Commission scolaire English-Montréal

English Montreal School Board

*Meeting #05 2012/2013*

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE CENTRAL PARENTS' COMMITTEE**
**HELD AT LAURIER MACDONALD HIGH SCHOOL, 7355 VIAU AVE., ST-LEONARD**
**ON THURSDAY, MARCH 14, 2013 AT 7:00 P.M.**

---

A meeting of the Central Parents' Committee held at Laurier Macdonald High School on Thursday, March 14, 2013 at 7:00 p.m.

Members of the Committee

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

Also Present:

Roma Medwid, Deputy Director General, Division 2
Paola Miniaci, Deputy Director General, Division 1
Brigida Sellato, Communications Consultant, EMSB
Mona Kamel, Executive Secretary, EMSB

## 1. OPENING REMARKS

Before the meeting started the members discussed recognition gifts to departing members, who were not present for the discussion.

The chair called the meeting to order at 7:15 p.m.

## 2. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

It was moved by David Benoit, seconded by Margaret Amos and unanimously resolved that the agenda be approved with the following additions:

*Move item 6.1 after 5.2*
*5.4 240 Status*
*6.2 Recognition*
*7e Marketing Committee*

**Vote: 19-0-0** **Motion Carried**

## 3. FIRST PUBLIC QUESTION PERIOD

There were no members of the public present.

## 4. ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON FEBRUARY 7, 2013

It was moved by Ilgin Sartekin, seconded by George Varelas and resolved that the minutes from the February meeting be approved with minor corrections.

**Vote: 15-0-4** **Motion Carried**

## 5. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

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

Ms. Paola Miniaci presented the policy on the maintenance or closure of schools/centres. The changes were made to reflect the Education Act, articles 193, 211 and 212.

The members felt that the removal of the section where CPC receives the briefs at the same time as council hinders CPC ability to make an informed and educated brief based on events that took place most recently and from the major school changes of several years ago.

It was proposed that since the three regions share the same recommendations, they be combined to form the official response from CPC.

It was moved by Nijad Dahdah, seconded by Kurtis Law and unanimously resolved that the Policy on Maintenance or Closure of Schools/Centre be accepted with the following recommended changes;

*1.* Include; *Copies of the briefs should be forwarded to the CPC and ACSES as soon as they are submitted to the Council.*
(In order to give CPC and ACSES time to review and make an informed and educated decision in preparing their briefs).

2. *Allow ACSES the same right and time allocation to speak at the public hearings* as CPC.

3. Allocate sufficient time for the public to present their point of view to a maximum time limit of 45 minutes (collectively).

4. Item 7, page 9 of the document should read: MODIFICATION OF TIMELINE FOR THE THREE-YEAR PLAN DOCUMENT
Add: *The consultation time line for the School Maintenance or Closures should remain as stipulated in the Education Act.*

**Vote: 19-0-0** **Motion Carried**

**ITEM 6.1 (SEE BELOW) WAS DISCUSSED BEFORE 5.2**

**5.2 MEETING WITH COMMISSIONERS-UPDATE**

It was discussed that the chair sends a letter to the chairman asking for possible dates to hold a joint meeting. As soon as the dates are received a note will go out to all CPC members.

**Joseph Karadakis Left at 9:00 pm**

**5.3 EPCA**

**A) UPDATE**

It was requested to approve sending an observer for the remaining EPCA meetings.
Members felt that an observer should also be sent to the FCPQ in order to make an informed decision.

It was moved by David Benoit, seconded by Ron Lee Latchman and resolved that an observer from CPC be sent to EPCA.

**Vote: 15-0-4** **Motion Carried**

It was moved by David Benoit, seconded by Hannu Jailos and resolved that Andrew Ross be the observer from CPC to EPCA.

Andrew Ross accepted, there were no other volunteers or nominations.

