

Mettez le projet de loi à la poubelle, disent des anglophones

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CCE - 042M
C.P. - P.L. 86
Organisation et
gouvernance des
commissions scolaires
DEUXIÈME
VERSION RÉVISÉE

Mémoire

déposé à la Commission parlementaire de la culture et
de l'éducation de l'Assemblée nationale du Québec sur le :

Projet de loi no 86 :

Loi modifiant l'organisation et la gouvernance

des commissions scolaires en vue de rapprocher l'école des lieux de décision et d'assurer
la présence des parents au sein de l'instance décisionnelle de la commission scolaire

Présenté par

Chris Eustace

- anglophone, 71,
 - grand-père,
 - enseignant à la retraite,
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- Commission scolaire Lester-B.-Pearson
novembre 2014

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LE DEVOIR. LE MARDI 16 FÉVRIER 2016

LETTRES

Projet de loi 86 : gardons le cap!

M. Philippe Couillard.

J'apporte tout mon soutien à votre détermination et à votre intention de garder le cap en ce qui concerne la réforme des commissions scolaires, soit le projet de loi 86.

De plus, je voudrais aussi vous informer des récents gestes de l'Association des commissions scolaires anglophones du Québec (ACSAQ), qui s'oppose farouchement au projet de loi. L'ACSAQ use de stratégies alarmistes et alarmantes pour tenter d'influencer l'opinion de la communauté anglophone.

Tout d'abord, dressons un rapide constat de la situation.

Le gouvernement libéral a été élu en avril 2014 par environ 1,7 million de Québécois avec pour mandat de réformer le système d'éducation de la province. Tous les indicateurs démontrent que la plupart des citoyens québécois, y compris les anglophones, souhaitent l'application d'une meilleure gestion et d'un meilleur contrôle de nos écoles.

Cela dit, rappelons nous l'élection partielle très publicisée de la Commission scolaire English-Montreal, durant laquelle «l'équipe Angela Mancini» implorait aux électeurs de se déplacer en grand nombre: «En abolissant notre droit de vote, le gouvernement Couillard s'attaque à la communauté anglophone...»

Le 13 décembre 2015 était une journée

magnifique; il faisait un temps doux et le transport était offert. Pourtant, on a enregistré un timide taux de participation de 8,01%, pour un coût total d'environ 50 000\$.

Récemment, l'ACSAQ a lancé un plan de mobilisation communautaire contre le projet de loi 86. Il s'agit en fait du prolongement des critiques formulées pendant un an contre votre intention de moderniser et de démocratiser le système public d'éducation.

La stratégie de l'ACSAQ a consisté à jouer la carte de la minorité linguistique et à maintenir le *statu quo*, parce que tout changement du système actuel est inadmissible du point de vue de l'association.

Nous ne nous ferons pas avoir par l'ACSAQ et sa stratégie de la peur, qui tente de transformer une réforme de l'éducation en débat linguistique, le tout pour leur propre survie.

J'espère que le projet de loi 86 sera adopté; la communauté anglophone continuera à avancer. Nous n'allons pas mourir.

Chris Eustace

Montréal, le 15 février 2016



CHRIS EUSTACE — un citoyen anglophone qui soutient le projet de loi 86

En tant que professeur à la retraite qui a participé pendant 17 ans aux périodes de questions du public de la Commission scolaire Lester B. Pearson (CSLBP), je souhaite faire part de mes observations et partager mon expérience à la Commission de la culture et de l'éducation (CCE) au sujet de la gouvernance des commissions scolaires (projet de loi 86).

Parmi ces expériences, j'ai entre autres été exclu de la période de questions du Conseil exécutif et des assemblées ordinaires de la CSLBP. Souvent, pour ne pas dire toujours, je représente seul le « public » et je sou mets mes questions par écrit à l'avance, de sorte que tout le monde puisse être préparé. J'en suis présentement au 27^e mois d'exclusion parce que j'ai osé poser des questions concernant le budget de la commission scolaire et ses pratiques financières douteuses (voir « Critic silenced at LBPSB board » - *Suburban*, 4 décembre 2013).

J'ai aussi participé aux réunions du Comité de gestion de la taxe scolaire de l'île de Montréal (CGTSIM).

Mon engagement auprès de la Commission d'accès à l'information du Québec (CAI), qui a duré six ans, s'est conclu en septembre 2015 par des décisions dans les dossiers 09-08-99 et 100-66-71.

En juillet 2013, l'Unité permanente anticorruption (UPAC) a enquêté sur un de ces dossiers en vertu de l'article 175.1 (4) de la *Loi sur l'instruction publique* (page [28](#)).

J'ai écrit et envoyé des centaines de lettres aux rédacteurs en chef de quotidiens au sujet de l'éducation et des enjeux liés aux commissions scolaires (vous en trouverez quelques-unes dans les sept dernières pages).

J'ai été candidat à la présidence de la CSLBP en novembre 2014 et mon programme électoral contenait des éléments très semblables à ceux que l'on retrouve dans le projet de loi 86 (page [12-13](#)).

Mon intérêt pour les enjeux liés aux commissions scolaires vient du fait que mes petits-enfants sont inscrits dans des écoles de la CSLBP et de la Commission scolaire English-Montreal (CSEM).

Quelques observations concernant la communauté québécoise anglophone et le projet de loi 86

Premièrement : les commissaires scolaires ne jouent pas un rôle important dans la réussite des élèves.

Deuxièmement : l'Association des commissions scolaires anglophones du Québec (ACSAQ), l'Association des comités de parents anglophones, le Québec Community Groups Network et la Fédération québécoise des associations foyers-écoles prétendent représenter la communauté anglophone du Québec, mais en réalité, ce n'est pas le cas. En fait, certains cadres de ces associations appartiennent à plusieurs d'entre elles.

L'an dernier, ces groupes ont publié un document intitulé « le rapport Jennings » (*Jennings Report*) qui réclamait le maintien du système de commissaires élus. L'ex-ministre de l'Éducation François Blais a rejeté avec raison ce rapport parce que ses réclamations étaient semblables à celles de l'ACSAQ.

Le rapport n'était en fait qu'un appel à maintenir le *statu quo*, car ce dernier leur permet de garder le contrôle sur des millions de dollars alloués à l'éducation.

Plus tôt cette année, ces associations ont dénoncé le projet de loi 86 :
« **Mettez le projet de loi à la poubelle, disent des anglophones** »
(*Le Devoir*, 15 janvier 2016).

Cette attitude est des plus irrespectueuses et représente une source d'embarras pour la communauté anglophone du Québec.

De plus, les commissions scolaires anglophones ne parlent pas toute d'une même voix.

Ils ont été comparés à des « animaux affamés qui se battent pour des miettes... »
(page 26).

Ce dossier contient des caricatures éditoriales, des lettres aux rédacteurs en chef, des articles et des recommandations sur le projet de loi 86. Si la CCE souhaite obtenir plus de renseignements, je suis disposé à me déplacer à l'Assemblée nationale pour répondre à toutes les questions nécessaires.

Chris Eustace

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Novembre 2014



Avril 2015

CTV MONTREAL

April 17, 2015



Should Quebec do away with school board elections?

Yes	816	(67 %)
No	410	(33 %)

Total number of votes: 1226

CTV MONTREAL

May 29, 2015



Do you agree with ending school board elections?

Yes	625	(64 %)
No	355	(36 %)

Total number of votes: 980

CTV MONTREAL

December 4, 2015



Are school boards important to you?

Yes	361	(32 %)
No	761	(68 %)

Total number of votes: 1122



November 13, 2015

Should school board by-elections be eliminated?

Yes, voter turnout is too low. **24.44%**

Yes, who cares about it. **42.22%**

No, how else are we going to elect a representative. **6.67%**

No, it's important to have a school board representative. **24.44%**

Either way, it doesn't bother me. **2.22%**

MÉMOIRE SUR LE PROJET DE LOI 86

RECOMMANDATIONS

RECOMMANDATION 1 : Maintenir l'abolition des élections scolaires.

Lors des élections scolaires de novembre 2014, 83 % des anglophones n'ont pas daigné voter et 47 % des sièges ont été attribués sans opposition.

Depuis les précédentes élections en 2007, le taux de participation a connu une augmentation de 0,18 %.

Pourtant, les commissions scolaires avaient eu 7 ans pour se préparer et une grande campagne avait été lancée sur les réseaux sociaux, à grand renfort de débats (télévisés et diffusés sur le Web), de rencontres et de publicité. Cela a évidemment coûté beaucoup d'argent.

Les anglophones s'intéressent davantage à ce qui se passe dans les salles de classe plutôt que dans les isoloirs (voir page 4 (a)).

RECOMMANDATION 2 : Conserver l'article 459.6

L'article 459.6 est la clé de voûte du projet de loi 86, car il permet d'accroître les pouvoirs du ministre de l'Éducation, ce qui est une bonne chose. En effet, il permettra de réduire les abus de pouvoir des commissions scolaires et aura une incidence sur la démocratie, l'éthique, la responsabilité et le respect.

« 459.6. Le ministre peut, dans le cadre des responsabilités qui lui sont confiées, émettre des directives à une commission scolaire portant sur l'administration, l'organisation, le fonctionnement ou les actions de celle-ci. Ces directives peuvent en outre avoir pour effet de compléter ou de préciser les règles budgétaires en cours d'année scolaire. »

Le gouvernement doit pouvoir intervenir dans toute décision liée aux commissions scolaires.

À NOTER :

A.

Lors des élections scolaires de 2014, le Comité central de parents (CCP) de la Commission scolaire Lester B. Pearson (CSLBP) a préparé quelques questions à l'intention des candidats à la présidence : le président sortant, le vice-président de longue date et moi-même. Les questions étaient posées par écrit et les réponses devaient être offertes de même. On peut d'ailleurs les trouver sur le site Web de la CSLBP.

Dans les catégories « **Vision** » et « **Leadership** », deux questions très révélatrices avaient été posées concernant l'**INTIMIDATION** et le **BUDGET**.

1. Que ferez-vous pour faire en sorte que les parents ne se sentent plus intimidés et désarmés lorsqu'ils posent des questions concernant les politiques de la commission scolaire?

Depuis que j'ai commencé à participer aux réunions du conseil scolaire en 1998, j'ai été exclu deux fois pour avoir posé des questions. La première fois, j'ai été exclu par l'ancien président et cette exclusion a duré environ un an, la seconde est encore en vigueur à ce jour et cela fait maintenant 26 mois. Cette fois, j'ai été exclu parce que j'ai posé des questions sur le budget et sur les pratiques financières des commissaires sur le départ. Souvent, je suis le seul représentant du « public ».

2. Pouvez-vous fournir des exemples statistiques et concrets de mesures que vous prendrez pour gérer efficacement le budget de la commission scolaire?

La réponse du vice-président : « **Dans l'état actuel des choses, le budget de la commission scolaire n'est pas assez clair et transparent, même pour les commissaires!** »

B.

Que le ministre de l'Éducation soit issu du parti québécois ou du parti libéral, il a toujours été plus utile à la communauté anglophone que l'Association des commissions scolaires anglophones du Québec (ACSAQ).

