Commission scolaire English-Montréal

English Montreal School Board

Meeting #04 2013-2014

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE CENTRAL PARENTS' COMMITTEE HELD IN LIBRARY ROOM OF LAURIER MACDONALD HIGH SCHOOL, 7355 VIAU, MONTREAL ON THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 2014 AT 7:00 P.M.

A meeting of the Central Parents' Committee held in the Library
on Thursday, February 6, 2014 at 7:00 p.m.

Members of the Committee

Present:	Region 1:	Benny Berneti Pietro Mercuri Todd Roberts Laura Saragosa Jason Trudeau
	Region 2:	Giovanni Goffredo Adriano Miele George Varelas Patricia Willis
	Region 3:	David Benoit Suzanne de Jonge Cynthia Dudley Hannu Jailos Andrew Ross
	ACSES:	Isabelle Baas

Also Present: Roma Medwid, Deputy Director General, EMSB
Dora Cesta, Assistant Director, Student Services
Irene Miller, Consultant, Spiritual, Religious and Moral Instruction, EMSB
Brigida Sellato, Communications Consultant, EMSB

Observer: Daniel Andrelli, Former Commissioner

Regrets	Region 1:	Mario Bentrovato
	Region 2:	Eamon Egan Teresa Gullo
	Region 3:	Nijad Dahdah Debra Fogel
Absent:	Region 1:	Ron Lee Latchman
	Region 2:	Lin Sok

1. OPENING REMARKS

The chair welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 7:10 pm and asked to start the presentation while members continued to arrive.

2. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

It was moved by David Benoit, seconded by Laura Saragosa and unanimously resolved that the agenda be approved with the following additions:
5.4 Consultation AEVS Action Plan Phase II
6.2 Volunteer Police Checks
Vote: 15-0-0 **Motion Carried**

2A PRESENTATION: BILL 118- DORA CESTA, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR & IRENE MILLER, CONSULTANT, STUDENT SERVICES

Dora Cesta, Assistant Director of Student Services and Irene Miller, Consultant, Spiritual, Religious and Moral Instruction, presented and answered questions on Bill 118 the MELS law for religious instruction and the way it is implemented into the schools daily life. *See attached power point presentation*.

3. FIRST PUBLIC QUESTION PERIOD

Daniel Andrelli, former Commissioner asked a question on the Outreach system and the programs offered at the schools for the students in need and why there is very low enrolment in those schools.

Roma Medwid informed the guest and the members that there are over four thousand students with special needs currently being serviced by the Board. Those students in regular stream schools are there because of the better training of professionals and principals by the Board in order to help keep those students in regular school.

4. ADOPTION OF MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON JANUARY 9, 2104

It was moved by Giovanni Goffredo, seconded by Andrew Ross and unanimously resolved that the minutes be accepted as presented.
Vote: 13-0-2 **Motion Carried**

5. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

5.1 Budget Building Process (due February 7th)

<u>Guiding Principles:</u>

I. Agree- *In light of the declining English community the Board should pressure MELS to be more flexible in the budget procedures to address the realities.*
II. Agree
- Remove: "if required"
- Add: "as long as the quality of education is not compromised"

III. Agree -remove "if applicable"
IV. Agree -With a goal of having a fair and rational formula
V. Agree
- Add to end of sentence: ", without compromising safety of the students."
- Replace "given to" with "considered for"

VI. Agree
- ensure that staffing is assigned based on school needs in addition to enrolment

VII. Agree
VIII. Agree
IX. Agree
X. Agree
XI. Agree
-It is imperative that the Board ensure that compensation received from municipalities and other organizations for use of the school facilities completely cover all <u>operating costs</u> and <u>all possible wear and tear</u>.
XII. Agree

It was moved by Patricia Willis seconded by Andrew Ross and unanimously resolved that recommended Guiding Principles be accepted.
Vote: 14-0-1 **Motion Carried**

Budget Priorities

1- Increase or at a minimum maintain the per capita allocations (review and asses the formula for 214 plus students, see attached table) and re-examine the allocations for schools with larger special needs students
2- Increase or at a minimum maintain staffing resources for advanced learners, special needs and at risk-children, i.e. guidance counsellors, psychologists and tailor services according to individual school needs.
3- Increase or at a minimum maintain the funding for literacy and initiate funding for numeracy
4- Increase or at a minimum maintain funding for building maintenance, improvements and upgrading projects, universal accessibility (eg. handicap ramps, washrooms, fountains, etc.), security, health and cleanliness including, daily caretaking, replenishment of hygiene products, snow and ice removal in common areas in order to improve the physical learning environment for students
5- Increase or at a minimum maintain professional development for all personnel, including teachers, resource teachers, CCW, professionals and support staff
6- Prioritize the movement of our students and special needs students into the 21st century learning by providing the schools with the necessary tools (tablets, white boards, computers etc.), resources (e-books, etc.), technical support and needed infrastructure

It was moved by Patricia Willis seconded by Isabelle Baas and resolved that recommended Budget Priorities be accepted.
Vote: 15-0-0 **Motion Carried**

5.2 Consultation- Philip E. Layton-Mackay Centre Relocation

The sub-committee members, Cynthia Dudley, Eamon Egan and Pietro Mercuri need to meet to prepare the brief so that CPC can approve and submit by March 14th.

