

**Ecole Laronde  
PAC MEETING MINUTES – November 24, 2023  
Laronde Staff Room**

**PAC EXECUTIVE MEMBERS**

Chair	Cynthia Springate
Vicechair	Megan Johnson
Communications	Erin Martin
Treasurers	Victor Chan & Elena Plotnik
Class Parent Coordinator	Mallory Geier
CPF Representative	Julie Elliot
Secretary	Corrine Proctor
DPAC Representative	Jin Thindal & Megan Johnson (Alt)
Members-at-Large	Tracy Merry, Sophia Lou, Stephanie Albanese, Catharine Macrander, Robyn Bal, Maha Saraf, Nasiba Jumabayeva, Nishi Banipal & Marina Heidt

**1. Welcome & Introduction**

Welcome everybody! 22 parents attended the meeting. Executive members in attendance – Cynthia Springate, Victor Chan, Elena Plotnik, Julie Elliot, Jin Thindal, Tracy Merry, Sophia Lou, Catharine Macrander, Nishi Banipal, Marina Heidt and Corrine Proctor. Everyone in the room introduced themselves and what grades their children are in at Laronde. Cynthia acknowledged that it was wonderful to see parents from all grades at the PAC meeting. We also appreciated having some class parents in attendance.

Cynthia called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m.

**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.

**Welcome from Cynthia.** Welcome everyone to the PAC meeting and thank-you to the parents for attending. As Laronde parents/caregivers, you are all officially members of the PAC. During the meeting when we ask for people to vote on various motions, we ask that you participate in the voting. We are here to support and enrich the school experience for Laronde students.

**2. Approval of Agenda**

Copies of agenda provided to attendees.

Motion by Tracy to accept as presented, seconded by Julie. All in favour, motion carries.

### **3. Review and Approval of Minutes from September 27, 2023**

Copies of the Minutes from the PAC meeting on September 27/23 were emailed to the school community and physical copies were provided to attending parents. Cynthia highlighted a few items of note from the meeting. The only motion at the meeting was to split the profits of Art Night evenly between the PAC, grade 6 for their year end activities and grade 7 for their year end activities (split is 33/33/33). The teachers have decided to take on the creation of the artwork this year. More information to come with respect to Art Night.

Motion by Sophia to accept Minutes and seconded by Jin. All in favour, motion carries.

### **4. Principal's Report – Sabrina Niro**

**Young Actors Project (YAP).** This program has been a great success this year. YAP has been working with each division throughout November and they have been able to offer the program in French. The kids have loved it! Thank-you to PAC for funding this program.

**Physical literacy.** Mme Burden attended a training program for physical literacy. Being able to catch, jump, run or throw are just a few examples of physical literacy in action. Skills like these are the building blocks for children to build a strong foundation to participate in activities as they grow. Research shows that improved physical literacy is also associated with better outcomes in other areas ex. literacy and numeracy skills. Mme Burden has been working with teachers at Laronde to find ways to improve physical literacy for our kids ex. incorporating more movement throughout the day, “brain breaks” and spending more time outside.

**Black Excellence.** We are very excited to have acclaimed hip-hop artist and motivational speaker Duane ‘D.O’ Gibson coming to speak to our students on January 8 about Black History and Excellence.

**Band.** We have a band teacher! Our Band teacher, Cameron Hood, is an accomplished musician who travels from Vancouver twice per week to teach Band to our grade 7 students. It has been a wonderful experience for the students.

**Foundation Skills Assessment (FSA).** The FSA is an annual province-wide assessment of all B.C. students’ academic skills in grades 4 and 7. Laronde grade 4 students participated, and we received positive feedback from them. For the grade 7 FSA, it looks like there could be some improvement with the numeracy component of the assessment. Mme. Niro intends to provide feedback with respect to this component. If your child wrote the FSA, you’ll receive feedback in about one month. The FSA is mandatory in grades 10 and 12 (students cannot graduate if they do not complete it). It is beneficial for them to start practicing writing the exams in elementary school. It also gives parents an idea where their child is at with their numeracy and literacy.

**Reading/Math.** Students still need to focus on improving their reading and numeracy skills. Mme Niro made suggestions for parents:

- Spend 10-15 minutes each day on both French and English reading;

- Practice multiplications starting in grade 3 (no need to memorize) and continuing to grade 7 (should know up to 12 x 12 by grade 6/7). It's very helpful for students' math competency if they can do the multiplications quickly; and addition and subtraction to 20 (grades 1-7); and
- Spend time at home teaching about fractions/decimals (grades 4-7) and using money/coins is a good thing to practice too (grades 1-7).

**Sports.** Cross-country was a great success in the Fall. The kids are now playing volleyball and basketball will start in the new year for grades 6 and 7.

