



Lester B Pearson School Board Parents' Committee

LBPSB Parents' Committee
February 7, 2019
7:00 PM, LBPSB boardroom
1925 Brookdale Ave, Dorval

MEETING SUMMARY REPORT

ATTENDEES: Representatives of 28 of 48 member schools, and Commissioner Representing the Parents' Committee (designated by SNAC), Angela Berryman, were in attendance. Thomas Rhymes, representing the administration, Noel Burke, representing the Council of Commissioners, Commissioner Nan Beaton, and a member of the public were also in attendance. Please see attached attendance record for further details.

UPDATES:

- **Internal Rules ad hoc subcommittee:** the final draft of the PC Internal Rules will be posted on Basecamp by March 1, 2019 and subsequently presented for approval at the March 14, 2019 meeting.
- **CAQ Ban on Religious Symbols:** further to the letter sent to M. Legault by the PC in November of 2018, the PC passed a resolution that the English Parents' Committee Association (EPCA) be directed to act/lobby on our behalf, reflecting and reporting our opposition to the proposed ban on religious symbols and all associated legislation to the appropriate and responsible parties (copy of the resolution and associated documents is attached).

NEW TOPICS:

- **Appropriation of the Riverdale building, Riverdale/PCHS merger:**
 - Chairman Noel Burke explained the timeline of what/when the board knew; despite the board's attempt to cooperate with CMSB in finding a solution to LBPSB's under-enrolment [at Riverdale] and the overflow at CSMB, the government transferred Riverdale's building to the CSMB, effective July 1, 2019.
 - The announcement was handled very poorly by the Ministry-the minister gave a press conference the Sunday before the announcement
 - Riverdale and PCHS admin, with support from the board, are working together to ensure the merger goes as smoothly as possible for the affected students and families; there is an online petition to reverse the decision but it is unlikely to work due to the circumstances;
 - There's concern that this decision sets a dangerous precedent; discussion will be expanded on Basecamp, the Parents' Committee's online discussion



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platform, regarding how to better promote our schools and how we can work to expand eligibility.

- **2019-2020 Budget Consultation:** an ad hoc subcommittee was struck to discuss and formulate the PC's response.
- **Seat belts on school buses:** due to a claim that studies showing seat belts to be unnecessary on school buses used inaccurate data, a discussion has been reignited regarding the effectiveness/necessity vs the cost; PC members voiced differing opinions and expressed primarily that more analysis on the topic was needed. Basecamp discussions to follow.

VARIA:

- The meeting continues to open with the acknowledgement of this being Mohawk land.
- Condolences were expressed for Commissioner Representing the Parents' Committee Sharad Bhargava regarding a recent death in his family.
- The meeting structure was modified so that a smaller report section was held early in the meeting and the second portion of the meeting itself was dominated by discussions.
- A new Communications Officer was elected (due to resignation). Jason Doan, was elected.
- All schools requiring carbon monoxide detectors have been fitted with carbon monoxide detectors; the board is waiting for further directives/standards to be set by the Ministry to standardize them (in necessary).
- There is discussion at the board level regarding the timing/placement of Kindergarten orientation.
- A special needs committee named SEPAC is being revived; it will be comprised of two parents of students with special needs elected from each PC and will meet four times per year with the first meeting to be held in March.
- The board ERMS emails are no longer accompanied by phone calls due to an issue with the system.
- The tentative date for SNAC's spring parent information evening is April 3rd.
- The board has reached an agreement with the EMSB for a computer graphics program.
- A slight revision was made to the previously approved school calendar to reflect a change of date for the Teacher's Convention from November 8th, 2019 to November 15th, 2019.
- The next SNAC meeting is February 20th.
- The next Council of Commissioners meeting is February 25th.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING: March 14th, 2019



Lester B Pearson School Board Parents' Committee

Attendance Report		
Member School	Parent Rep Present	Alternate Rep Present
Allion		Shiana Warren
Beacon Hill	Jeremy Asch	
Beaconsfield	Ovidiu Burlec	
Beechwood	Diandra Yoselevitz	
Beurling Academy	Jay Taube	
Birchwood		
Children's World	Susan Mintzberg	
*Christmas Park		
Clearpoint	Liz Lopez	Allison Saunders
Dorset	Wendy Longlade	
Dorval		
Edgewater		
*Evergreen		
Forest Hill Jr		
Forest Hill Sr		
John Rennie	Shane Ross	
Kingsdale		
Lakeside Academy	Natasha Drysdale	Helene Charbonneau
Lasalle Community Comprehensive		
Lasalle Jr	Shonda Giddens	Robert Thomas
LasalleSr		
Lindsay Place	Marie-Claire Hogan	
MacDonald	Mike Besner	
Maple Grove		
Margaret Manson		
*Mount Pleasant		
Pierre Elliott Trudeau		
Pierrefonds Comprehensive		
Riverdale	Kristine Pino	Maria Colavita
Riverview	Ariana Winn	Linda Dalterio
Sherbrooke Academy Jr.	Joseph Valenti	
Sherbrooke Academy Sr.		
*Soulange		
Springdale		
St. Anthony	Shane Ross	
St. Charles	Jason Doan	
St. Edmund		Stefanie Ozbalt
St. John Fisher Jr	Phil Lambert	
St. John Fisher Sr	Kathleen McAdams	
St. Patrick	Ryan Getty	
St. Thomas		Bobbi Brown
Sunshine Academy		
Terry Fox	Brenda Tremellen	
Verdun	John Ranger	
Westpark		Brent Wajcman
Westwood Jr	Sean Connell	
*Westwood Sr		
Wilder Penfield	Len Podgurny	
SNAC		
CRPC Designated by SNAC	Angela Berryman	N/A

