



PAC MINUTES, Friday May 31 @ 9:15 a.m.

Parent Advisory Council Meeting École Laronde – Staff Room

Minutes recorded by Janet Petras and Cynthia Springate. Meeting called to order at 9:24 a.m.

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 Pilling	treasurer@larondepac.ca
Communications	Joanne Stewart	communications@larondepac.ca
Class Parent Coordinator	Tracy Merry	classparent@larondepac.ca
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 25 Laronde parents & PAC executive present at meeting.

1) Welcome and Introductions

Catharine Macrander opened the meeting at 9:24 a.m. and welcomed all meeting participants. Tanja introduced the PAC executive, and the invited guests from the Surrey School District: Linda Reeve (Assistant Superintendent), Dirk van Spaendonk (Manager Grounds Maintenance), and Greg Forbes-King (Director Facilities & Transportation).

2) Approval of Agenda

Due to the presence of the guests mentioned above, Tanja Phillips requested an amendment to the agenda to shift the topic of the \$150,000 donation and the impending parking lot changes to the first order of business. Motion to Approve the Agenda: Moved by Sophia Lou. Seconded by Melissa Wandt. All in favour, motion carried.

\$150,000 Donation to Laronde and Impending Parking Lot Changes

The topic of the allocation of the \$150,000 donation to Laronde and the impending parking lot changes was the first order of business. Tanja Phillips provided a brief history of the \$150,000 donation from the Laronde Woods developers to the PAC dating back to Spring 2015 when developer Norm Porter attended a Laronde PAC executive meeting and offered his donation of \$150,000. Since there was no precedent for this sort of donation at that time, it was decided to consult the district before accepting. After consulting the district, Mme Fortin, who the Laronde principal at this time, was advised that the funds were to be held in trust by District.

One suggestion that had been put forward was that the funds could be used to address potential traffic and safety flow issues as Laronde Drive was being opened to 20th. Two parking lot options to modify the parking lot, including a second driveway, were presented by the developer to address these issues however both were too expensive to pursue. Tanja further noted that since this time, school PACs have been able to use developer donations as they feel would best benefit the school community and that recent communication with the developer has indicated that the original intent of his donation was also for the Laronde PAC to do the same. She further noted that documentation on the planning permit uses the word voluntary donation.

However due to the language attached and some miscommunications that have occurred along the way, there is a discrepancy as to who the money belongs to and how it should be used. The current PAC Position is that the currently proposed parking lot plan detailed below neither improves safety nor is the most impactful use of the funds for our community. One option that they would like to have seriously considered is to use the funds to construct an all abilities playground to replace playground #2.

The District has recently (in 2019) provided a parking lot plan to the current Principal Mme Niro to increase the staff parking area by 10 spaces which they believe will improve the overall safety in the parking lot area, and reduce the green space next to the forest to accommodate the addition.

Greg Forbes-King from the District provided context from his perspective as to the intention of the allocation of the \$150,000 donation. The donation was managed by the Capital Project Office until 2017 before it being moved to the Facilities Office staff. There was regular consultation with Mme Fortin and the PAC in 2015 with discussions that increased the size of the parking lot and included adding parking in the staff parking area to assist with traffic issues. He indicated that the funds are currently in trust with developer's lawyer, and that once the parking project is completed the funds will transfer to the District. A pricing and procurement process is in progress. The District was not in a position to confirm the actual cost of the project, but mental math indicated that the paving project would not cost more than \$200,000. The District stated that they were not in a position at this time to give the actual costs of the parking lot works due to the project being proposed for competitive bids/tender. The proposed project will add 10 parking stalls to the staff parking area thus allowing more people who currently park on the street to park in the general parking area which they believe will improve the overall safety of the students.

Overall there was disagreement between the PAC and the District as to the intention of the use of the \$150,000 donation. Considerable discussion occurred with the following points raised:

- Was the \$150,000 a voluntary donation, or a requirement of the City to get permits?

