

**PARENTS' COMMITTEE MEETING
THURSDAY, November 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 (AGA Parts 1 & 2)
5. Correspondence
6. Reports Q & A
7. Questions from the Public
8. New Business - Bill 40 Discussion
Introduction & Presentation by LBPSB Secretary General, Geneviève Dugré
9. Business Arising
 - 9.1. Date for Joint Subcommittee Meeting (Tentatively November 21)
 - 9.2. Election of Parent Representative - Green Committee
 - 9.3. Student Ombudsman Consultation
 - 9.4. Communication Reminders
 - 9.5. Subcommittee Updates
 - 9.5.1. Ad hoc Sub – Internal Rules and Procedures
 - 9.5.2. Ad hoc Sub – Environmental Awareness
 - 9.5.3. Ad hoc Sub – Policy on Major School Change
 - 9.5.4. Ad hoc Sub – Rental Facilities
 - 9.5.5. Ad hoc Sub – Marketing
 - 9.5.6. Ad hoc Sub – Bill 40
 - 9.6. EPCA
 - 9.7. PEF
10. Commissioners Representing Parents' Committee Q&A
11. Further Questions from the Public
12. Varia
13. Adjournment

Parents` Committee MEETING
THURSDAY, November 7, 2019
Lester B. Pearson School Board
LBPSB Boardroom, 1925 Brookdale Avenue, Dorval

1. Call to Order
In the absence of the Chair, Vice Chair C. Bazos called the meeting to order at 7:10 pm. She noted that she would be presiding over the meeting. Quorum was established with ? members out of 48 LBPSB schools and SNAC being represented. C. Bazos then proceeded to recite the acknowledgement of Mohawk land.
2. Word from the Chair
C. Bazos thanked all for attending. She Invited all Reps/Alts to look at the agenda and propose any changes. She emphasized that the Secretary General, Geneviève Dugré would be making a presentation on Bill 40 and that LBPSB Chair, Noel Burke would be in attendance to provide updates on Bill 40, the MSC process and the sound practices of the School Board.
3. Approval of the Agenda
The acting Chair C. Bazos called for the approval of the agenda. It was moved by B. Tremellen that the agenda be approved. The motion was seconded by L. Mancini and was carried unanimously.
4. Approval of the Minutes (AGA Parts 1 & 2)
C. Bazos noted that due to the PC Chair being called to go out of town unexpectedly, the draft minutes of the AGA Part 1 and 2 were sent out late. It was emphasized that there may not have been sufficient time for Reps/Alts to read them. A motion was presented by L. Mancini to table the minutes of the AGA Parts 1 and 2 until the December meeting. The motion was seconded by J. Taube and was carried unanimously.
5. Correspondence
C. Bazos reported that some of the EPCA Directors, past and present, along with S. Ross, met with members of EPCA to discuss the brief to be presented to the National Assembly. C. Bazos invited B. Brown to speak to the update from EPCA.
B. Brown mentioned that all PC Chairs were invited to look over the EPCA brief to be presented to the Committee on Culture and Education at the National Assembly. Several PC Chairs were in attendance and came to a consensus regarding the brief. They emphasized the following:
 - The erosion of parental power therefore giving the Ministry more power
 - The absence of a parent representing special needs in the draft of Bill 40
 - Designation of an 18-35-year-old rep not necessary
 - No mention of student success\concern about possibility of not filling all parent positions and the resulting consequences
 - Lack of adequate remuneration, especially for those parents in regions where extensive travel is involved
6. Reports Q & A
C. Bazos noted that the meeting kit was only sent out recently and that the report from Administration, as well as the PC Advisory report can be found in the kit. The acting Chair noted that N. Burke would be in attendance later in the meeting and so his report would be presented later.
7. Questions from the Public
C. Bazos invited members of the public to pose their questions:
 - A member of the public emphasized some of the good points of Bill 40 and asked for their comments to be posted on BASECAMP
8. New Business - Bill 40 Discussion
Introduction & Presentation by LBPSB Secretary General, Geneviève Dugré
C. Bazos invited Secretary General, Geneviève Dugré to make a presentation on:
"Bill 40: An Act to Amend Mainly the Education Act with Regard to School Organization and Governance"
For full details, please refer to the presentation posted in BASECAMP.
Secretary General, Geneviève Dugré emphasized that she would concentrate on how the proposed Bill 40 would affect the English sector, but would touch on the French sector as well. She noted that the purpose of Bill 40 is to re-organize the School Boards.
Geneviève Dugré highlighted the following:
 - The Council of will no longer be in place and will be replaced by a Board of Directors
 - English Service Centers will be implemented as of Nov, 2020 (English Boards)
 - DGs will take over between Feb 24 – May 1 2020 (French Boards)

