



PAC MINUTES, Thursday, September 26, 2019

Parent Advisory Council Meeting École Laronde – Staff Room

Minutes recorded by Cynthia Springate. Meeting called to order at 9:05 a.m.

2019-2020 Laronde Elementary PAC Members:

Position	Name	Email
Co-Chairs	Tanja Phillips Catharine Macrander	chair@larondepac.ca
Past Chair	Cynthia Springate	pastchair@larondepac.ca
Vice-Chair	Melissa Wandt	vicechair@larondepac.ca
Secretary	Katie Corbeil	secretary@larondepac.ca
Treasurers	Susie Fang	treasurer@larondepac.ca
	Sophia Lou	treasurer@larondepac.ca
	Hollis Pilling	treasurer@larondepac.ca
Communications	Elisabeth Smith	communications@larondepac.ca
Class Parent Coordinator	Marina Heidt	classparent@larondepac.ca
DPAC Rep	Vacant	
CPF	Julie Elliott	
Members at Large	Stefanie Simpson, Laura Roberts, Amy Guelpa, Tracy Merry	
Principal	Sabrina Niro	
Vice-Principal	Patty Maharaj	

Total of 25 Laronde parents & PAC executive present at meeting, and Patty Maharaj, the Vice Principal.

Regrets – Katie, Susie, Sophia, Elisabeth, Laura

Welcome and Introductions.

Catharine M. opened the meeting at 9:05 am and thanked all the parents for attending. She extended a special welcome to all the new to Laronde parents. Tanja P. introduced the PAC executive and added that it was great to see so many parents in attendance.

Approval of Agenda

Motion to approve agenda – Moved by Melissa W., motion seconded by Amy G. All in favour, motion carries

Review and Approval of Minutes from May 31, 2019

Motion to approve minutes – Moved by Melissa W., motion seconded by Marina H. All in favour, motion carries

Principal's Report – presented by Patty Maharaj, Vice Principal

Update of parking report by Wildes Consulting Inc. Wildes was contracted by the District and visited Laronde in June 2019 to review the flow of traffic in the parking lot. The District attended the May 31, 2019 PAC AGM to discuss concerns about the proposed parking lot renovations. The report action items for consideration included a straightened driveway to improve the entrance and exit way; the possibility of adding a pedestrian walkway down the centre of the parking lot; as well as identifying the Amble Greene side of the school as a safety concern to monitor.

Science workshops by High Touch/High Tech held in the first week were well received, thank-you PAC! Classes were announced Monday Sept. 9, 2019. Classes have been going very well and the students are settling in. This year, there are 20 divisions with five grade 4/5 splits. These two grade groups have been combined and there are no straight classes for either of these grades. After some initial hesitation from some parents, overall response since then has been quite favorable. In addition to these splits, there is also a grade 1/2 split and a grade 2/3 split.

Meet the Staff Night was on Sept 19. 65 families bought pizza from the Grade 7 group as part of their fundraising efforts. This was a fun social event and we hope to see it return next year with an even greater turnout. The Meet the Staff event was combined with the Book Fair which was also well attended.

The Terry Fox run was on Sept 20. Thank you to the Laronde community for their generous donations.

Orange Shirt Day will be on Friday Sept. 27. There will be a school wide assembly that the parents are invited to. Focus this year is on courage. Each class has made a courage wreath.

Body health has been booked with Saleema Noon for February 6th and 7th. There will be a parent session on Feb 4, 2020 from 6:30-8pm. Total cost is \$1622.50 for body health. iGirl and iGuy, which are empowerment sessions for the Grade 6/7 students, have also been booked for November 15 and 22. The parent session will be on Nov 13, time TBA.

There has been an issue with booking the first aid classes for the lunch monitors. Marla from First Aid Hero is not available this fall, and it is difficult to find a replacement supplier for the same cost. The school has found a supplier who needs an immediate answer. Cost will be \$25 per student.

