

Westwood Junior High School Governing Board Minutes

Monday, November 21st, 2016, 19:00

Staff Room Jr. Campus

Attendees: Tanja Minisini (GB Chair), Marie-Josée Coiteux (Principal), Melissa Salama, Kelly Ann Uren, Carol James, Barbara Hunter, Nathalie Vanasse, Jacky Connolly, Maria Ancil, Daniel Olivenstein (Commissioner), Isabelle Fleury (Home & School Rep), Mariette Gallan (Parent), David Brown (Parent)

Regrets: None

Meeting commenced at 7:05

1. Approval of the agenda

Moved by Melissa Salama, seconded by Carol James, unanimously approved.
Motion carried.

2. Approval of the minutes of the meeting of October 17th, 2016

Moved by Melissa Salama, seconded by Kelly Ann Uren, unanimously approved.
Motion carried.

3. Business arising from the minutes - none

4. Reports:

4.1 Principal's Report (see attached)

In her report, the Principal requested approval for the following two fundraisers relating to the WWJR Hockey Program:

4.1.1. WWJR/WWSR staff vs hockey team on December 12th at 3:15 p.m. The volunteer mom's would like to sell baked goods at the rink and charge a small entry fee to watch the game.

Moved by Melissa Salama, seconded by Maria Ancil. Motion carried.

4.1.2. Comedy Night Fundraiser at the St-Lazare Community Centre on January 13th. 18+ only. They will charge for admission, refreshments (including alcohol), and raffle tickets with all moneys raised going to the program. After the Craft Fair, they will approach local vendors for donations for the raffle prizes.

Moved by Kelly Ann Uren, seconded by Carol James. Motion carried.

Please note that because of a conflict of interest, Nathalie Vanasse and Jacky Connolly did not participate in the vote. Quorum was still maintained.

4.2 Parent's Committee Report (see attached)

4.3 Home & School Report (see attached)

Isabelle Fleury asked that, in the future, every effort be made by all groups fundraising for the school, regardless which program, to communicate with each other ahead of time to avoid timing conflicts and bombarding the public and vendors for donations. Tanja Minisini suggested we have an open calendar at GB meetings to mark all fundraisers down considering that all efforts must first be approved by GB.

4.4 Commissioner's Report (see attached)

5. New business

5.1 Field trip approvals

5.1.1. As a clarification to a field trip that was already approved on June 7th, 2016 by the previous GB, La Course du Grand Défie Pierre Lavoie will take place May 12-15, 2017. 30 students from Westwood, 10 from Macdonald High School. \$200/student to cover bussing and other expenses.

Moved by Carol James, seconded by Jacky Connolly, unanimously approved. Motion carried.

5.1.2. Fieldtrip to Cineplex Odeon in Dorion to see a highly acclaimed French movie about bullying "1:54". December 5th, 9:00-12:30. 5 classes (1 Sec. 1, 4 Sec. 2), 135 students, 7 adults (1:20). \$11/student.

5.1.3. Fieldtrip to the Montreal Holocaust Museum for Sec.1 and Sec. 2 Matrix students on March 21st, 2017, part of all day trip. 114 students, 5 adults. \$10/student.

5.1.4. Fieldtrip to Father Dowd residential Centre to volunteer with the senior residents on December 15th, 2016, 9:10am-2:15pm. Sec. 2 Matrix students and 15 students from WWSR. 70 students, 4 adults. \$10/student

5.1.5. In school team building activity "Life Night" on November 30th, 2016 1:00-8:00pm. Sec.1 and Sec. 2 Student Life students. \$25/student to cover the cost of dinner, a guest speaker, and various activities.

5.1.2., 5.1.3., 5.1.4., & 5.1.5. were approved by a single vote. Moved by Nathalie Vanasse, seconded by Barbara Hunter, unanimously approved. Motion carried.

5.2 Change of schedule approvals

Changes in schedule due to early dismissal on December 23rd, 2016. Moved by Maria Anctil, seconded by Carol James, unanimously approved. Motion carried.

