

**PARENTS' COMMITTEE MEETING
THURSDAY, JUNE 6, 2024
6:00 P.M. @1924 BROOKDALE AVE.**



AGENDA

In-person reception with appetizers and hors d'oeuvres

1. Call to Order with Land Acknowledgement
2. Word from the Chair
3. Approval of the Minutes
4. Approval of the Agenda
5. Dinner
6. Presentation by Afua Boateng, Presentation on Equity, Diversity, Dignity and Inclusion (EDDI)
7. CONSULTATION: Consultation on Equity, Diversity, Dignity and Inclusion Policy
8. School Board Elections
9. End-of-the-Year Closing Remarks
10. Adjournment

Parents` Committee Meeting

THURSDAY, JUNE 6, 2024

6:00 P.M. @1924 BROOKDALE AVE.

1. Call to Order with Land Acknowledgement
S. Ross called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm. Quorum was established with **23** members out of 47 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 thanked everyone for attending. He noted that this was a transition year as the PC was getting back to holding in-person meetings.
3. Approval of the Minutes
S. Ross asked Reps/Alts to review the May minutes with special attention being paid to verifying the attendance sheet at the end of the minutes. The Chair then called for a motion to approve the minutes.
It was moved by T. Minisini to approve the minutes. The motion was seconded by T. Curtis. None were opposed, two abstentions were noted, and the motion was carried.
4. Approval of the Agenda
S. Ross invited members of the PC to consult the agenda. He proposed that "School Board Elections" be added to the agenda under item # 8, therefore, the topic "End-of-the-Year Closing Remarks" would now be covered under agenda item # 9, and "Adjournment" would be covered under item #10. He asked if there were any other suggested changes. There being no further suggested changes, the Chair then called for a motion to approve the amended agenda. It was moved by D. Bentley to approve the agenda. The motion was seconded by L. Dalterio. None were opposed, no abstentions were noted, and the motion was carried.
5. Dinner
At 6:40 pm, S. Ross announced that attendees were welcome to help themselves to dinner and that the meeting would resume at 7:00 pm with a presentation. (See item # 6)
6. Presentation by Afua Boateng, Presentation on Equity, Diversity, Dignity and Inclusion (EDDI)
S. Ross welcomed Afua Boateng. The following items were highlighted:
 - Afua Boateng indicated that she was born in Ghana and then came to Canada
 - She shared her personal story and indicated that her mother was a Grammar teacher, her father was a Professor of Mechanical Engineering
 - She presented some tips on how to promote diversity and inclusivity in education:
 - WATER- a basic element (Where is the water missing in my life?)
 - RESPECT- (respect resting as much as you do the hustle)
 - PTO- Paid Time Off (help prepare others)
 - NAME YOUR PROBLEMS- (we live in a society where we fear confrontation)
 - She cautioned against multi-tasking- (it's hard for our brain to switch back and forth)
 - She stated that it is important to know who you are, because once you know who you are, you can respect who others are
 - She noted that she adopted her nephew, Eitel who became blind after an accident
 - He was brought to Montreal to help further his education
 - Family was not very pleased with the school system who were only preparing him for the minimum
 - They decided to enroll Eitel in a regular English school at Beurling
 - The former school system thought the family was making a mistake
 - They had to figure out how to adapt the environment so that Eitel could be successful
 - The staff tried to remove obstacles to help him learn
 - Eitel was at the top of his class and participated on both the swimming team and wrestling team
 - He studied Pure and Applied Sciences at Dawson College
 - At Beurling, everyone was amazing -he was asked, "What do you need? "

Eitel spoke about his challenges and triumphs while going to school. He noted that he always felt supported -(by his school and parents, who were are always involved in the process/IEP etc...). He indicated that most people have low expectations of people with a disability.

Eitel went on to list the following accommodations/support he got in school:

Academic Support:

- Extra time (he often spent double the amount of time to complete exams)
- Alternative exam options
- Use of Tactile Graphs

Personalized Assistance:

- Teacher Aide
- Tutoring
- Needed to bridge the gap between visual and non-visual

Assistive Technology:

- Windows Magnifier
- Word Q
- Read and Write
- Dragon Naturally Speaking
- Voice Typing
- Soho Cant Audio Note Taker

Moving Forward:

- His parents let him be part of the process which was the key to his success
- Now Eitel is a Program coordinator and Assistive Technician
- He helps to make sure that websites are accessible
- He also teaches blind people how to access available resources
- He noted that he took up Judo and then wrestling and also joined the Paralympic Team of Canada
- He emphasized that parents are essential supporters of their children
- At Beurling he learned to advocate for himself and others
- He was selected to be a representative at the seventeenth edition of the International Conference in New York discussing Accessibility and Inclusion
- He noted that parents are fighting for their own kids as well as those who do not know how to advocate for theirs

S. Ross thanked Eitel and Afua for their very informative presentation. He emphasized that we must strive for EDDI.

7. **CONSULTATION: Consultation on Equity, Diversity, Dignity and Inclusion Policy**

S. Ross indicated that PC members had been asked to provide feedback by June. Given that no additional feedback had been provided, S. Ross proposed a motion that the PC response to the Consultation on Equity, Diversity, Dignity and Inclusion Policy be that the PC did not have anything to add at this time. The motion was seconded by C. Boyarchuk. None were opposed, no abstentions were noted, and the motion was carried.