Discussion about first aid - Laronde uses Grade 6 & 7 students as lunch monitors because teachers in BC have a duty-free lunch therefore do not stay in classrooms during lunch. In response to parental concerns about the children's safety while eating, PAC pays for first aid training for all grade 6 & 7s. Total cost for first aid training this year is \$2625 and only includes the grade 6 students. This is more than double the cost in past years. We would like some District assistance for this service, considering they are using a free babysitting service from our grade 6/7s. Mme. Maharaj didn't think there was any money from the District for this.

Cynthia S. moved to spend up to \$2625 for first aid training for all grade 6s and any new grade 7s, motion seconded by Vivian W. All in favour, motion carried.

Questions for Mme. Niro – Total raise for Terry Fox, bookfair totals was there a donation to Forsythe Road from book fair totals?

New Business - Question – rules about eating during recess? Teacher dependent, lunch is usually all eaten inside. Discussion about garbage on the playground. And students not having enough time to eat lunch/snacks. Mme. Maharaj suggests talking to the classroom teachers. Question - Could there be a school wide policy about kids being able to eat fruits or veggies in class? Teachers have autonomy in the class so it is unlikely that there could be a school wide policy.

Playground rules – will be posted on the Laronde school website.

Chair Report

We've had a very busy start to the 2019-20 school year. We are happy to report that our first PAC event of the year, **our annual Welcome Back Coffee** held on the first day of school had a great turnout and was very successful. Thanks to all who attended. Special thanks to Tracy C., of the Strawberry Hill Tim Hortons, for the generous donation of coffee and Timbits. Also, a big thank you to the members of the PAC executive for all their hard work to make this event the success it was. Thank you!

Hi Touch Hi Tech - PAC funded science workshops happened in many classrooms during the first week of school while class placements were pending. We believe that it helped to alleviate some of the stress of that first week and was a huge success with the students. Thank you to Mme. Niro for booking these workshops for the students.

Joanne Howard art workshops – PAC funded art workshops booked by Mme. Niro. Thank you for booking these art workshops for the students.

Annual welcome letter was sent home middle of the second week - We have had good response to getting people registered on the LarondePAC.ca website. SD36 is enforcing their guideline that class lists will no longer be provided to PACs. Therefore, we are unable to efficiently verify students accounts on the LarondePAC.ca website.

Privacy - We want to stress here that we as a PAC we take individual privacy and student safety very seriously, which is why we verify all students. While we believe that a close-knit school community bonded by effective communication provides a safer and more enriching school environment, we also recognize some families like to remain more private which is why we give all families the option to be excluded from the visible class list. We are working with school administration on verifying students on the website and class lists on the LarondePAC.ca website should be visible soon.

Class Parents – Class parents are in place for all classes except one (Mme. Hatch) Thanks to Marina H. for coordinating.

New Hot Lunch vendor – you'll notice that Wok Box has been added to the hot lunch rotation this term. Some new snack choices have been added. Thank you to our new hot lunch coordinators Angela L, Sondra M and Stacey V. for their time and efforts in getting our hot lunch going this year, it's one of our two main fundraisers at Laronde.

Kindergarten Shirts - all K students received a spirit wear t shirt compliments of PAC. Thank you to Janet P. for coordinating this last spring before her daughter moved on to EMS.

Book Fair and Meet the Staff - Book Fair was taken over by our librarian Mme. Montgomery this year. Congratulations to her for a job well done. Thank you to all the volunteers (teacher and parent that helped make this event such a success.) PAC donated \$500 worth of books (\$25/class) from the teacher wish lists for their classrooms. Mme. Montgomery sent a thank you to the PAC and volunteers for their support and generosity.

Pizzas for meet the staff event were provided by the Grade 7 fundraising committee for their Grade 7 activities.

Terry Fox Run – Thank you to the school for hosting yet another successful Terry Fox Run!

First Aid - PAC pays for first aid training for Grade 6/7 students. This is empowering our students to recognize a situation in the classroom when they need to call for help during lunch monitoring. This year, there has been a challenge finding a company to provide the training, so the first aid has not yet been completed this Fall. Therefore, only students who completed first aid training or the babysitting course are monitoring the primary grades until the course is ready at Laronde.

Fall sports cross country and soccer running well - Thank you to coaches Melissa W. (soccer), and Mme. Florkowski, and Mme. Niro. (cross country). Thanks also to the parents joining in on the training runs.

