

## LPS Parent Council Meeting

Monday 11-05-2018

School Library, 6.30-7.45pm

### Attendees

Peter Berndt, Principal, LPS  
Alaa Kabbani, Parent/Chair  
Jennifer Cooper, Teacher representative  
Karen Radcliff, Parent/Treasurer  
Robyn Plunkett, Parent/Secretary  
Julie Forsyth, Parent  
Joanne St Jean Parrow, Parent  
Clare Plumtree, Parent  
Sharni Holdom, Parent  
Jill Tausky, Parent  
Rebecca Loach, Parent  
Anna Milojevic, Parent  
Aidin Taub, Parent

### Regrets

Ryan Barnett-Cowan, Parent/Chair

### Minutes

#### 1. Welcome

Introductions were made. As new co-chair of Parent Council, Alaa would be chairing the meeting in Ryan's absence.

#### 2. Fundraising update

##### a. Bulbs/Farm baskets

Karen noted that two bank deposits have been made, totalling approximately \$4k, but that expenses were yet to be paid. Bulb orders have now gone home to parents. The Fresh from the Farm delivery is expected on November 19<sup>th</sup>. As the orders will be too heavy for children to carry, a communication will go out to parents asking that orders be collected from the school. Volunteers are needed on the 19<sup>th</sup> from about 12pm to help sort the orders. Anyone interested in helping should contact Alaa.

##### b. Move-a-thon

No news to report.

A further possible fundraising opportunity is a rain barrel sale. This will be investigated further.

#### 3. Principal/Teacher/SCIS update

Peter welcomed Jennifer Cooper to the meeting as the teacher representative, who provided the following updates.

- Preparations for the Remembrance Day assembly are in progress. This promises to be a very special event with musical contributions from the choirs and primary grades. All students will attend a service starting at 11:20 am and at 7:00 pm, Laurelwood staff and student musicians invite families and community to an “Evening of Remembrance”.
- A hands-on photography course took place recently, which saw a lot of student interest.
- December 3-7 will be the week of giving. There will be an assembly each day with a specific focus, namely Munchkin Monday, Toiletries Tuesday, Woolly Wednesday, Turkey Thursday and Foodbank Friday. A letter will be sent to parents in advance with further details and requests for donations. There will be guest speakers at the assemblies and friendly competitions, e.g. which class can gather the most donations. Teachers will attend the first planning meeting on Wednesday this week.
- The Halloween bake sale raised \$850 for UNICEF.
- “Can-a-day” was extremely successful; Ms Alcock’s class collected a particularly impressive 407 cans.
- A “global gala” to recognise cultural diversity is being planned for April 10<sup>th</sup>. The idea is to give families a venue in which to celebrate their culture. To do this, the school will be divided into different “continents”, housing stalls to represent different cultures. It is hoped to have performances, music, food, and perhaps even a fashion show. More details will follow in due course.
- Working with the University Gates nursing home, the school’s CHEER ensemble (Children Helping Elders Engage Rejoicing) will be visiting the residents throughout December to engage in group singing.
- Recycling collections continue to take place.
- Sports: the school’s soccer teams have had great success recently with girls’ team reaching the finals of a local competition and the boys’ team reaching the semi-finals. Volleyball is now up and running in the school.

Peter provided the following updates.

- Volunteers to steward the main and gym entrances during the municipal elections on October 22<sup>nd</sup> were not needed as municipal staff were provided.
- The Binary Tattoo presentations on cyber safety took place as planned.
- The PD day on October 26<sup>th</sup> covered a range of material. The day was divided into four areas, as follows:
  1. Indigenous matters, including a visit from the WRDSB indigenous consultant. Peter drew the meeting’s attention to the evolving indigenous terminology, the land acknowledgement treaty, and the relevant pages of the school planner.
  2. Math – “number talk” days will be discussed at the next Parent Council meeting.
  3. Character education – each month focuses on a different character attribute. A new school initiative is underway whereby students are leading classes on character education and creating illustrative personas, e.g. Hopeful Houdini.
  4. Staff wellness, with an emphasis on ways to reduce stress.

The next PD day on November 16<sup>th</sup> will focus on data; safe, caring and inclusive schools; and Math. The afternoon will be devoted to parent interviews.

Peter invited the meeting to review the school website and offer feedback. The following were suggested:

1. Include the attendance email address.
  2. Include photos of teachers to help identification. It was noted, however, that some teachers would not be comfortable with this and that privacy issues in general prevented photos of people being published across the school website.
  3. Include vaccination information to ensure that parents were informed of the different options.
  4. Include more information about fundraising, i.e. what we're trying to achieve and what has been achieved to date.
  5. Devote an area of the website for the students to manage themselves, e.g. the Lightning Crew. It was suggested that the newspaper club might be interested in taking this on.
  6. Look for ways to personalize the website a little more, e.g. include photos of students' artwork.
- Progress report cards will go out soon and are intended to be starting points for conversations between parents and teachers. The degrees of progression are deliberately not lettered as the categories are not intended to be attributable to grades. Rather, the three categories, "Progressing well", "Progressing with difficulty" and "Progressing very well" are assigned based on a student's ability and who they are. Parents will receive a letter with a full explanation.

#### **5. Treasurer's report**

There has been little recent activity. A deposit will be made to Prof. Jams for the February 27 Move-a-thon.

#### **6. Parent engagement**

The first coffee morning for parents on November 5<sup>th</sup> was a great success. Joanne reported that approximately 30-35 parents attended, with many staying until 10am. It is hoped to organise coffee mornings on a regular basis and change the day each month to enable as many parents as possible to attend.

#### **Actions**

1. Alaa to investigate further a rain barrel fundraising sale.