



PAC MINUTES, Friday September 28 @ 9:00 am

Parent Advisory Council Meeting École Laronde – Staff Room

Minutes recorded by Janet Petras (Secretary).

- **Welcome & Introductions**

Meeting called to order at 9:01 am.

2018-19 Laronde Elementary PAC Members:

Position	Name	Email
Co-Chairs	Tanja Phillips Catharine Macrander	chair@larondepac.ca
Past Chair	Cynthia Springate	
Vice-Chair	Melissa Wandt	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
	Hollis Pillling	treasurer@larondepac.ca
Communications	Joanne Stewart	communications@larondepac.ca
Class Parent Coordinator	Tracy Merry	classparent@larondepac.ca
DPAC Rep	Sarah Hunter	
Members at Large	Stefanie Simpson, Laura Roberts, Joy Rong, Marina Heidt, Elisabeth Smith	
Principal	Sabrina Niro	
Vice-Princpal	Patty Maharaj	

Total of 37 Laronde parents & PAC executive present at meeting.

Catharine Macrander opened the meeting at 9:01 a.m. and introduced herself and Co-Chair Tanja Phillips. She welcomed everyone to the first meeting of the school year. Tanja Phillips introduced the PAC Executive members.

- **Approval of Agenda**

Motion to Approve of Agenda: Moved by Cynthia Springate. Seconded by Melissa Wandt. All in favour, motion carried.

- **Review and Approval of Minutes from June 4, 2018**

Motion to approve minutes: Moved by Erin H. Seconded by Kate Corbeil. All in favour, motion carried.

- **Principal's Report** – Sabrina Niro

Mme Niro welcomed everyone to the meeting. She indicated that classes are now settled and that it's been a very hectic September with various activities. She is pleased to welcome our new Vice-Principal, Mme Maharaj, who is teaching Grade 3/4 along with her other duties.

It was important to the staff that they determine a focus for the school or in other words "*what they want Laronde to be known for*". After lots of discussion it was decided that two main areas emerged as a focus for the school. The first was the speaking of the French language. To this end, one new initiative will be to encourage students to speak French to each other inside and outside of the classroom. Tickets will be given to students to reward this behaviour, and to use towards prizes and activities. The staff will also spend time teaching French expressions. The second focus will be to teach and nurture empathy within the school. This will include helping students identify individual strengths and talents and how they serve the larger community as well as respecting differences and building bridges through their similarities. Accomplishing this will include the teaching of playground games especially to the younger students and programs such as Kids in the Know and MindUp in conjunction with our counsellor Selina Carter.

If any parents are interested in the school plan, please see Mme Niro

A recap of the September activities includes the following:

- Terry Fox Run: successful and raised \$3,444 which was about twice as much as last year
- Book Fair: successful and expecting a good profit
- Meet the Teacher Night: about half the parents per class attended. May try splitting the time next year to encourage greater attendance
- Orange shirt day: learned about residential schools and indigenous issues in the classroom leading to the day
- Soccer: just starting as it was difficult to get sponsors
- Cross country: underway now and ends October 16

October will be calmer with fewer activities and more focus on the curriculum. Activities will include the following:

- Oct 1: Michael Bortolotto, with 22 years experience, will be speaking at the school; three separate talks. One for K to Grade 2, one for Grades 3 to 5 and one for Grades 6&7. He is a person with cerebral palsy and will talk about his experiences.

- Skating field trips
- October 26 Grade 7 Movie Night
- October 31 Hallowe'en parade

A parent inquired about the supervisor rules for the playground. Mme Niro indicated she had spent time briefing the supervisors and also noted that the students need to respect them as well. The supervisors primary concern is the safety of the students.

A parent inquired whether Laronde had buddy benches. The idea of a buddy bench is a bench where a child can sit to signal that they would like someone to come ask them to play. Mme Niro indicated that Laronde does have lots of benches at our playgrounds and she will look into the buddy bench idea.

Cynthia Springate requested that the Grade 7 students be able to eat their lunch in either classroom in order to spend time with their friends. Mme Niro indicated that this has been discussed with the teachers and for now it was agreed that they need to remain in their classrooms to ensure a safe number of students per classroom and other safety issues. This will continue to be reviewed.

- **Co-Chairs Report** – Tanja Phillips & Catharine Macrander

It has been a busy start to the year, and most classes have class parents in place with the exception of two.

The Welcome Back Coffee on the first day was well attended. Thanks to those who attended and helped with the set-up and take-down. Thanks also to Strawberry Hill Tim Hortons (Tracy C.) for providing the coffee and Timbits.

