



McGill

Centre for Educational Leadership
Centre de perfectionnement du
leadership en éducation
McGill University

Postal address:
3724 rue McTavish
Montréal, Québec
H3A 1Y2

Telephone: (514) 398-7044
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December 6, 1994

Marsha Forest
24 Thome Crescent
Toronto, ON
M4T 1E2

Dear Marsha and Jack,

I am writing to fill you in on what has happened regarding future plans for the McGill Summer Institute.

As you know, Sylvia Sklar, Director of the Centre for Educational Leadership (CEL) at McGill, has managed the Summer Institute for several years now. Since the summer, she has been exploring ways to continue the work of the Summer Institute, while at the same time bringing it closer to the model she uses for other CEL Summer Institutes, such as the Johnson and Johnson Cooperative Learning Institute she runs in August.

After discussions with Marsha, myself, and other Summer Institute staff, Sylvia and the CEL team have decided to carry on with a new version of the Summer Institute. It will focus on inclusive education, with particular focus on school and classroom based change, and it will take the form of a four day workshop to be held during the first week of July (July 5-8, 1995). It will be the first of three summer institutes that CEL will sponsor during the summer of 1995: inclusive education, student-centred assessment and cooperative learning.

Because Jaque Thousand and Richard Villa have been running summer institutes for the University of Vermont, Sylvia has asked them to coordinate the program for 1995. They are in the process of developing the program and I will communicate with you again to let you know how it unfolds. Please lend your full support to Sylvia, Jaque and Richard as they undertake this effort.

In closing, I want to thank you again for the important contribution you made to the Summer Institute that brought us all so much challenge, growth, and enjoyment. I will miss seeing all of you this summer, but I most certainly look forward to seeing you again in the future. Please keep in touch.

Sincerely,

Evy Lusthaus


*Marsha dearest
This is the letter
sent out to staff & resource
people. I would like to send one
to students, too, from both
of us. We send you
a draft. I
miss you very
much.
You have been
an
important
part of my
life &
I want
to keep
it that
way.
Please
play in
love
always
Evy.*

From: "SYLVIA", INTERNET:SYLVIA@CEL.Lan.McGill.CA
To: Jack Pearpoint, 74640,1124
Date: 11, Nov 1994, 9:56 AM
RE: Summer 1995.

McGill

Sender: sylvia@cel.lan.mcgill.ca
Received: from sifon.CC.McGill.CA by dub-img-1.compuserve.com (8.6.4/5.940406sam)
id JAA07381; Fri, 11 Nov 1994 09:55:09 -0500
Received: from lansend.cc.mcgill.ca (lansend.CC.McGill.CA [132.206.37.4]) by sifon.CC
for <74640.1124@compuserve.com>; Fri, 11 Nov 1994 09:54:05 -0500
Message-Id: <199411111454.JAA14881@sifon.CC.McGill.CA>
Received: by MicroMailer 3.20a (.Lan.McGill.CA)
on Friday, 11 November 1994, 09:51:19 EST
From: "SYLVIA" <SYLVIA@CEL.Lan.McGill.CA>
Organization: MCGILL UNIVERSITY EDUC-LEADERSHIP
To: 74640.1124@compuserve.com
Date: Fri, 11 Nov 1994 09:51:27 EST5EDT
Subject: Summer 1995.
Priority: normal
X-mailer: Pegasus Mail v3.1 (R1a)

Hi Marsha and Jack,
As promised I am writing to keep you up to date on developments for
the summer. Here is what's happening so far. Please let me know what
you think?

1. The dates are July 5,6,7,8, 1995.
2. Title: RESTRUCTURING FOR DIVERSITY: Putting the pieces together
in classrooms, schools and systems.
3. Jackie and Rich have confirmed Norman Kunz and John Unis. Rich is
also planning to speak to Gordeon Porter to keep up the Canada on end
and link to the classroom.
4. Evie will compose a letter to past participants to inform of the
change. Suggestions for content of this letter would be very much
appreciated. 
5. I definitely want you to think of a one or 2 day Distinguished
Seminar or gathering for people who have come to the Summers in the
last 10 years.

