

**PARENTS' COMMITTEE MEETING
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 2023
AGENDA**

Please login to assist us in starting on time.



1. Call to Order with Land Acknowledgement
2. Word from the Chair
3. Approval of the Agenda
4. Approval of the Minutes (Jan 12)
5. Correspondence
6. Business Arising
 - 6.1. Communication Reminders
 - 6.2. Administration Update - Colleen Galley standing in for Véronique Marin, ADG
 - 6.3. Youth Academic Calendars
 - 6.4. Internal Rules Adoption
 - 6.5. Budget Consultation
7. Questions from the Public
8. Council & External Reports
 - 8.1. Council of Commissioners – Judith Kelley, Chair of the Council of Commissioners
 - 8.2. SNAC – Sara
 - 8.3. TAC
 - 8.4. Programs and service
 - 8.5. EPCA
 - 8.6. PEF
9. Meeting with Chairs/Assistant of the Regional Subcommittee
10. Adjournment

7P.M., ONLINE

**PARENTS' COMMITTEE MEETING
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 2023
7P.M., ONLINE**

1. Call to Order with Land Acknowledgement

In Chair C. Downer's absence, Vice Chair S. Ross called the meeting to order at 7:07 pm. Quorum was established with 27 members out of 48 LBPSB schools and SNAC being represented. S. Ross then invited D. Bentley to recite the Land Acknowledgement Statement.

2. Word from the Chair

S. Ross stated that the PC Recording Secretary, B. Schnider was experiencing a power outage. He emphasized that the recording of the meeting would not be distributed to any members and would only be used for record keeping purposes. S. Ross emphasized that meeting minutes would then be created from the recording.

3. Approval of the Agenda

The agenda was posted. S. Ross noted that item 6.3 Youth Academic Calendar would be removed from the agenda. It was mentioned that the PC had not had an opportunity to post the calendar options and that the response was only due in March. S. Ross then moved to table item 6.3 Youth Academic Calendar as well as item 6.5 Budget Consultation, given feedback received from the Advisory. S. Ross then called for any proposed changes or additions to the agenda. A. Charszan proposed that item 6.3 be left on the agenda for discussion but suggested that the vote be tabled. She called attention to the fact that the PC Rep to Programs and Service had prepared some feedback and context around this. D. Bentley proposed to reverse agenda item 9 and 10 so that the adjournment of meeting would take place and Regional Chairs and Vice Chairs would then meet afterwards. S. Ross then summarized that item 6.3 Youth Academic Calendar would now remain on the agenda for information purposes only. He remarked that item 6.5 Budget Consultation would be tabled until the March meeting and that items 9 and 10 would be swapped. He explained that effectively there will not be a meeting of Chairs and Vice Chairs of the Regional Subcommittee, just an announcement. Chairs were asked to stay on the call. S. Ross then moved to approve the agenda with these changes. The motion was seconded by B. Tremellen. None were opposed and no abstentions were noted. The motion was carried unanimously. The agenda was approved.

4. Approval of the Minutes (Jan 12)

S. Ross indicated that the minutes had been included in the kit and sent out to everyone. It was noted that the Reps from both BHS and Sherbrooke Academy Jr. were in fact in attendance at the January 12, 2023 meeting although this was not reflected on the attendance sheet. S. Ross requested that all Reps/Alts rename themselves along with the name of the school they represent within the chat, in order to ensure that the attendance sheet is accurate. S. Ross requested that A. Banton follow up on the attendance especially that of the Rep from LaSalle Sr. as it was mentioned that the Rep was in attendance at each PC meeting this year. It was also noted that the Rep from Sunshine Academy was in attendance as well as the Rep from LaSalle Jr. A. Banton agreed to follow up with the corrections. It was noted that it seemed as if the attendance sheet was incorrect even though Reps/Alts were listed as being in attendance. S. Ross requested that those Reps/Alts who believed that they were not accurately listed on the attendance sheet please go back over them from the previous meetings this year. D. Bentley noticed that several Reps/Alts had not renamed themselves within this virtual meeting. He explained that it makes much easier to record the attendance if they do so, as this is where errors may occur. S. Ross moved to table approval of the minutes until such time as the attendance list is corrected. The motion was seconded by Marc Luke. None were opposed, and no abstentions were noted. The motion was carried unanimously.

5. Correspondence

S. Ross reported that he had not received any correspondence. It was noted that there were some technical glitches. An email was received the same day as the PC meeting and the Vice Chair did not have the opportunity to read it. He emphasized that questions could be asked during the "Questions from the Public" portion of meeting.

