

PARENTS' COMMITTEE MEETING
THURSDAY, December 2, 2021
7:00 P.M., ONLINE (ZOOM)



AGENDA

Please make sure you sign-in upon arrival

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. Administration Update
 - 6.2. Internal Rules and Procedures
 - 6.3. CONSULTATION: Policy on Student Representation at the LBPSB
7. Questions from the Public
8. New Business
 - 8.1. 2021-22 Annual Budget
 - 8.2. Breakout: Priorities for the 2021-22 School Year
9. Council & External Reports
 - 9.1. SNAC
 - 9.2. Council of Commissioners
 - 9.3. EPCA
10. Varia
 - 10.1. Green Committee/Environmental Committee
 - 10.2. Blanket Exercise
11. Adjournment

Parents` Committee MEETING
THURSDAY, December 2, 2021
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 29 members out of 46 LBPSB schools and SNAC being represented. S. Ross then proceeded to recite the Land Acknowledgement Statement.
2. Word from the Chair
S. Ross noted that several people have offered to recite the Land Acknowledgement Statement at the beginning of PC meetings. He mentioned that the Advisory had discussed it and in the future, PC members will be invited to read it.
3. Approval of the Agenda
S. Ross emphasized that item 9.1 on the agenda originally slated for a Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) report would now be changed to a report from SNAC. S. Ross then asked if there were any additions to the agenda. S. Bhargava requested that an update from the Green Committee, the Environmental Committee and a brief discussion about the possibility of performing a Blanket Exercise, all be added to the agenda. D. Bentley requested that EPCA be added to the agenda. S. Ross proposed the following placement for the additions:
 - 9.1 SNAC
 - 9.3 EPCA
 - 10.1 Green Committee/Environmental Committee
 - 10.2 Blanket ExerciseWith these proposed changes/additions, S. Ross then called for a motion to approve the amended agenda. It was moved by B. Tremellen to approve the agenda. The motion was seconded by F. Henry. None were opposed, and no abstentions were noted. The motion was carried unanimously.
4. Approval of the Minutes
S. Ross asked if there were any proposed changes to the minutes of November 4, 2021. N. Lawand requested that the spelling of her name be corrected. With that change, S. Ross then called for approval of the minutes of November 4, 2021. It was moved by S. Orenbach that the minutes of November 4, 2021 be approved. The motion was seconded by K. de Forest. None were opposed, and no abstentions were noted. The motion was carried unanimously.
5. Correspondence
S. Ross noted that various correspondence had been included in the kit and Reps/Alts were invited to review it.
6. Business Arising
 - 6.1. Administration Update
S. Ross invited T. Rhymes to speak to the Administration Report. The following items were highlighted:
 - Board-wide Professional day took place on Nov. 19- topics covered included Equity/Diversity/Inclusivity/Dignity with the objective of the day being reflection on inclusive pedagogy. A review took place regarding what is taught, how it is taught and what materials are used. The session was pre-recorded and was a very positive experience with approximately 2400 viewers taking part.
 - Regarding Covid 19- the cold weather has seen an increase in cases with outbreaks taking place island-wide. Elementary school student vaccination has begun. Both the Riverview and Verdun Elementary school communities were able to access vaccinations for students at Beurling. A vaccination clinic was also opened at Dorval Elementary with a few more schools being added very shortly. Vaccinations are expected to take place until December 21. Approximately 25-35 % of students so far have opted to be vaccinated in a school setting.S. Ross then invited Reps/Alts to ask T. Rhymes the following questions:
 - Q. For kids getting vaccines in schools, are parents allowed to accompany them?
A. French School Boards tend to not let parents in. For those in the territory of the CIUSS West Island there is an option for parents to accompany them. Principals are building lists with 10 to 12 parents being allowed to enter the school at the same time. Parents are given a phone call when it is their turn to enter the school.
 - Q. The PC has not had a discussion about vaccines, but we are going ahead with what the Government has asked us to do?
A. The School Board is not encouraging parents in any way. It is mandated to facilitate the roll out of vaccines, but it is a parental choice. In addition, the PC has discussed this but it is not the School Board's or the PC's role to mandate it.
 - Q. Is the School Board ready and willing to stand up for parents who do not wish to vaccinate their kids?

A. To date there has been no inclination or appetite by the Ministry to deny students access to education based on their vaccination status. There has only been an issue with extra-curricular sports at the high school level particularly high contact sports.

Q. Can we please have an update on the OQLF doing visits in our schools?

A. The OQLF visits are not a result of a complaint. The School Board must comply with the Charter of the French Language. In order to get a certificate of compliance there are certain parameters that the School Board has to adhere to. There is a schedule regarding where the OQLF will visit. It was noted that these visits pertain to administrative issues and not classrooms. S. Ross noted that he would communicate with Admin to see if the PC would be updated about the OQLF visits.