Please let me know what you think of these ideas. I need your support!

Best regards from all of the gang at CEL
Shalom!
Syl of CEL



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August 31, 1994

Dear Friends:

During this year's Summer Institute, Marsha, Jack and I, along with Sylvia, Rachel and Charles from CEL, met to discuss a number of important issues and problems that have evolved during the past years. We spoke about a number of different roads the Institute might take in the future.

At that time, I discussed my need to take a break from the responsibilities of the Institute, and Marsha indicated that she too might choose to take a break.

Since that time, Marsha and Jack have let us know that they will be taking a rest from the McGill Institute (see attached letter).

Sylvia Sklar, who is coordinator of the Centre for Educational Leadership, is now exploring different options for the continuation of the Summer Institute. These include the possibility of continuing the existing program framework, modifying the program in substantive ways, or perhaps not holding it at all -- drawing a close to a wonderful and fruitful decade.

Each of you has played a role in developing and sustaining this yearly Montreal gathering, and we welcome your ideas about the directions you think it should go.

Please phone Sylvia or send her your thoughts by October 1, so there is plenty of time to make decisions and plans.

I sincerely thank you for all that you have contributed, and look forward to hearing your ideas for the future.

Most fondly,

Evy Lusthaus

From: John O'Brien, 72263,3724
To: Jack Pearpoint, 74640,1124
Date: Aug, 22 Mon, 1994, 8:42 AM
RE: this and that

McGill History

Some sanity and order restored. Both to me and to my brother and maybe to my dad as well. The only disappointment was missing a visit with you. Now i'm in louisville getting ready to meet a bunch of people who want to know about PATH. I hope I remember.

On the mcgill history: I came, I think, in 1989 and did a solo "advanced" course on systems change for a group that included Corrie Moore and a number of pretty high powered parents (along with some sort of low powered teachers). Then Jack and I did the next year. And then we began the circus. (Caution: I can't remember the date of anything -- I can remember all about the room I was in etc, but not the dates). It is so important to catch the initial impulses that made the institute work: the cross boundary activity (initially cross boarder with SU); the impact of parents and their aspirations on the process and on the faculty; the strategic nature of your choices and your search for opportunities (eg mcgill). It's also important to highlight the continual pushing of boundaries: the push to bring together feeling and thinking; the emphasis on dreams; the struggle to include one another (and the sort of pluralistic 'we'll let Gordon live because some people (and the balance of the whole) need him. Understanding better how the thing served as a stimulus for invention will also be great.

* connie has decided that the excitement of the cacl meeting would be more than she can stand.

* i will be at tash and will be happy to do whatever.

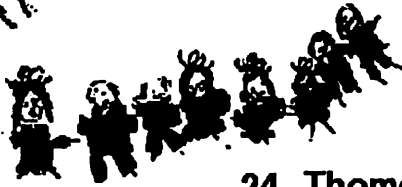
* if you have it to hand, please e-mail me the announcement for the Jan thing. The copy I have isn't complete (I think I did the revisions on Jack's machine).

* connie thanks you for the mystery updates. i have been reading beowulf and the divine comedy.

* we don't like anthony robbins.

guess I'd better read the PATH book to discover what we think.

John



Inclusion Press

Centre for Integrated Education & Community

Jack Pearpoint & Marsha Forest

Tel 416-658-5363

Fax 416-658-5067

CompuServe: Jack Pearpoint 71640,1124

24 Thome Crescent, Toronto, Ontario, Canada M6H 2S5

August 19, 1994

Dear Charles and Evy, Rachel and Sylvia,

As we sit here at our beautiful school-house retreat on the Madawaska River, we reflect on the many years we have spent at the McGill Summer Institute and how many wonderful and also intense times we have shared with all of you. But it is time to move on. The Summer Institute has played a major role in making Inclusion a common and talked about concept. Many incredible spin offs have been generated, some we will never even hear about.

