

**PARENTS' COMMITTEE MEETING
THURSDAY, MARCH 14, 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. Update on PCHS and Riverdale
 - 8.2. Date of Next Joint Subcommittee Meeting
 - 8.3. 2020-2021 Budget Consultation
 - 8.4. Entrance Exams and Enrollment Criteria
 - 8.5. School Fees: Proposed Bill 12
 - 8.6. Subcommittee Updates (Internal Rules, ABAV, Environmental Awareness)
9. New Business
 - 9.1. Election – PEF Director
 - 9.2. New Consultation – By-law 1 (2019) and By-law 1E (2019)
 - 9.3. New Consultation – Policy on Major School Change
 - 9.4. Subcommittee Proposal – English School Eligibility
10. Commissioners Representing Parents' Committee Q & A
11. Further Questions from the Public
12. Varia
13. Adjournment

Parents` Committee Meeting
Thursday, MARCH 14, 2019
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 30 out of 48 member schools, SNAC, and Commissioner Representing Parents' Committee (designated by SNAC) being represented. S. Ross then proceeded to recite the acknowledgement of Mohawk land.
2. Word from the Chair
S. Ross welcomed everyone and pointed out that upon recommendation from the Advisory, based on feedback from the PC Reps and Alts, it was decided that moving forward, PC meetings would be re-structured to allow for more discussions rather than just a reporting session. He noted that a section entitled "Reports Q and A" will now be included in the meeting agenda. He invited members to refer to the reports in the meeting kit at any time. In addition, S. Ross went through the file categories as archived in the meeting kit.
3. Approval of the Agenda
The Chair invited members to propose any additions or changes to the agenda. It was moved by C. Bazos that the agenda of March 14, 2019 be approved. The motion was seconded by J. DiMarco and was carried unanimously.
4. Approval of the Minutes
The Chair invited members to propose any changes to the minutes. It was proposed that under section 9.2 on line 2. that "20119" be changed to 2019. With that change, the Chair then called for the approval of the minutes. It was moved by G. Piggins that with the aforementioned amendment, the minutes of February 7, 2019 be approved. The motion was seconded by B. Tremellen and was carried unanimously.
5. Correspondence
The Chair reported that correspondence could be found in the meeting kit. He highlighted the SNAC Parent to Parent Information night entitled "Understanding the Influence of Stress and Anxiety in our Children and Ourselves" taking place on Wednesday April 3, 2019 at 7pm at the LBPSB. It was mentioned that those who were interested in attending should RSVP to the link in the SNAC flyer. S. Ross also highlighted the PEF Newsletter.
6. Reports Q & A
S. Ross apologized for not posting the CRPC report provided by A. Berryman. He invited A. Berryman to highlight a few items. She had an inquiry regarding the Special Needs Representatives on EPCA. It was reported that EPCA decided to have Reps from each school board representing students with special needs. An inquiry was made as to whether the reps come from the PC or SNAC. B. Brown will follow up at EPCA. It was emphasized that principals have been asked to send out the flyer regarding the SNAC Parent to Parent Information night on Wednesday April 3, 2019. It was reported that this is the first time that SNAC has partnered with the Centre of Excellence for Mental Health.
J. Doan reported that up until a few years ago, Parent Commissioners did not have a vote at the Council table. Now for the first time, a Parent Commissioner (Rhonda Boucher) has been appointed as Vice-Chair of Council at the Western Quebec School Board.
It was mentioned that with regards to the Environmental Awareness Committee, that Home and School Associations are being encouraged to "go green".
It was reported that St. Thomas has installed water fountains and their Home and School has put forth a resolution to the Quebec Federation of Home and Schools Association encouraging a reduction of the use of single-use plastics.
7. Questions from the Public
 - Comments made regarding the possibility of changing the PCHS name and that a petition has been initiated in order to express the opinion of those community members who do not wish to change the PCHS name
 - Comments suggesting that the funds it would take for rebranding (ie. logos, letter head, signage etc...) would be better served going toward upgrades and maintenance to the building
 - Reference was made to a prior comment by the LBPSB Chairman regarding the fact that the Riverdale announcement could not be shared initially
 - Comment made about a letter regarding the Ethics Commissioner and whether all PC members received a copy
 - Reference was made to Article 40 of the Education Act and that the School Board must consult with a school before changing its name

8. Business Arising

8.1. Update on PCHS and Riverdale

S. Ross invited both PCHS and Riverdale Parent Reps, as well as T. Rhymes, Assistant Director General of the LBPSB to speak to this item on the agenda.

