

# Ecole Regent Park – Virtual Parent Advisory Council Meeting Minutes

March 17, 2026

## Attendance:

Larissa Thorsteinson – Principal

Stephanie Nduwimana

Deanna Pockett – Vice Principal

Celina

Katherine Ybanez – Vice Principal

Chidinma Chine

Lisa Kocis- Chair

Patricia Pare

Paula Vosper- Secretary

Sarezka Paola Tapia Bernal

Paul Vosper – Treasurer

Bolanie Oladokun

Carlynn Bryga- Fundraising Coordinator

Taylor Heart

1. **Call to order** by Lisa at 5:33 pm
2. **Review and adoption of minutes**

Motion to adopt minutes –Carlynn

Seconded by –Lisa

3. **Chair Report** –Lisa Kocis

Good evening everyone, and thank you for joining us tonight. I'd like to start by welcoming everyone to our PAC meeting and thank you for taking the time to be here.

I also want to thank everyone for accommodating the change in our meeting time tonight, moving from 6:00 PM to 5:30 PM. Our wonderful principals will need to leave shortly after the meeting to join our students at the Tumbling Rally, so we appreciate everyone being flexible with the schedule.

I'd like to share a quick update on our swing set initiative. Larissa and I have started the process of applying for the Access Credit Union Grant to help support the purchase of the new swing set for our playground. In addition to that, I have sent out over 20 letters to local businesses in the Transcona community asking for their support through donations toward this project. We are hopeful that our local community partners will be excited to help us bring this addition to our school playground.

I also wanted to bring up the idea of a year end carnival fundraiser to help raise additional funds for the swing set project. This would definitely be a larger undertaking, but I think it has the potential to be a really successful event for our school community. The idea would be to

host an outdoor family event where we could rent bouncy castles and carnival-style games, and offer activities such as face painting, balloon animals, temporary tattoos, and other fun options for kids. We could also offer food such as hot dogs, burgers, chips, drinks, and ice cream. Families could purchase tickets for their children that allow unlimited access to the games and activities, and also purchase meal tickets. For example, \$5 could include a hot dog, chips, and a drink. We have done something similar in the past at EMU, and at that time we were able to secure donations for almost all of the food from local grocery stores, which helped keep costs low and maximize the funds raised.

I also wanted to bring up Staff Appreciation Week, which is coming up soon. In previous years,

PAC has organized a full week of treats, snacks, and food for staff. We could still run our “Toonies for Teachers” initiative as we have in previous years, where we ask families to contribute small donations toward Staff Appreciation Week. Those funds could either help offset the cost of the Keurig and pods, or be used to purchase some additional treats for staff during the week.

I’d love to hear everyone’s thoughts on these ideas.

4. **Vice Chair Report-** Barb Donaldson  
Not present

5. **Principal Report** – Larissa Thorsteinson

ÉRP PAC – Principal’s Report – March 17, 2026

- Our school has been a very busy place these last couple of months with many engaging learning activities, special performances and out-of school education:
  - ÉRP Winter Concerts Grades 2-5
  - Basketball season is well underway
  - Grade 7 Ski Day at Holiday Mountain
  - Grade 8 Students visited the Canadian Museum for Human Rights to continue their learning on the Holocaust
  - I Love to Read Month
  - Festival du Voyageur
  - Black History Month
  - 100<sup>th</sup> Day of School
  - Grade 7 students attended Winter Camp – Camp Arnes
  - Grade 3 Students shared their Kindness Haikus with the school in to promote kindness on Pink Shirt Day
  - Classes engaged in hands-on learning activities through scientific dissections, creating slime, painting murals to represent the Seven Sacred teachings.
- Each month, we are now offering two hot lunch days to students.

