

**Ecole Laronde PAC**

**AGM MEETING MINUTES**

**Thursday, June 8, 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 Caroline Thindal

Minutes recorded by Catharine Macrander Vice chair/Past chair.

17 people in attendance including Mme Niro and 7 executive members.

Exec members in attendance were Cynthia Springate, Catharine Macrander, Tracy Merry, Mallory Sandhu, Erin Martin, Sophia Lou, Marina Heidt

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

Cynthia called the meeting to order at 9:03 am

**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.

**2. Approval of Agenda**

Cynthia noted there were some Grade 4 parents that needed to leave early to attend a student presentation. Cynthia requested that the PAC Executive Elections for 2023-2024 be moved to occur immediately after the Chair Report. There were no objections to this change. Cynthia then asked for a motion to accept the revised agenda. The motion to accept the revised agenda was moved by Erin M and seconded by Jennifer E. All in favor, motion passed.

**3. Review and Approval of Minutes from March 30, 2023 PAC meeting**

The motion to approve the minutes from the March 30, 2023, PAC meeting was moved by Sophia L and seconded by Tracy M. All in favor, motion passed.

**4. Principal's Report**

Mme Niro welcomed and thanked the parents for attending.

**School Board Budget** the District has requested this budget be shared with school communities. Mme Niro reported that \$42,376 has been allocated to our school. This includes a field trip allotment of approximately \$5.50 per student. She further shared that most of this budget went to admin supplies such as paper towels, toilet paper and copy paper. Sabrina noted that the toilet paper quality was diminishing, and the current brand was very thin. This was a concern for proper hygiene. She has expressed her concerns to the district.

**Bell Schedule for 2023/24** The morning bells will remain the same. The dismissal bell will shift to 2:32pm. There will be some adjustments to the lunch bells. District is required to provide a specific quota of learning minutes per year. Bells are shifted each year to account for this quota.

**Reverse Lunch not Returning** Cynthia S inquired whether the reverse lunch would return. (Reverse lunch is where the kids play first and eat after) Mme Niro replied that it would not - teachers and staff had observed less behavior when the kids ate first. She added there was better supervision as the teachers remained in the class with the kids to eat. She noted that there was also better hygiene as it had been difficult to ensure kids washed hands after coming inside.

**Current Model and Hot Lunch** Catharine M inquired how the current model affected the hot lunch handout. Jen E. replied that it was a little more difficult with the kids in the classroom, but manageable. She felt that some of the current problems could be alleviated with a few more parent volunteers during hot lunch. There was discussion about the variety of choices as younger classes were feeling overwhelmed and some packaging was hard to open. One parent requested bigger font on the handout sheets, Jen E replied that this would cause info to spread out over 2 sheets, which would make it even more challenging.

**School Organization for 2023/24** Mme Niro reported that there would be 20 divisions again next year. She is not anticipating many combined classes, unless our numbers change significantly before September. She reports there is still a low wait list for kindergarten, and this continues to be a concern.

**EAs and Support Staff** Mme Niro reported that Laronde would be losing an EA next year and the school would be reduced to 2 EAs. She noted that Mme. Ward was retiring this year and would not be replaced. She reported that Laronde did not have enough students with a designation to justify any extra EAs. Cynthia S raised the concern that there could be children in the incoming K class with a designation. Mme. Niro replied that there was a specific process to receive a designation that took time.

A discussion about EAs and support staff followed. Some parents had thought that EAs were assigned to a specific child and class. EAs float throughout the various classes as needed and play an integral role in supporting the entire school population along with the counsellors, youth care worker and LST teachers.

Mme Niro reported that these support staff positions are very busy due to increased anxiety among the students after covid. She reported that there are many kids not wanting to come to school. She noted that many kids had gotten used to staying home during covid. Staff was looking at strategies to create a warm, caring, safe environment.

**Equity, Diversity and Belonging (EDB)** formerly known as Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion. In a recent update, the district has changed Inclusion to Belonging to better reflect their goals.

2023/24 will continue with a diversity and multicultural focus. The district has created several presentations that are available to the schools. Our VP Mme Burden has signed our school up for several presentations that she thinks will benefit our community.

**EDB Survey** As both a follow up to our February presentation by Dr. Lisa Gunderson and guidance from the district. Mme. Niro is creating a survey to gauge the community needs. This survey will most likely be available in September. Questions will explore the areas of bullying and discrimination, belonging to the school community and the cultural backgrounds of our school community.

**Spirit Days** The school will continue to monitor response to these to ensure that they are inclusive and fun. Some parents noted that the recent Twin Day had left some children feeling left out as no one wanted to twin with them. Another parent noted that her daughter had wanted to twin with one of her friends but was unsure if it would be ok because they were different ethnicities and did not look alike.