5.3 Emergency Preparedness Document – brief presentation of purpose

5.4 School Success Plan

The joint plan for both campuses spans 2015-2020 and focuses on helping the students succeed and graduate. This year's team effort will focus on Math and French thanks to grants received. As part of the professional development, the staff will participate in a Digital Citizenship workshop focusing on Math and the languages.

5.5 Anti-Bullying/Anti-Violence Plan – available on school web site

Only minor modifications were made between this year and last. Motion to accept the plan with the new modifications moved by Maria Anctil, seconded by Kelly Ann Uren, unanimously approved. Motion carried.

5.6 Budget – November Revised

Motion to approve the budget as presented moved by Melissa Salama, seconded by Kelly Ann Uren, unanimously approved. Motion carried.

6. Varia

6.1 Tanja Minisini and Mme Coiteux will look into preparing a document for next meeting which, if accepted, would provide blanket approval for all bake-sale fundraisers occurring in school.

6.2 Home & School, via Isabelle Fleury, requested that the principal reserve 50 tables for the 2017 Craft Fair which will take place the weekend of November 25-26, 2017.

7. Public question period

David Brown asked about the possibility of offering a coding course. In terms of changes to the curriculum, these must come from the government. With regards to offering the course as a lunch or after-school program, last year it was offered by a staff member and was very popular. The GB and principal are not opposed to offering this type of course in an after-school setting could a third-party service provider be found given that, at the moment, no staff member is experienced enough to teach the class. Mr. Brown mentioned that he would explore whether or not such a provider and course is available.

8. To celebrate the Holidays and as a thank you, all members of the GB agree that they would like to go out for a bite to eat after the December 15th meeting. The cost of the meal will be covered by the GB budget but any alcoholic beverages are the responsibility of the individual members. The "Mon Village" restaurant was agreed to. Given that a substantial amount of material was covered at this meeting, the next meeting should be very short and should be done by 7:30pm providing it starts on time. Isabelle Fleury will make reservations for the group for 7:30pm.

9. Adjournment – Motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:58pm moved by Melissa Salama, seconded by Jacky Connolly, unanimously approved. Motion carried.

Principal's Report – Marie-Josée Coiteux

Tell Them From Me Survey-the November sitting was cancelled due to the continued delays and uncertainty regarding the timeline for launching our TTFM surveys. We have always wanted to remain consistent in when we administer the survey so we can be reasonably certain that timing does not impact outcomes. We shall stay on track to administer the survey as scheduled in April with the Student Engagement Thematic Survey included. We will not generate a Bullying and School Safety Report this year and any adjustments we have to make for the purposes of our Annual Report will be determined at a later date.

The school board announced that there will be an early dismissal on Friday, Dec. 23rd, 2016. WWJR will dismiss students at 11:20 a.m. for buses to begin departing at 11:30 a.m. An ERMS message was sent from LBPSB to all parents and I sent an ERMS message to our WWJR community

We had a fire drill at recess on Nov. 2nd, 2016. It went well-our next planned fire drill will be in the Spring.

Report cards went home today, November 21st. Parent-teacher interviews will take place on Dec. 2nd (By appointment only)

The enriched exam for our grade 5 students will now take place on a Saturday in May (DTD) –it will not be written in their grade 5 class.

We had 74 students write the enriched exam for the 17-18 school year. I do not know how many wrote in other schools to share marks with us, yet. These numbers are down however numbers seem to be down across LBPSB

Our Remembrance Day assembly +Terry Fox recognition assembly took place on Friday, Nov. 11th. It was a beautiful ceremony. Thank you to Jason Cordery (spiritual animator) who organized the assembly and thank you to James Chartrand sec. 2 student (cadet) for the ceremonial laying of the wreath.

Stats Quebec randomly chose schools/classes across Quebec to come in and do two surveys (Health Survey & Tobacco Survey) and our school was chosen. -Carl Brown's sec. 1 Ethics group was chosen and did the surveys on Nov. 18th & Kelly Roy's sec. 2 Ethics class was chosen and did the surveys on Nov. 17th. A hard copy of the information and letter of refusal went home with the students involved and I sent an ERMS message with the information letter attached.

Our Open House was very successful-approx. 200 families came to visit.

I sent the Craft Fair flyer via ERMS, it has been put on our WW web-site and Sheila sent it out to the WWSR community.