Bouncy Castles, Carnival Games, food and maybe entertainment are coming this Spring, mark your calendar for May 8th. Melissa Wandt has taken the reins to run our bi-annual Spring Fair, this is a great community event for Laronde! This is a volunteer intensive event; we will be looking for every family to help out in some way.

Other thank yous - Thank you to the Hunka Family for placing traffic cones along the back Amble green entryway to help improve traffic safety. A reminder to all families that this is a no stopping zone and we urge all parents to use extreme caution in this area. Also thank you to Mme. Niro for updating our planters in front of the school. They look great.

Kimmy – Div. 1 & 20 would like to help out with outreach Clothing donation drive for winter.

Committee reports –

Hot Lunch- Hot lunch is ready to go. First day ordering is closed but you can still place orders for future hot lunch dates. Changes can be made to any orders up to 10 days prior to the hot lunch date.

Lost & Found - Elaine Y. signed up to take on the lost & found. Thanks Elaine!

Emergency preparedness – Gaby – For new parents, we have an emergency preparedness container for 300 students for up to 3 days (and teachers) and have the grab and go kits in each classroom which hold immediate emergency supplies. Last year we replaced most of the food supplies prior to the expiration dates so they could be donated. We received two full bins of supplies from the school district. Increase to our water supplies, etc. We should now have supplies for all the teachers on site. Would like to update the number of blankets, maybe do a blanket drive and will be asking for PAC funding for new shelf cabinets to make room for new supplies. Will make a motion at next meeting.

Grade 7 fundraising update - Booster juice ordering deadline Oct 9, first Oct 16th. No orders will be accepted after this date. There will be another opportunity in Term 2. There are two movie nights planned: Nov1 (*Angry Birds2*) and Feb 7, (TBA.) These events help fundraise for grade 7 camp and grad events. They may have a pub night if they find volunteers, and the traditional pancake breakfast on Dec 20th, a very fun community event. If anyone has any other ideas for other fundraising events/contacts for donations etc., please let Stefanie or Amy know.

Yearbook update – Information will be sent out soon about how to share your photos. Preorders will be done this year for yearbooks. Don't miss out on ordering these great mementos!

Fruit & Veggie – Vivian and Lilian have not yet been given the updated delivery schedule. Mme Maharaj noted that they require a staff member who has food safe, without it they cannot continue the fruit and veggie program. It was mentioned that Mme Alvernaz may have food safe.

Book exchange – We are looking for a new coordinator for this event which is usually held late February/early March. Catharine M. has run it for the past several years and is willing to help out. Families bring books the week before the book exchange, and you get 1 ticket for every 2 books you bring. On the day of the book exchange, use your tickets for “new to you” books. The left-over books are donated to our sister school and/or the Rotary Club. This is a great event, which the kids look forward to each year.

Outreach - Kimmy has volunteered to coordinate the warm clothing drive which will be held soon.

Christmas Hampers – Laura Roberts will stay on to coordinate our Christmas Hampers for our sister school Forsyth Road in late November/early December. She is hoping to get all lists out before "Black Friday".

CPF (Canadian Parents for French) – Julie L. – First CPF meeting, concerns about Martha Currie school closing the French Immersion program, CPF lobbied the District and encouraged them instead to add a portable for extra students. CPF worked with them to keep the program. Too many English students in the school and they were going to close the program. District perhaps would expand the French Immersion program if they could get more teachers and space. CPF is working on the activities for the year. Should hopefully run the movie again this year.

DPAC rep is needed – DPAC is the representative of all the PACs for the district. 4th Wednesday of every month at DEC. 7pm-9pm. – Julie can also go to DPAC.

Financial Report

Susie and Hollis work together on in/out money. Sophia does the tax returns. Budget summary is attached. **Seems like there is an error on the hot lunch proceeds, treasurers will review and get back to PAC.**

At the executive meeting held on Sept 13,2019, the PAC executive approved reimbursement to Katie Corbeil for car detailing after a cambros of coffee which she was transporting from Tim Horton's to the Welcome Back Coffee spilled in her car. Total reimbursement was \$376. (Under PAC bylaws, the executive may approve amounts under \$1,500 without holding a motion at a general meeting, then report these amounts at the general meeting.)