**Winter Concert.** We are having a Winter Concert this year on December 14! There will be both afternoon and evening concerts. Parents may be able to watch the dress rehearsal as well. More information to come. A big thank-you to Mme Ziolkoski for all her efforts to make this concert possible!

**Winter Dance.** The grade 7 leadership team is putting on a Winter dance on December 8. Students K-4 will attend from 1:15-2:15 p.m. and students in grades 5-7 will attend from 2:45 - 4:15 p.m. The K-4 dance will be supervised by Mme Niro and Mme Burden. There will be snacks for sale and a free photo booth. Grade 5-7 students attending will need to buy a ticket to attend for \$3 via school cash online. The kids are very excited for this event!

**Pancake Breakfast.** The grade 7s are bringing back this popular event this year on December 15. There will be 7:30 a.m. and 8:00 a.m. sittings. Each time slot can accommodate 150 people (up from 120 the last time). Feel free to wear your pajamas! The grade 7 student and parent volunteers will be at the school bright and early to make pancakes. The cost is \$7 for 2 pancakes, an orange and a juice box. Parents can choose either coffee or a juice box. Tickets available on school cash online.

**Overcrowding Survey.** The Surrey School District sent out a survey to parents seeking solutions to overcrowding issues. There have been approximately 2400 students added to the school district each year for the past two years (up from 800 new students annually in the previous decade). We had a discussion around the overcrowding issue, possible solutions and what it means for Laronde. Laronde is a "choice program" so is in a unique position in the district. Currently, we have 462 students. We discussed the fact that the issue of overcrowding, while prevalent in Surrey, seems to be a province wide issue that needs to be addressed at all levels of government. Please fill out the survey when you have a chance as this will be an important issue moving forward.

**Body Science – Saleema Noon Presentation.** The Parent Information session is scheduled for April 2. The student sessions for each grade will be scheduled between April 3-10. On April 10 & 11, Saleema Noon will have online Q&A sessions with students. A number of parents inquired about having access to the materials/videos before the sessions with students. PAC/ADMIN will reach out to Saleema Noon to see if this is an option. We encourage parents to attend the Parent Information session to learn more about the Body Science Talks provided by Saleema Noon.

We had a group discussion about the topics covered in the student sessions, including gender identity and sexual orientation. Some parents shared their concerns about how the information is presented and others discussed the benefits of children learning about these topics. We all agreed that this is an area that requires ongoing discussions in the school community.

### **Discussion/Questions for Madame Niro:**

Q: How are we making sure that all grade 7 students are involved in the leadership/fundraising activities?

A: For the pancake breakfast, there are a few students involved in the planning, but all students are encouraged to get involved ex. setting up, decorating, cleaning up. The recent movie fundraiser involved most of the grade 7 students and they seemed to really enjoy it. The grade 7 students are also talking about other student-led fundraisers including beach clean-up. More information to come about beach clean-up prizes and a possible bingo night in January.

Q: Is it possible to have different snack options (ex. sugar-free) at the next movie event?

A: As a group, we discussed different options including chips, smart sweets and goldfish crackers. We also talked about the mess created by popcorn – it goes all over the gym and our yoga mats. We discussed going with different options for the next movie.

## **5. Chair Report – Cynthia Springate**

**Direct Donation Campaign.** Thank you to all families who have already made their donation to the Laronde PAC. These donations help fund the enriching activities the PAC provides through the year, supports the updating of technology in the classrooms and funds playground replacements at the school. Our goal this year is \$15,000 and we have just passed the halfway mark. It is easy to donate, just login to the [larondepac.ca](http://larondepac.ca) website and you can donate on the front page.

**Class Parents.** We are still seeking a class parent for Division 1 (Grade 7 – Mme Bascombe). If you can help out, please email Mallory at [classparent@larondepac.ca](mailto:classparent@larondepac.ca).

**Kindergarten T-Shirts.** Kindergarten shirts were delivered to all Kindergarten students at the end of September. The kids were so excited to receive them! Thanks again to Danielle Cox from Promo Works for printing the shirts for us this year.

**Passive Fundraisers.** Emily Press Labels, Cobbs Bread in Ocean Park (just mention that you are a Laronde parent).

**Spring Fair.** The return of our Spring Fair last May was such a success (thank you to Victor and everyone who helped out), that the PAC executive would like to do it all again this coming May! It really brought the community together and we all need more of that! If you have some event

planning experience and/or just want to pitch in to plan the event, email Cynthia at [chair@larondepac.ca](mailto:chair@larondepac.ca).

**Volunteers Needed!** The PAC runs a whole calendar of events throughout the school year, and we need many volunteers to make these events happen. Currently we are seeking the following volunteers:

- Hot Lunch Coordinator. Jen has done an amazing job of running our hot lunch program. We need someone to take over for next year and hopefully learn the ropes from Jen this year;
- Volunteer coaches for badminton, basketball and track & field. All coaches require a criminal record check;
- Chair and committee members for the Equity, Diversity and Belonging Committee; and
- Class Parent for Division 1.

