

**PARENTS' COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2019
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. Reports Q & A
7. Questions from the Public
8. Business Arising
 - 8.1. Internal Rules Subcommittee
 - 8.2. ABAV Subcommittee
 - 8.3. Environmental Subcommittee
9. New Business
 - 9.1. Election – Communications Officer
 - 9.2. New Consultation – 2019-2020 Consultation on the Budget
 - 9.3. Kindergarten Orientation (Thomas Rhymes)
 - 9.4. Discussion – Riverdale and PCHS
 - 9.5. Discussion – Seatbelts in our school buses
 - 9.6. Discussion –ERMS Communications
 - 9.7. Discussion – CAQ Ban on Religious Symbols
10. Commissioners Representing Parents' Committee Q & A
11. Further Questions from the Public
12. Varia
13. Adjournment

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

1. Call to Order

S. Ross called the meeting to order at 7:12 pm. Quorum was established with 28 out of 48 member schools and a Commissioner (designated by SNAC) being represented. S. Ross then proceeded to recite the acknowledgement of Mohawk land. He expressed condolences from the members of the Parents' Committee on the passing of a member of S. Bhargava's family.

2. Word from the Chair

S. Ross welcomed all attendees and reminded them to please sign in. He reported that the Advisory had received feedback from PC members with regards to the structure of PC meetings.

He noted that the Advisory has tried to re-structure the meetings in a way that attempts to allow for more opportunity for discussions rather than just a reporting session.

S. Ross indicated that a section entitled "Reports Q&A" will now be included on the meeting agenda. This will be the section where PC members will be invited to ask questions regarding the submitted reports.

He mentioned that the last two months have been a bit of an anomaly with many things going on.

He noted that he received a resignation from the Communications Officer, and a replacement will be required.

He emphasized that the Advisory will work hard to ensure, that the meeting kits will be ready on the Monday prior to the meeting, and are counting on the members of the various subcommittees to submit their reports on time.

S. Ross emphasized that when larger discussions take place at PC meetings, the Advisory will reserve the right to bring the discussions to the subcommittee level. Action items or resolutions can then be created.

The Chair invited members to contact him at any time with any issues that they feel are important.

3. Approval of the Agenda

The Chair invited members to propose additions to the agenda.

It was proposed by a member that under Varia, section 12.1 be added in order to highlight an HR issue.

It was proposed by a member that a discussion take place regarding boosting enrolment. This will be added under 9.4 Riverdale and PCHS/ Boosting Enrolment

It was moved by S. Connell that the agenda of February 7, 2019 be approved. The motion was seconded by J. Asch and was carried unanimously.

4. Approval of the Minutes

The Chair invited members to propose changes to the minutes. M. Besner requested that moving forward, on the attached attendance sheet, the upper case "D" in Macdonald High School be changed to a lower case "d" to read Macdonald High School.

It was moved by B. Tremellen that with that amendment, the minutes of December 6, 2018 be approved. The motion was seconded by O. Burlec. The majority was in favor, none were opposed, one abstention was noted. The motion was passed.

5. Correspondence

The Chair reported that correspondence could be found in the meeting kit. He highlighted the free session facilitated by Dr. Bruce Fergusson on February 11, 2019 taking place at the Sheraton Laval.

6. Reports Q & A

S. Ross noted that some reports were added to the meeting kit late in the day. The PEF, EPCA, Admin., Programs and Services, Council and SNAC reports are all included in the kit.

He invited attendees to ask any question they may have. Questions/Comments included the following:

Q. Where do the suggestions put forth by students (CSC) go from there? Is there follow up on the feedback

A. Suggestions from the students could potentially be included in the LBPSB Budget Consultation. LB Admin helps the students to compartmentalize where and how their suggestions should be directed. It was noted that the feedback provided by students is extremely valuable and helps to ensure that their voices are being heard, potentially having an impact on the budget process (ie. initial comment by Student Commissioners representing LBPSB students regarding the need for bathrooms in our schools to be upgraded helped the Board to identify what students are concerned about).

Q. Has there been an update regarding Carbon Monoxide detectors in the schools?

A. 44 of our buildings have Carbon Monoxide detectors due to the fact that they are heated with combustibles. It was noted that this issue poses a challenge as currently there are no regulations in place regarding the installation of Carbon Monoxide detectors in schools. The Minister has asked school boards about the number of detectors in schools. Only two provinces in Canada require the mandatory installation of CO detectors in public buildings.