- English Boards: School Elections, (parents and community members of the Board of Directors), Staff members are designated by their peers
- French Boards will no longer hold general elections by suffrage
- No Executive Committees
- No Interboard agreements required (Anyone can attend any school but it will fall under the Enrollment Criteria.) (Transportation may not necessarily be provided)
- Service Centre will have to seek approval of the Minister for the acquisition of any immovable
- There will be regulations stating the amount of funds that a Service Center can spend regarding construction/enlargement and demolition of a building
- Mission of the Service Centre in comparison to a School Board - does not change much
- Goal is to facilitate the sharing of resources and services of Service Centers
- The Service Centre Board of Directors will be composed of:
 1. 10 Parents
 2. 4 Community members
 3. 4 Staff Members
 For a total of 18 Directors
- The Chair and Vice – Chair must be chosen among the parents by the members of the Board of Directors
- An attendance allowance will be issued (no remuneration) and reasonable expenses will be reimbursed
- Directors will take on a 3-year mandate
- The DG and a member of the Centre’s Executive Staff must attend the Board of Directors meeting
- The official spokesperson for the Service Centre will be the DG
- MEES will develop training content
- All members must take the oath of office within 30 days
- Staff member on the Board of Directors are elected by their peers

Qualifications of a Candidate

Must be a parent currently on the GB

Community members are defined in the Act

Parent Committee

- Raise awareness about public education
- Help to encourage parental involvement
- Ensure that the training needs of parents are met
- Develop a policy on financial contributions
- Advise the School Service Centre on Special Projects in the schools
- Propose ways of facilitating communication between parents and school staff members

Governing Board

- All GBs will be dissolved as of July 31, 2020
- Principal and sector Directors are in charge until Sept 18, 2020
- Newly Elected parents on the GB will decide for the first year who will commit to a one year term and who will commit to a two year term
- Generally, 12 members as follows:
 - 6 parents, 4 staff, 1 student, 1 person from childcare, 1 community rep

Function of the GB

- Chair operates the Board, preps for meetings, sets the agenda
- GB will have the right to advise the principal and will promote public education
- The number of parents used to be fixed by the Executive Committee, now there must be a minimum of 4 parents
- All GB members have the right to vote
- Documents must be posted at least 2 days prior to meeting but can follow the GBs Internal Rules
- GB adopts the ABAV plan
- As of July 1, 2021 a new Commitment-to-student-success committee to be established to develop and propose a Commitment-to-Success Plan to the Schools Service Center

Remaining Mandatory Committees

- ARC
- AACP
- SNAC
- Parents’ Committee
- Audit
- HR
- Governance and Ethics

- TAC

Concerns expressed by PC Reps/Alts were the following:

- No mention of representation for the parents of students with special needs
- It is unclear what will happen if GB positions and Service Center Board of Director positions are not filled
- Electoral maps will have to be redrawn

