

## Editorial

# La Passerelle



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**J**ust a few days away from the summer holidays that you have without a doubt eagerly been waiting for, I would like to give you the latest news.

I would also like to take this opportunity to wish you all an excellent vacation.

Have a great



## Meeting with the Minister of Education

On Tuesday, June 27, I had the opportunity to meet with the Minister of Education, Mr. Proulx, along with the FPPE, FSE, FPSS and CSQ chairs. In the wake of the launch of the educational success policy, we took the opportunity to request explanations and express our desire to take part in the various committees and work tables announced in the said policy.

I expressed some of our concerns regarding additional resources. In a context of decentralization, where schools can use the money as they wish, seeing as the measures are not protected, how can we ensure that the policy's objectives are met? How can we ensure equity of resources?

Concerning 4-year-old kindergarten, I reminded the Minister that the Passepartout program should be considered as a complementary service for 4-year-old kindergarteners. I also insisted on the importance of the pivotal role already played by preschool education consultants in facilitating school transition. Following my remarks condemning the capping of amounts associated with this service, the Minister indicated that he would look into this, as it is not his intention to reduce one service in order to promote another.

The state of school libraries concerns the Minister; I was able to emphasize the vital contribution of librarians and

to denounce the cuts made to this job class, despite measures put in place for this purpose.

Together with the CSQ, we were able to express our concerns regarding community organizations and the risk of seeing them replace public services rather than working in complementarity with them. This enabled me to voice our concerns about the problem with Carrefours Jeunesse Emplois and to give specific examples of unacceptable situations within the communities.

Finally, I offered some direction to highlight the essential contribution of many of our professions in attaining objectives, such as the funding of the Special Needs Advisory Committees (EHDA), the provision of liberal adult education and vocational training services, support for Allophone students, the development of digital, the modernization of educational support, literacy, the improvements of school infrastructures, the promotion of community involvement, etc.; it is crucial to count on the school boards' professional staff.

It was thus a fruitful meeting, but it remains essential for us to have a meeting in fall to delve deeper into these topics that we have only skimmed over.

## Pay equity, 2010 and 2015 grievances

Despite all the efforts made over the last three years to reach a settlement of the 2010 grievances through conciliation, we are in stalemate. Indeed, the Conseil du trésor requires all organizations to be present in order to reach a settlement. However one organization has decided to withdraw from the conciliation. In light of this extremely disappointing deadlock, we will likely have to send our ongoing grievances to the pay equity commission. We are currently assessing all options and should inform you of the decision made when the new school year starts.

Naturally, this situation further delays handling of the 2015 grievances.

## Bonus for psychologists

Although the matter has not been settled yet, we are hopeful that everything will be finalized shortly and that we will reach our objective. Rest assured that we will inform you as soon as we receive an official answer.

## Post-negotiation committees (education consultants)

First, I would like to thank all the education consultants who answered the survey to help us illustrate the attraction and retention issues of this job class. We received more than 600 questionnaires completed by school ECs. As soon as school begins, we will work on analyzing the survey's results and on highlighting indicators.

Regarding the education consultant oversight and ranking committee, we have decided to invite one school EC and one college EC to present the nature of the job to the Conseil du trésor. We feel that the disputes surrounding certain sub-factors are in part due to a poor understanding of the nature of ECs' work. We thus thought it relevant to go over this aspect again. The chosen consultants will have help from the FPPE and the CSQ to prepare for this presentation, which will take place before the Conseil du trésor on September 14.

