

**Ecole Laronde PAC MEETING MINUTES –  
Thursday, Jan. 26. 2023-6:45pm Via Zoom**

**PAC COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

Chair	Cynthia Springate
Vice Chair	Catharine Macrander
Communications	Erin Martin
Treasurer	Marina Heidt and Jacqueline Choo
Class Parent Coordinator	Maha Saraf
CPF Representative	Julie Elliot
Secretary	Corrine Proctor
DPAC Representative	Sarah Johnny
Grade 7 Parent Representative	Kelly Dumont
Members-at-Large	Tracy Merry, Sophia Lou, Krista Acheson, Stephanie Albanese, Mallory Sandhu, Sarah Johnny and Caroline Thindal

Minutes recorded by Catharine Macrander Vice chair/Past chair.

18 people in attendance including Mme Niro and 9 executive members. Exec members in attendance were Cynthia Springate, Catharine Macrander, Erin Martin, Sarah Johnny, Kelly Dumont, Tracy Merry, Mallory Sandhu, Stephanie Albanese

**1. Welcome, Introduction and First Nations Land Acknowledgement**

Cynthia called the meeting to order at 6:49pm She thanked everyone for attending. She acknowledged the challenges of a virtual meeting which included the difficulty of knowing when to speak. She encouraged participants to participate by unmuting to ask questions or to raise their hands by using the button at the bottom of the screen. She also invited participants to share questions or comments using the chat feature.

**Land Acknowledgement** - The meeting opened with the acknowledgement that our school, where we work, play and learn is on the shared, unceded territory of the Katzie, Semiahmoo, Kwantlen and other Coast Salish Peoples.

## **2. Approval of Agenda**

Cynthia noted that the agenda had been distributed by prior email. She then shared the agenda on the screen for all to view. Motion to accept the agenda as presented was moved by Kelly D, seconded by Sarah J. All in favor, Motion passed.

## **3. Review and Approval of Minutes from November 17, 20**

Cynthia noted that the minutes had been distributed by prior email. She then highlighted the following information about the one motion that had been passed at the meeting.

A motion was passed to direct 1/8 of our gaming grant funds to the grade 7 committee to help support their year end activities. There was a bit of confusion around whether the motion was a one time or on-going motion so we made it a one-time for now. We will add this to our budget meeting at the end of the year so we can decide whether to make this an on-going thing.

There were no further amendments to the minutes. Motion to accept the minutes as presented was moved by Elisabeth S, seconded by Tracy M. All in favor, motion passed.

## **4. Principal's Report**

Mme Niro welcomed and thanked the parents for attending.

**Literacy Day** Mme Niro noted that today was Literacy Day. In honor of this day, teachers and students dressed up as their favorite literary character.

**Black Excellence Day** Black Excellence Day was celebrated on Monday Jan 16, This day honors the achievements and contributions of the Black community. Students were invited to dress in black on this day and a special assembly was held. Some Laronde students spoke about Black individuals who had achieved greatness in their field. Mme Niro expressed her thanks to Laronde parents Tayo, André and Maisha who spoke at the assembly to share their personal stories and experiences of racism, some cultural and historical information as well as encouraging all of our students to be allies. Mme Niro noted that it was a very moving experience and that the speakers were well received. She was very grateful to have these parents speak. She also thanked Laronde parent Chris, for attending the assembly..

**Black History Month.** February will be Black History Month. Students will be participating in a number of learning projects about Black history and Black achievement. To honor Black History Month, our librarian, Mme. Montgomery has made a special board honoring Black persons who have made important contributions to history. Mme Bascombe, a grade 7 teacher has also created a wall display to honor notable Black individuals. This display is in the style of the periodic table and uses the initials of the person in place of the elements. Students can then look up the name to find out more about the person. This board is on display in the Intermediate hallway.

**Anti Racism/ Inclusion Presentation by Dr Lisa Gunderson= Thursday Feb 9. 6:30 pm via Zoom**

In response to concerns raised at the November meeting about racism at Laronde, the PAC/school has booked a special presentation with Dr. Lisa Gunderson. This will be a Q & A type session where parents may ask questions about specific concerns they might have.

**Pink Shirt Day - Feb 22.** Students are encouraged to wear pink in support of kindness and standing up against bullying.

**Sports.** Basketball is now underway. There are 3 teams this year: grade 6 boys, grade 7 boys and grade 6/7 girls. Mme Niro noted that the boys were split this year due to such a large turnout.

**La Semaine de Francophone** This week-long celebration of French culture will be in early March. There will be various activities planned that may include French food, French stations and more.

