



Special
Education
Advisory
Committee



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

MINUTES OF THE
Special Education Advisory Committee Meeting
Monday, November 26th, 2012 at 19 h 30
ESD/CSD Boardroom - 239, montée Lesage, Rosemère, QC

Present: *Fred Greschner, Adelina Lepanto, Sylvie Battisti, Kimberly Leclerc, Adèle Leeming, Pamala Cipton, Janet Sallie, Bessie Athanasopoulos, Sheila Rennie, Nicole Rodier*

Brian Benoit, Tabitha McKell, Marie-Helen Goyetche, Sylvia Repas

Absent with regrets: *Pamela Feres, Melanie Parkinson, Marianne Sassen, Giovanni Pietrangelo, Jodi Roy, Anne Nicholson, Sebastien Joly, Jack Fitch, Ghyslaine Masse, Peter MacLaurin*

AGENDA TOPIC	DISCUSSION	Remarks and Actions To be Taken
Welcoming remarks	<i>Meeting was called to order at 7:40 PM.</i>	
1.0 Additions and approval of the Agenda		<i>Moved by: Adeline Lepanto Seconded by: Adele Leeming Carried Unanimously</i>
2.0 Approval of minutes of meeting held October 15th, 2012	<i>Revised absence section of minutes from October 15th meeting. Mistakenly forgot to remove names from the present section, however, all absentees were clearly indicated in the "Absent with regrets" section. Apologies on my behalf. Sylvie B. mentioned that we did not elect a Treasurer at the last meeting. Fred G. stated that one is not needed at the present time. Fred G. mentioned that Mr. MacLaurin is still the commissioner sitting on SEAC, and will suggest to Mr. MacLaurin the option of having one or two Commissioners as alternates. Brian B. reiterated the importance of having a commissioner sitting on SEAC. Fred to speak with Mr. MacLaurin. Adelina L. will also bring this issue up at the PC meeting.</i>	<i>Moved by: Sylvie Battisti Seconded by: Pamala Cipton Carried Unanimously</i>
3.0 Question Period for the Public		
4.0 Chairperson's Report	<i>Adelina L. reviewed the Chairperson's report. Adelina L. mentioned she was extremely pleased with the workshop</i>	

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	<p><i>presented by Maureen Hunt.</i> <i>She mentioned some of the comments by parents. Comments can be found on the Chair's report. Adelina stressed how important that these comments be shared with Principals.</i> <i>Bessie A. explained her husband's reasons for questioning the SEAC procedures.</i> <i>Sylvie B. asked why it is that the PC chooses who sits on the SEAC committee. Fred explained briefly the procedures of the practice. Fred feels that the more lengthy the process to elect members, the more difficult and complicated it will be to get parent representatives to sit on this committee.</i> <i>Fred also explained the meaning of Coded and Non-Coded children. Originally parents sitting on SEAC had to have MELS coded children, the committee now also accepts parents who have BD and LD children.</i> <i>Sylvie B. mentioned that there are elements of our practice missing from the procedures. Sylvie B. also requested that we mention to the PC Committee not to make the election process any more formal or difficult. It is in the PC's mandate to elect the SEAC members.</i></p>	<p><i>Fred and Adelina to revise procedures.</i></p>
<p>5.0 New Business</p>		
<p>5.1 Debriefing of Fall Workshop: Maureen Hunt</p>	<p><i>Fred briefly described Maureen Hunt's presentation from the SEAC Conference evening. Fred introduced the WELCOME TO HOLLAND story. Beautiful analogy. For future SEAC conferences, SEAC can consider Maureen Hunt to present a part 2 workshop with her son.</i> <i>Volunteers for sub-committee to plan the next workshop: Sylvie Battisti, Pamala Cipton, Bessie Athanasopoulos, Nicole Rodier, Sheila Rennie.</i> <i>Sheila Rennie asked if our workshops could also be presented via video-conferencing. Fred explained the difficulty of this request if there is more than 1 workshop going on. However, it could be considered for only 1 workshop.</i> <i>Brian B. suggested that we approach the Centres of Excellence and the CLC for their help in servicing our northern schools, and present at our SEAC evenings.</i></p>	
<p>5.2 Assistive technology for EHDA students</p>	<p><i>Bessie A. explained how her daughter was given a computer with software, but it is not really meeting her needs, and questioned the process, and whether there is more of a variety of software available. Fred explained the Mesure 30810 assistive technology process, and that many SWLSB students are serviced with assistive technology. Fred mentioned that the</i></p>	