- Cynthia Springate: it was a voluntary donation and the PAC suggested a change to the entrance/exit of parking lot which couldn't be done as it would affect City property. The donation was not a City requirements for permitting approval.
- Tanja Phillips: A playground upgrade was also discussed. We had wanted to improve traffic flow while we had the opportunity when Laronde Drive was opening to 20th Avenue.
- Included in the previous 2015 parking lot upgrade proposals were additional parking spots. Cynthia Springate noted that in an email from Lance Nordling (SD36 employee) on May 17, 2018 to the developer (cc'ed to Cynthia), SD36 stated that the plan would add 18 new parking stalls for \$150,000, whereas the current proposal is only adding 10 new parking stalls for \$150,000. Why are we only now getting 10 parking stalls for the same cost?
- Catharine Macrander: There is a discrepancy in the email chain over the intent of the donation when district employee Lance Nordling seems to take completely over. Also, the timeline that the district is presenting, and our experience differ in that the district is claiming that the donation is a requirement to get development permits and our experience is that Norm initially offered the donation to us at an executive meeting then we went to the District to keep this all above board. She further noted that after approaching us, Norm then reiterated his offer at the city council meeting.
- Sarah Hunter: how does adding parking spaces in the staff area improve safety for the students? Safety is a concern in the general parking area and the current project will increase this issue.
- Greg Forbes-King: there is only \$150,000 to work with thus limiting the scope of the project. The District is of the opinion that the donation needs to be used for on site parking and safety improvements.
- Tanja Phillips: there is no notation in the City documents that stated that the funds must be used for parking.
- The Amble Green side of the school greenspace is City property.
- The District is willing to partner with the City and the Principal to make improvements on Laronde Drive and the Amble Green Drive including the addition of crosswalks.
- The District is ready to begin the parking lot project this summer. The District believes that the Trust approves the scope of the work, and the funds are transferred once the work is completed.
- Tanja Phillips, Cynthia Springate: The original intent of the developer was not to create more parking space, rather to have PAC determine how best to utilize the money. At that time PAC focussed on improving traffic flow and safety
- Catherine Macrander: spoke with the developer the day previous and he indicated that his intent for the money was the PAC to determine where best to utilize the funds.
- A question was raised about whether the paving of some of the green space for the new parking lot was in fact to prepare and plan for a future portable on that space. The District response was that the District controls the school enrollment as it's a Choice school, so the District guests and Mme Niro said that this work was not being done in the anticipation of portables. The District representatives would not directly answer the question if a portable would be placed there.
- Catharine Macrander expressed concern that the parking proposal will result in the loss of 18 feet of green space next to the Laronde woods forest. Laronde students use this green space for play and some school activities. This concern was echoed by several of the parents present.
- The District stated that community consultation is not required for this project.
- John F asked if there had been no donation, would the district be considering this project? The answer was no.
- Sarah Hunter: increasing the number of parking stalls will not improve safety. It's currently safer to park on the road and use the sidewalks and crosswalks to get to the school rather than dodging cars backing up in the parking lot.

- The District stated that if the project is stalled then construction costs may increase, and there may be a condition to the funds being available.
- PAC asked: Is there a way to reconfigure the general parking area from a safety perspective? Could a walkway down the middle and a better crosswalk be added?
- Tanja Phillips: the PAC believes that the intent of the donation was to benefit the school, as she was present at all meetings discussing the money with the developer. What the PAC would like to see is the most impactful use of the money for the students of Laronde. Currently, it does not appear to the PAC that the use of \$150,000 to add 10 parking spots is the most impactful use of funds. Over the last several years, we have tried 3 iterations of parking lot plans to improve traffic control and safety. None of the plans has been within a feasible budget to obtain the impact that we would need on traffic flow and safety. However, proposed that a playground may be a more impactful use of the funds.

The discussion continued with general disagreement regarding the purpose of the \$150,000. Is it for the PAC to use at it's discretion, or are the funds to be used only for improved parking and safety?

The discussion concluded with the District agreeing to put the parking lot proposal on hold while they investigate some of the questions raised by the PAC.

A brief recess was given at approximately 10:35 a.m. when our District guests left. The meeting was resumed at 10:40 a.m.

3) Review and Approval of Minutes from April 25, 2019

Before the motion to approve the April 25 minutes was made, there was a request from principal Sabrina Niro to amend the incorrect \$600,000 amount quoted in the section about the proposed parking lot expansion. It was noted by Catharine Macrander that although new information has since come to light that reveals that the \$600,000 is incorrect, at the time that is how it was reported; therefore, the April minutes are correct and should be approved. It was decided to include the corrected amount in New Business.

Motion to approve minutes: Moved by Melissa Wandt. Seconded by Tanja Phillips. All in favour, motion carried.

4) Principal's Report – Sabrina Niro

Mme Niro thanked the Laronde PAC and community for their contributions and support throughout this school year. She indicated her appreciation all that is done to support student learning and our staff.

Walk/ Wheel to School Week: the goal of 500 students walking or riding to school was easily reached by Thursday. As a result of this success students will get an extra-long recess next week.

Bike Parade: this event was a success, and there was some discussion around lack of bike decorations, and the possibility of adding a theme for next year.

District Track Meet: it will be held June 13 at Bear Creek Park and there were nearly 45 students participating in the track and field practices. Although it is difficult for Grade 3 and 5 students to qualify for the meets they still came out to practices. Laronde will be doing the Track Attack again next year.

