Commission scolaire English-Montréal

English Montreal School Board

Meeting #07 2012/2013

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE CENTRAL PARENTS' COMMITTEE
HELD AT LAURIER MACDONALD HIGH SCHOOL, 7355 VIAU AVE., ST-LEONARD
ON THURSDAY, MAY 2, 2013 AT 7:00 P.M.

A meeting of the Central Parents' Committee held at Laurier Macdonald High School on Thursday, May 2, 2013 at 7:00 p.m.

Members of the Committee

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

Mona Kamel, Executive Secretary, EMSB

Also Present:

Roma Medwid, Deputy Director General
Brigida Sellato, Communications Consultant, EMSB

1. OPENING REMARKS

The chair called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

2. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

It was moved by Ilgin Sartekin, seconded by Teresa Cocullo-Scotto and resolved that the agenda be approved with the following addition:

5.4 Policy of Maintenance or School Closures

Vote: 12-0-0 (N. Dahdah, P. Willis, P. Marcovecchio not present) Motion Carried

2.1 PRESENTATION PROMOTION POLICY CONSULTATION

See item 6.1

3. FIRST PUBLIC QUESTION PERIOD

There were no questions.

4. ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON APRIL 4, 2013 AND APRIL 22, 2013

April 4, 2013

It was moved by Angie Bertone, seconded by Ilgin Sartekin and resolved that the minutes from the April 4th meeting be approved.

Vote: 12-0-0 (N. Dahdah, P. Willis, P. Marcovecchio not present) Motion Carried

April 22, 2013

It was moved by Teresa Cocullo-Scotto, seconded by Hannu Jailos and resolved that the minutes from the April 22nd meeting be approved.

Vote: 10-0-2 (N. Dahdah, P. Willis, P. Marcovecchio not present) Motion Carried

7:15 PM Nijad Dahdah arrived

5 BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

5.1 MEETING WITH COMMISSIONERS- HOW IT WENT

The members discussed the recent joint meeting between CPC and Council. Ideas were shared around the table.

7:29 PM Patricia Willis arrived
7:30 PM Patrick Marcovecchio arrived

The members would still like the council to answer how they see the role of CPC. Also, discussed was how the schools should self market and use word of mouth as a marketing tool.

5.2 FCPQ CONFERENCE- REPORT

Angie Bertone and Patricia Willis attended the FCPQ conference on April 20th. They met with the director and president on the Friday evening. They were very well received by everyone and participated in the discussions that took place on the Saturday. There has been a massive structure change from five years ago, there are two delegates from each board (only one has voting power), and there are four general councils per year. Each member is assigned a seat in order to meet everyone at the conference. Many of the FCPQ members were curious as to why the English boards left.

A member asked if the CPC could send Angie Bertone and Patricia Willis to the next EPCA meeting as observers in order to see the difference in the two committees.

After a brief discussion, it was moved by Kurtis Law, seconded by Peter Mercuri and resolved that the CPC send Angie Bertone and Patricia Willis to the next EPCA meeting on May 11th as observers.

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

5.3 END OF YEAR SOCIAL-CATERER

The chair asked that Brigida Sellato take care of the caterer and refreshments for the June 6th social.

After a brief discussion the members decided that since there will be guests at the next meeting, it should be held at the Administration Building.

It was moved by Teresa Cocullo-Scotto, seconded by Peter Mercuri and resolved that the social budget not exceed $600.00.

Vote: 12-2-1 **Motion Carried**

5.4 POLICY OF MAINTENANCE OR SCHOOL CLOSURES

Patricia Willis explained to the members that at the last council meeting the reason they had not brought back the amendment to the closure policy is that the lawyer explained that it would have to go back out for consultation, therefore delaying the current consultation on relocation. The CPC members agreed to wait.

6. NEW BUSINESS

6.1 PROMOTION POLICY CONSULTATION

Roma Medwid reviewed the document with the members and answered questions. The changes in the document reflect the basic school regulations and the education act.

There was a concern regarding the heading on page 3 under Rules Governing. . .the members would like it to be more specific to moving to the next grade level within a cycle.

It was moved by Andrew Ross, seconded by Kurtis Law and unanimously resolved that the promotion policy be accepted with the following recommendation;

On page 3 under Rules Governing, be more specific in that the representation is for moving to the next grade within the cycle.

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

7. COMMITTEE REPORTS

7A. REGIONAL COMMITTEE REPORTS

Region 1: discussed elections and getting out to vote and the end of year social.
Region 2: had a presentation to Claude Dansereau in thanks for being the regional director, discussed the policy on school closures and the certification of Carlyle.
Region 3: approved the scholarship for elementary and a John Grant student and they discussed the health effects of wifi.

7B. PARENT COMMISSIONERS' REPORT

The topic of discussion was the ethics policy and the recommendations from the CPC.

