



**PAC Meeting Minutes
November 18, 2019 in Laronde Elementary Library**

PAC Committee Members in Attendance

Co-Chairs	Tanja Phillips Catharine Macrander
Past Chair	Cynthia Springate
Secretary	Katie Corbeil
Class Parent Coordinator	Marina Heidt
DPAC & CPF Rep	Julie Elliot
Members-at-Large	Stefanie Simpson, Amy Guelpa, Tracy Merry

Regrets: Treasurers, Communications Rep and Vice-Chair

Total of 22 Members present at meeting plus Principal and Vice-Principal

Meeting called to order at 6:39 pm

Welcome & Introduction

1. Tanja P. welcomed everyone to the meeting. With many new faces at the meeting everyone gave a quick self-introduction.

Approval of Agenda

2. The following was added to the agenda: Traffic around the school, Digital Era Parenting and request for Support for additional Technology.
3. Motion to approve the agenda was moved by Julie E. and seconded by Cynthia S. All in favour. Motion passed.

Review and Approval of Minutes

4. Motion to approve minutes from PAC Meeting held Sept 26, 2019 moved by Tracy M and seconded by Amy G. All in favour. Motion passed.

Principal's Report

5. Oral French Focus. Staff are working to help improve French speaking, reading and writing by encouraging all students to use their french language at every opportunity throughout the day and not only in the classroom.
6. Parking and traffic. After clarification with the City and the Developer, SD 36 has determined that the \$150k that was donated by the developer in 2015 was given to the Surrey School District to improve traffic safety at Laronde. The District would like to consult with parents and the school staff with a view to improve safety in line with the various studies that have taken place. Mme Niro was not aware of when or how the District will conduct their consultation but will advise when she has information.
7. Our Co-Chair, Tanja, suggested a parking lot committee be formed to speak on behalf of the parents and will be established by the PAC Committee.
8. Internet/Social Media Safety Presentation. The school has arranged for Nancy Smith to come to speak with parents about Internet Safety on Dec 4. The presentation will be at 8:45 am. Mme Niro will send out details to the school community.
9. Various Fundraising. The school raised \$2,846 for Terry Fox, sold \$4,811 at the Scholastic English Book Fair, \$2,549 at the Scholastic French Book Fair and raised \$1,082 at the Halloween for Hunger. Thank you to everyone for their support.

10. Craft Fair. Craft Fair is on Nov. 29 in the gym. Marina H is organizing.

11. Holiday Activities.

- a. Deck the Boards and possibly Ugly Sweater Day will be on Dec 6. Details TBD. Hot chocolate will be served by the PAC to grades 2-7 and candy canes available for grades K-1. Parents will be invited by individual teachers to participate in the Deck the Boards. Coordinating information for the hot chocolate will be provided by the PAC closer to the event;
- b. Winter Concert. The number of students at our school has increased over the years and due to fire regulations the school has decided to have two different concerts/performances. The K-6 performance will be on Dec 11 at 1:00 pm and 6:30 pm (tickets required). The Band/Orff/Intermediate Choir concert will be on Dec 16 at 1:30 pm only.
- c. Pancake Breakfast/Pyjama Day will be on Dec 20. Breakfast will be served at 7:30 am and 8:00 am and is once again hosted by the grade 7s.

12. Playground #2 - Mme Niro has confirmed that the equipment on playground #2 is good until 2024 with the exception of the slide which will be removed by about 2022/23. We will have one year from the date of the playground site approval request to complete the playground project. New playgrounds must be wheelchair accessible. Mme Niro suggested that we ask for the playground to be removed June 2020 or June 2021 and have new playground installed by the September of the same year so that the children of the parents who have been contributing and fundraising get to enjoy/use the new playground.

13. Lock Down/Hold and Secure. Mme Niro advised that the school received a call from RCMP and told to go into Lock Down. Due to urgency and procedures, she is not provided any details or explanation at the time. The Principal then verifies that all doors and blinds are all closed. Once done, she called district to confirm if it should have been Hold and Secure instead and the RCMP confirmed that it was to be a Hold and Secure instead, so the school changed posture which allowed for students to be escorted to the washroom and for them to work quietly. If in a lock down for an extended period of time, the bathroom plan would include the use of a bucket/pail with privacy established by the teacher.

14. Parents expressed that they were grateful for the email to let parents know but would appreciate also knowing what the students had been told so that they were prepared for the questions from their children. Mme Niro took note.

