The Director of Corporate Affairs and Secretary General confirmed that the Council's internal rules of procedure indeed state that a Commissioner must be present at a meeting in order to move them.

The Chair requested if any commissioner present at the meeting would want to move the approval of the minutes of the special meeting of the Council of Commissioners held on February 1, 2021. Commissioner Donna Anber agreed and moved said motion. The approval of the council remained unanimous.

5.0 Report from the Chairperson

The Chairperson welcomed everyone noting that COVID-19 has not prevented the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board from accomplishing great things while ensuring the safety and security of its students and employees. He thanked parents for their adaptability and support during this time. He also thanked the teachers for being flexible with the continued demands, the caretakers for ensuring that the schools and centres are clean and safe, and the school administration for keeping things positive for their students and staff.

He noted that it is important now to not let one's guard down as there is much to learn about the new COVID-19 variants that have recently appeared.

He continued with the presentation of his monthly report noting:

February 1-5, 2021 – Teacher Appreciation Week: He and the Director General made a video to thank all the teachers for their resilience, passion, skills and talent during the past year as we have navigated the uncharted waters of COVID -19 together and to let them know how proud the school board is of the work they do on behalf of the students;

February 2 & 5, 2021 — He was interviewed by Global Montreal concerning the closure of Hillcrest Academy due to COVID-19 and the introduction of saliva testing at the Sir Wlfrid Laurier School Board as part of a pilot project. The tests have been distributed to Hillcrest Academy and St-Paul and Twin Oaks Elementary Schools for students to take at home, while students at Laval Senior Academy will take the test at school and public health will collect the tests and have them processed. Additional schools in Laval will receive the saliva testing kits after the March break and it is hoped that all schools in Laval will have these tests by the beginning of April. Public Health selected the schools and school boards that would be a part of the pilot project. It is hoped that if the pilot project is successful, all schools will be able to have the saliva tests. There were several other interviews concerning the saliva tests:

February 13, 2021, in the Montreal Gazette;

February 24, 2021 – PINK Shirt Day: This is an initiative started by two students from Nova Scotia who had witnessed someone being bullied because he wore a pink shirt. This day is now celebrated in 180 countries and on this day everyone should proudly wear a pink shirt to combat bullying;

Highlights from Council members:

Laurentian Regional High School held Grad Dress Day for two days in February hoping to bring some normalcy to this time of year when most secondary V students are thinking about their upcoming prom. There was formal wear for both the female and male students; The Principal of Laurentia Elementary School is to be congratulated on securing a grant for the arts and for working with a local dance studio so that every student will be able to go to the dance studio once a week for a period of time to learn some form of dance with their class bubble;

For PINK Shirt Day, Pierre Elliott Trudeau Elementary School is being treated to TCBY frozen treats;

McCaig Elementary School and Rosemere High School planned many nice events to honour their teachers during Teacher Appreciation Week;

McCaig Elementary School has a virtual fundraising event coming up in the spring;

The John F. Kennedy Elementary School team is to be applauded for its Social Emotional Learning (SEL) strategy and it would be nice to see other schools get on board with this initiative:

The Chairperson of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board is to be thanked for always ensuring that the community is aware of what is going on at all levels of the school board; For Teacher Appreciation Week the Jules Verne Elementary School Home & School Association decided that there would be a special treat once a month for the balance of the school year;

The COVID-19 team, Directorate, school administration and staff are all to be commended for the lengths they have gone to in order to reassure everyone that they are safe and secure.

6.0 Report from the Director General

The Director General thanked the Chairperson for highlighting the students and staff for their resilience, their commitment and for ensuring that the school board is in the forefront with the sanitary measures. She went on to present her monthly report, as follows:

The Ministère de l'Éducation (MEQ) advised earlier today that there will be some additional sanitary measures that will come into effect after the March break:

March 8, 2021 – Students in grades one through six in elementary schools that are a part of the Montreal Metropolitan Area (MMA), which is 17 elementary schools in this school board, will have to wear a pediatric procedural mask. Those outside of the MMA will wear a regular face covering;

March 15, 2021 – the remaining nine elementary schools outside of the MMA will begin wearing pediatric procedural masks;

The pediatric procedural masks will have to be worn in class, in all common areas of the school and on the school bus. Letters to this effect will be sent to the school community:

Proud Moments

The professionals of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board (SWLSB) are to be thanked for their dedication and expertise that has been used in the creation of many training sessions during COVID-19 that are designed for the families of the SWLSB. During the months of January and February, four workshops were held on various topics and 250 families attended. There will be more workshops coming in March;

A virtual internal recruiting session was held to build the bank of candidates for Vice-Principal positions on February 23, 2021. Congratulations to the Human Resources team for putting together this informative session as it provides an opportunity for our own employees to seek new challenges and promotions. Eighteen employees participated;

Upcoming Events and Opportunities

Spring break is March 1-5, 2021, and the school board will be providing four emergency daycares for parents who are frontline workers. Special thanks goes to the employees of the daycares at Hillcrest Academy, Joliette, McCaig and Pinewood Elementary Schools for being present to offer the services;

On March 8, 2021, there will be an information session on the Private Security Guarding program. This program is evolving due to the pandemic and these people are also considered to be front line workers as they ensure that all the health and safety protocols are being respected. Please promote as spaces are still available;

On March 10, 2021, there will be a virtual Governing Board Workshop on school budgets, finances and school fees;

The Québec government has designated March 11, 2021, as a day of remembrance for those we have lost to COVID-19. Flags will be lowered to half-mast and there will be a minute of silence beginning at 1:00 p.m.

