

**PARENTS' COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**THURSDAY, November 5, 2020**  
**7:00 P.M., ONLINE (ZOOM)**



**AGENDA**

Please make sure you sign-in upon arrival

1. Call to Order
2. Word from the Chair
3. Approval of the Agenda
4. Correspondence
5. Questions from the Public
6. Communications Platforms & Updates
7. Business Arising
  - 7.1. Covid-19 Check-In & Discussion
    - 7.1.1. Breakout Room Discussions
      - 7.1.1.1. Back to School - Lessons Learned
      - 7.1.1.2. Current Challenges
    - 7.1.2. Update from Administration
  - 7.2. Bill 40 Status Update
  - 7.3. EPCA Check-In and Update
  - 7.4. Subcommittee Summaries
  - 7.5. Internal Rules Review
  - 7.6. GREEN Environment
  - 7.7. Intercultural
8. New Business
  - 8.1. Modification to School Calendar: 3 Additional PED Days
  - 8.2. Naming Discussion & Resolution
  - 8.3. Priorities for the 2020-21 School Year
9. Varia
10. Adjournment

**Parents` Committee MEETING**  
**THURSDAY, November 5, 2020**  
**7:00 P.M., ONLINE (Zoom)**

1. Call to Order

S. Ross called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm. Quorum was established with 40 member schools out of 47 LBPSB schools as well as SNAC being in attendance.

2. Word from the Chair

S. Ross welcomed all participants and noted that the meeting might be a bit lengthy. He thanked T. Rhymes for participating. He mentioned that discussions at meetings are encouraged. It was noted that there will be an attempt to go over communication platforms. S. Ross requested that Reps/Alts go into the participant's field and rename themselves. He emphasized that it is a challenge when people do not list themselves properly.

S. Ross advised participants that the Vice-Chair and the Secretary had been named as co-hosts and that they would be managing the messages coming into the chat feature. He spoke to the challenges of going through the pandemic and that things would be a bit more lenient given the circumstances.

S. Ross highlighted pertinent sections of Article 192 of the Education Act and encouraged Rep/Alts to read it.

The PC's main mandate is to promote parental participation, give advice on certain matters and to discuss issues affecting the whole School board. He noted that there are 94 Reps/Alts and that attendance for the recent Regional Subcommittee meeting was a bit disappointing and hoped that participation would increase in the future.

S. Ross outlined some of the main differences between the PC and the Regional Subcommittees as follows:

The PC

- Mandate to promote parental participation
- Typically meets once per month
- Issues discussed are centered around School Board policies and stretch beyond the scope of each school
- School Board is required by law to ask for feedback from the PC on certain consultations
- Designed to give parents a voice
- Often sub-committees are formed in order to delve deeper into issues

Regional Subcommittees

- Regional Standing Subcommittees typically meet every second month
- Discuss the GB Calendar (ie. What the consultations are about as well as the timeline involved)
- Provide an opportunity to talk about what is happening at different schools in the region
- Chairs of Regional Subcommittees can act as a resource to GB Chairs

It was decided that this structure be re-instated in order to have engagement with Regional Directors.

The Chair noted that the Regional Directors will be participating in the November 19<sup>th</sup> Regional Subcommittee meeting. However, they are not required to provide a report. He emphasized that all school principals report to the Regional Directors.

S. Ross explained that Reps/Alts will be receiving an invitation to participate via BASECAMP. He noted that typically a guest speaker would be scheduled during the first half of the meeting with a breakout session taking place during the second half. S. Ross reached out to members in Region 1 as well as both Reps and Alts and encouraged them to participate in Regional meetings. Reference was made to a document listing all LBPSB schools by region.

3. Approval of the Agenda

S. Ross pointed out that an updated version of the agenda could be found in the meeting kit. He called for a motion to approve the agenda. It was moved by S.L. Dawson to approve the agenda. The motion was seconded by M. Lucke and was carried unanimously. It was clarified that an Alternate Parent Rep may vote only in the absence of a Parent Rep.

4. Correspondence

The Chair pointed out that the meeting kits are archived until the next meeting. It was mentioned that approval of the AGA minutes appeared as an item on the original agenda but was removed, and that they will be approved at the next meeting.

5. Questions from the Public

The Chair invited members of the public to ask questions. It was noted that during the last School Board elections, the PC held an evening to give the opportunity to candidates (for the position of Chair and Commissioners) to speak with parents of the LBPSB. An inquiry was made as to whether such an evening would be organized once an announcement is made by the government regarding the rescheduling of the School Board elections.

