

Sir Wilfrid Laurier Elementary School

Minutes of Parent Advisory Council Meeting

Date: Wed. January 21, 2015
Venue: School Library
Present: Janet Souther, Principal
Paola Baca (Co- Chair), Lisa Juan (Secretary), Sherry Ng (Treasurer), Clement Law
Teacher Rep: Alanna Wong (Teacher – Librarian)

Call to order: Meeting was called to order at 7:07pm.

Approval of Minutes and Meeting Agenda:

MOVED by Paola Baca and SECONDED by Lisa Juan. Minutes and agenda adopted.

Principal's Report by Janet Souther:

School News

January Highlights

Happy 2015! It was wonderful to see all our students coming back happy and rested from the winter break! We have already moved ahead with activities for this term. I would like to highlight two of these activities and Mrs. Wong will be mentioning others in her report.

A big highlight is the beginning of our Earthbites Garden program! Our garden mentors started working with classes last week and will be here at Laurier each Wednesday through the rest of the year. The January sessions are all about bees! Students will be learning about pollination and why it is important to our food supply. They will also build a mason bee home for our garden and participate in a honey tasting session. Each month will have a different theme as the students work together to plan, plant, and harvest our spring garden. It is an exciting program and we are so lucky to have the support of PAC to bring this program to our students.

Another highlight this month is our school-wide "Rocks & Rings" curling program. We are looking forward to having our students participate in this week-long event, starting next Monday, January 26th. This is a new program for Laurier and we are excited to try something a little different. Thank you to our PAC for their very generous support and funding this program in its entirety.

I would also like to invite all parents and guardians to join us on Twitter! We now have our own Twitter "handle," @LaurierMain and it is easy find the link on the lower right hand corner of our school website Home page. This forum is an opportunity for us to share events as they are happening and provide a clearer image of our Laurier learning community right in the moment. I am excited to use this way to provide information to parents about all the exciting things that are going on at Laurier every day!

Supporting Your Child at School – parent meeting

Our next parent Coffee Club will be held on Tuesday, February 3rd with the topic of "Supporting Your Child at School." VSB Multicultural Liaison Worker, Mrs. Susanna Song, will be our guest, and Mrs. Lum, our ELL Resource teacher will be on hand with suggestions as well. Chinese translation will be provided. Please join us in the staffroom on Tuesday, February 3rd, at 9:10am.

Ministry News

At the last PAC meeting I told parents about the transformation that is currently underway in BC schools. This work is continuing and Vancouver teachers will be involved in working on the Personal and Social core competency as our district has been a leader in developing curriculum and supports in the area of Social Responsibility.

At a meeting this morning we learned that the graduation years are now under development and we have just learned that representatives from post-secondary institutions are joining the conversation.

Central to the thinking behind this transformation is the realization that a school system that was developed in the 19th century cannot possibly meet the needs of 21st century learners or citizens. Probably the biggest game changer is the use of technology and how it is revolutionizing how our students think and learn.

Literacy and numeracy continue to be central pillars in our education system, and alongside these two key areas are three **Core Competencies: Communication, Thinking, and Personal & Social**.

This link below provides a more detailed look at these three areas and I encourage parents to explore this link, and related links regarding the curriculum transformation. <https://curriculum.gov.bc.ca/competencies>

At Laurier, I am tremendously proud of the fine work that is going on in classrooms related to this new curriculum. In particular, teachers here are using technology to transform the learning experience and tie student-centred learning directly to these core competencies. The following short (4 minute) video is an easy way for teachers and parents to see how the effective use of technology helps to transform learning and delve deeply into the three core competencies. <https://www.commonsemmedia.org/videos/introduction-to-the-samr-model>

2015-2016 School Photographer

We understand that the PAC wishes to continue with Mountain West as our school photographer.

Teacher Report by Alanna Wong (Teacher Librarian)

Resources:

- media/internet literacy safety website, also movie and computer games, apps reviews, age appropriate www.commonsemmedia.org

(on school website under links <http://go.vsb.bc.ca/schools/laurier/Library/Pages/Links.aspx>)

Events:

- Tsawwassen First Nations Loretta Williams, "The Importance of Cedar" Tues. Jan. 27 9:00-3:00 Div. 1,2,3,4,5,6, 7 in the library Grades 4-7 (received an Aboriginal Education Culture Grant to fund presentation/weaving \$200.00)
- Cedar Weaving Loretta Williams Wed. Jan. 28 9-12:00 Div. 3,4,5,6,7 \$3.50. Parents/caregivers welcomed to attend
- Painting of Library Posts with Artist Mila Kostic and students from Div. 1,2,3,4 Mon, Tues, Thurs 9-12
- Scholastic Book Fair Feb. 23,24,25, need Parent Volunteers, please see Mrs. Wong or email sandyhsu@telus.net
- Family Literacy Night-Games Night Thursday May 21 6-7pm, games that strengthen Math and Reading literacy skills, (Thank you to PAC for \$300 to cover games, games can be borrowed or bought that night) More information to come later.

