



Commission scolaire English-Montréal
English Montreal School Board

Minutes of the meeting of the
ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON SPECIAL EDUCATION SERVICES (ACSES)
Monday, January 23, 2017 in the William Dawson Room of the
English Montreal School Board at 7:00 PM.

PRESENT:

Parent Members:

Isabelle Baas
Serena Capplette
Joanne Charron
Cynthia Dudley
Giovanni Goffredo
Mubeenah Mughal
Rinku Vardi

Non-Teaching Professionals:

Susan Waite, Speech-Language Pathologist

Support Staff:

Paul Robichaud, Special Education Technician

Teachers:

Gail Bernstein, Teacher
Peter Sutherland, Teacher

In-School Administrator:

Anna Sanalidro, Principal
Patrizia Ciccarelli, Alt. Principal

Outside Agency:

Rosemary Short, Jewish General Hospital

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:

Livia Nassivera, Director, Financial Services

REGRETS:

Parent Members:

Elizabeth Arnot
Andrea Morrison

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 Paul Robichaud that the agenda be accepted as presented.

Vote: 12-0-0 (M. Mughal not present) Motion Carried

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 21, 2016

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

Vote: 12-0-0 (M. Mughal not present) Motion Carried

7:25 pm M. Mughal arrived

4. PRESENTATION: BUDGET BUILDING PROCESS

Livia Nassivera presented to the members the funding breakdowns from last year and this year and went over the Budget Building Process document outlining the changes for 2017-2018.

5. BUSINESS ARISING

5.1. ESTABLISHMENT OF BUDGET PRIORITIES/BUDGET PRESENTATION/FINANCING OF SERVICES TO SPECIAL NEEDS

The members discussed their priorities and the guiding principles for recommendation.

Appendix A of the Budget Building Process:

- i) Agree
- ii) Agree to remove
- iii) Agree
- iv) Agree
- v) Agree;
Recommend: to add keeping in mind all forms of accessibility for our students with special needs
- vi) Agree
Recommend: to add all ratios for all classification of employees
- vii) Agree
- viii) Agree
- ix) Agree
- x) Agree
- xi) Agree
- xii) Agree

It was moved by Cynthia Dudley, seconded by Isabelle Baas and unanimously resolved that the guiding principles with the recommendations.

Vote: 13-0-0 Motion Carried

Appendix B of the Budget Building Process

Budget Priorities

In light of the declining youth sector population and considering the ongoing increase in the Board’s special needs population (particularly handicapped and Code 14 students), the Advisory Committee on Special Education Services (ACSES) is strongly recommending the following as part of its budget priorities for the 2017-2018 school year:

- 1. That there be no cuts in any professional and support staff posts implicated in servicing the Board’s special needs population;
- 2. That funding sources (e.g. for professional development, material purchases, etc.) be made available to support the effective functioning of the school’s multidisciplinary teams (e.g. psychologist, speech-language pathologist, special education consultant, administrator, resource teacher, special education technician and attendant, etc.) in order to ensure the ongoing collaboration with in-school personnel in addressing the systemic needs of each school’s special needs population;
- 3. That the following posts be given priority (in the order indicated below) with respect to a possible increase in the event of available funding sources:

- a. Speech-Language Pathologist
 - b. Psychologist
 - c. Guidance Counsellor
 - d. Occupational Therapists
 - e. Autism Consultant
4. Funding for more self-contained classes within the Boards network and the resources to support it.
 5. In light of the increasing enrolment, it is important to have Special Education Technician/Attendants early in the school year.

It was moved by Isabelle Baas, seconded by Serena Capplette and unanimously resolved that the budget priorities be accepted.

Vote: 13-0-0

Motion Carried

5.2 UPDATE: IMPLEMENTATION OF SPECIAL EDUCATION POLICY

LeW Lewis advised the members that the French version is almost complete and the policy will be uploaded on the website. Presentations will take place with Principals, professionals and teachers shortly.

