

SWLSB PARENTS' COMMITTEE: November 2nd, 2017

Highlights – for GB

Presentation on SWLSB's Vocational Training department:

Intro by Fred Greschner. Presentation by Eileen Kelly.

Promoting Vocational Training as a pathway for students to learn a **marketable trade**, rather than just dropping out of high school and taking any job with minimum wage. Many students who are at risk of not graduating take this path, several return to graduate afterwards with fewer requirements because they've achieved a Vocational Training diploma. Alternatively they can earn credits to move on to CEGEP or University. *Interesting option in the light of increasing pressure on CEGEP places.* Most programs run out of Pont Vau in Laval, but recognising that travel can be difficult, they have many hybrid programs that are 2/3 completed online.

For Adult Learners/Parents: Recognition of Acquired Competencies (RAC) program offers the ability to be awarded a certificate for a job you may have been doing for years without any formal qualifications. Eg, if you've been an office administrator, or a caregiver to a family member for several years, and you'd like to continue in this role, you can discuss your knowledge and experience with an assessor who will tell you what's needed to get your diploma; could be just a simple exam, or observed demonstration of knowledge. Then you can apply for positions with a formal qualification and earn a higher wage.

<http://bilingualtraining.ca/vocational-training/about-us/>

Enrollment Criteria Document Consultation: The only change is the addition of one line to formalize an unofficial practice that's been operating for 2-3 years: PC approved this amendment to the document stating that "No reference letters will be written for students transferring out of the SWLSB".

Deeds of Establishment & Three-Year Plans need to be reviewed at GB and reported back to PC asap.

School Board Report:

DG: Mr Greschner confirmed that DG Mr Lamoureux will be on leave till the end of the year, and that he (FG) is taking on much of that role in the interim.

Pre-K: only 3 Pre-Ks were granted across the entire board, giving support to at-risk areas by providing early intervention on learning and cognitive skills, hopefully contributing to future success.

Student Numbers: 12,819 students in total. 80 students less than last year, but 182 more than the Ministry's projections. SWLSB is in the Top 5 Boards in the province with 84% graduation rate. #1 for integration of special needs students.

Please promote the "Laurier Stars" fundraiser to help raise funds for sensory equipment for classrooms. Nov 16th, at Laval Junior Academy, \$15 per ticket.

A parent from Terry Fox has started a support group for parents of kids with special needs – Terry Fox Cares – contact Angie Lombardo 5149151612, or contact via the school office.