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Dear SWLSB Stakeholders,

Although COVID-19 continued to be part of our daily lives in 2020-2021 and required us to operate differently, it has not stopped our school board from accomplishing great things, all while ensuring the safety and security of our students and employees.

Vocational Training Program Adapted to a New Reality

In May 2020, the Government launched a massive recruitment campaign for CHSLD staff. In response to the announcement to train 10,000 CHSLD orderlies across the province, CDC Pont-Viau (Centre de soins de longue durée) program to make sure students were well trained in this context. A 375-hour, full-time program, spread over a 12-week period beginning on June 15, 2020. At the end

of their training, students obtained their Skills Training Certificate which led to full-time jobs in a CHSLD. We are proud to see our students successfully completed the program at CDC Pont-Viau.

Pre-Kindergarten Popularity

In 2020-2021, the number of pre-kindergarten classes grew to 34 classes in 20 schools, which represents an increase of 10% compared to 2019-2020. This is excellent news for the anglophone community and has a direct impact on student enrolment. When pre-kindergarten was first introduced in 2018-2019, there were five classes. This number has since grown considerably. The Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board is one of the school boards in the province with the greatest growth in pre-kindergarten. We surveyed students and parents about their pre-kindergarten experience, and their responses were overwhelmingly positive.

Excellent Graduation Rate

We are particularly proud of our graduation and qualification rate, which continues to rise. It currently stands at 87.7 percent, making us the school board first in Laval-Laurentides-Lanaudière and among the top five in the province, out of 72 school boards/school systems. This graduation rate is a testament to the efforts and creativity deployed by everyone at the school board in keeping our students engaged and focused on the important goal of graduating.

Going Virtual

COVID-19 has certainly changed traditional ways of doing things. We have started organizing a variety of virtual events and initiatives to ensure that our community continues to benefit from the Sir Wilfrid Laurier way of life.

- **Laurier News** | A video news bulletin showcasing student, school/centre and head of centre initiatives. These capsules have been very popular, as the four editions have obtained more than 13,500 views.

Virtual Campus

We are extremely proud of everyone involved in the establishment and operation of the SWLSB Virtual Campus. In a year that everyone came together to literally build a virtual school for our 294 students with medical exemptions that prevented them from attending school. We wish to commend our 60 employees who worked at the Virtual Campus and ensured that students had a year that was as close to normal as possible, despite being virtual.

Launch of a New Website

A completely redesigned website was launched in April 2021. The school board's previous website was created in 2006, which was long overdue. The new website is now more user friendly, interactive and mobile friendly, thus allowing our community to access the website on the device they prefer.

Infrastructure Upgrades

During the course of the summer, many schools got different upgrades. A total of \$11 million was invested in 13 schools. Renovations were completed to washrooms, entrances and a parking lot, portable classrooms were added, masonry work was done on walls, windows were replaced and ceilings and roofs underwent maintenance. Additionally, we are in the process of completing an energy efficiency project that has been ongoing for the past 18 months. Overall, 21 schools will have benefited from improvements from this project. We have reduced our energy consumption by 25% and reduced greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) by 66%, resulting in savings of approximately \$275,000.

Entrepreneurship Is Alive and Well!

Many projects submitted by our schools for the OS Entrepreneur Challenge were awarded a prize. This province-wide challenge encourages entrepreneurial activities at all levels of education and in businesses across the province. The challenge took place at the local, regional and provincial levels. The Council of Commissioners was proud to recognize the winners of the 2020 OS Entrepreneur Challenge at the May 2021 Council meeting.

Thank You from the Bottom of Our Hearts

Thank you to all who have supported us over the past year. We are grateful for the support and funding from the community and the board. We look forward to continuing to work together to improve our schools and the lives of our students.

Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board	Student Enrolment as of September 30
26 Elementary Schools	7,688 students
9 High Schools	4,910 students
Homeschooling	901 students
Total enrolment YOUTH SECTOR (excluding homeschooling)	12,598 students



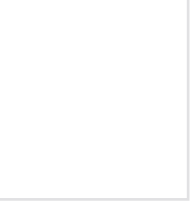
Vision

The Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board believes that all students deserve its complete commitment to their success.

