

**Parent Advisory Council Minutes**  
**Laidlaw School**  
January 23, 2023

Teams Attendance: Heather Eby, Ruth Abreu, Meaghen Jensen, Janelle Penner, Tracy Enns, Christine Louizos, Jill Cesario, Laura Speziali

Meeting began 7:06

Executive Positions: Chair – Ruth Abreu, Interim Vice Chair – Jill Cesario, Secretary – Janelle Penner, Treasurer – Tracy Enns, Social Media – Lacey Terwin, Fundraising Coordinator – Laura Speziali, Christine Louizos, Fun Lunch Coordinator – Katie Denis, Volunteer Coordinator – Karley David

**Vacant Positions: Co-Treasurer, Co-Fun Lunch Coordinator, Co-Secretary**

1. Principal's Report – Heather Eby

Discussion/Action Below:

a. School Update:

- i. 267 students: Mrs. Eby is discussing with PTSD re: plan when students outnumber space available in school, especially as enrollment continues to increase throughout the year. School unable to turn away students that are within the catchment.
- ii. New EA – Guiseppe Loculano has special training in working with kids with additional needs
- iii. Gosha Tomczyk's maternity leave begins Feb 27 – hired term teacher Hana McVicar until June 30

b. December/January Highlights:

- i. Winter Concert a success for K-4 students
- ii. PJ and Pancake Day a celebration hosted by retired staff
- iii. Report Cards distributed online before winter break
- iv. Spirit Week the last week before the break was a lot of fun for students and staff
- v. Jan 6, 2023 hosted Christmas Eve Lunch for Ukrainian students and their families
- vi. Jan 20, 2023 honoured Asian students with celebration of Lunar New Year
- vii. Facilities Directors Keri and John were invited for a walk through of the building with Mrs. Eby on January 17, 2023 to review school projects. Discussion re: replacement of glass display case with TV, gym storage door to be fixed, Zen Den regulation space and how to get those projects up and running
- viii. Jan 25, 2023 Art Expo/Band Show for Middle Years students

- ix. Basketball season underway – full roster for Gr 7/8 Boys, no interest in team for 7/8 Girls. Grade 5/6 basketball club starting shortly.

c. School Plan:

i. Four school priorities of focus for Plan 2022-2023:

1. Environmental Inquiry – Classes working to get outside as much as possible. Three teachers have connected with Momenta program for 3 full day outdoor inquiry experiences over the next few months
2. Authentic STEM based learning experiences – Mrs McGregor has VR equipment up and running. She is also working with the Gr 5/6 classes for a Moon experience for their space unit in Science. She is in Florida at a conference and excited to share her learning about STEM.
3. Mental Math Skills – Ms Skinner and Ms Aiello attending a Math PD on Jan 31; Ms. Skinner’s class is attending as a model class and participating in math activities with presenter.
4. Collaborative school community (EY to MY cross grade) – Students have buddies and have a scheduled period to connect with math games, reading and making personal connections

d. School Sign:

- i. Previous amount stated for Hydro bill was incorrect. Sign would likely cost \$20-30k plus \$7000 for installation. Can consider what want to do with sign possibility when electrical upgrade complete (currently waiting for parts).
- ii. Further discussion deferred.

e. Upcoming Events:

- i. Tri-conferences are Feb 2 evening and Feb 3 morning
- ii. Feb 3 Staff PD Edsby report card training with IT department and Cyber Security Training online
- iii. February “I Love to Read Month” theme “Let’s read S’more” calendar of events coming out soon
- iv. Kindergarten and Schoolwide Open House for new families evening Feb 8 at 6:00
- v. Cuddle up and Read /Pink shirt Day Feb 22

f. Questions/Concerns brought forward:

- i. Request for documents sent out by school to be PDF vs Word for cyber security
- ii. Space concerns in school with influx of new students each month; consideration of moving RINK program and/or combined Grade 7/8 classes.

2. Treasurer’s Report – Tracy Enns

- a. \$41,658.00 in PAC Chequing account (this fund can be used for school initiatives funded by PAC such as BBQ, Staff Appreciation, Grade 8 Graduation)