Comments from PCHS Rep D. Odubayo include:

- Request from the PCHS community to the Parents' Committee to support the status quo and keep the PCHS name intact
- PCHS parents want to welcome the Riverdale community but want to retain the name, as the school has built a reputation in the area
- Communication between Council, the PCHS GB and the community was not ideal
- The potential exists that not all Riverdale students will end up registering at PCHS
- Request that the four CRPCs approach Council members asking them to keep the school name

Comments from Riverdale Rep K. Pino include:

- Riverdale Community has been hit hard by the recent news
- Comment that it could have been handled better
- Suggestion that the Board take the best from both schools and put them together to benefit all students
- Riverdale parents choose this school likely for some of the same reasons that PCHS parents choose their school
- Transition Committee meets regularly to discuss programs at both schools and is helping to facilitate the process
- Riverdale wants to preserve their history
- The goal is to make students/staff/parents feel like one family and feel welcome, and not like guests in someone else's home

Comments from T. Rhymes, Assistant Director General of LBPSB include:

- Towne Hall took place where it was emphasized that there are two communities coming together
- Suggestion to put school name issue on hold
- This issue represents the larger English community
- Transition Committee will hold a meeting next Monday

Other comments:

- These are extenuating circumstances due to the Minister's decision to cede the Riverdale building, but due to the fact that the CAQ wanted to give CSMB a building in Pierrefonds, it could have just as easily been the PCHS building that was chosen
- The two schools' GB's were invited to comment regarding the Deed of Establishment and the school name. This was done in the spirit of having the schools put their heads together.
- The school name issue has unfortunately led to a less than ideal atmosphere and it was re-iterated that it be put on hold for the moment
- Offer by Council to help facilitate this process in any way that they can
- Suggestion that PCHS (Pierrefonds Comprehensive High School) could be named "Pierrefonds Community High School". This would also avoid the cost of some of the rebranding.
- Suggestion that Towne Hall should have included both the PCHS and Riverdale Communities
- A comment was made the off-island schools are busting at the seams and that off island students are being bussed into town because there are not enough schools off island
- Comment was made that how energies are channeled will impact the students

8.2. Date of Next Joint Subcommittee Meeting

S. Ross reported that originally the Joint Subcommittee meeting was scheduled to take place on March 28th, but was then moved to March 20th. As it stands, there appears to be a scheduling conflict and now the meeting will have to be rescheduled.

PC members were encouraged to check their email and BASECAMP for messages about the newly scheduled Joint Subcommittee meeting.

8.3. 2020-2021 Budget Consultation

S. Ross noted that due to the timetable involved, the draft response to the 2020-2021 Budget Consultation was not posted in time. He emphasized that this will be the first E-vote for the PC this year, and that even though Governing Boards can no longer hold E-votes, it is fine for the PC to do so. S. Ross reminded PC Reps to please respect the timelines involved.

8.4. Entrance Exams and Enrollment Criteria

The Chair invited J. Doan to speak to this item on the agenda. He highlighted the following:

- Last year was the first year that the Grade 5 exams were held
- Lack of communication and marketing materials were cited

- The PC published its own list of programs
- Changes have been made to the registration process
- Enrollment criteria does not currently state that the school board must hold entrance exams
- Increased marketing efforts are needed in order to communicate the array of programs that are available
- It is hoped that this will be part of a discussion at Council
- It was noted that the school board uses an outside agency to conduct the entrance exams
- This is a transitional year, therefore the entrance exam fee will stay for this year, but the Minister of Education has stated that next year, parents will not be charged
- PC reps were invited to discuss this topic with their school communities and subsequently impart their feedback to the PC on a BASECAMP space which will be created in order for discussions to continue

8.5. School Fees: Proposed Bill 12

S. Ross reported that the law regarding school fees has not yet been passed and remains Bill 12 at this time. It was emphasized that schools will be on a timeline with school fee proposals being brought to individual GB's in March/April. The School Board will be advising principals that they should build a school fee proposal based on the expected legislation which will be adjusted based on the law that gets passed.

8.6. Subcommittee Updates (Internal Rules, ABAV, Environmental Awareness)

S. Ross reported that the subcommittees have not prospered this year as it seems to be a challenge to get things done. He noted that the Advisory will post more information regarding the following subcommittees:

- Internal Rules
- ABAV
- Environmental Awareness

S. Ross invited S. Bhargava to speak about the Environmental Awareness Subcommittee. S. Bhargava emphasized that this subcommittee met last month but no report was available. He noted that the High School Network had requested a presentation on the High School programs.

