

**PARENTS' COMMITTEE MEETING
THURSDAY, JUNE 8TH, 2023
DOORS OPEN @ 5:30PM
6P.M.,LIVE@SCHOOL BOARD**



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 (May)
5. Correspondence
6. Council & External Reports
 - 6.1. Council of Commissioners – Judith Kelley, Chair of the Council of Commissioners
 - 6.2. SNAC – Sara
 - 6.3. IAC
 - 6.4. TAC
 - 6.5. Programs and service
 - 6.6. EPCA
 - 6.7. PEF
 - 6.8. Safe & Caring
7. SPEAKERS: Delia Noel & Wissam Assouad
8. Adjournment

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1. Call to Order with Land Acknowledgement
C. Downer called the meeting to order at 6:11 pm. Quorum was not established. All were welcomed.
The Chair invited D. Bentley to recite the Land Acknowledgement Statement.
2. Word from the Chair
C. Downer expressed her appreciation for those who were in attendance for the first in person meeting in quite some time. She indicated that hopefully there will be more in person meetings in the near future. She wished everyone a great summer and invited attendees to go back to their schools to encourage parents to join their GBs and potentially become a member of the PC. C. Downer remarked about the importance of always considering new perspectives.
3. Approval of the Agenda
The agenda was sent out in advance of the meeting. C. Downer called for a motion to approve the agenda. It was moved by A. Charszan. The motion was seconded by T. Curtis. None were opposed and no abstentions were noted. The motion was carried unanimously. The agenda was approved.
4. Approval of the Minutes (May)
C. Downer noted that the minutes would be tabled until the next meeting but would be posted on BASECAMP.
5. Correspondence
C. Downer mentioned that responses to the Consultation on the Three Year Plan were due on June 12, 2023. She encouraged Reps/Alts to send in any recommendations they had. A. Charszan commented that Commissioners were contacted by the President of the PTU, (currently in the middle of negotiations), as their contract ended in April. It was reported that they are looking for parental support. Negotiations will stop for the summer break. The CRPCs have been asked to meet with the President of the PTU. Reps/Alts were encouraged to weigh in on BASECAMP over the summer. Additional correspondence was received by a member of the public wishing the members of the PC a good summer.
6. Council & External Reports
 - 6.1. Council of Commissioners – Judith Kelley, Chair of the Council of Commissioners.
C. Downer noted that there was no report at this time.
 - 6.2. SNAC – Sara
C. Downer invited S. Hossaini to speak to this item on the agenda. She remarked that an end of year dinner that was supposed to take place was canceled. There was no report. The SNAC AGM will take place in September.
 - 6.3. IAC
C. Downer invited A. Banton to speak to this item on the agenda. She noted that meetings have taken place but that IAC had not been on the PC agenda recently. A. Banton highlighted the following:
 - A. Saunders is the new Chair
 - Schools were invited to apply for a grant of \$500 each
 - In total, \$15,000 worth of grants were extended
 - Schools were asked to detail which activity/event the funds would be used for
 - Some schools did not receive the grant as their applications were not completed according to the criteria
 - The committee meets before the applications go out and they are available to help each school with their applicationA. Banton then answered questions about IAC:
 - Q. When was the grant released?
A. Applications went out around mid-November. The deadline to submit them was in January.
 - Q. Was there any follow up with those schools whose applications were denied?
A. Yes. The schools were told why they did not receive the grant and were advised as to how they could better complete the applications.
 - Q. For next year is there a way to put these applications to committees?
A. Schools could reach out to their IAC PC Rep.The application must show that the funds are being used for the following:
 - The students
 - Cultural activities
 - Community activities

6.4. TAC

C. Downer invited T. Curtis to speak to this item on the agenda. T. Curtis noted that she had to recuse herself at the last meeting as she recently took on a position of bus driver. The last meeting took place in May and the next meeting is scheduled to take place in the fall.

