Parent Council Meeting

Monday, 10.01.2018, School Library 6:30 to 7:50pm

Attendees

Peter Berndt, Principal LPS
Aidin Taeb, Parent
Anna Milojevic, Parent
Alaa Kabbani, Parent
Shunde Yin, Parent
Julie Forsyth, Parent
Aaron Bauer, Parent
Tonya Fischmeister, Parent
Karen Radcliff, Treasurer
Sharni Holdom, Parent
Joanne Parrow, Parent
Neil MacGregor, Parent
Jill Tausky, Parent
Alicia Giles, Parent
Robyn Plunkett, Secretary
Ryan Barnett-Cowan, Chair
Leonardo Santos, Parent

Regrets

Jen Cooper, Teacher Representative

Areas of Discussion

Fundraising Update

1. Forms have been sent home for our two fall fundraisers, Vesey's Bulbs and Farm Food Baskets. Forms are due back next week. Distribution of the farm boxes is to be determined.
2. The move-a-thon will be our third major fundraiser, which will occur in the winter or spring.

Principal's update

3. Professional development days are front-loaded this year. On Friday Sept. 21, the teachers reviewed our EQAO results and in the afternoon time was allotted for teachers to complete various on-line training modules (WHMIS etc.).
4. The staff is planning to hold a multi-cultural night in April.
5. Intermediate/Junior boys' football and girls' soccer seasons have started.
6. Grade 7 immunizations will be occurring this fall.
7. Caribou Math: Students will have a practice test in class and those who demonstrate proficiency in math and who are interested in writing the test are invited to do so in mid-October.
8. LPS is a registered voting site for the municipal elections on October 22. Voting will occur in the gym. Robyn will organize a group of volunteers to sit at the school entrance and invite voters directly into the gym (and away from the remainder of the school).
9. A Remembrance Day assembly for the school and community will be held on *Monday November 12*.
10. The school population has remained relatively stable from last year. We had approximately 50 new students register over the summer.
11. A new residential development will be coming beside the fire hall. Any questions or concerns about the development can be directed to municipal council.
12. Feedback on the meet the teacher night in September is requested. Also held in September were the Terry Fox Walk and Orange Shirt Day.
13. Binary Tattoo will be holding assemblies for our junior and intermediate students to highlight cyber safety and the permanence of our digital fingerprint. A parent night will be held on Oct 17.

Staffing Updates

14. We have four teachers on maternity leave. Return dates remain to be confirmed.
15. We have no VP this year.
16. We have three second-year student teachers from WLU this year. They will be spending Tuesdays and Wednesdays at LPS for the year and will have several longer teaching blocks; the first of which will begin after Thanksgiving. Their expertise is in music, French, and primary/junior.

Curriculum Updates

17. Parts of the health curriculum have reverted from the 2010 version to the 1998 version as per the provincial government. Goals of health education continue to include safe spaces, promote the value of each students, and cybersafety. Digital literacy and safety will be discussed although it will be excluded from the report

card. The provincial government is asking for consultation on the curriculum and encourages parental participation.

18. The WRDSB has added Indigenous understanding and knowledge as a priority. Indigenous additions to history and social studies have occurred.

EQAO Results

19. LPS had strong 2018 results. For the grade three test takers, 100% of students met the provincial targets in reading, 98% in writing and 96% met the targets in math. For the grade sixes, 91% scored at or above the provincial target (provincial average=82%) in reading, in writing 92% and 72% in math (provincial average=49). Despite a high percentage of students attaining a Level three (provincial target) in reading and math, we would like to see the number of students exceeding the target (Level four) increase.
20. For the grade three's, 2% are designated as special education (includes students historically identified as gifted) and 44% have a first language other than English. For the grade sixes, 21% have special education needs and 34% have a first language other than English.
21. Students who are exempted from the test (those will limited knowledge of English or academic abilities) are still included in the scores to promote score reporting transparency across the province.
22. Over time, the scores for our grade students have generally increased. The provincial math scores have seen a decline, hence the provincial focus on math.
23. Individual families will receive their student's scores later this week.

WRAPSC/Pro Grant

24. The WRAPSC

    (https://www.wrdsb.ca/our-schools/get-involved/wrapsc/) welcomes parents from any school to attend their meetings, which are often very engaging and insightful. LPS is able to send one voting member from our council, if you are interested in attending, please let Ryan know.

25. We have not yet heard whether we will receive funds to hold our mental wellness evening.

Treasurer's Report

26. Karen has just received the final numbers from last year; a budget will be following.

Ways to grow parent council and parent engagement

27. Children are welcome to come to the meetings if child care would otherwise prevent a barrier to a parent's attendance. They can bring a laptop to watch a movie in a corner of the library.

28. Monthly coffee-mornings will be held at LPS this year after the morning drop-offs. Joanne will take the lead on organizing this event which will take place in the library.
29. Strong-start (literacy program) will be starting for our SKs and grade ones. Volunteers are required; those interested can contact Joanne or the school office.
30. Events to consider moving forward: Possibility of a sports night to engage parents with their children.

Start-time for meetings

31. A vote was held to determine the start time of the PC meetings for the remainder of the year. A 6:30pm start time won with a large majority of the votes. The meetings will continue to run on the first Monday of the month, with the exception of January.

Election for Council Positions for the 2018-19 School year

32. Ryan Barnett-Cowan, Karen Radcliff, and Robyn Plunkett agreed to put their names forward to continue in the positions of chair, treasurer, and secretary, respectively. Ryan is beginning her third 2-year term as chair but will not be available to chair in the 2019-20 school year and therefore requested a co-chair for this school year. Alaa Kabbani, a new parent to the LPS community, agreed to put her name forward as a co-chair for the year. The vote fully supported the placement of all members named in the executive for the year.

Other items

33. The teachers' collective agreement expires August 31, 2019. Some negotiations will begin during the school year.
34. Over the past few years, the Laurelwood Neighbourhood Association has held a Halloween night for the community in our school gym on the Friday before Halloween. We have not yet heard whether this event will be happening this year.
35. Halloween: Students can come dressed in a costume (no masks or violent costumes) and the 7/8s will have a dance.

Action Items

1. Joanne: Parent Engagement Coffee Mornings
2. Robyn: Election Day Volunteers
3. Karen: 2018-19 PC Budget
4. Ryan and Alaa: Farm box distribution plan

Upcoming dates

- **October 9** Fundraising forms due
- **October 17** Binary Tattoo assembly and parent night
- **October 22** Municipal election
- **October 31** Halloween (costume day)
- **November 12** Remembrance Day ceremony

Upcoming Meetings

LPS Parent Council: November 5, 2018, School library

WRAPSC meeting dates for the 2018-19 school year held at Forest Heights Collegiate Institute are:

- October 2, 2018
- November 6, 2018
- January 8, 2019
- February 5, 2019
- April 9, 2019
- May 7, 2019