Mission

The Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board's mission is to provide engaging and innovative learning where everyone achieves success and well-being. To accomplish its mission the school board:

- Supports student success
- Prepares students for the future
- Offers equitable and varied educational options



Karla Abraham Di Francesco
Electoral Division 2

Melissa Wall
Alternate Vice-Chairperson
Electoral Division 3

Olivia Landry*
Electoral Division 4*

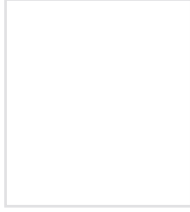
Emilio Migliozi
Electoral Division 6



Vincent Cammisano*
Electoral Division 8



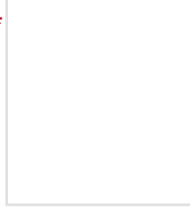
Anick Brunet
Electoral Division 9



Tara Anderson
Parent Commissioner
Elementary



Adam Gordon*
Vice Chairperson
Parent Commissioner
Secondary



Stéphane Henley
Parent Commissioner
Students with Special Needs



The 2020-2021 school year has been challenging for students and staff alike. Despite this, our teams pulled together and ensured that the school year would be a successful and memorable one for everyone. In June 2021, we surveyed our employees and students to tell us what they were most proud of and to share the many accomplishments achieved during this extraordinary school year. Here are some of the ways this has been achieved:

One of the orientations of the Commitment-to-Success Plan is to make sure students are engaged in 60 minutes of physical activity each day.

- Dancing
- Walking
- Playing outside
- Racing
- Yoga
- Biking
- Jumping rope
- Soccer
- Football
- Hockey
- Basketball
- Badminton
- Punching ball
- Zoom workouts
- Zumba
- Body breaks
- Fitness classes (online and in-person)
- Movement hallway breaks
- Hula hooping
- Fitbit challenges
- Stretching

To keep students engaged in their learning, our school teams have excelled in putting forth **student-centered academic initiatives.**

Here are some of the academic initiatives put forth this year.

- Readers' Club
- Show and tell
- Homework club
- Nature projects (hydroponics, butterflies, gardening)
- Inventions contest
- Career fairs
- Crime solving games/school puzzles
- Technology and robotics in the classroom
- Letters with love for the elderly
- Publishing student books
- Spoken word workshops
- Artwork contests
- Supporting national and international movements
- Virtual learning events with parents and students
- Entrepreneurship projects
- Polar Expressions Publishing contest

Recognition is important and at SWLSB, we love celebrating our students!

Here are some of our **award and recognition initiatives.**

- Attribution of bursaries
- Student recognitions during Leadership week
- Student of the month award
- Pink in the City award
- Secret appreciation cards to students and staff
- Valentines for veterans
- Participation in the youth and philanthropy initiative
- Daily shout-outs for students and staff to recognize positive things during the day
- Model the way honours
- Laurier Gala / Hope fest
- Sir Wilfrid Laurier Foundation citizenship bursaries

We asked our school and centre teams the following question:

What mental well-being initiatives for students and staff are you most proud of?

- In our Ethics and Religious Culture c



- Doing riddles and trivia questions at the beginning of each class and drawing prizes every few weeks.
- We had Spirit Week where we celebrated being kind, made each other laugh by wearing silly hats, silly socks, and costumes. We also had some special treats like TCBY and popcorn!
- We had a wellness bingo in our school.
- We focused on learning about our emotions through the zones of regulation. Learned how to take a moment through breathing techniques.
- Yoga was also introduced to the students.
- Students wrote a check-in journal to express how they were feeling and if everything was okay around mid-year in March. They really appreciated the gesture and expressed how they felt better after expressing their feelings in writing.
- Students participated in a mental well-being workshop that explained coping mechanisms for students.
- The creation of a Zen Den (Snoezelen Room) was a huge success. Students used it almost daily.
- We had a professional come speak to the staff and students about mental health.
- Using restorative practices for student interventions, peace circles, and an open-door policy.
- We have been offering art therapy to students (a mural will be painted) and online cooking classes to promote health and wellness. We keep our students connected and engaged during this difficult time.
- Our Rain Room has been used to promote relationship building, reduce anxiety and improve social skills. With the help of staff, we have been able to support individuals and groups with a more targeted approach.
- Art therapy sessions online for students. Cooking classes to keep students motivated, engaged and healthy! Online games for staff.
- Our Social Committee has had some activity happening to lift our spirits. Little gifts left, games to play, treats in mailboxes.
- Students did 5-minute breathing exercises every day.