C. Bazos invited LBPSB Chairperson, N. Burke to speak about Bill 40 updates as well as other important topics.

N. Burke explained that he would be addressing the following 3 topics:

1. Bill 40
2. MSC process
3. Confirmation of good practices in the School Board

1) Bill 40

N. Burke noted the following:

- The LBPSB Council of Commissioners is aligned with QESBA with respect to Bill 40
- Social Representation is the primary position
- Right as a Community to control and manage our Educational Institutions
- There is an assumption that the Minister has been advised that the original Bill could be challenged in court
- The Minister will decide what the GBs will report on and how
- Under this model, the DG will become the official spokesperson and will be the person that the Minister speaks to

Concerns about the proposed Bill include:

- a. Artificial Universal Suffrage
- b. Minister will have veto powers over decisions at Board of Directors level
- c. DG as the spokesperson
- d. Possible internal conflicts of interest

There is an assumption that the Ministry received legal advice and asked the writers of the Bill to add in the right to vote for representation on the proposed Service Center Boards.

QESBA presented their brief on Nov. 4, 2019 making the following points:

- 1) Cancel Bill 40 and start over
- 2) DG of Election deemed the Bill undemocratic
- 3) Exempt the English system (leave as is)

N. Burke reported that during the hearings, he emphasized that there are over 300 parents involved in the LBPSB community.

It was noted that the model of the proposed service Centers is like that of a corporate model of a Board of Directors.

2) MSC Process

N. Burke reported the following regarding MSC:

- The MSC process is well underway
- N. Burke and T. Rhymes have attended 4 Town Halls on request
- Briefs have started to come in with the deadline for submission being Nov. 15, 2019
- MSC hearings will take place on Nov. 26 and Nov. 27
- Priority will be given to GBs who wish to present

3) Confirmation of good practices in the School Board

N. Burke noted that there is a lot of concern regarding the announcement of the trusteeship of the EMSB. He assured everyone that there are no similar issues at LBPSB.

9. Business Arising

9.1. Date for Joint Subcommittee Meeting (Tentatively November 21)

The acting Chair mentioned that a Joint Subcommittee Meeting is in the works to tentatively take place on November 21. C. Bazos pointed out that it was difficult to choose a date as there are many schools holding parent teacher interview in November. The Advisory is waiting to confirm the use of the boardroom. A presentation to take place that evening is in the works. A potential topic to be presented is vaping. Details will be confirmed shortly.

9.2. Election of Parent Representative - Green Committee

It was reported that LBPSB Council passed a resolution allowing for both a PC Rep and Alt to be on all Council Committees except for the Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC).

C. Bazos invited S. Bhargava to discuss the composition of the Green Committee. He noted that one parent, one teacher, one student, one administrator and three commissioners sit on this committee. The committee will meet approximately four times per year. S. Bhargava mentioned that the PC would need to elect a Rep to the Green Committee.

C. Bazos invited Reps to put forth their nominations to be on the committee. J. Taube nominated L. Dalterio. L. Dalterio accepted the nomination. C. Bazos asked if there were any other nominations. There being no other nominations, L. Dalterio was acclaimed.

At this point in the meeting, the acting Chair called for a motion for the meeting to be extended until 9:35. The motion was seconded by J. Doan and was carried unanimously.

J. Doan proposed a motion to add subsections 9.6 EPCA and 9.7 PEF to section 9. Business Arising under External Communication to the agenda. The motion was carried unanimously.

9.3. Student Ombudsman Consultation

C. Bazos invited G. Dugré to speak to this item on the agenda.

G. Dugré explained that in late August 2019, the search for candidates to fill the student Ombudsperson position began. 17 candidates applied and 4 candidates were interviewed. One Ombudsperson, as well as two substitutes were hired.

G. Dugré outlined the Board's Complaint Examination Procedure which can be found on the LBPSB website, under Policies and By-Laws.

It was noted that the PC will be submitting their comments regarding the Student Ombudsperson Consultation.

9.4. Communication Reminders

It was emphasized that Rep/Alts should change their BASECAMP titles to include whether they are a Rep or an Alt, their name and school. Members were reminded to keep all discussions on BASECAMP respectful.

