Ecole Regent Park - Parent Advisory Council Meeting Minutes

September 22,2026

Attendance:

Larissa Thorsteinson – Principal

Katherine Ybanez – Vice Principal

Paulette LaFleur – Vice Principal

Lisa Kocis- Chair

Paula Vosper- Secretary

Carlynn Bryga- Fundraising Coordinator

Justyna Sosnicka

Kristin Thomson

Stephanie Nduwimana

Jena Kjernisted

Chelsea Volkart

Ijeoma Ndu

Sarezka Tapia

1. **Call to order** by Lisa at 6:01 pm
2. **Review and adoption of minutes**

3. Motion to adopt minutes – Carlynn
4. Seconded by – Justyna
5. **Chair Report – Lisa Kocis**
   First, welcome, everyone, and thank you so much for coming tonight. It's great to see everyone, and I'm looking forward to another year of Parent Council and seeing what we can accomplish together.

   I wanted to start with a few updates and just talk a little bit about what we have planned for Parent Council this year.

   President's Role

   As many of you may remember, at the end of last school year I announced that I would be stepping down as Parent Council President.

   I still do feel that it's time for me to step away from the President role. However, since we haven't found someone to take over the position yet, I've decided that I will continue on with the Parent Council for now, just in a lower capacity.

   I'm still here to help and support the Parent Council, and I'm happy to help whoever eventually takes over the role. Hopefully, we can find someone who is interested in stepping into the position soon.

   I've really enjoyed being President, and although it has definitely been a busy couple of years, it's been so rewarding to see what we can accomplish when parents, staff and our school community all work together.

   Changes to Meetings

We've also made a small change to our Parent Council meetings this year.

Instead of meeting every month, we'll be meeting every second month. We're hoping this will make things a little more manageable for everyone while still giving us enough opportunities throughout the year to stay connected and get things done.

Our meetings will also be virtual for the most part. Tonight's meeting will be in person, and our final meeting of the year will also be in person. The meetings in between will be held virtually.

Year-End Carnival

I definitely want to take a minute to talk about the year-end carnival, because it really was such an amazing success.

We had an incredible turnout, with over 700 people coming out, and we raised over $6,000 toward our new swing set.

It was so nice to see everyone having fun and enjoying the event, and it was a really great way to end the school year.

There were so many people who helped make the carnival happen , from organizing, donating, volunteering, helping with setup and cleanup, running activities, and everything in between. So I just want to say a huge thank you to everyone who helped and everyone who came out to support us.

The fact that we were able to raise over $6,000 in one afternoon is pretty incredible, and it gives us a really good start toward our swing set goal.

Swing Set Grants

We've also been working on applying for grants to help us reach that goal.

Unfortunately, we recently heard back from one of the grants we applied for, and we were not selected for funding.

We are still waiting to hear back from two other grants, though, so we're keeping our fingers crossed that we may receive some additional funding from one of those.

Regardless of the outcome, we'll continue looking at different options and opportunities to help us get the swing set for the school.

Looking Ahead

So, as we start this new school year, I'm really looking forward to seeing what we can accomplish together.

I also want to thank everyone who has supported the Parent Council over the past year, whether you've come to meetings, volunteered, donated, helped with events, or simply supported the things we've been working toward.

And, of course, if anyone is interested in taking on the President role, please come talk to me! I'd be more than happy to answer any questions and help make the transition as easy as possible.

6. **Vice Chair Report-** No Report (Position Vacant)
7. **Principal Report –** Larissa Thorsteinson

We're off to a wonderful start to the new school year! Our new procedure for entering the building in the mornings has been very successful – students line up and teachers enter with their students, class by class.

Terry Fox Run and Assembly – On September 18, 2026 all students participated in the Terry Run last Friday and ran with pride to support the cause (despite the weather!).

Volunteers needed!

ÉRP Bookfair: Our Bookfairs have been a huge success inspiring the love of reading for our families, encouraging reading in French, as well as helping us earn materials for our library. We will be running our Scholastic Bookfair again this year:

We would need the following help with 2 people for each time slot:

Monday Oct. 19 - set up 10:00am
Thursday October 22 (am) 9:00-11:45
Thursday October 22 (pm) 12:45-3:30
Thursday October 22 (Eve) 4:15 to 6:15

6:15 to 7:30 **(You are free to go to your child's classroom anytime. There will be enough of us to cover each other.)

