

**Ecole Laronde
PAC MEETING MINUTES – June 12, 2024
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! 11 parents were in attendance for the PAC meeting. Executive members in attendance – Megan Johnson, Victor Chan, Elena Plotnik, Jin Thindal, Catharine Macrander, Corrine Proctor, Nishi Banipal, Tracy Merry and Julie Elliot. Principal Mme. Niro was also in attendance.

Megan called the meeting to order at 9:07 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 Megan. 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.

2. 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.

3. Approval of Agenda

Copies of agenda provided to attendees. Motion by Julie to accept as presented, seconded by Tracy. All in favour, motion carries.

4. Review and Approval of Minutes from April 17, 2024

Copies of the Minutes from the PAC meeting on April 17, 2024, provided to attendees.

No amendments. Motion to approve Minutes by Catharine and seconded by Jin. All in favour, motion carries.

5. Principal's Report – Sabrina Niro

Mme. Niro noted that it was her last PAC meeting at Laronde. She is sad to leave and will miss the wonderful families at Laronde. She is hoping to come back to see everyone!

Parent Appreciation Day. On Friday, June 14, there will be a drive-thru appreciation event in the front drop-off area from 8:15-8:35 a.m. where you can pick up sparkling water and a treat. There will also be coffee, tea and snacks in the gym and a small performance by some of the students at 8:35 a.m.

Swimming Field Trips. Students from divisions 1 -11 will attend a field trip to Sunnyside Outdoor Pool.

Staff Appreciation Luncheon. This is our opportunity to thank the wonderful teachers and staff at Laronde. The Luncheon will be on Tuesday, June 18, and in addition to a catered lunch we will have gifts. More volunteers needed. Sign-up genius was sent around to the school community.

Student Learning Plan (SLP). Mme. Burden and Mme. Niro are working on a SLP for Laronde. The plan will outline what we are working on at Laronde. There is a meeting planned with the Assistant Superintendent next week to go over our SLP. Once completed, it will be available at <https://surreylearningbydesign.ca/student-learning-plans/>

Some items that the SLP will focus on include:

- Focus on French, both written and oral. Looking at ways to have students interact more with each other in French.
- Social/Emotional Learning. This is our third year with the Second Step program (social-emotional learning curriculum). It has been wonderful to see the students focusing on a growth mindset. The school has committed to do this program again next year!

Indigenous Sports Day. We are excited for our annual Sport Days on Friday, June 21. Sports Day falls on National Indigenous Peoples Day this year. We are looking forward to celebrating different Indigenous traditions through the games and activities we'll be playing. This year our four Laronde team colours will be based on the Medicine Wheel - black, red, white and yellow.

Final Assembly. The assembly will be held on Wednesday, June 26, at 10:45 a.m in the gym. Everyone is welcome to attend!

Last Day of School. The last day of school this year is Thursday, June 27. Students will be dismissed at 1:32 p.m. We will have our last hot lunch that day (White Spot) and teachers will send home report cards. The teachers will be at school on Friday, June 28, if you need to pick anything up.

Next School Year. We are heading into the 2024/2025 school year with 20 divisions. We are losing 12 students due to relocation. The numbers may change again closer to the start of school.

Comings and Goings. We are sad to report that Mme. Yee will be leaving us at the end of this school year. She has accepted a new position as a school counsellor. All the best to Mme Yee in her new position!

We are happy to announce that we have hired a new teacher, Tristan Simpson, to teach Grade 1. Mr. Simpson is an experienced Surrey School District teacher, and we are looking forward to welcoming him to Laronde.

Important September Dates:

- Terry Fox – September 13
- Orange Shirt Day – September 26
- Non-instructional Day (Pro-D)– September 27
- National Day for Truth and Reconciliation – September 30

Questions for Mme. Niro:

Q: Will the Screenagers movie be shown to the grade 7?

A: No answer yet but Laronde has access to the Screenagers movie for a full year. Selena Carter mentioned that there is an edited/shorter version for the kids. It may be possible to show the grade 7s before the end of the school year and then at least two more times next school year. We discussed as a group the option of having a separate screening for parents (for next school year).

Q: Any news about the cell phone ban in schools?

A: The Surrey School District has not said anything yet, but cell phones are not a huge issue at Laronde. There are kids that try to sneak them but we monitor carefully.

Q: Any cuts to programs/budget for next year?

A: So far Laronde has not been hit with any cuts for next year – no cuts in LSD, EAs, counsellors, etc. Mme Niro also noted that Laronde will put forward 16 students for the Challenge Program (provides an opportunity for highly able and gifted students in grades 3 through 7).

Q: Band teacher for next year?

A: Yes, we will have a new band teacher. More information to come.

Q: What is happening with the mural on the school?

A: We have not been able to identify the artist who painted the mural. It is becoming very challenging to paint around it. The plan is to paint over the mural. We discussed the possibility of having a new mural done and how much that would cost. PAC to have further discussions next year with Mme Boudreau and Mme Burden about a potential mural project.

We reiterated how much we are going to miss Mme. Niro and thanked her for everything she has done for our Laronde community. Thank-you Mme Niro!!

6. Chair Report – Megan Johnson

Spring Fair Update. A special thank-you to Victor Chan and the whole Spring Fair team for putting on another successful Spring Fair! We traditionally held a Spring Fair every other year, this was the first time we did two back-to-back years. While the focus of our Spring Fair is community building, it is also a fundraiser. The total profit of this year's fair was \$ 6,533. 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 \$3,870 will be split 50/50 between PAC and the Grade 6 group fundraising for camp next year, so the true profit to the PAC general accounts is \$4,598.