5.3 Joint Meeting CPC/Council

The members discussed the positive points from the meeting that occurred on February 4th. The members briefly discussed if CPC should send a letter to the chairman, commenting on the meeting.

It was moved by Hannu Jailos seconded by Patricia Willis and resolved that CPC send a letter to the chairman of the Board.
Vote: 15-0-0 **Motion Carried**

5.4 **Consultation AEVS Action Plan Phase II**

It was discussed at the executive CPC meeting to share the information received from the chair of L.I.N.K.S. concerning their concerns at the facility, classrooms and familiarity for the students on the consultation. Would CPC consider preparing a brief for the consultation?

The chair removed himself from the discussion and vote as he had a conflict of interest. The vice-chair, chaired the item and he will sign the brief that will be submitted.

It was moved by Patricia Willis, seconded by Hannu Jailos and resolved to rescind the motion passed on January 9, 2014 for the approval of the AEVS Plan Phase II consultation.
Vote: 11-1-2 **Motion Carried**

It was moved by Hannu Jailos, seconded by Suzanne de Jonge and resolved that CPC submit a brief in agreement with action plan but would like the Board to keep in mind that L.I.N.K.S., a special needs school, shares the same facility.
Vote: 13-0-3 **Motion Carried**

6. NEW BUSINESS

6.1 Consultation: School Calendar 2014-2015 & 2015-2016 (due February 17th)

It was moved by David Benoit, seconded by Hannu Jailos and unanimously resolved that the School Calendar for 2014-2015 and 2015-2016 be accepted as presented.

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

6.2 Volunteer Police Checks

The item was tabled to the next meeting.

7. COMMITTEE REPORTS

7A. Regional Committee Reports:

No report

7B. Parent Commissioners Report

No report

7C. Treasurer's Report

The current balance is $9,164.50.

7D. Green Committee

See written report attached.

7E. FCPQ/QFPC Report

It was moved by Pietro Mercuri, seconded by Patricia Willis and unanimously resolved to send the letter drafted by the FCPQ and signed by the chair to the local MNAs in French and English asking for their support in education services.

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

8. BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

8A. Education Committee

See written report attached.

8B. Educational Policies Committee

See written report attached.

8C. Finance & Legislation Committee

See written report attached.

8D. Advisory Committee on Adult Education & Vocational Services (AEVS)

No report.

8E. Advisory Committee on Special Education Services (ACSES)

No report.

8F. Advisory Committee on Transportation

No report.

9. CORRESPONDENCE

There was no correspondence.

10. VARIA

There was no varia.

11. SECOND PUBLIC QUESTION PERIOD

No members of the public were present.

12. DATE OF NEXT REGULAR MEETING – March 13, 2014, Laurier Macdonald High School
DATE OF NEXT EXECUTIVE MEETING – February 24th, Laurier Macdonald High School

13. ADJOURNMENT

It was moved by Adriano Miele, seconded by Benny Berneti and resolved to adjourn the meeting at 10:25 pm.

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

Pietro Mercuri Chairperson	Brigida Sellato Secretary

Guidelines for the Application of Bill 118 and the Education Act

Decisions in the Educational Setting

Bill 118
Responding to the Diversity of Moral and Religious Expectations (2000)

- Non-Confessional status of schools
- Spiritual Care and Guidance and Community Involvement Service (2000-2001)
- Change from Triple Choice to ERC (2006)

Quebec Educational Shift

Religious

Secular /Linguistic Approach

EMSB Guidelines for Application of Bill 118 (August 20, 2002)

- School Activities – inclusive, pluralistic , educational (in a secular setting)
- Multi-faith services – not one particular faith
- SCA/Staff to be open, inclusive and impartial…cannot be approached re: projects that are " promoting either the perspectives or the rituals of any church or religious group."