7C. TREASURER'S REPORT

The current balance is $7,017.44.

7D. GREEN COMMITTEE

No report.

7E. MARKETING COMMITTEE

No report.

8. BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

8A. EDUCATION COMMITTEE

No report.

8B. EDUCATIONAL POLICIES COMMITTEE

See attached report from Ilgin Sartekin.

May 6th to June 7th is the blackout period for the elementary level 2-4-6 grades. The last day of school for high school is June 7th. the contemporary world exams are optional this year but will be compulsory next year.

8C. FINANCE & LEGISLATION COMMITTEE

See attached report from Hannu Jailos and Nijad Dahdah.

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

No report.

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

See attached report from Liz Arnot.

8F. ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

No report.

9. CORRESPONDENCE

There was no correspondence.

10. VARIA

No varia.

11. SECOND PUBLIC QUESTION PERIOD

No questions.

12. DATE OF NEXT REGULAR MEETING –Thursday, June 6, 2013 at the Administration Building

DATE OF NEXT EXECUTIVE MEETING –

13. ADJOURNMENT

On motion by Ilgin Sartekin and seconded by Andrew Ross, that the meeting be adjourned at 10:15 PM.

Pietro Mercuri Chairperson	Brigida Sellato Acting Secretary

Report to Central Parents Committee
EPCA Board of Directors Meeting
April 13, 2013

The April meeting of the Board of Directors took place on Saturday, April 13 at the Holiday Inn in St-Laurent. Representatives of most Quebec English-language school boards were present except Eastern Shores, Central Quebec and Eastern Townships.
Topics addressed during this meeting:

- **Director General**: after a selection process that included four possible candidates, the Board of Directors approved Angelo Grasso as the association's new Director General, to begin May 1, 2013. Angelo has served four terms as parent commissioner at the Sir Wilfred Laurier School Board, and has significant experience a parental governance and school board operations. As a consequence of his new position, he will resign his parent commissioner position and all executive posts at SWLSB to avoid any potential conflict of interest.
- **Presentation re Bill 25:** this bill will set new parameters for the setting of school tax rates across Quebec. It was suggested that off-island school boards match the procedures of Montreal's *Comité de gestion de la taxe scolaire*, in order to avoid disparity among territories and between English and French school boards. In some areas, the disparity in tax rates can be significant. It was agreed to have a presentation on this issue by the riverside Finance Director at a subsequent meeting.
- **Presentation re Bill 14**: EPCA presented their brief to the National Assembly on Thursday, March 28 in Quebec City. Among the issues that were raised, the commission was especially surprised about students who lose English eligibility status mid-year, especially because of sudden changes in parental status (expiring grandfather clauses, military families and hockey players). EPCA requests all school boards to research the number of enrolled students affected during the 2012-2013 school year by this situation, so that the information can be sent to all reps on the NA commission.
- **President's Report**:
  - Met with the EMSB CPC on April 4, and while there was some tension at the beginning, a useful and positive Q/A session and discussion took place.
  - On April 6, attended an LBPSB parent conference, which was also a very positive experience and serves as an example of how PCs and EPCA can engage parents.
  - EPCA will be present at the next meeting of the QFHSA (Quebec Federation of Home & School Associations).
  - All equipment and documentation has been retrieved from former delegates and directors.
- **Treasurer's Report**
  - A complete budget forecast for 2013-2014 was presented, taking into account a $10,000 reduction in government funding due to the EMSB disaffiliation. Additionally, all carry-over funds from previous years must be spent by end of 2014, as MELS will not permit carry-over into the 2014-2015 school year. The budget forecast was approved unanimously.
  - Questions were raised about the specific mandate of the internal Audit Committee, and their role in reviewing financial information. This topic was tabled to the next meeting.
  - A delegate asked about the possibility of sponsorship for specific EPCA efforts or activities. It was pointed out that this was discussed in the past, but could still be explored.
- **Administration**: it was asked that directors submit ideas for planning of June 15 General Assembly, including workshops and seminars that would be useful to delegates to make the meeting more interesting and useful.
- **School Board Reports**
  - **Lester B. Person:** work of an allergy subcommittee continues, with reps polling each school to learn individual policies. Also, significant concerns related to new copyright regulations when it comes to school performances and permission forms for A/V students for promotional use.
  - **Western Quebec:** 600 students took part in a Destination Imagination event at the Canadian Museum of Civilization, as part of the Destination Imagination program.
  - **New Frontiers:** open letter by commissioners to public about school board cuts, with almost 20% of budget being cut. Parents fear effect of cuts, but also fear higher taxes to offset cuts. A new director general, Rob Butters, will join the board on July 1, 2013.
  - **EMSB:** concerns about the Math 404 program were reintroduced, along with copies of the correspondence sent by Westmount High School. Informed that WQSB and SWLSB have

similar concerns and are researching the issue, but are already supportive of EMSB efforts. LBPSB has already sent letters regarding this program to MELS. EPCA unanimously passes a resolution to support all school boards with concerns about the Math 404 program, and send a letter of support to MELS in this regard.

