



**PAC Meeting Minutes
April 7, 2022, on Zoom Video Conference**

PAC Committee Members

Chair	Catharine Macrander & Katie Corbeil
Vice-Chair	
Past Chair	Cynthia Springate
Secretary	Cynthia Springate
Treasurer(s)	Marina Heidt & Caroline Thindal
Communication Rep	Elisabeth Smith
Class Parent Coordinator	Maha Saraf
DPAC & CPF Rep	Michelle Hoffmann (DPAC) Julie Elliott (CPF)
Members-at-Large	Tracy M, Sophia L Jennifer Wright Krista Acheson

**Total of 18 people present including Principal Mme. Niro and Acting VP Mme. Burden
Exec members present: Catharine M. Katie C. Michelle H. Tracy M**

Minutes recorded by Catharine Macrander Co-Chair

1. Meeting called to order at 9:32am

Welcome & Introduction

2. Catharine M called the meeting to order at 9:32am. Catharine welcomed everybody and introduced the PAC executive members in attendance. The meeting was opened 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.

Approval of Agenda

3. Katie C noted that the order of the presentation of the committee reports may be adjusted during the meeting due to presenter needing to leave early. Motion to approve the agenda as presented was moved by Katie C. and seconded by Tracy M. All in favor, motion passed.

Review and Approval of Minutes from February 3, 2022

4. Motion to approve the minutes as presented was moved by Katie C. and seconded by Tracy. All in favour, motion passed.

Principal's Report -Mme Niro & Mme Burden

5. Mme. Niro welcomed everyone and said it was lovely to see everyone. She noted that she might have to step away momentarily, in which case Mme. Burden would continue with the report.

Covid Updates

6. Mme. Niro reported that as of Friday April 8, 2022, current restrictions would once again lighten. This will include a return to class treats and food being allowed. It will also allow a return to in class baking. In class baking will follow all food safe guidelines. Students are excited to have this activity return.

7. Mme. Niro reported that there will be an update next week on school event and capacity limits. Currently there is a limit of 50% capacity. She noted that provincial health orders can differ for school districts and the public.

8. Field trips are allowed, including transport by buses. Currently there are field trips planned for the grade 7's and the grade 6's are looking to plan something as well. Mme. Niro noted that the PAC was encouraging the school to plan field trips due to many parents expressing that it would be highly beneficial for both learning and mental health to get out of the classroom again after a 2-year hiatus of no field trips. She further noted that the grade 2 and under had never been on a field trip. The school is currently looking for ideas for field trips and are inviting parents to email any ideas they might have to either Mme. Niro or Mme. Burden

9. Children are allowed to sit side by side again and to work in groups. As well, more volunteers will be allowed into the school.

10. Currently 1/5 of the students are still wearing masks. Anyone who has travelled outside the country is required to remain masked, as per the federal regulations. Most teachers continue to mask when in a close-up conversation but will remove their mask when teaching in front of the class. Mme. Niro noted that it was nice to see faces again.

11. **Curriculum Updates.** The school is continuing with Second Step which is a social emotional learning program. There has been good feedback from the students, staff, and parents. Mme. Burden reported that it was a very positive program which gives the student the vocabulary for emotions, problem solving, and empathy as well as teaching them to take a break if needed

12. *Lag in Reading* Mme. Niro reported that the school has noticed a significant lag in learning, especially in reading. This was especially true of the younger grades. The school believes that is largely because of the mask wearing which has prevented the students from seeing how the words are formed. The Laronde staff have spent much time discussing appropriate interventions and strategies to correct this issue. Mme. Niro reported that this problem is widespread and the district is investing in workshops for the teachers to address this. Mme. Niro further noted that parents could help their child catch up by reading at home. Strategies for the younger children included reading signs, cereal boxes etc. She further noted that improved literacy helped learning in other subjects including math.

