



PAC MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, January 28th @ 6:00 p.m., Laronde Staff Room

2024-2025 Laronde Elementary PAC Executive:

Chair	Megan Johnson
Past Chair	Cynthia Springate
Vice Chair	Jin Thindal
Communications	Erin Martin
Co-Treasurers	Victor Chan & Elena Plotnic
Class Parent Coordinator	Mallory Geier
CPF Representative	Julie Elliott
Secretary	Corrine Proctor
DPAC Representative	Jin Thindal
Members-at-Large	Tracy Merry, Sophia Lou, Stephanie Albanese, Robyn Bal, Nishi Banipal, Julie Elliott & Lara Guelpa

1. Welcome & Introduction

Welcome from Megan. Megan called the meeting to order at 6:09 p.m. Welcome everybody! 16 parents were in attendance including the following members of the executive – Jin Thindal, Corrine Proctor, Lara Guelpa, Julie Elliott, Nishi Banipal, Megan Johnson, Elena Plotnic and Victor Chan. Principal Mme. Boudreau was also in attendance. All attendees introduced themselves, including what grades their children are in at Laronde.

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.

Review of Code of Conduct. Megan reviewed an excerpt from our Constitution and Bylaws:

Code of conduct

- a. General meetings will be conducted with fairness to all members. The business of the council shall be unbiased towards race, religion, gender, politics, sexual orientation or social condition.
- b. At general meetings, members shall not discuss individual school personnel, students, parents or other members of the school community.
- c. The organization shall refrain from partisan political action or other activities, which do not serve the interests of the school or the public school system.

2. Approval of Agenda

Copies of agenda provided to attendees. The agenda was also emailed to the Laronde school community in advance of the meeting. Motion by Corrine to accept as presented, seconded by Julie. All in favour, motion carries.

3. Review and Approval of Minutes from November 22, 2024 Meeting

Copies of the Minutes from the PAC meeting on November 22, 2024, were emailed to the school community and physical copies were provided to attending parents.

Motion to approve Minutes by Lara and seconded by Jin. All in favour, motion carries.

4. Principal's Report – Janesse Boudreau

Happy new year! We're back in the swing of things at Laronde. Thank-you for attending the meeting this evening, I know we're all very busy.

New Vice Principal. Welcome Nancy Shakur as new acting Vice Principal! Mme Shakur stepped up to fill this role after Mme. Burden left Laronde and she is doing a wonderful job. Mme Shakur will keep teaching her grade 4 class (Division 7) on Mondays, Tuesdays and Fridays. She will be teaching physical literacy on Wednesdays and her administrative time will be on Thursdays. Mme. Diane is taking over for Mme. Shakur in her classroom on Wednesdays and Thursdays. Mme. Diane previously taught at Laronde before heading to Quebec for a few years. A big thank-you to Mme. Shakur and welcome back Mme. Diane! Another big thank-you to Mr. Fleming for helping out when Mme. Shakur first took on the acting Vice Principal role!

New Teacher. Welcome Mme Michelle to the Grade 3/4 class. She will be teaching with Mme Mélanie. We are very excited to welcome Mme Michelle to our Laronde community!

Black Excellence Day. Black Excellence Day was January 15. Black Excellence Day is a day to celebrate Black History and the outstanding contributions of Black Canadians. Laronde held a virtual event (through Surrey Schools) to celebrate this day and learn together. Mme. Boudreau was proud to wear her hoodie that was designed by Naa Sheka which has a pattern originally from Ghana (check out her designs at <https://naasheka.com>.) Naa Sheka attended Laronde in the Fall and spoke with our grade 5, 6 and 7 classes about equity and diversity. Stay tuned for more information/events from Naa Sheka for Black History Month.

Black History Month. February is celebrated as Black History Month. Mme. Boudreau has been working with the Black History Month student committee. The students have many ideas for Black History Month and are very excited. The committee members will help with daily morning announcements and are working on a bulletin board display. They are also working on an assembly at the end of the month.

