



Minutes of the meeting of the
ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON SPECIAL EDUCATION SERVICES (ACSES)
Monday, November 21, 2016 in the Cafeteria Room of the
English Montreal School Board at 7:00 PM.

PRESENT:

Parent Members:

Isabelle Baas
Serena Capplette
Joanne Charron
Cynthia Dudley
Giovanni Goffredo
Andrea Morrison
Mubeenah Mughal

Non-Teaching Professionals:

Susan Waite, Speech-Language Pathologist

Support Staff:

Paul Robichaud, Special Education Technician

Teachers:

Gail Bernstein, Teacher

In-School Administrator:

Anna Sanalidro, Principal
Patrizia Ciccarelli, Alt. Principal

Non-Voting Members:

Lew Lewis, Director, Student Services
Julie René de Cotret, Assistant Director Student Services
Brigida Sellato, Communications Consultant

Observers:

Milan Cardone, RPC East

GUESTS:

Nick Katalifos, Principal, EMSB

REGRETS:

Parent Members:

Elizabeth Arnot
Rinku Vardi

Teachers:

Peter Sutherland, Teacher

Outside Agency:

Rosemary Short, Jewish General Hospital

Commissioner:

Sylvia Lo Bianco, Commissioner

Observers:

Marc Laforest, RPC West

1. WELCOME

The Chair welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 7:02 pm.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

It was moved by Isabelle Baas, seconded by Giovanni Goffredo that the agenda be accepted as presented.

Vote: 9-0-0 (A. Morrison & M. Mughal not present)

Motion Carried

7:03 pm A. Morrison arrived

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF MAY 26, 2016

It was moved by Cynthia Dudley, seconded by Isabelle Baas and resolved to accept the minutes as presented.

Vote: 10-0-0 (M. Mughal not present)

Motion Carried

4. PRESENTATION: FIRST RESPONDERS & SPECIAL NEEDS

Nick Katalifos presented the members an initiative that is taking place in the City of Laval to be an inclusive city for children with autism. They are also on the starting stages of a registry list (voluntary) for first responders. They are also in talks with the City of Montreal for the same collaboration.

7:32 pm M. Mughal arrived

5. PRESENTATION: DYSLEXIA

Susan Waite presented to the members the origins of dyslexia and how to facilitate success in the classroom for students with dyslexia.

6. BUSINESS ARISING

6.1. INFORMATION: LETTER TO MINISTRY

Members were made aware that the letter that was circulated via email was hand delivered to the Minister and the chair is awaiting a meeting. All the points shared by members were not included but they will be presented to him at the meeting. The letter was meant to start the process in order to get a meeting.

6.2. ACTION: IMPLEMENTATION OF SPECIAL EDUCATION POLICY

The members discussed with Lew Lewis the implementation of the special education policy. Lew Lewis informed members that workshops will be given to various partners and they will share it with their school community. The members asked that standardization methods be a way in which the policy is implemented and a suggestion of a video presentation be offered for people to view.

6.3 INFORMATION: SOCIAL MEDIA HUB & WEBSITE FOR ACSES AND SPECIAL NEEDS SCHOOLS

Joanne Charron has spoken to the webmaster and that information for special needs will be incorporated for the registration period so parents are aware of the services offered.

6.4 DISCUSSION: PLANNING OF VIRTUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Lew Lewis informed members that a virtual general assembly is being considered seeing that there is a low turnout for the general assembly. Topics may include Dyslexia presentation and TEVA.

6.5 QUESTIONS: TRANSPORTATION ISSUES

Joanne Charron informed members that she will be sitting on the transportation committee so if there are any concerns or questions she can bring them forward. Members asked her to bring forward: what type of training are bus drivers receiving for special needs, bilingual drivers, leaving the school before students have entered the building.

6.6 TBD: ESTABLISHMENT OF BUDGET PRIORITIES/BUDGET PRESENTATION/FINANCING OF SERVICES TO SPECIAL NEEDS

Livia Nassivera will come to the January meeting to present the budget.

6.7 QUESTION: IEP KIT / ACCESSIBLE BUILDINGS/NETWORK MAP

Julie Rene de Cotret is completing work on the information that will be posted on the website.

6.8 UPDATE: INTERNAL RULES

The CPC is almost complete with their revision and they will include the part for ACSES and then the ACSES committee can complete their revision.

7. NEW BUSINESS

7.1 INFORMATION: EPCA

Members were informed that at CPC the members voted to rejoin the English Parents' Association and that Isabelle Baas and Suzanne de Jonge were elected Directors to EPCA.

8. REPORTS

8.1.DIRECTOR OF STUDENT SERVICES

1) SPECIAL EDUCATION ITEMS

- IEP release monies

There are approximately 4,200 students in the EMSB that have an IEP, whether they are coded or not. A certain amount of money has been decentralized to the schools with an amount also centralized in the SSD budget to be utilized if schools require additional monies over and above what they were allocated. The IEP release monies are used primarily to formulate or modify an IEP as well as to organize case conferences with a view to completing an IEP afterwards. Target monies include regular classes as well as special education classes/schools.

- CCW dossier

An additional \$333,000 has been allotted in order to meet the needs of new students requiring CCW services as well as those students already registered in June 2016 requiring additional services.

- Validations

Timeline:

Deadline date is January 10, 2017 to forward all EMSB files to the MEES. Approximately 350 student files are currently being examined by our validation team.

- KIDS

Julie discussed certain enhancements to KIDS as well as additional pilot schools which are interested in incorporating KIDS within their school setting.

2) STAFF UPDATE

- Allocation of guidance counsellors is almost complete. 40% special education post has just been filled.

3) HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES

- Alliance program

This particular program, which is being launched in the CSSS, will involve a 2-day professional development training program for Student Services Department professionals and a half-day training for principals aimed at targeting students at risk for negligence and the various collaborative approaches which can be implemented to address their needs with the resultant effect that there would be a lower probability of signaling any of these cases to DYP.

- Enquête TOPO

The Direction de santé publique is currently undergoing a broad survey of all grade 6 students, in the public and private sectors, both English and French, to gather data with respect to their health status, behavioural needs, family situation, mental health issues, etc. in order to initiate an action plan to address issues which would involve all the educational health and social services partners

4) PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- ADOS training will be initiated for Student Services Department members focusing on the screening of students for autism.

- Pediatric psychiatric consultation

A psychiatrist is in the process of being engaged by the Student Services Department to provide consultation services to professionals with respect to students who present serious problems of a psycho-social nature.

8.2.EDUCATION COMMITTEE

There was no report.

8.3.CENTRAL PARENTS' COMMITTEE (CPC)

The elections were held for the executive and parent commissioners, the internal rules sub-committee was established and a sub-committee on social media for CPC.

8.4.ENGLISH PARENTS' COMMITTEE ASSOCIATION (EPCA)

Isabelle Baas informed members that the general assembly was held and elections were held. Topics discussed were kids being more active and two codes that were removed by the Ministry.

8.5.REPORTS FROM ACSES MEMBERS

Paul Robichaud informed members that he was leaving John Grant for a short period of time to replace the president of the APPA but he would remain on ACSES.

9. VARIA

None.

10. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

January 23rd @ 7 pm.

11. ADJOURNMENT

It was moved by Isabelle Baas, seconded by Cynthia Dudley to adjourn the meeting at 9:29 pm

Vote: 11-0-0

Motion Carried

Joanne Charron
Chair

Brigida Sellato
Communications Consultant/Secretary