Thanks to Faye K and Lori A for organizing another very successful Book Fair. A total of \$4400 English books was sold which resulted in \$2100 worth of book rewards for our school library. On the French side, a total of \$3240 books was sold, resulting in a \$1800 book reward for our library. In addition, a donation of \$160 in book rewards and \$350 worth of books will be made to Forsyth Elementary, our sister school.

The Terry Fox Run went well, it was nice to see so many parents participating. Orange Shirt day is today, many students are wearing orange and that is nice to see as well.

The PAC will be providing Internet Safety and Body Health seminars. Body Health has been booked for November 13th for parent information night and November 15 & 16 for students during the school day. First Aid training for the Grade 6/7 students has been provided by PAC and completed in September. We provide the first aid training so that our student lunch monitors are able to recognize an emergency situation that would require getting help from a supervisor, who are monitoring in the hallways during lunchtime. This training gives our students the confidence they need to perform their job well.

A question regarding EpiPen training for teachers was raised. It has not happened yet, so Mme Niro will follow-up with it.

Emily Press labels and Cobbs Bread will continue to be passive fundraisers for the school. When making purchases at the Ocean Park Cobbs location simply mention Laronde school to activate the donation. Please check the PAC website for information regarding Emily Press labels.

Cross country, soccer and volleyball are the ongoing and upcoming sports. Thank you to the parents who have been involved in coaching and driving so far. For upcoming sports, Mme Niro may ask for help as parents sometimes provide help coaching to assist the teacher sponsors.

Several thank you cards were received from staff expressing their gratitude for the PAC support last year.

At some point the school will receive a letter from the District indicating that Playground 2 will require replacing. The school is given 2 years to make the replacement once the letter is received. To date the PAC has saved \$85,000 towards playground replacement and technology needs. The goal is to have \$150,000 in this fund to ensure sufficient monies to cover the new playground and technology upgrades for the school.

Please remember that all parents are to register on the PAC website at www.larondepac.ca. This is the primary communication vehicle for school activities and fundraisers. The site also houses a link to fundraising web site for Grade 7 activities.

- **Committee Reports**

Hot Lunch – Kira A. & Andrea G.

Volunteers are needed for hot lunch team. All orders are made online at larondepac.ca. The first hot lunch is next week (October 5).

Lost and Found – Marina H.

The lost and found items will be available in the lost and found bin and displayed periodically throughout the year. Unclaimed items will be donated.

Emergency Preparedness – Gaby G.

The school has stored enough food and supplies for the student body to be cared for and fed for 3 days. This includes the provision for basic food, water and shelter. In addition, each classroom has a grab and go kit fully stocked with first aid supplies, food and water. Thank you to Mme. Affilal for leading the other teachers through a thorough review of these kits. It was also noted that Gaby is currently looking for volunteers to help with the replacement of some larger items and first aid supplies.

Mme Niro indicated that in the event of an earthquake students would stay inside if it was safe to do so. Otherwise they would find a safe spot outside, build shelters, and establish a system for children to be released to parents or other designate adults. The school has a landline that can be used in case of a power outage, however the cell phone coverage in some areas of the school is very poor on non-existent. There will be a Code Red practice this coming Tuesday.

Outreach Committee – Laura R., Elisabeth S., Brianne W.

The Committee will be liaising with Hollis who led Outreach last year, and Forsythe school, to determine their needs. A portion of the recent Book Fair sales will be donated to the Forsythe. Other activities will include the Christmas hampers in November/December, used book exchange, and warm clothing drive. The Committee is very engaged therefore additional activities may be taken on. More details at the next meeting.

Fruit and Veggie Program – Lily and Vivian

Classes will receive fruit and veggies throughout the year provided by BC farmers

Laminating - Lily and Vivian

One hour once per week is volunteered to assist with the school laminating needs. Lily and Vivian will ask if they require help with laminating.

DPAC Meeting – Sarah Hunter

Sarah attended the first meeting of the District PAC (DPAC) this week. She reported that the Surrey district web site has a section full of information to assist students with learning. It looks like an interesting tool that we may want to explore and communicate.

Grade 7 -Cynthia Springate & Kelly D.

Grade 7 students conduct fundraising activities to help fund the 4-day camp in Campbell River, and other Grad activities. Some of the fundraisers include the following:

- **Booster Juice:**
Booster Juice is available for purchase on the PAC web site until October 4. It will be provided twice per month on Tuesdays at lunch beginning October 9th.
- **Parents Pub Night:**
Will be held at the Ocean Park Pub on October 25th and all parents are welcome. The cost is \$20 and includes a burger, fries and drink. There will be a wine raffle as well.
- **Art Night:**
Requesting creative parents to volunteer/assist in the classroom to create paintings to sell at the art auction. The art auction will take place in late February, actual date is TBA.
- **Move Night: Oct 26 & Feb 1**
Two movie nights will be held. The first is October 26 and will feature Hotel Transylvania 3, followed by one February 1 showing Incredibles 2. Admission is \$5 and includes popcorn and water.

