

**PARENTS' COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**THURSDAY, December 8th, 2022**  
**7:00 P.M., ONLINE**



**AGENDA**

Please make sure you sign-in upon arrival

1. Call to Order with Land Acknowledgement
2. Allo Prof Presentation from Lisa Lorenzetti
3. Word from the Chair
4. Approval of the Agenda
5. Approval of the Minutes (Nov 9th)
6. Correspondence
7. Business Arising
  - 7.1. Communication Reminders
  - 7.2. Administration Update -Tom Rhymes, Assistant Director General
8. Questions from the Public
9. New Business
  - 9.1. Appreciation of Service to Thomas Rhymes
  - 9.2. Connie Held Award
  - 9.3. PC Budget Approval
  - 9.4. Priorities for the 2022-23 School Year: Equality, Dignity, Diversity & Inclusion & Green Initiative
  - 9.5. Electing a member to the Green Committee
  - 9.6. Subcommittees (dates) and breakout groups
10. Council & External Reports
  - 10.1. Council of Commissioners - Judith Kelley, Chair of the Council of Commissioners
  - 10.2. SNAC - Sara Hossaini
  - 10.3. EPCA
  - 10.4. TAC -Tracey - Ann Curtis
  - 10.5. Programs and service - Jackie Barbieri
  - 10.6. Safe and Caring Schools - Sarah Campeau
  - 10.7. Intercultural Advisory - Zahra Ibrahim
  - 10.8. Facilities & Security - Greg Piggins
  - 10.9. PEF - Greg Piggins
11. Varia
12. Adjournment

**Parents` Committee MEETING**  
**THURSDAY, December 8, 2022**  
**7:00 P.M., ONLINE (Zoom)**

1. Call to Order with Land Acknowledgement

C. Downer called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm. Quorum was established with **24** members out of 46 LBPSB schools and SNAC being represented. C. Downer then invited D. Bentley to recite the Land Acknowledgement Statement. She thanked all Reps/Alts for their efforts. C. Downer noted that agenda item 9.1 Appreciation of Service to Thomas Rhymes would be moved and would follow agenda item number 1. The Chair informed participants that the meeting would be recorded.

**Appreciation of Service to Thomas Rhymes (9.1)**

C. Downer invited S. Ross to share his thoughts about T. Rhymes' time at LBPSB. S. Ross recounted that when he first joined the LBPSB community, T. Rhymes was the principal of Riverdale High School and took his family on a tour of Riverdale High School. It was apparent to S. Ross that education was T. Rhymes' passion. As time has moved on, T. Rhymes has moved up through the ranks of the LBPSB. S. Ross expressed that he has been fortunate to work with T. Rhymes in collaboration with the PC. Over the years there have been some challenging times and through it all T. Rhymes has remained tremendously dedicated. He has been fair and crystal clear and has always looked out for students' best interest. T. Rhymes played a large role collaborating both with students and parents. S. Ross expressed that it has been his pleasure and honor to work with T. Rhymes. There have been a lot of tough times but also many good times. S. Ross then thanked T. Rhymes for his service.

T. Rhymes expressed his heartfelt thanks to S. Ross for his kind words and noted that the pleasure had been all his. He emphasized that it had been an honor to serve the School Board, the students and work with the Parents' Committee. He noted that he has tried to live his work life openly, honestly and with transparency. He stated that he looked to work together for the betterment of the system. T. Rhymes indicated that everyone has worked hard to achieve an objective. He thanked all participants for their support and commitment to English language public education in Quebec. A. Banton then presented T. Rhymes with a gift of appreciation from the PC.

2. Allo Prof Presentation from Lisa Lorenzetti

C. Downer introduced Lisa Lorenzetti from Alloprof who would be making a presentation to the PC.

She provided participants with a bit about her background.

The following is a summary of the presentation.

- Alloprof was established in 1996 initially as a helpline but has expanded to become a large resource
  - What began as a French only service, over the past few years has added English resources to its platform
  - Alloprof helps students in Quebec to transform academic challenges into success beginning from Grade 1 up to Secondary 5
  - The pandemic accelerated the pace of this project. The government was strongly encouraged by EPCA to allocate funds in order to translate this resource into English.
  - There is an area for students, parents, teachers, as well as a Help Zone area
  - The parent section includes information about difficulties that students may experience at school, how to encourage reading and writing, how report cards and the school system work, in addition to much more information
  - At the moment, resources in Science and Technology as well as Math are available with plans to add many more subjects in the near future
  - A French second language component is being developed but is not available yet
  - Materials, videos, games, downloadable tools, exam and prep sheets are available
  - In 2020 a new cloud based platform was added
  - In 2021 a Chat Service/Help Zone was developed
  - Two services are available: Students can get in touch with a teacher by phone/text/chat between Monday and Thursday afterschool or on Sundays OR they can pose their questions in a peer space, moderated by a teacher 7 days a week
  - Teachers or those studying Education in their final years provide help to students
  - LEARN offers more of a tutoring service while Alloprof provides a platform for a short dialogue
- T. Rhymes and C. Downer both thanked Lisa Lorenzetti for her presentation. C. Downer asked if the PC could be informed of Alloprof updates.