Pauline Marois (réforme des programmes scolaires – 1998),

François Legault (frais de scolarité– 1999 et Youth News Network),

Michelle Courchesne (projet de loi 88 – 2008) et

François Blais (projet de loi 86 – 2015) ont tous tenté, à un degré différent, de donner plus d'autonomie aux écoles.

Cependant, pour l'ACSAQ, l'autonomie des écoles demeure un anathème.

Lorsque Michelle Courchesne a proposé le projet de loi 88 en 2008, l'ACSAQ a publié des communiqués expliquant qu'élire un président par suffrage universel était « antidémocratique » et réclamant l'aide de la communauté (**voir page 24**).

C'est le gouvernement qui est venu à la rescousse des élèves anglophones et leur a permis de recevoir les manuels nécessaires afin de suivre la réforme des programmes scolaires (**voir page 29-31**).

L'ACSAQ ne fait pas du tout confiance aux directeurs d'école. Son objectif est de maintenir le *statu quo* et un système qui étouffe à la fois les pouvoirs locaux et les initiatives au niveau de l'école.

Cette position rigide a agi comme un obstacle au progrès dans le système d'éducation publique anglophone.

Bref, l'ACSAQ n'a aucune valeur économique, culturelle ou pédagogique pour les écoles, les salles de classe et les élèves anglophones.

RECOMMANDATION 3 : La rémunération pour les conseillers devrait se limiter aux dépenses

On soulève souvent l'argument selon lequel une rémunération intéressante permet d'attirer de meilleurs candidats pour diriger nos conseils scolaires. L'argent ne devrait pas être une motivation pour offrir ses services. Un volontaire motivé par son désir de servir la communauté pourrait faire un meilleur travail et pourrait améliorer le système.

De plus, il faudrait réduire considérablement les sommes dépensées dans le perfectionnement professionnel des commissaires (conseillers). Les fins de semaine passées dans un autre pays, à visiter et faire du magasinage, coûtent plus de 5 000 \$ au contribuable et sont une véritable honte, surtout quand rien de concret n'est proposé au retour. Le perfectionnement professionnel devrait être dispensé dans de grandes écoles, au Québec.

Les compensations pour les dépenses devraient être limitées à 2 000 \$ sur l'île de Montréal, et à 2 500 à l'extérieur de l'île. Cela me semble raisonnable.

RECOMMANDATION 4 : Les municipalités devraient participer au projet de réforme des commissions scolaires

Les municipalités sont de véritables gouvernements locaux.

Les maires de Québec et de Montréal, respectivement Régis Labeaume et Denis Coderre, ont réclamé plus de pouvoir décisionnel, notamment une plus grande participation au système d'éducation publique.

Les maires affirment qu'il y a une duplication inutile et coûteuse des services. De plus, il y a très peu de coordination quand il s'agit du partage d'installations sportives, par exemple, et quand il s'agit de construire ou fermer une école, il n'y en a pas du tout.

Suzanne Roy, présidente de L'Union des municipalités du Québec, a déclaré que « les municipalités connaissent mieux que quiconque les besoins de la communauté et les attentes des familles ».

Il faudrait écouter les maires. Pour plus d'information à ce sujet, consultez la lettre envoyée à un rédacteur en chef à la **page 22**.

RECOMMANDATION 5 : Les commissions scolaires ne devraient plus participer à la perception des taxes.

Pour les propriétaires, il est tout simplement aberrant de recevoir deux factures pour une même maison.

La taxe scolaire pourrait être ajoutée à la taxe municipale ou le gouvernement provincial devrait percevoir une taxe à l'éducation.

Il faudrait également abolir le Comité de gestion de la taxe scolaire de l'île de Montréal (CGTSIM). Ce comité est géré par dix commissaires scolaires issus de cinq commissions scolaires de l'île de Montréal et deux membres nommés par le ministre de l'Éducation. Les membres délégués reçoivent plus de 10 000 \$ par année pour participer à quelques réunions de 45 minutes. Bien que ces réunions soient publiques, personne ne s'y présente.

Il y a de cela 7 ans environ, ce comité a décidé d'investir l'argent des contribuables dans une initiative qui a mal tourné :

« Crise financière – Québec appelé en renfort pour aider les élèves défavorisés » (voir mon commentaire à la fin de l'article).

<http://www.ledevoir.com/societe/education/243830/crise-financiere-quebec-appelle-en-renfort-pour-aider-les-eleves-defavorises>

La CGTSIM prétend qu'elle fait économiser de l'argent aux commissions scolaires en achetant des articles en gros. Je pense qu'il serait préférable que les nouveaux conseils scolaires achètent et fassent des transactions u niveau local, que ce soit pour des fournitures de nettoyage ou des agences de voyage.

RECOMMANDATION 6 : Pas de jumelage des élections municipales et scolaires

Bien que le gouvernement ait clairement annoncé qu'il entend abolir les élections scolaires parce qu'elles présentent des taux de participation dérisoires, les présidents des commissions scolaires anglophones et francophones veulent que le gouvernement force les municipalités à organiser conjointement des élections de façon à stimuler la participation des électeurs.

Ce n'est pas une bonne idée.

Contrairement aux autres provinces, le Québec a des commissions scolaires séparées sur le plan linguistique. Elles ont des frontières différentes qui couvrent plusieurs municipalités.

La « paperasse » administrative à elle seule serait un véritable cauchemar et faire le tri dans tout cela coûterait une fortune.

Cette proposition s'ajouterait donc aux 20 millions de dollars dépensés lors des élections de novembre 2014.

De plus, en 2008, après que le projet de loi 88 qui s'attaquait également à la gouvernance des écoles ait été voté, l'idée de jumeler les élections avait fait l'objet d'un débat, dans l'espoir de promouvoir plus de démocratie.

Les conseils municipaux de plusieurs municipalités, notamment Côte-Saint-Luc et Westmount, ont adopté des résolutions opposées aux élections jumelées, parce que cela sèmerait la confusion chez les électeurs.

Fait à noter intéressant, le 25 mai 2010, l'ACSAQ a fait une présentation à la CCE au sujet du jumelage des élections scolaires et municipales. À l'époque, ils s'y opposaient. Ironiquement, le projet de loi de l'époque à ce sujet portait également le numéro 86.

RECOMMANDATION 7 : Pas de vote électronique pour les conseillers (commissaires)

En cas d'élection d'un nouveau conseiller scolaire, le vote en ligne ne devrait pas être envisagé. Il existe trop de façon de pirater, ce qui pourrait être tentant quand on sait qu'une victoire représente des profits potentiels qui se comptent en dizaine de milliers de dollars - 50 \$- 100 000 \$+.

RECOMMANDATION 8 : Abolition des Comités exécutifs

Le Comité exécutif est l'antichambre de la culture du secret dans les commissions scolaires. Le projet de loi 86 est assurément sur la bonne voie puisqu'il abolira ces comités.

RECOMMANDATION 9 : Président du conseil scolaire

Le commissaire scolaire doit être indépendant des comités de parents de façon à éviter les conflits d'intérêt.

RECOMMANDATION 10 : Les commissaires doivent quitter leurs fonctions une fois que le projet de loi 86 sera voté

Le projet de loi 86 prévoit qu'une fois qu'il sera voté, les commissaires devront quitter leurs fonctions dans les deux semaines. On dit que certains commissaires actuels pourraient rester pour aider le conseil provisoire.

Le conseil provisoire sera composé de quatre parents commissaires, du président du Comité central de parents, de deux directeurs d'école et du Directeur général. Ils sont tous suffisamment qualifiés pour gérer un système d'éducation moderne.

RECOMMANDATION 11 : Le gouvernement du Québec devrait nommer le commissaire à l'éthique des commissions scolaires

À l'heure actuelle, les commissions scolaires embauchent leur propre commissaire à l'éthique. J'ai appris de par ma propre expérience que cet arrangement ne permet pas une gestion efficace d'une commission scolaire élue.

Prenons l'exemple suivant :

Pour la petite histoire, en 2012, lors d'une assemblée publicisée, le président m'a refusé le droit de poser des questions concernant le budget de la commission scolaire. J'ai fait part de ce problème au commissaire à l'éthique. Cependant, il se trouve que le président était également le président du comité d'éthique de la commission scolaire.

Voici l'histoire complète :

« The LBPSB Ethics Commissioner and Budget 2012-2013 »

<http://aceteacher.ca/the-lbpsb-ethics-commissioner-the-budget-and-me/>

.....

Rappelons ici la première règle du Code de déontologie pour les commissaires de la CSLBP, à la rubrique intitulée « Discretion » :

« Un commissaire doit démontrer la plus parfaite discrétion pendant et après son mandat pendant une période de quatre (4) ans. »

Le gouvernement du Québec devrait créer une banque de commissaires à l'éthique « itinérants » qui seraient appelés par les commissions scolaires le cas échéant.

Cette mesure aurait un avantage certain concernant toutes les situations impliquant :

- Commission d'accès à l'information (CAI);
- l'Unité permanente anticorruption (UPAC);
- la *Loi sur l'instruction publique*.

RECOMMANDATION 12 : Le projet de loi 86 doit établir l'article 168 de la *Loi sur l'éducation* comme référence suprême

La période de questions publiques relève d'un principe fondamental de toute démocratie, surtout lorsqu'elle concerne des institutions publiques financées par le contribuable.

Article # 168 : « Seuls peuvent prendre part aux délibérations du conseil des commissaires, un commissaire, le directeur général de la commission scolaire et les personnes qui y sont autorisées par le conseil des commissaires.

Cependant, une période doit être prévue, à chaque séance publique, pour permettre aux personnes présentes de poser des questions orales aux commissaires. »

RECOMMANDATION 13 : L'argent des contribuables alloué à l'éducation doit être investi dans les salles de classe, pas dans les tribunaux.

Il est de plus en plus évident que l'ACSAQ projette de contester le projet de loi 86 devant les tribunaux. Il semblerait que l'association veuille empêcher l'implantation du projet de loi au moyen d'une injonction.

Le gouvernement du Québec doit tout faire pour éviter que l'argent des contribuables serve à s'attaquer au projet de loi 86. Les contribuables veulent que l'argent de leurs impôts soit investi dans les salles de classe, pas dans les tribunaux.

RECOMMANDATION # 14 : Arrêter le financement de l'Association des commissions scolaires anglophones du Québec (ACSAQ)

Part of my platform when I ran for chairman of the CSLBP in November 2014 , included a promise to drop our membership to the QESBA (page 12, 14, and 15)....

(I was following the example of Commission scolaire Marguerite - Bourgeoys , CSMV and CSGS)

QESBA is totally financed with public funds. Its raison d'être is to support in any way its member school boards. Although it, and its member school boards, already have communication specialists, QESBA used public funds to hire the lobby group JGA Strategic Communications.

According to the registre, the mandate for JGA Strategic Communications is as follows:

Période couverte par le mandat : du 2015-05-20 au 2017-03-01

Contrepartie reçue ou à recevoir : moins de 10 000 \$

Objet des activités : Proposition législative ou réglementaire, résolution, orientation, programme ou plan d'action.