13. *School Planning for 2022/23* Mme. Niro reported that there would be once again 20 divisions with an expected enrollment of 450-460 students. She noted that the school is still maintaining a wait list although these have diminished slightly, due to families passing up spots because of not wanting to

transfer schools during covid. She stressed it was important to maintain enrollment levels to avoid losing a division and teacher.

14. There will be a few staff changes in the new school year which will be announced in September.

Body Health/Growing up Game Plan with Saleema Noon

15. *Growing Up Game Plan* is a new course being developed by Saleema Noon. This course focuses on self-esteem, emotional response, internet safety, healthy friendships and other challenges in the growing up years. Laronde has been invited to be part of the pilot program, at no charge. Dates for this to be announced. This course will be given to grade 4/5 classes and will be online. Parent workshops are also available. These workshops are currently complimentary. Saleema Noon is interested in receiving feedback. To find out more please visit the Saleema Noon website.

16. Body Health workshops will be presented to students April 12-20. Presentations will be by grade group and will consist of a video presentation followed by a live Q&A session via Zoom with Saleema Noon. There will be a live Parent Night via Zoom on Monday April 11 at 6:30 pm. Details to attend have been posted on the Laronde PAC hot lunch website homepage. Mme. Niro thanked the PAC for sponsoring this event.

17. **Internet Safety.** Mme. Niro reported that the school is looking at options for Internet Safety workshops for the students. She reported that the PAC had inquired about workshops that focused on some of the social media platforms such as Tik Tok, which is hugely popular at the moment. She reported that these workshops will occur before the end of the school year.

18. **La Semaine de la Francophonie** Mme. Burden reported that this was a week of French based activities to celebrate French culture. Activities included 3 daily songs in French during lunch break and a daily wordle in French. Students are also doing a school wide puzzle activity with French words and phrases that will be joined together to form a collage. Students are greatly enjoying this project!

19. **Science Funds** Mme Burden thanked the PAC for making these funds available for individual classroom use. She reported that several Intermediate classes will participating in Gearing Up which is a STEM based program by UBC. She also reported the K's had purchased kits to learn about force and motion and a grade 3 class did a project on landforms. She also said the school had purchased flashlights and scales for general use.

20. **Pink Shirt Day** There was good participation with the majority of students wearing pink shirts to support anti-bullying. Students participated in an online assembly about anti-bullying,

21. **Black History Month** Throughout the month of February, students participated in learning activities to honor achievements throughout history made by the Black community.

22. **Grade 7 Year End Field Trips** Mme. Burden reported that the school had planned two field trips for the grade 7s. These are in lieu of the usual overnight grade 7 camp that has been cancelled for the past 3 years due to covid. The grade 7s will do a camp at Loon Lake and a kayaking trip.

23. **Spring Sports** Currently Ultimate Frisbee and Badminton are underway with enthusiastic participation. Games are allowed. Spectators are also allowed. Track and Field will also return. The

format will be slightly different this year, with no large district meet, however there will be some mini meets. The school is looking for parent volunteers to help with coaching and organizing. If you are interested, please contact Mme. Niro or Mme. Burden via email.

Questions for Mme. Niro and Mme. Burden.

24. A parent asked that as per Dr. Henry's guidance that masks were still recommended in indoor spaces, was the school encouraging mask wearing. Mme. Burden replied that the district guidance was that it was a personal choice to wear a mask. She reported that many teachers were still wearing them when in close contact with students but would remove them when teaching in front of the class. The parent further inquired if teachers were enforcing the 14-day policy of mask wearing for students that had travelled outside Canada. Mme. Burden replied that students were following this guidance. She emphasized that it was not the teacher's job to police this and further noted that it was difficult for a teacher to always know who has travelled and what their travel dates were.

25. Victor C. inquired if the staff was noticing any other effects from the masks other than the previously mentioned lag in reading. He wondered if the staff was noticing any improvement in some of the dysregulated behavior that was discussed at previous meetings now that the masks had been removed. Mme. Burden replied that the most noticed effect was the lag in reading. She also said skills tend to come back quickly.