Q. Will the present system for online payments be extended for all daycare fees and all fees in general?

A. As outlined in the Administration report, the School Board is waiting for as many banks as possible to weigh in regarding the online payment set up. Administration will follow up on this.

J. Doan (CRPC) noted that the end goal is that everyone should be able to pay for everything online. He mentioned that he would follow up at the next Communications and Marketing meeting.

Q. Comment by Parent Rep from SJF that their GB expressed concerns that the funds would go to the Board and not be allocated to the individual schools.

A. T. Rhymes replied that the fees do go toward the schools.

Q. What is SEPAC?

A. SEPAC is a revival of a previous committee comprised of parent reps of students with special needs. Each PC is invited to choose two Reps to go to SEPAC. This committee will meet four times per year.

7. Questions from the Public

S. Ross reminded the public to please ensure that only questions are posed during the public question period and that there is a time limit of three minutes.

It was noted that at the December PC meeting, a request was made to include a link for the Kids Help Phone Line on the PC website. An inquiry was made as to whether the PC will in fact put it on their website. It was pointed out that Kids Help Phone Line now has texting capability [C. Eustace]. S. Ross mentioned that he will look into this further. Comment regarding a letter published in the Gazette by a former LBPSB Chair. Comment with regards to the timeline involved in reference to the dissemination of information to the PC Chair and the Parent Commissioners about the Riverdale decision by the Minister [C. Eustace].

8. Business Arising

8.1. Internal Rules Subcommittee

S. Ross reported that the final draft of the PC Internal Rules will be posted by March 1, 2019 and subsequently presented for approval at the March 14, 2019 meeting.

8.2. ABAV Subcommittee

8.3. Environmental Subcommittee

S. Ross emphasized that due to the important discussion to take place under item 9. New Business, items 8.2 and 8.3 would be tabled for this meeting.

9. New Business

9.1. Election – Communications Officer

S. Ross reported that due to the resignation of the Communications Officer, a replacement would need to be elected at this meeting. He outlined some of the duties of the Communications Officer which include:

- Collection of reports from standing sub-committees
- Posting on social media
- Facilitation of the composition of the Newsletter with the help of the Advisory
- The Communications Officer is a member of Advisory whose members communicate regularly. The Chair relies on the Communications Officer for help.
- The job of the Advisory is to facilitate the working of the PC in between meetings
- Only Reps can be on the Advisory

A. Saunders noted that she is trying to transition out but would be around to teach someone.

S. Ross called for nominations for the position of Communications Officer.

A. Saunders emphasized that when she joined the PC, communications were difficult, but things have evolved. J. Doan offered to work with A. Saunders this year. L. Dalterio indicated that she would be willing to help.

S. Ross mentioned that the PC must vote in favor allowing J. Doan to hold two elected positions (CRPC representing Elementary and Communications Officer).

It was moved by J. Taub to nominate J. Doan to hold two positions. The motion was seconded by J. Asch.

The Chair called for further nominations. There being none, the Chair closed the nominations. The majority was in favor, one was opposed, one abstention was noted. The motion was passed. It was moved by S. Ross that J. Doan be acclaimed as Communications Officer and it was carried unanimously.

S. Ross noted that there was no need to formalize the names of those to help J. Doan.

9.2. New Consultation – 2019-2020 Consultation on the Budget

S. Ross highlighted the fact the Board launched its Budget Consultation for 2019-2020. He proposed that a subcommittee be struck to formulate a response to the Budget Consultation. The subcommittee would put forth its proposed recommendations by March 15, 2019 with the e-vote process to take place the week of March 17, 2019.

It was moved by S. Ross to form a sub-committee in order to put forth recommendations to the PC regarding a response to the Budget Consultation 2019-2020 with the intended voting procedure as outlined in the Internal Rules. The motion was seconded by S. Connell and was carried unanimously.

The Chair requested that those PC reps who are interested in joining the Sub-committee submit their names to him after the meeting or via BASECAMP.

