



PAC Meeting Minutes – June 10, 2022
Hybrid meeting, Laronde Staff Room/Online

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 W, Krista A

1. Welcome, Introductions & First Nations Land Acknowledgement

Catharine M called the meeting to order at 9:27 am. 17 parents were present (13 in-person and 4 online) including the following PAC executive members Katie, Catharine, Cynthia, Marina, Carolline, Elisabeth, Maha, and Sophia.

Land Acknowledgement - The meeting opened with the acknowledgment 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.

2. Approval of Agenda – Motion by Katie to accept as presented, seconded by Sophia. All in favour, motion carries.

3. Review and Approval of Minutes from 7 April 2022. Motion by Katie to approve minutes as presented, seconded by Sarah J. All in favour, motion carries.

4. Principal's report

Thank you to the PAC for all your support this school year and for hosting a wonderful playground opening event! We don't know what the fall holds but we are happy we could resume some activities this spring.

Calendar for June

June 16th – Shattering the Image – RCMP, protecting kids from gang life.

Project Lavender – Project Lavender is a program that aims to empower youth to make positive choices and understand the importance of engaging in healthy relationships. Including boys in this event now, all grade 6/7s. Waiting for a date, maybe June 20th.

June 17th Sports Day (bike to school day, decorate their bikes or scooters, esp. K-3), Grade 7 will set up stations, Grade 6 parents are running a concession, students dress in team colours (red, blue, green, yellow, if you don't already know, ask your child/teacher for colour).

June 21st - National Indigenous Peoples Day – rotations through stations all day, weaving, storytelling, etc. Currently, we have 11 Laronde students who identify as First Peoples, we have a teacher who visits them monthly.

June 22 – Grade 7 farewell, this is open to Grade 7 students and families only this year.

June 23 – Final assembly, the whole school.

Lots of field trips going on this month.

Planning for 2022/2023 school year

Next year 20 divisions – losing 9 staff members, not all are teachers. Two teachers moving out of Surrey, 4 teachers leaving to get permanent positions elsewhere in the district, and a few mat leaves. Laronde is very desirable because it is the only school that is fully French. Professionally, there are more opportunities to collaborate. This makes it harder for the newer teachers to find permanent positions here. Mme Burden is staying for sure, not sure if Mme Niro is staying. Won't know for sure until Aug 1st, she has asked to stay one more year. Mme Burden will apply officially to stay as a VP, this would help in the event a new principal comes. We are currently short 5 teachers so far 2/5 are the mat leaves, and 3 are full-time permanent positions. There is a complicated union process to hire staff. After Round 2, many Laronde staff gave notice, so now we are looking for new staff in Round 3.

Q: How many splits next year? A: so far only looking at one split class. But this depends on how many people move over the summer. Zero people on the waitlist. This is challenging for the future. They opened a French program at Pacific Heights. Right now, we have 56 for K next year. Might have to have a K/1 split in the near future. Peach Arch is full. Maybe we need to start advertising the full French opportunity. Grade 4-7 though are very full. Tell your friends there is room at Laronde for K, they can call Mme Niro.

Will revisit all the class compositions for next year with all the teachers before they go. If you want to share information about your child that would help the admin/teachers place your child most appropriately, email Mme. Niro. Trust the process, they try very hard to place your child in the best possible class for them.

The Bell schedule is changing, next year school goes from Sept 6 to June 29th, the longest June ever! 10 minutes less a day for school next year. Monday they will vote on the bell schedule, start later, or start at the same time and end earlier.

Student learning plan – need to have goals. Social-Emotional Learning is one of Laronde's main goals this year. The Second Step program has been very helpful. The kids have enjoyed this program. "I know how to solve problems, I used to yell at my friends, now I know what to do", "Learning about growth mindset". Like when learning to walk, we have to try/fail hundreds of times before we finally walk. It is the same thing with reading, math, etc. Learning how changing your behaviour can change the result. Second Step has helped unite the school, lots of behavior problems in the fall (COVID-related maybe), but we are seeing great improvements. Roots of Empathy in the Grade 3/4 class, the baby is coming to visit next week in person for the first time. They are very excited! Mme Holowinko is trained to run the program.

Questions for Mme Niro

Are parents invited to the final assembly? Yes! Will send into later. Will Grade 6s move up to the benches? Yes. We need to keep talking about the traditions. Things may have been forgotten through COVID.

5. Chair report

Good morning. Thank you for coming out this morning. After being apart for so long, it is wonderful to be able to meet in person again. Thank you also to those joining us virtually. It's a little bit of an experiment this morning. Thank you everyone for your patience as we get things set up for our first hybrid meeting.

