



MINUTES

Educational Policy Committee

Date: Monday, March 18, 2024




9:30 - 1100

Location: TEAMS

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Chairperson: Averill Huxter

Attendees: Carl Garrett; Erin Ross; Averill Huxter; Jessica Main-Denis; Karen Kean; Deb Foltin

Time	Item	Deposits
9:30	<p>1 Opening of the meeting Deb welcomes everyone.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">A. All members present.B. For the 2023-24 year: union will chair; secretarial falls to school board reps	<p>ES-165 Safe and Caring Schools.pdf</p>
	<p>2 Follow-ups</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">A. Special Needs Policy status update - Safe and Caring Schools policy The question was raised regarding EPC's role in policy development. EPC would like to be consulted for future policy developments.B. Draft (March 2023) Student Attendance Policy There is no ESSB policy. ES-162 was considered a bulletin and was rescinded a few years ago. A memo was sent to school principals in March 2024 that offered some legal references as well as info for consideration, intended to guide and support local efforts in dealing with absenteeism. Note – not possible to adopt a 'policy' that imposes things that may not be reinforced. Local procedures dictate approach to be used. Case by case...	<p> ES-162 ABSENTEESIM.doc</p> <p> Memo Student absenteeism (rev2) N</p> <p>Directive from Mr. Drainville</p> <p>Posting from Federation des comités de parents du Quebec</p>
	<p>3 New business</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">A. Cell Phone/Bluetooth policy—headphones Question raised whether Bluetooth would be permitted for certain situations deemed preferable by the teacher. Reference from the Drainville directive (Point #1, bullet 1) suggests that teachers have the right to determine this ("modalités d'intervention pédagogique") <i>Q. For students who use noise cancellation headsets with Bluetooth, and whose IEP references this use, may this be considered as an exception? TBD</i>	<p> Cadre-reference-co mpetence-num-AN.p</p>

4. **A. Employee Protection (Facebook parent comments, student videos)**

The issue of FB and social media posts targeting personnel (teachers) was raised.

The Secretary-General will also contact the party concerned in the event of inappropriate posts or communications regarding personnel.

B. Teacher mentoring

How may teachers be supported using available budgets and resources? Consideration for workloads next year...

HR is working on a plan taking into consideration the regions, the needs, the budget, etc.. In progress... The teachers' union will be consulted of future developments.

Qualifications will be clarified and a job posting will be issued to find suitable candidates.

C. Training items: IEP development (defer to PIC?)

There appears to be a need for support. The P294 process should not alter things for teachers; IEP development is essentially the same as it has been over past 2+ decades. Number of cases and complexity of cases have increased. Support/accompaniment available via Comp Services.

D. Digital Action Plan:

No movement in this area as yet (MEQ, ESSB, etc.). Limited info and resources. Suggestion to revisit the current (old) policy at a future EPC meeting `while we wait` ...

5.

Varia

Request to review the previous work of EPC including policies addressed at this table. No available archives found as yet. Teams folder may be set up (or restored) for future use. Verify with Carl Garrett. Current ESSB policies may be found on the (new) school board website [Approved Policies](#). TBC

Date of next meeting: Friday, May 31st at 1:00 PM. **Agenda items due May 17, 2024.**

Note – agenda and invitation to be relayed via Shauna Boudreau at DES.

Adjournment moved by: Averill Huxter