Kindergarten Orientation: Thurs. June 6th @ 9 am and 1 pm

It will include 41 Kindergarten students from brand new to Laronde families, and 19 from returning families. Laronde will grow by some estimated 10 students next year and remain at 20 divisions. Questions arose about the gender balance in the lottery system as there seems to be more girls than boys in primary classes.

Parent Appreciation Event: Fri. June 7 @ 8 – 9am

The event will be a drive thru beverage and snack pick up and then a performance from the Grade 2/3 choir and the Grade 6s in the gym after drop off.

National Aboriginal Day: Thurs. June 20

There will be various activities and an assembly.

Important Upcoming Dates:

- Sports Day: Fri. June 21
- Kindergarten graduation: June 24 1:30pm
- Grade 7 Graduation: June 26 12:30pm – 2:30pm

Class Information for next year: There will be 20 divisions next year and a new staff member (Diane Stephen) who will teach Grade 1, and there is a search for a mat leave replacement for Mme Workun (grade 5).

PAC Financial Request:

Mme Niro asked that PAC put the \$150 fund per teacher directly into the school account rather than the current process of teachers providing receipts to the Head Secretary through the year and the Head Secretary forwarding them to the PAC Treasurers for reimbursement. This will assist with easier accounting for school office staff. It was agreed to move this discussion and request to the September PAC Meeting.

Return of PAC Funds: the school will give back \$7,000 in PAC funds that was earmarked for technology as funding was secured through another source. Thank you to the PAC for originally allocating these funds to the school.

School Supply Ordering: the Front office staff is currently exploring two options for next year including Creative Children's Packs and School Start. The school will operate the program next year rather than the PAC.

Spotlight on Learning at Laronde: A number of special projects are underway including the following:

- Passion projects (gr. 4)
- Science experiments (gr. 2)
- Aboriginal legends and storytelling (gr. 7)
- Cooking and baking (gr. 3)
- Playland ride creation – Rube Goldberg style (gr. 5)
- Students in grade 6 & 7 raising funds towards a cause that is important to them
- Young Entrepreneurs Fair (gr. 7)
- Mindfulness and Deep Breathing (K – 7) – this is reducing the number of hands on incidents

School Plan: the plan is on the school website, and two key areas include empathy and engagement.

There were comments from parents requesting more notice about upcoming field trips, so time can be booked off from work. It was suggested that the online school calendar be reviewed and made more informative. It would also be beneficial to post the playground rules, so parents are aware of the specifics.

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

Thank you all for attending the PAC meeting. This will be our final PAC meeting of the year. It is also a very important one as we will be voting on our budget for next year as well as holding elections for the PAC executive later on the meeting. This is always a very busy time of the year as we begin to wrap up the current school year while at the same time beginning to turn our eyes the upcoming one. We have had a very successful year with many successful PAC sponsored events. Some of the favourite highlights included Hi Tech/ High Touch science workshops at the start of the school year, hip hop workshops in January and Le Cirque in March.

We would like to acknowledge several events and people as follows:

EMS Scholarship & Convocation: was last week and the École Laronde scholarship winner was announced as Megan Froats. She will be formally presented her \$500 scholarship next week at an event at EMS. This award is presented to a former Laronde student graduating from EMS who meets the following criteria: a student who has been proved to be a kind, respectful and responsible learner who is a creative building of their future. The student must be eligible to receive the Double Dogwood Diploma.

Cafe Musique: a big thank you and congratulations to Mme. Ziolkowski for a spectacular evening on May 15. This 1920's themed musical evening was performed by the Orff and choir in grades 4-7 for their families. They also gave a performance for the school in the afternoon.

Track and Field: Thank you to Mme. Burden, Mme. Niro, and Mme. Florkowski for all the work with our track and field athletes. Also thank you to Mme. Workun and Mme. Shakur for heading up the throwing events shot put and discus. Finally, an extra big thank you to our parent volunteer coaches Ryan for his help with the sprint events and to Rob for his dedication to the high jump. As always enthusiasm was high, and the kids are looking forward to the district Track meet on Monday June 3.

Hot Lunch: A big thank you to our outgoing coordinators Kira Angus and Andrea Granter. They have been handling our hot lunch since 2012 and will be greatly missed. Over this time, the program they have run has raised over \$15,000 per year!

Laminating Committee: a big thank you to Lily and Vivian for all their hard work in this department. They too will be stepping down. We will be handing this area back over to the administration and teachers and are not looking for replacements at this time. Lily and Vivian have also been taking care of the fruit and veggie program, thank you for all your time commitments to Laronde!

Outreach: Thank you to Laura Roberts, Elisabeth Smith and Brianne West for all their hard work. We will be looking for replacements for next year.

