

**PARENTS' COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**THURSDAY, MARCH 17, 2022**  
**7:00 P.M., ONLINE (ZOOM)**



**AGENDA**

Please login to assist us in starting on time.

1. Call to Order with Land Acknowledgement
2. Word from the Chair
3. Approval of the Agenda
4. Approval of the Minutes
5. Correspondence
6. Business Arising
  - 6.1. Covid-19 & General Update from Administration
7. Questions from the Public
8. New Business
  - 8.1. **NEW CONSULTATION:** By-law 1 and 1E (2022) (April 8)
  - 8.2. Bill 96 Subcommittee Resolution
  - 8.3. School Calendar 2023-2024
  - 8.4. Article 240 Status: Children's World Academy
9. Group Discussion (Topic announced in the meeting invitation)
10. Council & External Reports
  - 10.1. Council of Commissioners
  - 10.2. SNAC
  - 10.3. EPCA
11. Varia
12. Adjournment



**Parents' Committee MEETING**  
**THURSDAY, March 17, 2022**  
**7:00 P.M., ONLINE (ZOOM)**

1. Call to Order with Land Acknowledgement  
S. Ross called the meeting to order at 7:03 pm. Quorum was established with 33 members out of 48 LBPSB schools and SNAC being represented. S. Ross then asked L. Mancini to recite the Land Acknowledgement Statement.
2. Word from the Chair  
S. Ross welcomed everyone and thanked them for their participation. He noted that he appreciated everyone's flexibility regarding the postponement of this meeting which was originally scheduled to take place on Thursday, March 10, 2022. The date change was due to a vigil that took place on March 10. After discussion with the Advisory, it was decided that it would be best to postpone the meeting to allow PC members to attend the vigil if they wished to do so.
3. Approval of the Agenda  
S. Ross pointed out that the agenda had been included in the meeting kit. He indicated that there were some items which had to be dealt with in a timely manner. He invited members to review the agenda and asked if there were any questions or additions to the agenda. J. Zafran requested that a situation regarding Edgewater and a media issue be added to the agenda. S. Ross proposed that the item be covered under agenda item 11. Varia. S. Ross asked if there were any opposed or any abstentions to the agenda. None were opposed and no abstentions were noted. The agenda was unanimously approved.
4. Approval of the Minutes  
S. Ross indicated that wanted to go over some logistics for the meeting. He noted that there were several members of the public in attendance. He invited them to email him if they had any questions. S. Ross emphasized that the mandate of the PC is to facilitate communication between the parental voice and the School Board. He explained that the PC acts as an advisory committee to the School Board as it pertains to policy. He noted some of the differences between the Governing Board and the Parents' Committee. He went on to explain that the GB deals with issues at the school level and that the PC deals with issues that affect all schools. S. Ross mentioned that the minutes were included in the meeting kit and he invited participants to review them. He then asked if there were any proposed changes to the minutes. There were none. He then called for approval of the minutes of February 3, 2022. He asked if there were any opposed or any abstentions to the minutes. None were opposed, and no abstentions were noted. The minutes were unanimously approved.
5. Correspondence  
S. Ross mentioned that there was nothing specific to cover at this point. He invited PC members to mention any items they had.
6. Business Arising
  - 6.1. Covid-19 & General Update from Administration  
S. Ross explained that the members of the PC would be able to ask questions after the update and that there would be an opportunity for members of the public to ask questions under agenda item 7. Questions from the Public. He invited T. Rhymes to speak to this item on the agenda. (Report is in the kit)  
The following was highlighted:
    - Staffing for next year is taking place based on student registration. Student groupings are being created.
    - At the time of this meeting, there were approximately 1% Covid absences
    - No classes are currently closed
    - The School Board is keeping a close eye on one school in particular
    - A few weeks after the holiday break there were approximately 4% Covid absences, which decreased to 2% in February
    - Isolation protocols as well as Rapid Test directives continue to change on a daily basis
    - The School Board is asking for everyone's patience as many parents are reportedly frustrated with some conflicting advice
7. Questions from the Public  
S. Ross indicated that there were many members of the public in attendance. As well, Chairperson J. Kelley, Commissioners A. Saunders, and J. Doan, Parent Commissioners, and EPCA President K. Korakakis were in attendance. S. Ross advised everyone to please direct their questions to A. Charszan who would then be presenting all of the questions to attendees with subsequent responses. S. Ross introduced T. Rhymes, Assistant Director General of the LBPSB who would be in a position to answer many of the questions. The following are highlights:



