Molion 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:

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.

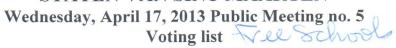
Signed on this 17th day of April, 2013.

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



M3 EX

Motion no. 3 date: 2013

NO.	NAME	VOOR/FOR	TEGEN/AGAINST
1.	drs. R.E. Samuel		
2.	G.C. Pantophlet		
3.	Patrick G. Illidge	V.	
4.	H.L. Richardson		
5.)	Petrus L. de Weever		
6.	F.G. Richardson	<b>/</b>	
7.	Lloyd J. Richardson	V ,	
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	V	
14.	Gracita R. Arrindell		
15.			
		SF	40