Commission scolaire English-Montréal

English Montreal School Board

Meeting #04 2012/2013

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE CENTRAL PARENTS' COMMITTEE
HELD AT LAURIER MACDONALD HIGH SCHOOL, 7355 VIAU AVE., ST-LEONARD
ON THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2013 AT 7:00 P.M.

A meeting of the Central Parents' Committee held at Laurier Macdonald High School on Thursday, February 7, 2013 at 7:15 p.m.

Members of the Committee

Present:	Region 1:	Mario Bentrovato Ron Lee Latchman Patrick Marcovecchio Pietro Mercuri Frank Reda Laura Saragosa
	Region 2:	Angie Bertone Teresa Cocullo-Scotto Teresa Gullo Ilgin Sartekin George Varelas
	Region 3:	David Benoit Debra Fogel Hannu Jailos Andrew Ross
Regrets	Region 1:	Gail Giannakas
	Region 2:	Patricia Willis Joseph Karadakis
	Region 3:	Nijad Dahdah Margaret Amos Kurtis Law
	ACSES:	Liz Arnot

Absent:

Also Present:

Roma Medwid, Deputy Director General
Luigi Di Filippo, Director, ITS - EMSB
John Nicolopoulos, Director, Buildings & Grounds - EMSB
Brigida Sellato, Communications Consultant, EMSB
Mona Kamel, Executive Secretary, EMSB

1. OPENING REMARKS

The chair called the meeting to order at 7:15 p.m. and welcomed the guests for coming to present to the CPC.

2. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

It was moved by Ilgin Sartekin, seconded by Debra Fogel and unanimously resolved that the agenda be approved with the following addition;

4.5 Internal Rules- Question Period

Vote: 15-0-0 **Motion Carried**

2.1 IT SERVICES PRESENTATION – LUIGI DI FILLIPPO, DIRECTOR OF ITS

Mr. Di Filippo presented to the CPC members the responses to the questions that were asked via email from Nijad Dahdah on the situation for APPLE computers and IPADS.

Questions from N. Dahdah

At a previous CPC meeting, I recall you mentioning that MELS has an "embargo" on the purchase of Apple products (I-pads, I-tablets, etc). You said that MELS wants to have open competition among the suppliers. and if the EMSB buys an apple product (I-tablet for example), then MELS will refund a portion of the cost equal to the cost of equivalent but cheaper product.

- Does this policy apply to PC's and Laptops as well?

I also recall that the EMSB prefers that their schools buy PC's and Laptops from the same supplier which results in lower price due to larger volume and also better service plan for the computers.

- What is the EMSB vision for the IT hardware in this year and the coming year?
- My final question relates to the latest three year plan 2012-2015. At least for one school, Elizabeth Ballantyne School (where I am a member of the Governing Board) the number of students shown for the 2012-2013 is incorrect. It is showing 207 students where in fact there were 243 students registered as of Sept 30, 2012. It is an increase from the previous year 2011-2012 and that affects the projection for the years 2013-2014 and 2014-2015 which should show an increase not a decrease.

Response

Mr. Di Filippo stated that the Treasurer Board has an embargo on all APPLE products, therefore we cannot buy any further Apple products. There is currently no other company that sells APPLE products which means that the Board cannot go to tender for large purchases. In order to purchase from APPLE the Board must complete a business case defining why we order from APPLE. This extends to all APPLE technologies, except IPhones.

For computers, as long as they are windows based we can purchase them for schools, but they have the supported elements. Any donated computers need to follow the same criteria, they must be the brand the Board purchases.

The long term plan for the Board is to upgrade the WIFI system to accommodate more, this involves changes to the infrastructure which will take 24 to 36 months.

The population numbers for the Three Year Plan is based on the current programs used by the Board (Lumix, JADE, GPI). Those numbers are corrected and updated by the principals.

