

**PARENTS' COMMITTEE MEETING
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2018
7:00 P.M., BOARDROOM
1925 BROOKDALE AVENUE**



AGENDA

Please make sure you sign-in upon arrival

1. Call to Order
2. Word from the Chair
3. Approval of the Agenda
4. Approval of the Minutes
5. Correspondence
6. Business Arising
 - 6.1. Budget Report
7. Questions from the Public
8. New Business
 - 8.1. PC Priorities Topics
 - 8.2. New Safe and Caring Schools Committee
 - 8.3. GB Training
 - 8.4. School Fees
 - 8.5. Feedback Regarding the Parent Teacher Interview Setup
9. Parent Reports
 - 9.1. Standing Subcommittees
 - 9.2. Ad Hoc Subcommittees
 - 9.2.1. Communications
 - 9.2.2. Ad Hoc Sub - Anti-bullying/Anti-Violence
 - 9.2.3. Ad Hoc Sub - Environmental Awareness
 - 9.2.4. Ad Hoc Sub - PC Internal Rules and Procedures
 - 9.2.5. Ad Hoc Sub - 20th Anniversary
 - 9.3. Commissioners Representing Parents
 - 9.3.1. Report
 - 9.3.2. CRP Q&A
 - 9.4. SNAC
10. Long Term Planning Updates presented by Chairman Noel Burke
11. External Committees and Other Reports
 - 11.1. Administration
 - 11.2. Council of Commissioners
 - 11.3. EPCA
 - 11.4. PEF
12. Further Questions from the Public
13. Varia
14. Adjournment

**Parents` Committee Meeting
Thursday, December 6, 2018
Lester B. Pearson School Board
LBPSB Boardroom, 1925 Brookdale Avenue, Dorval**

ATTENDANCE-PARENT REPS AND ALTS: Please see last page for Attendance Record

1. Call to Order
S. Ross called the meeting to order at 7:10 pm. Quorum was established with 26 out of 48 member schools being represented. S. Ross then proceeded to recite the acknowledgement of Mohawk land.
2. Word from the Chair
S. Ross welcomed all attendees and reminded them to please sign in. He reported that he had received feedback regarding PC meetings. He noted that at this meeting, he would like the Reps and Alts to divide into smaller groups in order to discuss what they felt the priorities for the PC should be. S. Ross highlighted the fact that the primary mandate of the PC is to increase participation and increase communication with Council and with parents. He emphasized that this year, he would ensure that the meetings focus on more than just reports, and will target topics that are of utmost interest to members. He encouraged Reps/Alts to speak to their respective GBs to determine what their priorities are. S. Ross invited Reps/Alts to contact him if they have any questions or wish to propose an addition to the agenda for future meetings.
3. Approval of the Agenda
It was moved by J. Doan that the agenda of December 6, 2018 be approved. The motion was seconded by B. Tremellen and was carried unanimously.
4. Approval of the Minutes
It was moved by S. Warren that the minutes of November 1, 2018 be approved. The motion was seconded by C. Bazos and was carried unanimously.
5. Correspondence
The Chair reported that he had received a lot of correspondence and that he would ensure that all documents received would be posted in the meeting kit shortly.
6. Business Arising
 - 6.1. Budget Report
S. Ross called upon A. Gross to give a budget update. It was noted that the Budget Report will be added to the kit. A. Gross reported that recently the PC had gone over budget for refreshments however, as of this meeting the budget was mostly on target, with the exception of being \$12 over budget. She reported that she has not received many receipts for reimbursement. She invited Rep/Alts to approach her with any question they may have concerning how the reimbursement process works and to submit their receipt to her.
7. Questions from the Public
 - Comment made regarding QESBA and their criticism of the Minister
 - Comment regarding article in the Montreal Gazette by QESBA
 - Reference to parents managing their own rights, rather than relying on QESBA
 - Question related to PC's plans to schedule meetings specifically concerning the CAQ's plan to abolish School Boards
8. New Business
 - 8.1. PC Priorities Topics
S. Ross reported that as per request, Rep/Alts submitted topics which they felt should be prioritized. He noted that more full-fledged discussions will be taking place at the PC meeting. He mentioned that he, along with the Advisory are discussing how the meetings can be structured in order to allow Reps/Alts to have more in-depth discussions. S. Ross emphasized that discussions will start at the PC level and then if necessary, Subcommittees can be formed. Moving forward the PC will try to cover topics that concern a wider group. He mentioned that a preliminary list of priorities has been posted on the Google Drive. Some of the topics that were addressed last year were:
 - ABAV
 - Financial Literacy
 - History Curriculum
 - Sexuality Education CurriculumHe suggested that Reps/Alts divide up into small groups in order to discuss priorities at the PC.

