



Lester B Pearson School Board Parents' Committee

LBPSB Parents' Committee

March 1, 2018

7:00 PM, LBPSB boardroom

1925 Brookdale Ave, Dorval

MEETING SUMMARY REPORT

ATTENDEES: Representatives of 22 of 48 member schools and SNAC were in attendance. Thomas Rhymes, representing the administration, and a member of the public were also in attendance. Please see attached attendance record for further details.

UPDATES:

- **Commissioner Replacement Process Post-Mortem subcommittee:** the response, approved by e-vote, was ratified; see copy attached.
- **Extra-curricular Activities and Field Trip Policy Consultation (due March 30th):** a draft was not ready to be presented; will be posted on Basecamp.
- **Budget Consultation (due March 30th):** a draft was not ready to be presented; will be posted on Basecamp.
- **LBPSB's 20th Anniversary (2019):** the PC struck a subcommittee to explore possible events geared towards parents of the LBPSB.
- **Bullying:** the PC struck a subcommittee to discuss anti-bullying and anti-violence strategies; an unrelated survey regarding bullying in the LBPSB is circulating online, and the PC Chair has reached out to the suspected authors; EPCA can sponsor a survey for the PC should that route be chosen.
- **Transco Busses:** Drivers rejected the current salary offer and have voted to have another strike, date TBD but with 72 hours notice.
- **Financial Literacy Curriculum Update:** implemented this year for Sec V students, there are 50 hours dedicated towards helping students develop critical judgment when managing their personal finances and to develop the confidence and self-knowledge needed for their financial well-being. The three sections that are reviewed are:
 - consumer goods and services (consumption, debt, purchasing power),
 - Entering the workforce (remuneration, taxation, employment, tax evasion), and
 - pursuing an education (how to finance education, training etc).



Lester B Pearson School Board Parents' Committee

- **Sexuality Education Curriculum Update:** the new sex ed program will be applicable for children from grade 1 to grade 11, with kindergarten being optional and at the discretion of the school board; at this point, the board has not taken a position as to whether it will be implemented for kindergarten as of 2018; training and materials still have not been provided.

NEW TOPICS:

- **Riverdale High School bus accident:** an incident was brought to the PC's attention whereby a wheelchair-bound special needs student was stuck on a bus; currently at the information-gathering stage, the PC will work in conjunction with SNAC to address the situation (if necessary).
- **School Board Elections:** the PC struck a subcommittee to explore events the PC can host in order to educate voters, facilitate getting voters registered on the electoral list, and facilitate access to the candidates.

VARIA:

- The roles and responsibilities of PC members were reiterated; most notably that individual members do not represent the PC and should not purport to do so.
- The responsibilities of digital citizenship were noted, and the potential consequences of inadvertently spreading misleading, inaccurate, and/or possibly inflammatory information were highlighted.
- A new email address, pc_communications@lbpearson.ca, has been created to facilitate access to the Communications subcommittee
- SNAC will be having a Parent to Parent info night on March 27th; please see <http://snac.lbpsb.qc.ca/> for more info.
- PEF's annual comedy night will be held on April 20th at Lakeside Academy; please see <http://pef.lbpsb.qc.ca/comedy.htm>
- LBPSB Day at the Impact is scheduled for Saturday, May 5th when the Impact play the New England Revolution. Tickets for the event will be available through the LBPSB website with proceeds going to support the Pearson Educational Foundation.
- The annual Pearson Fun Run is set for the morning of Sunday, May 6th at Centennial Park in Dollard-des-Ormeaux (DDO). This event is growing in popularity every year and is open to all students and families of the board. The event is intended as a celebration of family, healthy, and active living.
- Summer school will be held at PCHS and Beurling Academy, with off-island bussing being made available where warranted.



Lester B Pearson School Board Parents' Committee

- High school Enriched program entrance exams will be held on May 11th at each individual elementary school.
- LBPSB's 6th annual Junior Leadership Day was held at Westpark Elementary on Friday, February 9th. Over 300 5th and 6th grade students from across the elementary network were present and leadership students from LBPSB High Schools animated workshops throughout the day.
- On Thursday, March 22nd, a province-wide symposium is scheduled for the Centre de Congr s, Laval, on the topic of Creating Positive, Safe and Caring School Environments.
- The Senior Administrative team is reviewing submissions from school Governing Boards on the recent consultation on principal criteria for the 2018-19 academic year.
- LBPSB will be marching in the annual St. Patrick's Day Parade on Sunday, March 18th.
- The Riverdale High School and MacDonald High School Robotics teams participated in the CRC Robotics Competition (Converto 2018) from February 1-3 at Laval Senior Academy. Riverdale High School reached the finals.
- Lakeside Academy and Lasalle Community Comprehensive High School will be participating in the annual First Robotics Competition at the Centre Claude Robillard on Friday, March 2nd and Saturday March 3rd.
- The contract with Groupe Compass (Qu bec) Lt e for the provision of food services throughout the network of schools, centres and offices of the Lester B. Pearson School Board, has been renewed for a period of 1 year, from July 1, 2018 to June 30, 2019, with an option to renew for an additional term of 1 year.
- A letter dated February 2, 2018, was received from S bastien Proulx, Minister of Education, Recreation and Sports, announcing a special financial contribution of \$389,235.00 to the Lester B. Pearson School Board for maintenance work in 2017-2018.
- The latest edition (February 2018) of the Pearson News is available on the home page of the board website.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING: April 12, 2018

Please note this document contains live hyperlinks. To access to electronic version, please visit: <http://parents.lbpsb.qc.ca/reports>.