Mme. Boudreau will be going to each classroom to provide a lesson for the students regarding inclusion and diversity (30-40 minute presentation). The presentation will focus on Viola Desmond (Canadian civil and women's right activist and businesswoman). Ms. Desmond is the first Canadian-born woman to appear alone on a Canadian bank note –the \$10 bill.

Basketball. The basketball season is well under way for grade 6 and 7 students! Mme. Kohlberg is coaching the girls along with a parent volunteer, Daniel Crepnjak. Patrick Sponaski, another parent volunteer, has taken on the coaching role for the boys' team. Patrick used to play basketball for UBC. Whenever there is a parent coach, a teacher must be present. Various teachers have been alternating attending practices/games for the boys. The final tournament will just include the grade 7 students.

Cardboard Challenge. Laronde participated in the famous “cardboard challenge” in January. The kids loved it and showed so much creativity! Mme. Boudreau was happy to have the opportunity to visit the classrooms to see all the wonderful projects. For next year, we could possibly have a gallery where more people, including parents, can come see the cardboard creations.

BC Lions Energy Presentation. On January 21, the BC Lions Energy Champions program came to Laronde. The kids were pumped that BC Lions were at the school and they wanted to know all about them. The BC Lions Energy Champions program presented by FortisBC emphasizes the importance of environmental responsibility and

being an “Energy Champion”. Laronde was on a waiting list for 2-3 years, so we were very happy to have this program at our school.

Mosaic Anti-Racism Workshop. This workshop on January 22 included students from grades 5, 6 and 7. It was very well received, and the students had some very deep conversations about diversity and anti-racism.

Reading Under the Stars. Mme Montgomery and her team did an incredible job! There were two projectors, and PAC provided more lanterns for the event. The lanterns will be provided to teachers in each classroom to use in the event of future power outages at Laronde.

Lunar New Year. The Laronde community is excited to celebrate Lunar New Year on January 29. Each child will receive a red envelope stuffed with chocolate coins. Thank-you to everyone who contributed to the Lunar New Year display.

Pink Shirt Day. Pink Shirt Day is on February 26. All students are invited to wear a pink shirt this day to celebrate kindness. There will be a “Shades of Kindness” assembly on February 26 at 1:00 p.m. for the students to celebrate kindness, including some of the learning that has already happened this year around equity and diversity. For Valentine’s Day on February 14, there will also be a focus on kindness and loving yourself. Mme. Boudreau is working on setting up a “Kindness Tree” with branches. The theme is “kindness grows”. Each class will receive paper hearts and they will answer the question “What does kindness look like to you?” Mme Boudreau is hoping to keep the tree for the school year and highlight different themes each month.

HipHop Lessons. We are excited that AJ from Sound Kreations is coming back to Laronde to teach HipHop dance to our students during the week of February 10-14. Because AJ teaches in French, the school was able to use federal French funds to pay for this program.

Report Cards/Spring Break. Report Cards will be going home to parents on March 13 and the last day of school before Spring Break is March 14.

Saleema Noon - Body Science. We are please to have Saleema Noon back at Laronde this year to provide body science education to students from Kindergarten to grade 7. The parent session will be held on Monday, April 7 and teachers and students will watch online presentations in the following couple of weeks.

Megan added that the PAC paid for parents to have access to the videos this year. Parents can watch the videos in advance and make an informed decision about whether to opt out of the presentation for their child. More information will be provided to parents prior to the Saleema Noon presentations.

5. **Chair Report – Megan Johnson**

Direct Donation Campaign. Thank you to all families who have already made their donation to the Laronde PAC. The amount raised for the Direct Donation Campaign through December 2024 is **\$14,665.93**, so close to our \$15,000 goal!! Thank you to all families that donated. Tax receipts were sent out on the same day if donated via CanadaHelps, and on January 14 if donated via cheque/etransfer. Please reach out if you have not received your receipt. Also, if you haven't already donated, but would like to do so, you may still donate using the following links. Just login to the www.larondepac.ca website and you can donate on the front page of the PAC website.