But -it is time for us to move into new tomorrow's. We need to leave the space open for awhile to see what develops. We agree people need to know how to -- but we think the "how to" must be based on a firm value base. Not a curriculum "how to" but how to learn to live together in a changing world., how to cope and thrive with diversity, how to ask each other for help, how to be creative problem solvers. We do not think this can be done in traditional formats or in traditional ways. Bold and innovative approaches are necessary. The McGill Summer Institute will go down as being on the cutting edge of making inclusion an issue. We must celebrate that! We did it! Together and in particular with the dedication through the years of John O'Brien, Herb Lovett, Judith Snow, Pat Worth, John McKnight, George Flynn, Gordon Porter-- we made that happen! And with the new energy of Rich Villa, Jacki Thousand and Mary Falvey we got even better.

We thank Evy and especially Howard Stutt for the initial YES! that allowed 10 years of turbulence to occur. McGill lent its name when it was most needed. Now as we go into the year 2000 we will all be able to look back and say with pride that we were a small but powerful piece that helped change life for ourselves and for many children and families around the world.

As the Mohawk prayer says:

"Now we have done the best that we are able. If there was anything that we forgot, we ask you to put your minds together to provide it and we wish you good health."

Here's to the Future,

Marsha and Jack



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July 24, 1994

Confidential

Notes to: John O'Brien, Herb Lovett, Judith Snow, Richard Rosenberg/ Mary Falvey, Rich Villa/Jaque Thousand, John McKnight.

From: Jack & Marsha

Re: The End of the McGill Summer Institute-as we have known it.

After years of working together at the McGill Summer Institute, the bubble finally burst. While we have no knowledge or control over how you may hear whatever was/is decided, we wanted to pass on our impressions of the meeting we attended at McGill on Wednesday afternoon (July 13), so that there are no secrets. In retrospect, the meeting was over before we entered the room, but it was such a shock that it took us some time to actually realize what had happened. In part, that is because what was NOT said was much more telling than what was said....

Our reflections:

We (Jack & Marsha) met with Evy, Charles, Sylvia and Rachel to discuss the future of the institute. We will attempt to give a record of the meeting and put our subjective opinion in italics.

The meeting was very short. Perhaps 35 minutes in total. That included greetings, and good-byes.

In the "preliminaries", setting an agenda which was basically the plans for the next Summer Institute, Rachel (as a good administrator) had a list of very practical issues that would need to be decided - and by when. However, her most pointed issue and the first she wanted on the agenda was a key issue: "Who makes decisions?"

Charles announced that Evy and Marsha had acted as Program Directors and that all other decisions were made by his office *i.e. him*. Marsha stated that she felt Evy, Marsha and Jack had been making content decisions, Jack designing the brochure, etc. Charles made it clear that Jack had no formal decision making in any area ever. *That was that.*

The tone and control had been shifted more dramatically than usual.

We went into the meeting with one agenda - to push for one more year of the summer institute as a 10th year celebration - then rethink the format, etc. That illusion ended before it was hatched as Evy announced that:

- * she was pulling out of the organizing entirely,
- * the Centre for Educational Leadership i.e. Charles and group would take it over totally, and
- * since credits didn't seem to be an issue any more (*we had argued this point every year*), we could make the institute one week.

Charles and Sylvia stated that the summer institute was the messiest and least cost effective of all the institutes. The others made more money with less hassle. There were too many "extra's" at the Summer Institute - even over the 1/25 staff/student ratio. According to them one week would surely be easier and since the "values issues" were not the key anymore ("we have done that"), we should focus on skills or how to's. It was suggested that perhaps the focus should be on "principal's institutes", or on education with Marsha and Jack, Rich and Jackie, and Mary. They could all "draw" the necessary numbers.

An interesting discussion took place by Evy and Charles on how had they worked to bring and how wonderful it was that there were so many parents and self advocates at McGill - and that this was the only place this happened. Marsha corrected this and told how in Texas, Vermont and other locations many parents and indeed students attended as well as "consumers."

Rachel noted that she thought it was odd that 15 people were subsidized in Gordon's class - 5 self advocates, 5 parents, and 5 teaching assistants. Evy said: That's what we all decided last year.... (*news to us*).