9.5. Subcommittee Updates

9.5.1. Ad hoc Sub – Internal Rules and Procedures

C. Bazos invited the Chairs of the Subcommittees to provide a verbal report. It was noted that the Internal Rules and Procedures Subcommittee did not have anything to report at this time.

9.5.2. Ad hoc Sub – Environmental Awareness

S. Bhargava mentioned that last year the committee worked on sample Resolutions on Environmental Awareness to bring to the GBs.

It was noted that for example on Pizza lunch days, compostable or reusable plates could be used.

He mentioned that the subcommittee is to create a recycling survey for schools, which could potentially be distributed online. He indicated that Green committees are being formed at some schools. He noted that the City of Pointe-Claire has been invited to speak to students at St. Thomas about waste management. It was suggested that schools be encouraged to discontinue the use styrofoam and non-recyclable material. With the proposed ban on single use plastics by 2021, S. Bhargava pointed out that at St. Thomas Staff Council, the GB and Home and School were all consulted and a decision was made to ban the sale of bottled water at the school despite the fact that it raises a substantial amount of funds.

9.5.3. Ad hoc Sub – Policy on Major School Change

C. Bazos reported that the MSC subcommittee has not met yet.

9.5.4. Ad hoc Sub – Rental Facilities

The acting Chair noted that the Rental facilities subcommittee had not met yet.

9.5.5. Ad hoc Sub – Marketing

C. Bazos invited J. Doan to speak to this item on the agenda.

He first spoke about the LBPSB Marketing Committee and welcomed C. Eaton as the new Rep. J. Doan reported that J. Valenti was invited to speak to the committee and share his story about how he helped increase enrollment at his child's school. It was mentioned that the marketing committee will help get marketing materials ready prior to Open Houses.

It was pointed out that the PC Ad Hoc Marketing Subcommittee met on Nov. 6th and spoke about their mandate. J. Valenti has a vision to produce a template to go to each school's GB with the intention of it being circulated to local daycares. It was noted that the report will be posted on BASECAMP. L. Dalterio extended thanks to J. Doan for allowing both J. Joseph and herself to attend the LBPSB Marketing Committee.

9.5.6. Ad hoc Sub – Bill 40

C. Bazos mentioned that she would consult with the Chair with respect to both Bill 40 and the MSC Subcommittee.

9.6. EPCA

C. Bazos invited D. Odubayo to speak to this item on the agenda. D. Odubayo explained that even though he no longer has a child attending school in the School Board, he is still able to complete his mandate on EPCA as a Director representing the LBPSB PC. He emphasized that in the English system, we can be very proud of our high graduation rates, community cohesion and inclusion model.

Under the proposed Bill 40, it is felt that EPCA may become irrelevant and that the PCs will have less decision making powers. D. Odubayo asked Reps and Alts how they think that Bill 40 will affect their children.

He emphasized that EPCA will survey parents across the province. He invited Reps/Alts to consult BASECAMP regarding Bill 40 discussions. He underscored the fact that EPCA does not want to see graduation rates decrease.

9.7. PEF

Upcoming events include:

1. November 10, 2019- Montreal Alouettes Playoff Game
2. November 12, 2019- Montreal Canadiens vs Columbus Blue Jackets

10. Commissioners Representing Parents' Committee Q & A

C. Bazos invited PC members to pose any questions they had to any of the CRPCs.

J. Doan reported that Council is gearing up for MSC. Several briefs have been received. Workshops for Commissioners will take place after the MSC hearings.

11. Further Questions from the Public

C. Bazos invited members of the public to pose their questions

The following comments were made:

- The Special Needs Advisory group representing students with Special Needs in the French system, insisted that there be a provision within Bill 40 for someone on the proposed Service Centre Board to represent students with Special Needs.
- Overall voter turnout for the last School Board election was low
- A request was made to post Correspondence sent from the public

12. Varia

- S. Lazaro commented that there seems to be a loophole regarding Google Hangouts with Google Drive, as it is public and not monitored. It was mentioned that there is an option for the school Board to shut it down, as they have done in the CSMB.