There will be a WWJR/WWSR staff vs hockey team on December 12th at 3:15 p.m. at the St. Lazare arena. The volunteer mom's would like to sell baked goods at the rink and charge a small entry fee to watch the game as a fundraiser for the hockey program. This will be brought to Governing Board

Also once the Craft Fair is over, some of the hockey parents will be going around to ask vendors if they have any donations for raffle prizes for a comedy night fundraiser taking place on January 13th. The money raised at this event will go towards reducing the cost of the hockey program. This will also be brought to Governing Board

Practice has begun for a relay team to prepare for Le Grand Défi Pierre Lavoie which is a 260 km relay run from Québec to Montréal. It will be done during the weekend of May 12th to May 14th, 2017. Updated permission form to sign

BANTAM BOYS SOCCER: Great effort by all boys in the semi-final on Oct. 26th. They had a great season and should be proud

Congratulations to the **girls' soccer team** who won the gold medal match 2-1 against Royal West on Saturday, Oct. 29th. They received a GMAA banner which all the girls have signed.

GIRLS VOLLEYBALL: Tough, tough loss Nov. 3rd in the playoffs. The girls battled so hard but lost in 3 sets. Congrats on a fantastic season.

Swim team practices have started and there is a large number of swimmers

LIBRARY NEWS- **Pumpkin Decorating Contest** was a great success! Westwood students always rise to the challenge! 22 pumpkins were decorated. Everyone did an amazing job.

Student's picks- winners were: 1st Megan Gauthier "Emoji", 2nd Amelia Genty "Eyeball", Kylie Brown & Cali Allen "Harry Potter"

Staff's pick – 1st Amelia Genty "Eyeball", 2nd Madison O'Donnell "Clown", 3rd Isaac Joassaint & Denise O'Briain "Elmo".

Congratulation to our winners!

TOPS auditions are taking place tomorrow afternoon, Nov. 22nd. Posters have been put around the school, it has been in the announcements and I mentioned it at the assembly

Parent's Committee Report – Nathalie Vanasse

PC meeting dates for 2016-17:

Oct. 13th - Nov. 3rd - Dec. 1st - Feb. 2nd - Apr. 6th - Jun. 1st.

PC (Parent's Committee) is the former CPC (Central Parent's Committee). Meetings will no longer be divided into region sub-meetings, but instead will meet as a whole. Sub-committees (Elementary West, Elementary East and High School) will meet monthly, submitting reports to be presented at PC Meetings. The website is presently in the process of being updated, there is a new logo.

The high school sub-committee met on October 13th (at 9pm immediately following the first PC Meeting). Bobbi Brown was voted in as Chair. M. Petruzzo as Vice chair, M. Smith as communications officer, and S. Moody as Secretary. (J. DiMarco who is PC – SNAC rep. will also represent SNAC for the high school sub-committee).

November 22nd, at 7pm is the next meeting date. There will be a presentation on Suicide Prevention, all parents are welcome. It will be held at the school board.

December 15th will be held at Mr. Spicy at 6:30. All parent reps and alts are welcome. Please RSVP. A presentation on Financial Literacy with Brian Smith is in the works. It hasn't been confirmed for this evening and may be considered for January's meeting instead.

A Governing Board training session was held on October 20th, I participated via the webcast. The session was basically a "GB -101". It offered parents a basic idea of what GB is and does. As soon as the webcast went to "Public Question Period", the webcast was cut off. Parents at the PC meeting were concerned and questioned as to why, as this could have been an interesting aspect of the evening, but were informed that the problem was still being looked into, and would be carried to next month's meeting.

The SNAC reported that LBPSB has 20,105 students, of which 13% (2640) are considered special needs. 61% are in difficulty (ie: learning difficulties, behaviour issues, etc) and 38% are with handicaps (ie: autistic, hearing impairments, etc). 28. Of those same numbers, 28.7% are secondary students with IEP's. If a GB has a parent rep with a child that has an IEP, they can be elected as the "IEP Parent Rep" for that GB. I would like to represent Westwood Jr., as our IEP parent rep, but would need to be voted in as such, and would like to make a motion to do so.

