

**PAC Meeting Minutes**

**September 23, 2021, on Zoom Video Conference**

**PAC Committee Members in Attendance**

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| **Chair** | **Cynthia S** |
| **Vice-Chair** | Katie C |
| **Past Chair** | **Catharine M** |
| **Secretary** | **Catharine M** |
| **Treasurer(s)** | **Caroline T** |
| **Communication Rep** | **Elisabeth S** |
| **Class Parent Coordinator** |  |
| **DPAC & CPF Rep** | Michele H |
| **Members-at-Large** | **Tracey M Jennifer W. Krista A.** |

**Total of 27 Members present at meeting plus our Principal, Mme Niro and Vice Principal Janessa Boudreau**

**Minutes recorded by Catharine Macrander, Secretary.**

Meeting called to order at 7:30pm

**Welcome & Introduction**

* Cynthia S. called the meeting to order at 7:30pm. She welcomed everybody and thanked them all for attending the first PAC meeting of the 2021/22 year. *She opened the meeting with the acknowledgement that our school, where we work, play and learn, is on the shared, unceded traditional territory of the Katzie, Semiahmoo, Kwantlen and other Coast Salish Peoples.*

She then introduced the attending members of the executive. She noted that Katie C would be joining shortly.

She further noted that all PAC meetings would be continuing Zoom for the foreseeable future. She invited people to unmute and join the conversation, when appropriate or to raise their hand. She also invited people to use the chat feature to submit their comments or questions.

**Approval of Agenda**

* No new items were added to the agenda.
* Motion to approve the agenda was moved by Catharine M and seconded by Tracy M. All in favor, motion passed.

**Review and Approval of Minutes from June 2021**

Before asking for a motion to accept the June 2021 minutes, Cynthia highlighted the following items of note:

\* She noted that this was our budget and elections meeting. She informed the group there were a few important changes to the executive that would be addressed during her Chair report.

\* She noted that the budget passed in June was a restricted budget due to the uncertainty of what fundraising activities would be available in the new school year, due to the ongoing Covid restrictions. She noted we did double the first aid training budget for the lunch monitors, due to the fact we would have to train both grade 6 and 7 this year. Normally, only the grade 6 receives the training, however due to covid, we did not have any student lunch monitors last year.

\* She also noted that we approved a motion to spend up to $132 K for the replacement of playground #2. She announced that at the end of the June 2021, a school wide vote was held, and the Swing TIme design was chosen. The initial invoice of $114, 870.84 was paid in July and there may be some additional amounts added to this, depending on the amount of wood chips required, etc. The playground is expected to be fully installed by the end of the year. Pictures of the winning design were then shown.

\* No amendments were added to the minutes.

\* Motion to approve the minutes was moved by Tracy M and seconded by Michelle H.

**Principal’s Report** -given by Principal Sabrina Niro and Vice Principal Janessa Boudreau

* Mme Niro welcomed all new and returning families to Laronde. She noted that it was great to see everyone again and that all were enjoying a very positive start to the new school year. She introduced our VP Janessa Boudreau to the group, who had the following items to report:

Mme Boudreau introduced herself to the community and noted that it was great to be back in face-to-face learning. She taught a blended class last year, and while she really enjoyed her students last year, she did not have a chance to connect with the larger Laronde community. She is looking forward to doing so this year. As vice principal, she will teach 80% of the time. She will be teaching K this year, while Mme. Hardiman is on mat leave.

\* Mme Boudreau noted the following key dates:

Thursday Sept 30 - new federal Holiday honoring Truth and Reconciliation school not in session.

Wed Sept 29- Orange Shirt Day. Students are invited to wear orange to honor Every Child Matters.

Friday, Oct 1- Terry Fox Run. wear blue Students will run in grade groups. more info to follow re: donations and format of run.