Thank you also to Gaby G for her work on the Emergency Preparedness Committee, Cynthia Springate and Kelly D for being the Grade 7 representatives, Tracy Merry for organizing the Yearbook, Faye K and Lori A for managing the Book Fair, Leanna S for coordinating the school supply orders, and Sophia Lou for working as one of the Treasurers and preparing the tax return. Next year the Book Fair and Back to School Supplies roles will be handled by the school administration.

Other Notes:

School Supplies: The online school supply ordering will be managed next year by the school administration. They are currently comparing various companies and will provide information soon to all Laronde families.

Concert Fundraiser: Thank you to Qi and Art for this passive fundraiser with generated 27 ticket sales and a \$270 donation to the PAC.

Odyssey of the Mind: This first-year non-PAC event is nearly finished and was well received.

Kindergarten T-Shirts: The 60 Laronde t-shirts have been ordered for next year for the incoming kindergarten students. The shirts will be in hand and payments made prior to the end of the school year. Thanks to Janet Petras for organizing the order.

Catharine and Tanja thanked the current PAC Executive for all of their time and effort this past year. They specially thanked Sarah Hunter and Janet Petras who will be moving on for their 8 years of volunteer time and service. Sarah was particularly involved as a coach of many of the school sports over the years.

We will leave you with a teaser of some events for next year which will include our Welcome Back Coffee on the first day of school, High Tech High Touch and first aid training for our Grade 6/7 lunch monitors in September. We are also hoping for a re run of hip hop in January and possibly some yoga to balance it out. These are just a few of the many things to look forward to in the coming year.

6) Committee Reports

Grade 7 Updates (Cynthia Springate)

The Grade 7 graduation celebration has been relocated to Camp Kwomais due to the fire at Beecher Place. In total parents paid \$145 for all camp and grad activities thanks to the fundraising activities at the school throughout the year. Thank you to all who organized, ran and supported these fundraisers.

Yearbook (Tracy Merry)

There is currently a wait list for yearbook orders, and we won't know until the yearbooks arrive whether we will have enough extras for everyone on the waitlist. Next year we will pre-order the yearbooks earlier in the year to ensure all who want one will get one.

Outreach Committee (Elisabeth Smith, Laura Roberts)

It was recommended for next year to have a separate volunteer handle the clothing drives and a separate volunteer handle the Christmas hampers as it's too much work for one person. Elisabeth has worked with the Forsyth team to update the hamper templates to better reflect the types of food items really needed.

Lost and Found (Marina H)

Marina H. made a motion to spend up to \$100 to use a laundromat to clean all the unclaimed lost and found items. The motion was seconded by Melissa Wandt. All were in favour. Motion passed.

All parents were reminded to check the lost and found as it is overflowing with really nice clothes!

Thank you from Mme Ziolkowski and Mr. Trebech for the PAC funded purchase of the ukuleles. Students are really enjoying them.

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

Hollis Pilling made a motion to approve the proposed 2019-2020 Laronde operating budget, seconded by Michelle H. All were in favour. Motion passed.

Hollis Pilling made a motion to approve the transfer of \$15,000 from the general 100 account to the playground fund. Seconded by Melissa Wandt. All in favour. Motion passed.

Hollis Pilling made a motion to approve the transfer of approximately 10% of the cheque writing campaign money (\$2,375) to the playground fund. Seconded by Laura Roberts. All in favour. Motion passed.

8) PAC Executive Elections

PAC Elections for the 2019/2020 school year were conducted with the following results:

Co-Chairs – Tanja Phillips & Catharine Macrander

Vice Chair – Melissa Wandt

Past Chair – Cynthia Springate

Secretary – Katie Corbeil

Treasurers – Hollis Piling, Susie Fang, Sophia Lou

Class Parent Coordinator – Marina Heidt

Communications – Elisabeth Smith

Members At Large – Amy Guelpa, Tracy Merry, Laura Roberts, Cynthia Springate, Stefanie Simpson

Motion to approve the 2019-2020 PAC executive as acclaimed, moved by Jana B, seconded by Melissa Wandt. All in favour. Motion passed.

9) New Business

Mme Niro would like to note that the \$600K figure, presented at the April 25, 2019 PAC meeting, to update the teachers parking lot by the addition of 10 new spots, was a misunderstanding. At today's meeting Greg Forbes-King noted that his ballpark figure the maximum it will likely cost is \$200K, however he was not in a position to confirm the actual costs..

10) Old Business

11) Adjournment

Motion to Adjourn – The meeting was adjourned @ 12:15 p.m. Moved by Melissa Wandt. Seconded by Hollis Pilling.

Next Meeting: September TBD

Important Dates:

June 3 – District Track meet at Bear Creek Park
June 6 – Kindergarten orientation for 2019/2020 kindergarten classes
June 21 – Laronde Sports Day
June 27 – Report cards issued, last day of school, early dismissal at 1:32pm