

PAC MINUTES, Friday September 29, 2017 @ 9:00am

Parent Advisory Council Meeting École Laronde – Staff Room

Minutes recorded by Janet Petras (PAC Secretary).

1) Welcome & Introductions

2017-18 Laronde Elementary PAC Members:

Position	Name	Email
Chair	Cynthia Springate	chair@larondepac.ca
Vice-Chair	Tanja Phillips	vicechair@larondepac.ca
Secretary	Janet Petras	secretary@larondepac.ca
Treasurers	Susie Fang	treasurer@larondepac.ca
	Katie Corbeil	treasurer@larondepac.ca
	Sophia Lou	treasurer@larondepac.ca
Communications	Hollis Pilling	communications@larondepac.ca
Class Parent Coordinator	Catharine Macrander	classparent@larondepac.ca
Grade 7 Parent Rep	Tanja Phillips	grade7@larondepac.ca
Members at Large	Pam Wilson-Sydor, Della Faremo, Sarah Hunter, Stefanie Simpson, Luana Foulkes	

Total 29 Laronde parents & PAC executive present at meeting.

2) Approval of Agenda

Motion to Approve of Agenda: Moved by Tanja Phillips. Seconded by Sarah Hunter.

3) Review and Approval of Minutes from June 1, 2017

Motion to approve minutes: Moved by Catharine Macrander. Seconded by Sarah Hunter. All in favour, motion carried.

4) Principal's Report – Sabrina Niro-Fraser

It is great to see so many parents at the PAC meeting. She encouraged everyone to spread the word to other parents, especially all the new families that have joined this year.

- Divisions:

There are 20 divisions this year. Mme Metcalfe's Grade 6 class will be moving to the new portable hopefully by Monday. It is a beautiful portable with a wall of white boards, and several windows.

- School Incident:

An incident occurred at the school earlier this week in which an individual approached the school wanting to talk with the children about Jesus. A notice of the incident was sent the same day both electronically and in hard copy to all families. He was dressed inappropriately and was stopped at the school entrance and turned

away by the Principal. He exited and moved around to the back of the school where Mme Kostur's class was outside drumming. Mme. Kostur and the Mme. Niro-Fraser asked him to leave and the police were notified.

The individual was calm and non-threatening at all times, and the incident was well handled. The individual is known in the community and not perceived as a threat. Despite this the teachers and staff are being extra vigilant at this time. The individual has been "sectioned" and is not permitted to enter the school property in the BC protocol is to keep the school doors unlocked however Mme Niro-Fraser will lock the doors if required. The children using the portable will have a key to enter the main school building. They will go in pairs to ensure safety.

- Grass Hill Near Amble Greene:

The children are currently being requested not to play on this hill as the area is close to the road. Some parents felt it would be good to have that green space back for playing as there is so little natural space available for the students.

- Dirt Hill/Fence:

The school has submitted a work order to the School District to have the grass replaced on the hill, however this may not happen before the Spring. The school has also requested an extension of the fence in one area.

- New Staff:

Several new staff members from many areas including Burnaby, Richmond, and Saskatchewan have been added to the faculty. All new staff members speak French and are quickly stepping in to many volunteer roles with the various sports teams. One male teacher has been secured in a .4 position, while one .2 music teacher position remains vacant.

- Grade 4 Music Schedule:

The Grade 4 students have a double block of music which corresponds to a time slot that the core music teacher is unavailable. As a result the students access a substitute music teacher which is of concern to some parents.

- Foundational Skills Assessment (FSA):

The FSA is designed for Grade 4 students and is based on the Grade 3 curriculum. It is an optional assessment that has many pros and cons. Not all teachers support the assessment and agree with the validity of the resulting ratings. The assessment is conducted in English and the teacher/school/family will receive the individual results of each student. The FSA results do produce data to help understand how the school compares overall in the District and Province. It provides students with an opportunity to gain the experience of writing essays and taking tests although this type of work is also done during regular classes.

- Technology:

The teachers have reported that the technology needs are being met fairly well. There may be some requirements for additional IPAD mini's later in the year.

- Remembrance Day Assembly:

The school will conduct an assembly in November.

- **Aboriginal Presentations:**

The first Aboriginal presentation of the year was well received by the staff. There will be additional presentations for the students over a week-long period including an opening and closing ceremony. Some parents expressed concern over the potentially shocking and/or graphic nature of some of the information both with respect to the Aboriginal presentations, and books being read in class like the Breadwinner which is about the struggles in Afghanistan. Mme Niro-Fraser indicated that she is pleased to meet with any parents regarding these concerns at any time.

- **Grad 6/7 Sports Teams:**

Teacher sponsors are required for all sports teams, and are in place to supervise the parent volunteer coach and students to ensure safety and appropriate conduct. The teacher sponsors need to be present at practices and games as part of the District policy. Currently the only teams missing teacher sponsors are boys volleyball and girls basketball. These positions will hopefully be filled shortly. Some discussion occurred regarding criminal background checks for the parent coaches, and the potential of teachers taking on more coaching responsibilities.

5) Call for Volunteers

Parent volunteers are required for a number of areas including the following:

- **Hot Lunch teams:**

There is a dire need for 2 teams of 2 people to commit to coordinating hot lunch once every 5-6 weeks. It is a commitment of 3-4 hours per time. Please be reminded also to sign-up for hot lunch days as well.

- **Class Parents Division 2 and 16**

Two divisions (2 & 16) require class parents to help coordinate the activities. It can be a minimal time commitment.