6.5. Programs and service

The following are highlights:

- The next meeting will take place on June 20
- The School Fees and Daycare Policy were both revised
- The Rep asked the School Board if they will be promoting more of their programs and services
- The "Our School Survey" results were reviewed and can be found on the LBPSB website
- Our School Board is compared to all other School Boards in other provinces with results revealing that we are very much within the Canadian norm
- Conversations took place about communications with personnel in our schools
- This was a very challenging year for administration/principals/professionals
- Schools are encountering a record amount of communication
- It was emphasized that all involved must remain respectful
- In order to move an issue forward, parents are reminded that they need to follow the proper policies and procedures
- The last day of school is a half day but is referred to as early dismissal

6.6. EPCA

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

- The Government has recently established a new position entitled National Student Ombudsman
- EPCA was left out of the Bill 23 hearings
- President of EPCA was asked to present a brief on Bill 23 to the Minister of Education through virtual communication which was shared with MNAs
- Documents will be posted on BASECAMP highlighting the impact of Bill 23
- EPCA Newsletter will be published soon
- Reps/Alts were encouraged to join both the EPCA and LBPSB PC Facebook pages
- Anyone can become a member of the QCGN by going to their website and signing up
- QCGN membership is free of charge and gives members the right to vote at the QCGN AGA
- Members can receive a copy of the daily briefing in their inbox
- EPCA has a seat on the Board of Directors of the QCGN
- Reps/Alts were encouraged to engage on BASECAMP
- The PC website might get an update next fall with new functionality similar to that of schools new websites

6.7. PEF

No report was available.

6.8. Safe & Caring

It was reported that the committee is working on a new policy whose work will continue in the new school year.

7. Meeting SPEAKERS: Delia Noel & Wissam Assouad

Delia Noel and Wissam Assouad were introduced as the presenters for the evening. Their topic was entitled: Unconscious Reflections. It was emphasized that this workshop had previously been presented across the School Board and included teachers, administrators, caretakers and others. The PC was to be presented a condensed version of the workshop. Results of two years of work in this area has been shared across the School Board. PC members were invited to ask questions or share their comments. The presenters each provided a brief description of their backgrounds.

The following are highlights of the presentation:

Why are we here today?

- To plant seeds
- Promote awareness
- Open space for perception sharing
- Where does the data come from and who does it belong to?
- To start the conversation and check in

Participants were asked if they had any expectations/apprehensions/concerns about the evening session. All were encouraged to suspend the feeling of judgement.

The definition of Unconscious Bias was shared as follows:

Unconscious Bias (or Implicit Bias) is prejudice or unsupported judgements in favour of or against one thing, person or group as compared to another, in a way that is usually considered unfair.

Unconscious Bias:

- Everyday
- Automatic
- Hardwired
- None of us are immune

Why do we have Unconscious Bias?:

- Upbringing
- We are human
- Based on experience

Unconscious Bias might be a survival skill (fight or flight).

Where do we learn it?

Family/Community/Friendships/Life Experiences/Environment/Sports Activities/Social Media/News

It was emphasized that these biases are registered in our minds and they impact the way we interact with the world.

Attendees were asked to look at the following list of words and write down the first thing that came to mind in association with each word.

Pansexual, Immigrant, Honor Roll, Black man, Retiree, Anxiety, Addict, Housekeeper. The group then discussed some responses. It was noted that sometimes the phrases we use are not intentionally malicious but may come across that way.

Attendees were encouraged to keep the following acronym in mind: **FLEX** (Focus Within, Learn about others, Engage in dialogue, eXpand the options)

The presenters pointed out that leaders within organizations can help set the tone and model the behaviours that they want to see. Participants were asked to think about the following:

- Be uncomfortable. That's how we grow.
- Everyone at the presentation was at a different point in their journey.
- What are you taking away from this evening?
- How can we unlearn things?
- Did you learn anything from this presentation?

C. Downer then thanked the presenters for a very insightful presentation.

8. Adjournment

The Chair thanked A. Banton for putting the evening together. She expressed her appreciation for everyone's commitment to the PC and for their participation. C. Downer expressed the hope that everyone would continue their involvement in the fall. She thanked the Advisory for their incredible support. It was moved by C. Downer to adjourn the meeting at 8:28 pm.

Respectfully submitted by
Barbara Schnider
Recording Secretary

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		
John Rennie		
Kingsdale		
Lakeside Academy		
Lasalle Community Comprehensive		
Lasalle Jr		
Lasalle Sr		
Macdonald		
Maple Grove		
Margaret Manson		
Mount Pleasant		
Pierre Elliott Trudeau		
Pierrefonds Comprehensive		
Riverdale		
Riverview		
Sherbrooke Academy Jr.		
Sherbrooke Academy Sr.		
Soulange		
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		