Additional information found in the registre regarding JGA Strategic Communications :

"The Government of Quebec has announced that it is considering eliminating the public election of school board commissioners and a reduction in the number of school boards. The Quebec English School Board Association (QESBA) maintains that government's position is in contravention of the Canadian constitution and is seeking to enter into a dialogue with the Government on reforming school boards while ensuring commissioners continue to be elected by English-speaking Quebecers. JGA Strategic Communications is assisting QESBA in its efforts to secure community support and in presenting its position to the Government of Quebec."

Taxpayers money must not be used for political purposes. In this case, taxpayer funds are used " to secure community support" against the government to fight Bill 86.

This is not fair. Who protects the taxpayer ? the parent ?

.....

Veuillez agréer, mesdames, messsieurs l'expresssion de mes sentiments distingués,

Chris Eustace

www.aceteacher.ca

FIN DES RECOMMENDATIONS

(ELECTION PLATFORM - as distributed to electorate - November 2014)



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Time for a Revolution @ Lester B. Pearson School Board

RETIRED TEACHER: 37 yrs in LBPSB schools. Attended 16 yrs of Council meetings. Familiar with Pearson operations, issues, and its seriously flawed ETHICS POLICY.

PAST INVOLVEMENT: help expose misuse of \$900K for Pre-K program, initiated webcasting, student ombudsman, fought for defibrillators and an improved (2008) Code of Ethics.

I PROPOSE: close scrutiny of spending, free speech at board public question periods, elimination of QESBA saving \$200,000/yr, remove 4-year gag order on ex-commissioners, improve current student programs for regular and special needs, and apply more emphasis on ethical operations.

PARENTS MUST BE THE AUTHORITY: Governing Board authority must be recognized. Classrooms are more important than board rooms. School boards must operate as service providers. Schools must be the policy makers.

THE WELFARE of all students must be a primary concern when making decisions.

OUR SCHOOLS need more than Reading, Writing and 'Rithmetic. They need a 4th R - REVOLUTION, where among other things, school board secrecy is a thing of the past, and taxpayers will get more BANG for their buck.

THE STATUS QUO is not an option.

.....

J'AI ENSEIGNÉ pendant 37 ans dans les écoles de la CSLBP. Depuis 16 ans, j'assiste aux rencontres du conseil.

J'AI CONTRIBUÉ à un code d'éthique des commissaires et dénoncé des pratiques administratives douteuses.

AVEC MOI, le respect des droits parentaux deviendra prioritaire. Le conseils d'établissement pourront exercer leurs pleins pouvoirs. La commission scolaire se limitera à fournir des services.

NOUS AVONS besoin d'une révolution. Optimisons la taxe scolaire. Redonnons priorité à l'éducation, pas à la bureaucratie.

LE STATU QUO, n'est plus une option.



NOTICE SCHOOL ELECTIONS AUTHORIZED CANDIDATE

In accordance with section 90(5.1) of the Act respecting School Elections, the Chief Electoral Officer wishes to inform the public that the following candidate has been authorized for the school elections of November 2, 2014 on the territory of the Lester-B. Pearson School Board.

LAST NAME, FIRST NAME	DATE OF AUTHORIZATION
EUSTACE, Chris	2014-05-06

This candidate has been authorized to be given a candidate or high school level the right to solicit and receive contributions.

This authorization gives the right to solicit or receive contributions, incur expenses and contract loans in accordance with the provisions of the law. After posing day, this authorization gives the right to solicit and receive contributions only for the purpose of paying the debts arising from election expenses.

For more information on this subject, please call toll free: 1-888-ELECTION (1-888-353-2645)



C'EST L'HEURE DE LA RÉVOLUTION DANS NOTRE SYSTÈME SCOLAIRE PUBLIC

PLATFORM

- Restore democracy at public question periods
- Revamp the Code of Ethics; webcast Executive Committee meetings
- Initiate a comprehensive third party audit on all LBPSB expenses since 2009
- Demand accountability - Eliminate school board secrecy and conflicts of interest
- Parents need more say - should have voting rights at Council
- Promote Governing Boards, not school boards
- Think of classrooms, not board rooms
- Eliminate hundreds of oversize classes & add more physical education
- One tax bill (municipal & school), can produce savings

VIVE PARENTAL CHOICE!

Printed by Kwak-Kipky - Authorized by Chris Eustace



Modernizing our school system

Fri Apr 17 2015

Re: "The future of school boards" (Editorial, April 16)

There has been a strong reaction by the Quebec English School Boards Association (QESBA) to the announcement by Education Minister François Blais about ditching school-board elections.

David D'Aoust, president of the QESBA, has said the English community is prepared to go to the Supreme Court to defend its rights.

Not all of the English community. Let's reel back a bit. As a candidate for chairman of the Lester B. Pearson School Board in last November's elections, my platform called for the elimination of QESBA, which would save \$200,000 a year. I asked the electorate to "think of classrooms, not board rooms" and "promote governing boards, not school boards."

Premier Philippe Couillard said a priority for 2015 will be education. He said the province wants to improve education and give more freedom to act to schools, teachers and parents at the local level. What's wrong with that?

Moreover, Blais acknowledges the "English minority protected status" and he's prepared to find a "governance model that respects constitutional guarantees."

That's reasonable.

The thought of QESBA preparing to go to the Supreme Court of Canada to fight the education minister's plan, would result in a costly protracted affair, which I think should be swiftly opposed by all taxpayers.

The Couillard government is on the right course. We should support endeavours to modernize and democratize our school system.

Chris Eustace

Pierrefonds

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LETTRE

Système scolaire nouveau

25 avril 2015 | Chris Eustace *Pierrefonds*, le 23 avril 2015 | Éducation

L'annonce du ministre de l'Éducation, François Blais, d'éliminer les élections scolaires a provoqué une vive réaction de la part de l'Association des commissions scolaires anglophones du Québec (ACSAQ). David D'Aoust, président de l'ACSAQ, a indiqué que la communauté anglophone était prête à défendre ses droits devant la Cour suprême du Canada.

Pas toute la communauté anglophone. Revenons un peu en arrière. À titre de candidat au poste de président de la Commission scolaire Lester-B.-Pearson lors des élections tenues en novembre dernier, je proposais dans mon programme électoral la suppression de l'ACSAQ. Cette mesure représenterait des économies de 200 000 \$ par année et de 1 000 000 \$ si toutes les commissions scolaires anglophones décidaient d'abandonner l'ACSAQ. J'ai demandé aux électeurs de « *penser aux salles de classe et non aux salles de conseil* » et d'« *encourager les conseils d'établissement et non les commissions scolaires* ». Le premier ministre, Philippe Couillard, a déclaré que l'éducation sera une priorité en 2015. Il a dit vouloir améliorer le système d'éducation et donner plus de liberté aux écoles, aux professeurs et aux parents, au niveau local. Qu'y a-t-il de mal à cela ? De plus, M. Blais a reconnu le statut protégé de la minorité anglophone et s'est dit prêt à trouver un modèle de gouvernance qui respecte les droits constitutionnels. Une position très raisonnable.

La tentative de contestation du plan du ministre de l'Éducation devant la Cour suprême du Canada sera une démarche longue et coûteuse, à laquelle s'opposeront certainement les contribuables. La taxe scolaire, prélevée sur les précieux deniers des contribuables, ne devrait pas être utilisée pour contester devant les tribunaux la suppression des élections scolaires voulue par Québec. Le gouvernement Couillard est sur la bonne voie. La communauté anglophone devrait appuyer les initiatives qui visent à moderniser et à démocratiser notre système d'éducation.



School-board reforms overdue

Nov 6 2015

Re: "Quebec English school boards want to be heard," (Opinion, Oct. 30)

The anglophone community should not be fooled by the alarmist rhetoric of the Quebec English School Boards Association.

The Couillard government has rightly concluded it makes no sense that commissioners in Quebec, elected by so few people, would control \$2 billion or about 22 per cent of the education budget. Everyone understands that to receive an education, children are sent to schools, not boards. Teaching and learning are done in classrooms, not boardrooms, and parents are more interested in matters in schools where their children attend, rather than school-board affairs.

Consequently, the government calls for a school-board reform plan that will even grant "formal rights" to the English community to manage and control its own public school system.

During my career as a teacher at the Pearson board, I worked at three different high schools: Pierrefonds Comprehensive, St. Thomas and Riverdale - great schools but with their own cultures. That is why, in this high-tech communications era, we need to look at local school governance for democracy, which the government is encouraging with the upcoming bill.

As an unsuccessful candidate for chairman of the Pearson board in last November's school elections, I had a campaign platform that included dropping membership to the QESBA, and putting the savings of about \$200,000 into classrooms, not boardrooms.

The government is on our side. There is no pedagogical, cultural or economic value from the QESBA for any English school, classroom or student.

We should strongly support Education Minister François Blais's school-board reform proposal, which promises to give principals, parents, teachers and support staff more freedom to operate and govern our schools.

Chris Eustace

Pierrefonds

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LE DEVOIR

LIBRE DE PENSER

Projet de loi 86: gardons le cap!

16 février 2016 | Chris Eustace *Montréal, le 15 février 2016* | Éducation

M. Philippe Couillard.

J'apporte tout mon soutien à votre détermination et à votre intention de garder le cap en ce qui concerne la réforme des commissions scolaires, soit le projet de loi 86.

De plus, je voudrais aussi vous informer des récents gestes de l'Association des commissions scolaires anglophones du Québec (ACSAQ), qui s'oppose farouchement au projet de loi. L'ACSAQ use de stratégies alarmistes et alarmantes pour tenter d'influencer l'opinion de la communauté anglophone.

Tout d'abord, dressons un rapide constat de la situation.

Le gouvernement libéral a été élu en avril 2014 par environ 1,7 million de Québécois avec pour mandat de réformer le système d'éducation de la province. Tous les indicateurs démontrent que la plupart des citoyens québécois, y compris les anglophones, souhaitent l'application d'une meilleure gestion et d'un meilleur contrôle de nos écoles.

Cela dit, rappelons nous l'élection partielle très publicisée de la Commission scolaire English-Montreal, durant laquelle « l'équipe Angela Mancini » implorait aux électeurs de se déplacer en grand nombre : « *En abolissant notre droit de vote, le gouvernement Couillard s'attaque à la communauté anglophone...* »

Le 13 décembre 2015 était une journée magnifique ; il faisait un temps doux et le transport était offert. Pourtant, on a enregistré un timide taux de participation de 8,01 %, pour un coût total d'environ 50 000 \$.

Récemment, l'ACSAQ a lancé un plan de mobilisation communautaire contre le projet de loi 86. Il s'agit en fait du prolongement des critiques formulées pendant un an contre votre intention de moderniser et de démocratiser le système public d'éducation.

La stratégie de l'ACSAQ a consisté à jouer la carte de la minorité linguistique et à maintenir le *statu quo*, parce que tout changement du système actuel est inadmissible du point de vue de l'association.

Nous ne nous ferons pas avoir par l'ACSAQ et sa stratégie de la peur, qui tente de transformer une réforme de l'éducation en débat linguistique, le tout pour leur propre survie.

