Commission scolaire English-Montréal
English Montreal School Board

Meeting #07 2013-2014

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE CENTRAL PARENTS' COMMITTEE
HELD IN THE DINING ROOM OF ST. PIUS X CAREER CENTRE, 9955 PAPINEAU, MONTREAL
ON THURSDAY, JUNE 5, 2014 AT 6:30 P.M.

A meeting of the Central Parents' Committee held in the Dining Room of St. Pius X on Thursday, June 5, 2014 at 7:00 p.m.

Members of the Committee

Present:	Education Division 1: (RPC 1)	Mario Bentrovato Benny Berneti Pietro Mercuri Todd Roberts Laura Saragosa Jason Trudeau
	Education Division 2: (RPC 2)	Richard Berger Manon Belisle Eamon Egan Giovanni Goffredo Adriano Miele George Varelas Patricia Willis
	Education Division 1: (RPC 3)	David Benoit Suzanne de Jonge Cynthia Dudley Debra Fogel Hannu Jailos Andrew Ross
	ACSES:	Isabelle Baas

Also Present: Roma Medwid, Deputy Director General, EMSB
Dora Cesta, Assistant Director, Student Services
Irene Miller, Consultant, Student Services
Brigida Sellato, Communications Consultant, EMSB
Joe Di Liello, Honore Mercier, RPC 1 Delegate
Liliana Zarlenga, Gerald McShane, RPC 1 Delegate

Regrets:	Education Division 1: (RPC 3)	Nijad Dahdah

1. OPENING REMARKS

The chair welcomed everyone called the meeting to order at 6:40 pm and asked that the presentation begin while they waited for more members to arrive.

2. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA *(2 MIN)*

It was moved by Isabelle Baas, seconded by Manon Belisle and unanimously resolved that the agenda be adopted with the following additions;

6.1 Stipend to baker (treasurer) and gifts
6.2 Social Media / Town Hall Proposal
6.3 FCPQ Conference

Vote: 20-0-0 **Motion Carried**

2A PRESENTATION: MELS/MSSS, DORA CESTA, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR, STUDENT SERVICES (30 MINS)

Dora Cesta and Irene Miller presented to the members the partnership between the EMSB and MELS-MSSS.

3. FIRST PUBLIC QUESTION PERIOD

There were no questions.

4. ADOPTION OF MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON APRIL 3, 2014 (2 MIN)

It was moved by Isabelle Baas, seconded by Cynthia Dudley and resolved that the minutes be adopted with minor spelling corrections.

Vote: 18-0-2 **Motion Carried**

5. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

5.1 CONSULTATION MAJOR SCHOOL CHANGES – OUTREACH NETWORK (DUE NOV. 10TH)

After a brief discussion; it was moved by Andrew Ross, seconded by Patricia Willis and resolved to table the consultation to the October meeting and leave the brief to the new CPC.

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

5.2 CONSULTATION: THREE YEAR PLAN

After a brief discussion; it was moved by Isabelle Baas, seconded by Giovanni Goffredo and resolved that the Three Year Plan be accepted as presented.

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

5.3 LETTER RE: MATH RESULTS- APPROVAL OF LETTER

It was recommended to add that the information received from the French Boards be per Board and not collective statics.

It was moved by Patricia Willis, seconded by Andrew Ross and unanimously resolved that the letter be accepted and sent out to MELS.

Vote: 20-0-0 **Motion Carried**

5.4 NICOLAS ROULEZ SCHOLARSHIP FUND -INFORMATION

Two students were chosen for the Nicolas Roulez Scholarship, one form Outreach and one from Perspectives II.

6. NEW BUSINESS

6.1 STIPEND TO BAKER (TREASURER) AND GIFTS

It was recommended to give Todd Roberts a stipend per meeting where he provided baked goods for the meeting.

It was moved by Patricia Willis, seconded by Richard Berger and resolved to give a stipend of 150$ to Todd Roberts.

Vote: 16-3-0 (T. Roberts not present) **Motion Carried**

It was moved by Hannu Jailos, seconded by Andrew Ross and resolved to thank Brigida Sellato and Roma Medwid for everything they have done this year as it was done last year.

Vote: 18-0-2 **Motion Carried**

6.2 SOCIAL MEDIA / TOWN HALL PROPOSAL

See attached proposals.