**School Numbers/Enrollment** Mme Niro reported that school enrollment numbers were now back to normal and that there was once again a waitlist for certain grade levels. She noted that last year there had been an alarming dip in enrollment resulting in unfilled spaces, which could result in classrooms and teachers being cut. As we are now back to normal, this is no longer a threat.

**Second Step.** Mme Niro reported that the school will continue to participate in the Second Step program. This program teaches children to identify and regulate emotions, problem solve and gives a common language for social interactions. She reported that there were less playground incidents since the program began and that the kids were actively using the skills learned to problem solve when conflicts arose.

**Science Fairs** There was a question from a parent about whether Laronde students would be participating in any science fairs. Mme Niro replied that there was some opportunity for the older grades to participate depending on interest. She noted that the grade 7 teachers might be interested in having some of their students participate.

**Gearing Up by UBC** A parent suggested that UBC offered excellent science workshops for elementary schools and inquired whether the school would be interested in bringing these to Laronde. Mme Niro replied that some classes at Laronde had participated in these workshops last year and they were very successful. She would look into the possibility of booking some for this year.

**Concours D’Oratoire** This is the annual French Speech Festival sponsored by CPF. Mme Niro announced that the contest would return to its pre covid format with students having the opportunity to advance to higher levels of competition. Provincials will be held on May 6 at the SFU Surrey Campus. All Laronde students in grades 4-7 will be participating by putting together a 3–5-minute French speech and presenting it to their class in late February or early March. Top students will be invited to present for the opportunity to advance.

**Jessie Rubin Workshop** *tentatively set for March 9.* Jesse Rubin is an inspirational speaker from New York that runs an ***I Can We Can*** workshop for elementary schools. He fosters a growth mindset, overcoming obstacles and goal setting/achievement. He has done workshops in the Victoria school district and is in high demand.

Mme Niro reported that she was looking to partner with another school in the area to share transportation / hotel costs. Workshop will be \$2500 as well transportation and hotel.

**Question about Racism.** A parent expressed concern about the racial incidents that had been reported at November’s PAC meeting. She inquired if the problem was still continuing. Mme Niro reported that the situation had improved. She further noted that December had been a calm month for all types of behavior and she had seen an increase in kindness and school unity.

## **Chair Report**

Cynthia thanked Mme Niro for her report. She then reported on the following items.

- We had a busy Nov/Dec since our last meeting. Thanks to a group of our dedicated PAC executive team, we were pleased to see a return of the ever-popular craft fair at the end of November. It was so lovely to see all the lovely crafts and yummy treats made by our students.
- PAC provided candy canes to help fuel the creativity as the classes decorated their boards for the holiday season. Thank you to the Outreach committee and all Laronde families who generously donated food, clothing and gifts to the Christmas hampers for families in need at Forsythe Road. The generosity of this community never fails to amaze me!
- Thank you to all class parents and PAC executives who coordinated the collection and holiday gifting to our amazing Laronde staff, admin and teachers. The grade 7 students and parents hosted the Festive Snack on the last day of school, I'll let you hear from them next about how that all went.
- Zumba was financially supported by PAC funds, many students enjoyed the Zumba sessions
- In response to reports at the last PAC meeting about issues around racism happening in our community, we have arranged a Q&A session for parents with Dr. Lisa Gunderson from One Love Consulting on February 9<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm via Zoom. This will be an opportunity for parents to ask questions and for Dr. Gunderson to understand how she might help our community come together. As this came up between meetings, we were unable to pass a motion for this funding so our bylaws allow us to approve funding up to \$1,500 as long as the vote is unanimous among the executive and that we report it at the next meeting. We approved spending \$300 for the Q&A and feedback from that session. We encourage all parents to participate in this upcoming session with Dr. Gunderson. Thank you Mallory for connecting us with her!

- I am pleased to report that our final total for our fall Direct Donation campaign is \$14,917.08, sooooo close to our goal of \$15,000! Thank you to all families who donated. We will always take donations, we just can't offer 2022 tax receipts, but you would still get one for 2023! Tax receipts should be coming soon, email our treasurers if you don't have it in time to file your taxes. Thank you to Sophia for filing our tax return with CRA and to Marina for submitting our BC gaming grant application.

- We just opened our spirit wear store and it won't be open for long! It will close next Sunday, February 5<sup>th</sup>. We are hoping to get these items in time to distribute before spring break but the supplier isn't promising that date. We should have everything for sure by the end of March. T-shirts and hoodies are available for kids and adults, be sure to get your order in soon. Thanks, Julie, for putting this order together. Any questions for me?

