

**PARENTS' COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**THURSDAY, December 3, 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. Approval of the Minutes
5. Correspondence
6. Questions from the Public
7. Communications
8. Business Arising
  - 8.1. Covid-19 Update from Administration
    - 8.1.1. Holiday Schedule
    - 8.1.2. HEPA Filters
  - 8.2. Ad hoc Subcommittee Summaries
    - 8.2.1. Internal Rules Review
    - 8.2.2. GREEN Environment
  - 8.3. EPCA Check-In and Update
9. New Business
  - 9.1. Anxiety and Covid-19 Breakout
  - 9.2. Budget Explanation & Review
  - 9.3. Environmental Subcommittee Resolution
10. Varia
11. Adjournment

**Parents` Committee MEETING  
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2020  
7:00 P.M., ONLINE (ZOOM)**

1. Call to Order  
S. Ross called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm. Quorum was established with 41 members out of 47 LBPSB schools and SNAC being represented. S. Ross then proceeded to recite the acknowledgement of Mohawk land.
2. Word from the Chair  
S. Ross welcomed all participants and thanked all who have given their time including CRPC's, Council members, Admin. and Reps/Alts. He emphasized that the main mandate of the PC is to promote parental participation and that the Reps/Alts are a great example of this.
3. Approval of the Agenda  
The Chair proposed the following two amendments to the agenda. Under agenda item 9. New Business, item 9.1 would become Anxiety and Covid-19 Breakout and item 9.3 Environmental Subcommittee Resolution would be added. With these proposed changes, S. Ross then called for a motion to approve the amended agenda. It was moved by O. Kouyoumdjian to approve the agenda. The motion was seconded by L. Mancini. S. Ross asked that only those who wished to oppose or abstain indicate their preference by raising their hand. He emphasized that if members do not oppose or abstain, then their votes would be counted as if they approve. None were opposed, and no abstentions were noted. The motion was carried unanimously. The Chair noted that when the meeting moves into the "Questions from the Public" portion, the chat feature would remain open for those Reps/Alts who wished to ask a question, or they may do so live. They may also chose the reaction window. Questions posed by members of the public would be accepted only through the chat feature,
4. Approval of the Minutes  
S. Ross called for any suggested changes to the minutes. There were none. He then called for approval of the minutes. None were opposed, and no abstentions were noted. The minutes were approved unanimously.
5. Correspondence  
S. Ross noted that he that there was no correspondence.
6. Questions from the Public  
S. Ross invited members of the public to ask questions. The following question was posted in the chat feature:  
Q. Has there been any change regarding the publicizing of the meeting minutes?  
A. Until the minutes are approved, they are not published. The MSR is posted on the PC website. For example, the minutes that were approved under item 4. on this agenda will be posted shortly. S. Ross indicated that the Advisory vets the minutes.  
  
The Chair noted that the "Questions from the Public" portions on the agenda have been consolidated from two down to one section and would now be included only at the beginning of the meeting. It was suggested that perhaps the "Question from the Public" section should be placed at the end of the agenda to afford all participants the opportunity to ask questions based on the topics discussed at the meeting. The Chair noted that generally the questions posed do not pertain to the discussions that have taken place during the meeting. He noted that it would be at the discretion of the Chair to change the placement of the question period, however, if an important question were to arise, consideration would be made in order to address it.
7. Communications  
S. Ross invited S. Campeau to speak to this item on the agenda. It was reported that the first Communications Subcommittee meeting had taken place earlier in the week. She reported that the Subcommittee outlined their objectives, focusing on promoting the PC with the goal of trying to reach the entire LBPSB parent community. The Subcommittee would like to enlist the help of the PC in order to achieve this goal. S. Campeau then invited A. McLellan to elaborate. It was emphasized that several digital approaches were explored. Subcommittee members would like to be able to leverage Facebook/Twitter/LinkedIn/Newsletters, etc... in order to reach as many parents as possible. She emphasized that they are open to ideas. S. Campeau then invited D. Bentley to speak. He reiterated that the biggest focus is to engage parents. He noted that the Subcommittee would like to reach out to Home and School Presidents and Governing Board Chairs to encourage them to post their activities on the PC Communications Subcommittee's social media. He suggested that important bullet points extracted from the MSR could serve as a short update to inform parents. D. Bentley invited Reps/Alts to contact the Subcommittee with their ideas and also

asked them to “Like” and “Share” on the Facebook page. He emphasized that most of the discussions take place on Basecamp.