2.2 PRESENTATION ON SAFETY – JOHN NICOLOPOULOS, DIRECTOR OF B&G

Mr. Nicolopoulos presented to the members the safety measures that Buildings & grounds has undertaken over the past years, which include; installing cameras, buzzers and door contacts, in Elementary, High Schools and Adult Education. They have also updated and repaired intercom systems in the administration office of the schools and centres. The same will be done for all daycares.

The High Schools are looking at installing cameras in specific areas.
The projects will cost approximately one million dollars and are completed by the phase approach and attributed to those schools that have none first.

The changing of all old doors are prioritized for those schools that need it most. A firm has designed the doors which are tamper free making them uniform throughout the Board. Buildings & Grounds has put aside funds for a period of 3 years for these projects and they are currently in phase 3 of the project.

There are annual inspections done for fire detectors, fire panels, sprinklers and extinguishers. Inspection are also conducted by CSST of all schools for safety repairs – a report is issued to the principal and B&G. The air quality tests are done depending on the situation.

3. ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON JANUARY 10, 2013

It was moved by Teresa Cocullo-Scotto, seconded by George Varelas and resolved that the minutes from the meeting be approved as presented.

Vote: 12-0-3 **Motion Carried**

4. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

4.1 SCHOOL SAFETY – UPDATE

The CPC members received updates on all the changes and actions regarding the safety at the schools. The training for lock downs will continue this year. The Vice chair asked that this issue of safety become not only school based but a community situation, getting everyone involved in keeping students safe. He also asked that anyone bring their concerns to their principal.

4.2 ACCOMMODATION FOR HANDICAP STUDENTS DURING PROVINCIAL EXAMS-UPDATE

The Board has sent out questionnaires to the schools to find out how many students require assistance for exams. MELS is looking into implementing software for the students as they feel that scribes influence the students. The item is still being discussed and Roma Medwid will bring more information to the next meeting.

4.3 MEETING WITH COMMISSIONERS - UPDATE

The chair received an email from the chairman regarding the scheduled joint meeting on February 19th. The meeting has been postponed due to an invitation that was sent to her regarding Hockey dans la rue**.**

The members felt that all the meetings up until this point have been rejected. The members agreed that they should propose questions at the next Council meeting regarding setting 2 fixed dates for joint meetings with CPC and Council, one at the beginning of the year and the second in March. The Chair will submit the questions for the next meeting.

4.4 EPCA DISCUSSION

An invitation was received from the president of EPCA to have representation from EMSB at the next meeting. That member would be able to speak and sit at the table but would not be able to vote. The members agreed to send Andrew Ross to attend the meeting.

The members also discussed having the FCPQ and EPCA delegates come to speak to the members about their respective groups.

It was moved by Frank Reda, seconded by Angie Bertone and unanimously resolved that CPC extend an invitation to the FCPQ to come and speak at the next CPC meeting in March.

Vote: 15-0-0 **Motion Carried**

It was moved by Frank Reda, seconded by Ron Lee Latchman and unanimously resolved that CPC extend an invitation to EPCA to come and speak at the CPC meeting in April.

Vote: 15-0-0 **Motion Carried**

4.5 INTERNAL RULES- QUESTION PERIOD

In light of the recent resolution passed by CPC requesting the Council to move up the public question period, Andrew Ross asked the members to have the question period on the CPC agenda moved and reflect that change in the internal rules under section 6.4.1.

After a brief discussion, it was moved by Frank Reda, seconded by Hannu Jailos and resolved that CPC have two question periods one at the beginning of the agenda and one at the end so that the public has a chance to ask questions.

Vote: 14-1-0 **Motion Carried**

It was moved by Andrew Ross, seconded by David Benoit and resolved that CPC add to their internal rules under section 6.4.1; the Public Question Period section on the agenda will take place after the approval of the agenda and a second public question period will take place at the end of the agenda.

Vote: 14-1-0 **Motion Carried**

5. **PUBLIC QUESTION PERIOD**

There were no questions.

6. NEW BUSINESS

6.1 CONSULTATION: 240 STATUS NEW HIGH SCHOOL

The members discussed and asked Roma Medwid questions on the process that took place to request 240 status.