6. Business Arising

6.1. Communication Reminders

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

- The Budget Consultation was posted on BASECAMP but as of the time of this meeting, no one had posted a response
- It was noted that this item was removed from the agenda since there had been no traction on the item. It was mentioned that the PC would like to submit a Budget Consultation response.
- Each school's GB will also be looking at this consultation and so each Rep/Alt will learn how this works by engaging in the discussion on BASECAMP and at the March PC meeting
- The PC will post last year's consultation response.
- The Youth Academic Calendars will also be posted on BASECAMP to give Reps/Alts the opportunity to look at them before the next meeting.
- A request was made to Reps/Alts to engage with the PC Facebook page and to post events happening in each school
- The Communications Committee at the School Board recently held a meeting where the following was discussed: Schools will have the opportunity to redo their websites.
- An EDDI component will be brought back to the PC with Commissioner A. Saunders.

6.2. Administration Update - Colleen Galley standing in for Véronique Marin, ADG

S. Ross invited C. Galley to speak to the Administration Update. The following was highlighted:

- The report had been submitted by V. Marin and was shared on the screen
- C. Galley responded to a question regarding “Hooked on Schools”. It was clarified that it is not an initiative of the LBPSB but our School Board does participate in the initiative which focuses on the importance of staying in school and reducing the dropout rate. There is usually an event associated with it.

6.3. Youth Academic Calendars

In the absence of the PC Rep to Programs and Service, S. Ross invited C. Galley to speak to this item on the agenda.

The following was highlighted:

- The Youth Academic Calendar must be approved by several different associations
- Reps/Alts were presented with the calendar options for the 2024-2025 Academic year
- There is a requirement that any calendar option must include 181 Pupil days and 200 Teacher days
- Various PED days must also be scheduled
- LBPSB tries to be in line with other English School Boards and French Service Centres in Montreal regarding the selection of Holidays
- HR begins the process of working on calendar options before it gets sent out to the Admin. group
- Then Option 1 and 2 are finalized and presented to the various committees

C. Galley pointed then out the differences between Option 1 and 2. They are as follows:

Option 1

- First day for students August 31
- Last day for students June 21
- Two full weeks of holiday break (Dec - Jan)
- In February only one Regional Day has been scheduled
- In the past there has been one Regional date per region but after consultations it was decided to go with only one Regional day for all. The meeting presenter is scheduled virtually, allowing all participants to access the presentation at the same time.
- Each calendar option contains the school based PED days
- The religious calendar has been updated and can be found at the bottom of the calendar
- When school teams are choosing meeting days they are mindful of the upcoming religious holidays
- HR has consolidated all the holidays so that principals can click on each date

Option 2

- First day for students August 30
- Last day for students June 23
- Less PED days before the students start school

S. Ross noted that the calendar options would be posted and that the discussion would take place on BASECAMP. A vote would then take place at the March meeting. S. Ross then thanked C. Galley for her explanation of the two calendar options and opened the floor up to questions. A. Charzan explained that the Programs and Service meeting attendees were presented with Option 3 as well. Option 3 is the one with the fractured Winter Break holiday with students returning on a Thursday. Option 3 would see students starting on August 30 and ending June 23. It was clarified that once the PC votes on a calendar option it becomes a recommendation from the PC to Council who will ultimately give their approval. A. Charzan noted that the Board worked hard to complete the Calendar options earlier than they typically would and it was suggested that the PC may want to vote on it at this meeting as the consultation will go through many different groups before it ultimately get approved. A. Charzan proposed a motion to approve Calendar option 1 but was willing to withdraw the motion if the Chair wished. The Chair requested that A. Charzan withdraw her motion due to the fact that the PC was just presented with the Calendar options and did not have sufficient time to look at them in depth. A. Charzan then withdrew her motion.

LBPSB Council Chair J. Kelley emphasized that the PC still has time to submit a response as the Council will only be voting on the final calendar approval at the end of March. The next PC meeting is scheduled for March 16.