For further information please consult the Alloprof website by using the following link:

<https://www.alloprof.qc.ca/en/students>

3. Word from the Chair

C. Downer informed the PC that BASECAMP is now up and running. She indicated that there are some new sections including Resources and FAQs along with other material. She emphasized that it is important that everyone has access to all information. C. Downer thanked all those who contacted her about the newly updated list of Reps/Alts.

4. Approval of the Agenda

C. Downer indicated that she would like to table agenda item number 9.6 Subcommittees (dates) and breakout groups. C. Downer then asked if anyone had any proposed changes to the agenda. A PC member inquired about the confusion regarding the start time of the meeting. C. Downer apologized and indicated that normally meetings start at 7:00 pm but an old link with the start time of 6:30 pm was copied by mistake. C. Downer then asked for a motion to approve the agenda. It was moved by K. de Forest to approve the agenda. The motion was seconded by A. Feldstain. None were opposed and no abstentions were noted. The motion was carried unanimously.

5. Approval of the Minutes (Nov 9th)

C. Downer asked if there were any corrections or amendments to the minutes. There were none. C. Downer then called for approval of the minutes. It was moved by A. Feldstain to approve the minutes. The motion was seconded by D. Bentley. None were opposed, one abstention was noted. The motion was carried.

6. Correspondence

C. Downer reported that the only correspondence received was new contact info for PC Reps and Alts.

7. Business Arising

7.1. Communication Reminders

C. Downer invited D. Bentley to speak to this item on the agenda. D. Bentley expressed apologies regarding issues with BASECAMP. He reported that it is now up and running. He encouraged everyone to change their email address to their GAFE account. Reps/Alts were invited to get in touch with D. Bentley or C. Downer if they needed help. Several members of the PC raised concerns about switching to GAFE accounts noting that in the past people felt free to discuss things. It was also mentioned that at times there are many posts on BASECAMP and the notifications can be quite numerous. C. Downer pointed out that Reps/Alts can go into their settings to change it in order to be notified of updates only once per day. It was confirmed that invitations will be sent out by email.

7.2. Administration Update -Tom Rhymes, Assistant Director General

C. Downer invited T. Rhymes to speak to this item on the agenda. T. Rhymes remarked that the Administration report was in the kit. He mentioned that there has been a slight modification made to the Field Trip Policy. Throughout the pandemic, there were restrictions on trips outside of the country. Now certain things have been relaxed and some trips in fact will be taking place outside of the country. Some very specific guidelines should be established.

8. Questions from the Public

C. Downer invited members of the public to pose their questions. The following are highlights of questions /comments from the public:

Q. Why is there a School Name Consultation and a Budget Consultation?

A. The PC is aware of the two Consultations and the Chair is ok with sharing info with everyone.

Q. Is there a PC MSR from the last meeting?

A. It was taken for granted that someone would work on the MSR, however many people have been sick. It was agreed that the MSR is a valuable tool and that in the future an attempt will be made to get it out as soon as possible.

A comment was made that the MSR was a service offered by the PC but it is not a requirement. The MSR is meant for Chairs, Reps/Alts and was posted on the PC website.

Q. Question Period takes place halfway through the meeting. Can there be a second Question Period included just as the LBPSB Executive Committee has?

A. An extra Question Period is possible. It was suggested that perhaps an e-vote could be held on BASECAMP regarding this topic.

Q. What is the appropriate way to bring up an issue regarding a school?

A. It can be brought up under Varia.

A member of the public noted that he had sent out correspondence. Letters were written to various newspapers regarding whether or not parent meetings would have to be conducted in French (Re Bill 96). It was clarified that meetings do not have to be conducted in French.