The members discussed that these social media accounts would be to disseminate information only to the parent clientele.
It was moved by David Benoit, seconded by Debra Fogel and resolved that CPC create a Facebook page to disseminate information only to the parent clientele.
Vote: 18-1-1 **Motion Carried**

It was moved by Isabelle Baas, seconded by Jason Trudeau and resolved that CPC create a Twitter page to disseminate information only to the parent clientele.
Vote: 19-1-0 **Motion Carried**

Volunteers to set up the framework for the pages, Facebook and Twitter, were Andrew Ross and Cynthia Dudley.
It was moved by Jason Trudeau, seconded by Mario Bentrovato and resolved that Andrew Ross and Cynthia Dudley set up the framework for the pages, Facebook and Twitter.
Vote: 18-1-0 (M. Belisle not present) **Motion Carried**

The members discussed briefly the proposal to set up town hall meetings with the potential commissioner candidates.
It was moved by David Benoit, seconded by Suzanne de Jonge and unanimously resolved that CPC delegate to the executive committee to organize the town hall meetings.
Vote: 19-0-0 (C. Dudley not present) **Motion Carried**

Debra Fogel (who will be graduating this year) volunteered should CPC need a moderator for the meeting.

6.3 FCPQ CONFERENCE

Suzanne de Jonge reported to the members on the conference that was held for the FCPQ. The workshops were great and the speakers were wonderful. There was something for everyone.

7. COMMITTEE REPORTS

7A. REGIONAL COMMITTEE REPORTS

RPC 1-topics discussed were the harassment policy, code of ethics, major school changes, and the three year plan.
RPC 2- topics discussed were the harassment policy, code of ethics, major school changes, the three year plan, and the internal rules.
RPC 3- topics discussed were the harassment policy, code of ethics, major school changes, and the three year plan.

7B. PARENT COMMISSIONERS' REPORT

There were the Green Awards, the Horatio Alger Rt. Hon. Brian Mulroney Quebec Scholarship Recipients, IDI Montreal Art & Essay Winners, EMSAC Anthology, and Mackay Center presented a video and petition that will be sent to the MELS.

7C. TREASURER'S REPORT

Balance: 7,345.05$

7D. GREEN COMMITTEE

The committee will be finalizing the application process for the green awards.

7E. FCPQ/QFPC REPORT

Patricia Willis attended the executive meetings before the workshops. She highlighted the importance that anyone can contact the FCPQ with questions and comments.

8. BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS (PLEASE SUBMIT YOUR WRITTEN REPORTS)

8A. EDUCATION COMMITTEE

See written report attached by George Varelas and Giovanni Goffredo.

8B. EDUCATIONAL POLICIES COMMITTEE

See written report attached by Nijad Dahdah.

8C. FINANCE & LEGISLATION COMMITTEE

See written report attached by Nijad Dahdah.

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

Discussions are underway to possibly providing daycare services in the adult sector.

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

Topics discussed were the Three Year Plan, Special Education Policy, a letter that was sent to the Transportation Advisory Committee, and there was a presentation on the adult education services for special needs.

8F. ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

The meeting is scheduled for next week.

9. CORRESPONDENCE

There was no correspondence.

10. VARIA

There was no varia.

11. SECOND PUBLIC QUESTION PERIOD

There were no questions.

12. DATE OF NEXT REGULAR MEETING – T.B.D.
DATE OF NEXT EXECUTIVE MEETING – June 16, 2014

13. ADJOURNMENT

It was moved by George Varelas, seconded by Laura Saragosa and unanimously resolved that the meeting be adjourned at 9:41 pm.

Vote: 20-0-0 **Motion Carried**

Pietro Mercuri Chairperson	Brigida Sellato Secretary

CSSS Youth Services and Mental Health Services

Preamble
In the MELS /MSSS Entente the EMSB has a direct link with ten CSSS. The CSSS approach to the development of services is based on the needs of the demographic population within the CSSS (i.e. seniors, low socio-economic conditions etc.) as well as the nine programs of the CSSS. Seven of the programs are relevant to the youth sector in education: loss of autonomy; physical impairment; DI TED intellectual impairment and pervasive developmental disorders; youth in difficulty; addiction; physical health and mental health. Mental health is one program in seven and it may or may not be the main priority in a particular CSSS, based on the immediate needs of the population. Schools may utilize the CSSS Mental Health Services when students are displaying the following symptoms:

- Anxiety-based Disorders
- Depression and Suicide
- Eating Disorders
- Psychosis
- Personality Disorders
- Substance Abuse
- Self-Injury

Although there are similarities in the various CSSS, each CSSS has its own method of providing information and access to mental health services for youth. We have a list of the persons responsible for mental health in each CSSS (c.f. attached). There is often a person responsible for service with respect to accessing mental health services for youth. Most CSSS have or are in the process of forming a mental health team to address the many needs in the community. Each CSSS has published a directory of services which includes the mental health services, as well as sexual health, youth services, sexual assault, family crisis, depression, homosexuality, youth at risk, suicide, domestic violence. Many of these topics are co-morbid with mental health issues, so there is an overlap. The following chart is a summary of the information for access to services for youth and mental health services as provided to us through CSSS web sites, CSSS directories, documents or meetings.