\* Mme. Boudreau thanked the PAC for the Kindergarten Laronde Spirit wear Tshirts. (Every year the PAC gifts the incoming K students with a Laronde logo t-shirt to welcome them to the Laronde.) She reported the Ks were thrilled with their shirts and are wearing them proudly. She noted many photos had been taken. This concluded Mme. Boudreau's portion of the report and she handed the floor back to Mme. Niro.

\* Mme Niro reported there were 20 divisions this year. She noted there were a few new staff members, which included Mme. Johnson (grade 2) Mme. Kiel (integrated learning support and M. ? (EA)

\* Mme. Niro reported that cross country has been cancelled by the district due to covid restrictions. The school is looking at organizing a running club which would be led by both herself and Mme. Florkowski. Details about practice times and format are still being worked out. More info to follow.

\* The school has decided to not participate in soccer this year. The season has a very early start and is very short which creates an awkward time crunch at the start of the school year. The school felt that many of our students already participate in extracurricular soccer and therefore chose to focus the time on other ways.

\*Volleyball is expected to be able to go forward. School is waiting for guidance on what the season will look like and whether games will be allowed. More info to follow.

\* Mme. Niro reported that the students had participated in a student vote on Election Day Sept 20. The students spent time learning about the electoral vote: how the process worked, the importance of the vote, etc.. She reported the students were very enthusiastic learners and very passionate about their student vote and the hope is this will create future voters who are both aware and educated about the system.

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\* The school will be focusing on Truth and Reconciliation for the last week of Sept. They will explore what it means and will include lessons about the residential schools. The school staff has been previewing a virtual platform for Truth and Reconciliation aimed at grade 5-7 students. These include various talks and presentations. These will be shared with the appropriate age groups.

\* The school is exploring various possibilities for a Meet the Teacher Night. Options being considered include a virtual event or perhaps an outdoor event. This is tentatively planned for early October. More details to follow.

\* The school is also planning a Book Fair for the week of Oct 4-8. Currently in planning stages. More info to follow.

\* Mme. Niro reported on the current Covid measures in place at the school. Although some measures are similar, there are some significant changes There is no mandate for distancing and there are no cohorts. Children are still being asked to face forward in class and there are no group seatings. Grade 4-7 students mask indoors, and younger students are being encouraged to. There is no singing in music classes, rather the focus is on instruments and exploring musical movement. There is frequent hand washing in class. There are also designated play areas for grade groups.

\* Mme. Niro reported that Big Buddies will be allowed to return. There will be some restrictions in place to limit the number of kids in one classroom at one time.

\*Student Lunch monitors have been allowed to return. They monitor sanitizing and keeping kids seated while eating.

***School Goals.***

\* Mme Niro reported the school has chosen to focus on the following goals for the coming year.

1) Oral French. Studies have shown that increased competence at oral skills will lead to increased competence in reading & writing French. School is exploring various ways to encourage students to increase oral French in both classroom and on the playground.

2) Numeracies

Mme Niro noted that some our blended learners had been away from classroom settings for 1.5 years. and that some skills were a bit "rusty". She emphasized that, although it would take a little time for the skills to come back to full strength, she was very confident that with continued practice of the above goals, they would return to full strength.

Cynthia S. asked about providing students with various reading platforms to assist with the above goals. She noted that during the blended learning this had been provided but was not being offered this year. She mentioned that the Je Lis platform was especially valuable because it had audio to help the kids with correct pronunciation. Mme Niro would investigate this.

**Chair Report - given by Cynthia Springate**

I am going to start my report with my resignation as Chair of the PAC. As some of you may know, I have been involved with the PAC as a member of the executive for the past 11 years. I have been the Secretary, Class Parent Coordinator, Communication Coordinator, School Planning Council member, Grade 7 Parent Rep, and both a Chair and Past Chair. We have an immediate family member who is immunocompromised and as there is no blended program this year, we have made the difficult decision to homeschool our 8-year-old this year. He is registered as a homeschool learner at Laronde this year and we plan to have him return to Laronde next September.