S. Ross responded that the intention is for the PC to host a Meet the Candidates evening. He indicated that a rough format had been created, but is now on hold. Reference was made to an email sent to the PC and Advisory regarding anti-racism.

A question was asked regarding if info sent to the PC Advisory is posted on BASECAMP. S. Ross explained that information is not automatically posted on BASECAMP and that it is at the discretion of the Chair. He emphasized that it depended if the topic pertained to the PC agenda.

6. Communications Platforms & Updates

S. Ross noted that there are essentially four communication platforms used by the PC which are as follows:

1. Email
2. BASECAMP
3. Facebook
4. PC Website

1. Email- "Which account should I use?"

- Personal email addresses will only be used for BASECAMP
- Every Rep/Alt should familiarize themselves with their school GAFE account. The PC will only send info (meeting notices, invitations, etc...) to the PC GAFE account.
- These email addresses will be published on the school website. Reps/Alts are encouraged to check the GAFE account or have it forward to their personal account. Admin and Council will send emails to this account.
- The email address starts off with the name of the school, followed by parent rep or parent rep alternate @lbpearson.ca
- Every GAFE email has been reset. GB accounts can be reset by the PC Chair as well.
- Reps/Alts are invited to contact the PC Chair in the event that they need help to reset their account

2. BASECAMP – "What is the Point?"

- BASECAMP is used for online discussions
- BASECAMP can be used as a resource. There is tremendous knowledge in the PC (many Reps/Alts can help).
- Often topics are started on BASECAMP so that members can weigh in
- Used for online e-votes. (PC e-votes are permitted. Consult the Internal Rules)
- Project folders are all listed on BASECAMP

3. Facebook

- Used to promote upcoming meetings/webinars/special events etc...
- The PC Facebook page is being updated as often as possible
- Many LBPSB parents have joined the PC Facebook page
- Reps/Alts will be invited to send S. Campeau info about their schools and a Marketing project thread will be created for this purpose

4. PC Website

- Has been updated
- Meeting agendas will be posted here
- Parent Rep/Alt list has been updated
- A committee objective is to help parents familiarize themselves with who is up for election. (The PC wants to equally represent all candidates).
- The first marketing Subcommittee meeting is scheduled for November 23, 2020 online. Reps/Alts were invited to join the subcommittee meeting.
- Reps/Alts were encouraged to check the PC Calendar re/upcoming meetings

7. Business Arising

S. Ross announced that seven Breakouts rooms would be created for discussions with eight to nine participants in each room. The discussion period would last for approximately ten minutes.

7.1. Covid-19 Check-In & Discussion

7.1.1. Breakout Room Discussions

7.1.1.1. Back to School - Lessons Learned

7.1.1.2. Current Challenges

After the ten-minute Breakout discussions finished, The Chair invited all participants back to the main meeting and asked for a spokesperson from each Breakout group to highlight the discussions that took place. The following is a summary of the main points discussed:

- Parents were generally happy with the level of communication with Admin
- Some expressed concern about gatherings of students and parents at pick up times
- Implementation of the "Hop Hop" App for pick up- should the GB have to approve the use of "Hop Hop"? (If there is an expense to parents then the GB would have to discuss it, but if the daycare covers the cost then they do not).

- Parents were surprised to receive information about a voluntary research study regarding talking blood samples from students
- Mental Health issues at the high school level were discussed
- Concerns were expressed regarding the use and access to technology
- Discussions took place surrounding the topic of hand sanitizers – Which products are used?
- Some pointed out that there appears to be no standardized messaging with respect to communications and Covid-19. Each school is sending out different information, some of it vague. Suggestion that a memo be created to explain to parents which protocols are being followed.
- Mask wearing was examined – noticing that some parents encourage masks for their children, while some do not
- Discussion about whether teachers should encourage students to wear masks
- One schools' GB put together a letter to send to parents regarding masks
- Topic raised regarding several different online homework platforms being use
- Discussions regarding how ventilation will work in the winter when opening windows may be problematic
- Appreciation was expressed for teachers, and how students and teachers have been co-operating well during these challenging times
- Concerns were expressed about the inconsistency of mask wearing and also school entry plans
- Topic of how mask wearing on school buses is handled and also the use of a school bus for more than one school was brought up
- Logistics of classroom bubbles and how improvements could help was discussed

#### 7.1.2. Update from Administration

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

T. Rhymes reported that the School Board has done well thanks to great collaboration. He pointed out that only 20 classes in the School Board have been closed so far. He addressed the concerns of parents regarding communications and emphasized that a clear set of letters with items that need to be shared have been sent to parents. The school must communicate with parents if there is a case in a bubble. Public health is notified as well. He indicated that as soon as a positive case is determined, a checklist of what has to be sent out is examined. T. Rhymes emphasized that considering the fact that the circulation of fresh air has been recommended, it will be important for everyone to get accustomed to cooler classrooms. He explained that public health recommends opening 2 classrooms windows – six inches each (one in front of the class and one in back) for a period of fifteen minutes per hour. He mentioned that portable ventilation will not be a substitute for open windows. Regarding bubbles on PED days- T. Rhymes noted that the School Board is limited as to how much daycare students can be bubbled. T. Rhymes pointed out that school management systems are currently being used- Google Classrooms for Grades 3 and up, and See Saw for Grade 2 and under.