Mme Niro said that Twin Day would probably not return as the staff had noted some of the same issues. She noted that Sparkly Day had been popular and Pajama Day on the first day after winter break had been a big hit. This one is scheduled to return.

**Sports Day Friday June 23** Teams will be assigned by color. These are **red, blue, yellow, and green** Teams were scheduled to be assigned by Friday June 9.

This sparked a discussion about what color shirts parents could expect their kids to need during the school year.

**Orange** - Orange Shirt Day to honor Residential School Survivors (Sept)

**Black** - Black Shirt Day to honor Black Excellence Day (Jan)

**Pink** - Pink Shirt Day to support Anti Bullying Day (Feb)

**Blue & Green** are our school colors.

**Grade 6 Concession** - The grade 6 class will run the concession for the day as a fundraiser for next year's upcoming camp and other year end activities at the Sports Day on June 23.

**National Indigenous Day Wednesday June 21** There will be special activities planned to honor this day.

Mme. Niro noted that in 2024 our Sports Day would fall on National Indigenous Day so the school would plan a special Indigenous themed Sports Day. The grade 7's would still lead the activities that day.

**Multicultural Calendar** For the 2023/24 school year, the district will be releasing a Multicultural Special Calendar. The school will also plan a special Multicultural Day Fair. There will be PAC involvement.

**Staff for 2023/24** Both Gr 7 teachers, Mlle Lamothe and Mme. Bascombe will return next year as well as Mme. Gertz (Gr. 3) Mme. Niro reported she did not expect very many changes to the staff next year. EA Mme. Jackie Ward. will be retiring as well as lunch supervisors. Mrs. Jean Allan and Mrs. Inge Harris.

## **5. Chair Report**

**Spring Fair update** – Special thank you to Victor Chan who stepped up to be our Spring Fair Coordinator and was the catalyst to get our spring fair back after a 5-year hiatus. We traditionally held a spring fair every other year. The total profit of this year's fair was, \$15,-071. Thank you to all parents who volunteered to help coordinate and run this event, it truly does take a village to put on an event of this size. The silent auction proceeds of \$8,860 will be split 50/50 between PAC and the Grade 6 group fundraising for camp next year, so the true total to the PAC general accounts is \$10,641. This is the highest profit of any spring fair we have the records for. Well done team!

Cynthia then invited Victor to speak. Victor thanked the community for their support. He enjoyed coordinating the event. Cynthia noted that feedback from the community was very positive. She shared some feedback about wristband pricing - a few had felt it was costly for families with more than one child. One parent suggested offering a discount for the second child, another suggestion was to offer a discount for volunteering, which would encourage more people to volunteer. It was also suggested to give a discount to our grade 7 volunteers who spent a lot of the time working the fair. All this will be revisited when we plan our next Spring Fair.

**Art Night 2024** - Cynthia noted that there had been some interest from the Laronde teachers to remount Art Night for 2023/24 school year. There may be some changes in the format.

There was discussion about whether we might be able to do Spring Fair every year. It was discussed that with the remounting of Art Night and the planned Multi-Cultural Day it would be a lot to take on.

**Multi-Cultural Day.** There were some questions from the floor about the Multi-Cultural Day. A parent noted that several schools had mounted these using various formats. She had seen various displays of cultures that the school community had created. This event would have PAC involvement and would most likely need a coordinator. There may be opportunity for concession.

**Social Media Coordinator** discussion about the school Facebook and Instagram Page resulted in a suggestion the PAC add a Social Media Coordinator Position to the executive. Cynthia noted that creating a new position would require a revision of the bylaws, but this job could be held by a member at Large.

**Call for volunteers.**

**Teacher/Staff Appreciation luncheon** – PAC will be ordering in lunch for Laronde teachers and staff. We have an executive member willing to coordinate the food order, we need two or three parents to coordinate the actual luncheon. We put out coffee and baked goods for recess and then lunch, drinks, and desserts for lunch. We will put a call out for families to donate baked goods and desserts. These volunteers would help decorate the staff room, set out the food and help clean up. Nasiba J and Michelle H volunteered. – Thank you!

**Sports Day popsicles** – need one parent to purchase popsicles for the whole school and deliver to the school on sports day at recess. We may have access to a freezer on site. We will ask class parents to identify a parent for each class to help distribute the popsicles. Elena volunteered. Thank you, Elena!

There were no questions following the conclusion of the Chair report.

**6. PAC Executive Elections for 2023/24**

**As Cynthia is in the midst of a two-year term and thus not seeking re-election, she acted as the Elections Commissioner.** Except for chair, all positions were open.

Cynthia gave a brief description of the positions. She further requested that all members at large take on a project during the year. She then opened the floor for nominations and discussion.

