

Parents' Committee Meeting

Wednesday, June 14, 2023

Minutes of the Parents' Committee meeting held June 14, 2023 by Teams

Present:

Kimberly Buffitt	Chairperson and representing St-Paul and Mountain Ridge schools
Nadia Wellman	First Vice-Chair and representing École Mgr-Scheffer
Jessica Ransom	Representative – Harrington School
Geneva Jones	Representative – Netagamiou School
Shawn Buffitt	Representative – Mecatina School
Ashley Morency	Representative – Special Needs Advisory Committee

Absent:

Representatives from:	Kegaska School
	St-Augustine School
	École Gabriel-Dionne
	École St-Joseph

For the Centre de services scolaire du Littoral:

Marc-André Masse	Administrator
Nadia Landry	Assistant Administrator
Marie Hamel	Director of Educational Services
Valérie Roux	Director of Human Resources Service and Secretary General
Geneviève Boucher	Administration Officer

MEETING – JUNE 14, 2023
8:30 a.m. to noon

AGENDA

1. Parents' Committee Meeting

- 1.1 Opening of the Meeting
- 1.2 Introduction of Members

2. Reading and Adoption of the Agenda

3. Meeting held October 31, 2022 by Teams

- 3.1 Reading and adoption of the minutes
- 3.2 Follow-up to the meeting

4. Items Submitted by Representatives

- 1.1 Staffing
- 1.2 CSSL testing
- 1.3 Recovery plan for students struggling academically due to pandemic
- 1.4 Sports travel
- 1.5 Other: _____

5. Items Submitted by CSSL

- 5.1 Commitment-to-Success Plan: activities overview
- 5.2 Promotion of services offered by Adult and Vocational Education Services
- 5.3 National Student Ombudsman
- 5.4 Bill 23 (An Act to amend mainly the Education Act and to enact the Act respecting the Institut national d'excellence en éducation)
- 5.5 Bill 96 (An Act respecting French, the official and common language of Québec)

- 5.6 Use of facilities
- 5.7 Educational Services
 - 5.7.1 Report
 - 5.7.2 LNS History course
 - 5.7.3 2023-2024 school population
 - 5.7.4 Policy on the Evaluation of Learning and Promotion
 - 5.7.5 Bilingualism
 - 5.7.6 Summer school and exam rewrites
- 5.8 Other: _____

6. Business Arising

- 6.1 _____
- 6.2 _____
- 6.3 _____

7. Date and Organization of the Next Meeting

8. Closure of the Meeting

MINUTES	Follow-up
<p>1. Parents' Committee Meeting</p> <p>1.1 Opening of the meeting</p> <p>The Chairperson, Ms. Buffitt, welcomes the members of the committee and declares the meeting open at 8:35 a.m.</p> <p>1.2 Introduction of members</p> <p>The members of the committee and managers of the Centre de services scolaire du Littoral introduce themselves.</p>	
<p>2. Reading and Adoption of the Agenda</p> <p>The adoption of the agenda is proposed by Mr. Buffitt and seconded by Ms. Buffitt with the following additions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4.5 École Mgr-Scheffer's gymnasium 4.6 Swimming pool 4.7 Photograph 5.8 Human Resources Service: recruitment <p>The agenda remains open.</p>	
<p>3. Meeting held on October 31, 2022 by Teams</p> <p>3.1 Reading and Adoption of the Minutes</p> <p>It is proposed by Ms. Landry and seconded by Ms. Buffitt that the minutes be adopted as presented.</p> <p>3.2 Follow-up to the Meeting</p> <p>4.1 (June 2, 2020) - Sports and Cultural Outings – Mr. Masse indicates that he contacted the Ministry of Education on several occasions regarding this issue. However, no changes have been made to the CSSL's budget. He talks about the possibility of obtaining funding from other organizations. Ms. Buffitt suggests writing a joint letter. Mr. Masse mentions that this has been done in the past but agrees with the suggestion.</p> <p>4.2 (June 1, 2021) – Internet Access in Case of Power Failure – Mr. Masse indicates that Material Resources Service visited all schools to verify the generators and make sure they had the right battery packs.</p>	<p>K. Buffitt/ M-A. Masse</p>