26. Catharine M. inquired if the staff was noticing any affects on physical literacy due to increased screen time and limited activities due to the pandemic. Mme. Burden replied that there were some lags in this area as well as social skills as some parents may have been reluctant to enroll their children in team sports and other types of activities. Again, she emphasized that skills tend to bounce back quickly at this age group.

Chair Report – given by Catharine M.

27. Good morning. Thank you for joining us. We really appreciate your input and involvement in our school community. We know we say this a lot, however since it is your commitment that makes us such an amazing community. the truth is we probably can't say it enough. So once again, Thank you!

28. We ask that you hold all questions and comments until the end of our report. We will be happy to answer any questions then and welcome any discussion that might arise.

29. The time between our last meeting on Feb 3 and now, seems to have passed in the blink of an eye. This is always a transition time as we move from winter indoor activities to spring which brings more opportunity for outdoor ones. We also had spring break thrown in the mix which makes for a more condensed timeline. However, we are happy to report that there have been a few PAC related activities that have occurred since then.

30. When we last met in Feb, Hip Hop was in full swing, and student were enjoying learning dance routines from AJ with Sound Kreations The week ended on a high note. Thank you to Mme. Niro for booking.

31. **Science Enrichment**-Due to the covid restrictions, it has been difficult to find science workshops that can be enjoyed school wide. As science is an important core area, we looked at ways we might be able to offer enrichment in this area. In February, we invited the teachers to submit classroom projects to Mme. Niro so that the money might be spent. As Mme. Burden has already reported, the school has been able to use this money to purchase some scales and flashlights for general use, our kindergarten classes have purchased materials to learn about force and motion (they had a lot of fun with this one!) and one of our grade 3 classes have done a project on landforms. We look forward to hearing about more future projects.

32. **Spirit Wear** In February, we once again partnered with Kahunaverse to run an online store. We offered both our classic color logo as well as the new modern outline design. Thank you to Julie E for coordinating. Delivery is expected to be very soon.

33. **Body Health** - Next week Saleema Noon will be presenting Body Health classes to our students. There will be a Parent Presentation via Zoom on Monday April 11 at 6:30pm. Details to join this event may be found on the hot lunch website.

34. **Playground # 2 Completed!** – At our last meeting we reported that most of the playground was completed and open, with lots of happy kids playing on it, although we were still waiting for the net for the climbing structure. Happily, this was delivered and completed in early March. Thank you, Cynthia S., for chairing the playground committee and all the work that was put into this. Thank you to the community for all the financial support given through many years of check writing campaigns. We are very grateful for the many years of community support. Thank you, Laronde!

35. **Playground Opening Celebration**, - The completion of a great project deserves a great celebration! Many of our families have expressed a desire for some sort of community event to reconnect with everyone after being separated for 2 years. We strongly agree a community event is very much in order. Unfortunately, at this point we are still limited by district restrictions on gatherings so planning is a little difficult and may have to be postponed until the start of next year. It should be noted that school restrictions are being lifted a little bit slower than the public health orders out of an abundance of caution.

36. **Return of Spring Sports** After being on hiatus for two years due to covid, Ultimate Frisbee and Badminton have returned. Both sports are in full swing with enthusiastic participation from the students. Thank you to Mme. Burden and Mme. Hatch for coaching Ultimate. Thank you to Mme. Carriou and Mme. Carvajal for coaching Badminton. We also look forward to the return of track and field. Thank you.