Hard to believe it is already mid-June and the school year is almost over. This will be our last meeting of the year. It will also be our last meeting as your co-chairs as we are coming to the end of our term. It has been a pleasure serving as your co-chairs for this past year and we are grateful to the Laronde community for all their support. We will continue to serve on the executive as past chairs to support the new executive.

We open our report with some sad news. Recently we learned that our former principal Mme. Fortin passed away at the end of May. Many of our families will remember Mme. Fortin, was our principal for 5 years before she retired at the end

of the school year in 2017. Mme. Fortin was well respected by our community, was very passionate about French Immersion education, and cared deeply about her staff and students. We were saddened to learn of her passing.

It has once again been a very unusual year. Once again, the Laronde community has stepped up to face the challenges head-on. We have managed to stay together even while being apart. This was very evident at our Playground Opening last week when so many of you came out to support the event. The Opening was very well attended, despite the damp weather. Thank you to all our volunteers, who gave their time to make this event possible. Thank you to Stephanie A and Mallory S for coordinating the event and special thanks to Mme. Knoll for arranging the Thermonix Lemonade stand. We also want to acknowledge Cynthia S and her playground committee for their work in getting playground #2 replaced.

We know we say thank you a lot, but truthfully, we feel we can't say it enough. We are very lucky to be part of such a great community. This event was not a PAC fundraiser. This was a PAC-sponsored community event to celebrate our new Playground. We wanted to say thank you for your generous help in building the playground and giving people a chance to reconnect in person after being apart for so long. We also invited last year's grade 7 students to come help with the event. This group was here for the excitement of the voting last year but never got to see it finished. It was great to see so many of them come out.

We had a few other PAC events take place since our last meeting in April. We had Saleema Noon come to facilitate Body Health Workshops. The new format of students watching some pre-recorded video sessions followed by a live Q&A proved to have many advantages. Students felt safer asking questions anonymously and teachers were able to take breaks during the video sessions if the kids needed them.

At Easter, the PAC supplied some mini chocolate bunnies for the first-ever Easter scavenger hunt. Each teacher organized their activity with these. Kids who could not have chocolate were offered sour patch bunnies. Kids were excited to do something new and seemed to have fun with it.

More classrooms were able to take advantage of the PAC-supplied science funds. We don't have full details on these teachers' led projects but have heard there were more Gear UP workshops offered. GEAR UP is a STEM program offered by UBC. We are happy that these funds were able to be utilized.

It has been exciting to watch the community come back together. We are excited to see field trips return and more after-school socializing on the playground. We are looking forward to a return to near-normal Sports Day next week. The grade 6's will once again be able to host a concession and parents will be invited to come and watch the events.

Track and Field. We were excited to see track and field return. Thank you to Mme. Florkowski, Mme. Carriou, and Mme. Burden for coaching. Thank you to Mme. Burden for all her work in organizing our mini meet. It was a very successful day that was well organized.

EMS scholarship Every year the Laronde PAC sponsors 2 \$500 scholarships to former Laronde students graduating from EMS to pursue their studies at a post-secondary institution. Criteria for the scholarship are they must be a former Laronde student, they are eligible for a Double Dogwood Diploma (FRIM), and they are a kind and respectful learner who is a creative builder of their future. Recipients for the 2022 scholarships are Liam MacKenzie and Kiara Neighbor. Liam plans to pursue Adventure Studies at Thompson River University and Kiara plans to study Engineering at UBC. Scholarship beneficiaries are selected by the EMS scholarship committee.

As we start to look ahead to next year, we have some activities already in the works. We are hoping to start the year with the return of our Welcome Back Coffee. Science workshops are being planned for early September and we are hoping that many of our regular activities will be able to return. There has been talk of relaunching our very popular Art Night and of course the very popular Pancake Breakfast.

We look forward to supporting the new executive as we work to bring back many popular activities.

Thank you.

6. Treasurer's report

Marina presented – Hot lunch very successful, profit was \$15,957. Our budget is very healthy. Gaming grant approved \$9,100. Logo wear small profit, COBS donation (when shopping at COBS, ask them to donate your rewards to Laronde). Some empty spaces in the expenditures didn't have all activities restart. Added this year \$150 to the counselling budget. Teachers didn't spend all the money they have. Medals/engraving were paid by the school this year. Will move this amount to next year.

Motion to move the budget as amended (change the direction donation estimate to 15K, increase 1st aid to \$1250, increase the budget for kindergarten shirts to 1000 (to account for any inflation)) by Sophia, seconded by Maha. All in favour, motion carried.

Motion to move 10% (\$1,716) from Direct Donation to Playground/Tech, moved by Katie, seconded by Sophia, All in favour, motion carried.

Playground #3 – put in in 2005, it will likely need replacing in the next 10-15 years. Will continue to save for the eventual replacement of playground #3 or any repairs to other playgrounds. This is the playground/tech fund, so the money is also available for future technology purchases.