J'espère que le projet de loi 86 sera adopté ; la communauté anglophone continuera à avancer. Nous n'allons pas mourir.

Bill 86 is a gift



Dec 16, 2015

Education Minister François Blais' parent-friendly Bill 86, which scraps province-wide school elections, and gives more school decision-making power to parents, teachers, principals and support staff is a much needed gift.

Moreover, as promised, the Bill has granted "formal rights" to the English-speaking community, which satisfy any constitution minority-language education rights. This comes in the form of an option for parents to have elections for the new councils' community reps.

Initial reaction to the bill has been mixed. Predictably, the Quebec English School Boards Association (QESBA), is against it. It claims it's unconstitutional, and is planning to go to the Supreme Court of Canada.

However, so far, it seems the French Central Parents' Committees (CPC) and French principals' association are on board.

No question, the Bill will need some fine tuning. Besides the government hearings, which will undoubtedly feature various groups, the CPCs of all school boards will meet to discuss the elements and make recommendations.

Lastly, the QESBA, always looking for relevance, is now for the first time in its 17-year history, claiming the organization is linked to student success. That is not so.

Its raison d'être is to take care of its "valued clients" : school boards and commissioners. That's all. The Bill is expected to kick in around October 2016.

Bill 86 is a gift to all schools and is aimed directly to improve student achievement.

Chris Eustace

Traduction libre du texte *Bill 86 is a gift*, par C. Eustace.

Le projet de loi 86 de l'ex-ministre de l'Éducation, François Blais, qui abolit les élections scolaires dans tout le Québec et donne un plus grand pouvoir décisionnel aux parents, aux professeurs, aux directeurs et au personnel de soutien, est un cadeau plus que bienvenu.

De plus, comme promis, le projet de loi accorde des « droits spéciaux » à la communauté anglophone et garantit les droits constitutionnels de cette minorité en terme d'éducation. Cela se manifeste notamment par la possibilité offerte aux parents de participer aux élections des représentants du nouveau conseil.

La réaction initiale au projet de loi était mitigée. Comme on pouvait s'y attendre, l'Association des commissions scolaires anglophones du Québec (ACSAQ) s'y est opposée. Elle prétend qu'il est inconstitutionnel et elle entend le contester devant la Cour suprême du Canada.

Cependant, à ce jour du côté francophone, les Comités centraux de parents (CCP) et l'association des directeurs d'école semblent adopter le projet.

Évidemment, le projet de loi nécessitera quelques judicieux réglages. Mis à part les audiences gouvernementales, auxquelles participeront sans aucun doute divers groupes, les CCP de toutes les commissions scolaires ont prévu de se rencontrer pour discuter des nombreuses dispositions du projet de loi et proposer des recommandations.

Dernièrement, l'ACSAQ, toujours à la recherche de crédibilité, a revendiqué pour la première fois en 17 ans qu'elle est étroitement liée à la réussite des élèves. Rien n'est moins vrai.

Sa raison d'être est de protéger les intérêts de sa « précieuse clientèle » : les commissions scolaires et les commissaires. C'est tout.

Le projet de loi devrait prendre effet aux alentours du mois d'octobre 2016.

Le projet de loi 86 est un cadeau offert à toutes les écoles et a pour principal objectif de favoriser la réussite des élèves.

Chris Eustace

Pierrefonds

LE DEVOIR

LIBRE DE PENSER

L'incontournable réforme scolaire

18 août 2015 | Suzanne Roy - Présidente de l'Union des municipalités du Québec et mairesse de Sainte-Julie | Québec



Photo: Annik MH De Carufel Le Devoir

La réforme de la gouvernance scolaire annoncée pour l'automne doit être une occasion de renforcer le partenariat scolaire-municipal.

À l'aube d'une réforme de la gouvernance scolaire qui s'annonce de plus en plus comme un événement incontournable, le monde municipal se sent interpellé, et cela, à juste titre. Voyons les ingrédients qui nous semblent essentiels à sa réussite.

Rappelons d'abord que le ministre de l'Éducation, du Loisir et du Sport, M. François Blais, a annoncé qu'il déposerait, cet automne, un projet de loi modifiant la gouvernance scolaire, en mettant notamment sur pied des conseils scolaires qui remplaceraient les commissions scolaires. Les élues et élus municipaux seraient invités à y siéger.

À mon avis, la participation du monde municipal à ces conseils est une excellente idée. Nous sommes des gouvernements de proximité. Nous connaissons mieux que personne les besoins des citoyennes et citoyens et les attentes des familles qui sont des plus diversifiées. Renforcer le partenariat entre le monde scolaire et le monde municipal ne peut que s'avérer gagnant pour la population. Voilà un premier ingrédient essentiel.

Le deuxième est un meilleur partage des ressources entre les milieux scolaire et municipal. Je pense ici aux infrastructures, aux équipements, à la diversification de l'offre de sports et de loisirs, aux coûts d'entretien des édifices et terrains publics utilisés par les établissements scolaires, à la sécurité aux abords des zones scolaires et au personnel de soutien. Assis à la même table, nous pourrions plus facilement discuter de ces questions et y trouver des réponses innovantes et efficaces.

Le troisième, et non le moindre, est le financement du réseau scolaire. Les problèmes actuels ne doivent pas être transférés aux municipalités sans que des solutions aient été trouvées. La position des élues et élus municipaux est claire : pas de nouvelles responsabilités sans un financement supplémentaire adéquat, que ce soit pour la perception de la taxe scolaire, le transport écolier ou

la gestion des immeubles scolaires. La réforme ne doit pas non plus se traduire par un empiétement sur le champ fiscal des municipalités, soit l'impôt foncier. Les contribuables y seraient perdants.

Bref, la réforme de la gouvernance scolaire annoncée pour l'automne doit être une occasion de renforcer le partenariat scolaire-municipal, d'augmenter l'efficacité dans l'utilisation de nos ressources et de mieux servir la population, et cela, pour le plus grand bénéfice des principaux concernés : les élèves !

EDITORIAL

QESBA does not believe that a massive overhaul and disruption is necessary or advantageous.

School board reform

Point: English community must keep control of its school system

By David C. D'Aoust

The time goes by so quickly. Here we are at the beginning of a new school year. The Quebec English School Boards Association (QESBA) hopes that everyone had a great summer break.

The first day of a new school year is filled with excitement and trepidation. Students can't wait to reconnect with friends while wondering what awaits them in the new school year. Teachers are anxious to meet their new classes, and parents ready themselves and their family to adjust to new schedules, new demands, new expectations, new adventures, and more.

One thing is for sure, the students in the English school system of Quebec will be met in all schools and centres by the most dedicated, able, and willing teaching, support, and administrative staffs to be found anywhere. Our school boards are focussed on continuous improvement and our elected Commissioners have already put in hours of time to make decisions that will support the system in ensuring continuing high standards of excellence and increased student success.

On top of all that is involved with the opening of a new school year, our Minister of Education has decided that he needs to dismantle a system that has produced some of the highest student success rates in Canada. A system that has developed some of the most advanced student, parent, staff, and school board collaboration. A system that focusses squarely on student needs and staff support. A system that does all that while recording the lowest (4 per cent) overhead cost of any level of government.

QESBA does not believe that a massive overhaul and disruption is necessary or advantageous. There has been no indication of how the Minister's potential proposals would improve student success, teacher or administrative support, or even would cost less than the current system. What is clear is that we have few rights as a linguistic minority

community. What rights we do have are firmly entrenched in the Constitution and supported by a series of clear jurisprudence from the Supreme Court of Canada and it is up to all of us to ensure the preservation of those rights.

The government's blind determination to centralize all authority to Quebec City is misguided, at best. Do not be fooled by the Minister's empty rhetoric. If school board authority is diffused throughout our dispersed population, the Quebec English community will lose the guaranteed control and management of its school system that is promised in the Canadian Constitution. This is not about Commissioners trying to save their jobs. It is about the vitality and future of our community, of democracy, of universal suffrage, and of our right to be in charge of our education system. No government has the right to tell us who can and who cannot vote, and we must not let them.

At QESBA we are not opposed to the kind of change that makes things better. We are opposed to populist, unproven, and ill-advised change. We have indicated to the Minister that we are ready to work with him and his officials but he has so far refused our offer to collaborate and continue to enhance and improve our school system. We have ideas on ensuring greater access to voting, on new and better ways to communicate and collaborate with parents and community, new ways to become more efficient, and important ways to decentralize from the Ministry to local school boards to ensure equity of resources for all students.

Preserving our rights, ensuring universal suffrage, implementing creative, inspired, and positive change are key factors in ongoing improvement, student success, and staff support. We are committed to doing all we must to keep the English school system at the forefront of education.

The Quebec English School Boards Association wishes everyone a great 2015-16 school year.

David C. D'Aoust is the President of the Quebec English School Boards Association



Counterpoint: Give municipalities more control over schools

By Chris Eustace

school, there is none.

This letter is in strong support of the argument made by Suzanne Roy in her Aug. 25 opinion piece in *The Record*, titled: "Impending school reform: basic ingredients for success."

As the president of the Union of Quebec Municipalities and Mayor of Sainte-Julie, Madame Roy, suggests, that given the upcoming reform on school board governance, there should exist a stronger partnership between schools and municipalities in managing buildings.

The mayor wrote: "We are authentic local governments." Then concluded by saying that we must increase efficiency in the use of our buildings so that the "greatest benefits go to the students!"

Not long ago, Montreal Mayor Denis Coderre and Quebec City Mayor Régis Labeaume called for more decision-making powers from the provincial government because the current legislation is outdated.

One of those powers included the desire for greater city involvement in our public school system, a practice that exists in other jurisdictions.

Consider the cities of Lyon, Bordeaux and Marseille, in France, which handle matters such as daycare, and where citizens enroll their children in schools, and cities manage the school lunch programs.

In Chicago, the mayor names "the directors of school boards" and the mayor in Boston appoints "members of the local council."

The mayors claimed that school boards and cities operate in a parallel manner, and that is not the most efficient way of doing things.

Rightly, they claimed there is very little coordination, for example, regarding the sharing of sports facilities, and

Unfortunately, though, the Quebec English School Boards Association is against the idea of sharing any responsibilities with the municipalities. The association claims everything is fine the way it is.

In a press release put out on Jan. 13, 2015, the QESBA stated: "School boards are already properly managed...for the ultimate benefit of the student." The association concluded: "...if it ain't broke don't fix it."

But it is "broke." Consider this recent story:

A few days prior to the school board elections, in November 2014, the Pierrefonds Badminton Club wrote to the 29 candidates running for election at the Lester B. Pearson School Board and asked for their help. They wanted to use a school's large gymnasium during the mid-year break in 2015 for 275 players, which included many students, to play badminton.

The Pearson board, citing the flimsiest of excuses, refused. Consequently, the school, which is supported by taxpayers, was empty during the March holiday break.

That said, our schools are underused; we must consider keeping our schools open during all school holidays.

Evidence has repeatedly pointed out that school boards are not the best landlords in the community.

The Quebec government should include the request of the mayors as part of its responsible, forward-looking vision of school board reform, which will certainly benefit students and the tax-paying community.