- **Outreach:**

Outreach coordinator Hollis Pilling is requesting another person to assist her. Some of the activities include the warm clothing drive in October, and the Christmas hamper program in December. Mme Niro-Fraser is good friends with the new Principal at Forsyth Elementary, our sister school, which may be helpful in coordinating additional activities particularly with our Grade 7 students.

- **Emergency Preparedness Committee:**

Erin R., committee coordinator, is looking for 1-2 new members to assist with the committee and on October 13 to refresh all food and supplies.

- **District PAC (DPAC) Representative:**

The DPAC welcomes a parent from each school to attend the monthly meetings to discuss PAC matters. The next meeting is Wednesday October 25, 7-9 pm.

6) **Chair Report** – Cynthia Springate

Cynthia began by acknowledging that the land on which we gather is the traditional and unceded territory of Coast Salish peoples, specifically the Semiahmoo First Nation. She welcomed back to all returning families and a special welcome to our new families. We hope you soon come to see how special a parent community we have here. She also welcomed our new principal, Sabrina Niro-Fraser. We look forward to working with you this year.

Two PAC events have already taken place this year as follows:

- **Welcome Back Coffee:**

Thanks to Tracy C for donating coffee and treats.

- **Scholastic Book Fair:**

Our annual Scholastic Book Fair was held last week in conjunction with the Meet the Teacher Night. It was very successful with almost \$8000 sold in books which raised \$2850 in cash and materials for the library as well as a small donation of \$133 to our sister school Forsyth Road. PAC also donated \$426 to purchase one book for each division off the teacher's wish lists. Thanks to all the parent volunteers who set up our book fair, worked the checkout lines and packed it all away. A very special thank you to Faye K who coordinated the whole event! Lori A will take over the event next year.

- **Yearbook:**

Thanks to Karen who has successfully coordinated the book for several years. She has moved on and Luana Foulks have volunteered to take over. We are always look for photos. Please forward them to Cynthia at chair@larondepac.ca.

- **Laronde PAC:**

Be sure to register at larondepac.ca in order to receive all PAC related school communications. Some class parents may use these lists to email class specific information about homework, field trips and other classroom details. If you have difficulty registering or using the web-site, please email Cynthia at chair@larondepac.ca

- **Fundraising:**

The fundraising activities are limited at Laronde but one of our major events each year is the annual Cheque Writing Campaign. This is one of our major fundraisers and by writing just one cheque, you save yourself hours and hours of selling chocolates, collecting pledges, washing cars, and baking cookies. Funds raised from cheque writing go to enrich the school life of all Laronde students through cultural performances, PE activities, technology purchases and playground builds.

We are currently saving for the replacement of playground 2 that will be required in 2 or 3 years from now. The estimated cost of a new playground is \$100,000 and this can't be reached with donations. Last year the campaign raised \$19,500 and we have currently set aside \$52,000 towards the new playground. We like to suggest a \$60.00 per child donation and gratefully accept donations of any amount, issuing tax receipts for donations \$20.00 or more as we are a registered charity.

Some companies run donation matching programs where you can designate your favourite charity (Laronde PAC) and they will match your donation or volunteer hours. More details on this year's cheque writing campaign will be coming home with your child in October.

- **Hot Lunch:**

The biggest fundraiser is our school hot lunch program. The program offers a weekly rotation of menus from Panago, Subway, White Spot, Taco del Mar, Boston Pizza and Hot Dogs and Sushi. Please keep in mind that we are in need of a few new hot lunch teams this year.

- Positive Parenting Workshop:
Flyers were available at the meeting.

- Craft Fair:
The craft fair is scheduled for November 30 and will be coordinated by Cyndy A.

7) **Financial Report**

Financial reports were distributed at the meeting. Please note the following:

- 2016-2017 Year:

An increase in revenue of \$6,500 occurred due to a donation received from the Developer. Also \$8,000 less was spent by the teaching staff in the areas of PE and Science.

- 2017-2018 Year:

The overall budget is similar to last year. Discussion occurred regarding the allocation of funds to the teaching staff or PE and Science activities. In the past, teachers had access to High Tech High Touch and were allowed to request financial support through the principal for other enrichment activities. The PAC executive agreed to provide some guidelines on the use of the science enrichment to the principal through the Treasurers.

Motion: It was moved by Erin R to spend up to \$1,000 on the replacement of sports equipment (balls, jump ropes, etc). Seconded by Tanja Phillips. All in favour, motion carried.

8) **Committee Reports**

Intramurals:

These did not happen last year and Mme Niro-Fraser will research if a teacher sponsor is required for these activities. Jen Ackermann is willing to coordinate again if required.

9) **New Business**

After School Enrichment:

Christie B will organize an information session to learn more about the Destination Imagination and Odyssey of the Mind programs. For the second program, which she is willing to help coordinate, teams of 5-7 students select a problem and spend 6 months creating a solution and then give an 8 minute presentation to demonstrate it. The program is in English and focuses on drama and science.

10) **Old Business**

None.

11) **Adjournment**

Motion to Adjourn – The meeting was adjourned @ 10:20am. Moved by Pam Wilson-Sydor, and seconded by Hollis Pilling.

Next Meeting: Friday November 28, 7:00 p.m.

Important Dates:

October 9: Thanksgiving Monday (no school)

October 20: Non-instructional Day

November 10: Non-instructional Day

November 3: Non-instructional Day

November 13: Remembrance Day (no school)

November 30: Craft Fair