S. Ross the invited Reps/Alts to ask questions:

Q. Is there a plan to use plug in heating in classrooms in the winter months?

A. We do not anticipate that by opening windows in a classroom for 15 minutes an hour that it will result in freezing anyone out. In order to heat a classroom, very large heaters would be needed.

It was clarified that at PCHS, given that there are no windows, mechanical ventilation is in place.

Q. Google Classroom Guardian is a great tool for parents which provides updates on a student's courses and work. Are they being used at the Elementary level?

A. A follow-up will be done

Q. Parents have been receiving form letters about everything from online learning, volunteers, hot lunches, photographers, etc... There seems to be inconsistencies. What are the School Board directives regarding what is currently allowed to take place in schools?

A. The School Board is being faced with significant restrictions as far as volunteers are concerned. In terms of volunteers who are permitted at this time, CLC volunteers are allowed to be in a school building. Arts and Culture in Schools Program presenters are permitted. Schools were given a certain degree of latitude. In terms of hot lunches and fundraisers, schools have the right to decide whether or not they want them, but clear protocols must be followed at all times.

With reference to letters being sent home, they are not necessarily form letters, however the letters are similar, so there may appear to be inconsistencies. This is due to the fact that not every case is the same. The core communication remains the same however.

Q. What is the typical PED Day approach?

A. There are a limit in the number of bubbles at the daycares, they are currently having a tough time keeping each class separate – there are not enough personnel.

Each class bubble can be in the same room as another class bubble if space permits and if they are distanced. Daycare instructors maintain a distance.

S. Ross thanked T. Rhymes and emphasized that this exchange is the perfect example of how to utilize a BASECAMP discussion. More questions can be asked on this platform.

7.2. Bill 40 Status Update

The Chair invited S. Bhargava to provide a Bill 40 Status Update. S. Bhargava informed everyone that the Bill 40 injunction had been accepted, therefore English School Boards remain intact for now. School Board elections were to take place on November 1, 2020 however they were postponed due to the pandemic.

At this time, a new date has not been announced. Of the 12 Electoral Divisions in the LBPSB, there were 9 of them where a Commissioner was acclaimed. For the moment, the current Commissioners in Wards 2, 3 and 4 will continue to represent those school communities. As well, the current Chair will continue until such time as the elections take place. The next Council meeting is scheduled for Monday, November 9, 2020 when Commissioners who were acclaimed, as well as elected Parent Commissioners will be sworn in.

7.3. EPCA Check-In and Update

S. Ross invited G. Piggins and D. Bentley to speak to this item on the agenda.

G. Piggins reported that there has been no official meeting yet this school year. D. Bentley noted that he has not been installed as an EPCA Director yet. It was emphasized that EPCA has the ear of the government and that the President meets with the government on a regular basis. With Bill 40 being suspended, EPCA is in a better position right now. The EPCA AGA will take place on November 28, 2020.

*At this point in the meeting S. Ross moved to extend the meeting for an extra fifteen minutes from 9:30 to 9:45 pm. The motion was seconded by K. de Forest. The majority was in favor, none were opposed, and two abstentions were noted. The motion was carried.*

7.4. Subcommittee Summaries

S. Ross noted that a few brief summaries on subcommittee activities would be given.

7.5. Internal Rules Review

The following items were highlighted:

- The Internal Rules Subcommittee met twice
- Notes from last year were looked at and some terms and language may be updated
- Suggestion from Reps/Alts were addressed and the revised version will be posted on BASECAMP prior to the next PC meeting

7.6. GREEN Environment

S. Ross invited S. Bhargava to speak to this item on the agenda.

It was reported that there are seven people on the Subcommittee. The first meeting was held and an initial list of action items was created.

A questionnaire for schools to complete was put together.

