

**Ecole Laronde PAC MEETING MINUTES –
Thursday, March 30, 2023
9am in Laronde Staff Room**

PAC COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Chair	Cynthia Springate
Vicechair	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 Carolline Thindal

Minutes recorded by Catharine Macrander Vice chair/Past chair.

14 people in attendance including Mme Niro and 6 executive members.
Exec members in attendance were Cynthia Springate, Catharine Macrander, Maha Saraf, Tracy Merry, Mallory Sandhu, Stephanie Albanese

1. Welcome, Introduction and First Nations Land Acknowledgement

Cynthia called the meeting to order at 9:02 am. She thanked everyone for attending. She noted there were several parents present that were new to PAC meetings. She gave a special welcome to these parents, noting that it was great to see new faces and encouraged these parents to speak up and share their ideas.

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 People.

Hybrid meeting not available at this time. Cynthia noted that due to the challenges of accessing the school wifi, we were not able to host a hybrid meeting

at this time. She further noted the challenges of audio and having the virtual participants participate in meetings effectively. Solutions for these challenges were continuing to be explored as a hybrid meeting would allow more parents to participate in the PAC meetings.

2. Approval of Agenda

Motion to accept the agenda as presented was moved Stephanie A, , seconded by Mallory S. All in favor, Motion passed.

3. Review and Approval of Minutes from Jan 26, 2023 PAC meeting

Prior to requesting a motion to approve the minutes from our Jan 26, PAC meeting, Cynthia highlighted the following information about the one motion that had been passed at the meeting.

A motion was passed to approve \$750 for translation services which included the anti racism presentation with Dr. Lisa Gunderson.

Cynthia shared that the PAC paid \$100 for translation services in Mandarin for this presentation. The PAC was very grateful to Kathy for providing these services at a reduced cost.

Cynthia then shared some of the feedback regarding having translation at the presentation. Many felt that it slowed down the meeting and made it difficult to follow. It was also noted that there was a large uncertainty whether anyone attending the presentation needed the translation. It was also questioned why only Mandarin had been provided.

A brief discussion was held about this with the suggestion made that the PAC send out a survey to find out what translation might be needed in the community. Cynthia also noted that the District should be able to provide some funding and options for these services when needed.

All agreed it had been a worthy experiment and the PAC remained committed to finding ways to include community members with language barriers.

The remaining money allocated by the motion for translation services will remain active until the end of this school year.

There was further discussion about the minutes. Motion to accept the minutes as presented was moved by Tracy M, , seconded by Stephanie A. All in favor, motion passed.

4. Principal's Report

Mme Niro welcomed and thanked the parents for attending.

Théâtre de la Seizième This French theatre group will be here in April doing theatre games and workshops with the students. Workshops will vary according to grade. This group has visited our school before and is always very popular.

Jesse Rubin Presentation - I Can We Can This was held right before Spring Break. Jesse Rubin is a singer/songwriter from New York that provides inspirational workshops to elementary students. He has visited many school districts in BC and is in very high demand.

His workshops include setting goals, resilience, and perseverance. This comes from his own experience from running a marathon for charity, which he was convinced he could not do. Participants are challenged to try new things that are hard. This coordinates with the Second Step program that is currently running in the school.

Jesse visited each grade separately. There was also a school assembly presentation.

Total cost for the workshop was \$2500 US. PAC funds were used. There were also accommodation costs which the school provided. Feedback from the students and teachers was very enthusiastic and was a huge success.

Sports. Badminton is now underway. There will be a grade 6 team and a grade 7 team. Thank you to Mme Lamothe, Mme Alvernaz and Mme Niro for coaching.

Ultimate Frisbee is also underway. This is a co ed sport. Students from Grades 5, 6 and 7 are invited to participate. Thank you to Mme Burden for coaching.

Track & Field. Due to the Bear Creek Track undergoing renovations, there will not be a District Meet this year. There will be meets arranged that are similar to mini meets, each school will be invited to one meet. Track Attack will begin in mid April.

Other Events/Special Days Mme Niro reported that a Sparkly Day and a Twin Day will be held. Exact dates TBA.

The Grade 7's will be holding an Entrepreneur Day later in the spring and will donate their profits to a charity of their choice. They will also be going to camp in May. The Grade 7 graduation will be held on the afternoon of June 27. They will host a party in the school gym that evening.

The Laronde PAC will host their Spring Fair on May 12. Students are very excited about this event. Many volunteers will be needed.

National Indigenous Day will be held on June 21. A special assembly and events are being planned.

Sports Day will be held on June 23

School Numbers/Enrollment. Mme Niro reported that she expects to there to be 20 divisions again next year. She noted that there is a very low waitlist for kindergarten next year. This is a concern as there seems to be a drop in French Immersion enrollment across the district. Possible factors could include the cost of gas, as parents may be reluctant to travel a long distance for school.

