

LE PRÉSIDENT :

D'autres questions?

390 **Mme FRANCINE SIMARD, commissaire :**

Non.

LE PRÉSIDENT :

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Alors je pense que quant à nous, ça fait le tour. Votre dossier, votre mémoire est très complet, on a beaucoup apprécié. Je le répète, ça va être utile certainement. Merci beaucoup.

Mme TANIA GONZALEZ :

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Merci beaucoup, bonne journée!

LE PRÉSIDENT:

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Donc, les gens de l'École James Lyng, je vois monsieur le directeur dans la salle, je vous salue. Alors si vous voulez vous présenter pour l'enregistrement.

Mme MIKAELLA GOLDSMITH :

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Mikaella Goldsmith.

Mme MELISSA PROIETTI :

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Et Melissa Proietti.

Mme MIKAELLA GOLDSMITH :

Donc, on va essayer de le faire en français mais c'est une école anglophone, c'est sûr.

420 **LE PRÉSIDENT :**

Yes, feel free to speak English if you prefer.

425 **Mme MIKAELLA GOLDSMITH:**

Oh yes?

LE PRÉSIDENT:

430 But speak slowly.

Mme MIKAELLA GOLDSMITH:

435 Okay. So we have been established since 1967 and as of 2006 James Lyng High School became a community school. We had the inauguration of the Community Learning Centre, and so, that allowed us to thrive on community partnerships and in our slide you will see a list of them later.

440 And so, really it's important to understand that even though we are just a high school, we also function as a community centre allowing our space to be rented by community members and offering free programs to people of the southwest community.

445 A group of our students did a survey with 87 people from our school, including students and adults. And some of the results that they came up with were that 87% of the individuals that they surveyed admitted to not liking or being satisfied with the area outside surrounding the high school. 80.5% of the people surveyed said that they spend most of their breaks outside; so for us, you can

see that it's really important that the space be something that will be enjoyable to our student population and obviously, this demonstrates that we need to do more.

450 So when we asked the students and the staff what they would like to see outside in the surrounding area, the options that were listed were a basketball court, picnic area, swings, greenhouse or gazebo. They were able to respond to more than one, so you will see the percentages don't necessarily equal up to 100 in total. But 52% of the respondents were interested in having a basketball court surrounding the school area, in the proximity, 68% requested a picnic area with benches and 51% wanted swings and 71% requested a gazebo or outdoor shelter.

455 Other recommendations that were not on the list were an outdoor pool, a soccer field, park, jungle gym for children, a community garden and more restaurants and as well a skate park. So for our students the skate park is a huge point of interest and actually our students have written a letter to mayor Doré personally requesting that that be something put in place and they have actually created a short video for you, so we are just going to play it, if that's okay.

460 **LE PRÉSIDENT:**

Yes.

465 VISIONNEMENT DU VIDÉO

Mme MIKAELLA GOLDSMITH:

470 So in addition to that, we are also requesting that a crosswalk be placed in front of our school directly in front of our main office making crossing Notre-Dame safer for our students. As you know, there is only one restaurant currently in the area that most of our students eat at a couple of times a day and even though there is a traffic light at the corner, the students often run across the street and it makes it very unsafe for them. And also, since the construction has begun, the 191, 37
475 and 36 bus stops have been rerouted and we are just hoping that they will be reinstated as per usual once the construction is complete.

480 Furthermore, we are also urging that you reconsider the placement of one particular bus stop which is on the corner of Carillon and Notre-Dame going west because that is right now placed in front of a seniors residence and often there is some conflict of noise with the students and the residents; and so, what we are asking is that perhaps that be moved just next to the restaurant and that closes in the afternoon anyways by the time we let out of school.

485 **Mme MELISSA PROIETTI:**

490 Okay, so I have not met many of you before, I will just do a little introduction. My name is Melissa Proietti. I work in a few different sectors, I work in the southwest primarily. I also run and organize Under Pressure, which is the longest running graffiti in hip hop festival currently running in the world, so we have an expertise in everything that is considered the Urban Arts.

495 For the past five years I've been working at James Lyng doing an Urban Arts program; and so, through this program we have really been able to develop, particularly on the visual art side of things, different projects with the students at the school showing them not only that, you know, they have a right to express themselves, but that they can take ownership over their space, as they spend most of their time either at the school or within the neighbourhood because they are in majority from the southwest.

500 What I am here today to discuss and to suggest, is requesting that our students be implicated in the designing, painting and maintenance of the highway structure whether, you know, what happens with the Turcot area, as that changes and evolves, but also including any outdoor surfaces which will be used for large-scale art production spaces.

505 Here I just wanted to include these two photos. Last year at this time we, with a group of about six students, worked with an artist duo from Montreal to do this large-scale paste mural on the side of the school. This was visible, clearly visible from the highway; and so, what was done in order to bring attention not only to the school, but these are all photographs of local community members, and so, what was done was really to highlight all of the excellent work that is done in the southwest;

510 so that includes Pointe St-Charles, Little Burgundy, Ville Émard, and actually there is a few people from Verdun in there as well. So the students were encouraged to go out and find people who have contributed to building our community and making it what it is and so, therefore, we were really able to make that statement about, you know, our local heroes.

515 And this is a large-scale production, I really have to, you know, make that clear because it's 140 feet long and five storeys high and this was really undertaken by a group of students under the supervision of artists. So we have an expertise in undertaking any type of large-scale art projects and I think that the students have a lot that they would like to express about their experiences and the neighbourhood.