After a brief discussion, it was moved by Andrew Ross, seconded by Hannu Jailos and resolved that the Article 240 status for the proposed new high school in Cote St. Luc be accepted as presented.

Vote: 10-3-2 **Motion Carried**

6.2 CONSULTATION: 240 STATUS RENEWAL ROYAL VALE

It was moved by Angie Bertone, seconded by Frank Reda and unanimously resolved that the Article 240 status for Royal Vale School be accepted and renewed as presented.

Vote: 15-0-0 **Motion Carried**

Hannu Jailos asked questions on the document that was distributed. Brigida Sellato will send the questions to Athina Galanogeorgos, who is in charge of the dossier and report back to CPC.

(these are the questions and answers)

1) Should it not read on page 2 at the top Specific Project Status for renewal 2013-2014 and not 2012-2013?

- The year indicated is the year the request for renewal is taking place.

2) On page 16 why did the staff council approve before the GB, the letter is dated December 3rd and the other letters are dated after wards on the 10th?

- Mme Lacroix presented the request for renewal to her Staff Council before going to GB in order to make sure that the staff was on board with the proposal.
  Since GB met after SC, their resolution was signed on a later date. Had GB indicated any concerns or objections, it would have gone back to SC for further discussion and then brought back to GB. Since that was not the case and everyone was in agreement the resolutions were sent to us with the approval of both GB and SC as required by MELS.
  The renewal process is quite lengthy and detailed. Time is of the essence given the channels these documents have to go through in order to be submitted to MELS by the deadline.

6.3 POLICY ON THE MAINTENANCE OR CLOSURE OF SCHOOLS/CENTRES-CONSULTATION

The members started a discussion on the changes to the policy. The removal of the section indicating that CPC will receive the briefs was something that CPC had

fought for in order to be a true better partner with the Board. CPC feels that they should receive the briefs at the time when council receives them in order to make an informed decision for their brief.

Further discussion and recommendations was tabled to the next meeting.

6.4 VOLUNTEER AD/SPONSORSHIP 2013

It was moved by Angie Bertone, seconded by Frank Reda and resolved that the CPC will sponsor 500$ to the 2013 Volunteer Event and receive a full page ad in the program book.

Vote: 13-2-0 **Motion Carried**

7. COMMITTEE REPORTS

7A. REGIONAL COMMITTEE REPORTS

There were no reports.

7B. PARENT COMMISSIONERS' REPORT

There was no report.

7C. TREASURER'S REPORT

The current balance is $8,394.59.

7D. GREEN COMMITTEE

See attached report from Kurtis Law.

8. BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

8A. EDUCATION COMMITTEE

See attached report from David Benoit and Teresa Cocullo-Scotto.

8B. EDUCATIONAL POLICIES COMMITTEE

No report.

8C. FINANCE & LEGISLATION COMMITTEE

The January meeting was cancelled.

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

See attached report from Kurtis Law.

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

See attached report from Liz Arnot.

8F. ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

No report.

9. CORRESPONDENCE

The chair received letters regarding the responses to the budget building process and the major school changes policy consultation.

10. VARIA

11. DATE OF NEXT REGULAR MEETING –Thursday, March 14, 2013 at Laurier Macdonald
DATE OF NEXT EXECUTIVE MEETING –

12. ADJOURNMENT

On motion by Angie Bertone and seconded by Frank Reda, that the meeting be adjourned at 10:00 PM.

Pietro Mercuri Chairperson	Mona Kamel Secretary

EDUCATION COMMITTEE MEETING
Wednesday, February 6, 2013 at 5:00pm at the EMSB

ERC/Sex Ed/Professional Development - Mrs. DaSilva (sp?)

- Ethics: provide support and guidance to teachers
- Sex Ed: participation in the "sex o clique" initiative from MELS, to launch at the end of April to target ELA, Science and Sex Education teachers. Concerns over changes to the delivery of the Sex Ed program from MELS was expressed. The general sentiment was that specialized programs should be encouraged in addition to any enhancements to the general curriculum.