6.4. Internal Rules Adoption

S. Ross pointed out that a copy of the Internal Rules is included in the meeting kit and they are available on BASECAMP. The Internal Rules were then posted on the screen. He explained that a lot of work was done in 2021 to revise the document. He noted how extensive they are as they cover functions, votes, E-votes, procedures, etc... S. Ross noted that they are posted on the PC website and encouraged all Reps/Alts to take a look at them. He emphasized that the PC would like to move to adopt the Internal Rules. An inquiry was made as to whether the PC has received any feedback from LBPSB Secretary General G. Dugré regarding the PC Internal Rules. S. Ross responded that the PC had received feedback from G. Dugré and that there were specific parts that the PC was interested in reviewing. It was noted that there were no specific changes required based on the feedback. A question was asked regarding whether or not the PC has looked into the Internal Rules on a deeper level with

respect to a potential situation whereby a member may not necessarily be following all the rules and what results from it. S. Ross confirmed that those were in fact a portion of the Internal Rules that were reviewed by the Secretary General. S. Ross pointed out that there is always room for improvement and that generally these rules are overhauled every two to three years. It was mentioned that perhaps in the future, the PC could remind and continuously encourage PC Reps/Alts to read the Internal Rules starting as early as the AGA each fall. S. Ross reminded Reps/Alts that the Internal Rules are posted on the PC website for all to read. A. Charszan mentioned that at the January meeting she had requested that Google drive be reinstated as it has proven to be quite helpful in the past with regards to prepping for meetings and for being able to access information. She offered to help if needed. S. Ross indicated that he would speak with the PC Chair and that he could help to facilitate this process with the Advisory.

S. Ross called for a motion to adopt the Internal Rules. It was moved by N. Lawand to adopt the Internal Rules. The motion was seconded by D. Bentley. The majority was in favor, none were opposed, and one abstention was noted. The motion was carried unanimously.

6.5. Budget Consultation
Tabled

7. Questions from the Public

S. Ross invited members of the public to pose their questions. He reminded everyone that questions are to be asked within a time frame of three minutes each. He noted that the public is reminded to ensure that what they have to say is stated in the form of a question. S. Ross mentioned that the Chair responded to questions presented in advance of the meeting. The following are highlights of questions /comments from the public:

- It was pointed out that in the past members of the public were listed on the attendance sheet (This was question asked prior to the meeting)
- Comment that funding is being cut to LEARN Quebec. (This topic was referred to D. Bentley as he could potentially provide some insight)
- D. Bentley noted that in fact the new Education Minister has commented that funding to LEARN Quebec may be cut
- Another proposal by the Education Minister is to potentially implement a system whereby parents who can afford to pay for a tutor from LEARN may be asked to do so. However there is no charge under the current system.
- At the present time a specific cut to LEARN is not known
- As well the Education Minister is looking at modifying the criteria allowing students to access tutoring in English
- EPCA was asked by LEARN to support them in their interaction with the Government
- EPCA put out a press release which can be found on their website
- EPCA has been in the media on this topic
- It was emphasized that the PC will keep an eye on this dossier as LEARN Quebec has proven to be a valuable resource
- Comment regarding the fact that the archive of PC minutes on the PC website has not been updated
- It was mentioned that last year the PC did not reply to the LBPSB Budget Consultation

8. Council & External Reports

8.1. Council of Commissioners – Judith Kelley, Chair of the Council of Commissioners.

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

- Council has an ad hoc committee working on an Equity Diversity Dignity Inclusion (EDDI) Policy
- This committee has been sitting for approximately one year. The committee ensures that work is being done on the Commissioner side with regards to policy, workshops, etc...
- The Safe and Caring Schools Committee, a Subcommittee of Programs and Service will be starting work on the policy
- This work will most likely take quite a bit of time as Council is just beginning to look at it
- The following inquiry was made in light of the recent tragic events that unfolded at a Laval Daycare:
 - Q. Is the School Board taking any action in our schools? Will Facilities and Security look at ways to make the grounds of our schools safer so that we can mitigate any type of events like this?
 - A. Thankfully devastating events like this do not happen often. The School Board is not sure about what type of measures could be taken at this time. The safety and security of students and staff remain a top priority. Further study of this topic will take place.