<p>5.1. – Role and Responsibilities of Governing Boards – Mr. Masse talks about Bill 40 (<i>An Act to amend mainly the Education Act with regard to school organization and governance</i>) and the ongoing process regarding the exemption awarded to English school boards. A decision on this matter is expected on June 24, 2023.</p> <p>A discussion follows on the lack of knowledge of the role and responsibilities of Governing Board members. It is mentioned that several parents who currently sit on the Parents' Committee will soon be leaving. Mr. Masse suggests contacting the Fédération des comités de parents du Québec to organize a training session at the beginning of the next school year.</p> <p>5.9.4 – Intervention Plan – Ms. Hamel indicates that they are still working on finding a way to make intervention plans more accessible to teachers and parents, while maintaining confidentiality.</p> <p>5.11 – School Calendar 2023-2024 – Ms. Roux indicates that the 2023-2024 school calendar is available on the CSSL website.</p> <p>5.12 – Telework – Mr. Masse refers to discussions held at the last meeting regarding the possibility of hiring new resources to work, temporarily, outside the territory. He indicates that the IT position has been filled, and that the new coordinator is based in Blanc-Sablon.</p>	<p>Follow-up</p> <p>M-A. Masse</p> <p>K. Buffitt/ V. Roux</p>
<p>4. Items Submitted by Representatives</p> <p>4.1 Staffing</p> <p>Mr. Buffitt talks about staffing, more specifically the allocation of contracts instead of permanent positions. Mr. Masse explains that staffing is directly linked to student enrollment. Next year, the school service centre expects to have 24 fewer students, which represents a loss of 1/16 of its budget. Despite this reduction, the CSSL has renewed almost all positions. Mr. Masse adds that needs were assessed by the Human Resources Service in collaboration with Educational Services and school principals. A discussion follows on change in practices and service delivery. Various concerns are raised, such as the quality of teaching, support staff for students with special needs, and interactions between parents and school staff.</p> <p>It is mentioned that parents' concerns are not always brought to the attention of the school service centre. Mr. Masse explains the procedure for filing a complaint and talks about the new toll-free telephone line 1-833-DÉNONCE which will allow anyone to file a complaint, anonymously, directly with the Ministry of Education. Ms. Roux adds that all concerns are taken seriously by the CSSL and are dealt with confidentially. If the complaint involves a staff member, parents will not be informed of the measures taken to remedy the situation (e.g., suspension, disciplinary or administrative measure, etc.).</p> <p>Mr. Masse indicates that a code of ethics for employees of the school service centre is being prepared for the coming school year.</p>	

Ms. Buffitt talks about the difficulty of getting into the school during school hours, given that the secretary works part-time. She would like to know if additional hours could be allocated to facilitate access to the school. Mr. Masse indicates that this issue has been addressed in the past and that it is up to the principal to organize locally and inform parents when they can access the school. It is mentioned that if a parent needs to pick up his or her child for an appointment, the school should be informed in advance, whenever possible. It is suggested that a message be sent through Mozaïk-Portail or to the school secretary or teacher. Mr. Masse will address this issue with principals.

4.2 CSSL testing

Ms. Buffitt is concerned about the effects of the pandemic on students, particularly in terms of their literacy and numeracy skills. She would like to know if all grade levels could have access to testing to evaluate their level of knowledge. Ms. Hamel talks about the CSSL's *Policy on the Evaluation of Learning and Promotion*. She indicates that the school service centre prefers to monitor learning throughout the year, rather than having a single evaluation at the end. She adds that, next year, the CSSL, through its *Commitment-to-Success-Plan*, wants to focus on the evaluation of competency. Ms. Buffitt stresses the importance of implementing this as soon as possible. Ms. Hamel explains that it will be difficult to implement to all levels at the start of the school year. She emphasizes that parents must first familiarize themselves with their child's standards and procedures in order to be able to monitor his or her progress. Parents express the need to be informed throughout the year, and not just when report cards are issued.