S. Bhargava noted that it would be beneficial to get an idea about what all the schools are doing as far as Green activities are concerned. He explained to Reps/Alts that it would be a good idea to propose to EPCA to lobby the government to put Green components into the curriculum. He indicated that he would like to see the School Board include Green initiatives in its 5-year plan. It was reported that the Green Committee will be preparing a letter to be presented to the PC in this regard. The Subcommittee would like the PC to ask the School Board to show the sustainability issues covered in the 5-year plan. Included in the meeting kit was a draft of the "School Environmental Activities Survey", which is comprised of a series of questions for schools to complete. The survey would be sent to each GB Chair and Parent Rep to be filled in together.

It was moved by D. Bentley to approve the draft of the "School Environmental Activities Survey" to be sent to Parent Reps and GB Chairs.

The Chair invited members to discuss the survey. It was noted that not every GB Chair or Rep may necessarily be aware of the environmental activities taking place in the school. It was suggested that potentially the survey could be included on GB agendas and sent out in meeting kits, to be completed at a GB meeting with Admin, Staff and Parent members all weighing in. It was suggested that the option- "I don't know" be removed from the survey. An inquiry was made as to whether or not there would be a space on the survey to fill in a school's name. The answer was no. If it is sent to the school's email address, the subcommittee would know who it's going to and who is completing it. It was suggested that the document be saved in pdf format as it would be easier to distribute to GBs.

D. Bentley accepted the friendly amendment to include the creation of a pdf version of the survey. It was emphasized that the subcommittee would like to produce a database with a list of Green initiatives that schools are participating in. The motion was then seconded by A. Charszan and was carried unanimously.

#### 7.7. Intercultural

S. Ross invited S. Bhargava to speak to this item on the agenda. S. Bhargava explained that the composition of the committee has not been finalized and that the new committee has not met yet. He asked Reps/Alts if a Statement regarding Land Acknowledgment was something that their GBs were including at their meetings. He noted that a Statement of Land Acknowledgement recognizes reconciliation and encouraged Reps/Alts to consider speaking with their GBs about including it at their meetings. It was pointed out that a revised land acknowledgement statement was available and was based on feedback from the community. T. Rhymes noted that this is the version that school principals have received. GBs can hold a vote to officially include the land acknowledgement statement if they wish to do so. They may use whichever version they want to, but it was suggested for the sake of consistency that the version that principals received be used. S. Bhargava indicated to Reps/Alts that he and L. Mancini are part of the LBPSB Task Force on Equality and Inclusivity and he invited Reps/Alts to share their experiences with the Task Force. More details can be found by going on the LBPSB website, scrolling to the Task Force section under the Council of Commissioners tab.

#### 8. New Business

##### 8.1. Modification to School Calendar: 3 Additional PED Days

S. Ross invited T. Rhymes to speak to this item on the agenda. T. Rhymes pointed out that the Ministry of Education has recently revised the school calendar for 2020-2021 lowering the amount of teaching days down to 177, by including 3 additional professional days. Currently negotiations with unions are taking place to determine which days these will be. The Ministry has not released any specific details. He emphasized that shortly, each GB will be asked to approve a modified school calendar.

##### 8.2. Naming Discussion & Resolution

S. Ross invited S. Bhargava to speak to this item on the agenda. S. Bhargava noted that in September of 2021, St. Thomas will be moving into the Lindsay Place building and the two Adult/Vocational Centres will be moving into the St. Thomas building. He mentioned that he put forward a resolution in response to the Name Consultation, which was included in the meeting kit. He explained that the School Board established a Task Force on Equality and Inclusivity. It was emphasized that within the LBPSB territory, there are no centres named after a minority. It was suggested that the two Adult/Vocational Centers consider this when they move.

It was moved by S. Bhargava that the LBPSB Parent Committee recommend that in line with LBPSB's anti-racism work, that the next school and/or centre to be established, be named after a Montrealer from a minority and disenfranchised community. The motion was seconded by M. Lucke.

It was noted that Council had made a recommendation that the two Adult/Vocational centers be named after Judge Lindsay H. Place. S. Bhargava pointed out that he voted against the Council's resolution.

T. Rhymes explained the process – Council names the Centre and must solicit the GB's preference, but the final decision is made by Council. A suggestion was made that perhaps the Centre could be named after a West Islander from a minority community. S. Bhargava did not accept this as a friendly amendment.

*At this point in the meeting, S. Ross asked for an extension of an additional fifteen minutes to the meeting for an end time of 10:00pm. The motion was seconded by S. Campeau. The majority was in favor, none were opposed, and two abstentions were noted. The motion was carried.*

It was noted that the resolution was left vague on purpose. It was moved by S. Bhargava to adopt the abovementioned resolution. The motion was seconded by L. Mancini and was carried unanimously. It was emphasized that this resolution goes against Council's recommendation.

