

PARENTS' COMMITTEE MEETING
THURSDAY, May 6, 2021
6:30 P.M., ONLINE (ZOOM)



AGENDA

Please make sure you sign-in upon arrival

1. Call to Order
2. Approval of the Agenda
3. Approval of the Minutes
4. Questions from the Public
5. Business Arising
 - 5.1. Covid-19 & General Update from Administration
 - 5.2. Ad hoc Subcommittees
 - 5.3. Presentation e-Vote Ratification
 - 5.4. 2022-2023 School Calendar Options
6. New Business
 - 6.1. Teacher's Strike Scenario
7. Varia
8. Adjournment to attend Presentation

Parents` Committee MEETING
THURSDAY, May 6, 2021
6:30 P.M., ONLINE (Zoom)

1. Call to Order
S. Ross called the meeting to order at 6:31 pm. Quorum was established with 29 members out of 47 LBPSB schools and SNAC being represented. S. Ross then proceeded to recite the acknowledgement of Mohawk land.
 2. Approval of the Agenda
The Chair noted that the agenda had been included in the meeting kit and also on the PC website. It was moved by S. Ross to table item #5.4 on the agenda "2022-2023 School Calendar Options" with a commitment to send in a response within a week. The motion was seconded by S. Campeau and was carried unanimously. S. Ross invited PC Reps/Alts to suggest any further changes to the agenda. There being none, it was moved by S. Ross to approve the agenda. The motion was seconded by C. Scheede-Bergdahl. None were opposed, no abstentions were noted. The motion was carried unanimously.
 3. Approval of the Minutes
The Chair noted that a few changes were made since the original copy of the minutes were posted a few days prior. It was noted that J. DiMarco was listed as being in attendance but in fact she was not. The Chair agreed to remove J. DiMarco's name as Chair of SNAC on the attendance page. S. Ross invited PC Reps/Alts to suggest any further changes to the minutes. It was moved by S. Ross to approve the minutes with the change that had been noted. The motion was seconded by M. Zarwanitze. None were opposed, no abstentions were noted. The motion was carried unanimously.
 4. Questions from the Public
S. Ross expressed his apologies to C. Eustace for not finalizing a response to a question posed at the last PC meeting. The Chair noted that the response is currently in draft form and committed to providing it at the next meeting. The Chair acknowledged that the question submitted during the March meeting regarding student success is in fact relevant.
S. Ross then invited the public to pose their questions. The following comments were made:
 - Bill 40 hearings took place between April 14th and 27th with the government being taken to court regarding the constitutionality of Bill 40
 - C. Eustace informed attendees that he sent an email to government officials and will forward it to the PC Advisory as well
 - A comment was made regarding where the tax dollars are going with respect to paying for the court case
 5. Business Arising
 - 5.1. Covid-19 & General Update from Administration
S. Ross pointed out that report was in the kit. He invited T. Rhymes to provide some highlights:
 - In the third wave we started out with a low number of Covid cases in the School Board however a little while ago cases went up a bit
 - As of the time of this meeting there were approximately 4 to 7 cases a day including family cases
 - The School Board is currently using variant protocols. There was a time when dual protocols were being used but once it was determined that 40% of cases were variants, the decision was made to use the variant protocol from that point forward
 - There was recently an outbreak at one elementary school but the cases there have been resolved
 - As of the time of this meeting, one High School had one class bubble which was closed due to transmission. That class bubble is in isolation and the School board will be keeping a close eye on this situation.
 - Appreciation was expressed to all regarding their continued patience given the ongoing situation
 - It was noted that as of the day of the meeting, Health Minister Dubé mentioned the possibility of vaccinating students from 12 to 17 years of age before the school year comes to end
 - The School Board has been anticipating this and has been discussing possible logistics
 - Usually when there is a mass vaccination, it is set up at mass vaccination centers and students are taken there by school bus (eg. H1N1)
 - With Covid-19, complications arise because class bubbles must be respected. The School Board is waiting for more details from the Government regarding how the vaccination roll out for students will ultimately be organized.
- Reps/Alts were then invited to ask questions. They were as follows:

Q. Regarding CO2 testing in classrooms, in one school, the results were only good when the windows and doors were open. Where does the information about the CO2 testing go?

A. The CO2 testing was mandated by the provincial government to gauge the levels in classrooms. It is logical that in a school that is naturally ventilated that when windows are open levels would be lower. Testing was done to verify the CO2 levels measuring the effectiveness of ventilation for the purposes of Covid. It is a good idea to open the windows. The initial reason this was done was to ensure fresh air exchange with respect to Covid.