Physical Education & Health – Mrs. Farn (sp?)

- Support approximately 100 teachers
- 10 of 14 high-schools (soon to be 11) have new fitness centres to aid in the promotion of physical fitness and healthy living
- Support the organization of 264 sports teams under the GMAA

Homeschooling – Mrs. Magny (sp?)

- A total of 10 home-schooled students are registered and supported by the EMSB; 3 high-school and 7 elementary.
- Support comes in the form of general guidance and space for standard testing
- 33 requests were made in August, with the majority guided through the process of attaining English eligibility and registering with the EMSB, or deciding to register with a private school.
- If the LEARN virtual high-school is launched, any home-schooled children registered with the EMSB who are also associated with it may be eligible for funding.

Information related to the annual 240 status application for Royal Vale School was presented. No significant changes from the previous year were noted.

A summary of Professional Development and Innovation grants for 2012-2013 was presented. A total of $23000 was awarded to a number of different Professional Development projects, and $8500 for Innovation projects.

A summary of Culture in the Schools Projects for 2012-2013 was presented. A total of $75000 was awarded to a number of different projects.

The evaluation of the Balanced Literacy Initiative for Year Three (2011-2012) was presented. Factors related to the overall success rates reported were explained.

Mrs. Frankel distributed information regarding the UNICEF Rights Respecting Schools program.

A workshop is being held in March and more schools are encouraged to participate

A concern was raised by Mrs. Frankel that the recent reduction in class size limits is not being reflected in the classroom. A discussion surrounding the different factors that contributes to the timing at which any decrease will be seen.

Respectfully submitted by David Benoit and Teresa Cocullo-Scotto February 8, 2013

Reports Compiled For CPC
By Kurtis Law

Green Committee
January 15, 2013
A meeting of the green committee was held on Jan 15th to which I was not notified so I did not attend. I spoke with the committee chair Ms. Ginette Sauve-Frankel at my Governing Board Meeting to inquire as to why I received no notice. She stated that she did not receive papers informing her of my election and my contact information. I have sent her an email with my contact information and I will receive future notices.

AEVS (Adult Education Vocational Services)
Noting to report as there was no meeting.

Palatucci Committee
The agenda was limited to two updates on the school, one by School Administrator Mr. Steven Erdelyi regards the "name the school" online poll; in which 3 names were selected to be sent to council for final

selection, and also, there was discussion as to whether the school will be a High school or academy they preferred to use academy to distinguish it from the other schools in the building, although I feel that the term academy suggests more of an elite status so as to attract greater interest amongst the local community in Cote St Luc. The Three names submitted for consideration are as follows in order of preference; 1) Raoul Wallenberg, 2) Mordecai Richler, and 3) Irving Layton. Whichever name is selected the last name of the individual will be used followed by Academy. There was discussion as to the prospective number of students they expect will register (between 60 and 70 students) and this number was included in the 240 application forwarded to MELS.

The committee also looked at time allocation regards the use of the gym and whether to use a 9 or 10 day schedule. John Grant indicated their preference for a 10 day schedule which they feel would be more accommodating for the two schools. The committee expects to have an info night at the school in the spring for those interested and will post this on the school web site. At the same time they will be working on the development of a school logo, its program, and the school's "colors" for approval by the committee at a future meeting. As to the capacity of the building they indicated they will determine this by a Mels formula and a building capacity formula the board uses.
By March 31, 2013 the committee will submit the enrollment criteria to the board and council in which there will be 2 classes composed of a total of 60 - 70 students.
This could result in two classes of 30 – 35 students exceeding the class size stipulated by the government which requires that classes have no more than 22 students, and in violation of the teacher's collective agreement regards student- teacher ratios.

Mrs. Sandra Furfaro updated the committee on the 240 status of the school in which she reported that she has heard nothing from Mels and will keep the committee informed when she hears from Mels.

Meeting times were discussed and it was agreed to have meetings later in the evening (6:00 - 6:30) to accommodate parent members so they could be present at meetings.