- Donate via Canada Helps here: <https://www.canadahelps.org/en/dn/121716>
- Canada Helps also accept donations in Securities here: <https://www.canadahelps.org/en/dn/s/94370>
- Donate via e-transfer: donations@larondepac.ca

Welcome to Mme. Nancy Shakur as Vice Principal. We are excited to welcome Mme. Nancy Shakur as Laronde's new acting Vice Principal. Mme. Shakur currently teaches Grade 4 and will bring an energy and enthusiasm to her new role. We are grateful to Mme. Shakur for taking on her new administrative role.

Projects Funded by PAC. PAC has already funded wonderful programs in the Fall with more to come in 2025, including:

(1) Unique Minds Science Workshop. Unique Minds came to Laronde to give Science workshops to our students on topics such as space, machines, properties of light and sound, meteorology, and water. This was funded by PAC's Science Enhancement Funds.

(2) Saltwater Studios Art Program. Joanne Howard from Saltwater Studios attended Laronde to do art workshops with our students.

(3) Think Yourself for Kids Academy - Yoga week K-7. This program was provided to the kids to promote physical literacy, self-esteem, and confidence. Ask your child about their experience! <https://thinkyourself.com/school-kids-programs/>

(4) *MOSAIC (January 22)*. PAC is excited to fund this important presentation by MOSAIC Centre for Diversity. Students in Grades 5-7 will participate in a school assembly that focuses on building a school environment based on respect, equity, inclusion, and diversity. In this assembly, students will explore ways people are different from each other, including racial and cultural differences; understand the meaning and negative impact of racism; and understand and learn to recognize the signs and negative impact of racism. They will be able to take steps to create class environments based on anti-racism where students' cultural and racial diversity are respected and included.

(5) *Technology (iPads)*. PAC supplied the school with 11 iPads to meet the remaining needs for technology in the classrooms. PAC is thrilled that it could help Laronde satisfy this critical need so that each child in the classroom has access to technology-based activities.

(6) *Screenagers*. PAC provided funding for the newly updated film, *Screenagers: Growing up in the Digital Age*, which will be screened on Wednesday, January 29 @ 5:30 p.m. in the Laronde library. The film has a run time of 60 minutes, and all Laronde parents/caregivers are invited to come. This screening is to be attended by adults only.

Award-winning and thought-provoking, the film is now more relevant than ever with its recent update for 2025. This new version of the film features fresh insights, including from **Jonathan Haidt**, author of [The Anxious Generation](#), and several others. The update also includes the latest scientific findings on the effects of video gaming, sleep, social media, and the use of phones and smartwatches in schools — and much more. We've also streamlined the content by removing some elements that no longer resonate. Save the Date for our future evening screenings:

February 12th @ 5:30pm - Film #2, Screenagers Next Chapter

February 26th @5:30pm - Film #3, Screenagers Under the Influence

This will be the last set of screenings offered to our parent community. Hope to see you there!

Craft Fair. A big THANK YOU to Nishi Banipal and Jasmine Prasad for Co-Chairing this year's event. It was an absolute success, and it was so inspiring to see the ingenuity, creativity, and entrepreneurialism of the vendors. I personally spent much more money than I expected because there were so many beautiful things I could not pass up! Thank you to all the kids who participated, and to their parents/guardians for their support!

Winter Concert. Mme. Ziolkoski put on her usual spectacular performance! This year, the school was able to distribute (4) tickets per family, instead of (2), so this enabled

mostly everyone to attend one show or the other. The children sang, danced and played music to everyone's delight, and we are so grateful to Mme. Ziolkoski's talent and dedication to our kids. Not to mention they were ADORABLE! I would also like to take this opportunity to remind everyone that having a music program is not a given at all grade levels, and Laronde is so incredibly fortunate to have such a comprehensive and wonderful music program. Merci Mme. Ziolkoski!

Emergency Preparedness. Thank you to our PAC Emergency Preparedness coordinator, Carla Hanson, and her team as they replenished all the classroom emergency kits with nut-free, gluten free granola bars. Additionally, PAC has provided funds to purchase 20 new lanterns for each of the classrooms, which will be delivered in time for "Reading under the Stars" in the gym! These lanterns will provide a much-needed light source in the event of future power outages. PAC intends to purchase additional lanterns for the hallways, bathrooms, and other rooms in the coming months, as the budget allows.

