

**PARENTS' COMMITTEE MEETING  
THURSDAY, February 11, 2021  
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 & General Update from Administration
  - 8.2. Ad hoc Subcommittees
    - 8.2.1. Environmental Subcommittee Update and Resolution
    - 8.2.2. NEW CONSULTATION: 2021-2022 Budget Consultation (March 31)
  - 8.3. EPCA Check-In and Update
9. New Business
  - 9.1. Discrimination Breakout Discussion
  - 9.2. 2022-2023 School Calendar Options
10. Varia
11. Adjournment

**Parents` Committee MEETING**  
**THURSDAY, February 11, 2021**  
**7:00 P.M., ONLINE (ZOOM)**

1. Call to Order  
S. Ross called the meeting to order at 7:01 pm. Quorum was established with 39 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 expressed the fact that he hoped that everyone enjoyed a break from PC meetings in January. He noted that Admin would provide some interesting updates. S. Ross highlighted the fact that at the December meeting, it was mentioned that there were some issues with some of the GAFE accounts. He pointed out that these issues seem to have been resolved but invited members to contact him if they were still having trouble with their accounts.  
S. Ross reminded participants to change their name in the chat box if necessary as this would aid in the roll call. He added that the meeting was being recorded for the purpose of the minutes and would be deleted shortly. He called attention to the fact that the agenda was fairly light but did make mention of the fact that the LBPSB Budget (2021-2022) was out for consultation. He noted that a topic on the agenda was a Breakout session to discuss discrimination with the intention of presenting some feedback to the School Board at a later date.
3. Approval of the Agenda  
The Chair invited Reps/Alts to review the agenda and propose changes if needed. There were none. S. Ross then called for a motion to approve the agenda. It was moved by L. Mancini to approve the agenda. None were opposed, and no abstentions were noted. The motion was carried unanimously.
4. Approval of the Minutes  
S. Ross called for any suggested changes to the minutes and invited Reps/Alts to verify that the attendance sheet was correct. There were no proposed changes. He then called for approval of the minutes. It was moved by G. Piggins that the minutes be approved. None were opposed, and no abstentions were noted. The minutes were approved unanimously.
5. Correspondence  
S. Ross noted that there were no announcements at this time and that any correspondence received would be added to the kit after the meeting. He invited SNAC Reps to update the PC. It was noted that SNAC is currently working on a response to the LBPSB Budget Consultation, as well there will be an upcoming Autism Conference to be held in the month of April with more information to come. S. Ross asserted that sometimes SNAC Reps post items of interest on BASECAMP. The Chair mentioned that it is not possible to reach everyone but encouraged Reps/Alts to please share information as much as possible. He emphasized that the mandate of the PC is to promote parental involvement and underscored the fact that the direct role of PC Reps is to inform parents. He requested that Reps/Alts try to promote activities.
6. Questions from the Public  
S. Ross invited members of the public to ask questions. The following questions were asked:  
Q. How much is being spent on the challenge to Bill 40? How would rights be affected to negatively impact student achievement?  
A. The Chair responded that the questions were interesting and certainly something to think about.  
Q. Is there any possibility for the PC to have a debate with the candidates for the School Elections as was done seven years ago? At that time, the PC sent the candidates a list of questions which the candidates later debated.  
A. The Chair emphasized that the PC Advisory is planning a Meet the Candidates event with ongoing discussions about the format, etc... At this point, a timeline has not been established as the School Elections are currently on hold. He affirmed that each candidate will be notified by email and that the parent community will receive a communication from the PC.  
Q. How can a non-PC member access the PC agenda?  
A. The Chair pointed out that agendas are posted on the PC website under the "Our Meeting Reports" tab.
7. Communications  
S. Ross invited S. Campeau to speak to this item on the agenda. It was reported that there has been a lot of social media activity recently, especially on Facebook, which had many views. She encouraged Reps/Alts to consult the PC Facebook page. She highlighted the following:
  - LEARN Workshops as well as school events have been promoted
  - Student Registration has been highlighted
  - Ongoing updates to PC website are taking place

S. Campeau noted that she and A. Gross worked together to create a mental health document highlighting the many resources that are available (PC Reps/Alts have been asked to share the link).