Other distinguished attendees:

Thomas Rhymes (Administration)
 Noel Burke (Chair, Council of Commissioners)
 Nan Beaton (Commissioner)

Chris Eustace (public)
29/48 Member Schools + SNAC Represented
 *Representative or Alternate unconfirmed

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parents.lbpsb.qc.ca



LBPSB Parents' Committee
Dorval, QC

February 11, 2019

Mrs. Rhonda Boucher
English Parents Committee Association
4150, Ste-Catherine St. West, 6th Floor
Montréal, QC, H3Z 2Y5

cc: Lester B Pearson Council of Commissioners

Re: Directive for the English Parents' Committee Association regarding the LBPSB Parents' Committee's Opposition to the Proposed Ban on Religious Symbols

Dear Mrs. Rhonda Boucher,

On November 2, 2018, we sent a letter to Premier Legault communicating our opposition to the CAQ's proposed ban on religious symbols for civil servants, of which you received a copy. Given M. Legault's continued support and promotion of this ban, we would like to formally request that EPCA act on our behalf, reflecting and reporting our opposition, in its communications and dealings with the responsible parties. Please find the proposed and approved resolution attached. A copy of the original letter is also attached for your reference.

To be clear, the issue is not how many people would be affected by the proposed ban; it is that the ban itself is discriminatory and xenophobic on its face and would infringe on individuals' rights to freedom of religion and expression as afforded by the Canadian and Quebec charters of rights and freedoms. If we allow even one person to be affected, we will have failed in our civic and moral duties as citizens of an open, accepting, and multicultural society.

We invite and urge our counterparts, both French and English, as committees in a leadership position and as moral individuals, to join us in this opposition.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Shane Ross", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Shane Ross
Chair, LBPSB Parents' Committee



LBPSB Parents' Committee
Dorval, QC

February 11, 2019

LBPSB Parents' Committee's Opposition to the Proposed Ban on Religious Symbols, directive for the English Parents' Committee Association

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION

At the meeting of the Parents' Committee of the Lester B. Pearson School Board on February 7, 2019, the following resolution was proposed and approved by the committee:

RESOLVED:

WHEREAS our strong opposition to the proposed ban on religious symbols was made clear in our communication dated November 2, 2018, submitted to CAQ leader M. Legault with the English Parents' Committee Association (EPCA) in Cc;

WHEREAS M. Legault appears to be moving forward with the proposed ban;

That the English Parents' Committee Association (EPCA) be directed to act/lobby on our behalf, reflecting and reporting opposition to the proposed ban on religious symbols and all associated legislation to the appropriate and responsible parties.

Signed:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Shane Ross", is written over a large, diagonal watermark that says "Approved Copy".

Shane Ross
Chair, LBPSB Parents' Committee



LBPSB Parents' Committee
Dorval, QC

November 2, 2018

M. Legault
Conseil exécutif
Édifice Honoré-Mercier
835, boulevard René-Lévesque Est
3e étage
Québec (Quebec) G1A 1B4

cc: Lester B Pearson Council of Commissioners, English Parents Committee Association

Re: Opposition to the prohibition of religious symbols by government officials

Dear M. Legault,

I am writing to you on behalf of the Lester B. Pearson School Board Parents' Committee to express our firm disagreement with the prohibition of the wearing of religious symbols by government employees and civil servants. For some religions, the wearing of specific religious symbols or coverings is required; these are not simply accessories, they are integral parts of a person's faith and self-identity. Prohibiting the wearing of religious symbols is an infringement on the fundamental rights of the individual as listed in Section 2 of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms and Section 3 of the Quebec Charter of Human Rights and Freedoms. Based on your decision to invoke Section 33 of the Canadian Charter, the notwithstanding clause, you are aware of this point.


While we understand the need to have a secular society and that it is important that external forces such as religion do not influence our institutions, we believe it is equally essential that those same institutions not serve to limit or deny an individual's right to practice the religion they choose. This is a right afforded to them in the aforementioned Charters. Achieving a secular society is done not by removing symbols of religion entirely, which in and of itself acts as a form of prejudice, but by ensuring religions are treated equally and one is not favored or disfavored over others.

Quebec is a multicultural society and as role models for our children, we hold that it is irresponsible and unacceptable to further the suppression and denial of religious freedom, identity and expression, and the resulting discrimination. As parents and guardians, we want to

THE LESTER B PEARSON SCHOOL BOARD PARENTS' COMMITTEE

ensure that our children do not believe that certain occupations will be closed to them as a result of their religion. We also want our children to be raised in a society that values and exposes them to a diversity which includes different cultures, backgrounds, and religions. We therefore strongly urge you to reconsider your position on banning the wearing of religious symbols by government employees and civil servants.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'SR', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Shane Ross
Chair, LBPSB Parents' Committee

Approved Copy