Spirit Wear. Thank you to Julie Elliott for ordering and providing Spirit Wear. We understand there were some issues with the orders, and we thank Julie for her responsiveness in rectifying any errors.

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

Fusion Fête. For the past two years, we have held the Spring Fair in May. The Spring Fair has been an enormous success. Thank you to our Coordinator, Victor Chan, and everyone who volunteered. This year, the PAC executive in partnership with the EDB Committee would like to do something different – Fusion Fête! This event will focus on the celebration of multiculturalism and inclusion/belonging and will be held on **May 22**. We will need many volunteers to make this a success, so please look for announcements about how you can help.

Volunteers Needed for Spring Sports! Basketball is currently underway. In the Spring, there will be badminton, followed by ultimate, and ending with track. Volunteer coaches needed! All coaches require a criminal record check.

Book Exchange. Cynthia Springate has graciously offered to volunteer to organize this year's Book Exchange, which will happen in April. If you want to volunteer, please email Megan at Chair@larondepac.ca. More details to come!

Babysitting/Stay Safe Courses (First Aid Hero). Melissa Hsu, our coordinator, is in the process of securing dates for the courses to be held at the school. The StaySafe

course will be held for kids in grades 4-7, and the Babysitting course will be held for grade 6/7 students. This was a well-attended event last year, and we hope parents will take advantage of these very important courses. Please look for announcements of details and registration in February.

Body Health Presentations. PAC will be sponsoring body health sessions to be provided by Saleema Noon. Last year, PAC approved a motion to allocate funds to pay for the videos to allow parents the opportunity to view the materials before they are presented in the classroom. Parents will have 30-day access to the videos. For more “general” information about Saleema Noon, please see the website link: <https://www.saleemanoon.com/>

(6) Financial Report

The Direct Donation Campaign was a great success. Please find below a comparison of previous years:

Direct Donation Campaign Summary by Year						
Years 2017 to 2024						
Year	# Families	CanadaHelps/PayP	Cheque	E-transfer	Fees	Revenue
2018	150	8,340.00	14,191.00	0.00	(156.00)	22,375.00
2019	115	7,221.00	10,350.00	0.00	(113.00)	17,458.00
2020	144	14,395.03	1,685.00	5,606.25	(263.72)	21,422.56
2021	134	9,120.00	2,620.00	5,595.00	(172.92)	17,162.08
2022	116	8,877.08	2,225.00	2,565.00	(170.07)	13,497.01
2023	118	12,120.53	2,200.00	1,300.00	(454.95)	15,165.58
2024	93	5,511.13	3,450.00	5,910.00	(205.20)	14,665.93
						\$ 121,746.16

Sophia Lou, has submitted our taxes to CRA for the previous fiscal year 2024 as required of PAC as a registered charity. Thank you for your time and efforts, Sophia! The Treasurer’s Report was provided in a separate attachment. During the PAC meeting, Elena reviewed all of the accounts. We discussed the many ways PAC has supported the school community, including the recent purchase of 11 additional IPADs for use in the classrooms.

Over the years, PAC has allocated funds to go towards the building of future playgrounds. Most recently, PAC funded the design, purchase and installation of Playground #2 in 2022 for a cost of \$114,880.84. Most of this money was raised through

parent donations from past direct donation campaigns. We are currently saving money for the eventual replacement of Playground #3 in the next 7-10 years. Mme. Boudreau advised that she is so grateful that there are three playgrounds at Laronde as it gives the students a lot of space to play.

One parent raised the issue of whether it is made clear to Laronde parents during the Direct Donation Campaign that funds are allocated to playgrounds, including future playgrounds that current Laronde students may not benefit from. We discussed the costs associated with playground replacement and the lifespan of playgrounds. We also discussed the fact that our current students benefit from the fundraising of previous PACs. The Surrey School District does not pay for the purchase of new playgrounds so PAC has been responsible for all associated costs.