37. *Catharine M. inquired if there were questions about the report. There were none.*

Committee Reports

38. **DPAC(Michelle H)** Michelle reported that the next DPAC meeting would be later in the month. She had nothing to report for DPAC happenings at this time. She further reported that she would be

attending the BCPAC AGM in Richmond at the end of April. She explained that BCPAC is the provincial level of PAC which Laronde joined at the end of the 2020 school year. She explained the process of resolutions which consists of PACs submitting questions and concerns to the ministry who then works with BCPAC to find resolutions. This can be a lengthy process. Completed resolutions are then voted on at the AGM. For parents who are interested in learning more, the link to the AGM is here <https://bccpac.bc.ca/index.php/conferences/conference-agm> and the link to the resolution booklet is here <https://bccpac.bc.ca/images/AGM/2022-AGM-Booklet.pdf>

39. **Hot Lunch (Angela L) report given by Katie C.** Katie reported that term 3 hot lunch was going well. She said the PAC was adding an extra hot lunch for the final day of school in June and that details would be released soon.

40. *Outstanding Balances.* Katie reported that outstanding Hot Lunch Balances would need to be paid by a specific cut off date to avoid cancellation. The tentative deadline will be April 29, which will be confirmed by the treasurers once the final lunch is posted. Treasurers will start to send notices to outstanding accounts one week prior to this date. Any changes or deletions after this date will result in a credit that can be carried over to next year or refunded at the end of the year.

41. *Chip Shortage* Due to the recent chip dispute between Lay's and Loblaw's Munchies will not be available for the rest of the term. Parents who ordered this item are asked to go into their account to change or delete this item.

42. **CPF –. No report given**

43. **Outreach- No report given**

44. **Yearbook (Tracy M) Tracy** reported that the deadline to submit pictures for the yearbook would be April 14. Parents who have pictures to share are invited to submit their photos via their special division link. She would send out a notice via the class parents about this. Mme. Niro will put a reminder in the newsletter. Parents will be able to pre order their yearbook in early May. More information to follow.

45. **Emergency Preparedness(Marina H) report given by Katie C.** Katie reported that with the arrival of the warmer weather, Marina would be starting to clean and sort out the Emergency Container. She is looking for volunteers to help. Please email Catharine or Katie at chair@larondepac.ca if you are interested in helping.

46. **Treasurers Report(Marina H & Caroline T) report given by Katie C.** Treasurer documents were presented up to March 31. Katie reported that there had been a few minor expenses added since the report had been published. Details will be updated at the June AGM.

47. *Teacher Classroom funds* Katie reported that not many teachers had used their funds allocated. Generally, after March 31, unused funds are offered to all the teachers on a first come, first serve basis.

Cheryl has been asked to remind the teachers about this, and that remaining balances are open for additional expenses.

48. **Old Business Spring Fair/Playground opening** Katie reported the PAC exec has been discussing the options to hold some sort of community event this spring. This will depend on district restrictions and if a coordinator could be found. Tentative date would probably fall in June due to shortened time. Catharine noted it is hard to lay down any specifics when everything is still uncertain. Katie noted that if we were to do anything, we would need to have a budget approved. Since this was the last meeting before June, the motion would have to be today. If no event was possible, the money would not be spent, and the motion would expire. Katie invited discussion from the floor about this. There was none.

49. Katie then moved to have up to \$4000 allocated for a spring community event if a volunteer coordinator is found and permission is received. Seconded by Tracy M. All in favor. Motion passed.

50. Anyone who is interested in helping with this tentative event is invited to email Catharine or Katie at chair@larondepac.ca

51. **New Business** Catharine reported that the PAC will be providing mini-Easter Kit Kat bunnies for an Easter themed scavenger hunt. This is expected to occur on the Thursday before Easter break. All students will receive a bunny. There will be an alternative available for anyone allergic to chocolate.

52. *New Indigenous Graduation Requirement* This new requirement is scheduled to take effect in the 2023/24 school year and is seen as a welcome step for Truth & Reconciliation. The BC government is currently conducting an online public forum about the new requirement. Catharine reported that an email had been sent via the PAC with links for both further information and the public forum.

53. Katie reported that the next PAC meeting is scheduled for June 2, 2022, but this would be reviewed. Confirmation of this date will be sent mid-May.

54. **Adjournment** – Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Tracy M and seconded by Stephanie, all in favour. Meeting adjourned at 10:33am.