**Vote: 17-0-1 (L. Arnot not present for vote)** **Motion Carried**

It was moved by Kurtis Law, seconded by Patricia Willis and resolved that an observer from CPC be sent to the FCPQ.

**Vote: 17-0-2** **Motion Carried**

The chair will find out the date of the meeting and let the members know. These meetings are held in Quebec City therefore an expense will have to be paid to the member in attendance.

After a brief discussion, it was moved by Patricia Willis, seconded by Angie Bertone and resolved that CPC request EPCA to receive all the minutes that have been approved since and including June 2012 to present.

**Vote: 18-0-1** **Motion Carried**

**B) RESOLUTION ON BILL 14**

A resolution was presented asking to support the brief from EPCA on bill 14.

It was moved by Andrew Ross, seconded by Ron Lee Latchman and resolved that CPC support the brief from EPCA on bill 14.

**Vote: 3-9-5** **Motion Defeated**

It was suggested that CPC support the petition by Lester B. Pearson School Board on bill 14 by sending out a message to all governing boards asking them to get their community to sign.

It was moved by Angie Bertone, seconded by Nijad Dahdah and resolved that CPC encourage the EMSB parents to sign the petition by Lester B. Pearson School (read by Patricia Willis to the members at the meeting) on bill 14.

**Vote: 17-0-0** **Motion Carried**

It was moved by Hannu Jailos, seconded by Kurtis Law and resolved that the link to the military petition also be included on the email message from the previous motion.

**Vote: 17-0-0** **Motion Carried**

**5.4 240 STATUS**

A concern was raised concerning the approval of the 240 status for the new high school. It was discussed that in 2011 CPC rejected the three year plan which included the new high school and now they accepted the 240 status.

It was explained that the two items are separate and when the governing board comes into place at the new school they can adjust and prepare the educational project for the school. This 240 status is meant to attract those students the EMSB is losing to the private sector.

## 6. NEW BUSINESS

**6.1 CONSULTATION ON THE NAME FOR THE PROPOSED NEW HIGH-SCHOOL**

The members discussed the names submitted by the Task Force. Everyone agreed that Wallenberg Academy best suited the school as it fit with the name of the facility, Palatucci.

A concern was raised with regard to the school naming policy, in that according to the EMSB policy, the CPC must respond to the Council and not the task force as mentioned in the later for the consultation. Therefore CPC will send its response to the chairman.

After a brief discussion, it was moved by Hannu Jailos, seconded by Mario Bentrovato and resolved that the CPC favor the name Raoul Wallenberg Academy.

**Vote: 11-1-6** **Motion Carried**

**6.2 RECOGNITION**

It was moved by Patricia Willis, seconded by Pietro Mercuri and resolved that $625.00 be allocated for recognition gifts.

**Vote: 13-0-5** **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 $7,721.24.

**7D. GREEN COMMITTEE**

There was no meeting.

**7E. MARKETING COMMITTEE**

See attached report from Andrew Ross and Margaret Amos.

**8. BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**8A. EDUCATION COMMITTEE**
No report.

**8B. EDUCATIONAL POLICIES COMMITTEE**
See attached report from Ilgin Sartekin.

**8C. FINANCE & LEGISLATION COMMITTEE**
See attached report from Hannu Jailos.

**8D. ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON ADULT EDUCATION AND VOCATIONAL SERVICES (AEVS)**
No report.