9. New Business

9.1. Appreciation of Service to Thomas Rhymes

(See Agenda Number1)

9.2. Connie Held Award

C. Downer invited K. de Forest to speak to this item on the agenda. K. de Forest emphasized that each year the Parents' Committee honors a long time member who has demonstrated exceptional service and who has recently

“graduated” out of the system. All recipients have their names engraved on a plaque that hangs on the wall of the School Board. The latest recipient has been a rock for many PC Chairpersons and has chaired many subcommittees in the past. He has spearheaded many initiatives including leading the fight to ensure that Financial Literacy was included in the high school curriculum. He has been an amazing mentor to many. This years’ recipient of the Connie Held Award is Sharad Bhargava. Since his departure, many sub-committee Reps still ask “what would Sharad do?” S. Bhargava remarked that it has been a privilege to work with everyone including past PC Chairs and PC members. He noted that one of the first things he was involved with was going to Quebec City when Bill 86 was proposed and there he got to know Connie Held when presenting in Quebec City. He noted that all Parent Reps/Alts can have a strong influence. GBs are also very powerful. As a GB Rep you can accomplish a lot. He pointed out that he has been fortunate to work on many School Board consultations as well as many resolutions at the school level. S. Bhargava encouraged all to make a difference.

### 9.3. PC Budget Approval

C. Downer indicated that a Budget from the School Board is allocated to the PC on an annual basis. This years’ budget is \$5000. Line items within the Budget were posted on the screen. Some expenses included PC meeting supplies and expenses, PC End of year Dinner, Connie Held Award, Ad Hoc Committee meetings, Advisory meetings, Contingency Fund. It was emphasized that baby sitting and transportation expenses can be partially reimbursed based on the PC expense guideline. For more detailed information Reps/Alts are encouraged to contact a member of the Advisory.

C. Downer then called for a motion to approve the PC 2022-23 Budget. It was moved by A. Charszan to approve the PC 2022-23 Budget. The motion was seconded by O. Burlec. None were opposed and no abstentions were noted. The motion was carried unanimously.

### 9.4. Priorities for the 2022-23 School Year: Equality, Dignity, Diversity & Inclusion & Green Initiative

C. Downer expressed thanks to all who sent suggestions. The Advisory had a lengthy discussion and the consensus was that the PC would like to concentrate on the following for the 2022-23 School Year:

Equality, Dignity, Diversity & Inclusion, as well as the Green Initiative.

### 9.5. Electing a member to the Green Committee

C. Downer invited D. Bentley to speak to this item on the agenda.

D. Bentley pointed out that the PC should have elected a PC member to the School Board Green Committee. D. Bentley noted that he was the Rep last year and the Committee met only a few times last year. He then asked if anyone was interested in filling that role. C. Downer then invited Reps/Alts to nominate themselves.

O. Burlec nominated himself. C. Downer then called for any further nominations. There being none, O. Burlec was acclaimed. D. Bentley pointed out that O. Burlec would be a valuable member on the Green Committee.

### 9.6. Subcommittees (dates) and breakout groups

(Tabled)

## 10. Council & External Reports

### 10.1. Council of Commissioners - Judith Kelley, Chair of the Council of Commissioners

C. Downer invited J. Kelley to speak to this item on the agenda. The following was highlighted:

- J. Kelley expressed congratulations to S. Bhargava on being the recipient of the Connie Held Award
- J. Kelley expressed tremendous gratitude to T. Rhymes for his dedication to the LBPSB and the School Board Community
- Council meeting in December was expected to take place in person for the first time in three years
- The equipment necessary to webcast Council Meetings had not been set up at the time of this meeting
- The Annual Report will be presented at the Council Meeting
- Council will launch the Budget Consultation on December 12
- J. Kelly thanked D. Bentley for being an advocate for English education when he spoke on CBC radio

### 10.2. SNAC - Sara Hossaini

C. Downer invited S. Hossaini to speak to this item on the agenda. The following was highlighted:

- A meeting was held on November 23. As some members were new, a presentation was given on how to fulfill their role. An IEP Presentation was held with many parents participating.
- Many questions were posed regarding Dyslexia as it seems that this issue has not been adequately addressed.

### 10.3. EPCA

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

- EPCA recently held their AGA along with a short presentation
- The following executive positions were filled:
  - K. Korakakis - President
  - T. Hubley - Vice-President
  - V. Chavez - Treasurer
  - D. Bentley - Communications Officer

- S. Hossaini was welcomed to EPCA as a new member
- Recent CTV report was mentioned featuring the government's mismanagement of Education during the pandemic
- EPCA President is scheduled to meet with the new Minister of Education in January. Moving forward a main area of focus will be to identify where the learning gaps are.

10.4. TAC – Tracey -Ann Curtis

C. Downer invited T. Curtis to speak to this item on the agenda. The following was highlighted:

- First meeting was held the day before this meeting
- A new found respect was expressed for the coordinator for putting the Transportation plan together for the thousands of students that take the bus each day
- The School Board is doing well in the current context
- Negotiations are ongoing with safety and availability of drivers being some of the issues

10.5. Programs and Service - Jackie Barbieri

No report was available.

