



**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE CENTRAL PARENTS' COMMITTEE
HELD IN THE LAURENCE PATERSON ROOM OF THE ADMINISTRATION BUILDING, 6000 FIELDING AVE.,
MONTREAL ON THURSDAY, JANUARY 12, 2017 AT 7:00 P.M.**

Members of the Committee

PRESENT: East Sector

Dante
East Hill
Edward Murphy
General Vanier
Gerald McShane
Honore Mercier Alt
John Caboto
John F. Kennedy
John Grant
Laurier Macdonald
Leonardo da Vinci
LINKS
Mackay
MIND
Nesbitt
Our Lady of Pompei
Pierre de Coubertin
Rosemount
St. Dorothy
Vincent Massey

Alba Fiorino
John Carosello
Laura Saragosa
Jason Trudeau
Franco Mazzariello
Mario Pietrangelo
Sonia Pecora
Carmie Lato
Cynthia Dudley
Mario Bentrovato
Tony Speranza
Giovanni Goffredo
Joanne Charron
Antoine Fecteau
Carlo Peruch
Anthony Cristofaro
Stephen Hudon
Richard Berger
Milan Cardone
Todd Roberts

PRESENT: West Sector

Carlyle
Cedarcrest
Coronation
Dunrae Gardens
Gardenview
Hampstead
Merton
Royal Vale
Royal West
St. Gabriel
Westmount Park
Westmount
Willingdon
Serena Caplette
Raymond Ayas
Hannu Jailos
Joseph Bondi
Daniel Tatone
Felipe Morales
Stacey Kaufman
Mark Ellenbogen
Norm Gharibian
Mubeenah Mughal
Sophie Antippa
George Szatmari
Suzanne de Jonge

ACES
Isabelle Baas

Regrets/Absent: East Sector

Bancroft
Dalkeith
FACE
Honore Mercier
John Paul I
Lester B. Pearson
Michelangelo
Philip E. Layton
Pierre E. Trudeau
Sinclair Laird
St. Raphael

Alex Quiterio
Patty Smyth
Alyssa Kuzmarov
Joseph Di Liello
Francesco Fortugno
Benny Berneti
Pietro Mercuri
Ann Gagnon
Marie-Helene Bedard
Jahangir Kabir
Kelly De Pooter

Regrets/Absent: West Sector

Edinburgh
Elizabeth Ballantyne
James Lyng
Laurenhill
Marymount
Roslyn
St. Monica
Parkdale
Erin Matheson
Marc Laforest
Karen Abecassis
Adriano Miele
Sherlyn Figueira
Michelle Grigat
Andrew Ross
No GB

Also Present: Ann Marie Matheson, Director General
Evelyn Alfonsi, Regional Director, East Sector
Pela Nickoletopoulos, Regional Director, West Sector
Brigida Sellato, Communications Consultant, EMSB

Observers: Marietta Damiano, Parent/GB member, Dalkeith

Guest: Directors of Service from the Head Office

1. WELCOME

The chair welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 7:03 pm.

2. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

It was moved by Sonia Pecora, seconded by Norm Gharibian and resolved that the agenda be approved with the following addition;

6.3. Nurses & Social Workers

Vote: 34-0-0

Motion Carried

2.1 PRESENTATION: EMSB ANNUAL REPORT

Sandra Furfaro, Director of Educational Services and Michael Cohen, Communications Specialist presented the EMSB annual report to the membership.

2.2 PRESENTATION: BUDGET BUILDING PROCESS

It was moved by Norm Gharibian, seconded by Isabelle Baas that the item be tabled for February's agenda.

Vote: 34-0-0

Motion Carried

3. FIRST QUESTION PERIOD

Hannu Jailos asked about receiving a copy of the paper Dr. Christopher Haug was researching last year. Brigida Sellato said she is in contact with him and he has not completely his thesis yet but he has said he will share it once completed.

4. ADOPTION OF MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON DECEMBER 1, 2016

It was moved by Felipe Morales, seconded by Isabelle Baas and resolved that the minutes be adopted with a correction to the question period.

Vote: 25-0-9

Motion Carried

5. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

5.1 CONFIRMATION: EPCA DELEGATE (2 MIN)

A) DELEGATE- 2 YEAR TERM

B) DELEGATE- 1 YEAR TERM

Suzanne de Jonge advised everyone following a discussion with the CPC Executive and Isabelle Baas that she, Suzanne, would be taking the 2 year position and Isabelle would take the 1 year position on EPCA.

5.2 UPDATE: INTERNAL RULES

Stephen Hudon advised members that they are almost complete with the revisions of the internal rules and for the February meeting they will bring the completed rules. Ann Marie Matheson informed the sub-committee that if they would like a lawyer to review the rules for synchronization with the education act and other laws she would help them out.

