

Memo

ST. LAMBERT BILINGUAL SCHOOL STUDY GROUP

October 1965 -

Formation of St. Lambert Bilingual School Study Group to assure continuation of experimental program beyond Kindergarten and increase area of support and extend program to community at large - Caths. French, Eng. and Prtos. Provide for controlled experiment with Dept. of Education support, University assistance, provide for continuing bilingual program from Kindergarten thru Elementary.

Members: 2 from Protestant Parents 1) Olga Melikoff
2) Valerie Neale

2 from St. Lambert H. & S. Assoc.

3) Cliff Parfett

4) Murielle Parkes

1 from St. Francis P.T.A. 5) Kay Stewart

Chairman: Olga Melkoff

Secretary: Murielle Parkes

December 1965 - Brief written by Study Group sent to Minister of Education and interested persons. (M. Gérin-Lajoie) Brief supported by Protestant Home & School Assoc. St. Lambert, Executive, St. Francis of Assossi, Protestant Parents for Bilingual Education, and South Shore University Women's Club.

January - May 1966 - Appeals to Central Board by Study Group and parents of Kindergarten children. Study Group sponsored meetings with board members of Prot. and Cathol. commissions, Prot. administrators, a representative from Department of Education (R. Haeblerlé), a psychology student from McGill University (M. Buteau) who was also doctoral candidate. Report of French Supervisor and Director of Studies, J. Rosevear, - worked out curriculum.. Supervisor - R. Malboeuf

March 17 - St. Lambert Catholic Commission do not support proposal (see reasons) Fear of costs cause postponement. Principle accepted by all commissioners. Parents of 19^{Catholic} children seeking to participate in experiment.

April -- Dr. W. Lambert offers testing and evaluation program by his department. Parents and board very grateful.

April 18 -- Central Board accepts initiating experiment to extent of one Grade I and 2 Kindergartens for 1966-67. 60% again interested in French kindergarten.

May 4 - Request to initiate experiment sent to Department

Study group eager to see advisory committee formed to include reps from administrators, teachers involved, School Bd., McGill University and Study Group to advise teachers and on curriculum, correlate ~~ex~~ activities and facilitate contacts with parents, which is so important in a program of this sort.

Study Group feels that 4th Volume of Parent Report augurs well ~~for~~ experiments between the two language groups and hopes that this small Eng. Prot. effort will be expanded in the near future to more of this community. It is eager to offer assistance to

any other communities interested in the same thing.

The Study Group feels that its experience is an example of what parents can do in a community to affect the educational scene, as suggested in the Parent Report Vol. 4. The role of parents was to rally public opinion in favor of a program individually favored by many in the community, to present and argue the case to the school authorities, as often as necessary.

It is hoped that the children will benefit from the bilingual education being offered them. It is certain that the parents have gained a good deal of insight into community and educational problems. With this one goal reached, most of the parents involved are continuing their interest in school matters and should a new need be strongly felt again, will have a better idea of what to do in a spirit of responsible involvement.

Amen.