

Linden Meadows Parent Advisory Council

MINUTES

NOVEMBER 20, 2024 6:30PM

LM LIBRARY

<b>FACILITATOR</b>	Crystal Henderson, Chair		
<b>TYPE OF MEETING</b>	Parent Council Meeting		
<b>NOTE TAKER</b>	Stephanie Krcadinac		
<b>CALLED TO ORDER</b>	6:31 PM		
<b>ATTENDEES</b>	Crystal Henderson, Richard Fyfe, Angela Kuzminski, Denise Stephenson, Christin Chiapetta, Michelle Barclay, Darren Oughton, Daley Roybal, Nina Wang, Lisa Fang, Gillian Romeo, Kim Padua, Jessica Classen		
<b>REGRETS</b>	Tara Liu		
<b>MOTIONS</b>	<b>FIRST</b>	<b>SECOND</b>	<b>MOTION PASSED</b>
Motion to accept April 2024 PAC meeting minutes	Christin	Richard	Yes
Motion to agree that PAC will set aside \$400 annually to sponsor the grade 8 grad initiatives. We would ask that PAC be recognized for their sponsorship.	Crystal	Christin	Yes
Motion made to move to spend \$200 per classroom, in the new year (2025) proving to budget to augment our childrens classrooms with special equipment to be determined by the classroom teacher.	Crystal	Richard	Yes

Crystal called the meeting to order. This is the last meeting of 2024 (No December meeting)

ADMINISTRATION UPDATE - DARREN OUGHTON/MICHELLE BARCLAY

Admin Report

1. Enrolment (currently) 443 students

K	28 (14 & 14)
Gr. 1/2	84 (4 classrooms with 21-23 kids/class)
Gr. 3/4	98 (4 classrooms with 24-25 kids/class)
Gr. 5/6	119 (5 classrooms with 23-25 kids/class)
Gr. 7/8	114 (5 classrooms with 22-25 kids/class)

2. Staffing Update

- Mrs. Christina Hengen will continue as the term teacher during Ms Johnston's absence.
- Ms Sumera Begun has been hired as a new .5 EA
- University teacher candidates have started their fall teaching blocks and will be in the classes daily until December 13<sup>th</sup>.
  - Ms Shawe Tremblay with 1/2 Barnes
  - Ms Mackenzie Krietz with 1/2 Refvik
  - Ms Nina Bakija with 3/4 MacHutchon
  - Ms Riviera Cianflone with 5/6 Cleave

### 3. Curriculum and Learning

- Outdoor Learning Days are taking place monthly rain, snow or shine. -27 temp will be the only thing that would cancel it. Lots of research on the benefits of learning outdoors. Studies show:

#### **1. Improvement in Academic Achievement**

**Enhanced Engagement and Retention:** increased engagement, focus, and interest in academic content, especially in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) fields. Learning in real-world contexts helps students retain information longer and relate it to practical applications.

**Boosts in Math, Science, and Reading:** Research indicates that outdoor learning programs positively impact subjects like math, science, and reading by encouraging experiential and inquiry-based learning.

#### **2. Improved Physical and Mental Health**

**Physical Health:** Outdoor learning encourages physical activity, which can reduce the risks of obesity, diabetes, and cardiovascular diseases. Children who engage in outdoor learning often demonstrate better physical endurance and coordination.

**Mental Well-Being:** Exposure to nature has been linked to reduced stress, anxiety, and depression. Time outdoors is associated with improved mood, better self-esteem, and a reduction in symptoms of ADHD. Nature-rich settings have a calming effect that fosters emotional resilience and reduces burnout.

#### **3. Social and Emotional Development**

**Teamwork and Communication:** Outdoor learning frequently involves group tasks, fostering teamwork, communication skills, and peer bonding. These collaborative environments help children develop empathy, patience, and conflict resolution skills.

