Commission scolaire English-Montréal
English Montreal School Board

Minutes of the meeting of the
ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON SPECIAL EDUCATION SERVICES (ACSES)
Wednesday, March 13, 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
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

Outside Agency:
Robert Gervais, CSSS

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

REGRETS:

Parent Members:
Michael Beigleman

Commissioner:
Marvin Helfenbaum

Observers:
Tina Monaco, Region 1 Observer
Caleigh Saucier, Region 2 Observer
Filomena Trindade, 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;

4.5 Workshops

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

3. Adoption of the minutes from January 9, 2013

It was moved by Kurtis Law, 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 Presentation: MELS-MSSS Entente

The presentation was tabled to April as Dora Cesta was unavailable for this month.

4.2 Policy on the Maintenance or Closure of Schools/Centres

It was moved by Kurtis Law, seconded by Isabelle Baas and unanimously resolved that the policy on the maintenance or closure of schools/centres be accepted with the recommendations outlined;

- In order to make an informed decision in the best interest of the EMSB Network of Schools, it is strongly recommended that all commissioners make every effort to visit all the schools and centres of the Board targeted for potential closure or relocation.
- ACSES supports that the CPC should receive copies of the briefs at the same time as the Council
- Page 6, create new number 7 which reads: *As an Advisory Committee, ACSES may submit a written brief and shall have the opportunity to speak to their brief at the public hearings.*
- Page 8 November bullet; include *Advisory Committee on Special Education Services (ACSES)*
- Page 8 November bullet; include ". . . after paragraph 6 *& 7*. . ." (to reflect the new number 7 as per above)
- Page 8 December bullet; include ". . . after paragraph 6 *& 7*. . ." (to reflect the new number 7 as per above)

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

4.3 Palatucci Task Force- Report

The task force met in January and shared the result of the name contest and selected three of the names to go for consultation to CPC. They also discussed calling the school Academy, the possibility of uniforms and what the viable registration should be.

The article 240 status was discussed. The members felt that the issues from this status be dealt with in a letter to the task force. Liz Arnot and Cynthia Dudley will compose a letter.

Isabelle Baas Left at 9:09 pm

4.4 Set Remaining dates for ACSES (April, May, June)

The remaining dates were set for;
Wednesday, April 17th
Tuesday, May 7th
Wednesday, June 5th

4.5 General Assembly Workshop

The workshop is scheduled for next week, but there have not been many registrations. The chair asked that the invitation be sent out again to all schools. Brigida Sellato will send out to all governing boards and regional parents and she will ask that it be posted on facebook and twitter. Lew Lewis will have it posted on the EMSB web site.

The notice for the April workshop will be going out as well. The topic will be bill 56.

5. New Business

5.1 Busing

Concerns were raised over the busing of special needs students who have difficulty with behavior and students with medical issues. There have been situations where students are not behaving and or students that require medical attention where the bus has had to stop on the highway to assist the student. The mini buses have been a concern for safety. The members are asking about possibly issuing monitors for the busses.

At this time MELS will not allow for monitors as this removes a space for a student. Student Services is currently looking at different solutions to these problems.

Lew Lewis suggested having Luc Harvey come to the next meeting to speak on bussing to the committee. He then suggested that the committee wait and have Julie Rene de Cotret speak to Luc Harvey first about the situation then he could come to a future meeting.

5.2 Special Needs Database

The item was tabled to the next meeting.

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.

- STAFFING
  The only major gap that currently exists in the Student Services Department is the absence of 1.3 speech-language pathologists. All psychologist and guidance counselor positions have been filled.
- PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Dr. Regalena Melrose has animated workshops in November, December, January and February of the current school year, emphasizing the role neuroscience plays in impacting the educational development of students. She may return on May 6 to present to a number of schools. It is almost confirmed that she will be here on August 23 to present to interested participants from additional schools.

- SUMMER LANGUAGE CAMP
  Four speech-language pathologists from the Student Services Department will be again returning to organize a summer language camp earmarked for students entering grade 1 and 2 (in September 2013) who demonstrate severe language delays and who would benefit from a two-week summer language camp. There is a maximum of 15 students to be accommodated in the program which will run to August 5 to 16, 2013. The program will be taking place at Honoré Mercier School.
- SPECIAL EDUCATION
  The Student Services Department has allocated resource teachers and self-contained class teachers to schools in the EMSB. There has been a reduction of 3.7 posts for the 2013-2014 school year.
  We will now embark on the organization of the allocation of child care workers to schools for the next school year.
- WORKSHOPS
  Workshops are currently being organized for the resource teachers on April 24 and 25, 2013. As well workshops will be organized on March 15 and 22 for the child care workers with the focus on mental health, bullying, and autism.

  ACSES workshop to take place on March 19, 2013 at Laurier Macdonald High School focusing on transition to high school, the work-oriented training program, and allocation of adapted materials and equipment.

  Also a workshop is being planned for parents by ACSES on April 9 with the focus on bullying.

6.2 E&F

Topics were PELO and there were three presentations from the Pedagogical Services Consultants.

6.3 CPC

See item 4.3.

7. Varia

No items.

8. Date of Next Meeting

Wednesday, April 17, 2013 at 7:00 pm.

9. Adjournment

On a motion from Joanne Charron, seconded by Liz Arnot that the meeting be adjourned at 9:49 pm.

Angie Bertone, Chair, ACSES	Brigida Sellato Secretary, ACSES