**8E. ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON SPECIAL EDUCATION SERVICES (ACSES)**
No report.

**8F. ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION**
See attached report from David Benoit.

**9. CORRESPONDENCE**
There was no correspondence.

**10. VARIA**
There was no varia.

**11. SECOND QUESTION PERIOD**

**12. DATE OF NEXT REGULAR MEETING –**Thursday, April 4, 2013 at Laurier Macdonald
**DATE OF NEXT EXECUTIVE MEETING –**

**13. ADJOURNMENT**
On motion by Angie Bertone and seconded by Frank Reda, that the meeting be adjourned at 10:20 PM.

| | |
|---|---|
| Pietro Mercuri<br>Chairperson | Mona Kamel<br>Secretary |

**Report to Central Parents Committee**
**EPCA Board of Directors Meeting**
**February 8 & 9, 2013**

The EPCA Board of Directors meeting took place over a period of two days at the Holiday Inn Montreal Aeroport on Côte-de-Liesse Road. Representatives from all Quebec English school board parent committees were present, except for the following:

- Central Quebec School Board (Quebec City area – representative was absent)
- Eastern Townships School Board (not member; observer/participant was invited, but did not attend)

While the EMSB CPC is no longer a member of the organization, a representative was invited as a participating observer by unanimous resolution. The EMSB was welcomed with open arms, included (by unanimous approval) in *in camera* discussions, and our feedback was encouraged. We were considered an equal partner around the table with unique perspectives, experience and knowledge. In fact, we treated as if we were a member of the organization, and not a visitor.

Topics addressed during this meeting:

- Accessibility of EPCA meeting minutes and public documentation
    - Unanimous resolution to make all such documents available online to members and general public upon final approval.
- Hiring of new Director General
    - EPCA has opened up a job posting for the position of a permanent Director General, reorganizing the position currently held by Jean Collard. New position has been approved for a salary of between $20,000 and $30,000 annually for 20-25 hours a week. Candidates are expected to have previous experience at the school board level (director general or similar) with experience in government relations an asset.
    - Candidates will be evaluated by a selection committee of 3 EPCA directors. Members of selection committee will be selected at a later date. Strict criteria will be established to standardize the evaluation of applications.
    - Position is designed to ensure continuity from one year to the next, as parent representatives can vary drastically from year-to-year based on parent committee elections at each school board. The DG remains the only paid staff for the association.
    - Posting advertised via word-of-mouth through Parent Committees and various other organizations, including QESBA. Application period to last 30 days.
- Brief to National Assembly re: Bill 14
    - Modeled after similar briefs submitted by the Lester B. Person School Board and the Quebec English School Boards Association (QESBA), a formal brief was drafted concerning the affects of Bill 14 on English-language education in Quebec. Provisions of the brief were debated by all participants to ensure that the focus related exclusively to the provisions that relate to English education and the divisive effect of the proposed legislation on Anglophone communities. The document was finalized by email and submitted to the National Assembly on Monday, February 11.
    - EPCA has been granted permission to present this brief at the National Assembly on Thursday, March 28 during the formal public consultation sessions on Bill 14.
- New Partnerships
    - Mr. Pierre Chouinard, EPCA President, has been in contact with Mr. Gaston Rioux, president of the *Féderation des comités de parents du Québec* (FCPQ), to arrange a joint agreement on the production of English training materials for parents. EPCA will have access to all English-language materials available to FCPQ members, and will contribute to the revision of said materials in the future. Documents may also be co-branded, but this is unclear.

- An invitation will also be extended to an FCPQ representative to attend EPCA meetings as an observer, and FCPQ has requested a BoD-to-BoD meeting with EPCA in the future.
- Mr. Chouinard has also been in contact with David Birnbaum of QESBA to work on partnerships and assistance for the drafting of briefs and for expertise in school board issues. EPCA has succeeded in an agreement to publish announcements in the Monday Message Newsletter; first announcement for DG job posting was published on February 18.
- EPCA is part of the *Coalition priorité education* in opposing further budget compressions on school boards by MELS. EPCA took part in the press conference on Monday, February 11 in support of this effort, and is encouraging the signing of a National Assembly petition available through http://coalition-priorite-education.tumblr.com
- Invitation remains open to the Eastern Townships School Board to attend EPCA meetings in the future as participant/observer like the EMSB. ETSB is still considering the possibilities of observing EPCA meetings, but has been clear in its intention to remain a member of FCPQ.