- Parking & Drop-Off Reminder: For the safety of all students, we kindly remind families that the staff parking lot is not to be used as a drop-off or pick-up area. We also ask that families avoid using Moroz Street for drop-offs, as this creates congestion and poses safety risks for students and staff. Thank you for helping us maintain a safe and smooth arrival and dismissal for everyone.
- Toys and special belongings: We kindly ask families to remind their children not to bring personal items—such as toys, trading cards, sports equipment (including soccer balls), or other valuables—to school. These items can easily be misplaced, damaged, or cause unnecessary distractions during learning time. We appreciate your support in helping keep personal belongings safe and our school environment focused and calm.
- Lunch Utensils: We kindly ask families to ensure their children bring the necessary utensils—such as forks and spoons—for their lunches each day. This helps us reduce waste and ensures students are prepared and ready to enjoy their meals. Thank you for your support!
- Outdoor Gear: With unpredictable weather during the changing of the seasons, please ensure your child is dressed appropriately for the changing conditions. Boots, hats, waterproof gear, and layers help keep students comfortable during outdoor play. As the snow starts to melt, we also kindly ask families to send an extra pair of socks, as wet snow often leads to soggy feet. Thank you for helping keep our students warm, dry, and ready to learn!
- Grade 8 End of Year Celebration: This year, we will be hosting our Grade 8 End of Year celebration on Friday, June 26th here at École Regent Park. It will be a day of fun in the sun for our Grade 8 students including organized sports and activities, picnic lunch, and a photo booth. This activity will be at no cost to families. Parents and guardians, you are invited to pop by the school for the "Come and Go" portion of the day from 1 PM to 2 PM, during which you may take pictures of your child with their Grade 8 teachers. We will be serving a small dessert at that time. More details to follow!
- Expo at ÉRP!  
We are excited to invite families to our ÉRP Expo—a celebration of student learning—on March 19th from 4:00–6:00 p.m. This come-and-go event will feature inquiry projects that students have thoughtfully prepared to showcase their learning. Families are encouraged to explore the displays, celebrate student creativity and curiosity, and enjoy the variety of work being shared. We will also be hosting a Book Fair during the Expo, so families are welcome to browse and support our school library. We look forward to seeing you there! Please do not park in the staff parking lot.
- Textiles program: Great news! Next year, ÉRP will have a textiles program for our grades 6-8 students. This means that they will no longer need to access Applied Technology classes at Arthur Day, and the programming will be offered in French.
- Grade 6 & 7 Families – survey will be coming out regarding band and art options for next year. Please watch for this in your inboxes.
- Please note, that divisional guidelines that are in place indicate that before anyone is able to volunteer in schools, they require clearance of Child Abuse Registry and Criminal Record Checks. This is for the safety of all students, staff and volunteers.
- Thank you to PAC for the donation to our library for students to win books from our book fair! We are very grateful for your support!

Question: Will there not be anymore Metals or Woods? No

6. **Vice Principal Report-** Deanna Pockett & Katherine Ybanez

**Deanna:** Hot lunch – nothing to report. If you have any questions regarding the lunch program you are welcome to ask at PAC meetings.

**Katherine:**

Bus and Foot Patrols all going well.

7. **Fundraising report-** Carlynn Bryga

No report – looking at suggestions if we need another fundraiser this year?

8. **Volunteer coordinators report-** Vacant

9. **Treasurer's report-** Paul Vosper

Nothing new to report.

Accounts still sitting at PAC \$4,800.60 and Playground \$11,271.36

11. **Old Business:**

12. **New Business:**

Staff Appreciation – Motion not to exceed \$12.00 per person for lunch. (Paul 1<sup>st</sup>; Carlynn 2<sup>nd</sup>)

Request for donation for new books for Library - \$200 Carlynn motioned ; Lisa 2<sup>nd</sup>

Year End Carnival – Quote on Bouncers (Paula);

Suggestions: Street teams for Radio Stations come out, Grand prize or Silent auction prize; dates outside of the Ex if we want food trucks

13. **Motion to accept all Reports**

**Motion by:** Paul

**Seconded by:** Taylor

14. **Meeting Adjourned:** 6:39 p.m.

*Next meeting virtually April 21@ 6:00 p.m.*