S. Bhargava invited all parents on the High School Network Subcommittee to remain after this meeting for a few minutes so that they could have a short discussion.

9. New Business

9.1. Election – PEF Director

S. Ross reported that the current PEF Director from the PC, A. Gross has not able to attend the PEF meetings due to scheduling conflicts. He noted that N. Drysdale attended in her place. He mentioned that a replacement would be elected at this meeting.

S. Ross communicated that PEF meetings are held at 6:15 every third Tuesday of the month at the school board for a duration of about an hour.

S. Ross invited D. Rainey, President of PEF to give further details. She emphasized that she initially joined PEF as a non-voting Director and has now stepped in as President.

She mentioned that PEF has needed new members in order to come up with fresh ideas and that a commitment is needed to attend events. She highlighted the importance of getting information about PEF out to parents and noted that GB Chairs receive the monthly PEF newsletter. S. Ross emphasized the PEF provides funds to schools within the LBPSB.

S. Ross then opened the floor to nominations:

- C. Bazos nominated herself
- S. Ross then called for further nominations
- S. Giddens nominated L. Dalterio who accepted the nomination
- While the ballots were being prepared, S. Ross invited both candidates to speak about why they would be an asset to PEF
- The result of the ballot count indicated that C. Bazos was elected as PEF Director from the PC

It was moved by J. Asch to destroy the ballots. The motion was seconded by J. DiMarco as was carried unanimously.

9.2. New Consultation – By-law 1 (2019) and By-law 1E (2019)

S. Ross explained that these consultations relate to the proposed meeting dates for the Council of Commissioners and for the Executive Committee of Council.

S. Ross proposed that a subcommittee be created in order to look at the By-laws. J. Doan noted that he didn't think there was a need to create a subcommittee.

S. Bhargava pointed out that as long as the proposed meeting dates do not conflict with religious holidays, they should be fine.

J. Doan explained that the PC has not sent in a response to this consultation for the past three years.

S. Ross proposed that the response be tabled and that the discussion could continue on BASECAMP if necessary.

9.3. New Consultation – Policy on Major School Change

S. Ross invited N. Burke, Chairman of the LBPSB to speak to this item on the agenda.

N. Burke highlighted the following:

- The Council Resolution, the Long Term Planning letter, as well as the Policy on Major School Change had all been sent out to community stake holders
- Council has been under pressure regarding the decision by the Ministry to cede the Riverdale building to the CSMB
- LBPSB offered the Ministry five options, four of which were discounted
- CSMB still has 2000 students to house even taking the Riverdale building into consideration
- The mandate of the current Council of Commissioners will be completed by 2020 relating to the CAQ proposal to abolish school boards and replace them with service centers
- During the last MSC process, two decisions resulting in two re-considerations were made
- Council was not happy with the process and wanted to update the policy to allow the process to move more effectively, efficiently and to be more transparent
- In the past, MSC policies were based in school closures, however this policy is based on the Three-Year Plan
- As the population has changed – the plans need to change along with it
- This update to the policy will look at the distribution of Educational Services
- The Long Term Planning Committee came out of discussions surrounding past MSCs
- The current open border policy at the high school level tends to benefit students and parents, but at the same time makes it difficult for the school board
- The School board has to be in line with the Education Act
- Future proposals of the Educational Services will only address schools affected, whereas the last MSC named every school as potentially being affected
- The consultation will take place over a one-year period
- There will no longer be a 10% threshold for change
- The school board has the ability to make adjustments to school populations
- The most significant change is that the plan will be put on the table from the very beginning of the process
- It is highly likely than an MSC will be initiated within the next six months
- The school board is requesting active participation from those schools who are named and is calling on them to be open minded
- The Council has some tough decisions to make but would prefer to make them soon before their mandate ends in order to ensure the network is stable
- If the proposed CAQ plan to replace school boards with service centers goes through, then service centers and GB chairs will be accountable to the Ministry

Comments included the following:

- QESBA is trying to lobby against the CAQ proposal
- GB and School Communities named will be notified, others will be invited to weigh in but there is no obligation
- The next MSC will involve only high schools as currently it is impossible to offer a full range of services and option courses in certain populations
- Some off-island schools expressed that they are not being taken into account. N. Burke invited them to send in briefs to Council.
- It was noted that the CRPCs are available to answer questions as well, even on BASECAMP

S. Ross suggested that a subcommittee be formed to study this new policy. It was moved by S. Ross to initiate a subcommittee to provide a list of recommendations regarding the Policy on Major School Change and present them to the PC by the April meeting. The motion was seconded by S. Connell and was carried unanimously.