7. Elections

Katie is our elections officer as she is not running for an elected position this year. She will stay on as Past Chair with Catharine. All positions except for the Chair are one-year positions. The chair is a two-year position. You are welcome to nominate yourself or someone else for any position. If we have more than one person for any role, we would have a vote to decide. If all positions are acclaimed, we will vote on the whole executive at the end.

Elections

Chair – Cynthia Springate

Vice-Chair – Catharine Macrander

Secretary - vacant

Treasurer – Marina Heidt & second treasurer vacant

Class Parent Coordinator – Maha Saraf

Communications – Erin Martin

DPAC - Sarah

Member At Large – Tracy Merry, Sophia Lou, Krista Acheson (Outreach), Stephanie Albanese, Mallory Sandhu (lost and found), Carolline Thindal

Motion to accept PAC exec as written, moved by Katie, seconded by Elisabeth. All in favour, motion carries.

Welcome to the new PAC executive. We will need to schedule a transition meeting before the end of the year.

We still need a secretary and a second treasurer. If you are interested in joining the executive either as Secretary or our second Treasurer, please email chair@larondepac.ca

8. Committee Reports

- a. Emergency Preparedness – Marina – always looking for parent volunteers. We need to get that storage area sorted out in the fall. If you can help, please email chair@larondepac.ca
- b. Hot lunch - We had 18 hot lunches this year and this raised approx. \$16,000. Eliminated concession, which didn't seem to impact our fundraising, and this was well-received by all volunteers. We will not be adding the concession stand back in going forward. We added COBS to compliment our sushi day and it was quite popular. Two parent volunteers are now permitted in the classes for hot lunch. Hopefully, class parents can

organize this for our final hot lunches this month. For the time being, we will continue with two hot lunches per month.

Special thanks to Angela Larkin who has been our Hot Lunch Manager for the past two years. She is stepping down this year and we need someone to step up and take on this very important PAC role. Angela is willing to share all her knowledge with the new person. If you are interested in this role, please email chair@larondepac.ca We will not be able to run hot lunch next year without a new volunteer, please help if you can. This job can also be shared among two or three people.

Discussion about Hot lunch – why every two weeks? Pro weekly, Parents love to volunteer for hot lunch every week, many parents love the weekly break from the grind of making lunches. Kids love it. Big fundraiser. Cons, not many healthy options. Lots of garbage issues. Teachers don't seem to like hot lunch afternoons; kids are a bit crazy! PAC Executive will continue to explore options to improve the process with the view to asking the school to support a weekly hot lunch again. This is a major fundraiser for all the enriching school activities PAC supports. Get volunteers to tackle the garbage issue? Will continue this discussion in September.

- c. Yearbook (Tracy M) – I hope people like the yearbooks. Next year I will try to add a “June 2022 flashback page, so if you have any great photos of the mini-meet, playground opening, or shots from the upcoming sports day, please upload them to the “General” link for them to be considered for next year’s yearbook.
- d. Outreach – If you are looking to clean out closets over the summer and find any warm clothing that is in good shape, please consider holding onto it for our fall/winter clothing drive in late Sept/early Oct. We have 3 or 4 parents signed up for the Outreach committee, if you are interested in helping with our clothing drives and Christmas hampers, please email Krista at outreach@larondepac.ca
- e. DPAC (Michelle H) – Michelle attended the BCCPAC 2022 Parent Education Conference and AGM last month on Laronde’s behalf. You can watch the sessions from this event here: <https://www.bccpac.bc.ca/index.php/resources/16-dpac-pac/1110-2022-conf-presentations>
- f. Lost & found – bins are overflowing as usual, if you are around on Sports Day be sure to have a look for any of your child’s lost items. Chances are you don’t even know they are lost yet!

9. New Business

- a. Teacher Appreciation lunch – We are seeking donations to support our year-end teacher appreciation lunch and gift cards for our administrators, lunchtime supervisors, and custodians. If you want to help, please donate in an envelope to the school with your child. Just put it in an envelope with teacher appreciation on it. We are suggesting donations of \$2-\$5.
- b. Mme Fortin – PAC would like to do something to acknowledge the passing of our former principal. We have tabled this to September but if you have any ideas, please share them at the next meeting. Maybe someone wants to take on something like planting a garden at Laronde in her name. At the very least PAC will send a card of condolence to the family. Here is a link to her obituary. <https://vancouver.sunandprovince.remembering.ca/obituary/johanne-fortin-1085288841>

10. Old business - None

11. Motion to adjourn the meeting by Erin, seconded by Cynthia at 11:47 am.

Important Dates

Fri, June 17th – Sports Day - Parents Welcome! Thurs, June 23rd – Last Day of School & Early Dismissal @ 1:40pm