The following were the topics that came up in the breakout sessions:

- Social Media
- ABAV / Cyberbullying
- Anxiety / Stress Management / Managing Emotions
- Parent Engagement
- Improved Communication from School Board (Website etc...)
- Use of Technology
- Transgender students
- Operation of GB / Roles / Structures / GB Training
- Accessibility of meetings (use of technology to increase parental involvement)
- Completion of initiatives started last year
- Lobbying of School Board regarding History curriculum
- Field Trips / Extra Curricular Activities
- DEEP LEARNING – (Increase parental awareness of program)
- Shortage of French teachers

Discussions took place regarding the shortage and quality of French teachers and implementation differences at each school. It was noted that most of the topics that came up in the breakout sessions lead back to parental participation. S. Ross emphasized that this list will drive further conversations at the PC.

8.2. New Safe and Caring Schools Committee

S. Ross invited T. Rhymes to speak to this item on the agenda. T. Rhymes reported that the Programs and Services Committee has created a new subcommittee called the Safe and Caring Schools Committee. He reported that the Committee composition is as follows:

- 3 Commissioners
- 2 members of Senior Administration
- 1 Rep from the Central Students Committee
- 1 Rep from the Parent Committee

The Committees' mandate is to review the Safe and Caring Schools Policy and to make recommendations to Council. This committee will be meeting approx. 3-4 times this year. The first meeting will be held at 5:30 pm on Thursday, January 10, 2019, the same night as the PC meeting. S. Ross then called for nominations from amongst the Parent Reps.

T. Rhymes clarified the role of the parent member on the subcommittee. He emphasized that Council wants to hear the parent voice with regards to the ABAV policy issues.

L. Dalterio was nominated as the Parent Representative to the New Safe and Caring Schools Committee. S. Ross called for further nominations. There being none, L. Dalterio was acclaimed as Parent Representative on the New Safe and Caring Schools Committee.

8.3. GB Training

S. Ross mentioned that a GB training session takes place each year and plans are in place to make GB training videos available. He then called upon B. Brown and D. Odubayo to outline EPCA's plans.

The following represents info and comments related to the GB videos, as well as GB Training:

- GB training videos are being produced through EPCA with the hopes that 8 vignettes will be ready by January. The focus of the vignettes is to help Parent Reps understand their role, as well as to explain what all of the educational related acronyms stand for
- Once English vignettes are ready, they will be uploaded to a YouTube channel and the links will be sent to all of the Parent Committees who are members of EPCA. The links will then be available for all PC Reps/Alts.
- There are plans to translate the vignettes into French
- Mention was made that former LBPSB Commissioner R. Murphy has gone to Home and Schools to do presentations on the roles of Home and School, PPO (Parent Participation Organization) and Governing Board and perhaps she would be willing to visit other schools to clarify the role of the GB
- Parents were directed to consult the LBPSB website and look at the Governing Board tab for more information. In addition, there is a GB training ppt presentation posted. It was mentioned that Mario Barrette is the contact at the School Board regarding Governing Boards.
- GB training session at LBPSB was reportedly very good, unfortunately, the audio did not turn out and therefore, the session could not be archived
- Several GB members took questions from the GB training back to their schools' GB
- It was suggested that perhaps there could be a short, medium and long term plan related to GB training. It was mentioned that the PC should provide a comprehensive way for GB members to receive training.

Discussions included offering private GB Training at the schools.