Chris Eustace is a resident of Pierrefonds. He was an unsuccessful candidate for Chair of the Lester B. Pearson School Board, located on the West Island of Montreal, in the 2014

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It's time to re-evaluate school taxes

Jul 10 2015

The recent school tax bill received by Montreal Island property owners, with its 3.7-percent increase, reinforces the idea that school boards ought to get out of the school-tax collection business.

The bill is set and managed by the Montreal Island School Tax Committee, known by its French acronym, the CGTSIM, which is administered by school board commissioners of the five Montreal Island school boards. This year, about \$477 million will be collected and a fair amount of that will go toward board-level administrative expenses, which, because of a lack of openness, many taxpayers question.

The Quebec government is proposing a welcome major school board reform, which includes scrapping school-board elections.

Apparently, Education Minister François Blais is thinking of moving the burden for school funding to the state. He is proposing one "unique school tax rate" across Quebec, which would "provide government coffers with \$2 billion in school taxes for the entire province."

Municipal and school taxes are based on municipal property-assessment rolls. In some Canadian jurisdictions, the school tax is included in the municipal property tax bill, of which, in turn, the municipality remits the school tax portion to the provincial government.

Considering that education benefits everyone in society, why not instead boost the province's sales tax, by say, one per cent, and call it an Education Tax.

Nonetheless, it's time for Quebec to re-evaluate the collection system of school taxes with the view to making the system more fair, and to relieve overburdened taxpayers.

Chris Eustace

Pierrefonds

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CNW

QESBA Press Releases

June 2, 2008 2:47 PM - General - Media Advisories - Education

Media advisory - QESBA to call upon its' community to ask that the Minister of Education, Recreation and Sports to reconsider universal suffrage - Election of Chair will become anti-democratic

MONTREAL, June 2 /CNW Telbec/ - The Quebec English School Boards Association (QESBA) will hold a news conference on Wednesday, June 4, 2008 to formally request that the Minister of Education, Recreation and Sports Michelle Courchesne reconsider her proposal in Bill 88 to have school board Chairs elected by universal suffrage. QESBA will call upon the English community in Quebec to reach out to individual members of the National Assembly and to municipal leaders to call for changes before the government adopts Bill 88, expected later this month.

QESBA President Debbie Horrocks will be joined by the QESBA Executive Committee and the Chairs of Quebec's English school boards at this news conference: 1:30 p.m. on Wednesday, June 4, 2008
1410 Stanley, 8th Floor, Salle 5

Montreal QESBA is the voice of English public education in Quebec. Its nine member school boards operate 340 schools, adult and vocational centres across the province, serving some 110,000 students.

For further information: Kimberley Hamilton, Communications and Special Projects Coordinator, (514) 849-5900, ext.: 225, (514) 919-3894, Cell.

ORGANIZATION PROFILE

Quebec English School Boards Association

A balanced budget built on the backs of our students

QESBA welcomes new Minister of Education, Recreation and Sports

Anti-democratic?
Threatened?

CNW

October 27, 2008 4:28 PM - General - Legal - Education

English school boards threatened by Bill 88 election plan

By Debbie Horrocks, Audrey Acteson, Steve Bletas, David C. D'Aoust, Michael Chiasson, Angela Mancini, Michelle Morin-Doyle, Michael Murray, Moira Regan-Bell and Marcus Tabachnick MONTREAL, Oct. 27 /CNW Telbec/ - It has been a decade since Quebec's English-speaking community - after intensive effort and debate - secured a public school network controlled and managed by the community itself. The adoption of linguistic school boards signaled a watershed change: henceforth, there would be a unique level of government entirely elected by and responsible to the English-speaking community of Quebec.

Now, a major change proposed in a bill to amend Quebec's Education Act, Bill 88, threatens to seriously compromise this precious gain for English-speaking Quebec. The bill proposes that school board Chairs be subject to election by universal suffrage from across the entire territory of their school board rather than by the elected members of the school board itself. The Quebec English School Boards Association (QESBA) and the undersigned Chairs of its nine member school boards believe that this change will be unworkable, ineffective and ultimately, undemocratic.

We respect and appreciate that the Minister of Education, Recreation and Sports, Michelle Courchesne seeks to enhance democracy, accountability and transparency in the governance and administration of public education in Quebec. We have actively contributed to those efforts. The proposed change, we fear, will have the unintended effect of hampering access to and delivery of quality school board governance and administration.

Specifically, we fear the draft legislation will:- Discourage quality candidates from running for Board Chair

ORGANIZATION PROFILE

Quebec English School Boards Association

A balanced budget built on the backs of our students

QESBA welcomes new Minister of Education, Recreation and Sports



Chris Eustace <cgeustace@gmail.com>

Kudos for blasting school board spending

Chris Eustace <cgeustace@gmail.com>
To: Chris Eustace <cgeustace@gmail.com>

Sat, Feb 27, 2016 at 7:12 AM



Kudos for blasting school board spending

Montreal Gazette

Wed May 21 2014

Kudos to Quebec Treasury Board President Martin Coiteux for blasting school boards for their lavish spending at their convention in a posh resort.

According to a May 16 Canadian Press report, he called on school boards to show "better judgment" because some of their "expenses are clearly exaggerated" and boards should "conduct these activities at a lower cost in a manner more acceptable to Quebecers."

Indeed!

Chris Eustace

Pierrefonds

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Re: Anglo Boards (September 24)

This most recent dust-up between the two Island of Montreal English school boards reminds me of hungry animals fighting over scraps of food left on the plains. What a disgrace to witness this kind of squabbling when the issues surrounding declining enrollments and student services loom large.

School boards are, first and foremost, supposed to represent the interests of those in the geographical area who elected them. Boards are not structurally designed to be for profit organizations and they are definitely not equipped to delve into the murky and turbulent waters of international commerce.

I would suggest that those elected to represent the Anglophone voters of Montreal spend their valuable time dealing with those issues that immediately impact Quebec parents and students. Forays onto the world stage to entice foreign students (along with their dollars) is an activity best left to those with such a

mandate and who have the necessary expertise.

*Jon Bradley
Montreal*

Anglo boards

As a candidate running for chairman of the Lester B. Pearson School Board, I would like to make a statement regarding the article: "Anglo boards" (Suburban, Sept. 24).

The piece deals with a launch of a venture by the Pearson board in the territory of the English Montreal School Board, resulting in a turf war of sorts.

I am ashamed of the Pearson board for not following the rules of the Quebec Education Act, which clearly states in Article 111: "A school board shall be established in each territory."

Even without the 'Act,' the Pearson board should treat other boards with more respect.

*Chris Eustace
Pierrefonds*

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DRAFT
QESBA BUDGET 2008-2009

	Budget 2007-08	Forecasted expenses to June 30th, 2008 (with actual expenses up until Feb. 11/2008)	Budget 2008-09 Based on a per pupil assessment of \$7.90
Revenues:			
Membership fees	\$755,550	\$755,046 ¹⁾	\$853,200
Interest Income	\$6,000	\$6,284	\$6,500
Reimb. of professional fees	n/a	\$17,328	n/a
Reimb. of salary	\$15,000	\$15,000	\$15,000
Arbitration (CPNCA)	\$25,000	\$25,000	\$25,000
MELS revenues	\$25,000	\$15,000	\$25,000
Total Revenues:	\$826,550	\$833,658	\$924,700
Expenses:			
Amortization of capital assets	\$0	\$12,000	\$11,500
Arbitration/Negotiations	\$7,500	\$5,573	\$6,400
Association Conference/general mtgs	\$9,000	\$11,000	\$9,000
Audit fees	\$10,000	\$9,000	\$10,000
Commissioners development	\$22,500	\$17,137	\$22,000
Communications/Promotions	\$6,500	\$50,223	\$15,500
Fringe benefits	\$51,865	\$44,175	\$53,613
Honorariums-officers	\$16,000	\$15,917	\$16,000
Insurance	\$10,000	\$8,000	\$9,000
Legal fees	\$10,000	\$8,829	\$10,000
Membership, subscription, registration fees	\$34,000	\$32,350	\$35,000
Office Supplies	\$23,800	\$26,244	\$25,000
Postage/Telecommunications	\$23,500	\$24,000	\$23,500
Professional fees	\$40,000	\$35,923	\$10,000
Rent (incl. Taxes)	\$62,620	\$58,000	\$60,400
Representation Allowance	\$1,500	\$1,521	\$1,000
Salaries	\$471,500	\$465,000	\$525,987
Service agreement: FCSQ	\$30,000	\$30,000	\$30,000
Staff development	\$3,000	\$2,428	\$3,000
Travel: Directors	\$33,000	\$18,256	\$25,000
Travel: QESBA representatives	\$2,800	\$1,413	\$1,800
Travel: Staff	\$25,000	\$21,072	\$21,000
Total Expenses:	\$894,085	\$898,061	\$924,700
Excess expenses versus revenues:	-\$67,535	-\$64,403	\$0
Re-allocation of the previous years' surpluses	\$67,535	\$64,403	
	\$0	\$0	

1) Membership fees based on 108,000 student enrolment

(* \$12,500 already allocated to communications expense line from the previous fiscal year's restricted assets.)

What is the ACSAD budget now?

Your Local Journal

*From a liberal
point of view...*

Vol. 12 No. 99 | March 20, 2011

Via Canada Post to Hudson, St. Lazare, Val-d'Or, etc. Also available in Rigaud, Pinawa and the West Island

Letters

Continued from page 4

Dear Editor,

Article 175.1 (4) of the Quebec Education Act stipulates, "The council of commissioners must, by by-law ...specify the duties and obligations of commissioners even after they leave office."

For about two years, I have been trying with letters, and verbally at the Public Question Period at the Pearson Council and Executive meetings, to include a clause in its Code of Ethics for Commissioners that would state that a commissioner can only do business with the board after at least one year has elapsed.

Alas, my requests have been ignored.

To understand my concern in this matter, we must look at an excerpt from a recent area media report in which former Lester B. Pearson School Board head responded to questions concerning his new job over his new job." (June 6, 2011).

"During last week's LBPSB school board meeting, a question was raised by a member of the public about Tabachnick's (then) new job with Ameresco Canada Inc. and whether it was above board."

Former chairman of the board, Marcus Tabachnick, who resigned on April 1, 2011, lobbied the board, the Quebec English School Boards Association, and at the 2012 Canadian School Boards Association Congress, gave a presentation titled: "A Leadership role for school boards" in which, he advertised the product he was selling.

A few months ago, the Pearson board signed a \$5.4 million contract with the aforementioned company.

School board elections are slated for November 2, and there will be commissioners who will be out of work, so to speak, due to a provision in Bill 88, which calls for fewer commissioners.

Commissioners need clear rules that dictate what they can and cannot do after leaving office.

It is the law.

Chris Eustace
Pierrefonds

27

Procès-Verbal

Ouverture des soumissions

Les résultats sont sujets à la vérification de la conformité des soumissions et à l'approbation du Conseil des commissaires.
Results are subject to verification of tenders' compliance and to Council of Commissioners' approval.