6.2. Internal Rules and Procedures

S. Ross noted that the Internal Rules had been posted on BASECAMP since November 28th. He emphasized that he would like to hold a vote at this meeting in order to approve them. He invited Reps/Alts to comment or ask any questions that they may have. The following was highlighted:

- It was explained that the Internal Rules were posted on BASECAMP in order to be discussed there so as not to take up valuable meeting time dissecting them
- It was reported that Reps/Alts were invited to join the Subcommittee at that time and that the Subcommittee spent quite a bit of time reviewing the Internal Rules
- The Internal Rules are reviewed every year
- No rules were changed
- There were some clarifications made
- The Acronyms and Terms section has been organized in alphabetical order
- References to the Education Act were removed as they are in the midst of being revamped

S. Ross launched a poll in order for members to vote. The following three options were presented:

- Approve
- Object
- Abstain

The results of the vote were the following: 27 Approved, 0 Objections, 2 Abstentions were noted. The vote was passed. The Internal Rules were approved. O. Kouyoumdjian noted that the newly approved Internal Rules would be posted shortly.

6.3. CONSULTATION: Policy on Student Representation at the LBPSB

S. Ross indicated that the CONSULTATION: Policy on Student Representation at the LBPSB had been posted online and it was noted that the PC was able to get an extension to submit a response up until a week after this meeting. He noted that a draft response was posted on BASECAMP. S. Ross asked if there were any questions. He explained that in the absence of L. Dalterio the Subcommittee Chair, L. Mancini would speak to this item on the agenda. It was explained that a few suggestions were added in order to more closely align with the Task Force recommendations. It was noted that there should be more diversity in student representation. It was emphasized that the SNAC response differs from the PC response in that the SNAC response is more specific. S. Ross then called for a motion to approve the PC response to the CONSULTATION: Policy on Student Representation at the LBPSB. It was moved by B. Tremellen to approve the PC response. The motion was seconded by K. Dion. S. Ross reminded Alts to vote only if their Reps were absent but stressed the importance of Alts being involved.

S. Ross launched a poll in order for members to vote. The following three options were presented:

- Approve
- Object
- Abstain

The results of the vote were the following: 27 Approved, 0 Objections, 2 abstentions were noted. The vote was passed. The PC response to the CONSULTATION: Policy on Student Representation at the LBPSB was approved.

7. Questions from the Public

S. Ross reminded members of the public that this portion of the agenda was allocated solely for the purpose of asking questions. Each person posing a question would be given three minutes. The following are highlights:

Q. With the ruling on Bill 40 expected soon, will EPCA take a poll to see if their members wish to spend money in the court room or the classroom?

A. The Chair emphasized that parents were consulted and that the PC did support QESBA in their bill 40 challenge.

Q. Could the correspondence sent to the Chair be included in the PC correspondence file so that members can read it?

A. The Chair agreed to disseminate the info sent to him and include it in the correspondence file.

8. New Business

8.1. 2021-22 Annual Budget

S. Ross reported that as of this meeting, no funds have been spent. He put forth a motion to table this discussion. The motion was seconded by R. Allen. It was emphasized that the Internal Rules state that the budget should have been posted five days in advance of the meeting and it was not. S. Ross asked if there were any questions. There were none.

S. Ross launched a poll in order for members to vote. The following three options were presented:

- Approve
- Object
- Abstain

The results of the vote were the following: 28 Approved, 0 Objections, 1 Abstention was noted. The vote was passed. The 2021-22 Annual Budget was tabled.

8.2. Breakout: Priorities for the 2021-22 School Year

S. Ross communicated that Reps/Alts would be divided into three Breakout groups in order to discuss potential priorities for the year. He requested that each group assign a spokesperson in order to convey the thoughts of the group. Everyone then rejoined the main meeting where S. Ross invited the spokespeople to provide a brief summary of their group's discussions. The following are highlights of the discussions:

Breakout Group 1: Spokesperson- M. Barron

- Importance of advocating for professional skills development for teachers
- Helping parents in general to navigate the school system-create a "Survival Guide"/Handbook for new parents
- ABAV Presentation/Workshop
- How school rental revenue is used and if the funds could potentially come back to the schools perhaps to offset Daycare shortfalls

Breakout Group 2: Spokesperson- S. Campeau

- Creation of "Survival Guide" for parents
- Promotion of Mental Health resources on Facebook and on the PC website
- Suggestion to streamline last year's list of resources while adding some School Board links
- Community impact of Bill 96/21/40
- How to promote the School Board
- Environmental awareness

At this point in the meeting, S. Ross called for an extension to the meeting by fifteen minutes as there were still several items to be covered. It was moved by M. Dugdale to extend the meeting by fifteen minutes. The motion was seconded by J. Taub. The majority were in favour, one opposition was noted and no abstentions were noted. The motion was carried. The meeting was extended until approximately 9:15 pm if necessary.

Breakout Group 3: Spokesperson- J. Ranger

- PC independence
- Mental Health support for students
- How to increase parental involvement

S. Ross emphasized that the objective and purpose of the PC is to promote parental participation. He reiterated that the PC has a unique and collaborative relationship with Administration and Council. He maintained that the PC is an independent body which functions by law as part of the LBPSB.