New Business

School supplies - Two different supply lists for each class that were posted on the school website by mistake. Mme. Maharaj apologized for this and stated that it was due to a last-minute decision by the District that school supply lists could not cost more than \$65.00. The correct supply list is now on the school website. There was discussion about School Start, our online school supply vendor. PAC would like to have the flexibility for families to purchase only the supplies that families need, rather than the full kit, as we have had in the past. Mme. Maharaj believes that this option can be made available again next year. Laronde families were charged a late fee after August 1st, Mme. Maharaj will look into this as it was her understanding that there would not be a late fee. A parent suggested that bulk ordering could be considered, which is already done in the Kindergarten classes. This makes a lot of sense for items that are stored and pooled.

Cheque writing Campaign - PAC's biggest fundraiser will start the first week of October and continue through Oct. 31. This is a fundraiser in which parents or other interested parties can write a check or make a donation online, thus saving them valuable time while the PAC gets to keep 100% of the money raised. The suggested donation amount was lowered to \$50 per child, however any amount will be gratefully accepted. PAC is a non-profit organization, therefore all donations over \$20 will be eligible for a tax receipt. To receive the receipt, the tax form must be filled out and returned to the office even if the donation was made online. **A big thank to the Laronde Parents for making last year's campaign our most successful one ever, raising just over \$22,000!**

Playground Committee

We currently have \$83,862.21 in our playground account. The replacement of playground #2 is likely to cost over \$100K, especially if we want a playground accessible for everyone. We are so confident that we can raise the additional funds needed through your generous cheque writing this year, we have decided to strike the playground committee. Cynthia will chair the playground committee and is looking for volunteers to join the committee. Email her at pastchair@larondepac.ca to participate in the process.

Craft Fair will be held Friday Nov. 29. Marina will coordinate. This is a fun event where students have the opportunity to create crafts and then sell them to their peers. Information and registration will begin early November.

Phones at school – Alyssa R. inquired about the school policy on cell phones. Mme Maharaj noted that there is a school wide policy and a district policy. At Laronde students are not allowed to take them outside on the playground or use them in public area in the schools. The school district policy is posted on the SD36 website. Usage in the classroom is up each individual teacher. A lively discussion followed about cell phone usage at school which included the following concerns:

- the culture that is being created;
- the expectation of having cell phones at an early age;
- kids accessing social media, texting;
- how cell phone use can change family time;
- children feeling left out of evening social group chats; and
- online bullying, social pressure and exclusion.

“Wait till eight” parent groups are active across the country. You can check out their information and take the pledge at <https://www.waituntil8th.org/> We have discussed the impact and parental concerns about technology usage at many previous PAC meetings but the school district is unlikely to create a policy banning cell phones. PAC currently budgets \$1,575 per year for social media presentations for students and parents. A suggestion was made that a committee of some sort for parents who want to stay in the know could be created. Other suggestions included Mme. Niro sharing an App or article related to this issue in her school newsletters.

Intramurals – PAC would like to revisit intramurals, especially as the rainy months begin.

Office not calling to verify student absences – Cynthia S. voiced concern that the school is not calling home to verify student absence. Safety protocols need to be reviewed with front office staff.

Phones at school are having technical issues. District has been notified. Emergency procedures are being update.

School website wasn't up to date at the beginning of the year. The bell schedule had changed but it took almost two weeks before the website reflected the current times. Also, many important dates were not in the calendar yet, like photo day.

Marina H. Brought up the idea of setting up school wide hot lunch sign ups. Tabled to discuss at next exec meeting.

Motion to adjourn – Chris B. & Melissa W. Meeting adjourned at 10:55am.

Next Meeting: Monday, November 18th 6:30pm

Important Dates:

Oct 24 – Early Dismissal 1:35pm
Oct 25 – Non-Instructional Day
Nov 8 – Non-Instructional Day
Nov 11 – Remembrance Day
Nov 14 – Photo Retake Day