8.4. School Fees

S. Ross asked Admin. and the Council Chair for an update regarding the issue of school fees. He inquired as to how it was being initiated at the GB level. It was noted that there have been some frustrations experienced by school communities and that in some cases, there has been a push to categorize most outings as cultural. In other schools, the GBs are being told that they must follow the law very carefully. It seems that there is general confusion as to what constitutes a school fee. Chairman N. Burke emphasized that this is a transition year. The previous government wanted to clarify guidelines, however, with the election of the CAQ, it remains unclear at this point. It was mentioned that in Ontario there are clear and specific guidelines governing school fees. It was emphasized that “a school” or a “principal” cannot be held responsible for charging a school fee, however the risk globally is that if a fee was charged several years ago and shouldn't be charged anymore, the school board can face fines. Highlights of the discussion include the following:

- At some schools they are looking at how to help keep activities, going (ie. parents wanting to pay for activities and supplies)
- At the school board level, there is frustration at the moment as it seems that everyone was operating in a grey area
- Principals have been told to advise their GBs that everyone could be in a last minute scramble until this issue is further clarified
- School fee lists should be established between February and April of each year
- GBs need to be patient as new directives could possible come down from MEES
- GBs and school Admin. will have to work closely together on this
- Due to the school fees issue, schools should have seen their revenues reduced
- GB's should discuss what they feel the priorities at their school are, how they can include all students and what they can do to ensure that activities continue
- Home and School Associations are permitted to fundraise in the name of the school, however, the school cannot directly solicit parents for funds

8.5. Feedback Regarding the Parent Teacher Interview Setup

Several parents provided the following feedback regarding how the Parent Teacher Interview process worked at their school:

- Some schools used FUSION to set up interview times, some did not
- Most schools had an evening interview session, as well as a daytime session
- Scheduling was easier through the use of FUSION and there was little waiting time
- At some schools, parental participation was not very high
- At some schools the interview time ended up being a portfolio evening to showcase the students work
- Inquiry regarding how many hours are dedicated to Parent Teacher Interview at schools. The number varies from school to school as per contractual agreements. Generally, teachers are asked to attend 3 evening events. (ie. Meet the Teacher, 1st Interview night, 2nd Interview night)
- It was noted that the GB cannot dictate which evenings teachers need to be present, but the GB can decide and vote on the time allocation

The possibility of a fourth or fifth evening is the right of the staff to vote on, as school staff are not obliged to participate. If a fourth block of time is agreed upon, it is compensated by a day off on the Tuesday following Easter.

9. Parent Reports

9.1. Standing Subcommittees

Please refer to the High School Network summary in the meeting kit. It was reported that the High School Network will focus on the following three priorities:

- Study Skills and Time Organization in Grade 7
- High School Programs
- Stress/Anxiety

9.2. Ad Hoc Subcommittees

9.2.1. Communications

The Subcommittee has not met recently, therefore there was no report at the time of this meeting.

9.2.2. Ad Hoc Sub - Anti-bullying/Anti-Violence

The Subcommittee has not met recently, therefore there was no report at the time of this meeting.

9.2.3. Ad Hoc Sub - Environmental Awareness

Please refer to the report in the kit. S Bhargava reported on the following from the Environmental Awareness Committee:

- Two meetings have taken place
- Preliminary research has been done

- A set of recommendations will be completed and submitted to the PC, and in turn presented to the School Board by March 2019

The committee is asking the GB's to consider implementing the following:

- 1) Ban single use plastic water bottles
- 2) Ensure there are adequate recycling bins and provide training on how to use them
- 3) Start a Green Team in your school

S. Bhargava emphasized that parents and students need to be encouraged to participate in this initiative.

9.2.4. Ad Hoc Sub - PC Internal Rules and Procedures

The Subcommittee has not met recently, therefore there was no report at the time of this meeting.

9.2.5. Ad Hoc Sub - 20th Anniversary

The Subcommittee has not met recently, therefore there was no report at the time of this meeting. B. Brown emphasized that she has not received much feedback from Reps/Alts and she once again invited anyone who is interested to contact her.

