



Special
Education
Advisory
Committee

Special education Advisory Committee
Monday, January 25th, 2010-02-17
235 montée Lesage, Rosemère, QC
At 19:30

Present : Stephanie Krenn, Ghyslaine Massé, Sollie Gliksman,
Kimberly Leclerc, Sylvie Battisti, Jennifer Maccarone, Carolyn
Curiale, Peter MacLaurin, Ilona Robillard, Brian Benoit, Deb
Kellman, Christina Benko, Ingrid Caddeo, Susan Tierney, Kimberly
Leclerc

Absent with regret: Ellen Dennick, Mariska Burger, Silvia Patella, Patty Weddle Klimas,
Shaun McMahon, Sébastien Joly, Tanya Potvin, Helena Muir,
Brigit Larocque, Luigi Renda

The meeting was called to order 7:35 p.m. and was chaired by Ingrid Caddeo.

1.0 Additions to and approval of the Agenda

Ilona Robillard motions to approve the agenda. Jennifer Maccarone seconds the motion.

2.0 Approval of the Minutes of November 23rd, 2009

Approval of the minutes by Sylvie Battisti and Jennifer Maccarone seconds the approval.

3.0 Question Period for the Public

No questions at this time.

4.0 Chairperson's Report

Ingrid Caddeo acted as chairperson in Tanya Potvin's absence. Report tabled until her return and moved on to next agenda item.

5.0 Business Arising

5.1 SEAC Workshop held November 24th, 2009

As per Carolyn Melmed, it went very well. We had a total of 180 registrants and a turnout of 150 people. The attendees seemed pleased and in general commented that they look forward to the next conference. There has been an overall increase in SEAC's visibility due to these conferences and due to the materials given outlining our goals and commitments at the end of the conference. One parent member, Christina Benko commented that she enjoyed the conference but felt that the strategies offered were geared towards the average student and not special needs children. She would have liked if the presenter would have focused some of the strategies more specifically to the difficulties that special needs children experience.

5.2 Revision of Special Education Policy (Draft and SEAC reps for committee)

Ingrid Caddeo requested that the revised policy be emailed to all SEAC members. The revision meeting will be held on Feb. 25th, 2010. Sylvie Battisti, Jennifer Maccarone and Kimberly Leclerc expressed interest in attending. Stephanie Krenn read and explained changes that were made, i.e.: on page 3 added 1.2.5, 1.2.6, 1.2.7. On page 6, section 3.3.3. has been removed because not in collective agreement. At which point, Sollie Glikzman asked for clarification on BIP. Deb Kellman answered his question. On page 9, section 8.2 Kindergarten was removed because it is assumed that they are included. Brian Benoit suggested we keep it written in the document as not everyone automatically assumes K is included...

5.3 SEAC Application Procedures

A revised list of procedures was handed out. These are posted on the SEAC website.

6.0 New Business

6.1 SEAC Spring Conference

A date needs to be decided. There was mention of holding it on a Saturday but Stephanie pointed out the potential difficulty of finding a presenter willing to work on a weekend. Ingrid also voiced concern that parents may be unwilling to give up their weekend time. Discussion ensued about best way to proceed with the Spring Conference:

Salient points are as follows:

-Plenary session of one hour for all in auditorium, followed by a break, then presenters will have 2 hours to elaborate on their individual specialties/topics as advertised in our communiqué.

- There should be 4 or 5 workshops going on simultaneously in different rooms.

- At the end of the conference, Kimberly Leclerc suggested we ask parents to write down any suggestions and/or evaluations of the session and what topics they may be interested in for next year.

The date suggested was for the week of April, possibly on the 21st on a Wednesday evening.

6.2 to 6.4 (covered simultaneously)

Complementary Services Report

Stephanie Krenn went over the report.

MELS Validation Update

Validation numbers approximately 476 as at Sept. 30th, 2009. Peter MacLaurin inquired as to why the validation is being dropped? What will be used to replace this? As to why, because the ministry decided and perhaps because the complementary services department are often so tied up trying to provide the stats rather than being able to offer their services to those in need. As for

replacement of MELS Validation there is speculation of 4 scenarios: 1) based on index and history of school board and scenarios 2) to 4) only impact the ministry and not the validation process for the school board, as per Stephanie.

Sylvie Battisti inquired if it will affect school distribution for services to which Stephanie replied that the board will evaluate school level special needs committee reports (two per year) and decide or possibly use a formula for distribution of attendants and technicians. Sylvie also inquired if it will affect coding or will this remain the same? Stephanie replied that the school board needs to keep the same type of records and data in case the government should ask for it and that they use this information as a basis for distributing funds.

Stephanie Krenn commented that the packages and letter were used and the reaction to crisis/grief intervention has been successful. Deb Kellman is leading a "threat team" where Ingrid Hove was recently added to the crisis response team to help with death resulting from suicide.

7.0 Financial Report

Susan Tierney confirmed that the dollar amounts for parent member expenses corresponded to her records as Treasurer.

8.0 Parents' Committee Report

Jennifer Maccarone reported on the meeting of January 7th, 2010. In summary (directly from notes submitted by Jennifer):

1) A communication pamphlet will be distributed to all schools for Feb. registration period.

2) The committee approved the SWLSB school calendar for 2010-2011.

3) SWL Foundation Gala 2010 one of the biggest gala events ever. 17 schools submitted projects for funding by the Foundation and by the school board.

4) School Board's Report: the "Partnership Agreement" implementation guide distributed outlined the following:

a) All schools must agree on goals for success with the Ministry in order to increase graduation rate by 2020. Our current rate is 79% and the Ministry would like the provincial rate to be at 80%. SWLSB has made a target of 87%.

b) Main objective of agreement is to implement measurable targets in the school success plans.

c) The agreement provides for schools to attribute their surpluses to projects in their schools otherwise these surpluses will return to the school board.

d) The Minister has given a direction for SWLSB in 5 non-negotiable goals.

1) Increased graduation rates and qualifications before age 20.

2) Improved command of the French language.

3) Improved levels of staying in school among certain target groups, for example, handicapped students and students with learning or adjustment difficulties.

4) A healthier and safer school environment.

5) An increase in number of students under 20 years enrolled in vocational training.

5) Due to Bill 88, the Council of Commissioners had to re-evaluate and reduce their number of seats currently held of 19 commissioners and 2 parent commissioners. The new Council will be composed of 9 elected commissioners, 1 chairperson elected by universal suffrage and 3 parent commissioners elected by the parent's committee (1 elementary, 1 high school, 1 special needs.) The purpose of this Bill, as Peter MacLaurin pointed out, is that the government is trying to get parents more involved with the schools and the children.

9.0 Question Period for the Public

Sollie Gliksman wanted to make a special note of reference that in March in Vancouver there is an annual Special Education Conference that is enlightening and at the forefront with regard to current ideas, research and methodologies. Sollie posited the idea if we could get someone to go and if there was a way to fund it.

Kimberly Leclerc asked if Stephanie could add spring seminar info. to our SEAC website.

Ghyslaine Massé offered to give her feedback on the LBP seminar she will be attending and any other Abe Gold seminars she may attend in future.

10.0 Next Meeting

Monday, February 22nd, 2010.

11.0 Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 21:08 p.m. Jennifer Maccarone motioned and Kimberly Leclerc seconded the motion.

Respectfully submitted by: Susan Tierney

Minutes approved:

by _____ on _____, 2010.