**Babysitting course (First Aid Hero).** Josée Katz kindly offered to look at options for a babysitting/first aid course for Pro-D days. More information to follow.

### **Questions for Cynthia:**

Q: When do the Grade 6 students usually start fundraising for their grade 7 year end activities?

A: Usually in the Spring ex. concession at the track meet is often a nice event for them to start with.

Q: Volunteers needed for Art Night?

A: We are still waiting to hear from the teachers about creating the artwork. More information to follow.

## **6. Financial Report**

Treasurers' Report provided to attendees.

Our new treasurers, Victor Chan and Elena Plotnik, have officially taken over and are finally able to sign cheques! The Laronde PAC is doing well and we have a healthy savings account - currently \$139, 961.97. In the next 3-5 years we may need to look at replacing a playground. Our goal is to be as transparent as possible with parents. Please reach out to the treasurers if you have any questions/concerns.

Our gaming grant this year was unfortunately denied due to some outstanding reports from 2019. We filed the missing documents and Cynthia sent in a request to appeal the decision. We will keep you informed if we hear anything back from the gaming branch. There were many transitions within our treasury over the past few years. We will aim to keep a closer eye on anything to do with the gaming money to ensure we have access to this funding (about \$9,000/year) going forward.

## 7. Committee Reports

**Hot Lunch and Booster Juice.** Update from Jen. The hot lunch program is running well. The next term is available to order on the Laronde PAC website. You can also order booster juice for next term as well. A reminder that hot lunch is more flexible than the booster juice program. You can make changes to your hot lunch order up to 7 days beforehand, but the booster juice orders are final once ordering is closed. Please make your payments online or your orders will be removed. **Please also pay close attention to the hot lunch dates and reminders.** A huge thank-you to Jen again for her work on our hot lunch program!

**IMPORTANT REMINDER FROM TEACHERS:** Please send your child with water and snacks on hot lunch days. There have been some hungry kids looking for snacks at recess/break.

**Spirit Wear.** Update from Julie. Orders should arrive before Christmas. Sales were down this year, but it may just be that parents don't need to replenish spirit wear yet.

**Emergency Preparedness.** Thank-you to Carla Hansen for stepping up to chair the Emergency Preparedness Committee. Our storage unit is not insulated and there has been some water damage to our supplies. We will need to clean it out, add more supplies and remove food that is set to expire soon. The district provides some basis supplies. The PAC provides emergency kits for each classroom.

**Outreach.** Thank-you to Nikki Dhaliwal for volunteering to be the Outreach Coordinator this year. The first event, the warm clothing drive, was very successful! We collected 55 bags of clothing – 30 went to HP Matthews and 25 went to Forsythe. Thank-you to everyone who donated and volunteered!

We discussed the warm clothing drive for next year. There was a suggestion that grade 6 and 7 students can help sort the items next year. Everyone really liked this idea and thought it would be a great way to get the students involved.

*Christmas Hampers.* We are supporting 10 families from Forsythe Elementary this year. You will hear from your class parent shortly with respect to signing up for items. There will be two signup links, one for your individual class and a main family gift sign up (this will include larger items). Please label your donations! Packing day for the items will be December 15 (same day as the Pancake Breakfast). If you have a larger item not included in the signups, please let Nikki know and she will contact the school to make sure there is someone who needs it. Please feel free to email Nikki at [outreach@larondepac.ca](mailto:outreach@larondepac.ca) with any questions.

Nikki is doing an amazing job with the Outreach program, but it is a very big job for one person. We are hoping to have a committee for next year and will discuss this in the new year. More information to come.

**Craft Fair.** The Craft Fair is happening on December 1. Thank you to Nishi Banipal for taking on this year's event. We have 74 entries for the Craft Fair with an entrance fee of \$5. All funds go to the PAC.

**Book Exchange.** Hopefully we can do this again this year! We are looking for a parent volunteer to take on organizing the Book Exchange. We have all the details from previous years with respect to organizing this event. The Book Exchange usually happens in late February. If you want to volunteer, please email Cynthia at [chair@larondepac.ca](mailto:chair@larondepac.ca).

**Surrey District Parents Advisory Council (DPAC).** Update from Jin Thindal. Jin highlighted some important topics from the first two DPAC meetings including anti-bullying, the role of police officers in Surrey schools, the use of proficiency scales, solutions for overcrowding (including “double decker portables”) and emergency preparedness. We are hoping to have more time at the next PAC meeting to discuss updates from DPAC.

#### **8. New Business**

Mural. The paint on the exterior of the school needs to be refreshed but we are not sure what to do about the wall with the mural. We will look at options and discuss at the next PAC Meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 11:30 a.m.