- Who is responsible for giving permission for parent volunteers to return to the schools?
- Under normal circumstances that is managed by the GB of each school who would establish the guidelines for parents to be present in the school. Due to Covid, Principals were in charge of managing who was coming into the building. As we emerge from Covid, things are starting to loosen up a bit. Currently, the GBs from each school can decide. In terms of Edgewater, the GB made a decision regarding volunteers and that decision is supported. At the beginning of the pandemic there were no volunteers allowed in the schools but things have now loosened a bit.
- Member of the public submitted questions to the PC Chair regarding the fact that updated reports, MSRs and minutes are legal documents and have not been posted on the PC website. The Chair responded that the documents were not lost but there were issues with posting them on the PC website. The PC Chair clarified that only the meeting minutes are considered legal documents. The hope is to get everything updated shortly.
- Member of the public inquired if the PC responded to the Policy on Student Representation. The PC Chair responded that the PC chose not to submit a separate response but was in support of the students and left the responses up to individual GBs.
- In depth discussion took place regarding the level of safety expressed by students in school (reference was made to the incident that took place in Pointe Claire). It was noted that three indicators are used: Whether students feel safe/unsafe/or in between. Exact statistics were not available.
- Reference was made to what the School Board can do to prevent any further tragic incidents like this from happening. It was noted that the School Board has engaged both with the City of Montreal and the SPVM to address the issue of youth violence. The bigger picture of youth gangs, the availability of weapons and the wide spread use of social media all come into play.
- At this point in time there are efforts to organize some type of healing event within the community at a later date. At the moment the School Board is focusing on trying to support the students at the affected schools. Professionals from the School Board have gone in to the schools to help give the staff the support they need in order for them to in turn help the students.
- When asked about the levels of anxiety in our students, Administration emphasized that reported student anxiety levels have been fairly consistent Board-wide for the past 10 years. Indicators have not been ignored, however to date it has proven challenging to significantly make a dent to these indicators. LBPSB has been in touch with the company that compiles this data to find out how other jurisdictions deal with their results. It has been investigated at more sophisticated levels as to why kids in our province are more anxious than those in other provinces. Results of heightened anxiety levels are consistent across the 9 English School Boards in comparison to the National average. Consideration could be given to how they see themselves in this province and whether the need to be fluent in a second language plays into it.
- It was noted that it has been difficult to find out exactly what students do not feel safe about. The School Board continues to make interventions and relies on the professionals from the SSD to help out.
- It was pointed out that the Task Force on Equity and Inclusivity (TF) revealed some of these factors and that the recommendations were drafted and put into an action plan. The TF reported in various categories. The recommendations were then assigned to specific departments with the departments being asked to create action plans. Professional development took place to address some of the recommendations but this will be an ongoing initiative with a steering committee taking the lead. There will be a Community Consultative Board including the TF and community members. School Board policies have not been modified at present. Curriculum changes will be coming down the road.

S. Ross thanked the public for taking the time to participate in the meeting. He expressed his appreciation for the presence of Administration and Council.

## 8. New Business

### 8.1. **NEW CONSULTATION:** By-law 1 and 1E (2022) (April 8)

S. Ross pointed out that a new consultation By-law 1 and 1E have been launched. They outline the meeting dates for Council and the Executive Committee. He noted that the PC has the opportunity to weigh in but in the past has not always responded to this consultation. S. Ross proposed that for the sake of time that this discussion take place on BASECAMP. The motion was seconded by M. Lucke. None were opposed, and no abstentions were noted. The motion was carried unanimously.

### 8.2. Bill 96 Subcommittee Resolution

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

The following was highlighted:

- S. Bhargava indicated that the resolution was in the meeting kit
- He pointed out that there has been a lot of interest within the PC to deal with Bill 96 with six members participating in the Subcommittee
- He noted that the Subcommittee is recommending that the PC oppose Bill 96 and send the resolution to the Premier of Quebec, all MNAs and MPs and to both the Provincial and Federal governments



- As part of the resolution most of the whereas' have been taken from QCGN resolution
- It was mentioned that it is not clear that Bill 96 will be passed
- It was pointed out that a new clause was added to the bill making it mandatory that three core courses be taken in French at the CEGEP level
- There is concern that if English students are forced to take certain core courses in French it may result in lower R scores making it more challenging to get into University
- D. Bentley emphasized that he hopes to pass this resolution at the PC level to then take it to EPCA and subsequently distribute it to the PCs in the hopes that all the PCs would pass the resolution

It was moved by S. Bhargava to adopt the Bill 96 Subcommittee Resolution. The motion was seconded by S. Campeau. None were opposed, and no abstentions were noted. The motion was carried unanimously.