There is a survey from the Institut de la statistique du Quebec (ISQ) which has been mandated by the Ministere de la Sante et des Services Sociaux (MSSS) to conduct the 2nd edition of the Quebec Health Survey of high school students this year. 65000 high school students from 500 schools of various regions of Quebec are involved. It is entirely voluntary, as you've seen from the letter that came home. There was some discussion at the PC meeting, didn't really see the point of arguing GB approval, as it is mandated by MELS and parents have the choice to opt out.

There was a request made to offer any suggestions seen as priorities which parents would like the PC to take on this year. The PC Priority list (attached) was approved and more sub-committees will be formed, to begin the process of obtaining some of these goals. I abstained from the vote. I felt the list too vague, too huge an endeavor to take on, with only 4 meetings left. I firmly believe in the saying "You are what you do, not what you say you'll do." The list in my opinion needs to be condensed, into 3 or 4 at most, attainable priorities (just my two cents).

EPCA is in the process of composing a letter regarding the improvement of the Quebec History Program for secondary 3 & 4 students (see attached). EPCA has made a request to all GBs asking for a letter showing our support for EPCA's initiative to change the curriculum with a deadline of November 25th. The material for the school year 2017-18 goes into print in January/February, hence the urgency. They want to change the attitude of "simply wanting to pass" to "informed, caring citizens". Other requests have since been made to EPCA from other GB reps asking for a more concrete type of document that they would like to verify before simply signing off on EPCA's draft/intention.

Lastly, Riverdale High School and other partner schools are collecting coats, boots and winter wear. Donated items can be dropped off at Riverdale (5060 boul. Sources) or you can contact Ilana (the Riverdale Parent Rep) for pick up. So if you have donations, please bring them by and I wanted to make our staff aware for any families they may have in mind that could benefit from such an event, "FREE" Shopping Day will be on Saturday, November 26th from 9-2pm.

PC priorities 2016-2017

Enrolment, participation, and viability of English schools

- Look at historical impact of Bill 101 and explore ways around its limitations
- Examine Bill 105 and its implications
- Examine our popular programs and their (potential) implementation across the Board
- Study trends of enrolment and see how we can utilize that information
- Explore ways to make Entrance Exams and Open Houses more appealing/ successful in drawing students
- Explore ways to encourage and promote parental involvement/ positive parent experiences which will result in word-of-mouth/ free publicity
- Explore ways to promote and market the LBPSB

Policies and curriculum

- Review MSC and school closure processes
- Review school fees across the Board
- Proposal for free wi-fi to parent volunteers across the Board, in order to reduce waste, save time, and standardize the (online) distribution of required documents
- Find ways to ensure initiatives are enforced or at least addressed across the Board (i.e. optional SNAC rep on each GB)
- Examine GB practices to encourage parent participation (i.e. child care during meetings, making it more appealing by enhancing their feelings of accomplishment)
- Examine advantages and disadvantages of our contract with Chartwells and explore possible alternatives
- Find ways to ensure funding for tutoring and a support network for parents of children with academic and/ or behavioural difficulties
- Find ways to promote the physical and mental health and wellness of our children
- Explore possible changes to the curriculum:
 - Greater emphasis on study and organizational skills in grade 7

- More French for the well-roundedness of our children and also to draw more students
- Introduce coding as early as elementary school with the possibility of accreditation
- More attention to probability and statistics literacy
- Promote volunteering and entrepreneurialism (i.e. required community service hours, business project)
- More attention to multi-disciplinary creativity and problem-solving
- Review agreement between LBPSB and CSMB
- Explore possible improvement plans to ensure student success
- Examine impact of budget cuts on librarians and explore possible ways to get extra support
- Explore how to include the everyday parent in the PC, not just those elected via GB

Communications and publications

- Update AGA kit so it is complete and easy to understand
- Create FAQ/ parent resource guide to help parents navigate the system
- Ensure GB training is online and accessible to all (and possibly a requirement?)
- Examine the possibility of direct lines of communication between the parent reps and the parents they speak for (i.e. independent mailing lists, ability to poll parent communities, etc.)
- Find ways to ensure not only the Board but the schools themselves keep their sites updated with ALL relevant information and events (i.e. Parent Rep contact info, board wide meeting dates, QFHSA Fall Conference, Concordia workshop, etc.)
- Explore ways to promote the LBPSB via social media
- Work to promote awareness of SNAC