- Plans are underway to create a PC newsletter - S. Campeau requested help from the PC including content
- SNAC requested that a small space in the PC newsletter be reserved for SNAC
- Comment that the School Board has been covered in the French Media with regards to maintaining autonomy and the installation of HEPA filters

Summary of discussions from the LBPSB Communications and Marketing Committee include:

- Good opportunity to hear what the School Board plans are to reach out to the community
- New Director of Communications and Community Development D. Becker spoke about revamping the LBPSB website to make it more user friendly while keeping budgetary constraints in mind
- Intention to boost the profile of the School Board in the media
- Formulating an emergency communications response for the public

## 8. Business Arising

### 8.1. Covid-19 & General Update from Administration

S. Ross invited T. Rhymes to speak to this item on the agenda. T. Rhymes expressed his thanks to everyone who has done their part to help keep schools open. Highlights include:

- Everyone is feeling Covid fatigue
- At the time of this meeting, the number of cases in schools has been decreasing
- During the Christmas break the School Board took the opportunity to fully automate the Covid reporting process with the occasional update to the letter being necessary
- Based on a small pilot project involving five schools in the east end, it was determined that rapid testing is not necessary

The Chair then invited Reps/Alts to ask questions.

Q. Are the Covid cases down in every sector of the School Board?

A. Yes. Elementary, Secondary, and Adult

Q. In Ontario, there were discussions about postponing March Break. Has there been any discussion about postponing March Break here?

A. At one point, there was talk about cancelling it. Then the Ministry decided it would not be cancelled.

### 8.2. Ad hoc Subcommittees

#### 8.2.1. Environmental Subcommittee Update and Resolution

The Chair invited S. Bhargava to speak to this item on the agenda. He named the members of the Environmental Subcommittee and reported that six meetings have taken place this school year so far. He reviewed the mandate of the Subcommittee. S. Bhargava proposed a motion that an extension be given to the Environmental Subcommittee so that they will have until the end of June to complete their work.

S. Bhargava highlighted the following:

- A survey was distributed to GBs with fifteen responses received at the time of this meeting.
- A reminder email will be sent to Parent Reps
- Info will be shared between schools
- A list of environmental questions will be included in the upcoming newsletter
- D. Bentley stated that he will present the resolution asking EPCA to make a request to the Minister of Education that environmental issues be added to the curriculum

The Chair asked if any were opposed. There were none. Two abstentions were noted.

The motion was carried.

#### Mandate of the Subcommittee

- 1) To monitor and push for the implementation of the LBPSBs Sustainability Policy
- 2) To collect parent feedback on environmental issues
- 3) To lobby the government to include climate change education curriculum

The following is a summary of discussions:

- At the subcommittee meeting it was discussed that climate change should be included in the curriculum
- The draft Resolution on Climate Change Education was included in the meeting kit and was read out to the PC
- If passed, this resolution will go on EPCA, and if it is included on EPCAs agenda, then each Director will bring it to their School Boards
- If the School Boards pass it then EPCA will approach the government about including Environmental Education in the curriculum
- Discussions ensued regarding some of wording, including the word "curriculum" with some expressing the importance of maintaining the words "in the curriculum" and some not

- Mention was made with respect to which subject this could be taught under

The Chair then suggested that in the interest of time a friendly amendment could be proposed or that the discussions could continue on or that S. Bhargava could retract the motion and table it. S. Bhargava stated that he would retract the motion with the discussions to continue on BASECAMP. The Chair stated the since the motion had been retracted, he would move on to the next item on agenda.

#### 8.2.2. NEW CONSULTATION: 2021-2022 Budget Consultation (March 31)

S. Ross put forth a motion to strike a subcommittee to present the PC with a proposal by the next PC meeting on March 11<sup>th</sup>.

He asked if there were any opposed. There were none. He asked if there were any abstentions. There were none. The motion was carried. He mentioned that information would be posted on BASECAMP.

#### 8.3. EPCA Check-In and Update

The Chair invited D. Bentley to speak to this item on the agenda.

Highlights include:

- EPCA has been busy and has collaborated with their French counterparts, the FCPQ to develop and launch Parents.Quebec, a portal offering access to scholastic and mental health resources, etc...
- The site was launched in February with ads airing on CJAD
- EPCA has expressed concern that the government has allocated funds for tutoring in the French system but not in the English system
- The President of EPCA was interviewed on various media
- EPCA is co-sponsoring a webinar on March 9, 2021 from 7:00-8:30pm with Ometz, featuring renowned psychologist, author and speaker Dr. Meg Jay entitled: *"Supernormal, touching on the "secret" of resilience"*. This webinar is open to parents across Quebec.
- EPCA will be putting out it first newsletter of the year the week following this meeting
- EPCA stated their positions on Spring Break, Summer School and Back to School 2021
- A survey was distributed with 5000 responses being received so far. The results will be shared on BASECAMP with info to be shared with Governing Boards and Home and School Associations. The deadline to complete the survey is February 15, 2021. The data gathered is anonymous.