8.2. SNAC – Sara

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

- It was mentioned that the SNAC report had been emailed out and posted on BASECAMP

- The last SNAC meeting was held on January 18 and a discussion took place regarding the Budget Consultation response
- The Special Needs Policy was distributed to SNAC Members
- There will be a virtual presentation on March 29 outlining the transition program for youth with impairments
- Next SNAC meeting on March 29

8.3. TAC

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

- It was noted that the last meeting was a brief one essentially to approve the bus routes for next school year
- Parents received an email on February 9 which included a FAQ section
- There have been a lot of transportation related hiccups this year due to a North American wide shortage of school bus drivers
- It is hoped that the email including the FAQ section will help to answer parents' questions adequately therefore decreasing the amount of complaints received regarding late or cancelled buses
- The School Board is moving toward using a fleet of electric school buses
- Buses must complete the morning routes. It takes about 5 hours to charge each bus keeping in mind that they also have to complete an afternoon route.
- This could potentially limit the amount of field trips that students could take because the fleet might not be ready in time to do the morning route, a field trip, then the afternoon route
- It is important to keep in mind the time frame involved in charging the fleet
- There are some challenges involved in going environmentally friendly
- Next meeting will take place in April
- Comment was made referencing the fact that parents have an influence at the School Board as it was a suggestion from a parent to bring this topic to Admin
- Parents can sign up to get notifications if their child's bus is late by going to the bottom of the LB website
- The School Board is working on establishing an alert system that will be in real time
- A question was raised regarding the possibility of a parent being reimbursed for paid bus services when the bus does not show up. The issue will be brought to TAC and the parent was invited to contact the Board.

8.4. Programs and service

No report was available.

8.5. EPCA

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

- EPCA put out a press release in support of LEARN Quebec and PC Reps/Alts were encouraged to get involved
- EPCA is going to be promoting a letter writing campaign against Bill 96
- There is also an open letter from the QCGN that will be posted on the PC Facebook page regarding Bill C13, the Minority Languages Act
- The new Minority Languages Act must safeguard minority language rights of English speaking Quebecers
- At the time of this meeting 2500 people have signed the letter
- The QCGN in collaboration with EPCA will be running a workshop on Bill 96
- A Transition to High School workshop is also being planned
- EPCA just put out a new newsletter
- Rep/Alts were encouraged to visit the EPCA website and sign up to receive the newsletters
- EPCA is analyzing the results of their survey which will be published in the near future
- It was noted that S. Hossaini wrote the article in the EPCA newsletter about students with special needs
- Reps/Alts were invited to read these articles on the EPCA website as there are many moving stories
- D. Bentley agreed to post workshop dates and details as they become available

8.6. PEF

No report was available.

9. Adjournment

As per item 3. Approval of the Agenda:

Item 10. Adjournment and item 9. Meeting with Chairs/Assistant of the Regional Subcommittee have been switched.

S. Ross stated that the topics for the evening had now wrapped up. The Chair thanked everyone for their participation. All were encouraged to keep up to date on various topics that come up. S. Ross adjourned the meeting at 8:37pm and asked that the Chairs of the Regional Subcommittees stay online.

10. Meeting with Chairs/Assistant of the Regional Subcommittee
Regional Subcommittee Chairs held a brief meeting to discuss the meeting schedule for the rest of the year. PC members will be advised of the upcoming Subcommittee meeting dates.

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	
Beurling Academy		
Birchwood		
Children's World		Susan Mintzberg
Christmas Park		
Clearpoint	Marc Lucke	
Dorset		
Dorval		
Edgewater	Tracey-Ann Curtis	
Evergreen		
Forest Hill Jr	Antonia Shegalov	
Forest Hill Sr		
John Rennie		Colleen Boyarchuk
Kingsdale	Adam Feldstein	
Lakeside Academy	Sarah Campeau	
Lasalle Community Comprehensive	Amrit Grewal	
Lasalle Jr	Zahra Ibrahim	
Lasalle Sr	Marc Sebag	
Macdonald	Kristoffer de Forest	
Maple Grove	Oumy Dia	David Marcogliese
Margaret Manson		
Mount Pleasant		
Pierre Elliott Trudeau		
Pierrefonds Comprehensive	Brenda Trellemen	
Riverdale		
Riverview	Marcos Arteaga	
Sherbrooke Academy Jr.	Kristen Anderson	
Sherbrooke Academy Sr.		
Soulange		
Springdale		
St. Anthony	Shane Ross	
St. Charles		Ross McLean
St. Edmund		
St. John Fisher Jr	Nadia Lawand	
St. John Fisher Sr		Nadia Lawand
St. Patrick		Michael Barron
St. Thomas	Tifanie Valade	
Sunshine Academy	Carla Valerio	
Terry Fox		
Verdun		

Westpark	Alaina Charzan	Tiffany Uman
Westwood Jr		
Westwood Sr		
Wilder Penfield	Raffi Alexnanian	Eric Thibault
SNAC	Sara Hossaini	