OBJECTIVE 2:

By 2030, reduce to 10% the proportion of students starting public secondary school at age 13 or older.

The Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board adheres to research-based practices and therefore does not promote the retention of students. Although certain decisions are made to retain a student, these are made by the school team, along with the family, for excu

with the best interest of the student in mind.

RESULTS: The 2019 results indicate that the proportion of students who start public secondary school at age 13 or older at the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board is 3.9%. We continue to maintain results below our 5% target.

	Province of Québec				Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board			
	Baseline 2017	2019	2020	Target 2022	Baseline 2017	2019	2020	Target 2022
Proportion of students	11.0%	9.6%	9.2%	11.4%	3.7%	3.7%	3.9%	< 5%

Source: *Profil éducatif des élèves de la province de Québec*, édition septembre 2020 (tableau 6)

Source: Excel report titled "885 000_Taux_Diplomation_qualification_ed2021_DIS" Charlemagne, November 2021

OBJECTIVE 5:

By 2030, ensure that all school buildings are in good condition

The age and condition of many of our buildings represent a challenge for providing a learning environment. Moreover, universal design principles were not considered in many building and infrastructure design. Upgrades to our buildings continue to take place annually based on the available funding.

To bring our schools and centres up to the satisfactory level of the Facility Condition Index, the Material Resources Department is working diligently to carry out many projects such as roof repair, window replacement, brick pointing, foundation work, washroom and auditorium renovations. Given sufficient Ministry funding, we are confident that we will be able to meet our goals for 2030.

Ensure that all school buildings are in good condition				
	Province of Québec		Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board	
	Baseline 2018	Target 2022	Baseline 2018	Target 2022
% of schools, centres and buildings in satisfactory condition according to the Facility Condition Index (FCI)	68.0%	85.0%	26.0% (13 buildings)	50.0% (23 buildings)

Source: [SMACS 2017](#)

*Our baseline percentage is lower than the provincial level because of the buildings part of our Arundel Nature and Science Centre.



Adult Education

Educators and students within the adult education community were faced with many challenges during the 2020-2021 school year. Increased isolation and individualism, health and security measures and sadly, for some, the loss of loved ones.

Over the year, the focus at both Adult Education centres (Vimont and Lachute) turned to our local objective 1: to provide a safe and supportive learning environment in which students' perceived difficulties are addressed on a regular basis. Additional support measures were implemented to allow students to continue learning throughout these difficult times.

- Five resource specialists and two mathematics tutors were engaged to help support students with learning challenges. \$84,000 in dedicated funding.
- A hybrid model of studies offered that permitted students to either remain at home for their entire learning pathway or to participate in a hybrid model of learning, i.e., two days a week online and three days a week in person to meet and work in person with teachers and teachers.
- Our social worker and guidance counsellor supported all students.

In spite of environmental and learning difficulties and the irregularities of the year, 1,750 students at Vimont and 163 students at Lachute completed summative exams and received Ministry credits for various secondary level courses.

In keeping with their commitment to both mental and physical well-being, the centres initiated a number of extracurricular activities. Requests totalling \$18,500 were granted to community organizations by the Ministry of Education. Through these initiatives, we invite many students to take part in a number of activities.