(Secrétariat aux affaires religieuses , 2002, p.3; Developing the Inner Life and Changing the World, MELS, 2006, p. 10)

- Non Distribution of flyers for religious groups etc. (i.e. Proselytizing)

Developing the Inner Life and Changing the World (MELS, 2006)

Spiritual Care and Guidance and Community Involvement Service

A Complementary Educational Service

• Bill 118

• Education Act

•Reasonable Accommodation

•Human Rights

Diversity in Culture and Religion

A Reality in EMSB Schools

Education Act (2000-01)

Art. 3.37

Respect of Freedom

The educational project of the school must respect the freedom of conscience and of religion of the student, the parents and the school staff.

Art. 90

Community Services

The governing board may organize educational services other than those prescribed by the basic school regulation, including instructional services outside teaching periods during the school days, and may organize social, cultural or sports services.

Education Act (2000-01)

Art. 93

Community Services

The governing board is responsible for approving the organization by the school board, on the school premises, of

cultural, social, sports, scientific or community services.

Art. 240

By way of exception, at the request of a group of parents and after consulting with the parents' committee, a school board may, with the Minister's approval, establish a school for the purposes of a specific project other than a religious project, subject to the conditions and for the period determined by the Minister.

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Bill 118 (2000)

Art. 1.1

'The confessional status of public elementary and secondary schools is repealed as of July 1, 2000.'

Art. 1.2

'The repeal of the confessional status of public schools means that it will no longer be possible, even in exceptional circumstances, for a public school to adopt a specific religious persuasion or to serve as a place of instruction for one religion in particular.'

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Bill 118 (2000)

- *Since the law has been in effect since 2000, all schools in the EMSB are public and non-confessional. Regardless of the majority of students from a particular religious tradition, the school cannot be referred to by the name of that religion (Catholic, Protestant, Jewish, Muslim, Hindu, Buddhist etc.). Also religious activities of that one particular group are not to be promoted to the exclusion of other main faiths and traditions.*
- *The suggested term(s) to be used by animators and administrators are 'public, pluralistic, and inclusive'.*
- *Any project, activity or assembly must therefore correspond to the public, pluralistic and inclusive dimension of all schools in the EMSB.*

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Inclusive Pluralistic Assemblies Activities

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Bill 118 (2000)

School Service

Art 3.1

'Spiritual is therefore different from 'religious', a term referring to our relationship with the divine and including the spiritual dimension but in connection with faith in God and a community of Faith.'

•A clear distinction has been made between spiritual care and guidance and catechesis/faith development, (e.g. preparation for bar mitzvah, bat mitzvah, sacraments etc.) which is the responsibility of the Faith Community.

•Students should be encouraged to attend their own particular church, synagogue, mosque, temple or other location to prepare for sacraments and rituals of initiation and at the same time become familiar with their own place of worship. The school does not assume responsibility for such preparation away from the student's place of worship.

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Specific Guidelines

•Certain activities such as graduation, Remembrance Day and memorial services etc., which are organised by the school, for the school, are therefore considered to be a school function. These activities may be complemented by a spiritual dimension which is pluralistic and inclusive within a secular setting.

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Specific Guidelines

Secrétariat aux Affaires Religieuses- Directives,

November 29, 2001 and March 22, 2002

Pg.3. *'The Spiritual Care and Guidance and Community Involvement Service is a school service, meaning that it is offered to students and takes account of everything that characterizes the school. The Spiritual Care and Guidance and Community Involvement Service is non-confessional.*

This means two things:

*1. It is **not intended to carry out the specific mission of the churches, synagogues, mosques, temples or religious groups or to serve their interests.***

*2. Regardless of their religious beliefs, those who provide this service will not act on behalf of churches synagogues, mosques, temples or religious groups. **They are not entitled to promote either the perspectives or the rituals of any church, synagogue, mosque, temple or religious group.'***

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Specific Guidelines

•Rooms for quiet reflection and prayer (Spiritual Oasis etc.)

are available in some schools, if the school has the space and required supervision either by the spiritual community animator or a staff member who is knowledgeable of the implications of Bill 118. Rooms cannot be reserved for the exclusive practice of one particular faith by students in the school, either unsupervised or supervised by a staff person representing/promoting that one particular faith.

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Spiritual Oasis

- Pluralistic, communal space - open to all –
  - Inclusive, not exclusive to one faith,
  - Private reflection, group activities, assemblies, planning activities

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Specific Guidelines

*•According to Bill 118 and the Quebec Education Reform, spiritual or religious activities and programs are to be **pluralistic, democratic, open, inclusive and educational in their approach**.*

*•If representatives from a particular faith approach the school with respect to a project, the principal and appropriate staff will require **due diligence (i.e. consultation, screening and sound judgement)** in order to prevent such groups from proselytizing their particular faith to students in the school.*

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Specific Guidelines

➢***Religious symbols in the schools*** *are within the law provided there is representation from several faith traditions within the school.* ***(Pluralistic)***