- b. \$30,136 in Lunch Supervision Program account (this fund pays the Lunch Supervisors)
  - c. \$10.177 in PTESF – General account
  - d. \$38.714 in PTESF - Grounds account (Money from fund has been used to fix the slide that broke a few years ago)
  - e. \*Please note the PTESF accounts are ONLY for use in the PEG (“Play, Educate Grow”) Playground Development with the mandate of improvement of the school grounds for use by students and the community.
  - f. The PTESF Grounds account must have ~\$10,000 - \$15,000 as a slush fund to ensure areas that need to be maintained or fixed can be completed in a timely manner
  - g. PLAN:
    - i. Deferred until March meeting.
3. Vacant PAC Roles 2022/2023 – Ruth Abreu
- a. Thank you to Christine Louizos for joining PAC as Co-Fundraising Coordinator!
  - b. Need to be more active in asking families to join PAC as have many members who have been on committee for many years.
  - c. Consider having a time line for PAC members to be in one position (such as two years) which allows other members to try new positions and keeps one person from getting “stuck” in a position or being the only person with the knowledge of that position
  - d. Having two members per position also appears to be a good idea to ensure one person represents position per meeting if other unable to attend.
  - e. Currently looking for individuals willing to support PAC:
    - i. Treasurers
    - ii. Co-Secretary to work with current coordinator
    - iii. Fun Lunch Coordinator to work with current coordinator
  - f. Interested individuals can email Ruth [abreurrc@gmail.com](mailto:abreurrc@gmail.com) and/or Jill [jillcesario@hotmail.com](mailto:jillcesario@hotmail.com)
  - g. PLAN: Ruth will make a flyer to add to Kindergarten package. Feb 8: Flyer for Open House (Mrs. Eby will complete a slide on PAC in the powerpoint).
4. Fun Lunch – Ruth Abreu
- a. Pizza Wednesdays have returned every Wednesday until Spring Break and then will be re-evaluated.
  - b. Fun Lunch going smoothly.
5. Lunch Program – Ruth Abreu
- a. Program running smoothly
  - b. Have enough lunch supervisors at this time.
  - c. Pembina Trails will continue trial of EA’s as Lunch Supervisors at different schools in the division – Laidlaw was NOT chosen for the trial for 2023-2024 and therefore the Lunch Supervision program will remain the same next year.

- d. Discussion of lunch supervisors running clubs for students, especially in Grade  $\frac{1}{2}$  and  $\frac{3}{4}$  as do not have clubs to attend at this time. Mrs. Eby said Lunch Supervisors have completed training and are considered staff at the school and would be able to lead clubs if Lunch Program can spare them.
  - e. PLAN: Janelle and Meghan to discuss with Flannery Polanski
- 6. Fundraising –Laura Speziali
  - a. All fundraising discussion is on hold; all fundraising discussion will be tabled until further notice.
- 7. School Improvements – Ruth Abreu
  - a. Ziplines require maintenance: PEG committee will address as this was fixed last year as well.
  - b. Heather E will follow up with Mrs. Matthews re: Bee Project and where we are at on waitlist.
  - c. Discussion re: wood chips – belief that PTSD provides the chips. PEG committee will follow up.
- 8. BBQ – Ruth Abreu
  - a. Date for BBQ changed from June 15 to June 22 due to long weekend (no school Friday June 16 and Father’s June 18)
  - b. BBQ committee request for members passed around
  - c. Discussion re: BBQ being more inclusive with pricing. Concern raised in previous meetings that cost excluded families from attending and possibility of lowering price vs free. Discussed that if PAC makes BBQ free would have to fundraise for BBQ for each year following.
  - d. Idea that all the play items (inflatables, equipment) would be free, and the other items would cost (face painting, glitter tattoos, sucker pull, treats, food)
  - e. PAC currently has the funds to pay for this from previous fundraising
  - f. Tickets can be purchased via Hot Lunch website, importance of wrist bands provided to students of the school to ensure only Laidlaw families are participating
  - g. Jill speaking to Winnipeg Party Works to reserve inflatables as it is a busy time of year. Committee will determine payment for pricing.
- 9. PEG
  - a. Suggestion to have specific committee of members to tackle PEG projects and have consistent individuals contacting Pembina Trails
  - b. Discussion: need to decide what Phase Three will entail (baseball field, running track, picnic benches, etc vs fixing Grade 7/8 area
  - c. PLAN: Separate meeting on March 13, 3023 at 6:00pm to discuss next steps
- 10. Staff Appreciation – Ruth Abreu
  - a. Sub-Committee met. The following plan was made:
    - i. Feb 6 – Posters put up in Break room with treat with coffee (Tim Hortons)

- ii. Monday Feb 13 – Candy Bar
  - iii. Friday Feb 24 – Boston Pizza Lunch
- b. Budget based on 2021 year (\$610.00) but may exceed
- c. No fundraising required.

11. Questions/Concerns:

- a. Question regarding parents volunteering in the classroom and whether that is an option now (post-covid). Parents to contact teacher for permission re: same.

12. Meeting adjourned 8:35pm.

13. Next PAC Meeting March 13, 2023 at 7:00pm.