It was moved by Jen E and seconded by Marina H to accept the following Executive Members for 2023/24 All in favour motion passed.

**The 2023/24 PAC Executive**

Chair	Cynthia Springate
Vicechair	Megan Johnson
Communications	Erin Martin
Treasurer	Elena Plotnik & Victor Chan
Class Parent Coordinator	Mallory Sandhu
CPF Representative	Julie Elliot
Secretary	Corinne Proctor
DPAC Representative	Jin Thindal & Megan Johnson (Alt)
Grade 7 Parent Representative	to be determined by grade 7 parents in September
Members-at-Large	Tracy Merry, Sophia Lou, Stephanie Albanese, Catharine Macrander, Robin Bal, Maha Saraf, Nasiba Jumabayeva, Nishi Banipal, Marina Heidt

## **Assigned Roles of Members at Large.**

Tracy Merry - Yearbook

Sophia Lou - Gaming Grant and Tax Returns

Nishi Banipal - Social Media Coordinator

Nasiba Jumabayeva - Craft Fair/Art Night

Marina Heidt - Past Treasurer/Treasurer Advisor

## **7. Treasurer Report and Budget Discussion/Approval**

**Presented by Cynthia Springate.** We have exceeded our revenue projections for the year by over 35%. This was due to the success of the Spring Fair which was not included in our projections due to uncertainty of finding a volunteer to coordinate.

Hot lunch revenue is healthy this year, our direct donation fell just short of our goal of \$15,000 at \$13,693.

Thanks to all the families who donated.

Cynthia then reported that the Gaming Grant Application for 2023/24 will be submitted by Sophia Lou by the end of the month.

## **Motion to Move 20% of Direct Donation Campaign to Fundraising Account for Playground/Technology**

Every year, the PAC forwards 10% of the DDC to the fundraising Account for Playground/Technology.

However, Mme Niro noted that Playground #3 will need to be replaced early next decade. According to district regulations, playgrounds have about a 25-year lifespan. Cynthia noted that the replacement of Playground #2 cost Laronde's parents over \$115,000 in 2021/2022. This required over 10 years of fundraising and saving. She recommended increasing this total annual savings contribution to 20% of the Direct Donation Campaign fundraising amount.

Motion to transfer 20% of this year's direct donation campaign total (\$2,750) to the Fundraising (Playground &/or Technology) account. Moved by Michelle, seconded by Victor, Motion passes.

## **Motion to forward 1/8 of Gaming Grant to all Future Grade 7 classes to use for Year End Activities.**

Catharine M requested expanding the motion passed in November which allocated 1/8 of the Gaming Grant to the 2023 Grade 7 class to now include all future Grade 7 classes.

Motion to allocate 1/8<sup>th</sup> of the annual gaming grant to all future grade 7 classes for year-end activities. Moved by Jen H., seconded by Jin T. Motion passes.

## **Budget Discussion & Approval of Budget**

Cynthia presented the proposed budget for the 2023/24 school year and invited discussion from the floor. She explained how the PAC allocates money to different areas for Mme. Niro to decide how to spend. She noted if more money was needed in a certain area, a request motion could be presented at a PAC meeting. If money was needed before a PAC meeting could be held, the PAC executive could approve expenses up to \$1500 between meetings, by a unanimous vote.

A motion to approve the proposed 2023/24 PAC budget was made by Catharine M and seconded by Jinn T. All in favour, motion passed.

## **8. Committee Reports**

**Grade 7-submitted via email** Kelly reported a very successful 2<sup>nd</sup> movie (Moana on March 31). Amazing grade 7 experience at Camp Jubilee May 8-10, Grad ceremony and celebration on June 27. Thank you to PAC and the Laronde community for all their support this year.

**Hot Lunch given by Jen E** Hot lunch was very successful this year. Currently setting up vendors for next year. Pizza Hut was unsuccessful and will not return. Returning vendors will include Panago, White Spot, & Subway.

**CPF submitted vis email by Julie E.** Ocean Cliff will not offer Intensive French Program for next year due to shortage of 4 students and lack of communication from school. Due to late timing, none of students registered will be able to transfer to Crescent Park or Jessie Lee.

Winter skating party in Cloverdale very successful. More activities are being planned for Spring and Fall to bring people together. Also looking to restart French movie field trips for students.

New program offers new French Immersion teachers (teaching for under 3 yrs.) up to \$800 to provide activities to create connection.

## **9. New Business**

Nothing to report.

## **10. Old Business**

Parking on Amble Greene still an issue. Cars still stopping in no stop area to watch kids walk to class. This creates major safety hazards for cars trying to pass and for kids trying to cross. Mme Niro will continue to monitor.

Motion to adjourn the meeting by Megan, seconded by Catharine M. Meeting adjourned at 10:56 am