Comments on the EPCA report included the following:

- Some had concerns with the questions on this particular survey finding them probing and too personal
- Regarding the funding to support extra tutoring this year, Admin. noted that English Boards have access to resources from LEARN Quebec although they did not receive any of these additional funds
- It was reported that the Ministry will be allocating funds toward tutoring in the English sector

*At 8:27pm, the Chair moved that the meeting be extended until 9:30pm.*

Thirteen were in favour, 12 were opposed, and four abstentions were noted. The motion was carried.

### 9. New Business

#### 9.1. Discrimination Breakout Discussion

S. Ross explained that the members of the PC would be divided up into Breakout rooms in order to discuss the following questions:

- 1) What initiatives at your school are in place to address issues of discrimination and to promote acceptance of diversity?
- 2) Do you feel that the current policies sufficiently address the issue of discrimination at your school?

Members were asked to come back with feedback. Several members commented that the topic was introduced with little notice so that there had not been time to do any research.

The chair acknowledged this and stated that the discussions were a way to get the PCs feet wet on the topic.

He informed members that they were to designate one spokesperson for each of the Breakout rooms.

*At 9:13pm, members were invited to return to the main meeting.*

The following is a summary of the feedback:

- Overall, many parents were unaware of what their schools were doing in order to address these issues
- Initiatives seem to be teacher driven with none being organized Board-wide
- It was felt that more awareness and sensitization is needed
- Increased promotion of initiatives should be highlighted online

The Chair thanked everyone for their participation and stated that he looked forward to continuing the conversation.

9.2. 2022-2023 School Calendar Options

It was moved by L. Dalterio that the meeting be extended by ten minutes in order to cover the remaining topics on the agenda. The Chair asked T. Rhymes whether it was urgent that the School Calendar Options be discussed at this meeting. The response was that it was not urgent. S. Ross noted that the item could therefore be tabled to the March meeting. L. Dalterio then officially withdrew her motion.

10. Varia

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

- Discussion about whether a GB Chair can access a school/School Board Zoom account without their school principal
- Zoom has removed the time limit for PC members

The Chair will review some information that was sent to him which may be added to the meeting kit

11. Adjournment

It moved by L. Dalterio to adjourn the meeting at 9:29 pm. The motion was carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted by,  
Barbara Schnider  
Recording Secretary

<b>Attendance Report</b>		
<b>Member School</b>	<b>Parent Rep Present</b>	<b>Alternate Rep Present</b>
Allion		
Beacon Hill	Jeremy Asch	
Beaconsfield	Ovidiu Burlec	
Beechwood	Orley Pinchuck	Diandra Yoselevitz
Beurling Academy	Jay Taube	
Birchwood		
Children's World	Susan Mintzberg	
Christmas Park	Lisa Mancini	
Clearpoint		Karina Leonard
Dorset		Julie Hanck
Dorval	Patricia Ottoni	
Edgewater	Sherry-Lee Dawson	
Evergreen	Melinda Paradis	
Forest Hill Jr	Richard Allen	
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		
Lasalle Jr		
LasalleSr	France Henry	
Lindsay Place	Eric Schultz	
MacDonald	Kristoffer de Forest	
Maple Grove	Ashley McLellan	
Margaret Manson	Anthony Morello	Mark Michel
Mount Pleasant		
Pierre Elliott Trudeau	Wendy Eeet	
Pierrefonds Comprehensive		Greg Piggins
Riverview	Linda Dalterio	
Sherbrooke Academy Jr.	David Anthony Barbiero	
Sherbrooke Academy Sr.	Miki Zarwanitze	
*Soulange		
Springdale		
St. Anthony	Shane Ross	
St. Charles		Steven Orenbach
St. Edmund		
St. John Fisher Jr	Christina Corey	Nadia Lawand
St. John Fisher Sr	Sarah Campeau	Christina Forest
St. Patrick	Doug Bentley	Michael Barron
St. Thomas	Sharad Bhargava	Adam Davies
Sunshine Academy	Leah Lobaton	
Terry Fox	Lillian Jasinski	Brenda Tremellen
Verdun	Alicia Mancini	
Westpark	Alaina Charszan	
Westwood Jr	Tanja Minisini	
Westwood Sr	Tanja Minisini	
Wilder Penfield	Onnig Kouyoumdjian	
SNAC	Lisa Mancini	Dayna Gampel
CRP SNAC	Suzanna Lazaro	

**Other distinguished attendees:**

Barbara Schnider (Minute R)  
 Thomas Rhymes (Administration)

Blue shaded field indicates member schools presence @ meeting

Chris Eustace (public)

Joanne Malowany (Administration)

**39/47 Member Schools + SNAC Represented**