

PRESENTATION
TO
THE PROTESTANT SCHOOL BOARD OF GREATER MONTREAL
REGARDING CHARGES TO OUTSIDE ORGANIZATIONS

From: Quebec Federation of Home and School Associations
4795 St. Catherine Street West
Montreal, Quebec H3Z 1S8

Montreal, January 16, 1978

PRESENTATION

TO

THE PROTESTANT SCHOOL BOARD OF GREATER MONTREAL

REGARDING CHARGES TO OUTSIDE ORGANIZATIONS

On behalf of the many active Home and School Associations within the Protestant School Board of Greater Montreal area, we wish to state that we are against the present policy of charging rental for activities sponsored by these associations. Since Home & School exists entirely for the benefit of the child, and any monies they do make are used to enrich the school experience, we strongly object to being classified as "outside organizations".

Please take into consideration that the active Home & School associations consist of involved parents who spend many hours in the school helping in various ways. These hours amount to a sizeable total of which the remunerations are nil. We are volunteers who are proud of the work we are doing and undue hardships such as "nominal charges" are not welcome and are deemed unnecessary - not to mention the cost of all the paperwork involved by the PSBGM to expedite the billing process, as well as the postal charges. To the best of our knowledge, last year Home & School payments accounted for \$2,500. of your "income".

At a recent seminar on Vandalism and Violence, sponsored by you, your people (psychologists, etc.) said that it was necessary for the

community to take a larger role in the school in order to make the school experience an emotionally and physically satisfying one and that it should take place in a safe, secure atmosphere; that the children needed more opportunities for socializing experiences, not fewer, and this is what we feel we do in large part as an organization - provide opportunities for emotional and cultural experiences that are no longer part of the regular program in many schools due both to declining enrollment (and therefore fewer teachers) and the shorter work day.

One of the reasons for the highly thought of reputation of the PSBGM is that it does offer so much to the children, but many of these "offerings" are a direct result of an active and concerned Home & School and/or School Committee. Another PSBGM plus in the minds of many is the remedial help it offers. In the elementary schools this remedial help is generally unpaid parents who faithfully come in week after week to help a child on a one-to-one basis.

Item 4 in your letter, of December 14th, asked for specific suggestions to improve the services and procedures. In order to lighten the burden of the PSBGM and to make the system more efficient, we wonder if it would not be possible for the inside school organizations to make all their bookings through the secretary of the school. If the PSBGM decides that inside organizations must pay some fee, we would recommend a yearly bill rather than the present monthly one.

Janitorial fees for school use on a Saturday or Sunday should be paid by all organizations.

We would appreciate the opportunity to appear in person to expand on some of these aspects of our presentation.

Respectfully submitted

QUEBEC FEDERATION OF HOME
AND SCHOOL ASSOCIATIONS