**Parents’ Committee MEETING**

**Thursday, February 15, 2024**

**7:00 p.m., ONLINE**

**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 (January)
5. Correspondence
6. English Parents Committee Association Presentation

Katherine Korakakis, President of EPCA

1. Questions from the Public
2. Business Arising
   1. CONSULTATION: Budget Consultation Discussion
   2. Update to TRANSCO
   3. Principal Selection Criteria
3. Keystone Reports
   1. Council of Commissioners - Chair, Judith Kelley
   2. Administration - Assistant Director General, Stephen Colpitts
   3. Council Committees
   4. SNAC
   5. EPCA
4. Varia
5. Adjournment

**Parents` Committee Meeting**

**Thursday, February 15, 2024**

**7:00 p.m., ONLINE (Zoom)**

1. Call to Order with Land Acknowledgement

S. Ross called the meeting to order at 7:01 pm. Quorum was established with ?? members out of 46 LBPSB schools and SNAC being represented. S. Ross then invited D. Bentley to recite the Land Acknowledgement Statement.

1. Word from the Chair

S. Ross thanked S. Colpitts, J. Kelly, K. Korakakis and Reps/Alts for participating. He noted that the agenda was not extensive this month. He referenced a news story regarding a father who confronted the bully who hurt his child. He pointed out that the PC can look into this topic further and discuss how to address these issues. S. Ross explained that the PC is trying to set up a presentation open to all parent of the LBPSB to take place on March 14 covering the topic of Social Biases/Social Polarization. As of the time of this meeting, there is no March PC meeting scheduled.

1. Approval of the Agenda

S. Ross invited members of the PC to consult the agenda and suggest any additions. An inquiry was made as to whether the PC would be addressing any other consultations, specifically the Principal Selection Criteria and if it could be added to the agenda. He agreed to add it under item 8.3. An inquiry was made as to whether the topic of communication with a principal could be added to the agenda. S. Ross noted that he wouldn’t add it to the agenda but it could be discussed on BAND. An inquiry was made regarding the disposal of PPE in the school. S. Ross noted that the question could be posted on BAND. The Chair then called for a motion to approve the amended agenda. It was moved by N. Lawand to approve the agenda. The motion was seconded by E. Thibault. None were opposed, no abstentions were noted, and the motion was carried.

1. Approval of the Minutes (January)

S. Ross asked Reps/Alts to review the January minutes with special attention being paid to verify the attendance sheet at the end of the minutes. T. Fullerton pointed out that he was absent and that N. Lawand should have been listed as an SJF Rep. The Chair then called for a motion to approve the minutes.

It was moved by P. Bagstad to approve the minutes. The motion was seconded by T. Curtis. None were opposed, one abstention was noted, and the motion was carried.

1. Correspondence

S. Ross invited Rep/Alts to consult the meeting kit in order to read the correspondence.

1. English Parents Committee Association Presentation

Katherine Korakakis, President of EPCA

S. Ross pointed out that EPCA is the lobbying arm for parents and if the PC wishes to provide feedback to the government it is done through EPCA. He then introduced Katherine Korakakis, President of EPCA who provided a graph to outline EPCA’s involvement. The following items were highlighted.

EPCA:

* + Is a provincial organization
  + Is often called upon by the media to grant interviews
  + Frequently meets with government partners
  + Attends meetings with Ministers and Civil Servants
  + Meets with Community partners
  + Provides advice to parents
  + Receives 40% of its calls from the Montreal area (many from French schools)
  + Inquiries are often related to: Certificates of Eligibility, Disruption of Service, Recourse and Rights, Parent Governance, and much more
  + Provides tools and resources to parents
  + Raises awareness
  + Publishes info about School Taxes
  + Sits on the National Table on Violence
  + Produced videos in conjunction with the FCPQ (with funding from the government) which can be found on EPCA’s website
  + Will be providing Free Virtual Parenting Workshops from March to May
  + Workshop Topics include: Homework 101, Transitions: Leaving High School, Internet Safety, Mental Wellness of the Family, Special Needs Children: What kind of educational pathways are available?, Financial Literacy, Vaping, Alcohol, Smoking, and Drug Awareness, Transitions: Leaving Elementary School
  + Launches Parent Consultations
  + Consults with parents of students with special needs
  + Is involved at the Provincial Table on Special Needs which includes Reps from all English PCs
  + Writes briefs to present to the National Assembly
  + Launches surveys

Survey Info:

* Received approximately 14,000 responses (strong participation rate)
* Federal and Provincial governments were contacted with the findings
* Covid/Strikes strongly impacted families
* Survey measured quality of life ranging from 0 to 100 where 100 indicated an excellent quality of life
* Quality of life scores show that both boys and students with special needs seem to be at a disadvantage
* Financial issues remain a challenge with one fifth of respondents indicating fears of food insecurity
* One third of respondents were concerned about their financial situation
* At the primary and secondary levels screen time was the number one concern for parents followed by learning loss and psychological well being
* Strikes seem to be associated with the deterioration of children’s and parents’ well being
* On March 17 EPCA will provide the survey results to interested parents

Reps/Alts were encouraged to follow EPCA on social media and to sign up to receive their newsletter, as well to consult the website Parents.Quebec. All EPCA videos are linked on Parents.Quebec.

The following items came up during discussions:

* It was reported that the survey was created because there have been many crises lately
* Survey findings were analyzed by a Doctor with a team of professionals
* EPCA can use this information to stress to the government that they must react
* Next issue of the Newsletter will be a special issue focusing on mental health
* Screen time is a huge topic
* Some of the EPCA website is in the process of being updated
* EPCA info will be posted on BAND
* The Task Force for Linguistic Policy will be presenting at the EMSB PC

1. Questions from the Public

There were none at this time.

1. Business Arising
   1. CONSULTATION: Budget Consultation Discussion

S. Ross provided a general overview of the Budget Consultation:

* It was emphasized that new members may not necessarily understand the Budget Consultation process
* At the school level GBs discuss where the budget should be allocated however the PC’s focus is board wide
* Last year’s PC response was posted on BAND
* Reps/Alts are encouraged to come up with ideas that the PC can suggest to the School Board with regards to where resources can be allocated (eg. green spaces/composting/recycling/green initiatives/reducing the amount of printed paper, improve the physical environment of schools, look at materials used in classrooms, adding ACs to classrooms, etc…)
* Comments were made with regards to concerns about excessive cell phone use, gaps in learning, etc…
* Suggestions can be added on BAND
  1. Update to TRANSCO

S. Ross reported that parents received an email regarding the TRANSCO strike.

* There has not been a settlement as of the date of this meeting
* The School Board will provide reimbursement cheques
* C. Heffernan met with management at TRANSCO
* Unfortunately there is not a wide array of options as there are very few bus companies
* Schools are having a hard time with the busing issues with regards to field trips
* TAC meeting was held earlier during the week
  1. Principal Selection Criteria

It was noted that this consultation doesn’t go out to the PC but the topic of how GBs approach this was mentioned including the following:

* What GBs believe this consultation is intended for
* What the perceived value of the input is
* The comfort level of different members of the GB while having this discussion with the Principal in the room
* Those with additional input were encouraged to post it on BAND

1. Keystone Reports
   1. Council of Commissioners - Chair, Judith Kelley

S. Ross invited LBPSB Chair, Judy Kelley to speak to this item on the agenda.

The following items were highlighted:

* An Ad hoc committee of EDDI is working on a policy soon to be launched as a consultation
* School Board Elections will be taking place on November 3, 2024
* LBPSB has 12 Electoral divisions
* The Chair will be elected by Universal Suffrage
* The person that will run the elections will soon be named
* The School Board has begun receiving inquiries about the upcoming Solar Eclipse taking place on April the 8th
* This matter will be discussed at the next Council meeting
* An option is to switch a PED day
  1. Administration - Assistant Director General, Stephen Colpitts

S. Ross invited Assistant Director General, Stephen Colpitts to speak to this item on the agenda.

The following items were highlighted:

* The report is in the kit
* Last month the topic of additional funding to schools was discussed
* Some schools have put together their tutoring plans
* In some cases a second teacher might be added to a class in order to help with the catch up plan
* Staff Appreciation is taking place this week with many people, including Home and Schools recognizing the great contributions of Staff members
* With regards to space being taken up at St. Thomas with PPE, this is due to the fact that renos are currently taking place at Place Cartier
* The staffing process for the 2024-2025 school year takes place in February with Administration recruitment currently taking place
* Teacher staffing will be taking place from March to June
  1. Council Committees

S. Ross noted that D. Bentley sent out a request for Council Committee reports. The Chair then asked Reps/Alts to provide a brief summary of the meetings that took place.