Monday October 26th- takedown and pack up -12:30-3:00ish

Thank you so much for helping with this. This should be another great event!
The students are already looking forward to participating in the Bookfair once again!!

Volleyball coaches: We are looking for some volunteers to coach Volleyball for our Middle Years' students. Please contact Larissa Thorsteinson if you are interested or have any questions.

Reminder to parents of students who play sports – please pick up your child at the Gym/Parking lot doors after the practice or game. Students are not allowed to walk through the school to be picked up at the main entrance.

Reminder: Students must leave personal objects, toys and sporting equipment at home to prevent objects from getting lost, damaged or stolen. Thank you for your cooperation!

A reminder that if your child will not be taking the bus home, parents must inform Transportation so that they are aware that your child will not be on the bus.

Vision Screening will take place on November 19th for Grades 3, 5 and 7. Consent forms must be signed via the Parent Portal (e-collect).

Next week, we will be honouring the National Day of Truth and Reconciliation and Orange Shirt Day. There will be an assembly and classroom activities as well as a whole school project to install orange ribbons and hearts on the fence around our school to recognize the day and that every child counts.

Questions:

Can you include the information regarding the student pickup for after school activities in the newsletter?

Quebec Fundraiser? Teachers are gathering info. Trip takes place end of May beginning of June.

Update on student transit passes? Grades 6-8 will be handed out September 29. If you require it sooner, please contact the office.

Immunization dates?

8. **Vice Principal Report-** Katherine Ybanez & Paulette LaFleur
9. **Katherine:**

Lunch Program for grade 2-5 students. New lunch coordinator has been hired.

Walkie Talkies have been purchased.

Reminder to please submit your lunch program fees if you haven't already done that.

Healthy Hunger going well added Wetzel Pretzel and Red Swan Pizza. Now having 2 delivery times so Grade 6-8 will have hot lunch.

Music & Art teachers will be having a meeting to discuss the overnight trip for grade 7&8.

Nutrition Program – division gives the school sandwiches, fruit & veggies. Last year, the school applied for a nutrition grant and received $30,000.

Carts are setup in the hallways for grades 5-8

Grades 2-4 get their snacks at the canteen.

10. **Paulette:**

Leadership program – changing format students pick options on where they want to help. More info to follow. Sign up will be taking place soon.

Bus Training / Patrol – Training happened this week with 32 kids.

Street Patrol – Schedule is almost finalized with 30 kids.

Luca the Therapy Dog – letter to families sent home explaining Luca and the class visits.

Questions?

Is there an adult crossing guard at Plessis and Ravelstone? A teacher is there but an open posting is available for the position.

ERP Clothing? Mme LaFleur will be sending out info regarding purchases.

11. **Fundraising report-** Carlynn Bryga

Opt out letters sent out to all students.

Farm to school Fundraiser started. Current sales is $470 with profit of $188 so far. Need to get to $1000 in sales. Put out reminder via email again. Delivery is Oct 15. Need volunteers for sorting orders. Leadership avail for after school?

Winter concert VIP tickets? Pricing? and a draw for each grade level? Gr 6 to 8 concert is Dec 1. Will need to apply for a permit asap to start to sell for Nov 2 to Nov 23? Check if Lisa has the letter from last year.

Other winter fundraiser option. Have performer/band hired for holiday songs (i.e Don Amero). (what is the seat capacity in gym). Friday evening option?

12. **Volunteer coordinators report-** Vacant
13. **Treasurer's report-** Vacant
    Lisa reported amounts.
    $18,794.36 in trust for the Playground account
    $1,909.35 in PAC account.
14. **Old Business:**
15. **New Business:**

Renominate Lisa Kocis as Chair for the interim	**Nominate Sarezka Tapia as Vice Chair**	**Nominate Justyna Sosnicka as Treasurer**
Motion Carlynn	Motion Lisa Kocis	Motion Paula
Second Paula	Second Carlynn	Second Lisa

16. **Motion to accept all reports**
    Motion by: Carlynn
    Seconded by: Paula

Meeting Adjourned: 7:07 pm

Next Meeting November 17, 2026 – 6 p.m. on Team