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Bonjour M. Lagasse (Roger),
(cc les autres membres de l'APE)

Nous avons regardé la réunion du CSF qui était télévisée sur Facebook Live. J'ai pris des notes (en anglais) que j'attache ci-dessous.

Nous sommes tellement déçus qu'aucune consultation n'a été faite par le CSF avant de prendre ce vote important.

L'APE de l'École du Pacifique et de l'École Secondaire Chatelech, dont je suis Présidente, était choqué par le communiqué qui annonçait la fin des programmes hétérogènes dès 2021. Parce que le CSF n'a pas complété sa diligence requise pour faire une consultation, nous avons décidé de le faire nous-mêmes. Nous sommes en train d'appeler chaque famille pour leur expliquer la situation et pour comprendre leurs réactions et commentaires.

En plus, nous étions insultés par les commentaires de M. St Amant et Mme. Bédard, qui ont laissé entendre que les familles qui ne soutiennent pas la résolution d'évoluer vers un programme homogène, pouvaient simplement inscrire leurs enfants dans une programme immersion. Comme vous le savez bien, une programme immersion n'est pas une éducation équivalente. De plus, le fait qu'il n'y a pas un tel programme sur la Côte du Soleil ne semble pas être important pour eux.

Ici à Sechelt, les familles qui inscrivent leurs enfants dans le programme francophone à l'École du Pacifique et à l'École Secondaire Chatelech ne soutiennent pas l'idée d'une programme homogène pour les étudiants secondaires. Ni dès l'année 2021, ni à un autre moment dans le futur.

Comme vous le savez, notre communauté francophone est vraiment petite. Même si on pouvait attirer 100% des familles ayant droit de s'inscrire, les classes restent trop petites pour soutenir les équipes de sports, un orchestre, un club de théâtre, une cafétéria, une gymnase, une bibliothèque, et les multitudes autres ressources qu'offre Chatelech. Ceci n'est pas une question de finances ou d'avoir assez de temps pour construire une autre école. C'est une question plutôt de nombres d'enfants et de familles francophones sûr la Côte Soleil. Couramment nous avons 32 familles représentant 55 enfants dans l'École du Pacifique (M-7), ce qui se traduit d'une moyen de 7 élèves par niveau. Même si on pouvait doubler nos nombres, cela ne sera pas une situation comparable socialement pour les enfants qui doivent rester dans un programme homogène vs. hétérogène.

On est on d'accord que ça serait bien que les élèves au secondaire aient plus de cours en français. Mais non pas si ceux-la sont virtuels. Les cours virtuels ne

sont pas populaires avec les élèves, ni les parents. Durant notre consultation avec les familles que nous servons, nous n'en avons pas trouvé une seule qui aime les cours secondaires virtuels par rapport aux cours en personne. Ça fait des années qu'on essaye d'attirer des enseignants pour travailler dans notre communauté sans beaucoup de succès. Quelles changements offre le CSF pour régler cet insuffisance de personnel? Est-ce que le CSF comprend qu'il n'y a pas assez de logement à des prix abordables à Sechelt pour les enseignants? C'est une problème persistant qui affecte notre habilité de retenir nos enseignants. Comment pourra-t-on embaucher plus de personnel sans fournir des solutions pour ce problème en premier?

Au sujet d'un bâtiment pour le programme homogène. Le CSF est sûrement conscient que nous avons pris les dernières 4-5 années pour sécuriser un terrain pour une nouvelle école, ce qui n'est même pas complet. Comment pourrait-on construire cet école dans moins qu'une année? Où sont ces plans? Où sont les assurances du CSF et du District of Sechelt? Nos familles n'accepterons pas des classes portatives comme solution (même si c'est temporaire) par rapport à l'infrastructure qu'offre l'École Secondaire Chatelech. En plus, les familles à qui j'ai parlé ne veulent pas que les M-1 partagent les mêmes espaces que les élèves de niveau 11-12 pour des raisons de sécurité.

On vous propose que, dans notre communauté, une éducation équivalente veut dire un programme hétérogène dans l'École Secondaire Chatelech, avec plus de cours en français avec des enseignants qui offre les services en personne et non pas virtuels.

Il est évident qu'il n'y a aucune famille à travers les 32 familles qui représentent notre communauté francophone qui soutient la résolution de fermer le programme hétérogène et évoluer vers un programme homogène dès l'année 2021. Au contraire, il y a maintenant un fort risque de perdre tous ces familles pour la système Anglais (on n'a pas un choix d'immersion ici) et non pas seulement les élèves secondaires: perdre aussi des élèves primaires car les familles ne verront pas de solution saine à long terme en français pour leur enfants.