Q. Has it been discussed to set up to vaccinate students in school gyms?

A. Further details will be communicated from the government. Vaccinations to prevent other illnesses are given at schools on a regular basis.

5.2. Budget Consultation e-Vote Ratification

The Chair proceeded to screen share the results of the Budget Consultation e-Vote. The results were as follows: 19 approved, 8 disagreed, 21 passive abstentions. S. Ross noted that the Budget Consultation response was approved and sent to Council and Administration. The Chair asked Reps/Alts if there were any opposed to the ratification of the e-Vote. None were opposed, no abstentions were noted. The e-Vote ratification was carried unanimously.

The Chair took a moment to explain the e-Voting process. He indicated that if a draft response is shared, then there is a 24-48 hour period given in order for discussions to take place. The sub-committee can then accept any suggestions which they could then modify. The next step is to send out the response for an e-Vote with a deadline to respond within 24 hours. An inquiry was made with regards to the role of the PC Rep/Alt in the voting process. S. Ross explained that during an e-Vote, the PC asks for both the Rep and Alt to vote just to ensure that each school has sent in a vote. If the Rep and Alt both vote, then the Rep's vote will be counted, not both.

A comment was made regarding why the subcommittee did not pause the vote on the Budget Consultation response given that there were not many Reps/Alts who voted to approve the response. The Chair responded that in between discussion and debate, he spoke to the chair of the Budget Subcommittee. He asked if the subcommittee wished to make any changes. It seemed that not many changes were suggested. A comment was made that perhaps in the future a broader discussion could take place. It was noted that there is an open period for communication. A comment was made that once the voting period is open, it cannot be stopped. A comment was made that when meetings are held in person it is much easier to bounce ideas off of each other.

5.3. Presentation e-Vote Ratification

S. Ross referred Reps/Alts to the results of an e-Vote taken in order to approve the spending of five hundred dollars for the presentation.

e-Vote results were as follows:

27 approved, 1 disagreed, 20 abstentions (1 active, 19 passive)

S. Ross noted that the motion passed. He then asked Reps/Alts to ratify the e-Vote.

None were opposed, no abstentions were noted. The e-Vote ratification was carried unanimously

5.4. 2022-2023 School Calendar Options (Tabled)

6. New Business

6.1. Teacher's Strike Scenario

The Chair noted that a comment recently posted on BASECAMP regarding the teacher's strike had been removed. He pointed out that in retrospect, this topic could have been handled by e-Vote. He invited Reps/Alts to comment. The following feedback was presented:

- Suggestion that the PC should propose a motion to support the teachers when it is in the best interest of the children. *It was moved by S. Campeau that the PC should draft a motion of support.* The Chair asked S. Campeau to rescind her motion and indicated that the discussion would be moved to BASECAMP
- Comment that the issues have to do with pay and benefits
- Discussions regarding whether or not the PC should draft a motion of support
- It was noted that there are two sides to this topic and it would be best not to get involved in political matters
- Given that the PC does not necessarily know how all parents feel about this issue, it may be difficult to state a position which is representative of all parents
- Some parents may support the teachers but not necessarily the actions they would take

7. Adjournment to attend Presentation

The meeting was adjourned at 7:30pm and attendees were directed to a link to the presentation been given by Tiffany Calendar.

Presentation: The "P" Word – Presenter: Tiffany Callendar

S. Ross introduced Tiffany Callendar who shared some details about her background and experience which led her to where she is now. (More details can be found on the PC Facebook page).

She encouraged everyone to keep an open mind and explained that the topics to be discussed would be in a safe space and asked that no personal info be shared. She noted that she has worked in the community for 16 years and has the ability to bring people together. She gave a brief overview of the topics to be presented. The Indigenous Land Acknowledgement was recited.

She defined privilege as:

A special right, advantage, or immunity granted or available to a particular person or group.

She noted that privilege is invisible to people who have it, as that is their reality. She explained that the dominant group often believe that they have earned the privilege that they enjoy or that everyone could have access to these privileges if only they worked to earn them. She went on to note that the reality of privilege is that it is unearned and privileges are granted to people in the dominant groups. The dominant group gets privileges whether they want those privileges or not. They also have privileges regardless of their stated intent. She explained that intersectionality is a key to unpacking privilege. She noted that sometimes we wear blinders to the realities that others are facing. She explained that people in dominant groups are often unaware that they are members of a dominant group. She pointed out that there are degrees of privilege and that if you are not part of a dominant culture, it must be recognized that you can still have a degree of privilege. Once we are aware of our privilege it can be used to champion equity for those who are disadvantaged and undervalued.