At this point in the meeting, the acting Chair called for a motion to extend the meeting. It was moved by L. Podgurny that the meeting be extended by 10 minutes. The majority was in favor, one member was opposed, no abstentions were noted. The motion was carried.

She proceeded to explain that there have been incidents where inappropriate content has been received by students and she noted that law enforcement has gotten involved and she implored the School Board to close the Google hangouts option. C. Bazos emphasized that the topic needs to go to the Advisory and will be discussed at a later date. T. Rhymes noted that at the Elementary level, Google Hangouts is restricted, but is open at the high school level.

- It was emphasized by a Parent Rep that teachers have been finding the extra recess to be an issue, in part because it takes many students a considerable amount of time to get ready to go outdoors
- C. Bazos invited parents to initiate posts on BASECAMP if they have any concerns about any issues
- It was suggested the perhaps this matter could be addressed at the upcoming Joint Subcommittee meeting
- A comment was made about the timeline with respect to submitting a brief to the MSC Consultations. Considering the fact that briefs are due on Nov. 15, it is most likely not feasible for the MSC subcommittee to create a brief.
- Reps/Alts were asked to please include the subcommittee meeting dates on the BASECAMP calendar
- T. Rhymes reported that on Friday Nov. 1, 2019 we experienced a bad storm and general power failures, some of which affected schools in the Board. He noted that if the power goes out during the day, elementary schools must remain open. He emphasized that when the message went out to parents, positive feedback was received.
- C. Eaton indicated that the deadline for Reps/Alts to submit blurbs for the PC Newsletter is November 15, 2019

13. Adjournment

It moved by S. Warren to adjourn the meeting at 9:45pm. 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		
Beurling Academy	Jay Taube	
*Birchwood	Diandra Yoselewk	
*Children's World	Susan Mintzberg	
*Christmas Park	Cassandra Bazos	
*Clearpoint	Marc Lucke	
*Dorset	Betty Cindric	
Dorval		
*Edgewater		
*Evergreen		
*Forest Hill Jr		
Forest Hill Sr		
John Rennie		Mike Wilson
Kingsdale		
Lakeside Academy	Helene Charbonneau	
*Lasalle Community Comprehensive	Sonya Fiocco	
Lasalle Jr		
*LasalleSr	Christopher Eaton	
Lindsay Place	Melanie D'Lima	
MacDonald	Todd Nelson	Kristoffer de Forest
*Maple Grove	Ashley McLellan	
Margaret Manson	Nadia Iacino	Mark Michel
*Mount Pleasant		
Pierre Elliott Trudeau		Mike Klaiman
Pierrefonds Comprehensive		Marcus Hamaker
Riverview	Ariana Winn	Linda Dalterio
Sherbrooke Academy Jr.		
*Sherbrooke Academy Sr.	Scott Henderson	
*Springdale		
St. Anthony		
St. Charles	Jason Doan	
*St. Edmund	Shauna Spear	
St. John Fisher Jr	Naomi Proctor	
St. John Fisher Sr	Sarah Campeau	
St. Patrick	Doug Bentley	Michael Barron
St. Thomas	Sharad Bhargava	Phil Caetano
*Sunshine Academy		
Terry Fox	Brenda Tremellen	
Verdun		
Westpark	Alaina Gross	Michelle Sternszus
Westwood Jr		
Westwood Sr	Dan Rassi	
Wilder Penfield	Len Podgurny	
SNAC	Lisa Mancini	Susana Lazaro
CRPC Designated by SNAC		N/A

Other distinguished attendees:

Thomas Rhymes (Administration)
 Noel Burke (Chair, Council of Commissioners)
 Genvieve Dupre (Secretary General)
 Bobbi Brown (Outgoing EPCA Director)

Chris Eustace (public)
 Dayo Odubayo (public)

31/48 Member Schools + SNAC Represented

*Representative or Alternate unconfirmed