

**PARENTS' COMMITTEE MEETING
THURSDAY, APRIL 14, 2022
7:00 P.M., ONLINE (ZOOM)**



AGENDA

Please login to assist us in starting on time.

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. Business Arising
 - 7.1. Administrative Update
 - 7.2. Bill 96 Update
 - 7.3. Bill 40 Update
8. Breakout Discussion (Topic released in the invitation)
9. Reports
 - 9.1. Council of Commissioners
 - 9.2. SNAC
 - 9.3. EPCA
10. Adjournment

PARENTS` COMMITTEE MEETING
THURSDAY, APRIL 14, 2022
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 30 members out of 48 LBPSB schools and SNAC being represented. S. Ross then asked P. Ottoni to recite the Land Acknowledgement Statement.
2. Word from the Chair
S. Ross welcomed everyone and thanked them for their participation. He thanked LBPSB Chairperson J. Kelley and Assistant Director General T. Rhymes for their attendance. He noted that he appreciated everyone's understanding regarding the postponement of this meeting which was originally scheduled to take place on Thursday, April 7, 2022. He pointed out that the April meeting is often a challenge. This is especially the case given everything that has been going on and that we have been through over 2 years of Covid and everyone is exhausted. S. Ross emphasized that he hopes that everyone can help to create positive change for our kids.
3. Approval of the Agenda
S. Ross pointed out that the agenda had been included in the meeting kit. He indicated that he had received a request to move the Reports section up, ahead of the Breakout Discussion section. He asked if there were any opposed or any abstentions. None were opposed, and no abstentions were noted. The motion was carried unanimously. He invited members to review the agenda and asked if there were any proposed changes. S. Ross then 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 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 March 17, 2022. It was moved by D. Bentley to approve the minutes. The motion was seconded by J. Zafran. S. Ross 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 noted that the correspondence was included in the meeting kit. He explained that he had to leave the meeting for a short time and that Vice- Chair O. Kouyoumdjian would be taking over the duties of chairing until his return.
6. Question from the public
O. Kouyoumdjian invited members of the public to pose their questions.
The following are highlights of questions/comments from the public:
 - Member of the public noted that he sent out correspondence indicating the impact that Bill 96 could have on CEGEP students if the current amendment regarding three mandatory core courses to be taken in French was passed
 - Reference was made to article in The Suburban by John Bradley on the topic of Bill 96
 - It was clarified that the PC would in fact be discussing Bill 96
7. Business Arising
 - 7.1. Administrative Update
O. Kouyoumdjian invited T. Rhymes to speak to this item in the agenda. (Report is in the kit)
The following was highlighted, including information regarding Covid:
 - As of this meeting, it was reported that the number of Covid cases had jumped exponentially in the previous four weeks. As of the week of this meeting, numbers have levelled off.
 - It was clarified that the number of absences reflect the following: a person testing positive, a family member testing positive, or a parent being proactive and keeping their child home due to exposure to a positive case
 - It was pointed out that approximately 65 % of all student absences are at the Elementary level and that approximately 35% of all student absences are at the High School level. These figures have been fairly consistent.
 - Staffing issues remain a concern as teachers continue to scramble to cover classes
 - A few classes have had to combine
 - Some principals have had to cover lunch groups
 - It was emphasized that third and fourth year Education students are allowed to be on the Emergency substitute list

- In non-Covid times these Education students are on a list that schools are allowed to access. The School Board must try to find a qualified teacher first, but if none is available, a non-qualified teacher can be called in, particularly one that has familiarity with the school, such as a former stagiaire
PC members were then invited to ask questions to Administration.
Q. As a School Board, are we prepared to implement a preventative measure and adapt a uniform policy to protect students and staff given that the government has removed the classroom masking policy? (An example of a School Board in Ottawa was cited.) How does this impact volunteers coming into the schools?
A. The School Board can continue with measures available. Many students still continue to wear masks even though there is no requirement to do so in class. Volunteers are required to wear a mask and sanitize. It is not certain about the School Board's authority to require volunteers to show proof of vaccination.
Q. Has there been any talk about Support Staff coming in to replace teachers?
A. Support Staff who are familiar with a school would be called upon first to replace a teacher before a parent. Integration Aides have sometimes been called upon to fill in.