### 8.3. School Calendar 2023-2024

The three calendar options for 2023-2024 were presented. The main differences concern the start and end dates. Calendar Options 1 and 3 propose starting school on August 31, before Labour Day, while Option 2 proposes starting after Labour Day. Option 1 and 3 both show June 21 as the last day of school, while Option 2 suggests June 26 as the last day. Option 1 and 2 suggest a 2-week Holiday break beginning on Monday, December 25, while Option 3 proposes a Holiday Break that would begin on a Wednesday- December 20, with everyone returning also on a Wednesday- January 2. S. Ross asked if the PC had any questions regarding the Calendar Options for 2023-2024. The following comments were highlighted:

- A member of the PC asked whether or not School Board staff had indicated a preference regarding the calendar options. It was noted that it is currently out for consultation and therefore feedback has not yet been received.
- Some expressed a preference not to start after Labour Day so that school does not go past June 24
- It was noted that the School Board must always present an option where school starts after September 1
- Consideration for the start of Summer Camps is not given. The School Board tends to orient its' calendar to align with the St. Jean Holiday.
- Co-ordination of March Break across various school boards continues to be a challenge, although school boards are not obliged to schedule a March Break

It was moved by J. Zafran to adopt School Calendar 2023-2024 Option 1. The motion was seconded by D. Barbiero. None were opposed, and no abstentions were noted. The motion was carried unanimously.

### 8.4. Article 240 Status: Children's World Academy

S. Ross invited T. Rhymes to speak to this item on the agenda. The following was highlighted:

- Children's World Academy is an IB School
- Its' academic program permits the school to operate outside of regular criteria
- It is the only Article 240 School in the LBPSB
- Its' status must be reviewed every four years
- As per the Education Act, the PC must be consulted
- The Ministry is no longer permitting new Article 240 schools from being established

*At this point in the meeting it was moved by O. Kouyoumdjian to extend the meeting by thirty minutes as needed.* The motion was seconded by L. Dalterio. None were opposed, three abstentions were noted. The motion was carried. The meeting was extended by up to thirty minutes.

More information was then highlighted:

- The capacity of CWA is approximately 530 students while the current student enrollment is just under 500
- The School Board is only permitted one Article 240 school, one Sports Etude school, one Arts Etude school

S. Ross then asked if there were any opposed or any abstentions. None were opposed, no abstentions were noted. The motion was carried unanimously.

S. Ross emphasized that due to time constraints there would be a brief group discussion of approximately 20 minutes and that external reports would also need to be discussed. S. Ross then moved to flip the agenda in order to cover External Reports first and then hold the Group Discussion. The motion was seconded by O. Kouyoumdjian. None were opposed, and no abstentions were noted. The motion was carried unanimously.

## 9. Group Discussion (Topic announced in the meeting invitation)

S. Ross proceeded to read the questions.

Q1. Is there a problem with bullying in the LBPSB?

A. T. Rhymes responded that this topic cannot be discussed in isolation. He noted that if we are talking about bullying in schools we need to talk about out conduct as well. This is all part of a bigger question that we need to ask ourselves about civility and boundaries. It plays out in the schools as well. We need to look both at schools and what is seen elsewhere in society including social media. The issue is not isolated in schools.



Q2. What policies/processes are in place that facilitate a student feeling safe and secure at school when an altercation has taken place outside of the school's jurisdiction (ie. on social media, or off school grounds) and what are the expectations of parents?

A. T. Rhymes responded that the Safe and Caring School Policy orients this. He noted that things have changed. For example, if something were to happen on the weekend in the past, the School Board would not be involved. In some cases it may be difficult for those in need to seek help. School is one of the intuitions that can help a student. There are an enormous amount of issues that principals get involved with that happen outside of school.