9.3. Kindergarten Orientation (Thomas Rhymes)

S. Ross invited T. Rhymes to speak to this item on the agenda.

T. Rhymes asked PC members to provide their feedback regarding holding Kindergarten Orientation on the same day as a PED day. Discussion points included the following:

- It was noted if this were to take place, then teachers would lose out on training workshops
- A date would be chosen one year in advance
- Difficult for staff to help with orientation if they are supposed to be attending a workshop
- Schools are torn-it's easy to hold K-orientation on a PED day but hard for teachers to participate
- There is a PED Day set aside for the allocation of resources for students with special needs – if it takes place on a PED Day it makes it difficult for Resource teachers to participate
- Question was posed to PC if they think it is reasonable to have one fewer instructional day
- Suggestion to organize an activity for the current Kindergarten students on the day of orientation
- The value of holding a K- Orientation day was stressed as it is important for many students to be able to get adjusted to school

9.4. Discussion – Riverdale and PCHS and Boosting Enrollment

S. Ross invited the Riverdale Rep and Alt to the PC to comment on the recent announcement.

- It was mentioned that there has been one Riverdale GB meeting since the announcement
- Some students and parents found out through social media and traditional media about the Minister's decision on their way to school
- Administration at Riverdale handled the situation well and held an assembly that morning
- The pros regarding the decision to merge Riverdale and PCHS allows for more option course to be offered
- It was noted that the history of the two schools will be preserved
- Many students in the community know students from the other school and there are positive discussions happening about working together
- The nature of how the news was communicated was shocking at first, but the community is rallying together
- S. Ross noted that he spoke to D. Odubayo - PCHS Rep to the PC and he seemed very positive about it
- It was explained that during the last Major School Change- (MSC) – this merger was one of the possibilities discussed
- A comment was made about this decision potentially setting a dangerous precedent

The Chair invited LBPSB Chairperson N. Burke to speak to this item on the agenda.

N. Burke highlighted the following:

- MSC process needed to be reviewed
- Long term Planning Committee (LTP) was struck to look at the distribution of schools and their populations
- Parents were surveyed and focus groups we created
- Council identified the schools with lower populations
- Last year CSMB started to get overcrowded and discussions between the LBPSB and CSMB took place
- In the fall of 2018, enrollment in the CSMB was occurring at a rapid rate, which accelerated the rental discussion. The Minister then stepped in.

The LBPSB proposed several potential solutions:

- Offer of rental to CSMB
- Co-habitation (CSMB and LBPSB sharing space in certain schools)
- Collaborative programs between the two School Boards
- Derogation for the newly arrived students to allow them to attend English school
- Transfer of a building conditional upon MSC -18 month process to be approved by Council
- The CSMB had requested that a new school be built in Pierrefonds
- LBPSB received a letter from the Minister in December stating that he would invoke 4.77 of the Education Act
- The Minister gave 30 days to respond, however LBPSB requested more time to consult but the extension was not granted. For humanitarian reasons, the class d'accueil students need to be educated
- It is Council's intention to ensure that by the end of their current mandate that the network will be stable

- A new policy to replace the current MSC process will be put on the table
- Buildings that are at 60% capacity or below are not getting full programs, and services
- Discussions will take place with the GB's of the affected communities where input will be sought
- Article 4.77 contradicts other parts of the law to consult
- There is currently no CSMB High School in Pierrefonds
- Comment that the PC should use BASECAMP to increase awareness about LBPSB programs
- Bilingual and Bicultural programs should be extended to the end of high school

At this point in the meeting N. Drysdale proposed a motion to extend the meeting for an additional 30 minutes in order to get through the agenda. The majority was in favor, five opposed, 2 abstentions were noted. The motion was passed

- It was noted that there is a movement driven mostly by Riverdale Alumni to voice their opposition to the Minister's decision
- It was suggested that if the community opposes this action they could contact their MNA
- S. Ross emphasized that the PC is listening to the discussion which is ongoing and that the PC needs to have a larger discussion regarding the possible modification of Bill 101
- A comment was made regarding the status of the CFER program currently running in the Riverdale building. It was mentioned that for the short term, it will stay there, but for the long term, the Board will be looking at a stable location
- S. Ross encouraged an open dialogue with Riverdale and offered the PC's support to help the community in any way possible

9.5. Discussion – Seatbelts in our school buses

S. Ross mentioned that he was contacted by CTV regarding the report by Transport Canada pertaining to school bus safety. The report indicated that medium and large buses will be required to have seatbelts.