For those who are not familiar with our bylaws, they state that when an executive position becomes vacant, the executive may appoint someone into the role. We discussed this as an executive and while I did offer my full resignation from the PAC executive, the executive has agreed to have me resign from the Chair role and Katie (our current Vice Chair) and Catharine (our current Past Chair) have agreed to Co-Chair for the remainder of this school year. I will replace Catharine as Secretary. While I do plan to step back as much as possible, I am committed to ensure this is a smooth transition and aim to provide as much support to Katie and Catharine as they want from me going forward. Are there any questions or concerns about this change to the executive? I also need to report that Alita Roberts, our Class Parent Coordinator has moved to Peace Arch Elementary, Tracy Merry and Elisabeth Smith have agreed to share the Class Parent Coordinator responsibilities for the year. Karyn Lutz has resigned as member at large.

**Hot Lunch**

Surrey district is permitting the restart of hot lunch programs so long as all items are individually packaged, and we limit the number of volunteers. We have decided to wait on the restart of hot lunch until late October and we will start cautiously with hot lunches every two weeks until Christmas break with a limited menu. Should everything go well, we will hope to resume our regular hot lunch schedule in January. We are looking for a few parent volunteers to help us restart this program, if you can help, please email chair@larondepac.ca

Given that our hot lunch revenues will be limited this year and it is unlikely that we will be to hold our spring fair again this year, our biggest fundraiser of the year will again be our Direct Donation Campaign. The Direct Donation **campaign** is simple and win/win for all involved; it allows the PAC to **keep 100% of the money raised**, and we provide tax receipts for all donations over $20**.**The campaign is designed to provide parents with the ease of writing one annual cheque which saves them valuable time and energy: no baking cupcakes, or pressuring friends and family into buying cookie dough, coupon books or various other items. Specific details on the cheque writing campaign will be distributed in early October. We hope all families will contribute whatever amount they are able to.

I am pleased to report that the kindergarten t-shirts have been distributed to all new Kindergarten students as a welcome gift from the Laronde community. This continues a now four-year tradition of gifting all new Kindergarten students a Laronde Lynx T-shirt when they join our community in September. I’d like to extend a special welcome to all our new Kindergarten families.

Class parents are still an important part of how we all communicate. We need a class parent in all divisions. Some of the activities a Class Parent may be involved with include:

* Attend Parent Advisory Council meetings (or send designate).
* Assist the teacher in organizing volunteers for field trips/class events or other activities as required.
* Forward information about class-specific events such as the Christmas Hamper program. Any school-wide emails are sent directly to all families registered on the [www.larondepac.ca](http://www.larondepac.ca/) website.
* Organize classroom volunteers for special school-wide PAC events such as the Bi-annual Spring Fair.
* Assist the teacher with Scholastic book orders if asked.
* Organize their teacher appreciation acknowledgment/gift, usually done at Christmas and in June.

If you are interested in becoming a class parent this year or if you have further questions about this role, please email Tracy at [classparent@larondepac.ca](mailto:classparent@larondepac.ca)

Volunteers needed – if you are looking to get involved with PAC, we are seeking the following volunteers

Outreach Coordinator. – to coordinate winter clothing drives, and other collections through the year to support families in need within the Surrey School district. This position can be as big or small as you are willing to take on. This can also include coordinating our Christmas hamper program or that can be a separate role.

As mentioned earlier, we also need a few parents to assist with the re-start of hot lunch.

This ends my first and last chair report of this school year. You are in excellent hands with Katie and Catharine

**Financial Reports**

* Budget reports were reviewed. Caroline T. highlighted a few areas of significance such as the reduced income due to the covid restrictions. She expected the coming year to be somewhat similar, although we would be able to add some hot lunch revenue which was not included in June's budget.

**\*** Cynthia noted that we had discussed in June the possibility of amending the budget in Sept. when we would have a better idea of what types of fundraising and student activities could go forward. She reported that due to the uncertainty of the impact that the Covid 4th wave could have, the executive had recommended at the Sept. executive meeting to leave the June budget as is. She further noted that Mme. Niro had been informed that the executive was very open to supporting enrichment activities beyond the budgeted amounts and would be able to approve these activities as they came up throughout the year. She noted that Laronde had very healthy bank balances in reserve and would be able to fund these activities as they arose. She invited discussion and feedback from the floor regarding this. There was very little and most seemed in agreement with this plan.