Quebec's Secondary Three & Four History Curriculum: In Need of Change

In the Spring of 2016 Quebec's Liberal Government announced it would be implementing a reform to the province's secondary 3 and 4 History curriculum that had been initiated by the previous PQ Government. Ostensibly this reform was intended to address what was widely recognized as a structural problem with the program that many felt was causing undue confusion for students: namely the thematic rather than chronological approach of the current secondary four program. However, thanks to lobbying efforts of *La Coalition pour l'histoire* – an organization founded and financed by some of the most conservative elements of Quebec's nationalist movement – this reform came to be about far more than changes to the program's structure. It became about changing the content of the course to reflect the narrow ideological views of *La Coalition pour l'histoire* and its supporters.

What We Are Asking For

- First and foremost, we want a curriculum whose content acknowledges the complexity and diversity of Quebec society and challenges students to develop critical thinking skills in examining historical events. A curriculum that seeks to indoctrinate students with a simplistic ideologically driven narrative is an insult to the intelligence of students and a disservice to society as a whole. To be clear, we are not asking to replace one narrow ideological vision of history with another. This is not about replacing a sovereigntist narrative with a federalist one or a conservative narrative with a liberal one. Conservative nationalist perspectives have a place in the telling of Quebec's history. But they, like other important currents of thought, should be presented as that, perspectives, not the defining narrative.
- We want a curriculum that addresses Indigenous History as noted in items 62, 63 and 64 of the Calls to Action made by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC). The current reform has ignored these recommendations. We also want a curriculum that reflects the current scholarship on Indigenous history which reveals the active role of Indigenous people in shaping North American history in every historical period, rather than portraying them merely as hapless and passive victims of colonization. Achieving these goals will require extensive consultation with Indigenous communities and scholars at every step of the curriculum development process.
- We want a curriculum that acknowledges the struggles and positive contributions of Quebec's various ethnic minority communities. Students need to learn about the over 4,000 Black and Indigenous people enslaved in Quebec during the French regime, about the struggles against discrimination faced by Jewish, Italian and Greek immigrants during the early waves of immigration, about the more recent efforts to welcome refugees fleeing war and oppression in places like Vietnam, Lebanon, Chile, Haiti or Syria. The history of Quebec's Black community also needs to be integrated into the curriculum rather than leaving it to be taught at the discretion of individual teachers. The current curriculum has completely omitted the historical contributions of its minority communities.
- We want a curriculum that acknowledges the diversity of Quebec's Anglophone community and its positive contributions to Quebec society. Students need to know that the majority of Quebec Anglophones were not elites living in the Golden Square

Mile. Many were working class Irish who suffered untold indignities at the hands of the British merchant class. Some, as in the 1837 rebellions, even worked hand in hand with Francophones resisting British authority. Still others, such as the Anglophone women who participated in the beginnings of Quebec's feminist movement made significant positive contributions to making Quebec a more egalitarian society. The current curriculum reduces Quebec's Anglophone community to a monolithic block of elites intent on impeding the society's progress at every turn.

□ We want a curriculum that acknowledges the important developments in Quebec's history that have been motivated by progressive political values. Students need to learn about the Parent Report, the resistance to Duplessis led by individuals like Georges-Henri Levesque and institutions like the *Cité Libre* journal and the inclusive nationalism of René Levesque. The current curriculum omits this progressive history and instead offers a very conservative vision of Quebec's history where, for example, even widely reviled figures like Maurice Duplessis are recast as defenders of Quebec's autonomy.

What We Are Not Asking For

In order for the aim of this statement to be 100% clear and transparent we will outline some things that we are not asking for, so as to avoid any confusion.

□ We are not asking for the 'denationalization' of the program. References to the Quebec nation and various forms of national consciousness existed in the program prior to this reform and should continue to do so.

