Commission scolaire English-Montréal
English Montreal School Board

Minutes of the meeting of the
ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON SPECIAL EDUCATION SERVICES (ACSES)
Wednesday, October 3, 2012 in the Mc Vicar Room of the
English Montreal School Board at 7:00 PM.

PRESENT:

Parent Members:
Elizabeth Arnot
Isabelle Baas
Michael Beigleman
Angie Bertone
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

Outside Agency:
Robert Gervais, CSSS

Commissioner:
Marvin Helfenbaum

Non-Voting Members:
Lew Lewis, Director, Student Services
Julie René de Cotret, Assistant Director Student Services
Brigida Sellato, Communications Consultant/Secretary

REGRETS:

Parent Members:
Joanne Charron
Cynthia Dudley

MINUTES:

1. Welcome

Lew Lewis, Director of Student Services welcomed.

2. Approval of the Agenda

It was moved by Kurtis Law, seconded by Isabelle Baas and unanimously resolved that the agenda be approved with the following additions;

5.3 Child Care Workers
5.4 Special Ed. Budget
6.3 Pivot Team
6.4 Special Education Policy
6.5 Distribution of Speech & Language Pathologist
6.6 Meeting with other School Board ACSES Committees
8.1 Palatucci Task Force (in camera)

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

3. Elections

Lew Lewis will run the election until the chair is elected.

3.1 Chair

It was moved by Patricia Willis, seconded by Michael Beigleman that Angie Bertone be nominated for chair.
There were no other nominations.
Angie Bertone was acclaimed as chair.

3.2 Vice-Chair

It was moved by Liz Arnot, seconded by Susan Waite that Patricia Willis be nominated for vice-chair.
There were no other nominations.
Patricia Willis was acclaimed as vice-chair.

3.3 Treasurer

There is no treasurer, Lew Lewis will assume responsibility for keeping the budget of 1,500$.

3.4 Delegate Member for CPC (Central Parents' Committee)

It was moved by Patricia Willis, seconded by Michael Beigleman that Liz Arnot be nominated for the delegate to CPC.
There were no other nominations.
Liz Arnot was acclaimed delegate for CPC.

3.5 Alternate Member for CPC(Central Parents' Committee)

Isabelle Baas volunteered to be the alternate delegate for CPC, seconded by Kurtis Law.
There were no other nominations.
Isabelle Baas was acclaimed as the alternate member for CPC.

3.6 Delegate for E&F (Education & Facilities Committee)

Isabelle Baas volunteered to be the delegate for E&F, seconded by Kurtis Law.
There were no other nominations.
Isabelle Baas was acclaimed delegate for E&F.

4. Adoption of the minutes from June 4, 2012

It was moved by Michael Beigleman, seconded by Kurtis Law and unanimously resolved that the minutes from June 4, 2012 be approved with minor spelling corrections.

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

5. Business Arising

5.1 General Assembly

The workshop which was given in March on transition to High School at the Administration Building will be offered in the east end at Laurier Macdonald High School to accommodate parents who could not previously attend. A date of November 27, 2012 has been scheduled.

5.2 Parental Membership

Five new applications have been received and will be looked at to pick a remaining member.

5.3 Child Care Workers

Since the opening of two classes at Elizabeth Ballantyne and Pierre de Coubertin, the teams at those schools meet on a monthly basis to discuss what is going well and what is needed for improvement. There is a maximum of 8 students per class.

5.4 Special Education Budget

The item was dealt with under 6.3.

6. New Business

6.1 Dates of meetings for 2012-2013

The dates for 2012-2013 were set for:
November 19, 2012
December 3, 2012
January 9, 2013
February 6, 2013
March 13, 2013
March 19, 2013 (General Assembly)
April/May/June will be determined later

6.2 Clarification of ACSES Mandate- book meeting

The Chair will draft a letter of invitation to the Director General, Deputy Director General, the Chairman, Lawyer and Director of Finance to come to the November meeting to discuss the mandate of ACSES and clarify with all participants.

It was moved by Kurtis Law, seconded by Patricia Willis and unanimously resolved that the meeting be extended until 9:00 pm.

6.3 Pivot Team

Angie Bertone explained the situation with regard to the dismantling of the pivot teams in the east end of Montreal and asked what action, if any ACSES would like to take. A suggestion was made to send a letter to voice the concerns of ACSES.

6.4 Special Education Policy

It was suggested that seeing that it has been seven years since the Special Education Policy, it would be a good idea to start looking at it again in order to make any changes and perhaps begin a consultation process for this year.

6.5 Distribution of Speech & Language Pathologist

It was asked if the allocation of speech and language pathologists could be re-examined in order to give more services at the high school level.

Lew Lewis will look into the distribution at a future planning meeting.

6.6 Meeting with other School Boards ACSES Committees

The item was tabled.

7. Reports

7.1 Director of Student Services

- STAFF UPDATE

L. Lewis provided a report with respect to vacant posts that currently exist in the Student Services Department.

- SPECIAL EDUCATION ITEMS

- Validations

Priority is now given to handicapped and code 14 students because of the significant financial implications.

- November 8, 2012 – Deadline date to submit codes to the MELS
- January 11, 2013 – Files must be submitted to the MELS

- HORS RESEAU ENTENTE

- Same as 2011-2012
- 446 Students in 6 Hors Reseau schools
- The entente was endorsed by the Executive Committee on September 24, 2012.

- CODE VERIFICATIONS

- Completed for all schools at this point in time.

- C.C.W.'s

- Severe budget constraints at this point in time.
- Principals have flexibility to utilize child care workers as they deem appropriate with respect to meeting the needs of students.
- Any additional CCWs provided to schools will be subject to the scrutiny of representatives of the Student Services Department, Human Resources Department, and Regional Directors.
- All situations are discussed on a case-by-case basis.

- Mesure 30810

- Monies are allotted to provided furniture, adaptive equipment to students (approximately $35,000) as well $150,000 is allotted for computers, software, peripherals for special needs students.
- This is part of Mesure 30810

- MENTAL HEALTH RESOURCE CENTRE

- Composed of approximately 10 individuals including guidance counselors, psychologists, and behavior management specialists.
- Workshop being planned with Dr. Regalena Melrose on November 9, 2012

- Team will provide school visits, in-service, workshops, dissemination of information, website, and partnerships with organizations including Partners for Mental Health, etc.

- BILL 56 – ANTI-BULLYING AND ANTI-VIOLENCE
- Workshops are being planned for principals on October 5 and 9, 2012 with respect to issues of bullying and violence in their respective schools. The focus will be on prevention measures, partnerships, procedures, receipt of complaints, consequences and sanctions, support for the victim as well as the perpetrator – codes of conduct, etc.

7.2 E&F

There was no report

7.3 CPC

No CPC meeting has occurred to date.

8. Varia

8.1 Task Force for Palatucci

Mr. Helfenbaum gave the committee a brief summary of what has happened so far with the task force meetings.

The item was discussed in camera after the adjournment.

9. Date of Next Meeting

Monday, November 19, 2012.

10. Adjournment

On a motion from Liz Arnot, seconded by Isabelle Baas that the meeting be adjourned at 9:40 pm.

_____ _____

Angie Bertone, Chair, ACSES Brigida Sellato Secretary, ACSES