\* Cynthia then noted that at our June meetings, we normally move approximately 10% of our Direct Donation Revenue into our Playground or Technology account. This ensures we always have some savings to support technology purchases and future playground needs. She noted that all playgrounds are new within the past 15 years, so we shouldn't need to replace one in the near future, however she felt it was still advisable to continue setting money aside. Cynthia moved that we move 10% of the 2020/21 Direct Donation proceeds ($2, 170) to the Playground & Technology Fund. The remainder of the proceeds would go into our Operating Account. Cynthia asked if there was any discussion about the motion. There was none. Catharine M seconded and the motion passed.

At this point Katie C. was able to join the meeting and was introduced to the group. As noted in the chair report, Katie will be the new co-chair along with Catharine M.

**Committee Reports**

**DPAC Michelle H.**

\* Michelle reported the first DPAC meeting had been Wed. Sept 22 which she had attended. She reported that DPAC is forming a new Inclusion Committee with a focus on Diverse Learners. Diverse learners include students with special needs both physical and cognitive. For more information on this committee please visit [Info@surreydpac.ca](mailto:Info@surreydpac.ca)

\* Michelle also reported that DPAC was acquiring a second Zoom license which would aid schools to host more meeting.

For parents that are not familiar with DPAC, this is a district PAC composed of representatives from all Surrey schools. They serve as a voice for all PACs at the District level and can aid and assist PACs with various items.

* Emergency Preparedness Committee. The sea-container in the parking lot near playground #1 is filled with emergency preparedness supplies such as first aid, food and safety items which is mostly provided by PAC resources in case of any emergency. Volunteers are needed to assist Marina H in the annual review of the supplies and the rotation of stock to include purchasing new and disposal/recycle of old. Please contact Marina at [treasurer@larondepac.ca](mailto:treasurer@larondepac.ca) or Catharine or Katie at [chair@larondepac.ca](mailto:chair@larondepac.ca) if you are available to help.

**New Business**

\* School Photos.

\* Mme Niro reported that although we usually use Mountain West for our school photos, Lifetouch had been recruiting for our business. She asked if there was any feedback from the parents about preference. The consensus was that although there were some issues with Mountain West quality, the same issues seemed to come up when we had used Lifetouch. It was suggested that maybe we start investigating some other possiblities for future years. For this year, Sabrina will decide what company, she would like to work with.

**Rapid Antigen Testing Pilot Program**

This idea was presented to the PAC by Noa, who has children in grades 6 and 3 here at Laronde. She is a lab technician at BC Children’s. She has a sister in Ontario, whose family is participating in a pilot program for schools in Ontario, where families are supplies with rapid antigen tests for Covid which are done twice a week, in the hope of limiting spread. The test is a swab sample from the inner cheek or nostril and results are ready in 15 minutes. If negative, child proceeds with day. If positive, child is taken for a pcr test. Tests are supplies free of charge by the Ontario government. This is a parent powered initiative and is entirely voluntary. Because it is in its infancy stage, the impact of the program is still unknown.

Noa was interested to know if there might be enough interest in the school to try to initiate a similar program here. She would be willing to spearhead this and do some initial inquiries to find out the possibility of having this here. There was significant interest in this idea. Barriers to initiating this sort of program here might be a reluctance on the BC government’s part to supply the tests as well as District and Fraser Health protocols.

If it was possible to create a program like this here, there will be a need for volunteers. We are interested to know parents’ thoughts about this program. Please email any questions or comments to Catharine or Katie at chair@larondepac.ca

**Adjournment**

* End of Meeting. Tracy m motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:49 pm. Catharine M seconded the motion, All in favor. Meeting adjourned.