7.2. Bill 96 Update

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

- On BASECAMP discussions are taking place regarding Bill 96
- A survey was posted asking people for their availability for a rally against Bill 96. D. Bentley encouraged everyone to respond to the survey and to share the poll.
- As of the time of this meeting, an amendment was still on the table regarding the requirement to take three core courses in French at the CEGEP level
- It is expected that this bill will be passed by June before the end of the session
- Many feel that the current government will use Bill 96 as part of their election platform
- It was reported that C. Finn, Director General of the LBPSB, K. Korakakis, President of EPCA, representatives from Marianopolis and Dawson were all part of a webinar addressing concerns about Bill 96
- There is a general feeling that the only way to express serious concerns about this bill and demand changes will be through public pressure
- It is felt that if this amendment goes through, it would have a significant impact on our School Board and would change how French is taught
- It was reported that the QFHSA has passed a resolution regarding Bill 96 and it has been posted
- The capping of English speaking students at the CEGEP level is also very concerning
- It was noted that there has been little to no consultation with Administrators and Educators on this issue
- It was suggested that the Anglophone and Indigenous communities present a united front on this issue as a lot is at stake

7.3. Bill 40 Update

O. Kouyoumdjian asked T. Rhymes to speak to this item on the agenda. The following was highlighted:

- Bill 40 is still in Superior Court
- Progress has not been publically stated
- There have been rumblings of behind the scenes discussions
- Bill 40 is causing a bit of anxiety regarding potential outcomes

8. Breakout Discussion (Topic released in the invitation)

O. Kouyoumdjian proceeded to read the questions released in the invitation. They were as follows:

- *Where are the bottlenecks that make our LBPSB experience seem more difficult than it should be?*
- *Board or School website?*
- *Using Mosaic?*
- *Finding and using Board policies?*

O. Kouyoumdjian pointed out that the objective of this exercise is to ask the questions as stated above.

The information can be compiled and then reported back to parents. He then opened the floor to REPs/ALTs.

The following was highlighted:

- It has been noted that some people have a lot of trouble with Mosaic
- Some have had difficulty finding the Daycare tax slips
- Why are there several communication platforms?
- Why are some things found on Mosaic and others on Fusion?
- It was mentioned that it would be useful for parents to be able to follow what teachers have posted on Google Classrooms

- Some have reported having difficulty finding out about cancelled or missing buses
- Is the School Board doing anything to address Digital Citizenship? Some students hide behind online personas.
- Some parents have noted that when they have gone to Administration with an issue and are not satisfied with the response, that they are not aware of the complaint process. (PC Reps can help disseminate this information to their parent community and direct them to the proper resources including where to find a form to be filled out.)
- What is under the schools' purview or the School Boards' purview?
- It was mentioned that PC members are more privileged in that they are aware of significantly more information than other parents and know where to find it.
- Did LBPSB send out information regarding the webinar on Bill 96 especially in light of the fact that C. Finn, Director General of the LBPSB was one of the panelists? (The PC posted it on BASECAMP with the expectation that the PC REPs/ALTs share the information with their GBs and parent communities.)

T. Rhymes explained that FUSION was a homegrown template whereby stats can be pulled out as soon as possible. MOSAIK is a Parent Portal to help facilitate communication between parents and the school.

Discussions took place regarding the flow of information and whose responsibility it is to share it.

O. Kouyoumdjian addressed the fact that the topics covered this year have been very heavy and that the PC has had to have all of these discussions online rather than in person. He underscored the fact that Grassroots issues are extremely important. He emphasized that maybe the PC can compile a "Top Ten" list of parental concerns. He pointed out that the PC may not always have the answers but that they can help to find the appropriate route to follow.