5.3 UPDATE: SOCIAL MEDIA

There is no new update but the chair would like to thank Cynthia Dudley for updating the CPC facebook page.

5.4 DISCUSSION: RPC MEMBERSHIP

Following a brief discussion on the structure of the CPC; it was moved by Sonia Pecora, seconded by Giovanni Goffredo to keep the status quo for the CPC membership only.

Vote: 19-14-1

Motion Carried

5.5 UPDATE: STRATEGIC PLAN FOR CPC 2016-2017 (5 MIN)

The chair mentioned that the structure is part of the CPC strategic plan and can be discussed within a sub-committee. Plans are moving forward for each item that was discussed at the last meeting.

6. NEW BUSINESS

6.1 PARENT CONFERENCE

Norm Gharibian updated members that plans have begun to organize a parent conference. A steering committee needs to be established to put ideas together, i.e. venue, workshops, dates, presenters. Administrations has accepted to help CPC with the planning of the conference

It was moved by Sonia Pecora, seconded by Norm Gharibian that CPC strike a steering committee for the organization of the parent conference and that Norm Gharibian be its chair.

Vote: 32-0-2

Motion Carried

Volunteers to the committee, Joanne Charron, Giovanni Goffredo, Sonia Pecora, Serena Capplette, Carlo Peruch, Suzanne de Jonge and Benny Berneti (via email).

Mark Ellenbogen offered his assistance if they need help with mental health issues for workshops.

6.2 HISTORY CURRICULUM RESOLUTION

Isabelle Baas read the letter from the English Parents Committee Association (EPCA) regarding their position on the history curriculum. EPCA is asking each Parents' Committee for their endorsement.

It was moved by Isabelle Baas seconded by Sophie Antippa and resolved that the Central Parents' Committee of the EMSB endorse the letter from EPCA with respect to their position on the History Curriculum.

Vote: 26-1-7

Motion Carried

6.3. NURSES & SOCIAL WORKERS

Giovanni Goffredo is concerned with the lack of nurses and social workers at the schools.

Ann Marie Matheson informed the members that the CSSS recently restructured their Health network and cut some services but she will ask Ms. Alfonsi to look into LINKS as they are a special needs school.

7. COMMITTEE REPORTS

7A REGIONAL COMMITTEES REPORTS

East: topics discussed were ideas for fundraising, internal rules, French programs and purchasing power at the school level.

9:01 pm L. Saragosa left

West: topics discussed were the internal rules and the members asked for the alternates to receive the documentation and that their agenda and minutes be posted on the website.

9:14 pm A. Fiorino & F. Morales left

7B PARENT COMMISSIONER REPORT

The parent commissioners will have the right to vote at the next meeting. Topics discussed were the annual report, building maintenance allocations, the history program, change orders and HR negotiations.

7C TREASURERS REPORT

Balance of 9,840.00\$

7D EPCA REPORT

Looking at a standardized governing board training. New Frontiers spoke to their new sex education program being piloted and there was presentation from LEARN Quebec.

Isabelle Baas asked if the EMSB could publish the usernames and password for the students for LEARN on their report card as the service is not being used to full capacity and a lot of parents are not aware of their child's password. Ann Marie Matheson will look into it.

9:25 pm M. Bentrovato left

8. BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

8A. EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Topics discussed were the new entente with the Italian Association, article 240 renewal for Royal Vale and Vincent Massey and the History Program.

8B. EDUCATIONAL POLICIES COMMITTEE

The meeting was a social.

8C. FINANCE COMMITTEE

See report from Hannu Jailos.

8D. ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON ADULT EDUCATION AND VOCATIONAL SERVICES (AEVS)

There was no meeting

8E. ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON SPECIAL EDUCATION SERVICES (ACSES)

There was no meeting.

8F. ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

There was no meeting

9. CORRESPONDENCE

There was no correspondence.

10. SECOND QUESTION PERIOD

There were no questions.

11. DATE OF NEXT REGULAR MEETING

February 2, 2017 @ 7:00 pm @ John F. Kennedy High School.

DATE OF NEXT EXECUTIVE MEETING

January 19, 2017 @ 7:30 pm @ Administration Building.

12. ADJOURNMENT

It was moved by Joanne Charron, seconded by Carmie Lato, that the meeting be adjourned at 9:30 pm.

