



## Lester B Pearson School Board Parents' Committee

LBPSB Parents' Committee Meeting

March 2, 2017

7.00 pm, Boardroom

1925 Brookdale Ave, Dorval

### **MEETING SUMMARY REPORT**

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**ATTENDEES:** Representatives of 20 of 48 member schools were in attendance, as well as non-representative parents and members of the general public. Deborah Dixon, principal of Riverview Elementary, was also in attendance.

#### **UPDATES:**

- **Parent2Parent Newsletter:** sent out on March 1<sup>st</sup>; received positive feedback on content and layout
- **Expense Reimbursement:** proper procedure for claiming expenses/ being reimbursed was confirmed & will be put on the PC website
- **Budget Consultation:** draft was presented; motion was made and passed to keep the document open to comments/ discussion on Basecamp until March 16<sup>th</sup>, and by the 23<sup>rd</sup> the Internal and External Consultations subcommittee will present a new draft to be voted on (by March 25<sup>th</sup> so it can be submitted by the deadline of March 31<sup>st</sup>)

#### **KEY TOPICS:**

- **Québec Sexuality Education Pilot Program Presentation:** presented by Marie- Eve Claude, Assistant Director of Student Services, LBPSB, and Mylaine Cardin and Elizabeth Larouche Côté, Educational Consultants; included:
  - a summary of the aims of the new program (standardize the curriculum to ensure all students are receiving the same education, teach children the proper names of their private parts so they can better understand and communicate sexual impropriety, promote healthy body images and respect for diversity, etc.),
  - a brief history on how Riverview Elementary was chosen to pilot the new program (it is the only **English** school in Québec of fifteen piloting the project),
  - an overview on themes and time required (six themes are covered under the pilot project, with teaching time ranging from five hours in kindergarten to ten hours in grade six; it is estimated that there will be fifteen hours in grade eleven),
  - an explanation of why it's important the LBPSB was involved (English material was not available at the time so the Student Services Department created their own; the Ministry went on to use the LBPSB template in the Anglophone sector),



## Lester B Pearson School Board Parents' Committee

- a delineation of the roles of key players (Ministry sets objectives and provides the tools needed, the school board offers support to the pilot school, the school teaches the content, and the parents speak to their children about what they have learned and reframe their understanding as needed),
- reiteration than Sexuality Education **is** currently being taught in our schools (see board initiative: FLASH); however, as it is not standardized, the differences between what the students were being taught before and what will be taught under the new curriculum can vary from school to school and is not easily surmised; new curriculum is standardized and mandated by the Ministry of Education, and there is no 'opt out' option,
- summary of the training underwent by teachers at Riverview Elementary, issues faced with concerned parents, and steps that will be taken to address those concerns (by Riverview principal D. Dixon),
- acknowledgement of parents' reservations and agreement that communication is very important in inspiring confidence in the program and in allowing parents to be involved with regards to clarifying, explaining, and shaping what their children have learned,
- examples of the language that will be used to teach sensitive material to young children,
- reassurance that the conversation is ongoing, and that a September 2017 implementation as planned is unlikely; the LBPSB will be suggesting the implementation of the curriculum be delayed,
- confirmation that if administration sees a need, a larger parent presentation could be arranged at a later date,
- encouragement to discuss the presentation with their school's parents and GBs,
- opportunity for parents in attendance to voice their comments and concerns (range from issues with lack of communication, concern over age-appropriateness of material, questions on the necessity of the material, worry over the qualifications of the people teaching the subject matter, etc.), and
- direction towards various resources:

<http://www.education.gouv.qc.ca/en/contenus-communs/education/sexuality-education/essential-learning/>

<https://kidshealth.org/>

<https://www.protectchildren.ca/app/en/>

<http://mediasmarts.ca/>

Note: the PC website has been/will continue to be updated with information from the presentation and/or that is pertinent to the discussion; any further action will take place in the Programs and Services ad hoc subcommittee.



Lester B Pearson School Board Parents' Committee

**VARIA:**

- LBPSB administration made the decision to go ahead with all school trips to the USA while the travel ban is not in effect; they will, however, examine issues on a case by case basis regarding reimbursements for those who no longer wish to send their children on a trip to the USA.
- It was reiterated that each individual (parent reps and alts) should be the only one to have access to their individual password, and they were directed to follow the instructions outlining how to change their passwords posted on Basecamp and the Parents' Committee's website [here](#).
- There is an Ethics Consultation in effect that has been delegated to the *Internal and External Consultations* ad hoc subcommittee.
- PEF (the Pearson Educational Foundation) will be holding a comedy night headlining Joey Elias on March 31st at Lakeside Academy.
- PEF is also selling tickets for the Montréal Impact game on April 15<sup>th</sup>.
- Registration is open for the Amazing Prevention Adventure for grade 5 & 6 students and their parents; it will be taking place on three different dates at three different schools to facilitate access.

**REPORTS:** (hyperlinks to the Parents' Committee website)

- Elementary West Subcommittee Report (none)
- Elementary East Subcommittee Report (none)
- [High School Subcommittee Report](#)
- [SNAC Report](#)

**DATE OF NEXT MEETING:** April 6, 2017

Please note this document contains live hyperlinks. To access to electronic version, please visit: [parents.lbpsb.qc.ca/archives](http://parents.lbpsb.qc.ca/archives)



## Lester B Pearson School Board Parents' Committee

Member School	Attendance	
	Parent Rep Present	Alternate Rep Present
Allion		
Beacon Hill		Celena Scheede-Bergdahl
Beaconsfield		
Beechwood	David Zerkler	
Beurling Academy		
Birchwood		
Children's World		
Christmas Park		
Clearpoint	Allison Saunders	
Dorset		
Dorval	Patricia Ottoni	
Edgewater		
Evergreen		
Forest Hill Jr		
Forest Hill Sr		
John Rennie	Shane Ross	
Kingsdale		
Lakeside Academy	Natasha Drysdale	
Lasalle Community Comprehensive		
Lasalle Jr	Suketa Patel	
LasalleSr		
Lindsay Place		
MacDonald		
Maple Grove		
Margaret Manson		
Mount Pleasant		
Pierre Elliott Trudeau	Angela Berryman	
Pierrefonds Comprehensive		
Riverdale		
Riverview	Patricia Mercier	
Sherbrooke Academy Jr.	Chantale Cadieux	
Sherbrooke Academy Sr.	Jeremy Asch	Kenny Bodanis
Soulange		
Springdale		
St. Anthony		
St. Charles	Jason Doan	
St. Edmund	Lyane Trépanier	
St. John Fisher Jr		
St. John Fisher Sr	Christina Forest	Karl Santaguida
St. Patrick	Donnalynn Rainey	
St. Thomas	Sharad Bhargava	Bobbi Brown
Sunshine Academy		
Terry Fox	Sophie Paré	
Verdun		
Westpark	Alaina Gross	
Westwood Jr		
Westwood Sr	Frank Clarke	
Wilder Penfield	Len Podgurny	Onnig Kouyoumdjian
SNAC		Stephanie Shaffer

**Other distinguished attendees:**  
Deborah Dixon, principal of Riverview Elementary

**20/48 Member Schools Represented**