PROPOSAL FOR CONSIDERATION

CPC Social Media Outreach

To launch within the shortest possible delay both Facebook and Twitter presences for CPC in support of efforts to increase voter turnout and engagement during the upcoming school board commissioner elections. Such presence would also continue to be used post-election as the primary method of communication between the CPC and the EMSB parent body.

Platforms

- **Facebook**: An outreach tool ideal for conversation, but also for passing along important multimedia information (photos, videos, documents, etc.). Used by a significant number of EMSB parents and school organizations. Postings have longer shelf-life than Twitter, and have more flexibility in length and linkages. Content is not necessarily time-sensitive.
- **Twitter**: More useful as an immediate announcement tool, but also for conversation (if monitored hour-to-hour). Postings are limited to 140 characters, with the possibility of multimedia access via hyperlinks. Interactions typically occur within one hour, and conversation exchanges are rapid. Postings reflect immediate situations (the here and now).

Challenges

- Significant effort is required to keep information up-to-date and fresh so as to keep supporters engaged. Daily maintenance/moderation is needed and new content produced on a regular basis to ensure a variety of options to maintain that engagement.

- Establishing a sufficient support base is challenging, as it requires outreach via other communications tools. An integrated and comprehensive communications program to support the launch of the social media presence is required.
- Choosing appropriate moderators is vital so as to maintain the integrity and consistency of the CPC message. Such moderators should have experience in public relations/ communications and should have at least one year of experience with CPC and with educational issues.

Benefits

- Immediate and direct outreach to parents - our prime audience - without a filter.
- Communications method that does not require any financial outlay, especially important in an environment with limited budgets.
- Creates an image of modernity and connectivity the reflects the expectations of parents.
- Allows any stakeholder to ask questions and/or provide feedback at any time, and not solely at monthly CPC meetings or via their Governing Boards/Regions.
- Boosts relevance of CPC as an important and credible actor in EMSB governance that is immediately responsive to parent needs and concerns.

Risks

- Inability to continue rapid updates: Should appropriate volunteers not be available to maintain these social media profiles with up-to-date information, content will quickly become stale and support will decrease. Continuous fresh content is vital to ensuring the relevance and growth of the CPC online presence; should users perceive that it is not being readily maintained, they will not turn to these profiles as a primary source of information.
- Handling negative feedback: CPC should expect that these profiles will receive some negative feedback, especially when it comes to controversial issues like major school changes and transportation. These comments should NOT be ignored or deleted; rather, they should be answered promptly and respectfully, and appropriate follow-up should be made with users.

PROPOSAL FOR CONSIDERATION

Commissioner Election Outreach and Voter Engagement

To provide a non-partisan forum during the school commissioner election campaign for parents to ask candidates direct questions regarding their platforms and records. Such a forum would take the form of several 'Meet the Candidate'/ Town Hall meetings in each electoral district or, as numbers warrant, in each region. At a minimum, three events would be held. Due to scheduling, organization of these activities will be delegated to the Executive by the CPC membership.

Goals

- Increase voter turnout at School Commissioner Elections
- Commissioner Debates / Town Hall Meetings

Logistics

- ***Locations***: EMSB High Schools that have adequate auditorium facilities
- ***Scheduling***: during the 2nd or 3rd weeks of October, after the candidate deadline but before the advance poll. Evening events to allow for highest participation. Scheduling should take into account various media deadlines (local newspapers, radio, television).
- ***Promotion***: through letters to parents, appropriate media relations, local newspaper advertising, social media outreach.
- ***Invitations to candidates***: sent by CPC chair to declared candidates at earliest convenience.
- ***Needed equipment***: audiovisual equipment (microphones, speakers, etc.). A photographer should attend for official photos.
- ***Moderator***: a non-partisan moderator should be selected. Ideally, the same moderator should be present at all sessions for fairness.

Benefits

- Boost the long-term credibility, visibility and relevance of the CPC when it comes to school board governance and school board commissioner elections.
- Allow parents the option to address candidates directly in a public forum and ask pointed questions regarding their records and/or platforms.
- Force incumbent commissioners to discuss/defend their records over the last mandate.
- Create a media 'event' that would boost both school board election and CPC visibility in the news.
- Boost ongoing communication between parents and the CPC.