Date: 01/05/2013
Ecole: 16 bâtiments
Objet: Appel d'offre

Heure d'ouverture: 13:30
Projet: Eco-Energétique Phase 3

Personnes présentes:

Lettres mouillées

Signature

Marilyn Curatolo
Liza Colnair
Yves Plourde
François Imbeau
Tammy Noseworthy
DINO GERBAS
MARCO TABERNICK
LEONIE MOSCA
Diane Tordoir
Miree Schepke

No	Soumissionnaire	\$ (avant taxes)
1	Ameresco	\$ 5,535,231.00
2	Cofely Services Inc.	N/A
3	Développement Atrium Inc.	N/A
4	Formair Inc.	N/A
5	Gastier M.P. Inc.	N/A
6	La Société de Contrôle Johnson SEC	N/A
7	Le Groupe Centco Inc.	N/A
8	Lucien Charbonneau Ltée	N/A
9	Plomberie & Chauffage Alain Daigle	N/A
10	Plomberie Dominion Inc.	N/A
11	Plomberie Pierre Poulin Inc.	N/A
12	Raoul Beaulieu Inc.	N/A
13	Tuyauterie Expert Inc.	N/A
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Closure de la séance à : 01/05/2013 13:35

Proposée par: Liza Colnair

Date: 01/05/2013 13:35

Heure: 13:35

Signature: [Signature]

Service des ressources humaines
Commission scolaire Lester B. Pearson

English schools need textbooks

Disgraceful does not begin to describe the conduct of the Quebec English School Boards Association concerning the long-standing problem of the shortage of textbooks in the English schools for the implementation of the new curriculum.

BY AUTHOR APRIL 10, 2008

Disgraceful does not begin to describe the conduct of the Quebec English School Boards Association concerning the long-standing problem of the shortage of textbooks in the English schools for the implementation of the new curriculum.

The shame lies in the fact that this association has been claiming for several years that everything is fine in the English sector.

So what is it about the QESBA that deserves such a denunciation? For starters, it is only in the past two weeks, and as a response to the vigorous teachers' complaints, that they have publicly expressed some concern.

Surely, "appropriate education" means having textbooks so the Grade 10 and 11 students can do as well on the matriculation exams as their francophone counterparts.

In February, Education Minister Michelle Courchesne held a two-day forum on the future of school boards. She requested briefs to be submitted from about 40 groups connected to education, to express their concerns and, basically, comment on the *raison d'être* of school boards. Not one word was mentioned regarding the textbook problem in English schools of Quebec.

Lastly, the April issue of the Quebec Home and School News is now online: www.qfhsa.org. There is a must-read article that concerns textbooks written by a retired Brossard teacher: "Curriculum Reform - What every parent and governing board should ask."

The QESBA and the school boards would do well to study this article and to take some action now.

Chris Eustace,

Pierrefonds

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Textbooks are a right

Re: "Quebec sends texts message: Make do" (Gazette, June10)

BY AUTHOR JUNE 11, 2008

Re: "Quebec sends texts message: Make do" (Gazette, June10)

It's a disgrace that students going into Grade 10 math in English schools next year can expect only a "transitional textbook." And we're supposed to be grateful because it's coming "in parts" and is "spiral-bound."

The first words of the Quebec Education Act are "Students' Rights, and among those listed is the free use of textbooks.

When former education minister Pauline Marois began the present curriculum reform in 1997, she made no distinction between francophone and anglophone students. They are given equal rights under the law. However, this September the Grade 10 students in French schools will be getting their new math books, while their counterparts in English schools won't.

I was wondering if our MNA will take immediate steps to help remedy this insupportable situation. The Quebec government must make certain that the Grade 10 English math textbooks are available to all English schools on Sept. 1.

Chris Eustace

Pierrefonds

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We pushed for textbooks: MNAs

Re: "Textbook foulup penalizes anglophone students" (Editorial, June 16).

BY THE GAZETTE (MONTREAL) JUNE 21, 2008

Re: "Textbook foulup penalizes anglophone students" (Editorial, June 16).

As members of the National Assembly, we know that student success is a priority for the Quebec government.

Curriculum reform, begun in 2000, will be introduced to Secondary IV students this fall. They will be writing exams that are required to obtain a high-school leaving certificate, so it is crucial that all students have the tools they need to succeed.

Early this year we asked why textbooks in key areas, including mathematics, history, science and technology, would not be available. The first answers we received - that long delays in preparing French textbooks delayed translation, that the small English book market is not a priority for publishers, and that there were too few skilled translators - were unsatisfactory.

We addressed Michelle Courchesne, the minister of education, who quickly understood the gravity of the situation and instructed her officials to ensure that Secondary IV students will have the textbooks they need this fall.

In mathematics, the first priority, officials developed an innovative proposal whereby LEARN, an educational foundation, will translate the texts in the three courses. These texts will be available on a timely basis throughout the 2008-2009 school year. This was announced by the minister in mid-May. History and citizenship texts, too, will be delivered beginning in September. All these books will be reviewed by English-sector experts, professionally printed in colour, and made available in a modular format.

Finally, school boards had an option to introduce the new science and technology program in September 2008 or wait until September 2009. Several had already decided to wait until 2009; they will continue using the existing textbooks. Other solutions are being examined for those boards implementing the new program this September.

In addition, program guides are available in English, and training sessions have begun. The goal is to make sure all students will be prepared to write their provincial exams next June. The minister also promised that all textbooks should be available for Secondary V in September 2009.

Your editorial did not acknowledge this progress. We recognized the importance of this issue as soon as it was raised in March, and quickly obtained the full support of the minister to find solutions.

Lawrence Bergman, MNA ✓

Russell Copeman, MNA ✓

Yolande James, MNA, Minister of ✓

Immigration and Cultural Communities Geoffrey Kelley, MNA ✓

Libre opinion - Une mauvaise qualité de l'air dans nos écoles nuit à l'apprentissage

20 août 2013 | Chris Eustace - Professeur à la retraite et grand-père, Pierrefond | Éducation

À la fin du mois, au Québec, près de 900 000 élèves retourneront sur les bancs de leur école primaire ou secondaire. Quarante pour cent des écoles de la plus grande commission scolaire du Québec, la Commission scolaire de Montréal (CSDM), sont situées dans des édifices qui ont été construits il y a plus de 60 ans. Certaines écoles situées sur l'île de Montréal sont plus vieilles encore... Par exemple, Macdonald High School, à Sainte-Anne-de-Bellevue, a plus de 100 ans.

Dans l'ensemble, nous n'arrivons manifestement pas à assurer l'entretien de nos écoles vieillissantes de manière satisfaisante. Tout au long de la dernière année scolaire, la question sensible de la qualité de l'air dans nos écoles a largement été traitée dans les médias. Certaines écoles, que ce soit dans les commissions scolaires francophones ou anglophones, sur l'île de Montréal ou à l'extérieur de l'île, ont été confrontées à des problèmes de moisissures, ce qui les a contraintes à fermer leurs portes, à déménager ou à être nettoyées.

En novembre dernier, le vérificateur général du Québec par intérim, Michel Samson, a publié un rapport dans lequel il critique les commissions scolaires pour ne pas avoir procédé aux inspections nécessaires quant à la qualité de l'air dans les écoles. Il a également souligné l'incapacité du ministère de l'Éducation à transmettre des directives claires aux commissions scolaires. À cause de cela, les commissions scolaires « ne savent pas ce qu'elles sont censées faire », a expliqué M. Samson.

En fait, les commissions scolaires soutiennent que le gouvernement n'a pas établi de normes sur la qualité de l'air. La ministre de l'Éducation actuelle, Marie Malavoy, semble espérer que le nouveau comité, constitué des autorités de santé publique et d'experts en qualité de l'air et en entretien d'immeubles, permettra de trouver des solutions au problème.

Pas de consignes claires

En février dernier, des parents, des professeurs et des membres du personnel de soutien affiliés aux écoles de la CSDM se sont réunis au sein d'une nouvelle coalition, la Coalition pour des écoles saines, pour s'attaquer aux problèmes liés aux infrastructures vieillissantes de nos écoles. La coalition souhaite la création d'un budget de 100 millions de dollars par année pendant dix ans par le gouvernement du Québec afin d'éliminer la moisissure et améliorer la qualité de l'air dans les écoles de la province.

La majorité de la population connaît les risques liés à la pollution atmosphérique, mais peu de citoyens se rendent compte des conséquences sur la santé qu'entraîne une exposition à un air ambiant de mauvaise qualité. Des études menées par Santé Canada et par son équivalent américain indiquent que les niveaux de pollution de l'air sont souvent plus élevés à l'intérieur qu'à l'extérieur. Au Québec, nous passons beaucoup de temps à l'intérieur en raison de la longueur de nos hivers, et il est donc important que nous fassions attention à la qualité de l'air ambiante. Une mauvaise qualité de l'air provoque de nombreuses maladies, contribue à l'augmentation du taux d'absentéisme et limite la concentration des élèves.

La mauvaise qualité de l'air ambiant est souvent due, entre autres choses, à la présence de moisissures, de champignons, de bactéries, de virus, de plomb, de pesticides, d'allergènes et de matériaux de nettoyage ou de construction. Nous avons appris récemment qu'une école située à l'extérieur de l'île de Montréal présentait des concentrations anormalement élevées de radon. Cette découverte a sans aucun doute été possible grâce à une recommandation du gouvernement qui ordonnait de fait aux écoles d'effectuer des tests de détection de radon.

Malheureusement, il n'existe pas encore de directives de ce genre concernant la qualité de l'air ambiant. Et en l'absence de consignes claires de la part du ministère de l'Éducation, il existe aussi des différences entre la politique adoptée par les commissions scolaires, et les applications qui en sont faites au niveau des écoles.

Par conséquent, il sera nécessaire que les commissions et les écoles - et tout particulièrement le conseil d'établissement des écoles - travaillent de concert dès cet automne pour que soient appliqués des protocoles officiels d'analyse de l'air dans les établissements scolaires. Comme l'a souligné la Coalition pour des écoles saines à la CSDM, « les parents et le personnel scolaire doivent connaître

en temps réel ce qui se passe dans leur école ». Plus tôt nous nous attaquerons aux problèmes liés à la qualité de l'air, moins nous devrons investir à long terme afin de les régler.

Une bonne qualité de l'air est un facteur clé en vue d'accomplir la mission de l'école : éduquer nos enfants. Il est du devoir du gouvernement du Québec que nos écoles aient de bons bilans en matière de santé, afin que nos enfants puissent apprendre dans un environnement sain.

Chris Eustace - Professeur à la retraite et grand-père, Pierrefond

18 mars 2016



Students will be fine with Bill 86

Montreal Gazette

Fri Mar 18 2016

Re: "School board wants Bill 86 dropped" (Montreal Gazette, March 17)

Lester B. Pearson School Board chairperson Suanne Stein Day claims that if Bill 86 is adopted "students will suffer in the end."

No, they won't.

There is no real evidence to suggest that school commissioners play any real part in student success. Consider private schools, without elected commissioners.

Bring on Bill 86, which grants leadership roles to parents, teachers, principals and support staff, whose focus will be to boost student achievement.