Comme Présidente de l'APE, j'exige l'opportunité d'être présente à la prochaine réunion du CA pour partager nos inquiétudes.

Cordialement,
Ione Smith

Notes from the discussion at the CA meeting:

- Lagasse asked if any research had been done into what the financial impact would be of the resolution: closing existing school programs and opening new schools

- Chair said CSF wouldn't lose money as CSF students are CSF students no matter where they study so we would receive the same \$ from the province
- Lagasse (Sechelt) asked if the administrative staff could also answer as he felt there would be a big impact on the management of the schools and that the current system generates funds for CSF in the form of additional resources/support that would now need to come from elsewhere. He specifically gave example of Sechelt situation.
- Admin saying it shouldn't make a difference as right now it's costing us to send to english schools
- Fillion (Penticton, Revelstoke) says he doesn't think the virtual experience is a good substitute. They are talking about offering virtual until a clear homogenous in-person program is available.
- St Amant saying not "closing" heterogeneous but progressing towards homogenous
- St Amant saying the virtual offerings are broad and giving students an opportunity to get access to other education in french
- Fillion says "va permettre" gives the impression there is no choice
- St Amant says the 1 year window will allow for 2 things: to see if the school has the opportunity to offer classes in place (space) - they think there are the spaces. If not spaces, then the option would be virtual for the kids. If not then the families can choose to send kids to english or to immersion
- Not taking kids out of existing heterogenous
- Bedard (Campbell River, Nanaimo, Powell River) saying they acknowledge that there won't be control over what parents decide to do
- Bedard Financial and other uncertainties should not impact their decision to move forward, it's always been the mandate of the CSF to have homogenous system
- Azar-Diehl (Lower mainland Surrey etc): Question for St Amant as to which schools are "feasible" to start right way
- St Amant says this decision will give them the opportunity to start looking. Could include looking at increase in "density" of existing classrooms. Could include adding portables. Thinks that solutions can be found fairly easily. Won't be able to do it everywhere all at once. Will need to focus on specific communities first.
- Claveau (Terrace, Prince George): Inferior experience, not inferior students. The students who come out of the heterogeneous experience are great but the idea is to give them more than what we currently offer them.
- Lagasse: Lofty goal, will need transition. Don't see how replacing in-person physical schools with virtual option will be attractive to families. This is cart before the horse. We are being asked to vote now and determine feasibility after the vote. This is the wrong order. Don't want kids to fall in the cracks. Chatelech is a high quality education option and don't want to replace it with something inferior even if temporary. Would like to make an amendment to the resolution.
- Admin says in the infrastructure plan the Minister is already aware of these goals and plans for homogenous high schools and has been for several years and the land is already identified. Confident they could get the infrastructure in place.

- Lavoie argues we cannot get to a place where french language kids have the “equivalence” that is the CSF mandate and was reinforced by Supreme Court case without taking this important step.
- She agrees will need to find more teachers, more staff. Takes a build it and they will come approach and gives Jules Verne as an example. Says Statistics and data indicates the number of kids are there.
- Azar-Diehl (Lower mainland Surrey etc): She wants to all agree that they all have the same goal. Has concerns about the risky nature of the resolution because if taken to the letter, then can see heterogenous programs are cut/closed before the homogenous equivalents are ready. Very concerned that these other communities will be a priority. Don’t want the resolution that confirms these smaller communities are more of a priority than others. Recommended revision to the resolution that is just the first sentence and removes the part with the specific dates and add, that would like to see homogenous options in all the communities who needs them, not just the 8 identified.
- Fillion supported the amended resolution.
- Lagasse: suggests a further amendment to include a measure that homogenous programs must be in place to replace heterogenous programs before they are closed/wind down.
- Bedard argues to include the dates so that parents can have clarity so that they know what’s happening and for decision-making. Would like amend the original resolution add that CSF will offer a grade 8-9 program in 2020-2021 to accommodate students who want to start right away.
- Admin says including the dates helps with communication to Min of Education and steps towards implementation
- Question about how it will work for doing heterogenous at same time as homogenous during the years when the programs are overlapping (as the current kids age out)
- Azar-Diehl (Lower mainland Surrey etc): concerned about parents of the students who are now in Grade 5/6 and who will wake up in the morning and see the media release and be told they can’t send their kids to a heterogenous program in 2021-2022. Would like to take time to consult with them. Concerned they will be really shocked and taken unaware without consultation. Need to give them an option to provide families with a choice to take the time they need.
- Gatien (Vancouver/Richmond): can see that the transition will be more complicated than indicated. There is a reason why it hasn’t happened over the past 15 years. But agrees including a date is a good idea. Question for others CAs - why would not including a date change what has happened to date? How will that help with progress forward?
- Lagasse: asked why not already in place, in most cases it’s because the communities are small and people wanted continuity in french but with small numbers the heterogenous program was what made that possibility. Flexibility for administration is important in terms of timeline. Don’t want a situation where the only option is virtual - it isn’t the same experience. What about siblings? Are we going to split them

apart? One child will get in-person and one virtual, it's not equal and it is unfair. There are risks in that.

