



Special
Education
Advisory
Committee



COMMISSION SCOLAIRE SIR-WILFRID-LAURIER
SIR WILFRID LAURIER SCHOOL BOARD

MINUTES OF THE
Special Education Advisory Committee Meeting
Thursday, April 3rd, 2014.
Directorate Room - 235, montée Lesage, Rosemère, QC

Present: *Fred Greschner, Director of Complementary Services; Lynn Neveu, Assistant Director of Complementary Services; Stephanie Vucko, Director General; Eileen Kelly, Assistant Director General*
Jennifer Maccarone, Pamala Cripton, Bessie Athanasopoulos, Natalina Pace (via telephone), Patricia Sasso, Parents; Pasquale Machado, LTU; Jack Fitch, SEPB577; Peter MacLaurin, Naz Facchino, Elio Lattanzio, Commissioners
Susan O’Keeffe, Recording Secretary

Absent with regrets: *Audrey Kannon, Ghislaine Massé, Lisa Fennessey, Grace Courey, Adèle Leeming, Janet Sallie, Elaine Sassen*

REVISED VERSION – May 12, 2014.

AGENDA TOPIC	DISCUSSION	Remarks and Actions To be Taken
1.0 Welcoming remarks		
2.0 Additions and approval of the Agenda	<i>In the absence of quorum, Mr. Greschner called the meeting to order at 6:15 p.m. Welcomed new alternate parent Patricia Sasso. Meeting called to order at 6:53 with quorum</i>	<i>Moved by: Jennifer Maccarone Seconded by: Bessie Athanasopoulos Carried</i>
3.0 Approval of minutes of meeting held March 10th, 2014	<i>6.1 Referring to the SWLSB policy 2005-ED-06 and the accompanying handbook – it is not the SEAC Policy. 5.3 Not the SEAC Policy – it is the SWLSB policy 2005-ED-06</i>	<i>Moved by: Pamela Cripton Seconded by: Jennifer Maccarone Carried with 5 Abstentions</i>
4.0 Chairperson’s Report		
5.0 Business Arising	<i>Pasquale Machado of the LTU wants to be sure that the items that appear in the minutes from March 13th, 2014 in point 6.1 do not infringe on the Teachers’ RIGHTS. She pointed out that it is the school secretary or the Principal who are responsible to advise a substitute or student teacher of the needs of students and plans for the classroom in the event that the teacher is away. She went on to say that although an emergency substitute kit is nice, it is not an OBLIGATION of the teacher to have one.</i>	
5.1 Inspirations – confirmation of contribution from SWLSB	<i>“Inspirations” is a biannual newsletter put together in partnership with the Communication Services and Student Services of the EMSB. This newsletter writes about success stories of students with special needs. They welcome</i>	

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	<p><i>anyone who would like to write for them to submit a story. The SWLSB is a partner of theirs but there is no financial contribution. We submit articles on a regular basis.</i></p>	
<p>5.2 Ad Hoc Working Committee - Update</p>	<p><i>The tentative date of May 8th to hold the Spring conference will not work at RHS. After some reflection, seeing that the timeline and preparation for this conference is huge, although the Ad Hoc committee helps, it is mostly the CSD that puts it together. Plans are usually started in January and Mr. Greschner feels like a better job could be done if it is deferred until October to a Fall Workshop. The CSD will send a survey out to parents to see what their needs are for this conference. This will be sent out before the end of the school year so that when CSD returns after the summer break they will be better prepared to organize it.</i></p> <p><i>The survey of needs would be sent through an e-push to all the parents. The Communication Services department will support the survey however the Ad Hoc committee should prepare the questions for the survey to be made.</i></p> <p><i>The committee has had some challenges getting meetings together this year, however now it is a good working committee and are looking forward to preparing this conference.</i></p> <p><i>Mr. MacLaurin suggested that perhaps one of the topics to look at for the conference is understanding what a Student Ombudsman is and their role.</i></p>	
<p>5.3 IEP Policy Review</p>	<p><i>The document "IEP What you need to know" that was distributed to members was developed by CSD and a previous SEAC. It is also available on the website. Mr. Greschner encourages members to read the document and come back next month with suggestions and/or changes.</i></p> <p><i>Section 5 of the SWLSB Special Education Policy will be reviewed next year. It will come to SEAC for their input. Please look over SWLSB Special Education Policy and come back with suggestions so that these ideas can be taken to the Management table to discuss when the policy is in revision in June 2015.</i></p> <p><i>In response to a question from Stephanie Vucko, Mr. Greschner responded that the practice has been that the Special Needs policy is reviewed every 5 years. Ms. Vucko responded that over the next while all of the policies of the school board will be looked at. Mr. Greschner went on to say that June</i></p>	

