



**PAC MINUTES, Friday February 8 @ 9:00 a.m.**

Parent Advisory Council Meeting École Laronde – Library

---

Minutes recorded by Janet Petras.

**1) Welcome & Introductions**

Meeting called to order at 8:59 a.m.

**2018-19 Laronde Elementary PAC Members:**

<b>Position</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Email</b>
Co-Chairs	Tanja Phillips Catharine Macrander	<a href="mailto:chair@larondepac.ca">chair@larondepac.ca</a>
Past Chair	Cynthia Springate	
Vice-Chair	Melissa Wandt	<a href="mailto:vicechair@larondepac.ca">vicechair@larondepac.ca</a>
Secretary	Janet Petras	<a href="mailto:secretary@larondepac.ca">secretary@larondepac.ca</a>
Treasurers	Susie Fang	<a href="mailto:treasurer@larondepac.ca">treasurer@larondepac.ca</a>
	Katie Corbeil	<a href="mailto:treasurer@larondepac.ca">treasurer@larondepac.ca</a>
	Sophia Lou	<a href="mailto:treasurer@larondepac.ca">treasurer@larondepac.ca</a>
	Hollis Pilling	<a href="mailto:treasurer@larondepac.ca">treasurer@larondepac.ca</a>
Communications	Joanne Stewart	<a href="mailto:communications@larondepac.ca">communications@larondepac.ca</a>
Class Parent Coordinator	Tracy Merry	<a href="mailto:classparent@larondepac.ca">classparent@larondepac.ca</a>
DPAC Rep	Sarah Hunter	
CPF	Julie Elliott	
Members at Large	Stefanie Simpson, Laura Roberts, Joy Rong, Marina Heidt, Elisabeth Smith	
Principal Vice-Principal	Sabrina Niro Patty Mahraj	

Total of 17 Laronde parents & PAC executive present at meeting.

Catharine Macrander opened the meeting at 8:59 a.m. and introduced herself, Co-Chair Tanja Phillips, and the PAC Executive. She welcomed everyone to the meeting.

**2) Approval of Agenda**

Motion to Approve of Agenda: Moved by Jennifer E. Seconded by Hollis Pilling. All in favour, motion carried.

**3) Review and Approval of Minutes from November 19, 2018**

Motion to approve minutes: Moved by Stephanie S. Seconded by Gaby G. All in favour, motion carried.

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

Mme. Niro provided an update on the extra \$10 charge for the purchase of retake photos. The extra fee covers the cost of the company's staff to search for the photos, but this can be waived next year by contacting her prior to ordering.

The school celebrated lunar New Year last Tuesday by making origami, and enjoying other activities. Valentines Day is coming up February 14 and will focus on friendship. Students will be encouraged to wear pink or purple. It was noted that there has been an increase in student kindness and cooperation over the past few weeks.

The Parent Workshop on January 16 was very well received with 32 parents attending. The speaker will be returning March 13 to deliver another session on Who's In Charge: Why Parents Need to Lead. It focuses on teaching parents how to remain the alpha and still provide children with choices. The cost for the January session was \$5/person and the school paid for the balance.

February 28 will be early dismissal and will provide a time for teachers to work on planning and evaluation.

La Semaine de la Francophonie will be March 11-14 immediately prior to Spring Break. A French speaking circus performer will be leading various workshops for the students to learn about cooperative circus activities. The focus of the week will also be on Le Cirque and include studying French artwork. The school is also trying to get La Creperie to come and make crepes.

The students continue to be rewarded by the staff for speaking French at school. The rewards include various staff led activities like Just Dance.

Cynthia Springate suggested that when students are completing writing assignments that the first draft be completed in French by hand rather than on the computer. Many students write in English and then use google translate to change it to French. When translating students are encouraged not to use google translate but other programs like Word Reference or Linguee. It was also suggested that students need to learn to type. Numerous digital typing programs are available for student use, that could be practiced at home.

Catharine Macrander indicated that she has received several comments from parents revealing their dissatisfaction with the Fresh Grade reporting. They feel it is somewhat incomplete and inconclusive. Teachers use Fresh Grade to provide comments on all subjects and those teachers who are new to it are focusing on the core subjects and will eventually post about art, gym or social skills. It would be helpful for parents to learn how students are progressing in these areas as well. Mme. Niro indicated that the purpose of Fresh Grade is for parents and students to see the progression of learning throughout the year. Right now, it is often presented often unit by unit, but teachers are working on demonstrating progression throughout the year in a more linear manner. For example: showing the progression of writing from September to June with about 4-5 posts throughout the year. There was considerable discussion about the merits of, and variance in, Fresh Grade reporting across the school and leading into high school.

#### 5) **Co-Chairs Report** – Tanja Phillips & Catharine Macrander

It's been a busy couple of months since our last meeting. Several successful PAC events have taken place including the craft fair, Christmas hampers, and Hip Hop.

They thanked several important PAC Executive members and other volunteers. Thanks to Tracy Merry for coordinating the yearbook, and the Vivian W. and Lily L. for taking care of the fruit and veggies that are delivered to the students monthly. Also, thanks to Kira A. and Andrea G. for keeping our hot lunch program running smoothly and to all parents who come in on Fridays to distribute the meals. Thank you to all other committee members and volunteers who are tirelessly working behind the scenes to keep our programs running!