520 As you can see, our latest art production is the front entrance of the school which faces Notre-Dame, and so, now all of the traffic which is, you know, sort of rerouted and they're stopping in front of the school, they get to look at this beautiful mural that has been done, again within a local artist duo and a group of students. They designed, they redesigned the entire front entrance so that it's something that really sticks out. Again, this is also visible from the highway.

525 The idea is to really bring attention to what is going on in our school, but not only in our school, the local artists and arts communities who are also giving back; these are artists who have really invested their time into ensuring that our students are engaged and successful in their school experience.

530 We also run an art gallery inside the school, the Up Next Gallery, again, like the students are just really understanding what it means to be working in the world of arts and curation. We've had a local hero, the GM from the Montreal Canadians, Marc Bergevin, who came last year. His picture was actually up on the wall, and so, he came to support; and so, it's nice to see people getting more and more involved in the school.

535 And so, we would see this as an investment in the development of the local community and the borough at large. I mean personally, through my work with Under Pressure, I can see that this has really helped develop the southwest into a hub for the art scene and we are able to support our

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local community based on the artists that we work with, and it says... renewing arts based but, yes, I kind of covered that in the last sentence.

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So we really try to promote values based on respect and integrity through all of our arts projects and working to, you know, just be sustainable projects that not only the students but the local arts community feel like they have a hand in, and this is why all of our murals are respected within the street art and Urban Arts communities. It's something that we really pride ourselves on. That's it.

LE PRÉSIDENT:

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Merci beaucoup, thank you very much. Moi, si vous me permettez, je vais parler en français. J'ai trouvé ça vraiment intéressant votre présentation. J'ai découvert des facettes de James Lyng dont j'avais un petit peu entendu parler, mais là j'ai l'impression que j'en sais beaucoup plus. L'aspect des arts, justement, c'est quelque chose qui est souvent évoqué depuis le début de nos consultations dans l'urbain, incluant l'art urbain un peu partout, il y a des structures, il y a d'autres endroits aussi dans le quartier. Alors vous allez nous laisser, je présume, votre *Powerpoint*, donc on pourra s'en inspirer abondamment pour la suite des choses. Autrement, je pense pas qu'on ait des questions ? Oui, il y en a une ici.

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Mme FRANCINE SIMARD :

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J'ai toujours une question. J'ai lu dans différents médias ou dans différents documents ou dans différents mémoires que l'École James Lyng avait de la difficulté à trouver sa vocation et que le nombre d'étudiants diminue d'année en année parce qu'il y a de moins en moins d'étudiants anglophones. Comment vous assurer que James Lyng conserve sa place à l'intérieur de la communauté et comment le PDUES peut-il participer?

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LE PRÉSIDENT :

Pouvez-vous vous identifier pour l'enregistrement.

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M. DERREK CAUCHI :

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Oui, bonjour. Derrek Cauchi, directeur de James Lyng. Pour répondre à votre question, c'est vrai, c'est une crise dans la communauté en général. C'est accentué chez nous, c'est une population vulnérable, mais, en même temps nous sommes un bijou à conserver, et ça c'est un des moyens qu'on a trouvé plus récemment qui marche au moins pour motiver les jeunes et pour attirer l'attention des autres qui sont actifs dans la communauté. Surtout la communauté qui change présentement, qui évolue d'un côté artistique, plutôt les jeunes qui déménagent, les rénovations, les projets, celui-là en général, Centre Gadbois, etc. Je crois que ce serait très triste si nos élèves sont oubliés et que cette école ferme et on se bat pour la garder ouverte, et ça c'est un des moyens. C'est ça la réponse.

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Mme FRANCINE SIMARD :

J'ai une autre question.

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Mme MIKAELLA GOLDSMITH:

I just want to add to that also that, we didn't mention it before, but officially we are an Urban Arts high school, so that is something very unique to James Lyng. There are no other high schools in Montreal that offer that and we are in the process of researching that in partnership with McGill University and it's a three year initiative that is funded by them. Our hope is that through this Urban Arts initiative where students go into math class and they are learning how to do break dancing, but learning the circumference of a circle, that will give us a special niche.

Furthermore, we do offer vocational programs, so for students in grade 8 and 9 who are not doing well in the regular stream of high school, they have the option of going into these courses that prepare them for the vocational field. Currently at the grade 8 level that program has closed in multiple high schools in Montreal and I think we are one of the last high schools that offer that on the

600 English side. That is also a niche that we have created for ourselves and we are hoping that, through the arts, that will continue to grow and our numbers will also continue to increase with that.

Mme FRANCINE SIMARD:

605 J'ai une autre question. Dans les résultats de votre sondage vous exprimez qu'environ, j'ai pas noté les données, mais 85% ou 86% passent leur temps libre à l'extérieur et, bon, il y a des demandes aussi au niveau de terrains de basket ou d'espace de pique-nique, est-ce que vous avez des structures pour mettre en place, par exemple, des terrains de pique-nique, un terrain de basket ou est-ce que vous comptez vous associer avec le Centre Gadbois pour y arriver ?

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Mme MIKAELLA GOLDSMITH :

I think all of the, like definitely in partnership with Gadbois it's something that we have expressed and we have talked about a bit with Gadbois as well, and I think also the hope is that we know that the space is going to be taken over in the proximity of the school and we are hoping that the people that are implementing that plan will listen to what our concerns are and the desires of our students and will put some of these in place so that they wouldn't necessarily be belonging to James Lyng, they would belong to the community, but listening to what the needs of the students are from the community.

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Mme FRANCINE SIMARD:

C'est beau, merci.