□ We are not asking for the program's focus to be anything other than Quebec's Francophone majority. To say that we want a program that is inclusive of ethnic minorities and Indigenous communities does not mean that we want them to be given equal weight to the Francophone majority.

□ In suggesting that the diversity and positive contributions of the Anglophone community be acknowledged we are not in any way suggesting that the various negative actions of the British Regime and the English merchant class should be omitted or minimized.

What We Are Asking of The Government of Quebec

□ We are asking The Government of Quebec to work with school boards and key stakeholders to immediately produce supplemental pedagogical materials. These would address the most glaring omissions in the new curriculum. The Precisions of Learning curriculum document and Ministry exams would need to be updated to include this material.

□ This would be a stop-gap measure until a process of public consultations could be held that would allow Quebec's various communities to offer their input. The aim of this consultation would be to develop a new inclusive History curriculum with new textbooks and pedagogical resources for teachers.

Further Reading (in chronological order)

□ Gervais, Lisa-Marie. "Enseignement De L'histoire - Bisbille Autour D'un Comité Ministériel." *Le Devoir*. N.p., 06 Mar. 2013. Web. 05 Aug. 2016.

- Proulx, Lise, Pierre Beaudoin, Daniel Rouillard, and Sylvain Decelles. "La Réplique > Comité Ministériel Sur L'enseignement De L'histoire - Pour Un Enseignement De L'histoire Au Service De La Pensée Critique." *Le Devoir*. N.p., 07 Mar. 2013. Web. 05 Aug. 2016.
- Cardin, Jean-François. "De La Supposée «dénationalisation» Des Programmes D'histoire." *Le Devoir*. N.p., 11 Mar. 2013. Web. 05 Aug. 2016.
- Gervais, Lisa-Marie. "Vers Un Nouveau Cours D'histoire Nationale Au Secondaire." *Le Devoir*. N.p., 27 Feb. 2014. Web. 05 Aug. 2016.
- "Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada: Calls to Action." *Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada*. Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada, May 2015. Web. 11 Oct. 2016.
- Shingler, Benjamin. "New Quebec High School History Course Called out for Lack of Diversity." *CBCnews*. CBC/Radio Canada, 10 Mar. 2016. Web. 20 Sept. 2016.
- Shingler, Benjamin. "Minorities, First Nations Should Play Greater Role in Quebec History Course, Critics Say." *CBCnews*. CBC/Radio Canada, 13 May 2016. Web. 05 Aug. 2016.
- Green, Robert. "Opinion: Quebec's Non-inclusive New History Curriculum Is a Missed Opportunity." *Montreal Gazette*. N.p., 31 May 2016. Web. 20 Sept. 2016.
- Cardin, Jean-François, Marc-André Éthier, David Lefrançois, and Michel P. Trudeau. "Inepties Et Faussetés Concernant L'enseignement De L'histoire." *La Presse*. N.p., 20 Aug. 2016. Web. 11 Oct. 2016.
- Green, Robert. "Quebec's Rotten History Curriculum Is Fault of Both PQ and Liberals." *Ricochet*. N.p., 30 Aug. 2016. Web. 20 Sept. 2016.

About the Committee That Initiated This Statement

This statement was initiated by the Committee for the Enhancement of the Curriculum of History in Quebec (ComECH-Quebec), an ad hoc committee created by the English Parents' Committees Association (EPCA), Quebec Anglophone Heritage Network (QAHN) and the Quebec Federation of Home and School Associations (QFHSA).

