

Linden Meadows Parent Advisory Council

MINUTES

SEPTEMBER 20, 2023 6:30PM

LM LIBRARY

FACILITATOR	Crystal Henderson, Chair		
TYPE OF MEETING	Parent Council Meeting		
NOTE TAKER	Angela Kuzminski		
CALLED TO ORDER	6:30 PM		
ATTENDEES	Crystal Henderson, Angela Kuzminski, Richard Fyfe, Heather Grower, Kelly Buss, Saniya Riyaz, Jen Franklin, Daley Roybal, Jen Nichols, Anam Farooqui, Stephanie Kreadinac, Rex Lee, Olga Levkovsky, Zoe Zheng, Allison Zegalski, Jasmine Zhu, Ting Song, Ling Xiao, Qijiao Song, Yingying Liu, Abhijeet Ranga, Kim Padua, Christine Schaffer-Kelly, Michelle Barclay, and Darren Oughton.		
REGRETS	Laurel Harrison, Tara Liu, Denise Stephanson, Jaclyn Vande Graaf, Christin Chiappetta		
MOTIONS	FIRST	SECOND	MOTION PASSED
Motion to accept the AGM meeting minutes (May 2023)	Alison Zegalski	Christine Schaffer-Kelly	Yes

INTRODUCTION

- Crystal provided all new members an introduction to Linden Meadows PAC
 - Included a high-level description of all of our past and re-occurring an introduction of the PAC Executive

ADMINISTRATION UPDATE - DARRIN OUGHTON/MICHELLE BARCLAY

- Enrolment (currently) 453 students
 - K 32 (16 & 16)
 - Gr. 1/2 84 (4 classrooms with 20-22 kids/class)
 - Gr. 3/4 100 (4 classrooms with 25 kids/class)
 - Gr. 5/6 113 (5 classrooms with 22-23 kids/class)
 - Gr. 7/8 124 (5 classrooms with 24-26 kids/class)
- Staffing Update
 - Shane Watson^{NEW}: .75 in grade 3/4 and 7/8 (.417 in grade 7/8 and .333 in grade 3/4 MacHutchon)
 - Andrea Holian^{NEW}: Kindergarten teacher
 - Jessica Jones: moved from grade 3/4 and is now grade 5/6
 - EA additions: Koleen Safiniuk, Emma Leipsic, Janeen Price and Nasir Ahmad

- 4 teacher candidates from the University of Winnipeg and University of Manitoba working with our grade 7/8 team, 5/6 Wyant, and the Phys. Ed Team
- Facilities / Equipment Update
 - Library shelving and reconfiguration to make it more user friendly
 - New furniture (rectangle tables)
 - Organized books by genre
 - All books will be returned on Day 4 (library books are taken out on Day 5 and 6)
 - Monkey bars were painted by PAC parents (Crystal and Christine)
 - Bulkhead in main hallway in front of the library was repaired
 - YMCA has expanded their service and now have 45 students (using three classrooms) and there is still a waiting list
 - Deli will be reopening at the end of September and students have been asked to hand in their applications to assist with the deli
- Curriculum and Learning
 - Grade 4- 6 cross country (Marj Edey Park)
 - Grade 7 – 8 cross country (Labarriere Park)
 - Volleyball teams have been formed (3 boy teams and 2 girl teams) and LM is hosting many of the games this year
 - Lunch hour clubs have commenced again (Student Leadership, UNESCO team, Dance Club, etc.)
 - More clubs will be added as the weather cools (like chess and STEM club)
 - If children come to administration with an idea for a club, they try to accommodate
 - Teachers are starting to plan their field trips
 - School has decided to pay per trip vs a flat rate
 - Where applicable the school is trying to cover costs of bus, etc. to help subsidize the cost of a field trip for parents
 - Grade 7 and 8 students will participate in a band trip, art trip, or freeze frame productions (this will be on October 10 / 11)
 - Grade 7/8 term rotations have students participating in either Foods & Nutrition, Outdoor Education or Graphic Arts. Students will move through these every three months
 - 5/6 have a rotation between Foods & Nutrition, Electronics, and STEM.
 - We received \$25,000 in grants last year and again this year to purchase materials to continue to develop the STEM programming and the lab (e.g., 3-D printers, sublimation printer, bottle rocket, etc.)
 - Strong Beginnings will be on September 21 and 22nd
 - Additional numeracy support is being provided in Grades 5 and 6 by Ms. McGavin. There will be nine dedicated periods to support classes and students.
 - Linden Meadows will be fostering a learning partnership with a school from the remote northern community of Manto Sipi Cree Nation.
 - We have an opportunity to participate in the 2024 – 2025 Cultural Exchange with Setagaya, Japan.
 - Exchange program that started at General Byng School