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	<p><i>School Team decides what software should be purchased for students. Our consultants have been mandated by Fred to follow-up on the use of assistive technology assigned to students. Fred recommended that before Parents consider purchasing software on their own, it is always a good policy to speak with the child's teacher and school team regarding their needs.</i></p>	
<p>5.3 FCPQ – Handbook for Parents (Follow-up)</p>	<p><i>Fred presented the document. This document is public. We can put a link on our SWLSB, as well as the SEAC website. Pamala Cripton mentioned that she would have liked to have this information when her child first started school. Principals should be made aware of this information. The link can also be included on the information flyer for the next SEAC Conference evening.</i></p>	<p><i>Ask Elizabeth Thibault to put up a link to this handbook on the SEAC website.</i></p>
<p>5.4 Guide for Special Education Policy</p>	<p><i>SEAC parents would like to be involved in some of the components of the Handbook of Procedures binder, especially the transition process. The handbook is presently in the works. Pamala Cripton mentioned that SEAC should be part of the process of putting together the revised handbook. Fred mentioned that he will be working on the transition process with the Principals. Brian B. briefly talked about the transition/articulation procedure. Fred will look into the possibility of the Kindergarten Orientation Procedures Guidebook be presented at an upcoming SEAC meeting. Pamala related her experience with her child's IEP process. Fred explained the importance of working as a team, starting with the parents' involvement.</i></p>	<p><i>Fred Greschner to follow-up.</i></p>
<p>6.0 Complementary Services Report</p>	<p><i>Reviewed by committee.</i></p>	
<p>6.1 Anti-Bullying/Anti-Violence School Plans (Up-date)</p>	<p><i>Secretary General has several policies to review, one being the Anti-Bullying/Anti Violence plans. All schools are in the process of developing their plans. The Board is presently developing a common template to help out schools with this procedure. Fred explained certain criteria involved in implementing this plan, and how we will be addressing these procedures. Key element is to develop a tool for awareness and prevention. Fred presented the irightthewrong.com website. Bessie A. expressed how sad that many of the programs and initiatives available to Laval schools are unfortunately not offered to Northern schools. Fred briefly explained the procedures in identifying and noting bullying and violence incidents in schools. Since this law has been implemented, and</i></p>	

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	<p><i>plans are in the process of being made, schools initiatives have changed tremendously.</i></p> <p><i>Sheila R. asked if there are special guidelines for special needs children with regards to bullying. Fred mentioned that at this time there are no special guidelines, however, everyone will be dealt with fairly, but not necessarily equally, it all depends on individual cases.</i></p> <p><i>Sheila R. suggested that Anti-Bullying/Anti-Violence plans should be part of Bus Safety week.</i></p>	
7.0 Financial Report (Attached)	<p><i>Reviewed by committee.</i></p>	
8.0 Parents' Committee Report (Attached)	<p><i>Adelina L. spoke about the process of electing SEAC members. She reviewed the PC minutes as far back as 2007. SEAC members were always voted in without abstention. This year however, there have been concerns from the PC. The PC needs clarification on the procedures of the SEAC committee electing members.</i></p>	
9.0 Question Period for the Public	<p><i>Brian B. asked what teachers should do when asked specific questions from parents namely if they have a child who should be place in a specialized setting at Crestview and there is no place. Fred explained that the Board will do its best to provide services needed to the child in his/her zoned school first.</i></p>	
10.0 Next meeting	<p><i>Monday, January 28th, 2013</i></p>	
12.0 Adjournment	<p><i>Meeting adjourned at 10:05 PM.</i></p>	

Respectfully submitted by: Sylvia Repas