**Craft Fair** A big thank you to Cindy A. for another successful event which was held for the first time on a Friday this year. This seemed to work well for both teachers and families as it was well attended and enjoyed by all. There were some concerns regarding the amount of food being sold rather than crafts and this will be addressed for next year.

**Christmas Hampers** Thank you to Laura Roberts, Elisabeth Smith, and Brianne W. for an extraordinarily well run hamper program. Thank you to the Laronde community for their generosity. More detail will follow in the committee report.

**Deck the Doors** At the request of teacher's mini candy canes were provided this year instead of hot chocolate. The teachers liked the candy canes although some classes didn't get them on the day of the activity.

**Exciting Winter Storm** The holiday concert in December was very memorable due to the wind storm that took out the power. Congratulations to the kids who bravely continued, and to the parents who shone flashlights, so the show could continue.

Unfortunately, the storm also forced the cancellation of our Pancake Breakfast hosted by the Grade 7's. The event was not able to be rescheduled and refunds were issued. Despite this the pancake breakfast still created a profit of approximately \$1,000 thanks to all who chose to donate some or all their refund to the Grade 7 camp fund.

**Logo Wear** All the logo wear orders were picked up at the office during the week prior to the Christmas holidays in December. Over 90 pieces were sold for a total of \$2,085. Thanks to all who ordered.

**Hip Hop** The Hip Hop program was completed the third week in January and was hugely popular with the students and staff. It will most likely be rebooked next year with the addition of a parent viewing day. There was concern by some that including a dance presentation day might put a lot of pressure on the students and take some of the fun out of it.

**Year Book** Tracy Merry confirmed that Jostens will produce the book, and that a link for parents to upload photos will be sent to class parents soon.

**Literacy Night** Although not a PAC event thanks to Cindy A. and our librarian Mme. Montgomery for a very well organized and enjoyable event.

**Odyssey of the Mind** This non-PAC event is running well and being used as an experimental year rather than a competitive one.

#### **Money spent to date**

- Artist in residence – SANDS, a cirque type event;
- Wheelchair basketball;
- Hip Hop
- Water polo and curling field trips;

- High Tech, Hi Touch;
- Body Health;
- Emergency Preparedness;
- Grade 6 and 7 students first aid training.

**Other Upcoming PAC Events** The following events are on the schedule for the coming weeks:

- Wheelchair basketball\*
- Artist in Residence -SANDS, a cirque type event
- Water Polo and curling (Grade 7)
- Book Exchange Thurs March 6. 2019

\*Mme. Niro indicated that wheelchair basketball may not happen as they can only do it the third week of May. It might be better to do it an indoor time of the year.

**Cheque Writing Campaign and Tax receipts**

- The final tally for the cheque writing campaign is \$22,374.66 after PayPal fees. This is a fantastic accomplishment and exceeds our original goal of \$20,000. Thank you to everyone who wrote a cheque, or made an online donation. This will enable us to continue all the excellent programs we provide and to set aside some money for our playground/technology fund. Next year we intend to start the campaign earlier to avoid conflict with the Christmas and hamper seasons.
- If you submitted the tax receipt form along with your donation, you should receive your tax receipt via email in the coming weeks. If you have not submitted your tax receipt form and would like a tax receipt, please submit the form ASAP to [treasurer@larondepac.ca](mailto:treasurer@larondepac.ca)

**Book Exchange:** It is set for March 7 and will be coordinated by Catharine Macrander. More details to follow soon.

**Update on \$150,000 Cheque for Laronde Woods**

After numerous phone call inquiries, we were told by the District that this is not a PAC matter. The cheque was written to the District with the stipulation that it be designated for parking upgrades at the school however PACs are not allowed to accept money from developers. We reviewed previous city council minutes to find a loophole and it became clear that parking safety updates had been attached to this money from the beginning.

District will be using the funds to add 15 staff parking stalls to help create more space in the general lot. The addition should not affect any of the trees in the Laronde Woods area. Right now, the district is conducting a land stability study.

It was noted by Tanja Phillips that the area along Amble Greene Drive by the back entrance to the school yard near playground #2 had been identified by SD#36 as an ongoing safety hazard. She further noted that she had sent a letter to Lance Nordling requesting a review and perhaps using the money to make changes to this area.

It was mentioned that there are still people parking at the end of the crosswalks, at the end of streets near stop signs, and in the wheelchair parking spots. This is very dangerous for the students, and unfair to some students and parents. It was suggested that a note be sent to parents about these issues.

## **Sports Updates**

Basketball is on now. Thanks to Sarah Hunter for coaching. Badminton and Ultimate are the next sports, followed by track and field.

## **Other Notes of Interest**

A Babysitting Course will be held at Laronde on February 22 (Pro-D Day). It is not a PAC sponsored event.

## **6) Committee Reports**

### **Grade 7 Updates** (Cynthia Springate)

The second movie night is tonight showing The Incredibles. The movie night in the Fall raised \$1300 and the same is expected tonight.