- Marketing and Website Development
  - EPCA is interviewing outside contractors for support in media relations, marketing, promotional copywriting and website development. Formal quotations have been requested and will be evaluated according to a point system. $30,000 budget envelope has been allocated for this work.
  - A sub-committee of delegates and directors has been created to spearhead this project.
  - Estimated launch date: June 15th for AGA
- Meetings with Parent Committees
  - An EPCA delegation is ready to visit member parent committees on request. A delegation of three representatives was sent to Gatineau to visit the Western Quebec School Board PC on February 18. This was at the request of WQSB. EPCA is open to other invitations from other member school boards, as time permits.
- Financial Issues
  - A thorough review of all financial documentation is underway by Treasurer Patricia Saputo, including a review of expense reports from previous years to address any abnormalities.

**Additional Observations**

In reviewing the EMSB's resolution for disassociation, it is my opinion that EPCA has made important strides in addressing the CPC's concerns. The atmosphere among delegates is cordial and cooperative, and the direction of the organization is much more thoroughly refined and executed. Representation is very well spread out among the school boards, and feedback is encouraged and welcome. Delegates are routinely invited to attend and contribute to Board of Director's meetings, although as expected, delegates do not have voting rights, nor do they have the right to participate in *in camera* discussions. There is a strong consensus on the focus of the organization, very well highlighted by the cooperative working group session for the drafting of the Bill 14 draft. Concrete action is being taken on making information public – with the creation of a new website – and by establishing partnerships with like-minded organizations. All documentation is currently available in English, including the recent Bill 14 brief. At this time, it is my judgement that EPCA is a transformed organization, worthy of a reconsideration by the EMSB Central Parents Committee.

*Presented by*
*Andrew Ross, CPC Vice-Chair*

## EMSB Marketing Committee

***Report to Central Parents Committee***
***March 14, 2013***

The EMSB Marketing Committee met for the first time during this mandate on Tuesday, March 12 at the Administration Building. Representatives of the Council of Commissioners - including Angela Mancini and Sylvia Lo Bianco - were present, as well as administration officials, principals from several schools and our parent delegates. Topics discussed were as follows:

- **The launch of the *Nous sommes bilingues* initiative**: Response was very positive at the press conference event held at Gardenview School, with a lot of interest from anglophone media. Pickup up among French-language media - the prime market - was much more limited, with only short mentions in newspapers and second-tier radio stations. There was little coverage on mainstream television, radio or newspapers in the francophone community. Website usage has exceeded expectations with 1640 individual users since the launch on January 16, 2013 of those being return visitors. New content is being added to keep the site 'fresh'. Cross promotion on other EMSB school sites is also being implemented.
- **Enrolment/Open House promotion**: The principal of Pierre-de-Coubertin discussed the success of their recent enrollment drive, including Open House tours design to accommodate the busy schedules of parents, and encouraging parents to act as 'ambassadors' for the school. Schools are responsible for promoting Open Houses and Registration on their own, but the EMSB Communications office is available to assist. Schools are actively discouraged from holding Open Houses in December and January, traditionally difficult months for promotion and publicity. Many suggestions were floated around the table to improve enrolment success, including beautification and renovation efforts to make schools more visually appealing; a suggestion for reaching out to private daycares to promote kindergarten registration, and for elementary schools to promote their relationships with a collective sample of high schools to show a continued relationship for families as a way to the momentum of enrolment from early onset; and cross-promotion at the high school level, where schools that reach their enrollment limits actively encourage rejected applicants to seek out other EMSB high schools.
- **School Website Updates**: an enhanced CMS (content management system) will be launched to all schools in the near future, allowing school principals/staff to make routine updates on News, Calendar and Announcements without input from the head office. This will make routine updates much easier for all schools. Schools are also encouraged to maintain their websites in order to serve and entice potential newcomers with up-to-date information.
- **Social Media Usage**: EMSB Communications office is encouraging the individual schools employ their own Twitter feeds to improve communications of urgent news, like school closings, delays in buses from extra-curricular activities, etc. Especially important at the high school level, where both kids and parents are likely active users of social media.
- **Ideas and suggestions for 2014**: an arrangement is being explored with Cineplex theatres to put promotional advertising in front of movie screenings. Discussions are at a preliminary phase, but encouraging.

