Commission scolaire English-Montréal
English Montreal School Board

Minutes of the meeting of the
ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON SPECIAL EDUCATION SERVICES (ACSES)
Wednesday, January 9, 2013 in the Mac Vicar Room of the
English Montreal School Board at 7:00 PM.

PRESENT:

Parent Members:
Elizabeth Arnot
Isabelle Baas
Angie Bertone
Michael Beigleman
Joanne Charron
Cynthia Dudley
Kurtis Law
Patricia Willis

Teachers:
No members

Non-Teaching Professionals:
Susan Waite, Speech-Language Pathologist

Support Staff:
Paul Robichaud, Child Care Worker

In-School Administrator:
Patricia Ciccarelli, Principal

Non-Voting Members:
Lew Lewis, Director, Student Services
Brigida Sellato, Communications Consultant/Secretary

REGRETS:
Outside Agency:
Robert Gervais, CSSS

Commissioner:
Marvin Helfenbaum

Non-Voting Members:
Julie René de Cotret, Assistant Director, Student Services

Observers:
Caleigh Saucier, Region 2 Observer
Enza Passa, Region 3 Observer

MINUTES:

1. Welcome

The chair, Angie Bertone, welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

2. Approval of the Agenda

It was moved by Kurtis Law, seconded by Cynthia Dudley and unanimously resolved that the agenda be approved with the following addition;

5.1 Workshops

Vote: 11-0-0 **Motion Carried**

3. Adoption of the minutes from December 3, 2012

It was moved by Paul Robichaud, seconded by Isabelle Baas and unanimously resolved that the minutes be approved as presented.

Vote: 11-0-0 **Motion Carried**

4. Business Arising

4.1 Budget Building Process Consultation

The members broke into two groups to discuss the guiding principles and the budget priorities.

Appendix A of the Budget Building Process 2013–2014

The following modifications were noted:

i) Agree
ii) Agree
iii) Agree
iv) Agree
v) Agree
vi) Agree
vii) Agree
viii) Agree
ix) Agree
x) Agree
xi) Agree
xii) Agree

ACSES recommends to add a point after number iv which reads:

Within the framework of the Board's operational budget, priority shall be given to those measures which will address the issues of safety and security in each of the Board's schools and centres.

Appendix B of the Budget Building Process 2013–2014

Budget Priorities

1- Speech and Language Pathologists
2- Occupational Therapists
3- Behavior Management Specialists

It was moved by Kurtis Law, seconded by Patricia Willis and unanimously resolved that the budget priorities and the guiding principles be accepted.

Vote: 11-0-0 **Motion Carried**

4.2 Parental Membership
Forms have been received.

4.3 Information Palatucci Task Force
There is a scheduled task force meeting for next week.

5. New Business

5.1 Workshops
The workshop in the east end at Laurier Macdonald is being planned with the same topic, transition to high school.

For this years' workshop suggested topics were; rehabilitation and the services they offer and bullying, practical tips and strategies. The members agreed that the bullying topic be looked at for the workshop.

It was also suggested that future topics be social skills and bringing Dr. Melrose to speak to parents.

6. Reports

6.1 Director of Student Services
L. Lewis provided an overview of some of the highlights that had transpired during the course of the last few months in Student Services.

- With respect to professional development, Dr. Reggie Melrose, Clinical and School Psychologist, has made a presentation on November 9, December 6 and 7, 2012 to EMSB staff members, principals, professionals, teachers, etc. with respect to how neuroscience can assist us in better addressing the behavioral/emotional needs of students. She will also make a presentation to 7 elementary schools on Friday, January 25, 2013. She has also visited Focus high school and will do this on January 24th with regard to addressing the specific needs of students at that school.

VALIDATIONS
There are currently approximately 300 files of students that must be validated prior to submission to the MELS by the deadline date of January 15, 2013. This is a major priority in the Student Services Department since the completion of this task will result in potentially significant financial gains for the school board to help subsidize the various services we currently offer to students – eg. CCW services, professional services, teachers' salaries, etc. An enormous amount of time is spent by the Validations Team members of Student Services as well as numerous other professionals who must ensure that all the criteria are met to be successfully approved by the MELS.

STAFF SITUATION IN STUDENT SERVICES
We are currently missing 1.8 Guidance Counsellors, 1.3 Speech-Language Pathologists, and 1 Psychologist who are currently on leave. These replacement posts have been advertised with very little success. As well, a new Special Education

Consultant will be joining our ranks – Patricia Sansone who will be replacing Joanne Assaly, Special Education Consultant Region 3.

RESOURCE TEACHERS NETWORK WORKSHOPS
Resource Teachers Network Workshops are being planned for the elementary level principals, teachers, etc. on January 22, 2013 and for the high school principals, teachers, etc. on January 24, 2013. Topics will include the Work-oriented Training Path, SARCA (ie. Referral to Adult Education Services), learning disabilities, and focus on ASD students who suffer from anxiety.

A discussion took place on the resources parents have at their fingertips to better understand the various options and services they have for special needs. The members agreed to develop a pamphlet geared towards the parents with said information. A sub-committee was formed composed of; Angie Bertone, Michael Beigleman, Joanne Charron, Cynthia Dudley, Patricia Willis, Susan Waite and Patricia Ciccarelli.

6.2 E&F
The topic discussed was the application for the 240 status for the proposed new school in Cote St. Luc.

6.3 CPC
Topics discussed were the budget building process, cohabitation, a sub-committee on the new school was formed.

7. Varia
No items.

8. Date of Next Meeting
Wednesday, February 6, 2013 at 7:00 pm.

9. Adjournment
On a motion from Joanne Charron, seconded by Isabelle Baas that the meeting be adjourned at 9:30 pm.

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Angie Bertone, Chair, ACSES Brigida Sellato Secretary, ACSES