Risks/Challenges

- ***Accusations of Political Interference***: some stakeholders, including those commissioners who have opposed CPC interventions in the past, may consider this effort an attempt to influence the outcome of the school board elections.
- ***Low Turnout***: low turnout at 'Meet the Candidate'/ Town Hall meetings may actually have a snowball effect whereby parents lose additional confidence in the relevance of the CPC.
- ***Availability/Scheduling of Parent Volunteers***: this effort would take place in the month of October, at the end of the mandate of the 2013-2014 CPC and just before the General Assembly when new CPC delegates are elected. Member turnover may cause difficulty in recruiting the appropriate volunteers to ensure that the events take place smoothly.
- ***Promotional Resources***: additional funds will be required to publish appropriate advertising in local (weekly) newspapers in the effected districts, and the production and distribution of invitations/letters for all parents within the EMSB network.

GREEN COMMITTEE MEETING MAY 20, 2014 5 PM.

All the Green Awards and grants have been approved and funds will be transferred to the school's Green Committees.

As there seems to be some lack of clarity regarding the awards and grants, the committee is reviewing the process, and is looking into the possibility of an online application process to streamline the proceedure.

In order ot have these proceedures in place for the coming year, the committee will meet in June to finalise proposals.

ENGLISH MONTREAL SCHOOL BOARD
EDUCATION COMMITTEE REPORT MAY 7, 2014

1 June Exam Schedule and Last Day of School
Briefly looked at the scheduling of May-June 2014 Exams

2 Athletic Grants Allocation to High Schools for 2013-14
Athletic Grants Allocation to High Schools for 2013-14 was $70,000
Athletic Grants Allocation is intended to assist High Schools with the purchase of Phys ED supplies for the program and to assist with the expenses incurred in sponsoring Interscholastic School teams.
Each High school pays the Greater Montreal Athletic Association (GMAA) $ 20,496.65

3 Board Wide Pedagogical Days 2014-2015
Intended for Workshops One in October and November 2014,
One in March 2015

Presented by George Varelas and Giovanni Goffredo

REPORT TO THE CPC MEETING OF JUNE 5, 2014. FROM NIJAD DAHDAH, OBSERVER; EDUCATIONAL POLICIES COMMITTEE (EPC) MEETING OF MAY 12, 2014

The following items were discussed at the meeting:

☐ June 2014 Exam Schedule

- Marking Centers
- Research Submissions

The following three applications to conduct research in schools were accepted:
- *The Relationship Between a Mindfulness Colouring Activity and Test Anxiety in Elementary School*
- *Bullying in the First Grade*
- *Gender and Early Childhood Education: The Effects of the Quebec Education Program on Teacher Practice and Play – Jessica Prioletta*

Submitted by: Nijad Dahdah

REPORT TO THE CPC MEETING OF JUNE 5TH, 2014. FROM NIJAD DAHDAH, OBSERVER; FINANCE AND LEGISLATION COMMITTEE (F&L) MEETING OF MAY 14TH, 2014

Quorum was not reached, however the following items were presented and discussed:
- Cafeteria Financial Report period ending March 31, 2014.

Cafeteria Price Structure for 2014-2015.
- Budget Building 2014-2015 - Responses from Governing Boards

A total of 30 schools have submitted feedback:
Elementary Schools- Received from 21 of 35 (60%)
Secondary Schools – Received from 9 of 18 (50%)
Total Responses Received - 30 of 53 schools (57%)
Top 5 responses from each of the schools are included for the Budget Priorities.
These have been grouped into 5 main categories:
1. Educational Support
2. Special Education Support
3. Material Resources
4. Information Technology
5. Administration and School Support

Educational Support ranked #1 as a group for overall total responses (47).
Within this group, literacy, numeracy, library services rank as a top priority (19).
Special Education ranked #1 for most number of Priority 1 responses (16).
- The following items were on the agenda but were not discussed due to lack of Quorum:

- Board Budget 2013-2014
- Requests to increase budgets for the following departments:
- Human Resources
- Real Estate
- AEVS
- Cafeteria Services
- Requests to transfer budgets for the following departments:
- Pedagogical Services
- Material Resources
- Budget Fluctuation Report
- Determination of Amount of School Tax Revenues for 2014-2015
- Capital Investment Budget Three-Year Plan 2014-2015
- Facilities Rental Rates for 2014-2015

Submitted by: Nijad Dahdah