5.3 UPDATE: SOCIAL MEDIA HUB & WEBSITE FOR ACSES AND SPECIAL NEEDS SCHOOLS

Brigida Sellato will work with the webmaster to put something together for the website to make the special needs stand out for registration week.

5.4 QUESTION: IEP KIT / ACCESSIBLE BUILDINGS/NETWORK MAP

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

5.5 MODIFICATIONS/REVIEW: INTERNAL RULES

CPC has finished with the modification of the internal rules and at the next ACSES meeting the internal rules can be modified and linked to those of CPC.

5.6 DISCUSSION AND APPROVAL: MAY MEETING @ ST. PIUS

Pius does not serve dinner on Mondays and Tuesday so another date has to be chosen for May. Following a brief discussion, Wednesday May 31st at 6:30 pm was selected. Brigida Sellato will confirm with St. Pius.

6. NEW BUSINESS

6.1 INFORMATION: PARENT CONFERENCE

Joanne Charron informed the members that CPC will be holding a parent conference and has asked ACSES to suggest some topics for special needs to offer as workshops.

The members discussed some topics that would be brought to the steering committee for the conference; such as: IEP, Network of Services, Transitioning, Technology, TEVA and many more.

7. REPORTS

7.1. DIRECTOR OF STUDENT SERVICES

STAFFING UPDATE

An additional 80% Guidance Counsellor replacement post has been added

SPECIAL EDUCATION ITEMS

- 305 student files were sent to Quebec last week with respect to all those students receiving a handicap code or code 14 during the last 12 months. There was a great deal of work that went into this particular process but, at the end, it was extremely well done by our validation team and all the professionals involved.
- Planning for self-contained classes – 2017-2018
 - Process is now underway with respect to planning the composition of the self-contained classes in the EMSB for the 2017-2018 school year.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- Resource teacher workshops have been planned with respect to the topic of Practical Strategies regarding the literacy initiative. As well, workshops for CCW's were also offered focusing on addressing stress as well as listening to testimonials from former students with autism.

PILOT PROJECT RE: FM SYSTEMS

- A pilot project was initiated this year in three schools – St. Gabriel (SEEDS class), Coronation (ASD class) and Dalkeith (regular class), wherein one class in each of the above-mentioned schools were outfitted with a sound-field system about which research has clearly demonstrated the benefits with respect to student achievement, student attentiveness, etc. It has also shown to be beneficial for the teacher in that the teachers do not experience the same stress on their voice. An evaluation will be done during the course of the school year to evaluate the benefits of the implementation of this sound-field system.

7.2. EDUCATION COMMITTEE

There was no report.

7.3. CENTRAL PARENTS' COMMITTEE (CPC)

Topics discussed in December were; internal rules, alternates coming to CPC with right to vote, strategic plan for CPC, parent commissioners will have the right to vote and presentation from STEAM.

Topics discussed in January were; EPCA delegate confirmation of terms, parent conference, history resolution and presentation on the EMSB Annual Report.

7.4. ENGLISH PARENTS' COMMITTEE ASSOCIATION (EPCA)

Isabelle Baas informed members that topics discussed in December were; pilot project for sex education, information on French immersion, new LEARN website, and history curriculum.

Topics in January were; presentation on next school community, interdependent learning center.

7.5. REPORTS FROM ACSES MEMBERS

Cynthia Dudley was made aware that in the French sector students were taught about their codes in school.

8. VARIA

Joanne Charron informed members that an email was received from Liz Arnot who for personal and professional reasons resigns from her membership on ACSES. She asked that a letter of thanks be sent to Liz for her dedication and commitment to the committee for all these years.

9. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

March 20th @ 7 pm.

10. ADJOURNMENT

It was moved by Paul Robichaud, seconded by Isabelle Baas to adjourn the meeting at 9:07 pm

Vote: 13-0-0

Motion Carried

Joanne Charron
Chair

Brigida Sellato
Communications Consultant/Secretary