Lester B Pearson School Board Parents' Committee

Attendance Report		
Member School	Parent Rep Present	Alternate Rep Present
Allion		Shiana Warren
Beacon Hill		
Beaconsfield	Ovidiu Burlec	
Beechwood	David Zerkler	
Beurling Academy	Jay Taube	
Birchwood		
Children's World		Susan Mintzberg
Christmas Park		Charles Pitts
Clearpoint		
Dorset		
Dorval		
Edgewater		
Evergreen		
Forest Hill Jr		
Forest Hill Sr		
John Rennie	Shane Ross	Flora-Lee Bendit
Kingsdale		
Lakeside Academy	Natasha Drysdale	
Lasalle Community Comprehensive	Roland Schubert	
Lasalle Jr		
Lasalle Sr		
Lindsay Place		
MacDonald		
Maple Grove	Marie-Helene David	William Rooney
Margaret Manson	Renee Aspiotis	
Mount Pleasant	Sean Connell	
Pierre Elliott Trudeau		
Pierrefonds Comprehensive	Dayo Odubayo	
Riverdale	Maria Colavita	
Riverview		
Sherbrooke Academy Jr.		
Sherbrooke Academy Sr.		
Soulange		
Springdale		
St. Anthony		Shane Ross
St. Charles	Jason Doan	
St. Edmund		
St. John Fisher Jr	Carole Choiniere	
St. John Fisher Sr	Jocelyn Dauk-DeVincentis	Julie Smith
St. Patrick	Ryan Getty	Donnalynn Rainey
St. Thomas	Sharad Bhargava	Bobbi Brown
Sunshine Academy		
Terry Fox		Donna McCallum
Verdun		
Westpark		
Westwood Jr		
Westwood Sr		
Wilder Penfield	Onnig Kouyoumdjian	
SNAC	Donnalynn Rainey	

Other distinguished attendees:

Thomas Rhymes (Administration)
Chris Eustace (public)

22/48 Member Schools & SNAC Represented



LBPSB Parents' Committee

February 16, 2018

Noel Burke
Chair, Council of Commissioners
1925 Brookdale Avenue
Dorval, Québec, H9P 2Y7

Re: Commissioner Replacement Process Postmortem Recommendations

Dear Chairman Burke,

On December 7, 2017, due to several members having expressed concern regarding the commissioner replacement process, the LBPSB Parents' Committee (PC) moved to form a subcommittee to examine said process, with recommendations (if any) to be submitted to Council. While we may not be faced with this exact situation in the near future, we maintain that this is a good opportunity to address some of the concerns that were expressed by and/or to LBPSB Parent Representatives.

Allow us to begin by stating that we remain confident that the integrity of the selection process was never compromised and that Council operated well within the laws outlined in the Quebec School Board Elections Act. Overall, the recent Council appointments have been met with enthusiasm by both the PC and Electoral Division 4's member schools. The reservations and recommendations expressed in this letter are not meant to and should not detract from these points.

Despite the aforementioned position, the process adopted by Council in this situation proved to be unnecessarily lacking. Several steps that could have been taken to promote collaboration and limit the appearance of a lack of transparency were omitted, resulting in the reaction of parent members to range from mild disappointment to suspicion that Council continues to operate with a less than transparent agenda. While the majority of our members' opinions are not as polarized and lie somewhere in between, it is important to us to acknowledge the viewpoints of all.

In our estimation, the biggest misstep in the process was to treat it as one would the hiring of an employee in the private sector, whereby the candidates' identities and applications were kept confidential to everyone except the 'hiring committee.' As commissioners are normally elected by their constituents with full transparency, it would have been advisable that Council

acknowledge that fact and do its best to respect the democratic process to the best of its ability within the confines of which it was working.

For example, Council was asked if candidates could be invited to a special meeting of the LBPSB PC and the request was refused. The PC was therefore expected to make blanket recommendations without knowing who the candidates were or what they could potentially bring to the table. This made it exceptionally more difficult to provide an informed consultation. While we understand and appreciate that three Commissioners Representing the Parents' Committee were on the selection committee, the fact that they could not discuss the candidates or their qualifications with the people whose interests they are meant to represent and communicate did nothing to dispel the idea that the PC's opinion, and by extension, that of the candidate's potential constituents, was being minimized. This not only potentially damages the population's faith in Council, but also hinders Council's mandate to work openly and transparently with its stakeholders.

In summation to the above, our recommendations are as follows:

- explore ways to put candidates in front of their potential constituents (town hall meetings, candidates' nights, etc.),
- leverage technological solutions/social networks/webcasts, and/or
- include Parent Representatives and/or Governing Board Chairs from the affected electoral division(s) on the selection committee.

From our understanding, the Governance and Ethics Committee is looking at this process. We respectfully request that, taking into account our suggestions, it propose, and the LBPSB adopt, a formal procedure to be followed in the event this situation reoccurs. This would help greatly in avoiding any future ambiguity or issues. Mindful of the fact that we are approaching the end of the year, we think it would be best that the Governance and Ethics Committee submit their report to council within a timeline that allows the current Council to effectively act on the recommendations without interfering with or being sidetracked by the scheduled elections.

In closing, we thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback regarding this process and the LBPSB Parents' Committee looks forward to an ongoing open and transparent dialogue with all members of the Lester B. Pearson School Board community, and to continuing the healthy and mutually respectful relationship that has been forged between Council and the LBPSB PC.

Respectfully,

Shane Ross
Chair, LBPSB Parents' Committee