

PARENTS' COMMITTEE MEETING
THURSDAY, November 16th, 2023
6:30 P.M., ONLINE



AGENDA

Please make sure you sign-in upon arrival

1. Call to Order with Land Acknowledgement
2. Word from the Chair
3. Approval of the Agenda
4. Approval of the Minutes (October 19th)
5. Correspondence
6. Questions from the Public
7. Business Arising
 - 7.1. CONSULTATION: School and Centre fees
 - 7.2. CONSULTATION: By-law #9
 - 7.3. CONSULTATION: Commitment-to-Success Plan
 - 7.4. CONSULTATION: Enrolment Criteria
 - 7.5. Daycare and Lunch Consultation
8. Keystone Reports
 - 8.1. Council of Commissioners - Chair, Judith Kelley
 - 8.2. Administration - Assistant Director General, Stephen Colpitts
9. Varia
- 10. Joint Regional Subcommittee Meetings (Closed to the Public)**
11. Adjournment

Parents` Committee MEETING
THURSDAY, November 16, 2023
6:30 P.M., ONLINE (ZOOM)

1. Call to Order with Land Acknowledgement

S. Ross called the meeting to order at 6:35 pm. Quorum was established with ?? members out of 46 LBPSB schools and SNAC being represented. S. Ross then invited D. Bentley to recite the Land Acknowledgement Statement.

2. Word from the Chair

S. Ross expressed his appreciation to all for taking time from their very busy schedules to attend the meeting. He thanked everyone for participating in the PC discussion platform. He emphasized that the PC is a consultative body representing the parental voice of the School Board. Mr. Steven Colpitts, (Interim Assistant Director General) and Ms. Kathleen O'Reilly (Regional Director-Region 1) were thanked for their participation. S. Ross pointed out that the meeting would be divided into two parts. The first being the PC meeting, and the second being the Joint Regional Subcommittee meetings. He explained that the PC meeting was open to the public, while the Subcommittee meetings were not. The Chair then went through the contents of the meeting kit.

3. Approval of the Agenda

S. Ross invited members of the PC to consult the agenda and suggest any changes they might have. D. Bentley proposed that the Daycare and Lunch Consultation should be added to the agenda. S. Ross then stated that it could be added as Item # 7.5. S. Ross noted that participants could go to the reactions tab and use the "raise hand" feature in order to vote. He called for any further questions/comments/additions. There being none, he called for a motion to approve the agenda, along with the proposed addition.

It was moved by D. Bentley to approve the agenda. The motion was seconded by K. Robertson. None were opposed, no abstentions were noted, and the motion was carried.

4. Approval of the Minutes (October 19)

S. Ross pointed out that attached to each set of minutes, was an attendance sheet. Reps/Alts were asked to verify if their attendance had been properly recorded. S. Orenbach, from St. Charles mentioned that he should be marked as having attended the October 19, 2023 meeting. D. H., from Sherbrooke Academy Jr. noted that he should be marked as having attended the October 19, 2023 meeting as well. With the proposed changes, S. Ross then called for a motion to approve the minutes. It was moved by L. Dalterio to approve the minutes. The motion was seconded by A. Feldstain. None were opposed, one abstention was noted, and the motion was carried. A request was made to delay approval of the minutes until the December meeting as a member had not read them, however the motion to approve them was carried.

5. Correspondence

The Chair highlighted the fact that there will be an upcoming event, benefitting PEF (Pearson Educational Foundation). The Laval Rocket will be playing on December 9, 2023. For every ticket sold, \$3 will be donated to PEF, which supports LBPSB schools and students. Principals and teachers are invited to submit grant proposals in order to be considered for funding toward their school projects.

6. Questions from the Public

S. Ross pointed out that parents and guests are invited to pose their questions during the "Questions from the Public" portion of each PC meeting. A time limit will be put in place for each member of the public who wishes to ask a question in order to allow for as many as possible. He noted that all questions are directed to the Chair, however they can be deferred to someone else who may have more expertise on a certain topic. S. Ross emphasized that if the Chair does not have the answer, they may try to find the answer and get back to the PC at a later date. The following are highlights of the question period:

- Member of the public with a graduating child attended two GB meetings at their child's school where parents were informed that there will not be any grad trips planned
- It was explained that ultimately the GB decides on and approves all field trips
- There may have been a delay, however the situation was rectified and now field trips can be scheduled around the world, unless there is a travel advisory to a certain location
- All field trips are organized by teachers on a voluntary basis and they must be willing to take on this additional responsibility. Since COVID, there are more regulations that have been put into place.
- Member of the public asked whether the PC could write a letter to the SB asking that in the future, decisions at the school level, (for example regarding uniforms), be made in consultation with the school community
- Two high schools have implemented either uniforms or dress codes fairly recently
- It was pointed out that some schools have not consulted with their school community
- It was reported that a school community had only one option of supplier and that shirts had to have a logo. The Chair stated that the School Board is required to offer more than one supplier.