Tiffany spoke about Equality vs. Equity. She noted that every individual has an equal opportunity to make the most of their lives and talents. Equity is about giving people what they need. Although both promote fairness, equality achieves this through treating everyone the same.

She pointed out the differences between stereotypes and different types of biases. Stereotype being a false or generalized conception that results in conscious categorization of an individual or the members of a group.

Explicit bias or conscious bias is when the person is very clear about his or her feelings and attitudes and related behaviors are conducted with intent. Implicit bias describes when we have attitudes toward people or associate stereotypes with them without our conscious knowledge. She noted that systemic bias is prejudice, bigotry, or unfairness directed by health, educational, government, judicial, legal, religious, political, financial, media or cultural institutions toward individuals of an oppressed or marginalized group. She pointed out that systemic biases are barriers maintained by institutions.

Tiffany suggested the following tips to develop equity, value diversity and encourage inclusion in a school environment:

- Understand the relationship among bias, stereotypes and prejudice
- Be more aware of your interactions with people and reflect on your thoughts and body language
- Learn about your own history and explore the histories of communities different from your own in order to develop local and global awareness
- Think about your perspectives on controversial issues and identify your own bias by suspending judgment until you gather more information
- Move outside your comfort zone by exposing yourself to new situations engaging in meaningful dialogue and using active listening

The Chair then invited participants to ask questions which were as follows:

Q. I am not clear about the difference between implicit and overt bias.

A. Implicit bias refers to when you are aware of the ideas you have about others.

Overt bias is when people are very clear in showing their bias ie. Those who protest or those who use racial slurs.

Q. Can you speak about stereotypes and strategies to address them?

A. A stereotype can be addressed by not placing limits.

Q. How do you tackle the topic of privilege with your kids?

A. We acknowledge that we are privileged but we cannot forget that there are others who do not have privilege. Take the opportunity to expose your children to different experiences. Let them see things- volunteer, perhaps at a soup kitchen.

Q. What should be done when a young elementary student uses a racial slur in phys ed class?

A. Children don't come into this world with a prejudiced attitude. They are getting it from somewhere. Take kids aside talk to them about it.

On behalf of the PC, S. Ross then thanked Tiffany Callendar for her presentation which concluded at 8:56 pm.

Respectfully submitted by
Barbara Schnider
Recording Secretary

Attendance Report		
Member School	Parent Rep Present	Alternate Rep Present
Allion	Annette Banton	
Beacon Hill		Celena Scheede-Bergdahl
Beaconsfield	Ovidiu Burlec	
Beechwood	Orley Pinchuck	
Beurling Academy	Jay Taube	
Birchwood		
Children's World	Susan Mintzberg	
Christmas Park		
Clearpoint		Karina Leonard
Dorset		
Dorval	Patricia Ottoni	
Edgewater	Sherry-Lee Dawson	
Evergreen		
Forest Hill Jr	Richard Allen	
Forest Hill Sr	Tanja Minisini	
John Rennie	Namta Gupta	Shane Ross
Kingsdale		
Lakeside Academy	Jennifer Millen	Helene Charbonneau
Lasalle Community Comprehensive		
Lasalle Jr		
LasalleSr	Franca Henry	
Lindsay Place		
MacDonald	Kristoffer de Forest	
Maple Grove	Ashley McLellan	
Margaret Manson		
Mount Pleasant		
Pierre Elliott Trudeau	Wendy Eet	
Pierrefonds Comprehensive		
Riverview		
Sherbrooke Academy Jr.		
Sherbrooke Academy Sr.	Miki Zarwanitze	
*Soulange		
Springdale		
St. Anthony	Shane Ross	
St. Charles		Steven Orenbach
St. Edmund		
St. John Fisher Jr	Christina Cory	Nadia Lawand
St. John Fisher Sr	Sarah Campeau	
St. Patrick		
St. Thomas	Sharad Bhargava	Adam Davies
Sunshine Academy		
Terry Fox	Lillian Jasinski	Brenda Tremellen
Verdun	Alicia Mancini	
Westpark	Alaina Charzan	
Westwood Jr	Tanja Minisini	
Westwood Sr	Tanja Minisini	
Wilder Penfield	Onnig Kouyoumdjian	
SNAC	Lisa Mancini	
CRP SNAC	Suzanna Lazaro	

Other distinguished attendees:

Barbara Schnider (Minute R)
Thomas Rhymes (Administration)

Blue shaded field indicates member schools presence @ meeting

29/47 Member Schools + SNAC Represented