

**PARENTS' COMMITTEE MEETING
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 12TH, 2024
6:30PM on ZOOM**



AGENDA

1. Call to Order with Land Acknowledgement
2. Word from the Chair
3. Approval of the Agenda
4. Approval of the Minutes
 - 4.1. Minutes of June 2024
 - 4.2. Minutes of November 2024
5. Correspondence
6. Business Arising
7. Questions from the Public
8. New Business
 - 8.1. Connie Held Award
 - 8.2. Governing Board Calendar
9. Reports
 - 9.1. Administration
 - 9.2. School Board Committees
 - Transportation Advisory Committee
 - Communications Committee
 - Facilities and Security
 - Intercultural Advisory
 - Programs and Services
 - Safe and Caring Schools
 - Green Committee
 - SNAC
 - 9.3. External Committees
 - P.E.F
 - EPCA
10. Regional Subcommittee Breakout Rooms
11. Varia
12. Adjournment

PARENTS' COMMITTEE MEETING
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 12TH, 2024
6:30PM ON ZOOM

1. Call to Order with Land Acknowledgement
D. Bentley called the meeting to order at 6:38pm. All participants were asked to name themselves, their school, and whether they were a Rep or Alt. Quorum was established with 34 out of 46 LBPSB schools and SNAC being represented. He then invited M. Kashetsky to recite the acknowledgement of Mohawk land.
2. Word from the Chair
D. Bentley welcomed all attendees and thanked them for joining the meeting. He acknowledged the presence of the Chair of LBPSB, J. Kelley as well as the Assistant Director General, V. Marin, Regional Directors K. O'Reilly (Secondary), D. Chisholm (Elementary West), and D. Dixon (Elementary East). D. Bentley highlighted agenda item 8.1, the Connie Held Award in which the PC would be recognizing two people who have made significant contributions to the PC.
3. Approval of the Agenda
D. Bentley noted that he wished to add item 4.1 to the agenda, the Approval of the Minutes of November 21, 2024. He then called for any other proposed changes to the agenda. There were none. He then called for a motion to approve the amended agenda. It was moved by T. Minisini that the agenda be approved. The motion was seconded by P. Bagstad. None were opposed, and no abstentions were noted. The motion was unanimously resolved.
4. Approval of the Minutes
 - 4.1. Minutes of June 2024
 - 4.2. Minutes of November 2024
D. Bentley invited Reps/Alts to propose any changes they may have to the minutes. There were none. He then called for approval of the minutes of June 2024 and November 2024. It was moved by M. Kashetsky that the minutes be approved. The motion was seconded by J. Dings. None were opposed, four abstentions were noted. The motion was carried.
5. Correspondence
D. Bentley reported that correspondence was received and that it would be covered under agenda item 7. Questions from the public.
6. Business Arising
D. Bentley noted that there was no business arising at this time.
7. Questions from the Public
D. Bentley invited members of the public to pose their questions. The following items were highlighted:
Q. Has there been any development regarding the translated textbooks for the Culture and Citizenship course?
A. A PC member posted information on BAND with a limited discussion having taken place. There are no clear answers yet.
Q. Have we heard any updates on the Sexual Education course from the government? Apparently the French system seems confused about it.
A. At this time, the PC has not received any news. Different levels of the School Board may be able to provide more information.
8. New Business
 - 8.1. Connie Held Award
D. Bentley emphasized that it was his great pleasure to present two gentlemen (who served on the PC for quite some time), the Connie Held Award. This award is named in memory of Connie Held, a former Commissioner for the LBPSB, a former Parent Commissioner and tireless volunteer who advocated for students and recognized the importance of education. The annual award, given by the Parents' Committee, is presented to a long-time parent volunteer for their outstanding commitment and dedication to the PC.

The recipient for 2023 was Kris Deforest. K. Deforest began as a volunteer when his youngest child entered Kindergarten and remained involved in many levels of educational advocacy at the LBPSB right up until his eldest graduated. He was a member of the GB, was GB Chair, was on the PC Advisory, served as a Parent Commissioner and was a dedicated volunteer both at Edgewater and Macdonald High School. D. Bentley thanked K. Deforest for his many years of dedication and noted that he represented the parent voice very well.

K. Deforest then thanked D. Bentley, the PC Advisory and the PC. He noted that he had become involved with the CPC (as it was called back then), when Connie Held was around. He emphasized that it had been a privilege to be part of the PC and that he thoroughly enjoyed his time on many committees and, subcommittees and has missed being involved.

