

Motion 3

**Motion (2012/2013, No. 03)
Free Primary Education**

Motion - Romain Laville;

Independent Faction Member in the Parliament of Country Sint Maarten, with its address at Parliament Building, Wilhelmina Street 1, Philipsburg, Sint Maarten.

Considering:

1. the fact that Country Sint Maarten, through the Netherlands, supports the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), who acknowledges the rights of a child, in particular, the right to free primary education, pursuant to Article 28 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child; consequently, this led the Government of Sint Maarten to adopt a compulsory education policy in 2009 for all children, ages 4 to 18, residing on the island;
2. our duty as a government to ensure that "no child is left behind" and to guarantee that every child, irrespective of their legal status, is given the opportunity to be educated;
3. the 18 primary schools on Sint Maarten (with the exception of private institutions), 7 of which are managed by the state and 11 of which are not public, but partially subsidized by government; only public schools (7) are currently subject to free education; all other institutions require parents/guardians to pay a "school fee;"
4. the number of parents with one or more child, who experience difficulties paying for their child(ren)'s "school fee(s);" as a result, some of these children are kept at home for extended periods of time; their absence is later reflected in increased rates of illiteracy and juvenile delinquency on the island;
5. the fact that many single-parents face an added financial burden, making it difficult to keep their children in school, as a result of the increasing cost of living;
6. the number of children whose grade cards and records are withheld, and who are denied certain services and privileges, as a result of late or outstanding "school fees;"

Resolves:

To request that the Minister responsible for Education, Culture, Youth and Sports does everything within her power, for the upcoming academic year, to begin:

Public and to amend current laws, regarding primary education on Sint Maarten, to reflect the ~~subsidization of all~~ primary schools on the island, to ensure that our children are given the right to free primary education, pursuant to Article 28 [right to education] of UNICEF's Convention of the Rights of the Child, which states that "All children have the right to a primary education, which should be free;"

and proceeds to the order of the day.

Signed on this 17th day of April, 2013.


Romain J. Laville, MP



Copies of this motion to be sent to:

The Governor of Sint Maarten
The Government of Sint Maarten
The Council of Advice of Sint Maarten



STATEN VAN SINT MAARTEN
Wednesday, April 17, 2013 Public Meeting no. 5

Voting list *Free School*

Motion no. 3 date: April 2013

MB
EL

| NO. | NAME | VOOR/FOR | TEGEN/AGAINST |
|-----|---------------------------|-----------|---------------|
| 1. | drs. R.E. Samuel | ✓ | |
| 2. | G.C. Pantophlet | ✓ | |
| 3. | Patrick G. Illidge | ✓ | |
| 4. | H.L. Richardson | ✓ | |
| 5. | Petrus L. de Weever | ← | |
| 6. | F.G. Richardson | ✓ | |
| 7. | Lloyd J. Richardson | ✓ | |
| 8. | Romain J. Laville | ✓ | |
| 9. | Roy R. Marlin | ← | ← |
| 10. | Johan E. Leonard | ← | |
| 11. | Silvia V. Meyers-Olivacce | ← | |
| 12. | Jules C. James | ← | |
| 13. | Louie E. Laveist | ✓ | |
| 14. | Gracita R. Arrindell | ← | |
| 15. | | | |
| | | <i>87</i> | <i>0A</i> |