The Direct Donation letter in 2024 provided a list of PAC fundraising activities, including the purchase of new playgrounds. We agreed that PAC should continue to ensure transparency and clear communication with parents with respect to the use of funds raised from the Direct Donation Campaign, including saving for the purchase of future playgrounds. All parents at Laronde are members of PAC and are welcome to review the PAC accounts/budget and provide feedback. The budget for next year will be discussed and voted on at the Annual General Meeting on June 13.

7. Committee Reports

Outreach Committee. A big thank-you to Nikki Dhaliwal and Michelle Hagenson, the co-chairs of our Outreach Committee, for all their hard work last fall for the Winter Clothing Drive and the Christmas Hamper Program. Thank you to all who generously donated to these initiatives.

Michelle provided an update on the Winter Clothing Drive and the Christmas Hamper Program. The Winter Clothing Drive was a big success this year. We collected 31 bags of clothing for our sister school, Forsyth Elementary. For next year, we are hoping to have more volunteers to help collect and sort the clothing. The Christmas Hamper Program was also a big success. For next year, the Outreach Committee is looking at ways to simplify the process including making the form more concise.

Upcoming initiatives? There may be a Spring Canned Food Drive. This would be a great way to support the local food bank. This could possibly be an online donation similar to hot lunch. More information to come.

If you would like to learn more about volunteering with Outreach in the future, please contact Michelle and Nikki at Outreach@larondepac.ca

Questions for Michelle?

Q: One parent raised some challenges in selecting food for families, including halal food.

A: We discussed the possibility of providing more gift cards to allow families to choose their own food, gifts, etc.

Q: What about families at Laronde that are in need (our school provides warm clothing and hampers for Forsythe Elementary)?

A: Mme. Boudreau advised that there is government funding that allows Laronde to provide some support to families in need (usually by way of gift cards). This is a sensitive matter as families can be reluctant to share that they are having financial challenges.

Grade 7 Fundraising - Update from Lara. Grade 7 fundraising efforts to date have been successful. Booster juice continues to be the most beneficial fundraiser and will continue into Terms 2 and 3. The grad committee is discussing the following as potential upcoming events and fundraisers:

- Winter Dance (to be discussed further with administration)
- Krispy Kreme or Freezie sale
- Movie Matinee(s)

Pancake Breakfast (Grade 6 Fundraiser): This annual event was a huge success! Thanks to the organizer, Grade 6 parent Greg Lutz and the Grade 6 kids and parents who all contributed to make this event a wonderful and festive occasion! We are also grateful to the many vendors who contributed.

- **Maple Leaf Foods** provided enough cases of ready-cooked bacon and breakfast sausages so for the first time, everyone had the option of protein with their pancakes — thank you Jason!
- **Kingha Coffee Company** once again donated full coffee/tea service — thank you Kingsley & Maha!
- **RHE Law** made a very generous donation — thank you Mike!
- **COBS Bread, Ocean Park** provided all sorts of yummy baked goods for volunteers and staff to fuel their efforts — thank you Aman (store owner)!

- ***Save-On Foods, Semiahmoo and Safeway Ocean Park*** provided the bananas and Mandarin oranges. Consider stopping by their Customer Service counters and saying “thank you” from Laronde.

Special thanks to **Mme. Boudreau** and **Cheryl Herd** (our super office admin) for jumping in with both feet to help however they could over the past few weeks and at the breakfast. We couldn’t have done it without you, thank you!

Most importantly, **thank you** to the >15 parent volunteers and 20+ students who gave up their time and energy to help prepare, set up, serve on the day of, and clean-up.

Hot Lunch and Booster Juice. Verna Chow, our Hot Lunch Coordinator, Lei, and her team, are doing a terrific job! The hot lunch program is running well, but we continue to learn lessons drawn from experiences with various vendors and to address issues as they arise. The hot lunch program is an enormous undertaking, and I would like to express appreciation to Verna for her diligence, responsiveness, and capacity to make this program function for the kids to enjoy.

