

Letters

QESBA conferences , conventions, congresses, committees and consultations

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When I was a single father, I would often watch an educational program called 'Sesame Street.' The show, among other things, taught kids: numbers, colours and the alphabet.

One feature of the show featured the 'Letter of the Day.' An announcer would say: "Sesame Street is brought to you today by the letter 'C'. Then the screen would show a cat, cow, cake, cucumber and so on.

The QESBA is like 'Sesame Street.' It's a show but everyday is brought to you by the letter 'C' to justify its existence.

Consider the conferences , conventions, congresses, committees and consultations that have absolutely nothing to do with the most important 'C' - the classroom. Of what value were the shindigs in Denver, Colorado, and Whistler, B.C? Why is that? The answer: The Mission Statement of the QESBA states: "Because school commissioners and boards are valued clients, the prime focus of the Association is to fulfill the needs of school boards." Put another way, the councils of commissioners.

And how do they fulfill those "needs"? The Statement says: "we communicate, collaborate and cooperate" - yep, 'C' again.

Apparently, they will be doing that on Friday, September 8, 2017. It is my understanding, on the agenda are two items that should raise concern with Quebec's English school taxpayers:

- the hiring of a consultant at a cost of \$66,000, which **Eastern Townships School Board Chairman Mike Murray** so aptly described: "To me it sounds like an association that has lost its way and looking for a purpose." (The Record, Aug. 24)

- also, it seems QESBA is planning on raising its membership fees.

Even though our student population is declining, QESBA continues to hide behind children, to justify its abuse of the province's coffers.

Anyway, the Mission Statement proclaims: "The Association must act with integrity... endorse an open style of operating..."

"Open?" Where is its budget? It formally refuses to disclose it. Where are the minutes to the association's meetings?

Not necessary. This cosy country club is always ready to slap down the 'Constitution,' or the 'Charter' and prattle on about "minority rights."

Aah..."minority rights" - the mother of all cash cows.

The mention of "minority rights" almost guarantees, unfortunately, for the government to bend its knee toward this organization that really has no raison d'être.

Think about school board reform Bill 86, QESBA'S threat to go to the Supreme Court of Canada, and the government's collapse by scrapping the bill.

In Quebec, the public education trough is deep and wide.

C'mon QESBA, do the classy thing: don't hire a consultant; don't raise membership fees - disband.

Go home and think of the big 'C' in your community - the classroom.

(GREAT -CHRIS GRANDFATHER)EUSTACE MONTREAL, QC

First day back at Heroes' Memorial

By Louise Smith

On Wednesday September 29 the students from the Eastern Townships School Board returned to classes. At Heroes' Memorial in Cowansville, a new teacher on staff is James Poirier. He is teaching Grade 6. He comes from Ontario and has taught at the CEGEP and high school level before coming to this board where he has since worked in Danville, Waterloo, and Magog. He is looking forward to his new group of students in a new setting. Friday was his first experience at Brome Fair.

Enrollment has gone up in the past few years and Heroes' now has close to



Derek on his first day in Kindergarten with his proud papa.

250 students. A new kindergarten student, Derek, was excited to start his first year at school. He was almost speechless but he did have a cheery disposition. He was able to say hi to the kids around him.

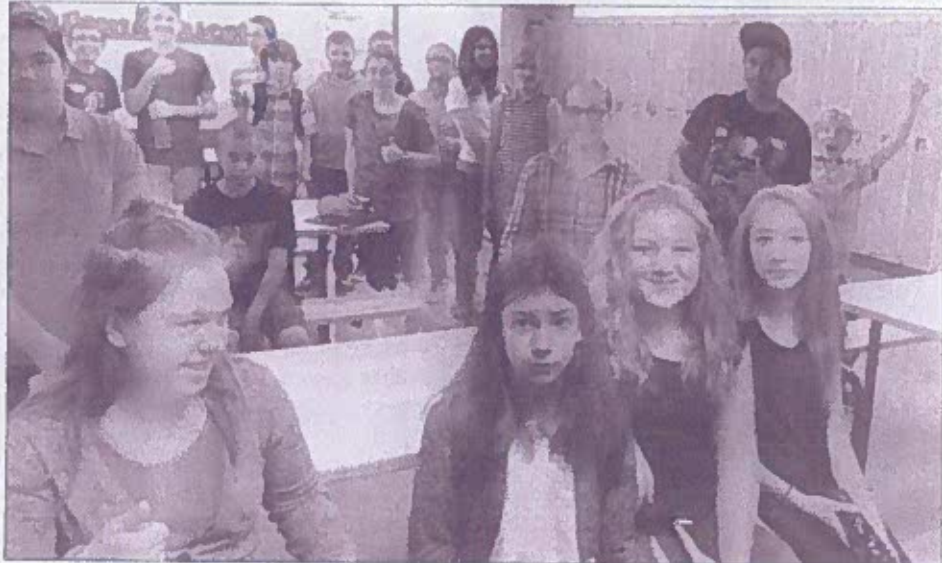
Inside the school more hallways have had new tiles installed and some painting was done over the summer. The building and the staff were all prepared to begin a new year.



Ms. Carter was capturing shots on the first day of school at Heroes' Memorial.

The Record, Sept. 5, 2017

Massey-Vanier HS begins another year



PHOTOS COURTESY OF LOUISE SMITH

New faces appeared in the Secondary 1 hallways of Massey-Vanier.

By Louise Smith

Everyone in the main office, as well as the rest of the staff, were ready to greet new and returning students to Massey-Vanier. There have been some new staff added and a few changes in the administration. Petra Bardon retired in June and Diane Vokey who was doing some administration replacement work last year, is the new full-time vice-principal. Dave Scott will split his time between being half-time vice-principal at Massey-Vanier and half-time principal at

Mansonville Elementary. Julie Edwards is returning as the principal.

The students were happy to return. Some first time students were getting used to the layout of the building, but they were reassured that it would get easier in the days ahead.

There is always something special about the first few weeks of school. Everyone has fresh pencils and paper and notebooks and even rulers and calculators. Hopefully that special feeling (and availability of school supplies) will continue throughout the school year.

The Legend, Sept. 5, 2017