##### 8.3. Priorities for the 2020-21 School Year

S. Ross referred to a survey sent out to Rep/Alts asking respondents to prioritize their choices for guest speakers. He noted that 19 responses were received. Some of the topics of interest include:

- Management of Covid-19
- Mental Health and coping during these Pandemic times
- Expansion of Online Platforms
- Racial Matters/Issues

S. Ross explained that the PC would be discussing these issues and that presenters/topics would be selected. He mentioned that the PC meeting schedule as well as the PC Advisory meeting schedule will be posted in the BASECAMP Calendar. He noted that priorities may change throughout the year.

#### 9. Varia

S. Ross invited Reps/Alts to present any varia that they may have. The following was highlighted:

- SNAC Online Parent Presentation by Dr. Isabelle Hénault on Sexuality Education and Teens with Autism Spectrum Disorder will take place on November 25, 2020 at 7:00 pm by ZOOM- for more info consult the SNAC website
- Council is in limbo until such time as they meet on November 9, 2020 and Committee compositions are established
- Council has been given all contact info for PC Reps who have been elected to Council Subcommittees and Reps should be receiving information regarding upcoming meeting dates shortly

S. Ross reminded Reps/Alts that the next Regional Subcommittee meeting would be taking place on November 19, 2020 online. The first part of the meeting will consist of GB training and will be open to all GB members. Details will be sent out to GB Chairs/Parent Reps. Unlike other years, since the training will take place online, there will be no space restrictions.

T. Rhymes clarified that the number of current active cases in the schools on the island of Montreal is 438. The next PC meeting is scheduled for December 3, 2020.

#### 10. Adjournment

It was moved by S. Ross to adjourn the meeting at 10:00pm. The motion was seconded by L. Dalterio.

Respectfully submitted by  
Barbara Schnider  
Recording Secretary

Attendance Report		
Member School	Parent Rep Present	Alternate Rep Present
Allion	Annette Banton	
Beacon Hill	Jeremy Asch	
Beaconsfield	Ovidiu Burlec	
Beechwood	Orley Pinchuck	Diandra Yoselevitz
Beurling Academy	Jay Taube	Charline Downer
Birchwood	Derek Kenny	
Children's World	Susan Mintzberg	Mark Calla
*Christmas Park	Lisa Mancini	
Clearpoint		
Dorset		
Dorval	Patricia Ottoni	
Edgewater	Sherry-Lee Dawson	Melissa Nolet
*Evergreen	Melinda Paradis	
Forest Hill Jr		
Forest Hill Sr	Tanja Minisini	Richard Thorpe
John Rennie	Namta Gupta	Shane Ross
Kingsdale	Greg Piggins	Adam Feldstain
Lakeside Academy		Helene Charbonneau
Lasalle Community Comprehensive	Sonya Fiocco	
Lasalle Jr		
LasalleSr	France Henry	
Lindsay Place	Eric Schultz	
MacDonald	Kristoffer de Forest	
Maple Grove	Ashley McLellan	Sarah Fortin
Margaret Manson	Anthony Morello	Mark Michel
*Mount Pleasant		
Pierre Elliott Trudeau	Wendy Eet	
Pierrefonds Comprehensive	Marcus Hamaker	Greg Piggins
Riverview	Linda Dalterio	
Sherbrooke Academy Jr.	David Anthony Barbiero	Deniese Peirera
Sherbrooke Academy Sr.	Miki Zarwanitze	
*Soulange		
Springdale		Steven Brodeur
St. Anthony	Shane Ross	
St. Charles		Steven Orenbach
St. Edmund		
St. John Fisher Jr	Christina Corey	Nadia Lawland
St. John Fisher Sr	Sarah Campeau	Christina Forest
St. Patrick	Doug Bently	Michael Barron
St. Thomas	Sharad Bhargava	Adam Davies
Sunshine Academy	Leah Lobaton	
Terry Fox	Lillian Jasinski	Brenda Tremellen
Verdun	Alicia Mancini	Mike Pomerleau
Westpark	Alaina Gross	
Westwood Jr	Tanja Minisini	
*Westwood Sr	Tanja Minisini	
Wilder Penfield	Onnig Kouyoumdjian	
SNAC	Lisa Mancini	
CRPC Designated by SNAC	Suzanna Lazaro	N/A

**Other distinguished attendees:**

Barbara Schnider (Minute R)  
Thomas Rhymes (Administration)

Chris Eustace (public)  
Joanne Malowany (Administration)  
**40/48 Member Schools + SNAC Represented**