Chris Eustace

Pierrefonds

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☐ **Letter: Bill 86 could help special-needs kids**



-needs" students, because principals truly know what is needed in their schools. In turn, the Couillard government must see to it that funds are always available to schools for these children. **Chris Eustace** Pierrefonds... (147 words)
Byline: CHRIS EUSTACE, Source: The Gazette, Page: A13, Edition: Early
\$4.95 - Montreal Gazette - Sat Dec 19 2015

☐ **Letter: School-board reforms overdue**



pedagogical, cultural or economic value from the QESBA for any English school, classroom or student. We should strongly support Education Minister François Blais's school-board reform proposal, which promises to give principals, parents, teachers and support staff more freedom to operate and govern our schools. **Chris Eustace** Pierrefonds... (278 words)
Byline: CHRIS EUSTACE, Source: The Gazette, Page: A16, Edition: Early
\$4.95 - Montreal Gazette - Fri Nov 6 2015

☐ **Letter: How school boards can cut costs**



be invested to help fund for more special education services, to enable many students face brighter futures. **Chris Eustace** Pierrefonds... (235 words)
Byline: CHRIS EUSTACE, Source: The Gazette, Page: A14, Edition: Early
\$4.95 - Montreal Gazette - Tue Oct 27 2015

☐ **Letter: School boards have become an obstacle**



majority Liberal government should get on with it: dismiss school boards' wants and pay attention to the real needs of Quebec's classrooms. **Chris Eustace** Pierrefonds... (216 words)
Byline: CHRIS EUSTACE, Source: The Gazette, Page: A18, Edition: Early
\$4.95 - Montreal Gazette - Thu Sep 10 2015

☐ **Letter: Why not build bilingual schools?**



Re: "Major headaches for French students in N.D.G." (Montreal Gazette, Aug. 27) It's always good to read about new schools opening or being built. Consider the \$11.2-million French-language school under construction in St-Lazare. On Wednesday, two new French elementary schools opened in the Sherbrooke area, with another one planned for the 2017 school year, at a cost of \$9 million. What's not so good, though, is the Pearson school board will be undergoing a necessary major school change consultation this autumn because of declining enrolment in its schools, as many parents are choosing private or French schools for their children. This stressful process will determine which schools will either possibly merge, close or have new programs to keep them viable. Meanwhile, the Commission scolaire de Montréal is searching for space for 300 students now, and "expects the student population to grow by 10,000 more students over the next decade." This comes as the English Montreal School Board continues to see its "enrolment decline." The Quebec government is working on a major schoolboard reform. Why not take this reform one step further? Let's review the practice of separating our student populations based on their mother tongue. Let's be practical and, possibly, save hundreds of thousands of dollars. Let's start building bilingual schools. **Chris Eustace** Pierrefonds... (212 words)
Byline: CHRIS EUSTACE, Source: The Gazette, Page: A13, Edition: Early
\$4.95 - Montreal Gazette - Mon Aug 31 2015

☐ **Letter: Keep our kids in school**



Liberal government to continue to demonstrate leadership by making it mandatory for Quebec students to stay in school until the age of 17 or until they graduate Grade 11. **Chris Eustace** Pierrefonds... (178 words)
Byline: CHRIS EUSTACE, Source: The Gazette, Page: A16, Edition: Early
\$4.95 - Montreal Gazette - Fri Aug 21 2015

☐ **Letter: School fees should be abolished**



Soon students will be returning to school and, undoubtedly, parents will be asked to shell out a pretty penny for school fees. School fees vary widely depending on the policies of the school board and school, and are used, generally, for some school materials and services. Considering the taxpaying public is required to pay ever-increasing school taxes, one wonders why school fees still exist. Moreover, there is an element of fairness involved. Think about the student whose parents cannot afford a particular service, such as a sport, activity and/or field trip. The Quebec government has boldly embarked on a major school board overhaul for 2015. Part of this public education reform seems to include the matter of taxes. The Ministry of Education should continue with its vision to modernize the system by not only ditching school board elections, but also putting the millions of dollars in savings into abolishing school fees. **Chris Eustace** Pierrefonds... (154 words)
Byline: CHRIS EUSTACE, Source: The Gazette, Page: A12, Edition: Early
\$4.95 - Montreal Gazette - Thu Aug 6 2015

☐ **Letter: It's time to re-evaluate school taxes**



government. Considering that education benefits everyone in society, why not instead boost the province's sales tax, by say, one per cent, and call it an Education Tax. Nonetheless, it's time for Quebec to re-evaluate the collection system of school taxes with the view to making the system more fair, and to relieve overburdened taxpayers. **Chris Eustace** Pierrefonds... (246 words)
Byline: CHRIS EUSTACE, Source: The Gazette, Page: A16, Edition: Early
\$4.95 - Montreal Gazette - Fri Jul 10 2015

☐ **Letter: The mayor has some innovative ideas**



Re: "Montreal Declaration was underwhelming" (Opinion, June 17) and "Mayor Coderre extends his brand" (Letters to the editor, June 18) McGill economics professor William Watson and letter writer Mark Lipson are partly justified in their criticism of Mayor Denis Coderre and the declarations made at the recently held Living Together Summit. However, one declaration stands out: "Our educational institutions must be welcoming and inclusive places that allow every student to achieve his or her full potential and feel at home." The timing of this pronouncement is significant, as Quebec is in the process of major school board reform. Consider: Last year, Coderre asked the provincial government for greater municipal involvement in our public school system, a practice that exists in other jurisdictions. He claimed that school boards and cities operate in a parallel manner; there is very little co-ordination, and that is not the most efficient way of doing things. While bloviating and media-seeking are marks that define Mayor Coderre, his innovative ideas outweigh those innocuous characteristics. **Chris Eustace** Pierrefonds... (168 words)
Byline: CHRIS EUSTACE, Source: The Gazette, Page: A13, Edition: Early
\$4.95 - Montreal Gazette - Mon Jun 22 2015

☐ **Parents, students urge board to retain librarians**



actually re-work the numbers and figure this out." **Chris Eustace**, a longtime Pearson critic who ran for board commissioner last November, waved a placard in support of the librarians but his continued ban from posing questions during board meetings was... (616 words)
Byline: ALBERT KRAMBERGER, Source: Special To The Montreal Gazette, Page: D10, Edition: Early
\$4.95 - Montreal Gazette - Wed Jun 10 2015

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Letter: Invest in services for kids with needs

Re: "Education cuts will gut vital services: union" (Montreal Gazette, May 20) There's no question the present Education Ministry, headed by François Blais, is smart, and it is to be commended for modernizing Quebec's public school system with its forward-looking bold idea to ditch school board elections. That's why it is surprising to see it seemingly falling short concerning the matter of services to special-needs students due to education budget cuts. It seems like yesterday when I had classes that had 33 students, but they were deemed to number 40 to 48 because of integrating special-needs students. I recall how grateful I was to receive extra help for these children. I believe the government should take a closer look at this matter, because students being deprived of help today will cost us more in the long run. Chris Eustace Pierrefonds... (137 words)
Byline: CHRIS EUSTACE, Source: The Gazette, Page: A12, Edition: Early
\$4.95 - Montreal Gazette - Fri May 22 2015

Letter: Why school boards are irrelevant

Re: "Parents' survey saga raises questions" (Opinion, May 11) Celine Cooper writes that she "didn't get very far" in her quest for answers from the English Montreal School Board (EMSB) as to why it was not being co-operative with the Central Parents' Committee (CPC), who merely wished to distribute a parent opinion survey. Neither did I at the Central Parents' Committee of the Lester B. Pearson School Board (LBPSB), on May 7, when I asked verbally, and, in writing, to also create a parent survey for the Pearson community. Apparently, it's not in its mandate. Nevertheless, Cooper asks a pertinent question: "Why is it that Quebecers don't seem to feel connected to or invested in their public school boards?" Answer: Most people have come to the realization that school boards are irrelevant in today's high-tech world. Parents are too busy trying to make a living. They care about their children's schools, and want to focus on the teachers and students. Considering the Education Department has decided to scrap school board elections, the results of a survey of the wants and needs of parents of the EMSB and LBPSB would be an invaluable resource for the government to use, to better serve the English community. Chris Eustace Pierrefonds... (205 words)
Byline: CHRIS EUSTACE, Source: The Gazette, Page: A18, Edition: Early
\$4.95 - Montreal Gazette - Wed May 13 2015

Letter: Modernizing our school system

result in a costly protracted affair, which I think should be swiftly opposed by all taxpayers. The Couillard government is on the right course. We should support endeavours to modernize and democratize our school system. Chris Eustace Pierrefonds... (233 words)
Byline: CHRIS EUSTACE, Source: The Gazette, Page: A18, Edition: Early
\$4.95 - Montreal Gazette - Fri Apr 17 2015

Letter: Parents should be more involved

Re: "Smaller classes obviously work" (Letters to the Editor, March 26) and "Class size isn't sole factor at play" (Letters to the Editor, March 27) Both Chris Eustace and Robert Marcogliese raise some good points regarding the issues in public education and the differences with the private system, but they do not mention the point that I and many in the systems believe is a huge factor: the lack of attention and time parents invest in their children. Far too many expect the educational systems (public or private) to be the sole source of education (formal and social) for their children. If parents would spend more time reviewing, encouraging and offering some coaching at home, I'm sure it would help in increasing the overall score levels and encourage kids to persevere and not drop out. The world is different for today's children than when I went to school. Family compositions are different, parents' educational levels weren't for the most part what they are today, household finances were different, as well as available government social programs. In short, parents were more interested in seeing their children do better and they spent the time at home to make sure that was the case. Regardless of household affluence, constraints on time and whether children are in public or private school, parents need to spend more time with their children instead of dumping them onto the educational system. Parents, do you know where your child is and what he or she is doing? Carmine Pollice Montreal... (250 words)
Byline: CARMINE POLLICE, Source: The Gazette, Page: B5, Edition: Early
\$4.95 - Montreal Gazette - Sat Mar 28 2015

Letter: Smaller classes obviously work

Re: "Private school tops exam rankings" (West Island Gazette, March 25) This article comes as no surprise. Students in private schools generally do better than students in public schools, but why is that? Although there are a few reasons, one feature stands out: class sizes. Numerous studies have proven that having fewer children in a classroom improves the atmosphere, making for a less stressful and more tolerant environment, which is conducive to overall learning quality. More than 30 states have enacted class-size reduction legislation; in Canada, British Columbia, Alberta, and Ontario are spending millions of dollars to create smaller classes. Unfortunately, due to education budget deficits, the topic of public school class sizes in Quebec is given short shrift. Consequently, we have burgeoning class sizes, which do absolutely nothing for public school education. Consequently, parents consider private school instruction. We need relaxed teachers and more confident students. The Quebec government and school boards should work in concert to reduce class sizes throughout the province. Chris Eustace Pierrefonds... (164 words)
Byline: CHRIS EUSTACE, Source: The Gazette, Page: A18, Edition: Early
\$4.95 - Montreal Gazette - Thu Mar 26 2015