- We initiated a healthy eating Zoom series during which a teacher-cook demonstrated the preparation of a meal. Students received beforehand the ingredients required to prepare a specific recipe, cooked along with the teacher-cook in a virtual kitchen. All participants prepared and enjoyed their meal from the safety of their own kitchens.
- Art therapy was offered to all students. A mural of their work is now displayed in the corridor at CDC Vimont.
- We continued our family literacy program with a distribution of free books to those who participated. Four storytelling evenings were held between January and May, each one devoted to a highlighted book, followed by family activities.
- Our social integration students benefited from yoga sessions as well as photography classes.

Vocational Training

Enrolment	2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021
Students under 20 years	71	73	61	47
Students over 20 years	441	510	379	409
Total	512	583	440	456

Source: Lumix

The Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board offers a wide variety of vocational training programs in its centres in Laval, La Prairie and Saint-Eustache that meet the diverse career needs of adult learners under and over 20 years of age. While the limitations on international travel and the COVID-19 pandemic continue to be factors in the decrease in the number of students in vocational training programs, we have seen an increase in enrolment in the over-20-years-of-age group for the 2020-2021 school year. This is one of the results of the pandemic during which many people started seeking a career change or new career opportunities.

The increase in qualification and graduation rates in our high schools has brought about a decline in the number of students under 20 years of age who are attracted to vocational training programs.

Our Computing Support and Health, Assistance and Nursing programs (both 1800-hour programs) continue to be the most popular. Enrolment in other vocational training programs has seen a slight increase as we move forward in the easing of COVID-19 restrictions.

Career exploration activities, promotional campaigns on social media and local advertising are important and impactful in recruiting students. Student retention is high thanks to the academic, guidance and social service support measures provided to assist students in managing their study, work and family life obligations so they may complete their programs of study in a timely manner.

Our dedicated team of professionals helps our students swiftly transition from a place of learning to the world of earning.

The Sir Wilfrid Laurier Foundation is a non-profit organization that works in collaboration with businesses, parents and schools to build partnerships with the goal of giving back to the students of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board. Over the past 15 years, the Foundation has invested more than \$950,000 in our schools and centres and every year awards citizenship bursaries to graduating students in the youth and adult sectors. The money raised by the Foundation comes from two major fundraisers held in January and June.

The Foundation, in partnership with the school board, also sponsors the annual Laurier Gala/Star Fest, an evening that recognizes more than 200 students in our school board and highlights the musical talents of over 20 students.

Though we were not able to organize any fundraisers during the 2020-2021 school year because of the pandemic, we held a virtual Hope Fest concert featuring the talents of students of our school board. We are hopeful that we will be able to continue our fundraising efforts soon.

Board of Directors of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier Foundation



Josée Côté
 Archie Cifelli
 Steve Ceccolini
 Leslie Andra • Harold Ashen • Vincent Cammisani • Sandra Di Iorio
 James Di Santo • Chrystine Legault • David Paulozza • Ed Turchyniak
 Gaëlle Absolom • Paolo Galati
 Maxeen Jolin • Susan O’Keeffe

In accordance with the province's Education Act, every school holds a general assembly prior to September 30 of each school year, at which parents/guardians are elected to the school's Governing Board (GB). From among the GB members, each school elects two members and one alternate to represent the school on the school board's Parents' Committee (PC). The Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) also elects one member to be a part of the PC. The PC is the only committee comprised entirely of parents/guardians.

In 2020-2021, members of the PC met 13 times and held their meetings by Zoom in order to respect public health guidelines. Zoom has proven to be an invaluable tool that allows for virtual meetings.

Ethics Commissioner

Alternate Student Ombudsman

The Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board allocates the resources at its disposal among its schools and centres in an equitable manner and in consideration of the social and economic disparities, the needs expressed by its institutions, existing partnerships and the Commitment-to-Success Plan. The school board reserves the amount determined necessary for its needs to administer the services entrusted to it by law and for the needs of its committees.

The school board establishes parameters for the equitable distribution of its resources that ensure services to students as required by the provisions of the Education Act and school board policy.

These parameters take into account the distinctive feature of each school and centre. Allocations are built on a base and/or a per-student allocation adjusted in consideration of social and economic disparities.

The budgetary process encourages responsibility, accountability, innovation, creativity and transparency.