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	<p><i>2015 is not an official date for revision and that the current policy will be in effect until it is reviewed.</i></p> <p><i>At the next meeting in order to be more effective in taking notes on the IEP document, the group will break into smaller groups and take about 20 minutes to discuss it and then it can be discussed as a group. It would be preferable to have any notes or suggestions that members would like to see sent by e-mail before the next meeting. It would facilitate a better discussion as the meetings are short. Members are encouraged to send comments to the Chair and Mr. Greschner and they will put it together in one e-mail that will be sent to members to read before the next meeting.</i></p>	
6.0 New Business		
6.1 Next Policy Review/Discussion	<p><i>When SEAC is mandated to review the SWLSB Special Needs Policy it will be done. In the meantime, please read the document and send your feedback and suggestions to Mr. Greschner and the Chairperson.</i></p>	
7.0 Complementary Services Report	<p><i>Pamala Crompton entered the meeting at 6:37 p.m.</i> <i>Jennifer Maccarone entered the meeting at 6:53 p.m.</i></p>	
7.1 Financial Report – Budget Update	<p><i>Mr. Greschner gave an update on the budget.</i></p>	
7.2 Allocation of Financial Resources:		
7.2.1 What is the annual allocation of funds provided by the Minister for our at-risk students?	<p><i>There has been no budget parameters received for next year yet. With the impending election, everything has come to a halt. Tentatively at the earliest it will be in May that the SWLSB will receive the parameters. The lack of funding in special needs has been discussed at QESBA. The SWLSB is in budget consultation with the schools right now. Last year the special needs were a big priority and the SWLSB to this into consideration when allocating funds. In addition to the money allocated by the MELS, the SWLSB always gives more.</i></p> <p><i>Regardless of who is elected, there will be serious cutbacks. Over the past few years there has been approximately 50 million in cutbacks subjected to all of the English school boards. So far, with all the cutbacks, the SWLSB has not touched services to students yet. However, the additional cutbacks they are forecasting for next year could have an impact on services to students.</i></p>	

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	<i>Once the parameters are received, Mr. Greschner will give this information to the SEAC.</i>	
7.2.2 How has the school board dispersed these funds? (i.e. Montreal Oral School for the Deaf)	<p><i>The allocation is spent on Resource teachers, guidance counsellors, special education technicians and attendants. In addition, the SWLSB spends from their operating budget 10 teacher posts more. This is above and beyond the measures and the money that we receive.</i></p> <p><i>There are some ententes with SPECIALIZED schools for those students who cannot be serviced through our board.</i></p> <p><i>The SWLSB is hoping for the same allocation or more for next year.</i></p> <p><i>Pasquale Machado stated that in the past the special education budget has not decreased.</i></p> <p><i>The SWLSB would not make it on just the MELS allocation, and they spend approximately two million dollars extra from the operating budget to service the special needs students.</i></p>	
7.2.3 SEAC input regarding this allocation		
8.0 Parents' Committee Report	<i>Included in the members packages are two reports, one from Jennifer Maccarone and one from Pamala Crompton.</i>	
9.0 Question Period	<i>No questions.</i>	
10.0 Next Meeting	<i>May 1st, 2014</i>	
11.0 Adjournment	<p><i>At the recent Hydro Regional Science Fair, the SWLSB was well represented. A STUDENT WITH Asperger Syndrome from Laval Jr. High won an award from McGill University's Department of Science.</i></p> <p><i>Some members do not like the 6:00 p.m. time as they are coming from far distances for only an hour meeting.</i></p>	<p><i>Moved by: Jennifer Maccarone</i></p> <p><i>Seconded by: Pamela Crompton</i></p> <p><i>Closed at 7:03 p.m.</i></p>

Respectfully submitted by: Susan O'Keefe