Babysitting/Stay at Home Course. Thank you to Josee for organizing the First Aid Hero course on the two Pro-D days in May! It was well attended by students (Stay Safe – 53 students, Babysitting – 32 students). We are hoping to do it again next year.

EMS Scholarship Winners. Cynthia attended the Scholarship Tea at EMS to congratulate Alice and Emily Yang, this year's recipients of the Laronde PAC scholarships, \$500 each. Both Alice and Emily are heading to Queen's University to study Health Sciences and Nursing.

Teacher/Staff Appreciation. On June 18, PAC will be ordering in lunch for Laronde teachers and staff. An email was sent out to the school community with a sign-up genius for the event. We will put out coffee and baked goods for recess and then lunch, drinks and desserts for the lunch break. Volunteers needed to help decorate the staff room, set out the food and help clean up.

Sports Day Popsicles and Concession. It is a Sports Day tradition to have freezies for all students. The grade 6 class also will be running a concession to start raising funds for their graduating year. We had a group discussion about whether we should have both freezies and the concession. We decided that it would be best to save the freezies for another day, possibly after the final assembly on June 26. We discussed different options for next year including having the concession available for recess, lunch and after school but not a separate station for the students.

7. Financial Report – Elena/Victor

Copies of PAC Financial Report provided to Attendees.

We have exceeded revenue projections for the year by over 20%. This was in part due to our Spring Fair revenue which we had not included in our projections when we approved the budget at the AGM last year. Our hot lunch revenue is also up slightly.

Review of Budget Proposal for Next Year. Of note, we intend to increase the budget for the Saleema Noon body health presentations to order the videos to allow parents to view the materials before they are presented to the students (30 day access to the videos). Some other highlights include:

- Increase for teacher classroom funds from \$150 to \$200 per class;
- There is extra money for Science/Enrichment (please bring any new ideas to PAC); and
- Grade 7 Booster Juice Fundraiser will continue next year.

Motion by Lara to accept proposed budget as presented. Seconded by Tracey. All in favour, Budget approved.

Playground and Technology Fund. Every year we set aside a small amount of our direct donation total to the playground and technology fund to ensure that we are saving for the future replacement of Playground #3, likely in the next 5 years. As our bank balances are quite healthy, Cynthia suggested that we move 20% this year.

Motion to transfer 20% of this year's direct donation total, \$15,165.58 (\$3,033), to the Fundraising (Playground &/or Technology) account. Moved by Jin, seconded by Sophia. All in favour, motion carried.

8. PAC Executive Elections (Elections Coordinator – Catharine Macrander)

Results:

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

Motion to accept the new PAC Executive as recorded. Moved by Sophia, seconded by Julie. All in favour, motion carried.

Thank-you to our outgoing Chair Cynthia Springate and Catharine Macrander for their dedication and commitment to the PAC and the Laronde community for many years.

9. Committee Reports

DPAC (District Parent Advisory Committee) – Update from Jin. The last DPAC meeting covered the BC Confederation of Parent Advisory Councils (BCCPAC). The BCCPAC is a registered non-profit charity and is the provincial voice of parents, guardians and caregivers in public schools. Each school PAC that is a member of the BCCPAC has a vote at the conference. Some concern expressed that Surrey was not fully represented at BCCPAC, particularly given that a number of PACs look to Surrey as leading the way on many issues. Membership fee for each PAC is \$100. Laronde's membership has lapsed. Elena mentioned that we have funds to cover it and she will make sure to pay the fee and update our membership. Other topics included:

- Some concerns about field trips for schools, including funding, volunteers and the high cost of school buses.
- Ministry of Education has handed out some guidelines for schools with respect to phones/screen time at schools. More information to come (hopefully at the next DPAC meeting).

Hot Lunch. We would like to say a big thank-you to Jen H. for all her work on hot lunch over the past few years. She is graduating and has passed along all her knowledge to Verna and team. We will need some new hot lunch team volunteers. If we get 12 people, it would mean just one shift per trimester. If you can help out next year, please email Verna at hotlunch@larondepac.ca

Equity, Diversity and Belonging (EDB). Parent mixer was a success (43 parents attended)! This event was all about community building. Thank-you for the PAC for giving \$500 for the event.

The EDP Committee is looking at ideas for next year including a Parent Mixer earlier in the year (possibly in October), a Multicultural Fair and the idea of a learning passport for the kids (to motivate them to learn about different countries and cultures). More information to come!

Jin noted that he has been really impressed with the members of the EDB Committee and their whole-hearted commitment to making Laronde a safe and welcoming place for every student. Jin also noted that the committee has been recognized at the district level for the great work they have done.

The EDP Committee is always looking for new members! Please consider joining or helping out when volunteer opportunities arise.

Outreach Committee. Michelle H and Nikki D. will be the co-chairs of the outreach committee next year. Mandy M and Amy D. will also be helping out. Anyone interested in joining the committee should email outreach@larondepac.ca. We are always looking for event specific volunteers as well, clothing drive, Christmas Hampers, etc.

Canadian Parents for French (CPF) – Update from Julie. Membership to CPF is now free and is open to all parents. Good news to report – Ocean Cliff Elementary will have a French program commencing next year for Grade 6 students (24 students enrolled).

Grade 7 Update. Grad ceremony planned for Tuesday, June 25, with party at Alexandra House to follow.

New Business

We had a group discussion about the importance of belonging at the school and creating a sense of community.

We discussed different options for creating a greater sense of belonging and community ex. more opportunities for parents to socialize (parent mixers for each grade), creating Whatsapp groups for each grade so parents can make plans to get together/set up playdates.

Meeting adjourned at 11:14 a.m.