The meeting was basically over when we said in a friendly fashion that there were at least three options.

- 1: End the institute as it currently existed.
- 2: Change the format and cast of characters and run it as a business deal with CEL
- 3: Do one more final year "as is".

Charles stated that "the institute will continue" whatever you decide.

Since, continuing on had been ruled out - in effect, we were out of the loop. CEL would decide!!!

It was absolutely amazing to us what was not said. There was no thanks, no acknowledgment, no appreciation for all the hard work done by the original team. The discussion focused on convenience, money and who would draw people.

Jack & Marsha were in total synergy and basically said that the institute had played a major and historic role and that this meeting signaled the end of an era -- Thank you very much -- good-bye. And we left. There were no hugs - no congratulations - no rhetoric - we just left.

They had clearly decided to end the institute before we entered the room and we were in no more mood to collude with an illusion. It was not unfriendly (at least on the surface). It was what it was.

There was an invitation for us to continue - but it was clear that all the "extras" would have to go. We wanted nothing to do with that - but at the same time chose NOT to make a huge issue. It didn't seem to help the movement or any of us to have a temper tantrum - however justified - and so we left. No warm farewells, and for us - no regrets. We will miss people - we will miss our time with you - but we will NOT miss McGill.

And so we all move on to new futures knowing we helped in a small way to put inclusion on the map as an issue for people to grapple with.

There is no more and no less to say. We honour the contribution each of you has made. We thank everyone for their incredible talents and hard work. We wish it could have ended on a celebration but the celebration truly is Becky Till, Raphael Oberti, Maria and Felicia Galati, Gregg Kazmierski, Rachel Holland, Danny Ramirez, etc. That's what it is all about!!

We are in a sense relieved and are leaving an open space to think about and dream about the next steps. We can't recreate the past. We can honour and learn from it and move on.

Now that we have a space - maybe some people will "build it" and we can come. We look forward to filling new spaces with creative learning experiences with you.

Jack & Marsha

A brief reflection:

We are in Winnipeg as we get around to mailing this. Here we are doing a one week workshop with 100+ people - with outstanding organization done by the local Assoc. for Community Living. As good as this is, it is a brutal reminder of how "not good" things were at McGill. So, altho' there is an undertone of "anger" in the notes, it is only fair to say that it took an enormous amount of energy not to explode as we reconstructed the meeting. It was much worse than we remembered - and we tried not to color it too vividly - but actually give an account. Just thought it was good to add this note on the end.

And most of all thank you all deeply, strongly and sincerely for all your hard work, commitment, love and dedication. McGill may not see the sacrifice and the spin-offs of the courses but we do. We all leave with out integrity and hearts intact. We will continue the work in new and less toxic environments.

Thanks.

Aroha.

Jack & Marsha



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July 23, 1994

Dear Charles and Evy, Rachel and Sylvia,

Re: Summer Institute 1995

We had a few days at the school house to recover from months of travel and two months of intense stress. One of the things we know is that we must learn to husband our energy more judiciously - and thus provide more time to rest and reflect - in order to be able to continue to do the workshops we love.

As we sit, reflecting on 10 years of Summer Institutes, we feel very proud. Our original agenda was to create a movement - and build leaders. By any standard, we have had enormous success. It is not just due the Institute, but the Institute had played a key role. For that we are very thankful.

In that decade, there have been many developments - one of the most dramatic is the growth of many new institutes - in Oregon, Chicago, Texas, New Mexico, Connecticut, Brandeis, England, New Zealand, Australia, etc. The leadership of most of these grew up through the Summer Institute, so it has given birth to many children. By the same token, now that the children are on their own, it is time to consider a change for the parent institute.

When you Evy indicated that you cannot do it any further, and that academic credits were less important, two critical changes had already be implemented. That cannot be stopped, and to be continued effectively will require a massive infusion of creativity and energy.

On reflection, we have decided that we will be taking a rest from the McGill Summer Institute this next year.

We are fully aware that in making this decision, we have no "guarantee" of future institutes with McGill, the Faculty of Education or the Centre for Educational Leadership. However, we hope that after a rest, there will be new and creative options for all of us.