Vote: 30-0-0

Motion Carried

Suzanne de Jonge
Chair

Brigida Sellato
Communications Consultant/Secretary

Quebec's Secondary Three & Four History Curriculum: In Need of Change

In the Spring of 2016 Quebec's Liberal Government announced it would be implementing a reform to the province's secondary 3 and 4 History curriculum that had been initiated by the previous PQ Government. Ostensibly this reform was intended to address what was widely recognized as a structural problem with the program that many felt was causing undue confusion for students: namely the thematic rather than chronological approach of the current secondary four program. However, thanks to lobbying efforts of *La Coalition pour l'histoire* – an organization founded and financed by some of the most conservative elements of Quebec's nationalist movement – this reform came to be about far more than changes to the program's structure. It became about changing the content of the course to reflect the narrow ideological views of *La Coalition pour l'histoire* and its supporters.

What We Are Asking For

- **First and foremost, we want a curriculum whose content acknowledges the complexity and diversity of Quebec society and challenges students to develop critical thinking skills in examining historical events.** A curriculum that seeks to indoctrinate students with a simplistic ideologically driven narrative is an insult to the intelligence of students and a disservice to society as a whole. To be clear, we are not asking to replace one narrow ideological vision of history with another. This is not about replacing a sovereigntist narrative with a federalist one or a conservative narrative with a liberal one. Conservative nationalist perspectives have a place in the telling of Quebec's history. But they, like other important currents of thought, should be presented as that, perspectives, not the defining narrative.
- **We want a curriculum that addresses Indigenous History as noted in items 62, 63 and 64 of the Calls to Action made by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC).** The current reform has ignored these recommendations. We also want a curriculum that reflects the current scholarship on Indigenous history which reveals the active role of Indigenous people in shaping North American history in every historical period, rather than portraying them merely as hapless and passive victims of colonization. Achieving these goals will require extensive consultation with Indigenous communities and scholars at every step of the curriculum development process.
- **We want a curriculum that acknowledges the struggles and positive contributions of Quebec's various ethnic minority and local communities.** Students need to learn about the over 4,000 Black and Indigenous people enslaved in Quebec during the French regime, about the struggles against discrimination faced by Jewish, Italian and Greek immigrants during the early waves of immigration, about the more recent efforts to welcome refugees fleeing war and oppression in places like Vietnam, Lebanon, Chile, Haiti or Syria. The history of Quebec's Black community also needs to be integrated into the curriculum rather than leaving it to be taught at the discretion of individual teachers. The current curriculum has completely omitted the historical contributions of its minority communities. No community that has contributed to the development of Quebec society should be rendered invisible or demonized.

- **We want a curriculum that acknowledges the diversity of Quebec's Anglophone community and its positive contributions to Quebec society.** Students need to know that the majority of Quebec Anglophones were not elites living in the Golden Square Mile. Many were working class Irish who suffered untold indignities at the hands of the British merchant class. Some, as in the 1837 rebellions, even worked hand in hand with Francophones resisting British authority. Still others, such as the Anglophone women who participated in the beginnings of Quebec's feminist movement made significant positive contributions to making Quebec a more egalitarian society. The current curriculum reduces Quebec's Anglophone community to a monolithic block of elites intent on impeding the society's progress at every turn.
- **We want a curriculum that acknowledges the important developments in Quebec's history that have been motivated by progressive political values.** Students need to learn about the Parent Report, the resistance to Duplessis led by individuals like Georges-Henri Levesque and institutions like the Cité Libre journal and the inclusive nationalism of René Levesque. The current curriculum omits this progressive history and instead offers a very conservative vision of Quebec's history where, for example, even widely reviled figures like Maurice Duplessis are recast as defenders of Quebec's autonomy.

What We Are Not Asking For

In order for the aim of this statement to be 100% clear and transparent we will outline some things that we are not asking for, so as to avoid any confusion.

- **We are not asking for the 'denationalization' of the program.** References to the Quebec nation and various forms of national consciousness existed in the program prior to this reform and should continue to do so.
- **We are not asking for the program's focus to be anything other than Quebec's Francophone majority.** To say that we want a program that is inclusive of ethnic minorities and Indigenous communities does not mean that we want them to be given equal weight to the Francophone majority.
- In suggesting that the diversity and positive contributions of the Anglophone community be acknowledged **we are not in any way suggesting that the various negative actions of the British Regime and the English merchant class should be omitted or minimized.**

What We Are Asking of The Government of Quebec

- **We are asking The Government of Quebec to work with school boards and key stakeholders to immediately produce supplemental pedagogical materials.** These would address the most glaring omissions in the new curriculum. The Precisions of Learning curriculum document and Ministry exams would need to be updated to include this material.
- **This would be a stop-gap measure until a process of public consultations could be held that would allow Quebec's various communities to offer their input.** The aim of this consultation would be to develop a new inclusive History curriculum with new textbooks and pedagogical resources for teachers.