4.3 Recovery plan for students struggling academically due to pandemic

Ms. Buffitt would like to know if additional funding has been allocated to support students following the pandemic. Mr. Masse indicates that measures have been put in place, such as homework assistance and tutoring, and that at least one teacher has been added per school. Ms. Landry mentions that an initiative to support school teams in dealing with students' mental health and anxiety has also been put in place.

4.4 Sports travel

Ms. Buffitt would like to know why the students from the "moustique" level did not travel to the regional competition. It is mentioned that parents were told it was for budgetary reasons. Mr. Masse indicates that he was unaware that they could not participate and will ensure follow-up to find out why.

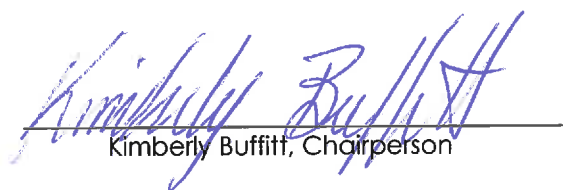
4.5 École Mgr-Scheffer's gymnasium

Ms. Wellman mentions that the municipality wishes to donate gym equipment to École Mgr-Scheffer. She talks about the need to find a storage space for it. She would like to know if the school's stock room could be turned into a gymnasium. Mr. Masse indicates that the school principal must submit this request directly to Material Resources Service.

<p>Ms. Wellman would like to know if the issue with the insurance for the use of the school gymnasium has been resolved. Mr. Masse indicates that it isn't. He adds that he has met with several mayors regarding this issue to remind them that an agreement for the use of CSSL facilities is mandatory. He adds that the MRC du Golfe-du-Saint-Laurent is also involved to ensure that an agreement is in place in each community. Ms. Buffitt mentions that this issue was discussed at the Lower North Shore Advisory Group meeting held on June 13, 2023. She adds that Ms. Gladys Martin, Mayor of Rivière St-Augustin, will add this item to the agenda of the next MRC meeting.</p> <p>4.6 Swimming pool</p> <p>Ms. Buffitt talks about a letter from Mr. Armand Joncas sent to the Parents' Committee regarding the construction of a swimming pool in Lourdes-de-Blanc-Sablon. She indicates that he would like to obtain a resolution from the Parents' Committee in support of this project. All representatives are in favour. The adoption of the resolution in support of the pool project is proposed by Mr. Buffitt and seconded by Ms. Wellman. Ms. Buffitt will share Mr. Joncas' letter with Mr. Masse, Ms. Boucher and all representatives. She will also ensure follow-up with Mr. Joncas regarding the Parents' Committee resolution with the support of Ms. Boucher.</p> <p>Mr. Masse reminds representatives that this dossier must be led by the municipality. It is not a school service centre mandate. He talks about the CSSL accumulated surplus and the guidelines for its use. He reminds parents of the need for qualified pool instructors and pool maintenance personnel.</p> <p>4.7 Photograph</p> <p>Ms. Jones would like to know if a photographer could visit all schools to take school pictures, as in the past. Mr. Masse indicates that it was decided that each school would organize locally given the difficulties (cost and travel) in finding a resource to visit all schools. Representatives discuss the various possibilities in their communities.</p>	<p>Follow-up</p> <p>K. Buffitt</p> <p>K. Buffitt/ G. Boucher</p>
<p>5. Items Submitted by the CSSL</p> <p>5.1 Commitment-to-Success Plan: activities overview</p> <p>Ms. Landry talks about the renewal of the CSSL Commitment-to-Success-Plan (CTSP) and presents the latest version of the plan. Once the document is finalized, it will be translated, formatted and shared with the entire school community. She indicates that the Parents' Committee must be consulted as part of the renewal of the CTSP. In this regard, representatives are invited to forward their comments, before June 19, 2023, to the following email address: dq@csdulittoral.qc.ca. The deadline for submitting the CTSP to the Ministry of Education (MEQ) has been extended to July 14, 2023.</p> <p>Ms. Landry also presents a progress report on the work of the Commitment-to-Student-Success Committee. The PowerPoint document will be sent to representatives after the meeting.</p>	<p>N. Landry</p> <p>Representatives before June 19, 2023</p> <p>N. Landry</p> <p>N. Landry</p>