- Azar-Diehl: Fantastic if we can get these all done in one year but I don't think it will happen, it isn't logical. Don't want less services as a result, I feel it will be a step back rather than forward. If it takes 2 or 3 years fine, don't have parents surprised and disappointed. don't understand why we are taking decisions like this without consulting the parents. It's true the long term goal is the same but rushing it and potentially reducing services in the meantime makes no sense.
- Lavoie: Need to remember the history. People said Jules Verne high school wouldn't work. Now it is full. Need to include a date to give warning to parents who arriving next year they have the time to watch and see where the direction is going. Take this historical court gain and make something strong with it. We will be covering our bases. We are giving warning and mandating staff to move forward.
- St Amant: Leave to your discretion about timeline but on the admin side it's important to have dates in place because without them we don't know when to start. Never know what will come up. Even if tentative keep the dates. 8 secondary schools now, there are 15 mentioned in the court case we will organize to achieve them all. The virtual is not the only option or the final goal but it is an option with strengths and weaknesses. The court case gave the CSF a strong mandate. Consultation, don't want to have to rationalize the judgement when doing consultation. Have to keep the student in the centre of the decision making, the best for them. Go further than what we are doing now. We will operationalize whatever you decide is best.
- Bedard: don't know how parents could be surprised. It is what we went to court for. We have been fighting for this for year. I would be so happy if I woke up and learned that my child didn't have to go to a heterogenous school. We may see even more children registered.
- Azar-Diehl: not what I was saying, I am saying with the date in there the risk is that if not homogenous available in a community then other resources will be cut.
- Lavoie warned her not to divulge information that was in-camera with their lawyer.
- Azar-Diehl: what the resolution says is that after a specific date you will not be able to send your kid to a heterogenous school. If everything goes well and according to plan, fantastic! but if not what choice will parents have after that date? None. And they will be shocked and angry that we have taken resources away from them. What our backup plan if places are not ready? Will the schools have to be closed?
- Lavoie: if we give operations our instructions they have said they will be able to make it happen, our staff have assured us this.
- Azar-Diehl: the problem is we are only giving communities one year. if the homogenous program not ready in 1 year the only choice the kids will have will be virtual or English. This is the real risk and problem. it is unfair to put parents in that situation with out preparing and consulting with parents. It's possible we won't be ready.
- Lavoie: we will go progressively as St Amant said, one year at a time across all 8 communities. It's not opening a grade 12 right away.

- Claveau: Consultation is a good point. But don't forget about consulting with families that aren't yet sending their kids to CSF schools because they don't feel the education would be equivalent. Will there be a big gap? Yes it will be a challenge but St Amant says he is ready to take that on.
- Lagasse: Glad you brought up Jules Verne. Before bringing the kids in from heterogenous programs we built a beautiful new school. We had the infrastructure in place first. I think what is missing is a transition. We can put a date in that indicates a start to implementing the hard work of putting the new system in place but don't want a date that excludes kids from current programs if we don't know what the new system will look like.
- Filion: if we put in the resolution starting in 2020-2021 that we are starting to close the heterogenous system it could take away the risk of making it look like things will close then. Virtual experience are not equivalent. I'm around adolescents all the the time, the virtual was ok these past few months because it was temporary. Many would prefer to not go to school at all until a face to face teacher is available. Wait until homogenous in place until closing heterogenous system. Agree with Roger.
- Lavoie: Virtual distance ed classes in Covid times are different than classes for secondary classes that have been used in the past.
- Caroline Picard: explained some of the differences. At home vs. at school, etc.
- Azar-Diehl: can we at least get a feasibility report to get a better sense to what is possible within the one year? Would vote to pause the resolution and request a report from staff on space, land, staff/teachers, interest. Will there be a situation whereby after 1 year students will have the option only virtual or English school? propose we get that information for each of the 8 communities.
- Took a vote on this: vote failed
- Bedard: Her heterogenous students have only 2 classes in french. If we don't succeed in getting to full homogenous and kids switch to immersion then they will basically be getting the same amount of french. We can't keep asking for reports. We may not get there this september but if we get a year it should be enough time.
- Admin: The 8 places that have been identified are places with the possibility of spaces. We have confidence that we can make it happen in the one year. We will also have more transportation.
- Lavoie: ready to vote on the amended resolutions.
- Voted on a few amended resolutions but none of them passed.
- Voted on the final resolution: passed 4-3.