Many collaborations involving the Library Learning Commons:

- Fur Trade, Gold Rush, Building of the Canadian Pacific Railway (Canadian Settlement)
- Ancient Civilizations
- Canadian Animals
- Extreme Weather
- Light and Sound

Some Skills/Strategies used:

- finding appropriate resources, use the school library and electronic sources
- using print and web resources
- locating information
- read and understand
- note-taking, main idea, subtopics
- citing sources
- connecting to topic, writing and sharing information
- summarizing

Treasurer's Report by Sherry Ng:

Draft Budget 2014-15

	Actual 2013-14	Budget 2014-15	Actual As of Jan 19,2015
Income			
PAC Account carried forward	\$5,518.32	\$2,700.00	\$2,703.09
Gaming Account carried forward	\$7.61	\$11.27	\$11.28
Fundraising Account carried forward	--	\$2,008.57	\$8.58
Direct Appeal	\$19,840.00	--	--
Hot Lunch Net Revenue	\$17,366.14	\$15,000.00	\$12,626.08
Gaming (\$20/student)	\$5,660.00	\$5,600.00	\$5,460.00
GST/PST Refunds	\$30.50	\$4,500.00	--
Interest	\$311.15	--	\$51.89
Fundraising	\$6,152.70	\$2,000.00	\$5,079.42
Total	\$54,886.42	\$31,819.84	\$25,940.34

Expenditures

PAC Admin: Exprnse	\$140.00	\$140.00	\$40.00
PAC Admin: Bank Charges	--	--	--
PAC Admin: DPAC Membership	--	\$75.00	--
PAC Admin: Munch A Lunch Service Fee	--	\$350.00	\$336.00
PAC Admin: Office Supplies	\$30.43	\$100.00	--
Parent Directory	--	* \$100.00	--
Family/Community Events	\$243.59(1)	* \$325.00	--
Staff Appreciation	\$237.91(2)	\$500.00	\$393.60
Churchill Scholarship	\$400.00	\$400.00	--
Classroom Funding (\$300/staff)	\$4,560.00	\$4,860.00	\$4,845.00
Sport (Kung Fu 12/13, Roller Skating 13/14)	\$1,386.00	* \$1,000.00	--

Parent Outreach (Saleema Noon)	\$712.00	* \$500.00	--
Technology Maintenance	\$500.00	\$1,000.00	--
Primary Class Funding 2011-2012	--	--	--
Teacher/School Requests	\$831.00(3)	\$2,000.00	--
Author Visits	--	* \$500.00	--
Playground Loan Repayment (Churchill School)	\$2,500.00	\$7,500.00	\$5,000.00
Playground Sign	\$940.80	--	--
Playground	\$39,615.00	--	--
Total	\$52,096.73	\$19,350.00	\$10,614.60
Net	\$2,789.69	\$12,469.84	\$15,325.74

2014-15 Fundraising

Gift Cards
Purdy's chocolates
Panago Pizza Certificates

School Requests:

7 library computers @ \$550
13 Laptops @ \$1000
Garden program with Rocky Mountain Flatbread co.
Library Seating
Board games for School family literacy night @ \$300

2014-15 Classroom Funding:

12 Divisions at \$300 ea \$3,600.00
Ms. Wong (100%) \$300.00
Ms. Chung (100%) \$300.00
Mrs. Lum (90%) \$300.00
Mrs. Morris (98%) \$300.00
Mr. Lam (20%) \$60.00
\$4,860.00

- Thank you to Laurier school for using the school fund to pay off the remaining \$2500 loan from Churchill high school for playground.

Hot Lunch Update by Paola Baca

- There will be no Hot Dog for upcoming hot lunch session.
- Volunteers needed for helping out at Hot Lunch.
- Create flash flyer to hand out at school for helping seek more volunteers.

Parent Events by Anita Chui

- PAC will sponsor a Saleema Noon workshop for students and parents in the upcoming months. Saleema Noon is a sexual health educator. <http://www.saleemanoon.com/>
- Anita has been contacting Saleema Noon regarding to her senior assistant's schedule for the workshop. Dr. Brandy has been booked until the week of June 8 or 15. The other educator Cath Blythe will be available in April 20, 21, 22, and May 18, 19. There are few rates and outlines to choose from.

\$1250 + GST

Outline A - 90 min parent info night & workshop for students, 2 days, 2 grades/group + individual grade groups <http://www.saleemanoon.com/workshops/elementary-program/elementary-outline-a/>

\$ 800 + GST

Outline B - 90 min parent info night & workshop for students, 1 day, 2 grade/group assembly <http://www.saleemanoon.com/workshops/elementary-program/elementary-outline-b/>

\$ 700 + GST

Outline C - 90 min parent info night or day & after school or evening workshop for students, primary 45 min + intermediate 60 min

<http://www.saleemanoon.com/workshops/elementary-program/elementary-outline-c/>

After reviewing the options, PAC is leaning toward outline A or B, and will confirm with principle Janet Souther for her suggestion and schedule.

Playground Celebration/Community Events

- Playground celebration can be combined with other events (sports day, Earth bite harvest feast.....ect).
- Event Ideas – potluck, movie night, carnival fair..... More ideas are welcome.
- Possible date – June 10

Recruiting for PAC Executive Positions

- PAC are looking for parents to fill the following executive positions,
 - Treasurer – to back up Sherry
 - Co-chair
- Parents who are willing to take on those positions, please contact Paola Baca.

Other Business

- Guest speaker for next PAC meeting – Debra Graham – Programmer of Marpole Oakridge Community Centre.

Adjournment:

Meeting adjournment at 8:40 pm.

MOVED by Paola Baca and SECONDED by Lisa Juan.

Next meeting will be on Wednesday February 25, 2015 at 7 pm.