D. Bentley then invited A. Banton to introduce **the recipient of the Connie Held Award for 2024, Shane Ross**. S. Ross began his involvement when his children attended St. Anthony and continued being involved as his children went on to attend John Rennie. He has been a member of GB, Parent Rep as well as Alt on the PC, as well as Chair of the PC. A. Banton pointed out that S. Ross began his involvement with the PC many years ago and has done a phenomenal job leading the PC and seeing them through many triumphs and adversities as well. He initiated the MSR (Meeting Summary Report) in order to ensure that all parents of the LBPSB were well informed without each PC Rep having to write their own summaries of PC meetings. He saw the PC through the pandemic, which was a very challenging time when no in-person meetings could take place. He helped the PC pivot to online meetings. It was noted that S. Ross' youngest child has left the system, therefore S. Ross is no longer involved. S. Ross was thanked for all of his hard work, dedication and for being a strong advocate.

S. Ross then thanked A. Banton, the PC Advisory, as well as the PC. He pointed out that he did not become a Commissioner during his years at the LBPSB. As PC Chair, he thoroughly enjoyed meeting so many parents. Initially he became involved in order to learn more. He indicated that way back then, the parent group was called the CPC (Central Parents' Committee). Its' mandate was to help increase parental participation. Several years ago it was decided to change the structure of the committee in order to open it up to all schools. He initiated the creation of the MSR. Another was the move to an online communication platform, (initially BASECAMP, now BAND). S. Ross expressed that he was very happy to have worked with everyone. He encouraged parents to have a voice and thanked everyone for the time they have given.

D. Bentley then emphasized that it had been a pleasure working with both S. Ross and K. Deforest over the years.

8.2. Governing Board Calendar

D. Bentley pointed out that he decided to address this topic as a group rather than at the Regional Subcommittee level. He then screen shared the overview of GB Priorities and highlighted several items from the training session given by Secretary General of the LBPSB, G. Dugré. It was recommended that each GB review the timeline each year and that PC Reps/Alts mention it to their GB Chairs. D. Bentley then invited PC members to ask questions. The following are highlights of the discussion:

Q. In terms of Capital Budget, what are we looking at?

A. Principals will bring forward items for Capital Projects. For example, a new gym floor or new desks. They will go through the list with the Director of Facilities and will try to prioritize. Once the priorities are addressed at the school level, the Head Office will assign priority codes. Equipment services will then do an analysis and prioritize what is considered urgent. A running list is then kept of all requests that have not been fulfilled.

Q. If a school needs to be painted, would it come under that category?

A. No. Painting would come under a different category. A new gym floor would be considered a Capital Project.

D. Bentley emphasized that GB Training has been posted on BAND and that he will post the overview of the GB Calendar.

9. Reports

9.1. Administration

D. Bentley invited V. Marin to speak to the Administration report. The following items were highlighted:

- Elementary Open Houses to take place in January 2025 with more information to be found on the LBPSB website
- Registration period for new students will begin in January
- Re-registration period will take place in January on the Mozaik Parental Portal
- Math Olympics was great success
- December 20 is the last day of school before the Holiday Break. It will be a shortened day (including shortened Daycare) with each school sending out information to parents

Please consult the LBPSB website for more information regarding Open Houses and Registration.

D. Bentley invited parents to ask questions. There were none.

9.2. School Board Committees

Transportation Advisory Committee

Communications Committee

Facilities and Security

Intercultural Advisory
Programs and Services
Safe and Caring Schools
Green Committee

D. Bentley invited J. Kelley to speak to whether or not the committees had met. J. Kelley clarified that as of December 16, the membership of the various committees will be established. She explained that the calendar had only recently been adopted. She indicated that in January and February the committees will begin to meet and that the PC will be advised of the meeting schedules.

SNAC

D. Bentley invited J. Ranger to provide a brief report from SNAC. It was reported that SNAC had not met in the month of December. The IEP presentation has been posted on the SNAC landing page and can be found through the following link:

<https://sites.google.com/lbpearson.ca/snac-lbpsb/home>

D. Bentley noted that he would like to include the link on BAND and on the PC website.

9.3. External Committees

P.E.F

In lieu of G. Piggins absence, D. Bentley invited K. Mandel, member of the P.E.F. Board of Directors to provide a brief report.

K. Mandel emphasized that if schools are in need of funding for special projects they can apply for a P.E.F. grant. EPCA

D. Bentley highlighted the following items:

- EPCA AGA was recently held. K. Korakakis was re-elected as President, D. Bentley was re-elected as Vice-President.
- Consult the EPCA website for upcoming workshops
- Reps/Alts were encouraged to sign up to receive EPCA Newsletters
- The last newsletter included information on IEPs and parent teacher interviews
- The goal of EPCA is to provide parents with information they need to be better informed on educational issues

10. Regional Subcommittee Breakout Rooms

D. Bentley announced that Regional Subcommittee Breakout sessions would soon begin. He noted that there would be three Breakout Rooms. 1. Elementary East, 2. Elementary West, 3. Secondary. Each Breakout session would include a Regional Director as well as a Reps/Alts. He explained that the Regional Subcommittees would meet for approximately 45 min followed by a 15 minute debriefing after the wrap up.