15. Roots Of Empathy . Program currently being offered to our Grade 4/5 students. District Program that is currently being taught by Michelle Holowinko, who was our child care worker last year. ** Special Note of interest : Mme Workun (current teacher on maternity leave) visits a classroom with her newborn as part of the Roots of Empathy program.** The program is quite popular and is a program that has been around for 20 yrs.

Chair Report given by Co-Chairs Tanja Phillips and Catharine Macrander

16. Thank you for attending tonight and taking time out of your busy schedule to meet or read this report. We appreciate your input and involvement in our school community. We are happy to report that we have had several PAC sponsored events since our last meeting in September. October was once again a very busy month, which included our Cheque Writing Campaign, the warm clothing drive for our sister school Forsythe, and the African Drumming Workshops which were enjoyed by all students. The busy trend continues through November which so far has included first aid training for our Grade 6 lunch monitors and the igirl/iguy workshops for our grade 6 & 7 students. And an internet safety seminar for our parents and students are book before this year ends.

17. Additionally, registration is currently open for the upcoming craft fair and our annual hamper drive will begin this week. December also promises to be a very busy month at our school with various Holiday events to look forward to including the fun pancake breakfast hosted by our Grade 7's. As always, we are looking for activities/topics to better the school for every student at the school.

18. Cheque Writing Campaign. A big thank you to all who contributed. Our final total is still being tallied. For those of you who missed the chance to contribute and would like to still make a donation, you can still do so. Drop your cheque off at the office or make a donation via Paypal on the website. All donations over \$20 are eligible for a tax receipt. Our current total is just over \$13,000 which is below what we were hoping so all contributions will gratefully accepted.

19. Warm Clothing Drive. Thank you to Kimmy and Julie for a very successful drive. More during our outreach updates.
20. Grade 7 Thank you to our grade 7 grad committee for hosting a movie afternoon, showing Ugly Dolls on Friday Nov. 1. All proceeds will be used to support the grade 7 year end activities.
21. Booking igirl/iguy. Empowerment workshops for our grade 6 & 7 students which includes training on setting boundaries, healthy communication, healthy friendships and relationships, internet safety and self-esteem. Two 2 hour workshop sessions were booked. The first two hour session was held on Friday November 15 and the second will be held on Friday November 22. These workshops have been held every two years for the past several years. We have heard from parents of previous year participants that the tools learned from these workshops have helped students successfully transition into their high school years.
22. Craft Fair. Thank you to Marina H for coordinating this event which will run on Friday November 29.
23. Christmas Hampers. Thank you to Laura R. for coordinating again this year. We will hear more during our outreach updates.
24. Remembrance Day Concert. Congratulations to Mme. Ziolkoski and Mme. Shirley for a very moving ceremony.
25. Fall Sports. Cross Country wrapped up in late October. It was another very successful season. Thank you to Mme. Niro, Mme. Florkowski and Mme. Burden for coaching. Thank you also to our parents who joined in the run. Soccer playdays were held in early October for both our boys and co-ed teams. Thank you to Melissa W. for coaching. Volleyball is currently ongoing with large participation from both the girls and the boys. Great to see so many students playing. Thank you to Mme. Burden, Mme. Carvajal, Mme Yee and Tanja P for coaching. Thank you also to our various teachers, parents and students who have helped with scorekeeping and refereeing at the games

Committee Reports

26. Grade 7 Rep. Gift card fundraiser orders open until end of school day 22 Nov. Cards may be distributed by end Nov, no later than the first week of Dec. Good opportunity for Hampers and own shopping needs.
27. A parent commented that there were no other adults in the gym for the first 30-40 minutes of the Movie Ugly Dolls held on 1 Nov. She had been approached by numerous kids to use the washroom and was not aware of what the procedure was or who was responsible for their supervision. Stefanie Simpson clarified that parents were assigned to be present but perhaps were not aware they needed to be in the gym proper. Gr 7 committee will look at parent supervision responsibilities for the next Movie Night. The Chair asked that Stefanie arrange to have notes made so that this sort of responsibility gets passed on for future events.
28. Year Book. By the end of the week a link will be sent to upload photos for the yearbook and they will be private. Orders will be done online this year.
29. Fruit & Veg Program. This program will not run this year at our school because we do not have a food safe qualified staff.
30. Outreach. Laura Roberts reported that we held a successful Winter Clothing Drive in October. Forsyth Road Elementary was very grateful (*from Forsyth's head Secretary: "The clothing drive we held with all the donations was super successful this year!"*). Thank you to Kimmy and Julie SurrIDGE for coordinating this initiative.
31. Our Christmas Hamper Initiative started this week in support of the families at Forsyth Road Elementary School. On November 17, all Laronde Class Parents were sent their Division's signup link. We are supplying full Christmas Hampers (including gifts and food) for 16 families. This includes 3 hampers that will be completed by Laronde families separate from the classroom hampers.
32. We have until December 6 to compile the Hampers as transport has been requested for Monday, December 9. Each class will have a Christmas Hamper Class Coordinator who will be responsible for bringing 2 big boxes into the classroom as well as checking the boxes semi-regularly and ensuring that any gift cards and cash are given to the office for safekeeping (about 50% of classes have already confirmed a volunteer Hamper Coordinator). Anyone interested in volunteering on packing day (Dec 6) are to send their contact details to hampers@larondepac.ca.