Mr. Wise gave a brief on the presentation he gave to CPC, and I asked if he would be willing to present to the regions if they were interested, he agreed.

I have attached the notes of Committee member Stuart Nulman to provide further information.

Notes – Palatucci Task Force Meeting #6/ Wednesday, January 16, 2013/Room 410

Present were: Syd Wise, Robert Stocker, Joseph Lalla, Paola Miniaci, Sandra Furfaro, Cynthia Dudley, Bernie Praw, Liz Arnott, Kurtis Law, Luigi Di Filippo, Tanya Abramovitch, Steven Erdelyi

Meeting convenes at 3:15 p.m.

Syd welcomes Kurtis Law of the Central Parents' Committee to today's meeting; he is attending on behalf of Peter Mercuri, who is unable to attend.
Minutes from the October 24, 2012 meeting are approved.

Update: Steven Erdelyi: Steven Erdelyi reported that the internet poll period to name the new school concluded on December 1. The web page in which the public was invited to vote for their preferred name was recently reformatted to include comments. He then gave the task force a hand out which broke down the results of the voting. There were four established names that the public could vote for (Parkhaven, Wagar, Cote St. Luc and Raoul Wallenberg), along with name choices that were "write-ins". Out of 672 votes that were received on the name the school website, "Wagar" received the most votes with 186, followed by Mordecai Richler (120), Parkhaven (75), Raoul Wallenberg (71), Irving Layton (69), Cote St. Luc (56) and Irwin Cotler (11). Also, by a slim six-vote margin (339 to 333), voters preferred calling the school a "high school" over an "academy." The hand out also featured a selection of the 223 comments that were received by the website from voters and parents of potential students, and capsule backgrounders behind the potential school names that received the most votes.

Bernie Praw mentions the next steps towards finalizing the school's name. The school's governing board has to give three name choices to the Central Parents' Committee, which will do a search to see if there are other schools that have these specific names. After that, the recommendations go to the Education and Facilities Committee. After that, they give their recommendations to the board.

In absence of the new school's governing board, the task force then discuss their preferred choices for the school name and why. They decide to eliminate the names Cote St. Luc, Irwin Cotler and Parkhaven from the shortlist. Syd then goes around the table and asks each task force member for their final choice of a school name. Nine members vote for Raoul Wallenberg, two for Mordecai Richler; the task force then agrees that the three names for the shortlist will be Raoul Wallenberg, Mordecai Richler and Irving Layton, and they

agree that the school will be deemed as an “academy”.

Mr. Erdelyi then continued with his update. He reported that he recently spoke with the principal of John Grant High School about the matter that there is no phys. Ed. class in the morning block, whether it be on a 10 or nine-day cycle. He feels that if a phys. ed. class is placed in the morning block, it will not affect either cycle.

He also said that the next steps for the task force are the final approval of the school name, the introduction of a school logo and uniform, development of the school curriculum and a sample schedule, as well as organizing an information night sometime in April or May. Luigi Di Filippo suggested that for the logo, the task force should check out the website www.99designs.com, which will custom design a logo for $150 and has a turnover time of two weeks. Paola suggested that it should be up to the parents to determine the school colors.

Update: Sandra Furfaro: Sandra reports that at last month’s council of commissioners meeting, the commissioners voted to approve the Section 240 application that will be sent to MELS, and now she is waiting for MELS’ response to the matter. She also wants to see if schools in the Commission Scolaire de Montreal (CSDM) have applied for Section 240. Liz Arnott asked if the space issue was considered in the EMSB’s Section 240 application, especially when it comes to over capacity. Paola said that she has visited the Palatucci Facility with John Grant principal James Fequet, and assured him that the new school will not touch any of the rooms that are being used by John Grant, and all three schools will have maximum use of the building.

Meeting Times: Liz Arnott told the task force that because there have been no consistency when it comes to meeting times for the task force, she suggested that subsequent meetings be held during the evening, so it would be more convenient for the John Grant representatives. Syd agreed, and Bernie suggested that future meetings start at 5:30 or 6 p.m., in which a light supper (pizza) would be served beforehand. The task force agreed that the meetings be held on Tuesday or Thursday.

