



Commission scolaire English-Montréal

English Montreal School Board

Minutes of the meeting of the  
**ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON SPECIAL EDUCATION SERVICES (ACSES)**  
Monday, March 26, 2018 in the William Dawson Room of the  
English Montreal School Board at 7:00 PM.

**PRESENT:**

**Parent Members:**

Isabelle Baas  
Serena Caplette  
Joanne Charron  
Rosemarie Federico  
Betty Skagos  
Viviane Zabbel

**Non-Teaching Professionals:**

Susan Waite, Speech-Language Pathologist

**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  
Patricia Sansone, Coordinator, Student Services  
Brigida Sellato, Communications Consultant

**Guests:**

Andrea Prupas, Consultant, Assistive Technology

**REGRETS:**

**Parent Members:**

Karen Abecassis  
Mubeenah Mughal  
Rinku Vardi

**Teachers:**

Gail Bernstein, Teacher  
Peter Sutherland, Teacher

**Support Staff:**

Paul Robichaud, Special Education Technician

**Outside Agency:**

Isabelle Cormier, CIUSS

**Non-Voting Members:**

**Commissioner:**

Sylvia Lo Bianco, Commissioner

**1. WELCOME**

The Chair welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm.

**2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

It was moved by Rosemarie Federico seconded by Serena Cappleto that the agenda be accepted as presented.

**Vote: 8-0-0**

**Motion Carried**

**3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 8, 2018**

It was moved by Betty Skagos, seconded by Rosemarie Federico and resolved to accept the minutes as presented.

**Vote: 6-0-2**

**Motion Carried**

**4. PRESENTATION: ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY**

The members were given a presentation from Andrea Prupas on assistive technology and how it is being used at the EMSB by staff and students.

Andrea Prupas has set up a website that parents can access with the presentation, documents and resources. <http://bit.ly/EMSBparents>

**5. BUSINESS ARISING**

**5.1 CONSULTATION: COMMITMENT TO SUCCESS PLAN**

1. The consultation summary reflects the preoccupations and expectations of the groups consulted. Do these preoccupations and expectations reflect your sense of the challenges that the Board faces?

Strongly Agree		Agree		Somewhat agree	X	Disagree		Strongly disagree	
----------------	--	-------	--	----------------	---	----------	--	-------------------	--

Comment: n/a

2. Do the specific objectives appear appropriate and realistic to you?

Strongly Agree		Agree		Somewhat agree	X	Disagree		Strongly disagree	
----------------	--	-------	--	----------------	---	----------	--	-------------------	--

3. Is there anything significant which has not been included in the document but should be considered?

- The MEES should seriously examine other ways in which its success of special needs students with severe impairments can be measured since many of these students may never be able to attain a high school diploma or certificate- this is crucial if the MEES intends to narrow the gap in the success rate between student leavers with an exceptional code and students leavers without a code.
- The Education and Health Ministries have to recognize the long term needs of students with special needs and work together for those students
- Come up with a plan of action for placement of students after the age of 21
- Start the WOTP at an earlier age to expose students to the program

It was moved by Rosemarie Federico, seconded by Isabelle Baas and unanimously resolved to accept the commitment to success plan as discussed and with the recommendations.

**5.2 BUDGET PROCESS 2018-2019**

The item is deferred following the approval of the document for consultation at the Board meeting. It will take place via email.

**6. NEW BUSINESS**

**6.1. MAY SOCIAL**

It was agreed to have a social in May catered and begin at 6:30 pm.

**7. REPORTS**

**7.1. DIRECTOR OF STUDENT SERVICES**

**1) STAFF UPDATE**

- 40% psychologist post and a 60% guidance counsellor post have still not been filled
- Interviews have taken place with respect to the Healthy & Safe Schools Consultant (agent pivot) post.

**2) PSYCHIATRIC SERVICES**

- The second session with Dr. Anthony Gifuni took place on March 21, 2018 which included a presentation on anxiety disorders as well as a discussion with respect to different generic cases experienced in schools
- In-school psychiatric consultation sessions have already taken place in four schools with two more schools slated to include these type of discussions
- Overall the services provided by Dr. Gifuni are going quite well.

**3) PSYCHOLOGY INTERNS – 2018-2019**

- There will be one psychologist intern working in the Student Services Department for the next school year.

**4) SPECIAL EDUCATION**

- Plans are underway at this point in time with respect to the allocation of child care workers for the 2018-2019 school year. The Allocation of Resources Committee (ARC) will be consulted with respect to the needs identified at the school level.

**5) MENTAL HEALTH RESOURCE CENTRE**

- Mental Health Awareness Week will be taking place during the first week in May
- The topic for this year is the notion of Self-Acceptance.

