

Educational Policies Committee (EPC)
Report to the Annual General Meeting 2018-2019

Members

PTU: Matt Wilson (Chairperson), Ann Granger, Pasquale Machado, Annie Sabourin, Arlene Tennant, Marie-Pier Michaud, Michael Grumberg

LBPSB: John Brennan (Secretary), Alana Quinn-Leroux, Chris Fuzessy, Marie Wahba, Sylvie Monette, James Benn, Diana Martire

New Policies from the MEES

Four-year old Kindergarten: The MEES announced major investments in creating more four-year-old kindergarten classes. LBPSB was authorized to open up to 22 classes (as of April 29, 2019, 11 groups are confirmed with a possibility of a few more coming). All classes will be taught in English, with some exposure to French. Professional Learning Communities (PLCs) will be held for teachers at the start of next year.

20 Minute Recess: The MEES announced the mandatory addition of a twenty-minute recess in the afternoon, with specific criteria about the placement of this recess in the student timetable. The LBPSB has prepared four templates for schools to use to try to make their schedule work within the workload and transportation constraints that already exist. No additional funding was provided by the MEES, so it is unclear how all the pieces will correctly fit together.

Sexual Education: The MEES has implemented a sexual education program in the Youth Sector. Although not mandatory for an individual teacher to teach, each school must have a plan showing how the program will be implemented. Exemption protocols exist for parents who want to opt out. Teacher workshops were offered this year.

Home-Schooling: Now managed by the MEES. Families choosing to home-school their children must register with the MEES, who then provides a list to the school board. Students must have access to school space and resources, but LBPSB will help determine when that occurs. The number of families registered is higher than previous years, but a similar number will want to access LBPSB facilities. Horizon High School will be used as the main facility.

New Policies at LBPSB

Deep Learning: The Deep Learning framework that was introduced last year has been implemented at the elementary level. Next year, the secondary level will be targeted for implementation.

Elementary Board Exams: The LBPSB is moving from summative to formative exams at the elementary level. It is a school-level decision if these exams are used for reporting purposes.

Virtual Classes: LBPSB is looking to expand on the virtual classes being offered: a pilot class on coding took place in 2018-2019. Three classes will be offered in 2019-2020. The overall principle seems to be working, but questions still remain regarding the impact on teacher workloads.

Summer School: Registration was significantly down last summer. LBPSB will move Cycle 1 classes to a digital platform for 2018-2019 in order to improve accessibility without changing the amount of service provided.

DELF/DALF: LBPSB is now one of the only DALF centres since McGill had to close theirs due to technical issues. More participants are registering. The ContEd sector is being targeted for now, particularly for international students in vocational training. Teachers can also register for DALF in order to obtain the French category.

Presentations

EFAP Program (Morneau Shepell) – September 24

ContEd Presentation (Paula Pedroso) – October 22

High School Survey Results (Thomas Rhymes) – February 18

Educational Project (Marie Wahba) – April 1

4 year old Kindergarten (Marie-Claude Daoust) – April 1

Submitted by
Matt Wilson