanimously

C-12/13-192 **D'Arcy McGee School Trip to Spain March 2014**
IT WAS MOVED by Commissioner O'Brien that, as recommended by the Education Committee, Council approve the D'Arcy McGee School trip to Spain in March 2014.

Carried unanimously

C-12/13-193 **Corporate Committee Report – March 12, 2013**
IT WAS MOVED by Commissioner Guy that Council acknowledge receipt of the draft Corporate Committee minutes of March 12, 2013.

Carried unanimously

C-12/13-194 **Communications Advisor**
IT WAS MOVED by Commissioner Guy that, as recommended by the Corporate Committee, the current Communications Advisor service contract position be considered a priority by the WQSB in its upcoming budget discussions.

Carried unanimously

C-12/13-195 **Business Committee Report – March 14, 2013**
IT WAS MOVED by Commissioner Young that the Council acknowledge receipt of the draft Business Committee minutes of March 14, 2013.

Carried unanimously

The Director of Buildings, Equipment and Transportation, Mr. Colin O'Shea, made three presentations, which were entitled:

- New Wakefield Elementary School
- Wakefield's New Elementary School Energy and Water Efficiency Study
- Board Office Comparison Report July 2011 to June 2012

C-12/13-196 **Future Extension**
IT WAS MOVED by Commissioner Young that, as recommended by the Business Committee, the WQSB approve the minor changes to the building program for the new Wakefield School to provide the infrastructure for any possible future growth. Cost estimate: approximately \$65,000.00.

Carried unanimously

C-12/13-197 **Energy Conservation**
IT WAS MOVED by Commissioner Young that, as recommended by the Business Committee, the energy study for the New Wakefield School be approved as presented with a capital investment of \$588,000.00 with a return on investment of 13.9 years.

Carried unanimously

C-12/13-198 **Budget 2013-2014**
WHEREAS school boards have been receiving financial assistance as part of the equalization grant from the MELS since 2006 to provide a reduction rate to school taxes each year;

WHEREAS the 2013/2014 provincial budget contains a \$200 million reduction to school boards which represents the added financial assistance grant;

WHEREAS the MELS has identified that it will recuperate an amount equal to the financial assistance grant over a three-year period commencing in 2013-2014, at the rate of 50%(year 1); 25% (year 2) and 25% (year 3);

WHEREAS school boards have the decision of further reducing administrative expenses or removing the reduction rate on school taxes;

WHEREAS the budget rules and regulations are presently being drafted;

WHEREAS the WQSB's portion of the added financial assistance grant represents \$4.6 million;

WHEREAS the WQSB has undergone significant budget reductions in recent annual budgets;

IT WAS MOVED by Commissioner Young that, as recommended by the Business Committee, the reduction rate on taxation invoices be removed over a three year period commencing in 2013/2014 at the rate of 50%, at the rate of 25% for 2014-2015 and, at the rate of 25% for 2015-2016.

Carried unanimously

C-12/13-199

Budget 2012-2013

IT WAS MOVED by Commissioner Young that, as recommended by the Business Committee, the March Quarterly Expense report be approved.

Carried unanimously

C-12/13-200

Geothermal Loan – Namur

WHEREAS the Council of Commissioners approved a loan (C-11/12-183) of \$378 000 for the geothermal project for the Namur extension;

WHEREAS the geothermal project is completed at the cost of \$425 000;

IT WAS MOVED by Commissioner Young that, as recommended by the Business Committee, the School Board request final authorization from the MELS to borrow \$378 000 over a five-year period at an interest rate of 2.98%.

Carried unanimously

C-12/13-201

Sale of Wakefield School

IT WAS MOVED by Commissioner Young that, as recommended by the Business Committee, a reserve of \$1.2 million be set in the public tender for the purchase of Wakefield School/Property.

Carried unanimously

C-12/13-202

Cleaning Contracts

IT WAS MOVED by Commissioner Young that, as recommended by the Business Committee, we proceed with a public tender for cleaning contracts for the following schools: Greater Gatineau, Eardley, Lord Aylmer Jr. and potentially Lord Aylmer Sr.

Carried unanimously

C-12/13-203

Cleaning Supplies

IT WAS MOVED by Commissioner Young that, as recommended by the Business Committee, we proceed with a public tender for janitorial supplies for a 3 (three) year period starting in 2013-2014.

Carried unanimously

C-12/13-204

Educational Policy Committee Report – January 28, 2013

IT WAS MOVED by Commissioner O'Brien that the Council acknowledge receipt of the draft Educational Policy Committee minutes of January 28, 2013.

Carried unanimously

C-12/13-205

Request for funding

IT WAS MOVED by Commissioner Taylor that Council approve the request for funding in the amount of \$200 to send a student from Pontiac High School to the National Wrestling Championships in Saskatoon next week.

Carried unanimously

Date of next meeting:

The next regular meeting of the Council of Commissioners will be held on April 30, 2013.

C-12/13-206

Adjournment

IT WAS MOVED by Commissioner Perry that the meeting be adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

Carried unanimously

RV/nb