At approximately 8:37pm, the PC meeting resumed. D. Bentley expressed his thanks to D. Dixon, K. O'Reilly, and D. Chisholm.

1. Elementary East

The following was highlighted:

- D. Dixon introduced herself and discussed her role
- Reps/Alts introduced themselves
- Bussing issues were discussed
- Promoting healthy communities and schools was mentioned
- Participants discussed what was going well and what they would like to see improved

2. Elementary West

The following was highlighted:

- D. Chisholm introduced himself and discussed his role
- Reps/Alts introduced themselves
- Discussions regarding notifications to parents with respect to bus issues (Parents can sign up for bus alerts on Mozaik)
- Due to an increase in student population off-island, 2 new schools will be built. The School Board is working with a number of municipalities to figure out the best location for the schools.
- LTP (Long Term Planning) will discuss the need for more off-island High Schools
- Suggestion to perhaps encourage parents living off-island to contact their MPs regarding more High Schools
- Discussions took place regarding lengthy wait times for services for students that need addition support. The government has allocated significant funding toward this initiative but there is a lack of psychologists.
- Difficulty in planning field trips (especially those that involve more than a day)

3. Secondary

The following was highlighted:

- K. O'Reilly introduced herself and discussed her role
- Reps/Alts introduced themselves
- Bussing issues were discussed
- The topic of cursive writing was brought up

11. Varia

D. Bentley invited Reps/Alts to present items under Varia. The following items were highlighted:

- J. Ranger expressed thanks to the Secretary of the Regional Subcommittee for High Schools as during the Regional Breakout session he had difficulty communicating with others as he had restricted access.

Members of the Advisory, as well as the Chairs of the Regional Subcommittees were asked to remain online for a short time. D. Bentley expressed his thanks to all participants on behalf of the Advisory. He emphasized that Reps/Alts are the most involved and engaged parents in their school communities. He then wished everyone Happy Holidays.

12. Adjournment

D. Bentley called for a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:48 pm. It was moved by J. Dings to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by C. Michaud. None were opposed, and no abstentions were noted. The motion was carried. He indicated that the PC would meet virtually in January with a presentation from Alloprof.

Respectfully submitted by
Barbara Schnider
Recording Secretary

Attendance Report		
Member School	Parent Rep Present	Alternate Rep Present
Allion	Annette Banton	
Beacon Hill		
Beaconsfield	Laura Greiss	
Beechwood	Robert Sutherland	
Beurling Academy	Ahysha Frederick Durant	
Birchwood		
Children's World		Gianna Caucci
Christmas Park		
Clearpoint	Aba Simpson	
Dorset		
Dorval	Jessica Dings	
Edgewater	Wendy Pearson	
Evergreen		
Forest Hill Jr	Amy Spinelli	
Forest Hill Sr	Erik Olsthoorn	
Horizon		
John Rennie	Francis Chaput	
Kingsdale	Adam Feldstein	
Lakeside Academy	Cathenna Michaud	
Lasalle Community Comprehensive		John Ranger
Lasalle Jr	Zahra Ibrahim	
Lasalle Sr		
Macdonald High	Tracey-Ann Curtis	Adriana Lanza
Maple Grove	Aaron Totton	Joanne McGee
Margaret Manson		
Mount Pleasant	Christine Jastrzebski	
Pierre Elliott Trudeau		
Pierrefonds Community		
Riverview	Irene Barallon	
Sherbrooke Academy Jr.	Demetrios Hadjis	
Sherbrooke Academy Sr.	Tanya Sarlos	
Soulanges		
Springdale	Vashti Dass	
St. Anthony	Zach Meltzer	
St. Charles	Ross MacLean	
St. Edmund		
St. John Fisher Jr	Tom Fullerton	Nadia Lawand
St. John Fisher Sr	Kellie George-Bernard	Erica Follon
St. Patrick	Doug Bentley	Michael Barron
St. Thomas	Kenny Mandel	
Sunshine Academy	Vincent Du Ruisseau	
Terry Fox		Sarra Munoz
Verdun	Patrick Bagstad	
Westpark	Mark Kashetsky	Kenny Mandel
Westwood Jr		
Westwood Sr	Tanja Minisini	
Wilder Penfield	Peter Giser	
SNAC	John Ranger	