Present:
Andrew Ross, Vice-chair
Margaret Amos, Region 3

## EDUCATIONAL POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING

Meetings held on February 26, 2013

---

**1. Lab Safety Training:** As science labs are being upgraded, many science teachers still have not received their lab safety training. Pedagogical services along with the school principals will look into the dates of the training sessions.

**2. Kurzweil Software:** Pedagogical services waiting to hear from principals regarding the number of students per school who are need of scribes and readers for exams, to see how many computers and software

packages will be required. EMSB has selected the Kurzweil software, however ped services is looking around for alternative programs that can be used.

**3. Ped Days for 2013-2014:** Ped services has 3 days reserved, still require one ped day for technical training for teachers. A conference is scheduled in the fall concerning iPads. School board is still working on the business plan for the ministry for the iPad initiative.

*Next meeting is scheduled for March 19, 2013*

*Respectively submitted by*
*Ilgin Sartekin*

**Report to the CPC on the Finance & Legislation Committee**
**Meeting held on February 13, 2013.**

Items discussed:

1. Mandate, composition and quorum of the F&L Committee

2. Transportation Allocation
   - Recommend to Council that approximately 6,150 high school students living more than 2.4 km from their school get an allocation of $215 each
   - $215 represents 48.3% of the annual cost of a bus pass
   - Leaves transportation with about a $100,000 surplus for the year

3. Cafeteria / Nutrition Division Results for the period July 1 to Dec. 31, 2012
   - Cumulative loss of about $8,000 after allocation of overhead costs
   - Panini grills bought for some high schools, 4 pop corn machines bought
   - Hot chocolate milk offered as a means to induce children to drink milk

4. Special Education Funding & Costs for the 2011-2012 school year:

| | |
|---|---|
| Funding for special needs students | $38,8115,195 |
| Additional funding from local taxation | $3,254,039 |
| Allocation for administration, buildings & grounds | ($2,424,526) |
| Rolled into 2012-2013 school year | (223,487) |
| Net Funding | $39,421,221 |
| | |
| Expenses (an allocation) | $43,256,291 |
| Surplus (Deficit) | ($3,835,070) |

Respectfully submitted,
Hannu Jailos

## TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE MEETING

**The Transportation Committee Meeting was held on Wednesday, February 13, 2013 at 2:00pm at the EMSB**

- Information was presented related to the municipal "Do you see me" campaign. Posters/signs at all schools in Montreal.

- A budget update was presented, and is projected to be balanced for the 2012-2013 year.

- A question about transportation criteria relating to walking distance was addressed. It was determined that since the majority of students were already accommodated, no change to the distance criteria was warranted.

- A resolution was made increasing the funding of CAM passes from $200/year to $215/year.

- Ms. Tran from the STM presented information on the following:
  - Use of the STM buses for school trips. In 2011-2012 19 trips for approximately 1000 primary and 500 secondary students we made using the STM. The EMSB has made 11 trips so far in 2012-2013.
  - During 2011-2012, other school boards used the STM shuttle service for a total of 575 trips.
  - Noted that the STM shuttle service can be cheaper overall, but is not as flexible as the "yellow buses". Specifically, the buses have a lower capacity and the schedule must work with the STM's other committments.
  - The STM has a safety and etiquette information program available to schools and presented by STM officers.
  - The STM is piloting a program for high-school transition, offering students an opportunity to learn effective use of the bus and Metro network to get to and from high-school.

Respectfully submitted by
David Benoit
February 13, 2013

**David Benoit**