9. Reports

9.1. Council of Commissioners

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

- Bill 96 will have a great impact across School Boards
- It is important to be cognizant of the term of "Historical Anglos" as this statement marginalizes our community
- There is some suggestion that the addition of three French core courses at the CEGEP level has been discussed
- Bill 96 has brought up the fact as to how we can better prepare students to go out in the world
- Gala for Adult Voc Tech took place the same day as this meeting. Adult Voc Ed remains an important part of the School Board.
- There are other options available to student besides CEGEP
- It was recognized that there is a level of fatigue being felt at every tier including students, parents, administrators, and teachers
- It was noted that Council meetings are archived on the School Board Website

O. Kouyoumdjian added two links to the meeting chat:

1. QCGN, Bill 96 presentation
2. Youtube Video on Adult Voc Ed

9.2. SNAC

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

- SNAC MSR was included in the meeting kit and was posted on BASECAMP
- Reference was made to recent interview with LBPSB Chairperson J. Kelley
- New SNAC website was recently launched and is easy to navigate
- Mention was made to emails consistently being received from parents who are seeking guidance on how to navigate the system
- A request was made to upload the SNAC logo on each schools' website along with a link to the IEP kit
- It was emphasized that the TF (Task Force) Report as well as the Commitment to EDDI (Equity, Diversity, Dignity and Inclusion) Document can be found on the LBPSB website

9.3. EPCA

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

- D. Bentley noted that the EPCA report was included in the meeting kit
- Recent Resolution passed by the PC regarding Bill 96 was brought to EPCA and distributed to Directors to bring to their respective PCs
- EPCA Directors voted in favour of sending a letter to the Premier of Quebec regarding this important issue
- EPCA and the FCPQ are collaborating on a training program to be held on April 20 for parents about School Budgets
- EPCA and the FCPQ are partnering to hold a symposium (May 28) on the parents role in Education

- K. Korakakis (President of EPCA) and L. Mancini (SNAC Chair- LBPSB) will lead a provincial committee on Special Needs
- Members were encouraged to read the latest issue of EPCA's newsletter with a feature on Youth Violence
- The next issue of EPCA's newsletter will most likely highlight the impact of Bill 96
- Over 350 people were in attendance for a webinar on Bill 96 which involved a collaboration of different groups representing the interests of English speaking Quebecers
- Various English speaking community groups are working together to organize a rally to denounce Bill 96
- As of the time of this meeting, discussions on Bill 96 were closed. The bill will most likely be voted on in May/June
- Parents were encouraged to write letters denouncing the bill if they wish

10. Adjournment

O. Kouyoumdjian adjourned the meeting at 8:46 pm.

Respectfully submitted by
Barbara Schnider
Recording Secretary

Attendance Report		
Member School	Parent Rep Present	Alternate Rep Present
Allion		
Beacon Hill	Ian Chuprun	
Beaconsfield	Ovidiu Burlec	
Beechwood		
Beurling Academy	Julius Taube	
Birchwood		
Children's World	Alicia Mancini	Mark Calla
*Christmas Park	Lisa Mancini	
Clearpoint	Marc Lucke	
Dorset		
Dorval	Patricia Ottoni	
Edgewater	Jeremy Zafran	
*Evergreen		
Forest Hill Jr	Richard Allen	
Forest Hill Sr		
Horizon		
John Rennie	Shane Ross	
Kingsdale	Adam Feldstein	Greg Piggins
Lakeside Academy		
Lasalle Community Comprehensive		
Lasalle Jr	Nicole Clayton	
Lasalle Sr	Franca Henry	
Macdonald	Kris de Forest	Michael Dugdale
Maple Grove		Sarah Fortin
Margaret Manson		
*Mount Pleasant		
Pierre Elliott Trudeau		
Pierrefonds Community	Greg Piggins	
Riverview	Linda Dalterio	
Sherbrooke Academy Jr.	David Barbiero	Denise Peirera
Sherbrooke Academy Sr.		
*Soulange		
Springdale		
St. Anthony	Shane Ross	
St. Charles		Ross McLean
St. Edmund		
St. John Fisher Jr	Naomi Proctor	Angela Kovalak
St. John Fisher Sr		Nadia Lawland
St. Patrick	Doug Bentley	Michael Barron
St. Thomas	Sharad Barghava	Tifanie Valade
Sunshine Academy		
Terry Fox	Lillian Jasinski	
Verdun	Ingrid Intrevado	
Westpark		
Westwood Jr	Tanja Minisini	
*Westwood Sr	Tanja Minisini	
Wilder Penfield	Onnig Kouyoumdjian	
SNAC	Lisa Mancini	
CRPC Designated by SNAC		N/A

Other distinguished attendees:

Thomas Rhymes (Administration)
 Judy Kelley (Council of Commissioners)
 Barbara Schneider
 Angela Berryman
 Chris Eustace (public)

30/47 Member Schools + SNAC Represented