- A member of the public pointed out that when the Governing Board approves the school budget there is often a vagueness regarding photo copy fees and school fees. The Chair responded that they have heard these comments before and requested that the person send all of the information by email and that the PC will look into it further. It was clarified that there is a formula for school administrators to follow in order to determine school fees and fees for print materials. 60% is divided by the amount of students. It was emphasized that when school fees and the approval of school fees are presented to the GB it would be a good time to address the issues.
- A member of the public expressed thanks for posting the info on the PC website regarding Reps/Alts
- The topic of renting space in a school came up at schools' GB meeting. A request was made for the Rep/Alt to address this issue. It was reported that during the summer, incidents occurred at a high school where materials were damaged and taken and space was utilized that shouldn't have been. It was emphasized that rentals are inevitable but should not be to the detriment of the schools' property. It was noted that the GB cannot necessarily refuse a rental. The school is part of the community and the goal is to ensure that it is utilized by the community.
- Rental fees contribute to a positive school experience. Any possible recourse can be examined if any damages occur. The GB can decide to deny a rental request if the GB has a legitimate reason to do so (past damage, etc...)
- S. Colpitts emphasized that rentals come with legal agreements and in the case of damages there should be recourse. (He agreed to follow up with the legal department).
- An item was brought up at Council regarding the replacement of Support staff. It seems that Integration Aides are no longer being replaced when they are absent/sick. Concerns were expressed if this is the case. Is this a concern that parents should have? Is this a temporary or permanent measure? What have you heard from other schools? What can we do to ensure that student's needs are met?
S. Colpitts responded that Integration Aides do not come with a fund for replacements/subs. Subsidies are available to cover for teacher substitutes. Years ago, funds were set aside to help cover this but at a certain point there was a deficit. If an Integration Aide is absent are there are several aides in a school, they are reorganized for the day. If not, the school tries to get a replacement. The School Board has had difficulty recruiting Integration Aides as well as teachers.
- S. Ross pointed out that this issue was brought to his attention. Students with special needs benefit from these resources but sometimes identifying and allocating these resources remains a challenge. S. Ross expressed his appreciation to S. Colpitts and K. O'Reilly for their input.

7. Business Arising

7.1. CONSULTATION: School and Centre fees

- S. Ross noted that the draft response to the consultation was in the meeting kit. He explained that the document was a culmination of feedback from the PC and had been posted approximately a week prior to this meeting. S. Ross then invited D. Bentley to speak to this item on the agenda. D. Bentley explained that under the policy and that of the Education Act, it is mandatory to offer more than one supplier for school uniforms.
- S. Ross then called for a motion to approve the PC response to the CONSULTATION: School and Centre fees. It was moved by L. Dalterio to approve the response. The motion was seconded by A. Feldstain. None were opposed, no abstentions were noted, and the motion was carried.

7.2. CONSULTATION: By-law #9

- S. Ross indicated that By-law #9 was reviewed extensively by the subcommittees. The only proposed change was to add the phrase "by any adult person". The following comments were made:
- One section lists complaints that can be made under 4.1.6
 - Sexual force is listed under the Violence section (should be listed under Sexual Violence)
 - Whoever is making a complaint should identify that they are submitting it under the official complaint process
 - The info regarding the School Board Communications Officer should be filled out
 - There should be a concerted effort to communicate to parents that this new document exists
 - S. Ross asked if comments received would be accepted as a friendly amendment
 - It was clarified that this addendum is for youth protection and that when an adult individual mistreats a child there is a form to fill out. S. Ross asked if the PC would accept the suggestions and add them to the final response. It was noted that the start of a complaints process can be done by form/email/phone. The modifications were accepted. Consensus was that it is important to clarify when the complaints process actually begins.
 - S. Ross stated that he would like to wordsmith the suggestions for further clarification
 - It was noted that at a GB meeting, discussions took place regarding the possibility of a tracking system to detail the status of the complaint process. A member of the PC asked on behalf of another parent how a parent introduces the complaint process. S. Ross deferred to K. O'Reilly for further clarification. K. O'Reilly emphasized that when a parent is not satisfied at the school level they can try

to resolve the issue with the principal. When a parent clearly states that they have tried to resolve the issue with the principal and cannot, they can go to A. Bertrand, Complaints Officer who will send it off to the Regional Director who will then have 15 days to respond. Parents will then receive an automatic email. S. Ross stated that moving forward he will not ask for a friendly amendment from the PC but will take E. Thibault's response and wordsmith it.

S. Ross then called for a motion to approve the PC response to the CONSULTATION: By-law #9. It was moved by E. Thibault to approve the response. The motion was seconded by A. Charszan. None were opposed, no abstentions were noted, and the motion was carried.

7.3. CONSULTATION: Commitment-to-Success Plan

S. Ross pointed out that the draft response to this consultation had been posted on BAND. S. Ross then called for a motion to approve the PC response to the CONSULTATION: Commitment-to-Success Plan. It was moved by D. Bentley to approve the response. The motion was seconded by J. Stephens. None were opposed, no abstentions were noted, and the motion was carried.