## 8. Business Arising

### 8.1. Covid-19 Update from Administration

S. Ross invited T. Rhymes to speak to this item on the agenda. T. Rhymes thanked the Communications Subcommittee for all of their hard work. He provided the following update:

- Recent announcement by the Government regarding cancellation of Holiday Gatherings
- School Board meets weekly with the Public Health Department of Montreal
- Several schools have cases of Covid-19 with only one school currently experiencing an outbreak
- The situation in schools is stable
- Cases on the island are fairly evenly split between elementary and secondary schools
- Generally speaking cases that appear in schools seem to be connected to workplace outbreaks which then lead to transmission in the home
- School Board has closed some bubbles pre-emptively while awaiting further instructions from public health
- In our School Board the bubble closure model has worked
- Hand sanitizer use is no longer required on the school bus due to the wearing of gloves in the cold weather

#### 8.1.1. Holiday Schedule

S. Ross invited T. Rhymes to speak to this item on the agenda. T. Rhymes reported that an updated holiday schedule was sent to parents. The last day of in-person learning will take place on Wednesday, December 16<sup>th</sup>. Elementary classes will resume on January 4<sup>th</sup>. Secondary on-line classes will run from January 4<sup>th</sup> to January 8<sup>th</sup>. Secondary in-person classes will resume on January 11<sup>th</sup>. It was reported that a communication will be sent home regarding the protocol involved if any family member has symptoms of Covid-19 during the holiday break. It was confirmed that the directives from the government are to be adhered to regarding the fourteen-day quarantine period related to travel over the holidays. It was noted that for students returning from travel, work will be shared on a learning management system and teachers will be checking in several times a week, however there will be no direct instruction during the 14-day quarantine period.

It was clarified that there will be fees associated with Daycare services for the three additional PED days however, daycare services offered to children of essential workers will be free of charge for December 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> only.

#### 8.1.2. HEPA Filters

S. Ross invited T. Rhymes to speak to this item on the agenda. T. Rhymes provided the following update:

- HEPA Filters are being installed school by school. According to the various health organizations the use of HEPA filters is lower down the list of recommendations to help reduce transmission of Covid-19, with masks, open windows and air circulation being at the top of the list
- Air purifiers do not take the place of open windows and open doors
- The School Board has 17 schools that are partially or entirely mechanically ventilated

## 8.2. Ad hoc Subcommittee Summaries

### 8.2.1. Internal Rules Review

S. Ross invited L. Dalterio to speak to this item on the agenda. She referred participants to the document included in the meeting kit and reported that not many changes were made, just small adjustments to the language. The following changes were proposed:

#### **Under Acronyms and Useful Terms- to be added:**

- TAC (Transportation Advisory Committee)
- Digital spaces: Discussion boards, social media, polling forums, document management, and communications systems, etc...
- Hate Speech: any kind of communication in speech, writing or behaviour, that attacks or uses pejorative or discriminatory language with reference to a person or a group on the basis of who they are, in other words, based on their religion, ethnicity, nationality, race, colour, decent, gender or other identity factor.

#### **Under Parents' Committee Advisory**

- The addition of Secretary as a permanent position (rather than an optional one)

#### **Under Section 2- External Reps. Section B. Committees include but are not limited to:**

- Intercultural Advisory Committee
- Programs and Services
- Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC)
- Facilities and Security

- Communications and Marketing
- Safe and Caring Schools
- GREEN Committee

**Under Article IX- Section 1 Standing Subcommittees- There are four Standing Subcommittees:**

- Region 1
- Region 2
- Region 3
- Communications

**Under Section 5 Online Etiquette and Forum Moderation- it was reported that it was felt that some guidelines required strengthening. The following was included:**

- Commenting features on our digital spaces exist to promote constructive discussion within the LBPSB parent community. By commenting/posting, members agree to these principles:
- Be legal
- Be respectful
- Be relevant

*(For further details please refer to the Internal Rules and Procedures document in the meeting kit).*

L. Dalterio stated that the draft of this document indicating the suggested changes was posted on BASECAMP earlier in the week.

S. Ross then called for any proposed changes. There being none, S. Ross moved to accept the revised PC Internal Rules and Procedures. None were opposed and no abstentions were noted. The motion was carried unanimously.

8.2.2. Green Environment

S. Ross invited S. Bhargava to speak to this item on the agenda. He reported that the Subcommittee met on November 25<sup>th</sup> with the resolution (see item 9.3) being reviewed. He invited new members to join. The Subcommittee discussed the completion of the Green Activities Survey and the Resolution referring to a long term sustainability plan from the School Board. The next meeting is scheduled to take place in early January when Subcommittee members will look at environmental issues in our schools and the use of recycled paper. It was reiterated that EPCA has been asked to bring up procurement policies for School Boards related to Green initiatives, Environmental awareness and climate change education.