Logo wear – Janet Petras

The Laronde logo wear is now available for purchase on the PAC web site until November 1. Youth and Adult t-shirts and pullover hoodies in blue and green are available for \$15 and \$30

respectively. The kindergarten students will receive blue Laronde t-shirts next week, courtesy of the PAC. Mme Niro will email the kindergarten teachers to ensure they don't purchase t-shirts.

7) **Financial Report** -Susie Fang and Katie Corbeil

Two signatures required on all PAC cheques. Susie, Katie, Hollis and Tanja all have signing authority. Our two main sources of funds are our **Cheque Writing Campaign** and our **Hot Lunch Program**. In addition, last year we also had our **Spring Fair** which is done every two years. We will also be offering Logo Wear for sale this year, after taking a one-year hiatus.

8) **New Business**

- Parent question regarding marijuana: Is there a plan in place to provide information to families regarding the legalization of marijuana, as some students may believe that the legality means its safe and good to use? Mme Niro indicated that the District communicates policies/information for schools. Parents will have to educate the children. Mme Niro to explore if we can have a speaker or parent participation seminar on the topic as there appears to be interest from parents. May also considering checking with Saleema Noon if she has information on the topic.
- **Cheque Writing Campaign**
The campaign raised \$19,000 last year and is one of the PAC's key fundraising initiatives. A letter to parents requesting support will be sent out in mid October. The campaign will continue for one month, wrapping up in mid November. As our PAC is a designated charity, all donations are tax deductible (please submit the from with your donation if you want a tax receipt) and the funds will be used for a variety of activities throughout the year. Asking for \$60/student.
- **Call for Volunteers**
At present moment, we are still looking for 2 class parents for both Mme. Affilal and Mme. Carriou. As noted above, we are also looking for volunteers to help with the emergency preparedness committee replenish various items. Finally, we are still seeking a Canadian Parents for French (CPF) representative to attend the meetings. This is an important position to fill since CPF remains a strong voice in advocating for French Immersion programs which are currently being threatened by the present classroom shortage crisis in the district. The next meeting CPF is October 4th at 7 p.m. Please email Tanja and Catharine at chair@larondepac.ca if you can attend this meeting.
- **Craft Fair: Nov 30 – Cindy A**
The annual Craft Fair will be held November 30. Students will be invited to make and sell crafts to their peers. The cost per table is \$3/child, and a notice will be circulated late

October/early November with more details. This is a non-profit event for PAC, the fee pays for the tables that we rent for the Craft Fair.

- **Odyssey of the Mind**

The extracurricular activity involves teams of 5-7 students working together to solve math, science and technology challenges. The main competitive program will be open to grades 3-7 with a mini challenge program available for younger students in grades k-2. A student meeting will be held to determine interest. Meetings will begin in November and the program will require 20 parent volunteers and 10 volunteer judges .It's a good team building opportunity, and the timing of the practices are flexible. The cost is \$150/school.

- **Caribou Math Tests** – Mme Niro to check with teachers for interest in doing these math contests.
- There will not be a math club this year. Mme Niro will instead focus on the Odyssey of the Mind which does have a math component.

9) **Old Business**

10) **Adjournment**

Motion to Adjourn – The meeting was adjourned @ 10:23 pm. Moved by Melissa Wandt,
Seconded by Laura R.

Next Meeting: Monday November 16, 2018 @ 6:30 p.m.

Important Dates:

October 4, 2018 – Last day to order Booster Juice (Grade 7 fundraiser)
October 5, 2018 – First Hot Lunch Day
October 8, 2018 – School closed (Thanksgiving)
October 9, 2018 – First Booster Juice delivery at lunch
October 17, 2018 – Parent/Teacher conferences, 1:32pm early dismissal
October 19, 2018 – Non-Instructional Day, no school for students
October 26, 2018 – Photo retakes
October 26, 2018 – Movie Matinee (Grade 7 fundraiser)
November 7, 2018 – Remembrance Day assembly
November 9, 2018 –Non-Instructional Day, no school for students
November 12, 2018 – School closed (Remembrance Day)
November 19, 2018 – PAC Meeting @ 6:30 p.m.
November 30, 2018 – Craft Fair in Laronde gym