**Independence and Confidence:** Engaging in tasks outside the classroom helps students build confidence and self-reliance. Whether they are completing a nature walk, setting up a tent, or identifying plants, students feel a sense of accomplishment and independence, which translates into greater confidence in other areas of life.

#### **4. Environmental Stewardship and Sustainability**

Outdoor learning experiences increase environmental awareness and foster stewardship in young people. When students spend time outdoors, they become more attuned to environmental issues and are more likely to engage in pro-environmental behaviors.

Studies also show that students who participate in outdoor education programs develop more sustainable habits, such as recycling, conservation efforts, and understanding ecological systems.

#### **5. Behavioral and Cognitive Benefits**

**Enhanced Attention and Focus:** Research indicates that time spent in natural settings improves attention spans and reduces hyperactivity. Outdoor learning environments help reduce "nature deficit disorder" and are especially beneficial for children with attention-related difficulties.

**Critical Thinking and Problem-Solving Skills:** Nature-based activities often involve open-ended tasks that encourage children to explore, hypothesize, and test solutions. This fosters creativity, flexible thinking, and problem-solving skills, preparing students for complex problem-solving in various subjects.

- .Report writing day is December 6. The reports will be available online for parents on December 18<sup>th</sup>
- Winter Concert is December 11. There will be matinee and evening shows.

- Division will be providing additional devices for translation purposes to support Stage 1 EAL students. We will be receiving approximately 35 of these devices.

### CHAIR REPORT – CRYSTAL HENDERSON

Donor recognition project for those who donated over \$100 for the playground (the playground installed in 2024), work in progress (Potential January 2025 install for the donor recognition project)

Grade 8 grad - there has been a request for a reception after the ceremony so families have a chance to mingle. Discussion about PAC supporting this initiative. Motion was brought forward and passed. PAC will be setting aside \$400 annually to sponsor the grade 8 grad initiatives. We would ask that PAC be recognized for their sponsorship.

Discussion about initiatives that PAC can sponsor to improve the school. Ideas as follows:

- Teacher requests for items that could make the lives of their students better, or a project they'd like to complete for their class
- Discussed \$200 per classroom
- Crystal will discuss with admin the logistics
- Angela will look into designing/cost/etc of ordering a PAC sticker for these initiatives in each classroom

Motion made to spend \$200 per classroom, in the new year (2025) to augment our childrens classrooms with special equipment to be determined by the classroom teacher.

Ways to Get involved with PAC

- PAC members at large
- Help with décor at events
- Shadow a position – this is your chance to learn

Email us at [lindenmeadowspac@gmail.com](mailto:lindenmeadowspac@gmail.com)

Follow us on IG: @lindenmeadowspac

### VICE CHAIR REPORT – TARA LIU

No report this week

### TREASURER REPORT – RICHARD FYFE

No report this week

### COMMUNICATIONS REPORT – ANGELA KUZMINSKI

Over 100 followers on IG (more every week)

75 posts since we started over a year ago

### FUNDRAISING REPORT –

Lisa Fang & Nina Wang

Kernels fundraising – discussion on how to simplify this system

Crystal will discuss with potential volunteers behind the scenes to discuss logistics

Lisa attended EAL night on behalf of PAC last month

- Not a lot of people in attendance, but very valuable for those that were
- Lots of new EAL families had questions about superlunch, PAC was present with information
- Option to request to the PAC mailbox if you would like the written instructions on how to sign up for super lunch. (We can send them to you and you can have them translated)

Discussion on bringing in a new fundraiser – cookie dough. Will re-discuss after Christmas.

SOCAL REPORT – DENISE STEPHENSON

Spring fling is in the works

BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS REPORT – GILLIAN ROMEO

Reasonable request for a small budget to update the holiday display planters in front.

SUPER LUNCH REPORT - CHRISTIN CHIAPETTA/HEATHER GROWER

No report

NEW BUSINESS/ROUNDTABLE

Next Meeting: January 15 @ 6:45pm.

No meeting in December.

Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 7:37pm.