



## • EVALUATION SITUATIONS

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Several elementary school teachers have strong reservations regarding the **evaluation situations** they are required to conduct from April to May. For the most part, their comments are related to the following issues:

- Too much teaching time spent administering student evaluations;
- Comprehension difficulties: critical thinking exercises too long for the students' comprehension level;
- Too high a level of abstraction required for problem-solving;
- Too many steps required for mathematical problems;
- Discouragement in children with learning difficulties;
- Pressure on teachers to pass students.

We brought these concerns to the boards' attention during Education Policy Committee meetings. Up to now, the board has little to offer in terms of solutions, except to suggest that training sessions in reading strategies are available. Our QPAT representatives meanwhile are keeping MELS people informed of these problems, so that the situation is improved for teachers

## • TOO MANY TERMS PER SCHOOL YEAR?

### TOO MANY TERMS PER SCHOOL YEAR?

Some schools elsewhere in Quebec have **reduced the number of terms from four to three** per school year, resulting in fewer evaluation situations, among other things.

Here's what a 3 term school year can look like :

August 27 - November 14	53 days
November 19 - March 27	60 days
March 30 - June 23	67 days
	Total: 180 days

The **Basic School Regulations stipulates 8 communications** to parents during the cycle; in a school year with 3 terms, teachers may decide to produce a written report (**not a report card**), in late April, for example, to provide information on the students' academic performance, i.e. behaviour, points to improve on before the end of the school year, etc.

If you find this 3-term scenario to be suitable or any other, we suggest you discuss it and bring it to the School Council meetings, if it's the wish of the teachers, make an official proposal to the school administration, as stipulated in the **Education Act** (96.15).

## • RECALL LIST

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The school board will offer **part-time contracts on August 19, 2009**, in the usual manner, i.e. by telephone. We had asked the School Board to change its method in the aim of greater transparency, but our request was denied. The School Board and school administrations prefer the status quo. We will nonetheless maintain a dialogue with Human Resources to push this issue forward.

•SCHOOL  
CLOSURES:  
REACH,ROYAL  
OAK AND TERRY  
FOX

•SURPLUS  
TEACHERS

• UNION  
ELECTIONS

• ANNUAL  
GENERAL  
MEETING

• LONG TERM  
DISABILITY  
INSURANCE

The School Board has a contractual obligation to give teaching contracts based on seniority while respecting job criteria (qualifications and experience). When this exercise is complete, the union receives the list of contracts given and reviews each one to ensure it complies with the collective agreement.

**SCHOOL CLOSURES: REACH, ROYAL OAK AND TERRY FOX**

Two public meetings were held at **Heritage** on May 12 and 14, to inform parents about these three possible school closures. All department directors at the School Board were on site to try to convince parents of the sound reasoning behind the closures. The idea of moving **REACH** to **Heritage** was greeted with strongest opposition from parents and teachers. A consultation will be held in the fall.

**SURPLUS TEACHERS**

Fortunately, all surplus teachers have been placed, so none will be non-reengaged or placed on availability next year.

**UNION ELECTIONS**

On May 19, **Adam Velin** (HRHS) and **Terri Ann Pine** (HRHS) were elected to the Executive Committee as **high school representatives**. **John Derrick** (CRHS) had already been acclaimed as **treasurer**. Congratulations! We also thank **Heather Hancheruk** (CAHS) for being a candidate on this election.

**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

Our annual general meeting took place on May 19, at Heritage Regional High School. The annual reports and financial statements were received and approved by the members in attendance. The Union's financial statements were sent to the schools.

**LONG TERM DISABILITY INSURANCE**

Teachers are reminded that if you are within 2 years of retirement, you may cancel your long-term disability coverage.

Enjoy your summer holidays, and we look forward to seeing you in the fall!

Michel Gagnon  
Anne St Pierre  
Frank White

