



Lester B Pearson School Board Parents' Committee

LBPSB Parents' Committee

2019-2020 ANNUAL REPORT

The Parents' Committee, same as the rest of the world, faced many unprecedented challenges this school year and persevered to maintain an unrivaled level of parent participation. Having lost Riverdale High school during the previous year, the committee operated as one committee comprised of a Parent Representative from each of the 47 active member schools.

Based on the recommendations of last year, the Committee remodeled its standing subcommittees to mimic the structure of the Board using Regions 1 through 3. Unfortunately, these subcommittees were not afforded a chance to get off the ground as this school year proved to be the most abnormal in decades.

The 2019-2020 school year began as tumultuously as the previous year ended with the provincial government attempting to force a confusing Bill 40 through legislation. Not adverse to change, parents spent a significant amount of time attempting to understand the changes established by the bill and its implications for the student and parent communities.

It was another year filled anticipating significant change to the current educational system brought on by a bill sought to abolish school boards and established school centres. In the end, what most impacted our education system was not triggered by Bill 40, it was the global Coronavirus pandemic that resulted in the closure of all schools.

With schools closed, the Ministry of Education was unable to meet the educational needs of students at home. The lackluster attempt at a comprehensive educational portal left a lot of work on the shoulders of parents. Students were not able to effectively continue their school year and the government established a pass/fail final grade for the 2019-2020 school year.

Lines of communication were strained at best, as all public buildings and areas were closed and physical contact outside of immediate family members was strictly prohibited. It took three months for PC meetings to resume and they resumed online; another extraordinary situation that has directed us on a new path.



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While at home, PC resumed in the form of online Zoom meetings and parents put their best foot forward with unparalleled participation and engagement. The PC was able to leverage its online discussion forums to keep the parent representatives voices connected to school board Administration and to facilitate communications regarding any developing plans or courses of action from the Ministry and the school Administration. We collaborated effectively using part of the meetings to facilitate ongoing discussions while also having the opportunity to host and share information sessions pertaining to the pandemic and the developing situation with the LBPSB parent community.

As the school calendar year was nearing a close, the PC settled on a position against the newly adopted and rushed Law 40 [previously Bill 40] by formally supporting the legal challenge mounted by the Quebec English School Board Association (QESBA).

The PC joined and supported the Safe Schools Coalition, initiated by the English Montreal School Board (EMSB), lobbied by the English Parents' Committee Association (EPCA), in their efforts to request amongst other things a comprehensive online option for Quebec students expected to return to school in the upcoming 2020-2021 school year.

Pushing forward, the Parents' Committee should continue to improve communication with our parent community and strive to be more proactive with respect to developing topics. We appreciate fresh ideas and we seek yours. While changes implemented in recent years have proven beneficial, we are determined to communicate more regularly with our parent community.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Shane Ross".

Shane Ross
Chair, LBPSB Parents' Committee



Lester B Pearson School Board Parents' Committee

Members:

Member School	Parent Representative	Alternate Representative
Allion	Shiana Warren	Valerie Beaudet
Beacon Hill	Jeremy Asch	Niraj Khanna
Beaconsfield	Ovidiu Burlec	
Beechwood	Diandra Yoselewk	
Burling Academy	Jay Taube	Emily Verrechia
Birchwood	Derek Kenny	
Children's World	Susan Mintzberg	
Christmas Park	Cassandra Bazos	
Clearpoint	Marc Lucke	
Dorset	Betty Cindric	
Dorval	Hans Zaun	Daniela Malisia
Edgewater	Sherrylee Dawson	
Evergreen		
Forest Hill Jr	Tanja Minisini	
Forest Hill Sr	Tanja Minisini	James Fequet
John Rennie	Shane Ross	Mike Wilson
Kingsdale	Ben Pattison	Greg Piggins
Lakeside Academy	Helene Charbonneau	Jennifer Millen
Lasalle Community Comprehensive	Sonya Fiocco	
Lasalle Jr	Shonda Giddens	Robert Thomas
Lasalle Sr	Christopher Eaton	
Lindsay Place	Melanie D'Lima	Kally Martzoucos
MacDonald	Todd Nelson	Kristoffer de Forest
Maple Grove	Ashley McLellan	
Margaret Manson	Nadia Iacino	Mark Michel
Mount Pleasant		
Pierre Elliott Trudeau	Julie Faucher	Mike Klaiman
Pierrefonds Community	Greg Piggins	Marcus Hamaker
Riverdale		
Riverview	Ariana Winn	Linda Dalterio
Sherbrooke Academy Jr.	Joseph Valenti	Kimberley Gell
Sherbrooke Academy Sr.	Scott Henderson	
Soulange		
Springdale		
St. Anthony	Shane Ross	Nicholas Alcaraz
St. Charles	Jason Doan	Steve Orenbach
St. Edmund	Shauna Spear	
St. John Fisher Jr	Naomi Proctor	Nadia Lalawd
St. John Fisher Sr	Sarah Campeau	Christina Forest
St. Patrick	Doug Bentley	Michael Barron
St. Thomas	Sharad Bhargava	Phil Caetano
Sunshine Academy		Nolan Addesa
Terry Fox	Brenda Tremellen	Sophie-Lyne Pare
Verdun	John Ranger	Alicia Mancini
Westpark	Alaina Gross	Michelle Sternszus
Westwood Jr	Tanja Minisini	Sean Connelly
Westwood Sr	Dan Rassi	Jacky Connolly
SNAC	Jen DiMarco	Lisa Mancini



Lester B Pearson School Board Parents' Committee

Commissioners Representing the Parents' Committee on the Council of Commissioners:

Angela Berrymen (SNAC)
Len Podgurny (At-Large)
Jason Doan (Elementary)
Sharad Bhargava (High School)

Advisory (Officers):

Shane Ross, Chair
Cassandra Bazos, Vice-Chair
Linda Dalterio, Secretary
Alaina Gross, Treasurer
Chris Eaton, Communications Officer
Sharad Bhargava, Commissioner Representing the Parents' Committee

SNAC Parents:

Lisa Mancini (Rep)
Suzanna Lazaro (Alt)

Administration Liaison:

Thomas Rhymes

Council Representation:

Noel Burke, Chair of Council
Laura Derry, Vice-Chair of Council

External Committee Representatives:

EPCA Directors:

Joe Valenti (1st year of 2-year term)
Greg Piggins (Filling in for Dayo Odubayo who was in the 2nd year of a 2-year term)

Pearson Educational Foundation (non-voting member):

Linda Dalterio

Meeting Dates:

September 26, 2019	December 12, 2019	June 4, 2020
October 3, 2019	February 6, 2020	July 30, 2020
November 7, 2019	May 7, 2020	August 25, 2020



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Highlights of the Year:

- Further revised structure of website
- Facilitated/Hosted two key public conversations/information sessions regarding Covid-19 Pandemic
- Hosted Governing Board training sessions
- Submitted environmental recommendations

Consultation responses submitted:

- 2020-2021 Budget Consultation
- Consultation on Co-opted Commissioners
- *Intercultural Policy**
- *By-law #9-A Complaint Examination Procedure and By-law #9-B Complaint Examination Procedure for International Students**
- *Policy Concerning Tobacco Drugs and Alcohol**
- *Appropriate use of Digital Resources and Technologies Policy**
- *Environmental and Sustainability Policy**

Recommendations for 2020-2021 School Year:

- Reach out to Parent Representatives and their schools to encourage more consistent participation
- Implement mentoring program for new members
- Develop strategy to energize more subcommittee leaders
- Further develop website and improve presentation of archived information
- Publish at least 4 Parent2Parent newsletters
- Improve two-way communications with Commissioners Representing the Parents' Committee
- Support our parents in any way possible as we deal with the Coronavirus pandemic
- Push/lobby for a comprehensive online or "distance learning" program

**Consultations italicized are currently in progress.*