Further Reading (in chronological order)

- Gervais, Lisa-Marie. "[Enseignement De L'histoire - Bisbille Autour D'un Comité Ministériel.](#)" *Le Devoir*. N.p., 06 Mar. 2013. Web. 05 Aug. 2016.
- Proulx, Lise, Pierre Beaudoin, Daniel Rouillard, and Sylvain Decelles. "[La Réplique > Comité Ministériel Sur L'enseignement De L'histoire - Pour Un Enseignement De L'histoire Au Service De La Pensée Critique.](#)" *Le Devoir*. N.p., 07 Mar. 2013. Web. 05 Aug. 2016.
- Cardin, Jean-François. "[De La Supposée «dénationalisation» Des Programmes D'histoire.](#)" *Le Devoir*. N.p., 11 Mar. 2013. Web. 05 Aug. 2016.
- Gervais, Lisa-Marie. "[Un Cours D'histoire Trop «orienté» Au Goût Des Profs.](#)" *Le Devoir*. N.p., 30 Nov. 2013. Web. 10 Nov. 2016.
- Gervais, Lisa-Marie. "[Vers Un Nouveau Cours D'histoire Nationale Au Secondaire.](#)" *Le Devoir*. N.p., 27 Feb. 2014. Web. 05 Aug. 2016.
- "[Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada: Calls to Action.](#)" *Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada*. Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada, May 2015. Web. 11 Oct. 2016.
- Commins, John. "[Proposed New Quebec History Course Gives Minorities Short Shrift.](#)" *Montreal Gazette*. N.p., 10 Mar. 2016. Web. 10 Nov. 2016.
- Shingler, Benjamin. "[New Quebec High School History Course Called out for Lack of Diversity.](#)" *CBCnews*. CBC/Radio Canada, 10 Mar. 2016. Web. 20 Sept. 2016.
- Shingler, Benjamin. "[Minorities, First Nations Should Play Greater Role in Quebec History Course, Critics Say.](#)" *CBCnews*. CBC/Radio Canada, 13 May 2016. Web. 05 Aug. 2016.
- Green, Robert. "[Opinion: Quebec's Non-inclusive New History Curriculum Is a Missed Opportunity.](#)" *Montreal Gazette*. N.p., 31 May 2016. Web. 20 Sept. 2016.
- Cloutier, Patricia. "[Un Nouveau cours D'histoire Qui Divise.](#)" *Le Soleil*. N.p., 15 Aug. 2016. Web. 10 Nov. 2016.
- Cardin, Jean-François, Marc-André Éthier, David Lefrancois, and Michel P. Trudeau. "[Inepties Et Faussetés Concernant L'enseignement De L'histoire.](#)" *La Presse*. N.p., 20 Aug. 2016. Web. 11 Oct. 2016.
- Green, Robert. "[Quebec's Rotten History Curriculum Is Fault of Both PQ and Liberals.](#)" *Ricochet*. N.p., 30 Aug. 2016. Web. 20 Sept. 2016.
- Nadeau, Jessica. "[Le Nouveau Cours D'histoire Déplaît Aux écoles Anglophones.](#)" *Le Devoir*. N.p., 05 Nov. 2016. Web. 10 Nov. 2016.

About the Committee That Initiated This Statement

This statement was initiated by the Committee for the Enhancement of the Curriculum of History in Quebec (ComECH-Quebec), an ad hoc committee created by the English Parents' Committees Association (EPCA), Quebec Anglophone Heritage Network (QAHN) and the Quebec Federation of Home and School Associations (QFHSA).

**Report to the Central Parents Committee on January 12, 2017
Finance Committee Meeting December 7, 2016**

The Committee approved the following items and recommended their approval by Council:

1. 2017-2018 Budget Building Process document and the timetable for the consultations
2. Public Call for Tender for External Auditing Services for 3 years starting with 2016-2017
3. EMSB participation in the CGTSIM Co-Operative Purchasing System for 2017-2018; the estimated savings for EMSB in 2015-2016 was about \$227,000
4. Canada Quebec Entente for French Second Language Training Budget for 2016-2017: \$275,700 + \$218,760 roll-overs from the prior year for 1,563 out of province students
5. Budget Increases:
 - a. \$165,000 for HVAC cleaning that was not completed by June 2016

There was a presentation on the distribution of EMSB athletic grants for secondary and outreach schools totaling \$70,000 for 2016-2017. The EMSB pays for GMAA membership and registration for all schools and allocates a base \$2,000 per secondary school + an amount based on the participation in the prior year (2014-2015 in this case because of teacher tactics last year).

Observers were excluded from an in-camera session on proposed school renovation projects.

Respectfully submitted,
Hannu Jailos, CPC Observer
Also on behalf of Sophie Antippa, CPC Observer