9.3. Commissioners Representing Parents

9.3.1. Report

Please refer to the report in the meeting kit.

S. Ross invited A. Berryman to speak to this item on the agenda. She noted that many links were provided in the report. She invited Reps/Alts to watch the webcast of the November Council meeting, (archived on the LBPSB website) and included timestamps for topics of interest:

A. Berryman invited Reps/Alts to contact her with any questions they may have.

S. Ross invited L. Podgurny to also speak to the report. He encouraged everyone to look at the Entente regarding the sharing of Municipal and School Board facilities within the City of Montreal.

9.3.2. CRP Q&A

S. Ross invited A. Berryman to speak to this item on the agenda. There were no questions from members of the PC. However, A. Berryman had a question for PC Reps/Alts:

She noted the following:

- 1) Who knows who their Commissioner is?
- 2) Who knows what they do?

It was noted that some Reps/Alts did not know who their Commissioner was and what they do. A. Berryman agreed to produce a document for the PC about the role of a Commissioner.

9.4. SNAC

In the absence of the SNAC Rep/Alt., S. Ross invited A. Berryman to speak on behalf of SNAC. It was mentioned that the report came late to the meeting kit. C. Finn, Director of the Student Services Department went over some statistics at the LBPSB at the last SNAC meeting. She noted that 13% of the student population is considered At Risk or has a Special Needs code. C. Finn highlighted the services offered by the School Board. A. Berryman encouraged all Parent Reps/Alts to read the SNAC report and consult the SNAC tab on the LBPSB website.

10. Long Term Planning (LTP) Updates presented by Chairman Noel Burke

S. Ross invited N. Burke to speak to this item on the agenda. N. Burke gave the following update on the Boards Long Term Planning:

- Report by N. Burke at November 1, 2018 PC meeting mentioning surveys and focus groups created to look at LBPSB programs 5-10 years from now
- Current overflow of students at Commission scolaire Marguerite Bourgeoys (CSMB)
- Minister of Education will ask representatives from LBPSB and CSMB to meet
- CSMB is need of space to accommodate some of their "classe d'accueil" students
- The Long Term Planning Committee will have to consider their requests moving forward
- LBPSB must determine how to preserve the quality of the school board while trying to accommodate CSMB
- As a Council, and Admin., the priority is to come up with a LTP to respect Youth and Adult Sector needs and then accommodate the needs of another School Board
- In January 2019, a summary of surveys and focus groups will be shared
- Short-term needs - to accommodate CSMB students as they are currently using every inch of available space
- In discussions with the Ministry, it will be mentioned that these are exceptional circumstances and the French School Boards cannot house all of the students
- There are several possibilities: an option of renting space in some of our schools, sharing a building, or transfer of building to the French School Board
- It was noted that currently the focus is on the High School Network, and not on Elementary Off - Island sector

At this point in the meeting, N. Drysdale proposed that the meeting be extended by 15 minutes in order to cover the remainder of the agenda. The motion was seconded by C. Bazos. The majority were in favor, 4 were opposed, 2 abstentions were noted. The motion was carried.

11. External Committees and Other Reports

11.1. Administration

Please refer to the Report in the meeting kit.

11.2. Council of Commissioners

S. Ross invited N. Burke to briefly highlight a few items from Council:

- The Facilities and Security Committee has been mandated by Council to generate a list of recommendations to deal with the overheating issues in summer and in fall in some of the LBPSB buildings
- Schools affected by Ententes regarding the sharing of municipal and school Board facilities in the City of Montreal will need to look more closely at the proposed dates for upcoming events/ activities and plan them far in advance
- LBPSB will host a conference for the Quebec English School Boards Association (QESBA) and the Association of Administrators of English Schools of Quebec (AAESQ) from May 23 -25, 2019 in Mont Tremblant. The event will bring together Commissioners and Administrators from the nine English School Boards across Quebec. The theme is "Pathways to Wellness". N. Burke invited the PC to recommend a workshop regarding the role of parents.