<p>Ms. Landry indicates that school principals and their teams, in collaboration with Educational Services, have begun work on their educational projects. Mr. Masse adds that parents will be kept informed as each school must also update its success plan, which must be in line with the new CSTP. He mentions the three values that will be promoted in these documents: engagement, collaboration and innovation.</p>	<p>Follow-up</p>
<p>5.2 Promotion of services offered by Adult and Vocational Education Services</p> <p>This item will be discussed at the next meeting.</p>	<p>N. Landry at the next meeting</p>
<p>5.3 National Student Ombudsman</p> <p>Ms. Roux talks about the new <i>Act respecting the National Student Ombudsman</i> as well as the appointment of regional ombudsmen. She indicates that this new way of handling complaints will replace the current procedure and will come into effect on August 28, 2023. This national procedure will have a maximum of three steps and will respect certain timeframes prescribed in the Act. Mr. Masse adds that the new Regional Ombudsman will be bilingual and will offer services to a wider region. There will be a total of 13 full-time and 3 part-time regional ombudsmen.</p>	<p>V. Roux</p>
<p>5.4 Bill 23 (An Act to amend mainly the Education Act and to enact the Act respecting the Institut national d'excellence en éducation)</p> <p>Mr. Masse talks about consultations being held in regards with the adoption of Bill 23 (<i>An Act to amend mainly the Education Act and to enact the Act respecting the Institut national d'excellence en éducation</i>). He explains that the Quebec government will be able to appoint director generals for a term not exceeding five years. This new legislation will not affect the CSSL much, except for the director general's term in office.</p> <p>Mr. Masse mentions that the new Act will also define the Institut national d'excellence en éducation's functions whose mission is to promote excellence in educational services for preschool education and for elementary and secondary school education.</p>	
<p>5.5 Bill 96 (An Act respecting French, the official and common language of Québec)</p> <p>Mr. Masse talks about the adoption of Bill 96 (<i>An Act respecting French, the official and common language of Québec</i>) and what it means for English-speaking communities. He adds that this law stipulates that all agreement with CSSL partners must be drawn up in French. However, communications with employees and parents may continue to be in English. A discussion follows on the lack of French in CSSL's English schools, and the obligation for students enrolled in a program of study leading to a Diploma of College Studies to successfully complete at least three courses taught in French, excluding language of instruction, second language and physical education courses. It is mentioned that measures must be put in place at the school service centre to support students. Mr. Masse mentions that the English communities are opposed to the adoption of this law, as well as the other significant changes that came into effect on June 1, 2023. A ruling in this regard is expected by the end of the month. To be followed-up.</p>	<p>M-A. Masse</p>

<p>5.8 Human Resources Service: recruitment</p> <p>Ms. Roux talks about the positions currently available at the school service centre. A total of 33 positions (23 full-time and 10 part-time) are vacant; half of which are almost already filled. Mr. Masse adds that all available positions are posted on the CSSL website or on other education-related sites. He invites representatives to share this information with their communities.</p>	<p>Follow-up</p>
<p>6. Business Arising</p> <p>No new points are added.</p>	
<p>7. Date and Organization of the Next Meeting</p> <p>A discussion follows on the format of the next meeting. Mr. Masse will contact Ms. Buffitt to that effect and a survey will be sent in the next few weeks to select a date.</p>	<p>M-A. Masse/ K. Buffitt</p>
<p>8. Closure of the Meeting</p> <p>It is proposed by Ms. Jones and seconded by Mr. Buffitt that the meeting be adjourned at 12:20 p.m.</p>	


 Kimberly Buffitt, Chairperson


 Genevieve Boucher, Meeting Secretary