8. **School Board Elections**

S. Ross invited A. Charszan, Parent Commissioner for the Elementary Sector to speak to this topic on the agenda.

The following items were highlighted:

- School Board Elections will be taking place on November 3, 2024
- It was emphasized that everyone should inform themselves and make sure that they are on the voters list
- Anyone over 18 is eligible to vote
- Voting will take place in person only
- All are urged to spread the word
- PC members were encouraged to consider running for election
- More information can be found on the LBPSB website as well as on the QESBA website

- A QESBA presentation was recorded and posted online and will be shared
- It is important to emphasize to the government that we care about our English institutions
- All are encouraged to attend their schools' AGA
- A parent can run as a Parent Rep
- Three positions on the PC will need to be filled: (CRPCs- Elementary, Secondary, At Large)
- There are 12 Wards and 4 Parent Reps
- The LBPSB Returning Officer is Rosemary Murphy
- Parents who have a child attending a French school, are not able to vote in the School Board Elections as there is no voting in the French system (due to the fact that School Boards were abolished in the French sector and are now called "Service Centres")
- Many students who graduated were automatically put on the French voters list (they may not have been switched back)
- A transfer form can be submitted to the Returning Officer who will take care of it
- For further information, consult the LBPSB website under the Council of Commissioners tab and scroll down to the School Elections 2024 link
- <https://www.lbpsb.qc.ca/council-of-commissioners/school-board-elections-consultations/>

9. End-of-the-Year Closing Remarks

S. Ross indicated that there were some "housekeeping" items to cover. The following items were highlighted:

- It was emphasized that the mandate of a Parent Rep only finishes at your schools' AGA in September
- A formal approval of the budget did not take place, however a vote took place regarding each amount that was spent
- Budget approval will take place by email and the "Actuals" will be posted on BAND
- Reps/Alts will be able to ask questions, there will be a discussion period and then a voting period
- Reps/Alts were all encouraged to vote but only one vote per school will count
- Those Reps/Alts who incurred expenses for transportation to a PC meeting, or babysitting expenses, were invited to forward a request for reimbursement to Shane, Annette or Colleen
- It was noted that reimbursements for babysitting will only apply for non-immediate family members
- S. Ross emphasized that everyone is lucky that they are part of such a collaborative School Board

He invited S. Colpitts to say a few words. The following was highlighted:

- S. Colpitts thanked S. Ross and the Advisory and mentioned that the parental voice is extremely important
- He noted that parents are partners with the School Board and that they help make good education better for our kids
- S. Colpitts indicated that he was retiring and that V. Marin will be returning for the new school year

S. Ross was presented with a card on his "retirement" from the PC. A. Banton thanked the Advisory and S. Ross for all of their hard work. It was emphasized that the PC will be in need of a Chairperson next year as S. Ross will not be returning.

S. Ross then spoke a bit about his time as Chair of the PC. The following was highlighted:

- The former structure of this group (CPC- Central Parents' Committee) was mentioned
- CPC decided to evolve into the PC (Parents' Committee)
- S. Ross thanked everyone for allowing him to be their Chair/colleague
- He expressed thanks to all for ensuring that parents are engaged
- Decisions as Chair were made to ensure that parents were informed
- By helping the parents, everyone on the PC is also helping the students
- S. Ross thanked everyone for giving him the opportunity to help engage parents
- He emphasized that the Advisory is at the heart of the PC and works toward the same goal

10. Adjournment

S. Ross thanked everyone for their participation. The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 pm.

Respectfully submitted by
Barbara Schnider
Recording Secretary

Attendance Report		
Member School	Parent Rep Present	Alternate Rep Present
Allion	Annette Banton	
Beacon Hill		
Beaconsfield		
Beechwood		
Beurling Academy	Linda Dalterio	
Birchwood		
Children's World		
Christmas Park		
Clearpoint		
Dorset		
Dorval		Micheline Alexis
Edgewater		
Evergreen	Richard Thorpe	
Forest Hill Jr	Tanja Minisini	
Forest Hill Sr	Tanja Minisini	
Horizon		
John Rennie	Colleen Boyarchuk	
Kingsdale		
Lakeside Academy		
Lasalle Community Comprehensive		
Lasalle Jr	Zahra Ibrahim	
Lasalle Sr		Megan Bradley
Macdonald High	Tracey-Ann Curtis	
Maple Grove	Oumy Dia	
Margaret Manson	Nadia Iacino	
Mount Pleasant	Christine Jastrzebski	
Pierre Elliott Trudeau		
Pierrefonds Community	Brenda Tremellen	Greg Piggins
Riverview	Heidi Van Regan	
Sherbrooke Academy Jr.		
Sherbrooke Academy Sr.	Travis Chalmers	
Soulanges		
Springdale		
St. Anthony	Shane Ross	
St. Charles		
St. Edmund		
St. John Fisher Jr		
St. John Fisher Sr		
St. Patrick	Doug Bentley	Michael Barron
St. Thomas		Loretta Kao
Sunshine Academy		
Terry Fox		
Verdun	Patrick Bagstad	
Westpark	Alaina Charszan	
Westwood Jr		
Westwood Sr		Tanja Minisini
Wilder Penfield	Eric Thibault	
SNAC	Annette Banton	Sara Hossaini

Distinguished attendees

Steven Colpitts - Assistant Director General
 Afua Boateng and Eitel Houedakor - presenters

Recording Secretary
Barbara Schnider