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Specific Guidelines

Guest Speakers from Religious Groups

➢*If a school wishes to have a multicultural/multi-faith discussion or presentation, representative religious leaders from a church, synagogue, mosque or temple may **participate only as invited guests of the trained facilitator, without proselytizing their particular faith, and having been informed of the implications of Bill 118 prior to their talk/presentation.** Such multicultural groups/presentations are best facilitated by a spiritual community animator or an ERC teacher who is trained and familiar with the guidelines of Bill 118, and who **will not promote one particular religion.***

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EDUCATION COMMITTEE REPORT FEBRUARY 5 2014

1 Presentation by Mrs Abbott EMSB Chorale Consultant Pedagogical Services gave us a presentation of the EMSB Chorale
Attached is a copy which describes the Chorale

2. End of Cycle Results for elementary level for 2010 ,2011,2012 were presented by Lina Zielinski Pedagogical Services .
Grades went down but nothing to be alarmed .
Results were given for English Language results
Results were given for French Second Language results
Results were given for Mathematical results
Focus will be on improving the results and helping Special need children working with an adapted IEP.

3 Balanced Literacy Initiative Report .BLI
The balanced Literacy program in the Elementary School is comprised of three components: Reading Workshop, Writing Workshop and Word Study. To ensure that each child learns to read, write and spell successfully, all of our teachers incorporate these strategies in developmentally appropriate ways to ensure that each student makes progress toward the benchmarks for their grade level.

The BLI program was developed by Concordia University and in conjunction with the EMSB . The EMSB used the program and the results were positive 2009 -2013 see below . Program will run through 2016.
Three year exposure 81 %
Two year exposure 75.9 %
One year exposure 71.2 %

4 Quebec Entrepreneurship Contest Allocations

Is an effort that aims to foster entrepreneurial activity among young people within the province, encourage students to create projects and showcase their success stories while for contributing to development of entrepreneurial values in schools
Money allocated (2013-2014) to the EMSB is $12,565
"Registered projects will involve one of the following activities:

- setting up a business in the school
- setting up a cooperative in the school
- organizing an entrepreneurial project submitted in the form of an educational, sports, cooperative, community-oriented, cultural or artistic, technological or scientific, regional or international activity that helps develop the students' entrepreneurial values. "

Deadline for submitting project March 17 2014

5 MELS will set up a working committee in which an EMSB teacher is part of ,to look and examine ways of improving the secondary 4 math exams.

Presented by George Varelas and Giovanni Goffredo

Report on the Finance & Legislation Committee meeting January 15, 2014

1. Cuture in the Schools Program
   EMSB received an allocation of 75435.00$ by the Ministries of Culture and MELS for the "Culture in Schools" program for 2013-14. Schools were invited to submit projects, according to the guidelines outlined by the Ministries. 108 projects were submitted out of which 5 did not meet the requirements. The remaining projects were evaluated by the PSD Culture review team and schools were allocated funding (75% of the total cost of the project). Schools have been informed of the portion funded to their school at the latest PSD network meeting. Full breakdown given.

2. School/Centre rollovers – updated information provided.

3. Banking services were renewed with Royal Bank for a one year period ending June 30, 2014. Decision made to continue instead of going out to tender.

Prepared by Suzanne de Jonge

Report to the CPC meeting of February 6th, 2014. *from Nijad Dahdah*, Observer;
Educational Policies Committee (EPC) meeting of January 20, 2014

The main topic that was discussed was the alpha grade on a report card that a student with an IEP may receive instead of a percentage. Pedagogical services director explained the procedure.
The following EPC sub committees were formed: Adult Ed. Committee, Vocational Ed. Committee.
The February 3, 2014 meeting was cancelled. The next EPC meeting is scheduled for March 17, 2014.

Green Committee Meeting
January 14, 2014

Mr. Stocker updated members on the Action Plan:
- Zero iding policy for Board vehicles has been implemented
- regarding the Energy and Water Consumption Study, as water meters were not installed, that part of the study could not go forward, but the installation of new windows has reduced electricity consumption.
- green cleaning products are available to all caretakers, and all are encouraged to use them exclusively
- caretakers are being trained to replace air filters to increase efficiency of systems

Regarding the IT Department
- although there is a "Go Green" bulletin board, it is not being widely used
- a system to shut down all computers when not in use is being tested
- a study is being done on the usage of photocopiers/printers

A survey on the Best Practices resulted in over 50% response. Results of this survey show that the Zero Idling policy is eing implemented for school busses, more schools are using reusable water bottles, printer use is being reduced and recycling is being implemented.
There was some discussion of the Green Award, and a request was made for information as to how this money was spent.
The deadline for submissions to the Green Project is March 31.

Respectfully submitted
Debra Fogel