Building Community. A parent commented that one of the disadvantages of travelling out of catchment for a choice program was that there was no surrounding community to connect with out of school. Another parent noted that prior to Covid, Laronde had had a very strong community feel and that was somewhat diminished now. There was some discussion about ways to rebuild the school community. Many felt this was especially important at the K level when initial connections were being formed. Suggestions included hosting a parent night for K parents. It was noted that many parents and teachers were still experiencing burn out after covid. The group was hopeful that as more events came back, community connections would begin to become more established.

5. Chair Report

Cynthia thanked Mme. Niro for her report. She opened her report with the announcement that Spring Fair would be returning on Friday May 12. She thanked Victor C for stepping up to coordinate this event. She noted that this was an “all-hands-on deck event” and many volunteers would be needed. She stated that although this was listed as one of our major fundraisers, the main focus would be on building community this year. She then turned the floor over to Victor so that he could speak more about the event being planned.

Spring Fair- Victor C.

Victor reported that he was looking forward to coordinating the event. He reiterated the hope of building community with the event. He has secured an inflatable giant slide, obstacle course and games for the event. Due to recent new District guidelines, we will not be able to have any bouncy castles or dunk tank.

Other planned events include a silent auction, raffle baskets, talent show, cake walk, carnival style games, and more. Food trucks are being submitted to the district for approval. Victor expects to have 1 or 2 food trucks offering some culturally diverse food. There will also be a concession run by the PAC.

Victor reported that he would need some advance money to make deposits and other advance purchases. He requested a total of \$8000 for this purpose.

Cynthia noted that prior to Spring Break the PAC exec had approved a total of \$1500 for Victor to use for deposits on the inflatables. *Under PAC bylaws, the PAC Executive can approve amounts of up to \$1500 if the need arises between PAC meetings. The Executive vote must be unanimous. This will then be reported at the next meeting.*

It was decided that the requested \$8000 would include the \$1500 already approved by the executive.

A motion was made to advance Victor C. \$ 8000 to use for costs associated with the Spring Fair. The previously advanced \$1500 is included in this total. This was moved by Mallory S and seconded by Megan. All in favor. Motion passed.

The next Spring Fair planning meeting will be held on Tuesday April 4 at

9am. All parents are invited to attend. Anyone who would like to get involved, but cannot attend the meeting can email Victor at info@larondespringfair.fun

Book Exchange Cynthia reported that this very popular event would be returning on Thursday April 20. It will be held after school in the gym. Catharine M. will coordinate. For every 2 books donated, a person will receive one ticket to pick out a book at the exchange. Left over books will be donated. Collection for books will begin on Monday April 17. More information to follow. Volunteers will be needed to collect books and help set up the event.

EMS Scholarship Cynthia reported that every year Laronde gives 2 \$500 scholarships to a former Laronde student graduating from EMS in the French Immersion Program. Winners will be announced in May.

First Aid Hero Cynthia reported that families interested in a babysitting course or a stay-at-home alone course may register for these at First Aid Hero.com The Laronde PAC receives a small kickback for each student registered from our school. Please enter the code Laronde to help our school with this passive fundraiser.

6. Financial Report

Cynthia noted that no treasurers were present to give the report. She further noted that there were a few discrepancies in the financial report presented that needed to be clarified with Marina. Items affected included the final Direct Donation Campaign totals. Discrepancies were very small. Outcomes will be reported on at the AGM in June.

Cynthia also reported that the paperwork for our gaming grant for this year had been submitted late and therefore we did not receive our gaming grant for this year. The application should have been submitted in June 2022, however, was not submitted until November 2022. We are working to see if there is a way to resolve the situation so that we can receive the grant.

The situation is further complicated by the fact that at our November PAC meeting, we approved a motion to forward 1/8 of our gaming grant to our grade 7 group for graduation events. (*Under new guidelines, this grant may be used for graduation events*) Cynthia noted that this amount would have been around \$1100.

All agreed to honor the previous motion made in November even if the gaming grant for this year is not able to be recovered. Because the money would now come from a different line area, a new motion was required.

A motion was made to allocate \$1100 to the 2023 Grade 7 Graduating class to use for their year end events. This was moved by Elena and seconded by Mallory. All in favor, motion passed.

Cynthia noted that our treasurers were very busy in their outside lives. The PAC will be looking a new treasurer as Marina will be stepping down at the end of this year.

7. Committee Reports

Grade 7 The grade 7's will host a movie night on Friday March 31.

Hot Lunch Cynthia reported that Pizza Hut was being tried as a new vendor, Ordering for term 3 is now open.

Spirit Wear Order was delayed but has arrived at the school.

Yearbook Tracy reported that links had been sent to divisions for photo submission. Sports and class photos would be taken on April 4.

Cynthia announced that the next PAC meeting would be held on Thursday June 8 at 9am in the staff room. She noted that this would be the AGM. Elections and the approval of the 2023/24 school year budget would be done at this meeting.

5. Conclusion.

Motion to adjourn the meeting by Tracy M , seconded by Catharine M. Meeting adjourned at 10:32am