

January 26th, 2009

Members of the Council
Lester B. Pearson School Board
1925, Brookdale Avenue
Dorval (Québec)
H9P 2Y7

Dear commissioners,

We are here today to voice our concern regarding Council's December 15th, 2008 decision to open a "LBPSB 4-Year Old Kindergarten Program" in Dorval at Bishop Whelan. This resolution is seen as having a limited chance for success, given pre-school current market conditions, and an affront to volunteer driven pre-school organisms currently operating in Dorval.

Secondly, we are here to represent the public concern of Dorval and surrounding communities regarding the use of public funds earmarked for K5 to Secondary V purposes in a way that will be disruptive to the existing volunteer driven programs.

As expressed by the signatories of our petition, people feel that in these tough economic times, a more prudent usage of public tax dollars is needed and that LBPSB should concentrate its efforts on students already enrolled and in communities where needs are not being met. This petition, both in hard copy and on-line format, has gathered approximately 200 signatures so far. This collective voice has had only one week of existence as we were hoping that discussions between the LBPSB and the volunteer-based preschools would bring about a creative and shared solution.

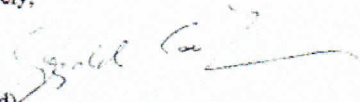
The cooperative constitution of Dorval Preschool Co-op and the patronizing offer made to the Dorval Pre-K to the Dorval Elementary Home and School Association render the suggested implementation of a ½ day program at Bishop Whelan not feasible.

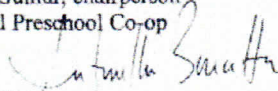
In a request to amend the resolution, we want to bring to your attention that NOT ALL COMMISSIONERS were aware before making their decision that:

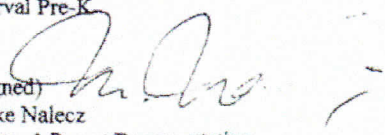
1. There existed two volunteer-based preschools in Dorval which combined 65 years of volunteering in the community towards the education of children in preparation for Kindergarten;
2. The two preschool 4 year-old market had only 30 children enrolled and the market is facing a decline;
3. The two preschools drew their clientele not only from Dorval but also from Lachine, Pointe-Claire, Beaconsfield and DDO;
4. Four qualified educators were hired by the two preschools and that each preschool was operated on a budget of 40k\$ in comparison to the 76\$ budgeted by LBPSB for each of the 5 K-4 programs (380k\$ / 5);
5. Both preschool services were based on a pedagogical programs that comprised formal evaluation of the children learning in preparation of Kindergarten;
6. The experience of both preschools could provide LBPSB with an exceptional data for a longitudinal study on the relation between preschool education and preparedness for elementary education.
7. Both pre-schools have contributed to university studies and projects by early child educators in their perfecting studies. Also LBPSB high school students have also completed community services in our pre-schools.

In line with the request to amend the Dec 15 K4 resolution, we ask Mr. Tabachnick to please represent the public concern hereby expressed and request that the Council of commissioners to reassess this decision.

Sincerely,


(signed)
Izold Guihur, chairperson
Dorval Preschool Co-op


(signed)
Antonella Baratta, coordinator
Dorval Pre-K


(signed)
Mike Nalez
Sector 1 Parent Representative