Home & School Report – Isabelle Fleury

1) 15th Edition of the Craft Fair on November 26th & 27th

- a. First, thank you for the Craft Fair mention in the Report Card – This is really appreciated.
- b. Two of the Junior campus students will have the opportunity to be live Thursday morning with Ted Bird on 106.7 to promote the Craft Fair.
- c. New this year: Student volunteers are putting Craft Fair pamphlets in car windshields at different places (train station, Walmart, Soccerplex, etc.)
- d. We were able to get the sign for the city Craft Fair removed from the corner of St-Louis & Bordelais last Friday. Our main point of contact left therefore we are trying to make it work with the city and with the Hudson Craft Fair.
- e. We are continuing to receive and solicit raffle gift donations – 17 baskets are made so far, another 15 on the way – but we are still far from the 80+ from last year.
- f. We are having multiple wrapping raffle basket sessions everyday from now until end of day Thursday.
- g. All crafters and merchants are booked and have paid. The list of participants is published on our website <http://www.supportwestwood.com/craft-fair.html>
- h. We are looking for anyone who would like to bake for the Craft Fair, to please send in the goods on the Friday Nov 25 to JR (or 26 or 27 as available)
- i. We are also looking for anyone who would like to contribute to the Westwood café with donations of hot dogs, buns, soft drinks, water bottles, small bags of chips, etc.
- j. Donations of used books are also most welcome to the junior campus any time during the rest of the week.
- k. Any questions at all, email us at contact@supportwestwood.com

2) Nov. 5, 2016 - QFHSA Fall Conference held at Beaconsfield High School. Lisa Fougere and Julie Gibeault Goyer attended.

- a. The morning session included keynote speaker Nakuset, Executive Director of the Montreal Native Women's Shelter and star of the CTV show Indigenous Power. She was beyond inspiring and eye-opening on many fronts. Her mother, part of the abusive Residential Schools of the 60's in Canada, Nakuset was part of the Sixties Scoop where several native children were taken from their parents deemed to be unfit for parenting and put into foster/adoptive families, erasing their indigenous history, names and culture. Nakuset was taken from Manitoba and grew up as an Indian Jew in Hampstead. Since she was 18, she has since regained her culture and ties with her family, trying to change the cycle of alcoholism, abuse and native shaming. She plays an active role in the Montreal Women's Shelter and helps the many displaced and homeless natives in Montreal through shelters and Friendship Circles.
- b. The panel discussion on Learning the Lessons of History, creating a new narrative for Canada, was also very inspiring. The panel was comprised of Kevin Deer, John Green, Dorothy and . The crux of the discussions was that the indigenous, English, black, and every other minority's contributions were very absent from the history curriculum being taught in secondary 3 and 4

and did quite a disservice to all our students as well as our cultures. The current curriculum's omissions serve to erase and negate the contributions made to our current society by so many minority groups. QFHSA has written a statement to be sent to various Quebec government bodies in hopes of ensuring that the new History curriculum is inclusive of these groups' contributions.

c. afternoon sessions were for workshops. We attended the one on Self esteem and another on anxiety, both very relevant to lives as parents.

d. these conferences are always so informative and we come away with plenty of ideas for use both at home and within the schools. Highly recommend to anyone. Connections made with parents of other schools is invaluable too.

3) Our next meeting is a gathering to celebrate our Craft Fair results on Thursday December 8th, 2016.

Commissioner's Report – Daniel Olivenstein

Special Committee Meeting

October 17, 2016

1. A Special meeting of the Council of Commissioners was called by two commissioners, J. Arless and L.Derry. The mandate of the Special Committee is:
2. • To review the representation of Council to external committees and other organizations;
3. • To revise the distribution of the stipends for all members of Council, in conformity with order in council number 605-2016;
4. • To review specific matters related to internal business of Council as appropriate.

Regular Meeting

October 24, 2016

1. Student Commissioners

- The Council of Commissioners appointed Emma Gauthier and Cierra Leitman as the Student Commissioners at the Lester B. Pearson School Board, for the term ending September 30, 2017. We are the only Board in Quebec to have student commissioners.

2. Financial Statements

- The Council accepted the Lester B. Pearson School Board 2015-2016 Financial Statements for submission to the School Tax Management Committee and the Ministère de l'Éducation, de l'Enseignement supérieur et de la Recherche showing revenues of \$284,181,365 and expenses of \$286,105,103 with an excess of expenditures over revenues of \$1,923,738. This deficit must be covered in this year's budget and is.

3. Executive Committee

- The Land Sales Report was presented by C. Heffernan who informed the Committee that she had met with representatives from both the Commission scolaire Marguerite-Bourgeoys and the MEES. The possibility of obtaining funding for capital projects was discussed in return for the transfer of the building at 244 de la Presentation in Dorval to CSMB. The representative from the MEES will bring the suggestions to Quebec City for further review. It was noted that the CSMB has requested to have the ILC Marcus Tabachnick and Thorndale buildings transferred to their Board as of July 1st 2017

4. Programs and Services Report

• Safe and Caring School Policy

A change is being made to the policy and will be brought to council for approval. The change will add information on the Code of Conduct for Parents. This change was requested by the CNESST, after an incident in one of our elementary schools.