There were no further questions. Cynthia thanked everyone and moved onto the committee reports.

## **5. Committee Reports**

**Grade 7** Update from Kelly D. Kelly thanked the community for their support of the Festive Snack Bundle. She reported that it was well received. Currently they are looking at doing another movie matinee in Feb. Kelly reported that the Grade 7's are also looking forward to participating in the Young Entrepreneur Program later in the spring.

**Hot Lunch.** Update from Jennifer. Jennifer announced that Boston Pizza had returned as a vendor for this term. She also invited parents to email her if they had suggestions for future vendors.

**Paypal to Bambora** Jennifer announced that Laronde had switched from Paypal to Bambora to handle payments. This was done because Paypal had required copious personal information from the person setting up the account. The transition seemed to be going smoothly. She invited parents to direct any concerns or questions about the switch to her at [hotlunch@laronde.ca](mailto:hotlunch@laronde.ca)

**Boston Pizza Take out Fundraiser with Grade 7s** The Laronde PAC will partner with the grade 7 fundraising committee for this event which will take place in late February. Exact date TBA. For all take out orders placed during these specific dates at Boston Pizza, Boston Pizza will give back 10% to us. Money raised will be split 50/50 between the PAC and the grade 7's. Orders must be placed directly with the restaurant. Orders placed on delivery apps will not be eligible.

## **6. New Business**

**Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee- Call for members.** Cynthia announced the new Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee is looking for members. The purpose of this new committee would be to generate ideas and events to bring the community together and foster community spirit while celebrating diversity and inclusion at Laronde. For more information about this new committee, please email Cynthia at [chair@larondepac.ca](mailto:chair@larondepac.ca)

**Spring Fair. Coordinator Needed.** We are still looking for someone to coordinate the Spring Fair. The last Spring Fair was held in May 2018, our 2020 Fair was cancelled due to covid. Although this has been a good fundraiser for us in the past, the primary focus is to run it as a community event.

**Due to the extensive planning needed for this event, we must find a coordinator ASAP or else the event will be a no go.** Cynthia emphasized that we are looking for anyone who has ever planned an event and that this person would be well supported.

The coordinator is responsible for overseeing the different areas of the fair. They oversee the planning of events and find leaders to lead the different events.

New guidelines from SD36 means the event will look different from previous years. Due to high insurance, no bouncy castles or dunk tanks. Games, and other events are still ok.

Other ideas from PAC exec for Spring Event

- a slightly smaller event, similar to our Playground Opening
- a multi cultural type fair celebrating diversity at Laronde

Please email Cynthia at [chair@larondepac.ca](mailto:chair@larondepac.ca) ASAP if you are able to take this on.

**Book Exchange Coordinator Needed.** We would like to bring back this very popular event. This is usually held in late Feb/ early March. This event was last held in March 2020. Catharine M, who has coordinated this event several times noted that this was a fun event and a great community builder. She further noted that it was an easy event to coordinate and that she would be willing to provide extensive support to the person taking this on. If you would like to take on this very fun and easy event, please email Cynthia at [chair@larondepac.ca](mailto:chair@larondepac.ca)

### **Motion to Approve Translator Services**

Cynthia reported that PAC executive member Sophia L had made it known to the PAC executive that some members of our community were interested in attending our upcoming session with Dr Gunderson, but were unable to do so due to language barriers. Cynthia further reported that Sophia had suggested we try to provide translation services to include these members in our meetings.

A motion was presented to approve spending up to \$750 for translator services for meetings and to transcribe minutes. This includes the upcoming session with Dr. Gunderson. Motion was moved by Sarah. J and seconded by Mallory S. All in favor, motion passed.

**Emergency Preparedness** Cynthia reported that a parent from Crescent Park Elementary had reached out for info. Their container had been broken into and they were looking for information to restock. This will be forwarded to Marina, our Emergency Preparedness Coordinator.

**Financial Report** Cynthia noted that there was no financial report tonight. This was due to the fact that our volunteer treasurers had some pressing commitments pop up in their life and were unable to prepare the report in time. She noted that the treasurer job was a very big one and that our treasurers worked very hard.

The financial report will be circulated to the community at a later date. Cynthia emphasized that anyone who has concerns or would like to take a closer look at our financial records may email her at [chair@larondepac.ca](mailto:chair@larondepac.ca)

### **7. Old Business**

None

**8. Conclusion.**

Motion to adjourn the meeting by Laila, seconded by Elisabeth. Meeting adjourned at 7:31pm