- o **Sir Wilfred Laurier:** several vacant commissioner seats are being filled through by-elections. PC providing outstanding commitment and citizenship awards to one child in each school (40 schools) this year. Question regarding allocations of PC budgets:
  - What special funding has been made for scholarships, awards, etc.?
  - What allocations are made to members (mileage, etc.)?
  - What amount is allocated per student for PC operations?
- o **Riverside:** parents now begin consulted on possibilities of school closures, and the possibility of combining three different language streams into one bilingual stream for all students. The board is also working to market small schools as close-knit and valuable to their communities.
- **Website Update**
- o Content suggestions and copywriting to be completed as soon as possible for site launch in June. Technical back-end development underway and nearing completion.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 4:00 pm.

Presented by
Andrew Ross, CPC Vice-Chair

Report to the CPC on the Finance & Legislation Committee
Meeting held on April 10, 2013.

Items discussed:

1. Budget Review
   - Conducted review after second quarter
   - Projected deficit $2.2 million, down from $2.9 million deficit projection in Sept. 2012
2. Heritage Language Programs (PELO) Budget
   - $739,000 in revenue; $701,000 in expenses
   - $406,000 for 4 schools with integrated Italian program; $283,000 for 21 other schools with 1 to 16 student groups
3. Agreements on the use of EMSB Properties (by Municipalities and Others)
   - Problem at Royal Vale
   - Generally, satisfactory elsewhere
   - Standard agreement over 20 years old; needs to be updated for changes since then
4. Recommendation to the Council on Summer School
   - At Laurier Macdonald High School during July; supplemental exams July 20 to Aug. 2
   - In 2012, student fees generated $218,775; EMSB contributed $55,404 for costs
5. Fibre Optics Network Upgrade
   - Upgrade of network connecting EMSB facilities

Respectfully submitted,
Hannu Jailos & Nijad Dahdah

EDUCATIONAL POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING
Meetings held on April 15, 2013

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1. iPad Initiative update: School board is still working on the business plan that must be submitted in order to continue with iPad initiative. For reasons unknown, no other school board has been required to submit a business plan to MELS.

2. Ped Days for 2013-2014: Ped days have been determined as follows:

Elementary:

Region 1: Oct 8, Nov. 15, and April 10

Region 2: Oct 15, Nov 1, and April 3
Region 3: Oct 22, Nov 8, and April 10
Secondary:
Region 1: Oct 3, Nov. 1, and April 8
Region 2: Oct 10, Nov 1, and April 1
Region 3: Oct 17, Nov 8, and March 26
"Digital life training" will take place, to incorporate the digital way into everyday teaching.
3. MELS Exam schedule June 2013: Last day of classes June 7. Exam period will take place from June 10-20, 2013. The week of June 4-7 is scheduled for internal exams. Scheduling for these exams is set by the individual schools.
4. **Summer School 2013:** Summer school will only be held at Laurier Macdonald High School for the 2013 summer session.
Next meeting is scheduled for May 13, 2013

Respectively submitted by
Ilgin Sartekin

ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON SPECIAL EDUCATION SERVICES
(ACSES) Report to CPC May 1, 2013

ACSES met on Wednesday, April 17, 2013.
There was a presentation on the MELS-MSSS Entente by Dora Cesta, Irene Miller and Tania Piperni from Student Services.
Members discussed a Special Needs Database, created by Inspirations, which has information about numerous resources available for students with special needs and their parents. A concern was raised that the database does not list John Grant and L.I.N.K.S. in the schools section.
The ACSES workshop evening for parents of students with special needs on the topic of bullying, scheduled for Tuesday, April 9th, 2013 had to be cancelled due to low registration. Lew Lewis is looking into the different ways that parents can be notified of these workshops, either through mass calling system, emails or websites. He is also looking into why there is low turnout for the evenings.
On the subject of the Major School Changes Policy, the chair notified the members that the recommendation to allow ACSES the right to present their brief was accepted by Council at their March meeting.
The 3rd Annual Transitioning toward Independence Fair, co-hosted by John Grant and LINKS, was held on Thursday, April 11th, 2013 at Pius X. St. Pius X was very spacious for the event and there was a lot of room to move around. There were 20 tables fewer than at last year's fair; this may have been because the location is perceived to be less central. Galileo Adult Centre was not represented at the fair.
Regarding staffing, Lew Lewis reported that there were no staffing needs in the Student Services Department with the exception of 1.3 missing speech-language pathologists.

Respectfully submitted,
Elizabeth J. Arnot
ACSES Delegate to CPC