Discussions ensued with the following being highlighted:

- If the school calls a parent, the issue needs to be addressed
- There needs to be consequences
- Parents should review their child's social media
- It is evident that the problem we are seeing is that parents are not necessarily asking what is going on with their own children especially online
- Teenage suicide rates are up
- Teens don't automatically know who to for help
- It was suggested that perhaps mentorship opportunities could be developed in order to give teens permission to talk therefore opening up a dialogue
- It was emphasized that we have access to CLSCs and that each school has a CLSC rep
- In Quebec as of 14 years old a teen can call a nurse or social worker on their own
- 811 is another resource

## 10. Council & External Reports

### 10.1. Council of Commissioners

S. Ross invited LBPSB Chairperson J. Kelley to speak to this item on the agenda. The following was highlighted:

- Members of the LBPSB community have been shaken by the recent tragic incident
- The School Board wants to make sure that everything is being done to ensure that students feel safe
- Many students continue to wear masks in class despite the fact that the mandate for wearing a mask in class was lifted after March Break
- The School Board is moving forward in a very cautious way with regards to Covid

### 10.2. SNAC

S. Ross invited L. Mancini to speak to this item on the agenda. The following was highlighted:

- SNAC meeting to take place the week after this meeting
- L. Mancini has been in touch with K. Korakakis from EPCA regarding contacting the Chairs of the Special Needs Advisory Committees from other school boards with the hopes of coordinating a meeting in May
- Autism Awareness Day- April 2- (many schools recognize it on April 4) shifting toward a model of acceptance as opposed to just awareness (puzzle piece symbol no longer accepted by autistic community, replaced by infinity rainbow symbol to represent the diversity of the autism spectrum, community moving away from participating in the "Light it Up Blue Campaign")

### 10.3. EPCA

S. Ross invited D. Bentley to speak to this item on the agenda. The following was highlighted:

- D. Bentley welcomed K. Korakakis, EPCA President to the meeting
- New professionally produced video available re Kids and Stress
- PC Reps/Alts were encouraged to subscribe to the EPCA monthly Newsletter (to be posted on BASECAMP)
- Homework help website (Alloprof) will be translated into English soon thanks to lobbying efforts by EPCA
- Parents were invited to access Educational Resources by consulting the "Open Schools" website listed below
- <https://ecoleouverte.ca/en>
- Another valuable resource for parents is a website called Parents.Quebec (link below)
- <https://parents.quebec/en/>

## 11. Varia

S. Ross invited Reps/Alts to present any Varia that they may have. A comment was made that responsibility begins at home and that children emulate their parents. S. Ross then thanked LBPSB Chairperson J. Kelley, Commissioners A. Saunders, J. Doan, Parent Commissioners, PC Reps/Alts and members of the public for attending.

## 12. Adjournment

S. Ross adjourned the meeting at 9:35 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	Talar Chahinian	
Beurling Academy	Julius Taube	
Birchwood	Derek Kenny	
Children's World		
*Christmas Park	Lisa Mancini	
Clearpoint	Mark Lucke	
Dorset		
Dorval	Patricia Ottoni	
Edgewater	Jeremy Zafran	Tracey-Ann Curtis
*Evergreen		
Forest Hill Jr	Richard Allen	
Forest Hill Sr		
John Rennie	Shane Ross	
Kingsdale	Adam Feldstein	
Lakeside Academy	Sarah Campeau	
Lasalle Community Comprehensive	Janet Ho	
Lasalle Jr	Nicole Clayton	
LasalleSr	Franca Henry	
Macdonald	Kris de Forest	Michael Dugdale
Maple Grove		
Margaret Manson	Anthony Morello	Mark Michel
*Mount Pleasant		
Pierre Elliott Trudeau	Stacie Bouchard	
Pierrefonds Comprehensive		Brenda Trellemen
Riverview	Linda Dalterio	Ariana Winn
Sherbrooke Academy Jr.	David Anthony Barbiero	
Sherbrooke Academy Sr.	Tania Shand	
*Soulange		
Springdale		
St. Anthony	Shane Ross	
St. Charles		
St. Edmund	Stephanie Ozbalt	
St. John Fisher Jr	Naomi Proctor	Angela Kovalak
St. John Fisher Sr		
St. Patrick	Doug Bentley	Michael Barron
St. Thomas	Sharad Barghava	Tifanie Valade
Sunshine Academy		
Terry Fox	Karyne Dion	
Verdun	Ingrid Intrevado	
Westpark	Alaina Charzan	
Westwood Jr		
*Westwood Sr		
Wilder Penfield	Onnig Kouyoumdjian	
SNAC	Lisa Mancini	John Ranger
CRPC Designated by SNAC		N/A

**Other distinguished attendees:**

Thomas Rhymes (Administration)  
Judy Kelley (Council of Commissioners)

Chris Eustace (public)

**33/48 Member Schools + SNAC Represented**