• Entrance exams

Exams will take place, for grade 6 students, on October 29th. A second exam period is planned for May, 2017, and will target the grade 5 students. All plans have not yet been finalized and will continue in consultation with the high school team.

• High School IEP

Student Services is in the process of updating the high school IEP. In the past, it was a one page document that lacked essential elements. Elementary IEP consists of four pages. Space has been added for teachers to include information regarding contacts made pertaining to the student.

Implementation will begin with Secondary 1 this year, with full implementation next school year. (some schools have already started)

- **Secondary 3 history**
Teachers are reviewing the new program
- **Financial literacy classes**
T. Rhymes reported that our board has not yet heard directly from the Ministry regarding this. It is unlikely this will be made mandatory for September 2017 because time would be needed to hold PD sessions for teachers before launching it as a mandatory course. Where to place it in the curriculum, is also an issue.
- **A Peace Summit**
This will be held on October 19th, at PEC. 75 grade 6 students are expected to attend. A follow up on this event will be reported on at our November meeting.

5. SNAC

1. **SNAC Constitution Review-** Genevieve Dugre, the Secretary-General, reviewed the sections of the Education Act that deal with SNAC. The presentation included the following highlights:
 - SNAC's responsibilities regarding IEPs
 - Budget
 - School attendance exemptions
 - Composition of SNAC-1998 Council of Commissioners decision- up to 13 parent members are allowed.

2. Annual

Report Discussion concerned how best to disseminate information regarding IEPs to the parents of student with IEPs.

2. **IEP Parent on GB Update-** SNAC would like to put together a list of schools whose Governing Boards have elected specifically a parent of a student on an IEP.

6. Facilities and Security Report

- **Ententes with Municipalities:** Work has started on the synthetic field to be installed by the City of Pierrefonds-Roxboro at Pierrefonds Comprehensive High School. The actual field is to be installed in the spring of 2017 prior to the end of the school year
- **The pool at Beurling Academy** has opened for City of Verdun activities after the locker rooms underwent renovations and a new electrical panel was installed during the summer.
- **MEES Funding Measures:**
the School Board is to receive an additional \$4,000,000.00 in funding for Capital Projects for 2017-2018.

7. Parent Commissioners Report

- **2016-2017 LBPSB Parent Committee Elections October 13, 2016**

Parent Committee Officers- Chair - Shane Ross **Vice Chair** - Alaina Gross **Treasurer** - Sharad Bhargava
Communications Officer - Allison Saunders **Secretary** - Natasha Drysdale

Commissioners Representing Parents - Elementary - Jason Doan **High School** - Sharad Bhargava- **At Large** - Frank Clarke **Special Needs** - Angela Berryman

Parent Representatives on Committees- -Programs and Services- Lyane Trépanier **-Facilities and Security-** David Zerkler- **Transportation Advisory** -Dawn Briand- **Intercultural Advisory-** Natasha Drysdale, Alaina Gross **Communications & Marketing-** Allison Saunders- **EPCA Directors-** Dayo Odubayo - 2 year term, Bobbi Brown - 1 year term

8. Student Commissioners Report

- **Co-Chairs:** Cierra Leitman and Emma Gauthier- **Vice-Chair:** Satrijit Chatterjee- **Secretary:** Luca Delgiacco and Emma Elbaz We formed a Social Media Team consisting of five CSC members. Their objective is to use social media platforms to highlight CSC initiatives and Student Voice from around our School Board. We have talked about continuing the Welcome to Our World Saturday transition to high school event held in May. We also wish to involve Cycle 1 high school students at one of our meetings to expose them to what we do to promote Student voice and discuss important student issues and ideas.

9. New Student Ombudsman

- Caroline Lemay was designated by the Council of Commissioners as the Student Ombudsman of the Lester B. Pearson School Board, effective October 24, 2016 for a mandate of 3 years