8.3. EPCA Check-In and Update

S. Ross mentioned that the EPCA AGA had taken place on the weekend prior to this meeting. He invited G. Piggins and D. Bentley to provide an update. The following points were highlighted:

- EPCA is the voice of English parents in Quebec
- Eight English School Boards from across the province are members of EPCA
- EPCA has the ear of both the Education Minister and his aide
- A parent survey has been created to take to the PCs and the GBs gauging the opinion of parents regarding whether they would still like their children to learn remotely on December 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> given that the government has now prohibited holiday gatherings. Once parents weigh in, the President of EPCA can present the survey results to the Minister. The survey has been posted on EPCA's Facebook page.
- Many Google surveys will be sent out in the coming months

9. New Business

S. Ross invited S. Bhargava to provide a short update on Intercultural matters. The following points were highlighted:

- Earlier this year, there were two incidents of racism at two LBPSB high schools
- Council passed a resolution entitled- "Declaration of Anti-Racism and Anti-Discrimination"
- Two co-opted Commissioners were appointed to help with this mandate
- A Task Force (TF) on Equity and Inclusivity was established with members representing Admin., teachers, support staff, parents and members of the community
- The following five subgroups of the Task Force were created: Race and Ethnicities, Religions, Sexualities, Abilities, Genders
- The Task Force is requesting stories from students, families and employees
- Dr. Myrna Lashley was appointed as Chair and spokesperson of the TF
- A controversial text book has been removed
- The TF will look at LBPSB policies and weigh in
- A final report will be presented at the end of June 2021

S. Bhargava added that he is a member of an Amnesty International group looking at the topic of racism. As well he reported that there is a committee called ComECH Quebec (The Committee for the Enhancement of the Curriculum of History of Quebec) looking at the omission of the positive contributions of Quebec's minority communities.

### 9.1. Anxiety & Covid-19 Breakout

S. Ross announced that five Breakout rooms would be created for discussions with ten to eleven participants in each room. The discussion period would last for approximately fifteen minutes. He requested that each Breakout group designate a spokesperson who would then highlight the discussions that took place.

It was suggested that each group base their discussions on the following:

- i. How has the Covid-19 situation affected your mental health and the mental health of your child and immediate family members?
- ii. What types of initiatives has your school implemented in the face of these rising mental health challenges?
- iii. What types of resources and support could you and other LBPSB families benefit from at this time?

The Chair called everyone back to the main meeting and emphasized that this is a very important topic.

The following is a summary of the main points discussed:

- The beginning of the pandemic was tough with no structure and many unknowns
- It was a good decision to re-open schools
- Parents and families are experiencing a lot of stress
- The restrictions are difficult
- Many people are experiencing polarizing affects
- Mindfulness is being practiced at several schools
- Some teachers are asking students how they are doing at the beginning of the day
- Many students have experienced challenges with Zoom sometimes timing out
- One on one Parent Teacher interviews went very well
- In high school in the upper grade levels students have the opportunity to interact in both an in-person and online environment
- Teachers are experiencing a high level of stress

S. Ross thanked all participants for taking the time to have this discussion which provided valuable feedback. He noted that the discussion can continue on Basecamp. He pointed out that in January the PC is looking to invite a guest speaker. He pointed out that parents and students can access resources through LEARN (Leading English Education and Resource Network), a non-profit educational organization with a mandate to serve the English-speaking community of Quebec.

*At this point in the meeting, S. Ross asked Reps/Alts if anyone was opposed to an extension of the meeting by fifteen minutes for an end time of 9:15 pm. None were opposed and no abstentions were noted. The motion was carried unanimously.*

### 9.2. Budget Explanation & Review

S. Ross invited A. Charszan to speak to this item on the agenda. She reported that the PC was allocated \$5000. It was noted that the budget had been posted in the meeting kit. Due to the pandemic, it was emphasized that few funds have been spent this year as the PC meetings have taken place online. A. Charszan reviewed the budget, actuals and expense guidelines. It was pointed out that the PC encourages parents to participate and budgets are set aside to help defer the costs of baby sitting and transportation. A. Charszan reported that an allocation of 1500 dollars usually reserved for holiday meeting refreshments will be dispersed to provide each Rep/Alt with a credit to a restaurant in order to recognize their hard work and dedication. (More information to follow). It was suggested that a section be added under Transportation expenses requesting that Google map routes be submitted with respect to travel expenses).

