

## SWLSB PARENTS' COMMITTEE: December 7<sup>th</sup>, 2017

### Highlights – for GB

**Commissioner position vacancy:** 2 individuals were presented to PC as Candidates for Commissioner for District 2 (Lower Laurentians); Melissa Wall and Don Beverly. PC members voted in favour of Mrs Wall and will forward this recommendation to the selection committee.

**Presentation on SWLSB's Adult Education services:** Heather Halman delivered an overview of the Adult Education services available through the SWLSB. There are 1032 registered students; English, French and International. Distance learning is available. Support services include Social Workers, Nurses, Guidance & Career Counsellors, and Tutors. Flexible schedules & Customized Programs.

**School Fees Law Suit:** EPCA (English Parents Committee Association) needs to compile a response from Parents to the Class Action Suit that has been filed against 68 School Boards in QC. The suit claims that fees charged by schools contravene the province's Education Act, which guarantees free elementary and high school education. Parents are strongly encouraged to fill in the confidential questionnaire at <https://epcaquebec.org/> to help them compile a relevant response *on what parents feel should and shouldn't be included in school fees*. Ms Macarrone summarised that the most potentially damaging outcome of this law suit (over and above the financial impact of paying damages) would be that if schools are not allowed to charge for trips, etc. there will be no more trips, etc. because we're not subsidized for them.

### School Board Report: Jennifer Maccarone SWLSB Chair.

**Normalization of School Taxes** means that all school taxes in a region, whether for English or French school boards, will now be set at the lowest tax rate for that region. For us at SAA this will mean we go from being charged 35c per \$100 valuation to 10c per \$100 valuation. In effect for this tax year. This cut does not affect the amount of revenue that the school boards ultimately receive as the government will subsidize the difference. *SWLSB asks us all to encourage our communities to come back to paying English School Board school fees by submitting the form available on the website before April 1<sup>st</sup>.* [https://www.swlauriersb.qc.ca/docs/Taxation/Choice%20form\\_march%202014.pdf](https://www.swlauriersb.qc.ca/docs/Taxation/Choice%20form_march%202014.pdf)

### Director General's Report: Frederic Greschner, Assistant DG.

**GB Webinar:** very well received by participants. Encouraged to run them again and will offer two sessions next time.

**Sir Wilfred Laurier Foundation Gala:** January 25<sup>th</sup>. Please support this important fundraiser to continue the provision of sensory equipment for our classrooms.

**17<sup>th</sup> Annual CRC Robotics Competition:** will be hosted at Laval Senior Academy Feb 1-3.

**Auto Mechanics program:** new cohort registrations accepted now. Starting Jan 29<sup>th</sup>. Please spread the word.