



Major work at FACE

Update on the work of the *Comité de Vigie de FACE* (CVF – FACE monitoring committee)

**June 2019**

Dear parents and members of the FACE community,

As you know, a major step was taken in February toward the eventual renovation of our beloved École FACE. Quebec Education Minister Jean-François Roberge announced \$11 million for preparatory studies on the \$120 to 150-million project to rejuvenate our beautiful heritage building at 3449 University Street. (read <http://www.education.gouv.qc.ca/salle-de-presse/communiqués-de-presse/detail/article/rehabilitation-de-lecole-face-le-dossier-va-de-lavant-grâce-a-un-soutien-de-11-m-annonce-par-le/> for details)

With this announcement, the Education Minister set in motion a process involving various stakeholders, including the Commission scolaire de Montréal (CSDM), the Société Québécoise des infrastructures (SQI), the English Montreal School Board (EMSB), the administration at FACE school and the Comité de vigie (CVF). So far, several meetings have been held, some of them with members of the Comité de Vigie.

As the 2018-19 school year draws to a close, the CVF would like to bring you up to date on what has transpired so far and what to expect in the coming months and year.

In April, we met representatives from the Société Québécoise des infrastructures. This government agency is responsible for public buildings that belong to Quebec's various ministries, institutions and departments. The SQI will be accompanying the CSDM, the EMSB, the school and the CVF throughout the renovation process. This meeting involved a technical overview of the long, complex and multi-step process to come, including finding a new temporary location to house FACE for the duration of the work.

Members of the CVF made clear that the yet unresolved matter of relocation is of primordial importance to the school community. It will be our priority until an appropriate building is found. Fortunately, the SQI has also been mandated to help us find that space.



A second meeting took place in early May with officials from the CSDM on the subject of relocation. We went through our preferred scenarios, which we analyzed were the least problematic for our education model to continue to work seamlessly: everyone moving together to one location (scenario A); and if that is not possible, moving FACE to two locations close to one another, one for high school students and one for primary students (scenario B). We also fine-tuned a long list of possible sites drawn from the CSDM's real estate portfolio, a few buildings that the SQI added, and all the suggestions that you, members of the school community provided, when we asked for your input more than a year ago.

We evaluated them based on the size of the buildings, their suitability and of course their location. A revised short-list of sites is now in the hands of the CSDM analysts to discuss with the SQI. Some of the buildings are schools or former schools, some are public buildings, some are in poor condition, most would require renovations to accommodate us and some are private buildings that would have to be rented. The SQI and CSDM will soon be evaluating each for feasibility, cost and appropriateness.

Over the summer we also expect an *appel d'intérêt* to be put out by the government seeking offers from the private sector to house the school.

By the fall, an *appel d'offres* is likely to be put out by the government for the preparatory studies and work leading to the reconstruction. Plans for the renovated building are expected to be tabled then.

While the entire sum for the renovation has not yet been granted, we have been told that it would be rare indeed for a project that has gotten this far not to proceed. So while we still don't have any final answers, things are moving in the right direction. And they are moving pretty fast! We expect to be busy in the year ahead.

Thanks for your patience and if you have any questions for the CVF, please contact us at: [ceecoleface@gmail.com](mailto:ceecoleface@gmail.com)

Yours,

The members of the Comité de Vigie de FACE

Federico De Medina, Anne-Karine Tremblay, Allison Hanes, Geneviève Dodin (parents)  
Julie St-Pierre, Marie-Ève Arseneau (teachers)  
Annie Lamarre, Nadine Perreault, Despina Michakis (administration)