
ÉCOLE DES ARTS DU CIRQUE ET DE LA SCÈNE DOMINIQUE-



ISSUE: Building on mobilization and involvement from local communities

ITINERARY 2C

Date: Thursday, September 12, 2013

Location: Dominique-Savio School

PROMOTERS

Liette Fontaine, Citizen | E-mail: lemfon@hotmail.ca

Vicky Bolduc, Director, Dominique-Savio School | E-mail: bolducv@educsa.qc.ca

René Bolduc, former Director, Dominique-Savio School | E-mail: bolducv@educsa.qc.ca

Line Laflamme, Citizen | E-mail: liflamme@hotmail.com

Presentation of the issue:

Every year since the mid-70s, the Dominique-Savio school is either threatened by closure or, one or more classes are in danger of being relocated elsewhere, which the parents and the community categorically refuse to accept.

Project description:

An action committee was set up by a dynamic team of parents, under the leadership of Mrs. Lisette Fontaine, to solve a problem that had endured since the mid 70s. They were the lever that made things happen: they worked together, mobilized the community, sought help from all authorities and were the motivators for the success and sustainability of the project. They alerted the media and received their support.

As a result of incalculable representations to the decision-makers, investing countless volunteer hours, racking their brains to find extraordinary solutions to the pitfalls placed across their path, the parent committee mandated to speak on behalf of the community finally secured the special status for the Dominique-Savio School for Circus and Performing Arts. However, each year brings a new challenge; the life and status of this school remain precarious. They cannot lower their guard and must still face new challenges and pitfalls.

The key elements to remember according to the promoters:

- have a good understanding about the school system's working methods;
- a lot of support from the community and municipality;
- great determination, perseverance, patience, energy;
- the community taking care of itself;
- they had to believe in themselves, be convinced and convincing;
- be structured from the outset to obtain legitimacy and empowerment;
- obtain and maintain the support from all authorities: from the community and governments of all levels;
- train the next generation to ensure sustainability of the project;
- self-confidence, to not fall at the first hurdle, expect to spend a lot volunteer time and energy;
- obtain and maintain the consensus among the people involved so that everyone works in the same direction and towards the same goal;
- expect things to be difficult, but also that it is possible to change the established order and make things happen;
- act as a motivating factor to keep the torch burning;
- not be afraid to shake up the established order;
- be creative, persistent and patient, have confidence.

RESEARCHER

Eugénie Dostie-Goulet, University of Sherbrooke | E-mail: Eugenie.Dostie-Goulet@USherbrooke.ca

Summary of the researcher's presentation:

We must expect difficulties, but know that it is possible to change things, people or institutions. Status quo is easier. Change brings disruption, the unexpected and new concerns which are barriers to the acceptance of change to the environment. We must obtain a community consensus since only one negative leader can derail a project.

The key elements to remember according to the researcher:

Success Factors:

- inspirational leadership that fosters new ideas; not just a mobilizing force;
- new elements, even small ones, can help move a project forward;
- obtain mobilization and an expanded coalition of the community;
- circulate the information in all possible ways and control the message conveyed;
- the work is never finished, there will always be problems to solve; it could become an important drain for the participants.

QUESTION PERIOD

Q.: Once their elementary-level education is completed, can the students pursue their circus and performance arts training?

A.: After elementary school, students have the opportunity to continue their education in high-school; that is why this program was initially adopted. The circus instructor's salary, and the cost for props and musical instruments are borne by the committee responsible for the operation of the project, through annual fundraisers. This project must be self-financing, and that is the biggest challenge for the committee. You have to be creative and develop a sympathy action; it helps...

ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION

NOTE: All linked documents (PowerPoint, Prezi, etc.) are only available in their original French version.

[PowerPoint from Liette Fontaine](#)

[PowerPoint from René Bolduc, former Director, Dominique-Savio School](#)

[Video of the images presented by Vicky Bolduc, Director, Dominique-Savio School](#)

[PowerPoint from Eugénie Dostie-Goulet, University of Sherbrooke](#)