It moved by A. Charszan to approve the budget as presented. The motion was seconded by L. Dalterio. None were opposed and one abstention was noted. The motion was carried.

### 9.3. Environmental Subcommittee Resolution

S. Ross invited S. Bhargava to speak to this item on agenda. S. Bhargava mentioned that the resolution was shared on BASECAMP as well as in the meeting kit. He invited Reps/Alts to refer to it. It was emphasized that given the environmental initiatives of both the provincial and federal governments that the subcommittee would like the School Board to move in this direction. Discussions ensued with the following comment being made:

- At the present time does the School Board have the necessary resources for such an initiative?
- There are websites available to help calculate carbon footprints
- Recommendation to adjust the date requested in the resolution for the School Board to determine its carbon footprint as the pandemic has presented many challenges
- Suggestion to collect info from one school with a delayed timeline for the other schools
- Proposal to continue the discussion on BASECAMP

S. Ross asked S. Bhargava if he would accept a friendly amendment to the resolution as follows:

*"Be it resolved that the LBPSB Parents' Committee ask the LBPSB to determine its carbon footprint by March 31, 2021 or present a more acceptable time frame, and come up with a 5 year plan to reduce its GHG emissions by May 30, 2021, with the goal of going to net-zero carbon emissions by 2050".*

S. Ross called for approval of the resolution. None were opposed, and eight abstentions were noted. The motion was carried.

10. Varia

S. Ross invited Reps/Alts to present any varia that they may have. The following points were highlighted: It was clarified that daycare services will be provided on the recently added PED days only to those who have been registered throughout the school year. It was confirmed that the parent survey regarding online learning on December 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> has been posted on the EPCA website.

11. Adjournment

It moved by L. Mancini to adjourn the meeting at 9:15 pm. The motion was carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted by  
Barbara Schnider

<b>Attendance Report</b>		
<b>Member School</b>	<b>Parent Rep Present</b>	<b>Alternate Rep Present</b>
Allion	Annette Banton	
Beacon Hill	Jeremy Asch	
Beaconsfield	Ovidiu Burlec	Adrian Leggett
Beechwood	Orley Pinchuck	Diandra Yoselevitz
Beurling Academy	Jay Taube	
Birchwood	Derek Kenny	
Children's World	Susan Mintzberg	
Christmas Park	Lisa Mancini	
Clearpoint	Marc Lucke	Karina Leonard
Dorset		
Dorval	Patricia Ottoni	
Edgewater	Sherry-Lee Dawson	
Evergreen	Melinda Paradis	
Forest Hill Jr	Richard Allen	
Forest Hill Sr	Tanja Minisini	Richard Thorpe
John Rennie		Shane Ross
Kingsdale	Adam Feldstain	Greg Piggins
Lakeside Academy		Helene Charbonneau
Lasalle Community Comprehensive	Sonya Fiocco	
Lasalle Jr	Neil Patel	
LasalleSr	France Henry	
Lindsay Place	Eric Schultz	
MacDonald	Kristoffer de Forest	
Maple Grove	Ashley McLellan	
Margaret Manson	Anthony Morello	Mark Michel
Mount Pleasant	Unknown	
Pierre Elliott Trudeau	Wendy Eeet	
Pierrefonds Community	Greg Piggins	
Riverview	Linda Dalterio	Sara Levis
Sherbrooke Academy Jr.		Deniese Peirera
Sherbrooke Academy Sr.	Miki Zarwanitze	
Soulange	Unknown	
Springdale	Unknown	Steven Brodeur
St. Anthony	Shane Ross	
St. Charles		
St. Edmund		
St. John Fisher Jr	Christina Corey	Nadia Lawland
St. John Fisher Sr	Sarah Campeau	Christina Forest
St. Patrick	Doug Bentley	
St. Thomas	Sharad Bhargava	Adam Davies
Sunshine Academy		
Terry Fox		Brenda Tremellen
Verdun		Mike Pomerleau
Westpark	Alaina Gross	Mark Kashetsky
Westwood Jr	Tanja Minisini	
Westwood Sr	Tanja Minisini	
Wilder Penfield	Onnig Kouyoumdjian	
SNAC	Lisa Mancini	
CRPC Designated by SNAC	Suzanna Lazaro	

**Other distinguished attendees:**

Barbara Schnider (Minute Recorder)  
 Thomas Rhymes (Administration)

Blue shaded field indicates member schools presence @ meeting

Chris Eustace (public)

Joanne Malowany (Administration)

**41/47 Member Schools + SNAC Represented**