9. Council & External Reports

9.1. SNAC

S. Ross invited L. Mancini to speak to this item on the agenda. The SNAC report was included in the meeting kit. The following points were highlighted:

- SNAC responds to many parent inquiries especially about IEPs
- SNAC website will be undergoing a major update with streamlining to take place
- Reps/Alts were asked to share the IEP link in the meeting kit with their GBs
- IEP process can be daunting with some parents unaware of their role as well as their rights
- IEP kits have been sent to Resource Depts.

9.2. Council of Commissioners

S. Ross invited J. Kelley, LBPSB Chairperson to give a brief update from Council. J. Kelley reported that Executive, Programs and Services, Human Resources and Transportation Advisory Committees have all met and have discussed many issues that were also discussed at this PC meeting. She emphasized that one of her personal objectives is to help promote mental health and an understanding of social media. She noted that a workshop for Commissioners would be taking place on the weekend of this meeting. Three main topics of discussion will be:

- Transportation network
- Timeline regarding implementation of Task Force recommendations
- Green/Climate Change issues

J. Kelly informed PC members that over the course of the following 3 weeks, Global News will be highlighting all the great initiatives that are happening within the LBPSB. She noted that she was interviewed by the media regarding an incident that occurred at LCCHS. She emphasized that the School Board has reached out to staff and students and has taken this situation very seriously.

9.3. EPCA

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

- The AGA took place a few weeks ago where a new executive was elected with K. Korakakis being reelected as President
- Discussions took place regarding Bill 9: Act to reform position of Student Ombudsman. LBPSB PC recommendations will be included in the EPCA document
- EPCA Newsletter can be found in the meeting kit
- EPCA has a representative on the Board of Directors of QCGN (Quebec Community Groups Network)
- Over 1000 participants took part in an online lecture facilitated by Dr. Eli Lebowitz, Yale School of Medicine professor and researcher who spoke about how parents can help their children manage anxiety

10. Varia

10.1. Green Committee/Environmental Committee

S. Ross invited S. Bhargava to provide a brief update. S. Bhargava indicated that the Green Committee/Environmental report could be found on BASECAMP. He pointed out that the School Board now has 2 electric buses, as per new government regulations which prohibits the purchasing of new gas powered buses.

10.2. Blanket Exercise

S. Ross invited S. Bhargava to speak to this item on the agenda. S. Bhargava provided a brief explanation of a Blanket Exercise noting that it is a very emotional and eye opening experience. He emphasized that they are performed by those from Indigenous communities, lasting for about 2 ½ - 3 hours at a cost of approximately \$900. He suggested that perhaps the PC could organize an evening for parents to participate in a Blanket Exercise. S. Ross mentioned that he would contact S. Bhargava for more details.

11. Adjournment

S. Ross expressed thanks to PC Reps/Alts, Chairperson Kelley, Administration and all participants. He adjourned the meeting at 9:18 pm. The next PC meeting will take place on February 3, 2022.

Respectfully submitted by
Barbara Schnider
Recording Secretary

Attendance Report		
Member School	Parent Rep Present	Alternate Rep Present
Allion	Annette Banton	
Beacon Hill		
Beaconsfield	Ovidiu Burlec	
Beechwood	Talar Chahinian	Diandra Yoselevitz
Beurling Academy	Julius Taube	
Birchwood	Derek Kenny	
Children's World		Jeff Stern
*Christmas Park	Lisa Mancini	
Clearpoint		
Dorset		
Dorval	Patricia Ottoni	
Edgewater	Jeremy Zafran	
*Evergreen		
Forest Hill Jr	Richard Allen	
Forest Hill Sr		
John Rennie	Shane Ross	
Kingsdale	Adam Feldstein	
Lakeside Academy	Sarah Campeau	
Lasalle Community Comprehensive		
Lasalle Jr	Nicole Clayton	
LasalleSr	Franca Henry	
Macdonald	Kris de Forest	Michael Dugdale
Maple Grove		
Margaret Manson	Anthony Morello	
*Mount Pleasant		
Pierre Elliott Trudeau		
Pierrefonds Comprehensive		Brenda Trellemen
Riverview		
Sherbrooke Academy Jr.		Denise Peirera
Sherbrooke Academy Sr.	Tania Shand	
*Soulange		
Springdale		
St. Anthony	Shane Ross	
St. Charles	Ross McLean	
St. Edmund		
St. John Fisher Jr		Angela Kovalak
St. John Fisher Sr	Christine Archambault	Nadia Lawland
St. Patrick	Doug Bentley	Michael Barron
St. Thomas	Sharad Barghava	
Sunshine Academy		
Terry Fox	Karyne Dion	
Verdun		
Westpark	Alaina Charzan	Erica Cuthbertson
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)

Natasha Drysdale (public)
 Chris Eustace (public)

29/48 Member Schools + SNAC Represented