The Art Night will be held March 2 at the Ocean Park Hall. There are currently 20-25 parent artists busy working with the classes to create fantastic pieces of art. The Art Walk is scheduled for February 25 at Laronde from 12:30-3:00 p.m. to view all the artwork prior to March 2. Parents are encouraged to come and enjoy a fun night out even if not interested in purchasing anything. Tickets are \$25 and include door prizes, music and a cash bar. Art cards and posters will be sold the week after the event at school

Thanks to all the parents who donated their pancake breakfast tickets.

The Grade 7 camp is scheduled for April 23-26 just after Easter Monday.

The deadline to order for Term 2 Booster juice is February 15. Ordering is not available after the deadline. It's important to determine if there is a cut-off deadline (March 8 recommended) for parents who have ordered to complete payment.

### **Emergency Preparedness** (Gaby G)

The school donated all expired food the Surrey Urban Mission. There is a system in place to ensure that food can be donated prior to the expiry deadline whenever possible. The canned beans will need to be replaced soon. If anyone would like to volunteer to assist with this Committee, please email the PAC Chairs at [chair@larondepac.ca](mailto:chair@larondepac.ca).

### **Outreach Committee** (Elisabeth Smith, Laura Roberts)

#### **Christmas Hamper Initiative**

We've received 5 Thank You cards from some of the hamper families expressing their gratitude for their Christmas Hampers. The Forsyth Road Elementary Head Secretary said she wishes there were more, but many of the refugee families that received hampers don't read or write in English and weren't able to send cards. She did want the Laronde community to know that many of the families were in tears when they received their hampers, and all were incredibly appreciative. She wishes she could have taken pictures of the families' reactions and the kids in some of their new shoes and clothing from the Christmas Hampers to show how excited they were. The Outreach Team will work with Mme.Niro to display the cards and share them with the Laronde Community.

#### **Warm Clothing Drive**

With the colder temperatures this week we received a plea for more warm clothing for our sister school Forsyth Road Elementary, as well as for leggings and pants for the younger kids who don't have any extra clothing to change into when there are bathroom accidents. Mme. Niro sent out an email to the Laronde Community and

even with short notice many bags of clothing donations have already been dropped off inside the front entrance. We will be collecting clothing donations until 9 a.m. on Monday morning, after which everything will be transported to Forsyth.

We thank the Laronde Community for your ongoing generosity and quick response whenever there is a need to help our sister school. It is truly heartwarming to be part of such a giving school community.

**Lost and Found** (Marina H) No report.

**DPAC** (Sarah Hunter) Was not able to attend the last meeting.

**CPF** (Julie Elliott) Was not able to attend the last meeting.

**Hot Lunch** Term 2 ordering underway.

7) **Financial Report** (Susie Fang, Sophia Lou, Hollis Pilling, Katie Corbeil)

Hollis Pilling reported that the cheque writing campaign raised \$22,375.

**Motion:** to spend up to \$2,200 to purchase 30 ukuleles including cases. Moved by: Marina H. Seconded by: Julie Elliott. All in favour. Motion passed.

8) **New Business**

Tanja Phillips asked Mme. Niro to provide information about next year's teacher negotiations as the contracts end July 1, 2019.

Link about Wait Until 8: <https://www.waituntil8th.org/>. This is a program about cell phone usage and the effects on children under the age of 8.

March 7 at 12 noon: Webinar: Bullying Prevention: Everyone Has a Role: <https://tourette.org/intranet-dashboard/events/webinar-bullying-prevention-everyone-has-a-role/>

Mme. Niro reported that Laronde has received \$52,000 from the District. This will fund new library tables and book shelves (\$32,000) and new library technology (\$20,000). The library will be called the Learning Commons moving forward.

9) **Old Business**

Intramurals - Intramurals will be offered this year as there are too many activities limiting the time available in the gym.

In response to comments from Mme. Niro in her principal's report regarding PAC support for future parent workshops, a brief discussion occurred on this matter. It was noted that there were in attendance that night several parents from outside schools and the feeling was that the suggested donation format was the best and most fair option for all involved. It was noted that these workshops often cost upwards of \$20 per person through community agencies so even if the suggested donation amount is raised to \$10 per family, it is still a bargain.

Literacy Night: it was reported by Mme. Niro that feedback was received regarding having a more structured entrance plan in the future to be sure donations are received.

#### 10) **Adjournment**

Motion to Adjourn – The meeting was adjourned @ 10:40 a.m. Moved by Joy D. Seconded by Gaby G.

**Next Meeting: April 26, 2019 @ 9:00 a.m.**

#### **Important Dates:**

February 18 – Family Day – no school
February 22 – Non-instructional day
February 27 – Pink Shirt Day
February 28 – Early dismissal 1:32pm
March 2 – Laronde Art Night @ Ocean Park Hall at 6:30pm
March 18 to 29 – Spring Break and School Closure Days
April 8 – Non-instructional day
April 19 – Good Friday – no school
April 22 – Easter Monday - no school
April 23 to 26 – Grade 7 students to Camp Strathcona Park Lodge
April 26 – PAC meeting 9:00am