Letter: Let teachers do what they're trained to do

autonomy." Teachers are a certified professional group having curriculum and pedagogy as their primary professional concern. Chris Eustace takes an equally outraged but similarly misconceived approach as he has witnessed the "disrespect and convoluted... (202 words)
Byline: DENNIS CATO, Source: The Gazette, Page: A14, Edition: Early
\$4.95 - Montreal Gazette - Thu Mar 12 2015

Letter: Strides made to involve parents

Re: "Parents kept out of the loop" (Letters to the Editor, March 6) Permit me to add a significant point to Martin Roloff's outstanding commentary on the role of parents in our school system. He writes: "A variety of parent representatives exist in our education system, such as governing boards, parent committees and parent participation organizations as mandated by the Education Act. However, much of the parent community would be at a loss to describe the functions of these bodies." For years, I have witnessed "the disrespect and convoluted machinery" that parents have had to contend with in dealing with the school board. That said, in 2008, Education Minister Michelle Courchesne created Bill 88, which makes administrative bodies more accessible and more accountable to parents. To see these new accountability rules somewhat enforced, the bill called for fewer commissioners but an increase in parents' representatives, who would sit at council meetings. Since last November's school board elections, for example, the Lester B. Pearson and English Montreal school boards have four parent commissioners, who are a direct link between their school boards and governing boards. Hopefully, all parents will now be in a better position - in the loop - concerning all education matters to ensure their children's success. Chris Eustace Pierrefonds... (208 words)
Byline: CHRIS EUSTACE, Source: The Gazette, Page: A14, Edition: Early
\$4.95 - Montreal Gazette - Wed Mar 11 2015

Letter: School bureaucracy is bloated

tax dollars to better use toward improving student success. I hope Couillard keeps Bolduc on to see the completion of the job of restructuring and modernizing our anachronistic education system. Chris Eustace Pierrefonds... (109 words)
Byline: CHRIS EUSTACE, Source: The Gazette, Page: A14, Edition: Early
\$4.95 - Montreal Gazette - Thu Feb 26 2015

Letter: School boards need to get act together

Re: "Best of Pascal 2014" (Opinion, Dec. 26) As a losing candidate for chairman of the Lester B. Pearson School Board, I was reminded by Pascal's editorial cartoon of an elderly woman with a cane approaching a desk labelled "School Board Election" of a statement by the Quebec English School Boards Association, after the recent election. It claimed that there was "an inadequate and unacceptable voters' list," and, consequently, this denied "hundreds, perhaps thousands of English-speaking community members their right to vote." While it is true the government is partly to blame for the disenfranchisement of many English-speaking voters, the English school boards are equally responsible for the disarray. It was their job to manage the election and ensure, among other things, there were enough voting polls so would-be voters would not be discouraged by long lineups. The English boards must get their act together for the November 2017 elections, which may be twinned with the municipal

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elections, and let the government handle the election. Meanwhile, the boards should accept the government's plan to restructure the anachronistic public school system. **Chris Eustace** Pierrefonds... (180 words)
Byline: **CHRIS EUSTACE**, Source: The Gazette, Page: A24, Edition: Early
\$4.95 - Montreal Gazette - Mon Dec 29 2014

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Letter: Student success will be at risk

the highest dropout rate in Canada. Add: Quebec teachers, who are already the poorest paid in the nation, are expected to contend with no salary increase for two years, followed by a laughable one per cent increase for the next three years, which will not even keep up with the rate of inflation. Chris Eustace Pierrefonds... (94 words)
Byline: CHRIS EUSTACE, Source: The Gazette, Page: A17, Edition: Early
\$4.95 - Montreal Gazette - Mon Dec 22 2014

Letter: QESBA must put students first

accommodate 20,000 students with all the administrative expenses of three boards. If the QESBA wants to fight, it should consider fighting for smaller class sizes, more help for special-needs students and better working conditions for teachers. This will certainly improve student success. Chris Eustace Pierrefonds... (159 words)
Byline: CHRIS EUSTACE, Source: The Gazette, Page: A18, Edition: Early
\$4.95 - Montreal Gazette - Fri Dec 5 2014

Letter: School libraries need more money

whiteboards and associated technology for schools. All sizes of screens are replacing books, and that is not a necessarily a good thing. Education Minister Yves Bolduc should also allocate more money for our schools to update their libraries. Chris Eustace Pierrefonds... (114 words)
Byline: CHRIS EUSTACE, Source: The Gazette, Page: D6, Edition: Early
\$4.95 - Montreal Gazette - Sat Aug 23 2014

Letter: Kudos for blasting school board spending

"because some of their 'expenses are clearly exaggerated' and boards should 'conduct these activities at a lower cost in a manner more acceptable to Quebecers.' Indeed! Chris Eustace Pierrefonds... (68 words)
Byline: INDEED! CHRIS EUSTACE, Source: The Gazette, Page: C7, Edition: Early
\$4.95 - Montreal Gazette - Wed May 21 2014

Public to elect school board chair for the first time

For the first time in the history of Quebec school boards, the chair will be elected by universal suffrage this fall, and retired teacher Chris Eustace has kicked off the race by announcing his candidacy for chair of the Lester B. Pearson School Board. School board elections will be held on Nov. 2. LBPSB chair Suanne Stein Day, who was elected by board commissioners in 2011, has also confirmed she will run for chair and told The Gazette she's heard rumours others will be declaring their candidacy in the weeks to come. Even without other candidates, the race might well be heated. Eustace has never been shy about criticizing how the LBPSB is run. He... (683 words)
Byline: KATHRYN GREENAWAY, Source: The Gazette, Page: C11, Edition: Early
\$4.95 - Montreal Gazette - Wed Apr 30 2014

Letter: Voters need more election options

Re: "Do our leaders have the courage to govern wellinformed citizens?" (Opinion, March 24). Bravo to Pierre Craig, president to the Quebec Professional Federation of Journalists, for calling it for what it is. Indeed, many of our politicians often turn a blind eye on matters involving transparency and accountability, including in our public institutions. Part of the problem in Quebec are the rules governing "access to information." It takes forever to get the most basic information. For example, on matters dealing with school-board transparency, it takes a minimum of two years to be heard at the Commission d'accès à l'information. Of course, if our democratically elected school boards were more open in the first place, there would be fewer problems with transparency. Chris Eustace Pierrefonds... (124 words)
Byline: CHRIS EUSTACE, Source: The Gazette, Page: A18, Edition: Early
\$4.95 - Montreal Gazette - Tue Mar 25 2014

Letter: Impressed by Couillard

Re: "Eliminate jobs, not school boards: Couillard" (Gazette Online, March 10) Kudos to Liberal Leader Philippe Couillard for taking a plank from François Legault's Coalition Avenir Québec's education platform to reduce the education bureaucracy at the provincial level. Both parties claim that their intention would be to reinvest the savings into schools. However, a Liberal government would keep the present system of school taxation. Couillard's belief that it is the way to maintain a democratic link between the population and school commissioners is hardly supportable based on past experience. The manner in which school taxes are calculated based on property valuations is arguably unfair. On the other hand, the CAQ would eliminate school taxes entirely. Legault suggests transferring the democratic link from school-board commissioners to parents and people who work in schools, and their governing boards. Chris Eustace Pierrefonds... (138 words)
Byline: CHRIS EUSTACE, Source: The Gazette, Page: A18, Edition: Early
\$4.95 - Montreal Gazette - Wed Mar 12 2014

Letter: Merge two English school boards

Montreal Island English-language boards. As these two boards, English Montreal and Lester B. Pearson, account for nearly 50 per cent of Quebec's English-enrolment students, the potential savings could be considerable. Chris Eustace Pierrefonds... (224 words)
Byline: CHRIS EUSTACE, Source: The Gazette, Page: A18, Edition: Early
\$4.95 - Montreal Gazette - Thu Feb 20 2014

Letter: A well-rounded education

oppression and animal exploitation to consumerism and ecological degradation. Why not introduce humane education in our schools? The course will certainly contribute to producing more caring adults. Chris Eustace Pierrefonds... (434 words)
Byline: CHRIS EUSTACE, Source: The Gazette, Page: A16, Edition: Early
\$4.95 - Montreal Gazette - Wed Jan 8 2014

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Letter: Education should an be issue



, to be autonomous, by reducing administrative costs and depositing the savings in classrooms. If the politicians want something to talk about, consider the topic of seeing more federal education funds go directly to schools. **Chris Eustace** Montreal... (147 words)

Byline: **Chris Eustace**, Source: National Post, Page: A9, Edition: National
\$4.95 - National Post - Thu Aug 6 2015

Letter: School's out



Re: Blind Trust, letter to the editor, May 8. The wisdom of Grade 11 student and letter-writer Himani Trivedi is apparent from her insightful comments and observations regarding the Peel District School Board, where "everything is merely a business." She realizes that the board's assurances "to better us," and all decisions taken during times of conflict (with teachers), were not in the students' best interest, but merely "a way to market the board." In Quebec, the same school board attitude exists. Accordingly, Education Minister François Blais understands that elected school boards have outlived their usefulness. He has decided to rid the province of costly school board elections with their puny voter participation.

The government wants to improve education by giving more decision-making powers to schools, teachers and parents. Simply put: no more blind trust in elected school boards with their self-centred ways. **Chris Eustace** Montreal.... (144 words)

Byline: **Chris Eustace**, Source: National Post, Page: A17, Edition: National
\$4.95 - National Post - Sat May 9 2015

Letter: Education



transferred to the provinces, to be used for education, among other things. The provinces, in turn, transfer those moneys to spendthrift school boards, who take a cut. The federal government should consider a mechanism that would see funds go directly to schools. School principals, teachers and parents should decide where that money should be spent. **Chris Eustace** Montreal... (93 words)

Byline: **Chris Eustace**, Source: National Post, Page: A9, Edition: All_but_Toronto
\$4.95 - National Post - Mon Feb 2 2015

Letter: The scourge of school boards



Re: Toronto Schools Told To Shape Up, Jan. 16. According to your story, Ontario's education minister told Toronto District School Board trustees that they are creating a "culture of fear." In Quebec, the largest English school board was recently characterized as "a place of intimidation" by a commissioner, the vice chairperson and a candidate running to be its chairman during the November 2014 school board elections. In Canada, there is a growing realization that elected school boards have become nothing more than self-serving institutions, which are of no real pedagogical or economic value for any student, classroom or school. **Chris Eustace**, Montreal. **Chris Eustace** Montreal... (103 words)

Byline: **Chris Eustace**, Source: National Post, Page: A15, Edition: All_but_Toronto
\$4.95 - National Post - Sat Jan 17 2015

Letter: The policy



I am looking forward to an overhaul of Quebec's public school system. In 2015, the Minister of Education will be introducing an educational reform package, which will include a modernization of school governance by restructuring the role of school boards. This reform is a direct result of the pathetic voter turnout in the November 2 school board elections. The taxpayer can soon look forward to a bigger bang for their education dollar through a process that will give schools more powers and duties, meaning greater autonomy to better address the needs of students. **Chris Eustace** Montreal... (94 words)

Byline: **Chris Eustace**, Source: National Post, Page: A11, Edition: National
\$4.95 - National Post - Mon Dec 29 2014

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