Please note that Term 3 will be posted a little early. Also, there has been a change of vendors to include Mary Browns Fried Chicken in response to parent/child feedback on certain vendors from Term 1. Any suggestions and/or feedback are always welcome for future vendor sourcing.

Please remember to make your payments online or your orders will be removed. **Please also pay close attention to the hot lunch and Booster Juice deadline dates and reminders.** We have received requests from parents to order hot lunch after the deadline and for reasons outside our control, late orders cannot be accepted.

EDB Committee. Thank you to Mr. Simpson’s Grade 1 class for doing a wonderful job putting together the Lunar New Year display. For February, we will be focusing on a display for Black History Month. If anyone is interested in helping, please contact edblaronde@outlook.com

Parent Social. EDB will potentially host another Parent Social before the end of the school year due to the great turnout and success at the last one in October. Please look for announcements!

Fusion Fête. On May 22, PAC and the EDB Committee are excited to host Laronde’s first ever Fusion Fête. This event will be a celebration of multiculturalism and inclusion/belonging. We will need many volunteers to make this a success, so please look for announcements about how you can help in the emails and newsletters. There

will be a Fusion Fete Committee for interested volunteers. The EDB Committee is grateful to Elena, PAC treasurer, for raising important questions during the planning phase of this event. This event will be different from the Spring Fair. The intent is to host an event that brings the community together, almost like a block party. The focus will be on community building, not fundraising for PAC.

As a group, we discussed various issues/questions about this event?

- Should attendees pay admission? The consensus seemed to be that it was preferable to NOT have an admission fee for this event.
- What food will be available? We discussed different options including prepaid picnic baskets. More discussion is required.
- What activities will be offered? We discussed the possibility of live music and opportunities for students to perform.
- How many volunteers will we need? (spoiler alert: MANY VOLUNTEERS will be required to make this event successful).

Please contact Lara at edblaronde@outlook.com if you are interested in being a part of this exciting event!

Surrey District Parents Advisory Council (DPAC). Jin provided an update on two DPAC meetings he attended.

Meeting on November 27, 2024:

- One hour was allocated to sharing best practices for new PAC members. Topics included gaming licences, carnivals/fairs and pub nights. PACS are required to acquire gaming licences for many activities including 50/50 raffles.
- Review of activities to be avoided at school events, notably Dunk Tanks and Cake Walks. These activities have roots connected to colonialism.
- The School Board met the new ministers from the Provincial Government. There were discussions around challenges with the budget. Climate solutions may take a high priority in the government.
- Lizanne Foster, President of the Surrey Teachers Association (STA), highlighted the lack of funding for Surrey schools and how we need ten more schools. She advocated for people to get in touch with their MLAs in person or write them letters expressing concern over funding. The STA bargaining with respect to pay and conditions begins in March.
- District wide PAC training event – February 8 – 9:30-3:30

Meeting on January 22, 2025:

- First hour focused on Education, Diversity and Inclusivity (EDI). Surrey is a very diverse school district (81,554 students and 198 different languages spoken), and there was a conversation about the importance of focusing on EDI.
- There was a discussion about PAC executives and how it tends to be the same people in leadership roles (in rotation). How do we get people interested in participating in PAC?
- For the second half of the meeting, DPAC met with MLAs. There is no capital funding for learning centres. Confirmation that traditional schools are not going to be converted (there was significant opposition).
- Tammy Murphy, president of CUPE, talked about the backlog of repair work at schools. There is also an issue of safety, and some contractors are not doing criminal background checks. There is little oversight, and no one is ensuring that it is done properly.
- Another issue raised was insurance for PACs and Executives. As registered charities, PACs apparently are not covered by the school district.
- Jin asked about support for neurodiverse students. The DPAC is aware of the need for more support. There is ongoing discussion and follow up will be done at the next DPAC meeting. Jin advised that he may, along with Nishi, prepare an information package for circulation to Laronde families at the next PAC meeting.
- There was an update from BCCPAC including information about 2 new candidates, the annual conference (in May in Prince George), the District Training Event on February 8 and an AI follow up session at Bell Centre – February 4/25.

Megan adjourned the meeting at 8:06 p.m.