The following items were highlighted:

* A Communication Committee meeting took place
* It was reported that they are in the process of overhauling the PC website which should be completed by the end of the school year
* The LBPSB website with be redone as well
* With regards to TAC, Reps/Alts were asked to indicate by a show of hands if their children use the school bus (including TRANSCO)
* Out of these people they were then asked how many would not want to receive updates regarding delayed buses etc… (with all indicating that they would like to be notified)
* At the time of this meeting the TRANSCO strike was still in effect
* A comment was made that there are many late or canceled buses with some parents indicating that they do not always receive notifications
* A Programs and Service meeting took place earlier in the month with the meeting being divided into two presentations: Alternative Programs and CLCs (Community Learning Centres) with the four CLC Coordinators attending the meeting
* The next Programs and Service meeting will take place in April
* A Facility and Security meeting took place with many updates to be shared shortly
  1. SNAC

It was reported that the next meeting would be in person on January 24. Maya Aziz, Regional Student Advocate will be making a presentation. The Budget Consultation will be discussed at the next meeting.

* 1. EPCA

S. Ross invited D. Bentley to speak to this item on the agenda.

The following items were highlighted:

* Reps/Alts were encouraged to sign up to receive EPCA news
* It was reported that there were 14,000 respondents to the recent survey
* Various workshops will soon be taking place
* EPCA presented a brief on Bill 47 at the Quebec National Assembly
* In March a discussion regarding the survey results will take place
* A discussion with Reps/Alts took place regarding the survey
* An inquiry was made as to why the survey was not sent out to all LBPSB parents
* The Chair explained that a discussion took place with the Director General of the LBPSB and it was decided that if the survey had been sent out to all parents it may have revealed a lopsided result and would not have highlighted the entire demographic of the School Board

1. Varia

S. Ross pointed out that instead of a meeting in March, a presentation will be taking place. He noted that the April meeting will be held in person at the School Board and mentioned that the dynamics are very different in person. Discussions took place as to whether or not it would be possible to use a hybrid model for the meeting. S. Ross noted that he would look into it. He emphasized that if Reps/Alts require hiring a babysitter in order to attend the meeting, they can receive a reimbursement by following the proper procedures. It was mentioned that in-person Council meetings have now resumed but continue to be webcast as was the case prior to Covid. However, this requires the presence of someone from the Tech Dept. S. Ross invited participants to present any varia they might have. There was none.

1. Adjournment

S. Ross thanked everyone for their participation. It moved by L. Dalterio to adjourn the meeting at 9:02 pm.

Respectfully submitted by

Barbara Schnider

Recording Secretary

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| **Attendance Report** | | |
| **Member School** | **Parent Rep Present** | **Alternate Rep Present** |
| Allion |  |  |
| Beacon Hill |  |  |
| Beaconsfield |  |  |
| Beechwood |  |  |
| Beurling Academy |  |  |
| Birchwood |  |  |
| Children’s World |  |  |
| Christmas Park |  |  |
| Clearpoint |  |  |
| Dorset |  |  |
| Dorval |  |  |
| Edgewater |  |  |
| Evergreen |  |  |
| Forest Hill Jr |  |  |
| Forest Hill Sr |  |  |
| Horizon |  |  |
| John Rennie |  |  |
| Kingsdale |  |  |
| Lakeside Academy |  |  |
| Lasalle Community Comprehensive |  |  |
| Lasalle Jr |  |  |
| Lasalle Sr |  |  |
| Macdonald High |  |  |
| Maple Grove |  |  |
| Margaret Manson |  |  |
| Mount Pleasant |  |  |
| Pierre Elliott Trudeau |  |  |
| Pierrefonds Comprehensive |  |  |
| Riverview |  |  |
| Sherbrooke Academy Jr. |  |  |
| Sherbrooke Academy Sr. |  |  |
| Soulanges |  |  |
| Springdale |  |  |
| St. Anthony |  |  |
| St. Charles |  |  |
| St. Edmund |  |  |
| St. John Fisher Jr |  |  |
| St. John Fisher Sr |  |  |
| St. Patrick |  |  |
| St. Thomas |  |  |
| Sunshine Academy |  |  |
| Terry Fox |  |  |
| Verdun |  |  |
| Westpark |  |  |
| Westwood Jr |  |  |
| Westwood Sr |  |  |
| Wilder Penfield |  |  |
| SNAC |  |  |
|  |  |  |

Distinguished attendees Members of the Public

Steven Colpitts - Assistant Director General

Recording Secretary

Barbara Schnider