7.4. CONSULTATION: Enrolment Criteria

S. Ross reported that the PC will respond to this consultation indicating that the Enrolment Criteria is fine as is. A comment was made regarding whether there would be added weight to repeat items that have come up at GB, to the PC. The Chair responded that from a GB perspective, that group would approach the Enrolment Criteria with regards to how it would impact their school. From the PC perspective, the approach would deal with how the Enrolment Criteria would impact the School Board.

7.5. Daycare and Lunch Consultation

S. Ross indicated that the draft response to this consultation is a culmination of work that has been posted on BAND. S. Ross then called for a motion to approve the PC response to the Daycare and Lunch Consultation. It was moved by D. Bentley to approve the response. The motion was seconded by C. Jastrzebski. None were opposed, no abstentions were noted, and the motion was carried.

8. Keystone Reports

8.1. Council of Commissioners - Chair, Judith Kelley

S. Ross invited Chair Judith Kelley to speak to this item on the agenda. She reported that the next Executive meeting will take place on November 20, 2023 on ZOOM at 5:30 pm. The next Council meeting will take place on November 27, 2023 and will be an in-person meeting, however, it can be viewed on ZOOM.

8.2. Administration - Assistant Director General, Stephen Colpitts

S. Ross invited S. Colpitts to provide an Administration update. The following was highlighted:

- Upcoming labor action will affect the LBPSB community as several unions will be taking strike action on November 21/22/23
- Teachers at the LBPSB are part of the PTU, and not part of the FAE (unions representing the French School System)
- Teachers have not opted to "work to rule" (extra-curriculars will be maintained)
- Report cards at the Elementary level will be available on November 20th on the MOZAIK portal
- Report cards at the Secondary level will be available on November 27th on the MOZAIK portal
- S. Colpitts agreed to provide a written report to the Chair

9. Varia

S. Ross invited participants to present any varia they might have. There was none.

10. Joint Regional Subcommittee Meetings (Closed to the Public)

S. Ross pointed out that the PC meeting would be adjourning at this point. It was stated that Reps/Alts would be divided up into Breakout rooms (Region 1/2/3) and that the Joint Regional Subcommittee Meetings would commence and subsequently end at 8:30 pm. Participants would not be reconvening after the Subcommittee meetings. He noted that he will ensure that each Rep/Alt would be included in BAND.

11. Adjournment

It moved by S. Ross to adjourn the meeting at 7:56pm.

Respectfully submitted by
Barbara Schnider
Recording Secretary

Attendance Report		
Member School	Parent Rep Present	Alternate Rep Present
Allion	Annette Banton	
Beacon Hill		
Beaconsfield	Christian Knudsen	
Beechwood	Tamara Szulzinger	
Beurling Academy	Linda Dalterio	
Birchwood		
Children's World	Susie Mintzberg	
Christmas Park		
Clearpoint		
Dorset		Traci Potenza
Dorval	Jinny Conte	
Edgewater	Mike Nother	
Evergreen		
Forest Hill Jr	Tanja Minisini	
Forest Hill Sr	Tanja Minisini	
Horizon		
John Rennie	Colleen Boyarchuk	
Kingsdale	Adam Feldstain	
Lakeside Academy		
Lasalle Community Comprehensive	Amrit Grewal	
Lasalle Jr	Zahra Ibrahim	Natasha Brathwaite
LasalleSr		
Macdonald		
Maple Grove	Oumy Dia	David Marcogliese
Margaret Manson		
Mount Pleasant	Christine Jastrzebski	
Pierre Elliott Trudeau	Stacie Bouchard	
Pierrefonds Comprehensive	Brenda Tremellen	
Riverview	Heidi Van Regan	
Sherbrooke Academy Jr.	Kirsty Robertson	
Sherbrooke Academy Sr.	Travis Chalmers	
*Soulanges		
Springdale	Jeseca Stephens	
St. Anthony	Shane Ross	
St. Charles		Ross McLean
St. Edmund	Tessa MacLean	
St. John Fisher Jr	Tom Fullerton	
St. John Fisher Sr		Erica Follon
St. Patrick	Doug Bentley	
St. Thomas	Tifanie Valade	
Sunshine Academy	Richard Frazao	
Terry Fox		
Verdun		
Westpark	Alaina Charszan	Tiffany Uman
Westwood Jr		
Westwood Sr	Philippe Courtois	
Wilder Penfield	Eric Thibault	
SNAC	Annette Banton	
CRP SNAC		

Other distinguished attendees:

Judy Kelley - LBPSB Chairperson
Steven Colpitts - Assistant Director General
Kathleen O'Reilly - Region 1 Director
Debi Dixon - Region 3 Director

33/47 Member Schools + SNAC Represented

Chris Eustace (public)
J H-W (public - as named on Zoom)
Cecilia (public - as named on Zoom)