As we pack for Winnipeg after reflecting at our beautiful school-house, we remember the many years we have spent at the McGill Summer Institute and

how many wonderful and intense times we have shared with all of you. But it is time to move on. The Summer Institute has played a major role in making Inclusion a significant issue - a talked about concept.

But it is time for us to move into new tomorrow's. We need to leave the space open for awhile to see what develops. We agree people need to know how to - but we think the "how to" must be based on a firm value base. Not a curriculum "how to" - but the deeper philosophical issue of how we learn to live together in a changing world, how to cope and thrive with diversity, how to ask each other for help, how to be creative problem solvers. This is not the "stuff" of traditional formats or traditional ways. Bold and innovative approaches are necessary. The McGill Summer Institute will be remembered as being on the cutting edge of making inclusion an issue. We must celebrate that! We did it! Together and in particular with the dedication through the years of John O'Brien, Herb Lovett, Judith Snow, Pat Worth, John McKnight, George Flynn -- we made that happen!

Thank you all for the opportunity and for creating a network for change. We thank Evy and especially Howard Stutt for the initial YES! that allowed 10 years of turbulence to occur. McGill lent its name when it was most needed. Now as we go into the year 2000 we will all be able to look back and say with pride that we were a small but powerful piece that helped change life for ourselves and for many children and families around the world.

We wish CEL well in its future endeavors. We look forward to seeing Evy at the end of August at the CACL conference.

As the Mohawk prayer says:

Now we have done the best that we are able. If there was anything that we forgot, we ask you to put your minds together to provide it and we wish you good health.

Love from,

Marsha Forest

Jack Pearpoint

For our friend John McKnight -



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Jack Pearpoint & Marsha Forest

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July, 31 Sunday, 1994

Confidential

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Thanks.
Aroha.

Jack & Marsha

WE LOVE U!!



John: Your thank you note was a tonic for me. Thanks sooo much for supporting us as we move ahead. We deeply value you, your work, your life + your friendship.
much love, Marsha + Jack

John: I mailed a poem to Barbara's address. Can you get it from her. Thank.

Wednesday

416-658-5067

Dearest Marsha and Jack,

Charles and I had a wonderful holiday camping in Tanglewood, Mass. for a week and then camping in Acadia National Forest off the coast of Northern Maine. It was beautiful there and we gorged ourselves on lobster and corn, beautiful sunsets, biking, walking, and taking in the ocean. It was great.

When we returned we saw your letter which you had sent on July 22, about your decision to take a rest from the Institute. I thought you did a beautiful job of summing up your thoughts and leaving a feeling of accomplishment, satisfaction and openness to the future. As always, eloquent.

I would like to send your letter to the faculty with the attached cover letter (suggestions welcome). Could you send me another copy of your letter and add Gordon's name to the list of those you mention?

Marsha, our friendship ~~during~~ has been one of the most important gifts of the Summer Institute for me. I love you very much and I rejoice in what we have shared and accomplished together in the past, and in what will be our continued friendship into the future.

We have great memories: remember trying to add 2,000 and 2,000; and jumping in the leaves; and freaking out over that woman who came in a wheelchair and left the Institute the first night; and walking hand in hand (around RVC one night while people were meeting), like two Jewish mothers, so proud of our offspring? The list goes on and on.

You are alive, you are healthy, you are vibrant and you are taking care of yourself!

Much love,

Eury

Hi Marsha

you can fax me at home
514-488-3409

AA

Dear Friends,

As you know, Marsha, Jack and I, along with Sylvia, Rachel and Charles from CEL, met during this year's Summer Institute to discuss a number of important issues and problems that have evolved during the past years. We spoke of a number of different roads the Institute might take in the future.

At that time, I discussed my need to take a break from the responsibilities of the Institute, and Marsha indicated that she too might choose to take a break.

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Please phone Sylvia or send her your thoughts by October 1, so there is plenty of time to make decisions and plans.

I sincerely thank you for all that you have contributed, and look forward to hearing your ideas for the future.

Most fondly,