S. Ross suggested that the PC take a look at it.

Comments by attendees included the following:

- Seatbelts are costly and there may be alternatives
- The possibility exists that in the event of an accident that students cannot remove their seatbelts quickly – therefore the bus driver would have to assist them
- Suggestion to take a closer look at the studies
- In Europe seatbelts are mandatory
- In general school buses are quite safe

S. Ross emphasized that the discussion will continue on Basecamp.

9.6. Discussion –ERMS Communications

The Chair invited T. Rhymes to speak to this item on the agenda.

T. Rhymes noted that when an ERMS message is sent out (i.e., regarding school closures) it is not accompanied by an auto phone call, as difficulties with the phone calls were experienced in the past.

9.7. Discussion – CAQ Ban on Religious Symbols

S. Ross highlighted the fact that the EMSB (English Montreal School Board) held a public meeting on February 6, 2019 to address concerns regarding the proposed ban on religious symbols by civil servants.

The Chair and Vice-Chair of the LBPSB PC were in attendance. S. Ross presented the PC with a proposed resolution from EPCA.

He emphasized that EPCA is asking the PC's to support this resolution and to act as the voice of the Parents' Committee with regards to this issue.

The Chair invited B. Brown, LBPSB - Director to EPCA, to speak to this item on the agenda.

B. Brown indicated that this topic has come up at EPCA and that there are many school boards across the province where this is an issue. She noted that at some school boards the PC's are not necessarily on board. She underlined the fact that this letter will help strengthen the LBPSB position on this issue.

A member of the PC commented that perhaps this initiative could be used as a spring board for spiritual animators and students to highlight the issue through social media giving students a voice.

It was moved by N. Drysdale that the Parents' Committee of the LBPSB pass this Resolution to be sent to EPCA and delegates, with the Chairs of all of the Parents' Committees being copied, in English and French.

The majority was in favor, none were opposed, and one abstention was noted.

10. Commissioners Representing Parents' Committee Q & A

None

11. Further Questions from the Public

Comments were made regarding the process that took place with respect to the letter from the Minister to the LBPSB on the Riverdale file in December and how the announcement was communicated to various stake holders in the LBPSB Community, It was mentioned that during the MSC, decisions got out through the media before they were officially announced.

12. Varia

Regarding HR

Questions from PC members regarding staff members who are transferred to another school even though they are under investigation. Response from Administration that there is a process has to be followed and that the rights of employees must be respected. It was mentioned that if there are concerns about an individual staff member, parents can contact the principal.

13. Adjournment

It moved by M. Besner to adjourn the meeting at 10:18pm. 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	Ovidiu Burlec	
Beechwood	Diandra Yoselevitz	
Beurling Academy	Jay Taube	
Birchwood		
Children's World	Susan Mintzberg	
*Christmas Park		
Clearpoint	Liz Lopez	Allison Saunders
Dorset	Wendy Longlade	
Dorval		
Edgewater		
*Evergreen		
Forest Hill Jr		
Forest Hill Sr		
John Rennie	Shane Ross	
Kingsdale		
Lakeside Academy	Natasha Drysdale	Helene Charbonneau
Lasalle Community Comprehensive		
Lasalle Jr	Shonda Giddens	Robert Thomas
LasalleSr		
Lindsay Place	Marie-Claire Hogan	
MacDonald	Mike Besner	
Maple Grove		
Margaret Manson		
*Mount Pleasant		
Pierre Elliott Trudeau		
Pierrefonds Comprehensive		
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		Stefanie Ozbalt
St. John Fisher Jr	Phil Lambert	
St. John Fisher Sr	Kathleen McAdams	
St. Patrick	Ryan Getty	
St. Thomas		Bobbi Brown
Sunshine Academy		
Terry Fox	Brenda Tremellen	
Verdun	John Ranger	
Westpark		Brent Wajcman
Westwood Jr	Sean Connell	
*Westwood Sr		
Wilder Penfield	Len Podgurny	
SNAC		
CRPC Designated by SNAC	Angela Berryman	N/A

Other distinguished attendees:

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

Chris Eustace (public)
28/48 Member Schools + Commissioner
(designated by SNAC)

*Representative or Alternate unconfirmed