

Education Policies Committee (EPC)
Meeting of January 24, 2022

Virtual Campus and Online Instruction

There was a slight increase in registration which had no impact on staffing.

EDDI Working Group

Patricia Blackett is working on a podcast which should be released soon. All teacher releases are on hold at the moment at the school board to maintain continuity in the classroom, which means that the working group is not currently meeting. Consultants may need to come in to substitute in the schools at some point. ESD will revisit this position at the end of the month of January.

Elementary Board Exam Update

Due to the current COVID situation, some modifications were made to the elementary exam schedule. Grade 6 French exam will be optional. Grade 4 French and English exams will remain mandatory but will be shortened to an hour and a half. *Compréhension de textes et écriture* will take place. Math exams for grades 3 and 5, will remain the same- which is about an hour. Grade 5 Math exams date was a problem as the date was scheduled during Easter break. This date was removed from the list of possibilities. The Directorate is evaluating if a training workshop will be held on that day and will share their decision.

A copy of the changes to elementary exams is found at the end of this report.

Elementary Marking Centers

One day was added for Math and English for the release days. No extra time for French as the Ministry is only providing releases for *Français langue d'enseignement*. At the moment, 1 day of substitution for French, English and Math Ministry Exams is offered. Measure money is available for the Grade 6 English exam. PTU asked to get a chart for all the release time offered to be shared with the teachers when the information becomes available. A question was asked regarding the possibility of releasing teachers for more time as no one is released at the moment which means money is being saved. The suggestion was noted.

Upcoming Workshops

2500 employees participated in January 21st workshops. Inclusive classroom was the major element but other workshops were presented as well. Morning workshops were mainly offered as schools can plan their local events if needed in the afternoon. Afternoon workshops are offered to a limited number of participants. Region Day is coming up; not organized by SSD or ESD. Delia Noel was asked to come and present to offer a different perspective for EDDI.

Technology

Bimodal technology is still in the process of being installed but the expectation remains the same. Some items are being delayed - some delays vary from 2-3 weeks to a few months (for Smart TV for instance).

Continuing Education

Pasquale Machado followed up with Maggie Soldano regarding the translation for PROCEED. Questions remained and will be asked to the Ministry. Meetings are taking place right now at table de concertation and questions will be asked regarding the possibility of McGill taking over the Université de Sherbrooke program which is no longer available.

DELFL Training for Teachers

ESD plans to implement a DELF exam to all grade 6 students across the school board and would like to have the teachers administer it at the end of the year - but not for this school year. The objective is to get a clear picture of readiness for high schools. The exam is not intended to be on a report card - unless the teachers want to use the exam as a formal grade. It is a transition piece. It should replace the GB+ standardized test done by the students in Elementary. The High Schools will have a copy of the results and those results could guide them with French class and program placement.

All required training will be covered by ESD but will be offered depending on COVID. The Grade 6 French exam is an optional board wide exam, so the DELF exam could replace it.

There will be no exam this year. Training and release time will be provided by ESD with funding being offered by the Ministry from a grant obtained to train teachers in the DELF program. Budgetary parameters will be shared with EPC committee.

Extension of Report Card Due Dates

February 11th is the due date, but has not been amended by the government. This is a Staff Council collaboration item. Some schools decided to keep the same dates while some extended their previously established dates.

Submitted by
Marie-Pier Michaud

Changes to Elementary exams

Grade	Subject	Familiarization	Date of exams	Marking Dates
3 (M)	Math	N/A	May 2 – May 6	N/A
4 (M)	FLS	28 et 29 mars	Après le 29 mars	N/A
4 (M)	ELA	March 28 & 29	After March 29th	N/A
5 (M)	Math	N/A	April 18 - 22	N/A
6 (Opt)	FSL	28 et 29 mars	Après le 29 mars	N/A
6 (M)	ELA (MEQ)	March 28 & 29	May 24 - June 2*	June 14th
6 (M)	Math (MEQ)	Wed, June 2 AM session: 9:30 - 12:00	June 7-8-9 *	Day 1: June 15 (1 group) Day 2 & 3: June 16 & 17 (2 groups)**

(M): Mandatory

(Opt): Optional

***Please note that the cells in red are dates established by the Ministry of Education**

****The presence of teachers at marking center in green is mandatory**

The cell in yellow is the only change.

The grade 4 French & English exams will be 1-2 hours long

The grade 6 French exam is no longer mandatory