11.3. EPCA

S. Ross invited D. Odubayo to speak to this item on the agenda. He reported that the EPCA AGA was held last week with all member School Boards being represented. He noted at this time there is no EPCA AGA report available. D. Odubayo emphasized that EPCA's number one priority at the moment is to focus on the CAQ plan to abolish school boards. He noted that EPCA will be meeting next week and that he would provide a report. In February, the EPCA meeting will be held in Quebec City with the Executive slated to speak with Government officials.

11.4. PEF

S. Ross invited A. Gross to speak about this item on the agenda. She noted that unfortunately she has not been able to attend a meeting. However, she reported the following:

- Comedy Benefit Show - raised approximately \$6000
- Twitter Fundraiser
- Broadway Sing-a-long at LPHS - Sunday, December 9th, 2018
- Reps/Alts encouraged to consider donating funds to PEF for the holidays

12. Further Questions from the Public

The following represents comments / questions from the Public:

- Comment that in the 1960's there were situations where 2 schools shared a building, scheduling 2 different shifts
- Request for PC to put contact info for Kids Help Phone on its website
- Comment regarding one school board coming out against the new History Curriculum, and one school board accepting the curriculum
- Request for the PC Reps/Alts to watch the last minute of the Council meeting webcast from November

13. Varia

S. Bhargava reported that the Intercultural Advisory Committee (IAC) recently met and that a report will be forthcoming. Highlights include:

- December 10th is International Human Rights Day, celebrated annually around the world. Many "Write for Rights" events will take place.
- Inquiry regarding the possibility of paying school fees online. Administration will verify where the School Board is in the process.
- Inquiry concerning the roll out of the new Sexuality Education Curriculum and how parents can go about requesting to having their child opt out. Administration responded that the process is not an easy one as Sexuality Education is required in the Curriculum. It was noted that the parent can make an attempt for the exemption by notifying their school principal.
- The meeting concluded with a moment of silence to remember the victims of the École Polytechnique massacre 29 years ago

14. Adjournment

It moved by P. Kininmonth to adjourn the meeting at 10.00pm. The motion was carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted by
Barbara Schnider
Recording Secretary

Attendance Report		
Member School	Parent Rep Present	Alternate Rep Present
Allion		Shiana Warren
Beacon Hill	Jeremy Asch	
Beaconsfield		
Beechwood	DiandraYoselevitz	
Beurling Academy		
Birchwood	Derek Kenny	
Children's World		
*Christmas Park	Cassandra Bazos	
Clearpoint		
Dorset		
Dorval		
Edgewater		
*Evergreen		
Forest Hill Jr		
Forest Hill Sr		
John Rennie	Shane Ross	
Kingsdale		
Lakeside Academy	Natasha Drysdale	
Lasalle Community Comprehensive	Roland Schubert	
Lasalle Jr	Shonda Giddens	
LasalleSr	Christopher Eaton	
Lindsay Place		
MacDonald	Mike Besner	
Maple Grove		
Margaret Manson	Nadia Iacino	
*Mount Pleasant		
Pierre Elliott Trudeau	Jacqueline Barbieri	
Pierrefonds Comprehensive	DayoOdubayo	
Riverdale	Kristine Pino	Maria Colavita
Riverview	Ariana Winn	Linda Dalterio
Sherbrooke Academy Jr.	Joseph Valenti	
Sherbrooke Academy Sr.		
*Soulange		
Springdale		
St. Anthony	Shane Ross	
St. Charles	Jason Doan	
St. Edmund	Paul Kininmonth	
St. John Fisher Jr		Naomi Proctor
St. John Fisher Sr		
St. Patrick		
St. Thomas	Sharad Bhargava	Bobbi Brown
Sunshine Academy		
Terry Fox	Brenda Tremellen	
Verdun		
Westpark	Alaina Gross	
Westwood Jr	Sean Connell	
*Westwood Sr		
Wilder Penfield	Len Podgurny	
SNAC		
CRPC elected by SNAC	Angela Berryman	

Other distinguished attendees:

Thomas Rhymes (Administration)
 Noel Burke (Chair, Council of Commissioners)

Chris Eustace (public)

26/48 Member Schools + SNAC Represented

*Representative or Alternate unconfirmed