10.6. Safe and Caring Schools - Sarah Campeau

As meeting link was not received, a report was not available

10.7. Intercultural Advisory - Zahra Ibrahim

No report was available.

10.8. Facilities & Security - Greg Piggins

No report was available.

10.9. PEF - Greg Piggins

C. Downer invited G. Piggins to speak to this item on the agenda. The following was highlighted:

- A massive restructuring of PEF (Pearson Educational Foundation) is taking place
- In the future there will be significant ways that PEF will be able to interact with the PC (more info to come)
- They have brought on a whole team of idea people
- Two to three fund raising events are set to take place in the near future

11. Varia

C. Downer invited Reps/Alts to present any Varia that they may have. The following questions were posed:

Q. Concerns were expressed regarding communications related to bussing (If a bus is late how are parents to stay informed? How are we to communicate with students if a bus does not arrive)?

A. It was noted that principals will send out a message if possible.

Q. Does the School Board get info if a bus does not arrive?

A. Yes. It is not always predictable when a bus will be late. If there is an incident, then the School Board will be notified.

Q. Reference was made to the possibility of a principal deciding not to have Santa at their school.

A. The School Board has not banned Santa however mention was made about cultural sensitivities.

Discussions are taking place around inclusivity as in the past some students felt as if they were left out.

At one school a committee will be struck to try and come up with a plan of action to try and represent all groups.

Q. It was emphasized that on one route, a bus did not show up dozens of times. How is this being addressed?

A. It was reported that the parents could not be reached. T. Rhymes invited Reps/Alts to reach out to him if they have any concerns.

It was reported that the School Board is out for tender for a new Communications System which will hopefully include SMS. Additionally, usually the bus carrier will let the School Board know if a bus is having an issue.

*At this point in the meeting, D. Bentley made a motion to extend the meeting by 15 minutes as it was already past 9:00 pm. One member was opposed and one abstention was noted. The majority were in favour. The motion was carried and the meeting was extended by 15 minutes.*

It was emphasized that buses have GPSs. Parents were encouraged to go on BASECAMP where a contact email for the transportation Dept. would be posted.

Q. Is there anything that can be done to increase health measures in one of the high schools?

A. Absences are being monitored. It was reported that there are a large number of absences in the whole system, particularly in the Elementary Sector. It was noted that if there is a certain school with a large number of absences, the School Board may send parents a memo advising them. Schools continue to encourage hand washing and still have masks available.

Q. As a PC is there anything that can be done? Have there been any discussions about closing the schools early for the holidays in light of the high number of absences?

A. No. There are no plans to close early.

Q. Is there a policy that prohibits bake sales at schools? One schools' PPO was informed that they were not allowed to have bake sales. Apparently the memo came from the School Board.

A. Precautions need to be taken regarding allergies but bake sales are not prohibited.

It was pointed out that if there is an issue that the PC is concerned about, it can be proposed that a subcommittee be struck.

Discussions took place regarding different issues at different schools (communication, possibility of uniforms, etc).

12. Adjournment

It moved by C. Downer to adjourn the meeting at 9:22pm. She then wished everyone Happy Holidays from the PC.

Respectfully submitted by  
Barbara Schnider  
Recording Secretary

Attendance Report		
Member School	Parent Rep Present	Alternate Rep Present
Allion	X	
Beacon Hill	X	
Beaconsfield	X	
Beechwood		
Beurling Academy	X	
Birchwood		
Children's World	X	
Christmas Park		
Clearpoint	X	
Dorset		
Dorval		
Edgewater	X	
Evergreen		
Forest Hill Jr		
Forest Hill Sr		
John Rennie	X	
Kingsdale	X	X
Lakeside Academy	X	
Lasalle Community Comprehensive		
Lasalle Jr	X	
Lasalle Sr	X	X
Macdonald	X	
Maple Grove	X	
Margaret Manson		
Mount Pleasant		
Pierre Elliott Trudeau		
Pierrefonds Comprehensive	X	
Riverdale		
Riverview		
Sherbrooke Academy Jr.		
Sherbrooke Academy Sr.	X	
Soulange		
Springdale		
St. Anthony	X	
St. Charles	X	X
St. Edmund		
St. John Fisher Jr		
St. John Fisher Sr		
St. Patrick	X	
St. Thomas	X	
Sunshine Academy		
Terry Fox		

Verdun		X
Westpark	X	
Westwood Jr		
Westwood Sr	X	
Wilder Penfield		X
SNAC	X	