33. Canadian Parents for French (CPF). Julie reported that the focus was on reaching out to the K-1 parents to communicate what CPF is and how to get involved.

34. District PAC (DPAC). Julie reported that the last meeting focused on back to basics and discussed what PAC should be doing and creating a PAC 101 handbook. Anyone can attend the monthly DPAC meeting however only one vote per PAC. Next meeting is Nov 27 at 7 pm. The AGM is May 1-3, 2020 in Richmond.

35. Playground Committee. Cynthia S. has volunteered to lead the playground committee. The committee will start soon and is looking for volunteers. Anyone interested in joining the committee are to send names to pastchair@larondepac.ca. Cynthia is aiming to have a few options presented to the school community by the end of the school year. Request made to Mme Niro to hold off from taking any action with District.

Financial Report

36. No report provided. Deferred to next meeting.

New Business

37. Traffic around the school. Mme Niro reported that the parking in No Parking zone, at Cross walks and Amble Green appears to be improving. She and Vice Principal walk the areas regularly and are monitoring. RCMP has also visited at the end of the day. Neighbors and parents report that since the police have been around they have noticed a reduction in the number of incidents.

38. Technology. Mme Niro requested that a motion be put forth to approve the purchase of a bundle of 5 MacBooks. Her estimated cost for this purchase was \$5,200. She advised that the school would buy an additional 2 bundles. A motion was made by Tanja P. to spend up to \$7,000 to purchase a bundle of 5 MacBooks. The motion was seconded by Laura R. A question was asked about who receives the credit when old technology was returned. Mme Niro was unsure but will confirm. 21 voted in favour, 1 against. Motion passed.

39. Digital Era Parenting. A group of concerned parents at Laronde Elementary have formed a peer support group named Digital Era Parenting. The Group is for parents and caring adults who want to keep our students safe while they use digital devices, and to provide a forum to discuss all the opportunities and risks involved. Alyssa Roberts spoke on their behalf to introduce the group and what they are working towards.

40. Alyssa referred to D. MacNamara's observation that children are digital natives but we the parents are digital immigrants and are not as quick to learn new technology as our children. The Group has identified a need for peer support to stay aware of the issues and help each other along the way. Alyssa highlighted some of the areas of concern discussed in scientific literature regarding cellphone and tablet usage with young children. Dr Victor Chan followed with a presentation on Mental Health and Child-Brain development. He explained how the mechanism of addiction lies behind some of the issues encountered with screen time and in particular social media.

41. Another member of the Group spoke about the idea of having hands-on "make it safe" workshops and will make specific recommendations after the Internet safety seminars that are scheduled at Laronde.

42. The Group is asking to form a sub-committee of the PAC with a view to developing education and training on internet safety for students and parents. Recommended training may require financial support which would be presented to the PAC once determined. Information about the Group can be found at digital-era-parenting@googlegroups.com and on their "Digital Era Parenting" Facebook page.

43. The use of technology during school hours was discussed. Mme Niro confirmed that the policy is that technology for anything non-education related is not allowed during school hours although some teachers allow students to listen to music quietly while completing work and that is deemed acceptable and controlled by individual teachers. A parent advised that her child was being shown things on a personal device by their lunch monitor during the lunch hour and Mme Niro will investigate further.

44. Closing Remarks. Mme Niro advised that the Vice-Principal, Mme Patty Maharaj will be leaving the school in January 2020 to become Principal at Cindrich Elementary . There are no French speaking VP available at this time and therefore the duties

will be given to a current teacher and the District is looking for a teacher to replace her Grade 4/5 class. While that is great news for Patty, she will be missed.

Adjournment

45. End of Meeting. Tanja P. motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:23 pm. Michelle H. seconded the motion, All in favour. Motion passed.