**6) CHABAD LIFELINE**

- Rabbi Bresinger and his team at Chabad Lifeline, a chemical, gambling, sex-addiction centre, made a presentation at a recent meeting of the Guidance Counsellors
- We are currently looking at the possibility of presentations to be taking place within the schools as well as presentations to staff at the School Board level. There are currently such services being provided within certain schools and the referral of students is being considered to be directed to Chabad Lifeline.

Julie Rene de Cotret advised the members that the IEP is going well and she will present it at the next meeting and it should be piloted in September.

**7.2. EDUCATION COMMITTEE**

**1. Discussion Concerning a Grant for Computers for Roslyn School**

Last month Roslyn School received a 10k grant which resulted in the purchase of 30 new laptops. Roslyn was selected as a 2018 recipient of a Power Up grant from the Softchoice technology company, one of 10 elementary and middle schools across North America. The grant program provides students from low-income communities with access to technology and digital learning.

Discussion followed: more computers are needed for schools, in light of, among other things, examinations moving toward digital platforms. Issues: technical

support, funding (computers are a capital expenditure, so funds could not be gleaned from operating budgets.)

Hydro-Quebec was mentioned as a source of potential top flight computers that schools could have access too. More investigation to follow in opportunities to pursue.

## 2. **New EMSB Website**

The EMSB website has been redesigned and is in the process of being tested; the work is almost completed. The Education Committee was given a preliminary presentation. Two pilot schools, surveys conducted by the EMSB, and external industry surveys were research tools employed to explore what needed to be done.

Among the new features are:

- Website will be mobile responsive
- a New Content Management System that will allow individual users to make updates to the site by using a simple interface;
- a New Programs section, to facilitate external users from the community to access information;
- an improvement with the Search function for schools, news, and events;
- an Emergency Alert, where information can be sent to individual EMSB schools and websites
- an ability to cross-reference links to allow easier navigation;
- analytics to determine which sites / pages are being accessed and how often;
- matching French and English wherever possible;
- placement of major links across the top of gym

There was some consideration to giving the url of the site-in-progress to the Parents' Committee so that those members could make recommendations. The decision was to wait a little longer before giving access, so more corrections could be made before parents' were invited to provide input.

## 3. **Board APP**

In 2019 a new tender will be also include the creation of a board wide APP. Until such time, schools can continue to use the school apps they have in place.

## 4. **Youth Fusion**

Committee approved 100k in funding for schools to be able to access services from Youth Fusion. Youth Fusion is a charity that contributes to perseverance, employability and civic engagement of youth by implementing innovative experiential learning projects that create ongoing links between school systems and the community. Every week, they work with 15,000 youth in over 200 schools in rural, urban, and Indigenous communities.

## 5. **Exam Schedule**

It has been published...Classes end June 8 and exams begin June 11 for secondary schools.

Elementary schools: exams will run from end of April until end of June.

## 6. **Summer School Proposal**

Summer school courses offered during the summer 2018 session will take place at Laurier Macdonald High School. Secondary IV and Secondary V students will have exams between July 22 and August 3. Sec I – III assessments will start on July 26.

### • **Sex Education Program – Implementation –**

- o EMSB is waiting for required consultant
- o topics reviewed and applied by grade to be age appropriate
- o Test program currently running at Lester BP & St Gabriel Schools
- o More news expected in April

### • **Research Projects:**

- o 17-04 –Mindfulness and school adjustment in adolescence (approved)
- ☞ “Adolescent reports of stress in high school have been increasing.”
- ☞ Objective: “provide a better understanding of dispositional mindfulness in adolescents’ school adjustment and well-being; investigating the possible moderating

role of academic performance and gender in the relationship between dispositional mindfulness and school adjustment.”

**7.3. CENTRAL PARENTS’ COMMITTEE (CPC)**

Topics included the consultations on the commitment to success plan, private tutoring and by-laws, literacy prize and awards of merit will continue, parent conference coming up in May, new PC logo and volunteer night.

**7.4. ENGLISH PARENTS COMMITTEE ASSOCIATION (EPCA)**

Topics included from January finances, awaiting funding from MEES. March included updates on meetings in Quebec and incentives for PPO.

**8. VARIA**

Fun for all Fair coming up on April 14<sup>th</sup> at St. Laurent Adult Centre.

**9. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Monday, May 28th @ 6:30 pm.

**10. ADJOURNMENT**

It was moved by Serena Capplette, seconded by Isabelle Baas to adjourn the meeting at 9:15 pm

**Vote: 8-0-0**

**Motion Carried**

---

Joanne Charron  
Chair

---

Brigida Sellato  
Communications Consultant