Other Business: Liz raised the issue of the school’s web site, in particular the issue of the visibility of John Grant and Marymount Adult Centre, which she believes should be placed on the homepage, which in turn would be a good opportunity to promote both schools and the concept of cohabitation. Steven said that there have been some discussions on the matter, and both sides have agreed to disagree. He thinks that the website should be selling the parents on what makes the school attractive to them, such as proximity to the aquatics centre and the Moskovtich Arena. However, it was suggested that maybe another box or link dealing with cohabitation be placed on the homepage. Luigi said that once the school name has been finalized and approved (which should be sometime at the end of February), the web address and website will have to be restructured.

Liz also raised concerns about the publicity the Palatucci Facility received recently as a result of the issue of naming the school after Mordecai Richler or Irving Layton. This was especially so when it came to security concerns, as some media outlets were allowed into the building to conduct interviews without prior notice or approval. She suggested that in the future, media interviews should not take place inside the building. Syd replies that the school administration be informed of any media interest before the fact and any media involvement take place in an area of the building away from the John Grant section of the facility and its students.

Luigi said that ITS should get involved as soon as possible with discussions regarding the technical implementations for the school (i.e., costs, timeline, needs, etc.).

Kurtis raised a question about future staffing ratios.

Mr. Stocker said that the school’s enrolment criteria and minimum requirements must be determined by the March board meeting, so that the registration process can get started. The task force agreed that between 60-75 student registrations for two classes (Secondary 1 and 2) will be accepted.

Syd closed the meeting by expressing his appreciation for the input given to the task force by Mr. Stocker, Roma Medwid, Paola Miniaci and Sandra Furfaro. He added that he was pleased with the work Steven Erdelyi has done, which he believes has established a blueprint on how to start a new school.

Meeting adjourns at 4:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Stuart Nulman

Advisory Committee on Special Education Services (ACSES)
Report for CPC - February 6th, 2013

ACSES met on January 9, 2012 and completed the budget building process consultation that began on December 3, 2012. ACSES ranked speech and language pathologists, occupational therapists, and behaviour management therapists as its top three resources. This ranking is the same as that for the previous year, and it reflects the focus ACSES perceives that the EMSB should put on increasing these professional services.

Regarding the Palatucci Task Force, there was discussion about the consultation with CPC regarding the Article 240 status application made by the EMSB on behalf of the proposed mainstream high school in CSL.

A number of problems with the documents supporting the 240 status application were noted:
1) The capacities for John Grant High School (JG) and Marymount Adult Education Centre (MAEC) stated in documents accompanying the 240-status application are incorrect.

i) The Long Range Planning (LRP) document for the Three-Year Plan presented to council in Dec. 2010 in support of this consultation states that the capacity for John Grant in Palatucci is 250 regular students or 160 special education students (because special education students are in lower ratio classes).

ii) The capacity for MAEC stated in the documents supporting the 240 status application is stated as 440, which is much lower than the 600 capacity stated in the LRP documents. Neither number takes into consideration any calculation for the special needs adults in MAEC's Social Integration Services day program; there are close to 100 students in this SIS program. There are also regular day students at MAEC, plus adults in the evening courses.

2) The Sample Schedules for the two proposed programs for Heritage and Sports Concentration Concentrations are 9-day schedules, which are incompatible with JG's 5-day work-week schedule. Paola Miniaci, EMSB DDG, and Steven Erdelyi, EMSB appointed administrator for the proposed school, acknowledged this problem at the Palatucci Task Force meeting on October 24, 2012 and promised to correct this situation. To date, this correction has not been made, and the nine-day schedules remain on the proposed school's website, despite repeated requests at PTF and Council meetings, and representations at the Council meeting of January 30th, 2013 by PTF Chair Syd Wise.

Respectfully submitted,
E. Arnot, ASCSES Delegate to CPC