

**Parent Advisory Council Minutes**  
**Laidlaw School**  
March 13, 2023

Attendance: Heather Eby, Ruth Abreu, Meaghen Jensen, Janelle Penner, Tracy Enns, Laura Speziali, Ashley Abbott, Amy Vokey

Meeting began 7:03

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, Pizza Lunch Coordinator – Ashley Abbott, 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. 275 students – new registrations continue to come in.
- ii. Mr. Poggi accepted position at PTC for September 2023/2024

b. December/January Highlights:

- i. Ms. Aiello and Ms. Skinner attended Math PD with 3/4CS class
- ii. Parent Teacher Conferences Feb 2-3 piloting the new Edsby Scheduler
- iii. PD afternoon Feb 3 – focus on Cyber Security Awareness online course and use of Edsby for report cards
- iv. February's "I Love to Read" Month theme was "Let's read S'more" with several different activities throughout the month. Ended with visit from Elder Winston and Storyteller Duncan and s'mores around the new fire pit
- v. Open House for Kindergarten and R1 families Feb 8 – approximately 30 families in attendance but most interested in kindergarten. Next year will focus solely on Kindergarten.
- vi. Cuddle Up and Read – Feb 22 (return of an annual tradition at Laidlaw) – well received and enjoyed by a variety of families K-3/4
- vii. Gr 7/8 Boys Basketball season went very well.
- viii. Indigenous Student Group is meeting with our new school Knowledge Keeper, Mahihkan, building on their own understandings of their culture to eventually share with the rest of the school.
- ix. Momenta Foresthood Program for out K and 1/2 students has been postponed due to cold weather, but will have first experience March 14.
- x. Grade 5/6 students had a Used Book Sale to raise \$700 for the Turkey Earthquake relief efforts.

- xi. Newly renovated “Zen Den” regulatory space – new flooring and paint, just awaiting furniture
  - xii. Ukeleles hanging up in the music room – purchased 6 more to make a set of 30
  - xiii. Provincial assessments completed for Grade 3 ELA/Numeracy and Grade 7 Numeracy and Grade 8 ELA. Data sent to the board office to analyze with Divisional data.
- 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. Many STEM projects – Grade 3/4 musical instruments, Grade 7 3D bookmarks. STEM Club continues at lunchtime with Ms. McGregor.
    3. Mental Math Skills – PD Day April 14 Two divisional math consultants will be working with the staff to provide strategies to improve mental math skills.
    4. Collaborative school community (EY to MY cross grade) – Students continue to meet with buddies and have a scheduled period to connect with math games, reading and making personal connections.
- d. Upcoming Events:
- i. March 17 – PD Day: Report card writing day
  - ii. March 24 – Report Cards go live on Edsby AND Report Card Viewer
  - iii. March 27-31 – Spring Break – no school for staff or students
  - iv. April 7 – Good Friday – no school
  - v. April 10 – Divisional Staffing Binder meeting – decisions regarding staffing and class creations begin after this meeting
  - vi. April 11 and 19 = TIMS (Trends in Math and Science Assessment) online assessment for Grade 4 students only
  - vii. April 14 – All Staff PD Day Focus on Literacy/STEM and Mental Math
- e. Questions/Concerns brought forward:
- i. Multi-Age classes for Grade 7/8
  - ii. concerns in school with influx of new students each month;
  - iii. division may consider moving RINK program in the future (going year by year)

2. Treasurer’s Report – Tracy Enns

- a. \$37,464.00 in PAC Chequing account (this fund can be used for school initiatives funded by PAC such as BBQ, Staff Appreciation, Grade 8 Graduation)

- b. \$21,516 in Lunch Supervision Program account (this fund pays the Lunch Supervisors)
  - c. All parents need to pay Fun Lunch Fees as soon as possible.
- 3. Vacant PAC Roles 2022/2023 – Ruth Abreu
  - a. 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
  - b. Interested individuals can email Ruth [abreurr@gmail.com](mailto:abreurr@gmail.com) and/or Jill [jillcesario@hotmail.com](mailto:jillcesario@hotmail.com)
- 4. Fun Lunch – Ashley Abbott
  - a. Pizza Wednesdays have returned every Wednesday until Spring Break and then will be re-evaluated. Permission from Heather Eby to continue Pizza Wednesday after Spring Break.
  - b. We need someone to volunteer to learn the Fun Lunch website from Katie as soon as possible to pass along that knowledge. Discussion regarding purchase of more updated site in future.
  - c. Discussion regarding option to return to Grade 8's providing pizza by the slice vs individual pizzas (changed due to COVID)
  - d. Discussion regarding need for Grade 8's to take ownership of assisting with Pizza Wednesdays as money is for their graduation.
  - e. Grade 8 classes continue to grow – consideration of PAC donating an amount “per head” vs amount per class (Example: previous years PAC donated up to \$800 for graduation. Consider provide \$35/graduate instead)
  - f. Shortage of Volunteers to provide lunches to classrooms.
- 5. Lunch Program – Ruth Abreu
  - a. Program running smoothly
  - b. Require four more Lunch Supervisors – please contact Flannery Polanski at [polanski1@shaw.ca](mailto:polanski1@shaw.ca)
  - c. Flannery asked for email to be sent with reminders to parents about paying for the second half of lunch supervision. Email to be sent this week.
  - 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: Due to lack of supervisors available to cover outdoors, will defer Craft Clubs for Grades 1-4 until next fall. Discuss in September.
- 6. Fundraising –Laura Speziali
  - a. Discussion of purchase of a basketball net through PEG funds for the Grade 7/8 door.

- b. 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. Discussion re: wood chips – belief that PTSD provides the chips. PEG committee will follow up.
  - c. Defer discussion re: Bee Apiaries
8. BBQ – Ruth Abreu
- a. Committee formed since last meeting
  - b. Bouncers/inflatables booked with Winnipeg Party Works and paid for
  - c. Smoke n’ Bob’s confirmed as vendor. Issues with quantity last year discussed with vendor. PLAN: Encourage individuals to pay in advance for food as only limited amount will be available to be purchased on the day.
  - d. Date for BBQ changed from June 15 to June 22 due to long weekend (no school Friday June 16 and Father’s Day June 18)
  - e. 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.
  - f. Discussion regarding use of fundraised funds for BBQ and purpose of funds raised.
  - g. Meaghan (and Renee) volunteered to purchase items for ice cream/food that is sold separately at BBQ.
9. Questions/Concerns:
- a. Mrs. Eby mentioned teacher requests from PAC were initially for furniture and have been rescinded due to lack of space in the classroom.
  - b. Mrs. Eby mentioned need for art in office area as current art is property of Jacqui Kroeker. Discussed desire for five framed pictures. Meaghan will look into cost and pricing.
10. Meeting adjourned 8:38pm.
11. Next PAC Meeting April 24, 2023 at 7:00pm.