In closing, the Director General wished all stakeholders an enjoyable and restful spring break.

7.0 Business Arising

There was no business arising.

- 8.0 Decision Items
- 8.1 Material Resources and Transportation
- 8.1.1 Engagement of Contractor Masonry,

Engagement of Contractor Masonry, Roof & Interior Renovation Project WHEREAS renovations to the masonry, roof and sections of the interior are required at Hillcrest Academy;

Hillcrest Academy

WHEREAS a public call for tenders was made for the masonry, roof and interior renovation project at Hillcrest Academy and tenders were opened on January 28, 2021;

CC-210224-MR-0078

WHEREAS the conformability of all bidders has been verified;

Commissioner James Di Sano MOVED THAT, on the recommendation of the Director of Material Resources and Transportation, the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board award the contract for the masonry, roof and interior renovation project at Hillcrest Academy to Roland Grenier Construction Limitée for a total cost of \$1,507,215.00, before taxes, or \$1,611,013.13, net taxes;

AND THAT the Chairperson or, in their absence or with their knowledge, the Vice-Chairperson as well as the Director General or, in their absence or with their knowledge, the Assistant Director General be authorized to sign all documentation concerning this project;

FURTHER THAT the Director of Material Resources and Transportation be authorized to sign documentation concerning this project, as per by-law no. BL2008-CA-01: Delegation of Functions & Powers of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board.

Carried unanimously

8.1.2 Engagement of Contractor – Bus Loading Zone & Parking Project – Mountainview ES

Engagement of Contractor

– Bus Loading Zone &
Parking Project –
Mountainview ES

WHEREAS the parking lot at Mountainview Elementary School requires an expansion in order to safely accommodate all the vehicles;

WHEREAS a new bus loading zone is also required;

CC-210224-MR-0079

WHEREAS a public call for tenders was made for the bus loading zone and parking lot expansion project at Mountainview Elementary School and tenders were opened on January 21, 2021;

WHEREAS the conformability of all bidders has been verified;

Commissioner Melissa Wall MOVED THAT, on the recommendation of the Corporate Committee, the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board award the contract for the bus loading zone and parking lot expansion project at Mountainview Elementary School to Excavation Villeneuve (2528-4340 Québec Inc.), for a total cost of \$474,494.00, before taxes, or \$507,171.22, net taxes:

AND THAT the Chairperson or, in their absence or with their knowledge, the Vice-Chairperson as well as the Director General or, in their absence or with their knowledge, the Assistant Director General be authorized to sign all documentation concerning this project;

FURTHER THAT the Director of Material Resources and Transportation be authorized to sign documentation concerning this project, as per by-law no. BL2008-CA-01: Delegation of Functions & Powers of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board.

Carried unanimously

- 8.2 Financial Resources
- 8.2.1 Call for Tender Bailiff Services

In response to questions, it was noted:

The actual contract is for three years with the option of extending for an additional two years, one year at a time, so the school board would have to advise the service contract provider three months prior to the end of the three year contract if it wishes to extend it for a fourth year. This same process would apply for undertaking a fifth year; The school board is under no obligation to enact the additional two years; The two optional years provides flexibility.

Call for Tender – Bailiff Services WHEREAS the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board has a recurring expense for bailiff services for the collection of unpaid school taxes;

CC-210224-FR-0080

WHEREAS the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board will be seeking a new supplier via public tender to be published on the SEAO system, the electronic tendering system approved by the Government of Québec;

WHEREAS, in accordance with Tc.00G1437 TD-.001 Tc.0005 Twn axars;

9.2.2 SEAC Report:

There was no report.

Due to the inclement weather the February meeting was cancelled therefore the next meeting will on March 16, 2021.

9.3 Report of QESBA

Commissioner Melissa Wall advised that the loan of service of Russell Copeman to the English Montreal School Board (EMSB) as its Interim Director General, has been extended until the end of March. Kimberly Hamilton, who is acting as the Interim Executive Director of QESBA, while Mr. Copeman is at EMSB, is doing a wonderful job. QESBA is preparing for the Bill 40 court challenge that is due to begin shortly. This case will receive a lot of attention country wide by minority rights groups.

The Chairperson noted that the court challenge will begin on April 13, 2021, and is expected to last approximately two weeks, but that it could take the judge a few months to render a decision.

10.0 Question Period

The Director of Corporate Affairs and Secretary General advised that no questions were received during the course of the meeting.

She did note that a Mr. Parent had congratulated the school board Ambassadors honoured earlier this evening.

The Chairperson thanked everyone for taking the time to be present this evening noting that this meeting highlights a lot of the work done during the month. He also noted that with the virtual format of the meeting allows for anyone within or beyond the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board territory to attend the meeting.

11.0 Correspondence

There is no correspondence.

12.0 Varia

There was no varia.

13.0 Adjournment

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