S. Ross noted that a section will be created on BASECAMP for the purpose of PC members signing up to join this subcommittee.

9.4. Subcommittee Proposal – English School Eligibility

S. Ross emphasized that the obvious “elephant in the room” is Bill 101, which is a complex topic. It was noted that EPCA will spend \$10,000 for an English Eligibility Social Media Campaign. Parents who visit the EPCA website will be invited to visit a section on this topic. It was moved by S. Ross that an English School Eligibility Subcommittee be created. It was seconded by J. Ranger and carried unanimously. PC members were invited to join the subcommittee via BASECAMP. S. Ross suggested that D. Odubayo post more information on BASECAMP

10. Commissioners Representing Parents’ Committee Q & A

There were no questions, however S. Ross mentioned that CRPC members sit on Council. He thanked them and noted that their time commitment is understood and appreciated by the PC.

11. Further Questions from the Public

Highlights include:

- Comment regarding Quebec Education Ministry plan to allot one free cultural event per student with the suggestion that high school students have the opportunity to visit the Holocaust Museum
- Comment relating to the lack of mention of percentage capacities in the updated draft of the Major School Change Policy
- Comment about the acronym "PCHS" and that the "C" stands for "Comprehensive" but does not necessarily apply due to the current course offering
- Comment regarding Post-mortem after the last Council elections
- Mention of idea to put discussion about a possible name change for PCHS on hold for the moment

12. Varia

The Chair asked Reps/Alts if there was any Varia they wanted to discuss. The following points highlighted:

- More clarification was requested regarding the portion of the EPCA report concerning the contact info of SNAC reps on their respective Parents' Committees
- A request was made that the PC provide a summary of the Bill12 document in the meeting kit. The Chair agreed to do so.
- Short discussion regarding the proposed plan by the Ontario government to ban cell phones in schools. It was mentioned that in reaction to that announcement, the Quebec Education Minister released a statement that he will not be proposing a similar ban in Quebec, but would leave the matter in the hands of individual schools. A BASECAMP thread will be created in order to continue these discussions.
- It was reiterated that PEF would really appreciate the support of the community in attending the upcoming Comedy night on Friday, April 5, 2019 taking place at Lakeside Academy

13. Adjournment

It moved by J. DiMarco to adjourn the meeting at 9:37pm. The motion was carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted by
Barbara Schnider
Recording Secretary

Attendance Report		
Member School	Parent Rep Present	Alternate Rep Present
Allion	Valerie Beaudet	Shiana Warren
Beacon Hill	Jeremy Asch	
Beaconsfield		
Beechwood		
Beurling Academy	Jay Taube	
Birchwood		
Children's World	Susan Mintzberg	
*Christmas Park	Cassandra Bazos	
Clearpoint		Allison Saunders
Dorset		
Dorval	Dave Clifford	
Edgewater		
*Evergreen		
Forest Hill Jr		
Forest Hill Sr		
John Rennie	Shane Ross	
Kingsdale	Greg Piggins	
Lakeside Academy		Helene Charbonneau
Lasalle Community Comprehensive	Roland Schubert	
Lasalle Jr	Shonda Giddens	Robert Thomas
LasalleSr	Christopher Eaton	
Lindsay Place		
MacDonald		Kristoffer de Forest
Maple Grove		
Margaret Manson	Nadia Iacino	
*Mount Pleasant		
Pierre Elliott Trudeau	Jacqueline Barbieri	
Pierrefonds Comprehensive	Dayo Odubayo	Greg Piggins
Riverdale	Kristine Pino	Maria Colavita
Riverview		Linda Dalterio
Sherbrooke Academy Jr.		
Sherbrooke Academy Sr.	Michelle Fauteux	
*Soulange		
Springdale		
St. Anthony	Shane Ross	
St. Charles	Jason Doan	
St. Edmund		
St. John Fisher Jr	Phil Lambert	
St. John Fisher Sr		
St. Patrick		Donnalynn Rainey
St. Thomas	Sharad Bhargava	Bobbi Brown
Sunshine Academy		
Terry Fox	Brenda Tremellen	
Verdun	John Ranger	
Westpark	Alaina Gross	
Westwood Jr	Sean Connell	
*Westwood Sr		
Wilder Penfield	Len Podgurny	
SNAC	Jennifer DiMarco	Lisa Mancini
CRPC Designated by SNAC	Angela Berryman	N/A

Other distinguished attendees:

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

Barbara Sholzberg (public)
**30/48 Member Schools, SNAC + Commissioner
 (designated by SNAC)**