- Involves hosting students from Setagaya for 7 – 14 days at the end of September 2024 and then LM and GB students visit Japan in January in 2025 for the same duration.
 - September 29th will be our Every Child Matters Orange shirt day assembly
 - Our Indigenous Education Focus team is planning learning opportunities for Truth and Reconciliation
 - The school inquiry topic will be based on the UNESCO Sustainable Goal “Life on Land”
 - Jenn Stewart is planning to organize pottery making for Empty Bowls
 - Tri Conferences will be on October 17 and 19th from 3:30 pm – 7:30 pm
 - Pizza lunches will begin next week
- Richard asked about the class formations
 - Darren advised that previously, teachers would sit down and start to add student names on sticky notes to a poster board based on gender, learning needs, etc.
 - Now they are using a software system that takes all the notes into consideration and is stored electronically
 - Lists were reviewed by all teachers several times during this process
 - Teachers have input and they are trying to find good fit friends who students work well with in a classroom setting.
 - Strong emphasis on developing children socialization skills and encouraging students to make new friends. More friendship they can build the more likely they will have a connection in high school
 - Grade 5 – 8 students were asked to state who they want to be in a class with and that information is now also stored in the system
 - Can balance out students needs
 - If teachers label an arrangement as mandatory it has to happen and teachers can also override decisions
- Kelly asked about after school sports
 - There will be 7:15 – 8:15 am (practice), there is also another practice at the end of the day
 - Lunch hour practice for cross country
 - We could be doubling up in the evening, but that has not happened yet
 - Schedules were made up to accommodate all the different bell times across the division
- Crystal inquired about early dismissal for students who are bused
 - Darren stated that bus kids should not be getting out of class early
 - The first bus will depart at 3:05 pm. Bus will be there from 3:00 – 3:05 pm
 - Question was asked if the bell time change is permanent, and Darren indicated we don’t know if this is temporary

CHAIR REPORT – CRYSTAL HENDERSON

- Many of the events that occurred last year will be planned again for the new school year including the Spring Fling and Carnival
- Focus this year is fundraising for the new play structure that will be built where the former play structure was (Northeast corner of the school yard)
 - Design was shared with attendees and informed that the structure will cost \$100,000
- We hope to host teacher appreciation, Spring Fling, etc.
- We do have a full executive, but we would like to recruit Members at Large, this would be parents who do not want to hold a permanent position but want to run one event like the Spring Fling
- Babysitting services during PAC meetings
 - Students in grades 7 and 8 would babysit children in the gym
 - In prior years, students applied for this job and were paid
- Lindenwoods Fall Classic is looking for volunteers

VICE CHAIR REPORT – TARA LIU

- No report presented this month

TREASURER REPORT – RICHARD FYFE

Last years events:

EVENT	PROFIT
Poinsettias	\$720.95
Superlunch	\$8,192.71
Popcorn	\$3,460.73
Spring Fling	\$1,649.66
Carnival	\$1,409.58
TOTAL NET PROFIT	\$15,433.63

- Spring Fling and Carnival are hosted for children of the school, and we have been able to cover costs. Both events were successful this year and extra funds were raised (see above)
- We require a base of \$5,000 in our account to cover annual operating costs

COMMUNICIONS REPORT – ANGELA KUZMINSKI

- No report presented this month

FUNDRAISING REPORT – JEN FRANKLIN/JACLYN VANDE GRAAF

- We need to raise about \$50 - \$60K to be able to fund the new play structure and we are attempting to secure some grants to support our fundraising efforts.
- We will be hosting a Pumpkin Patch on Sunday, October 1st (money will be donated to the school playground and Children's Hospital).

- 100% of proceeds will be donated
- LM school bus loop from 1:30 PM – 4:00 PM
- If we raise more than we are currently budgeting for, then we can expand the structure or we can save funds for future playground maintenance
- We will be having a cash call, where parents can scan a QR code which will allow them to make an online donation
 - Donations over \$25 will receive a tax receipt
 - If we raise \$100 per child, we can have the structure by next fall
- There will be signage by structure acknowledging large donors
- Looking for incentives, such as teacher parking and front row seating for concerts, WPG jet tickets, etc.
- Signage ideas (leaves on a tree in the school), handprints on tiles
- Signage by the butterfly garden is quite old, a suggestion was made to update the signage with donor

SOCAL REPORT – DENISE STEPHENSON

- No report presented this month.

BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS REPORT - CHRISTINE SCHAFFER-KELLY

- Monkey bars were painted over the summer
- Extra paint was used to paint anything that required touchups
- Christine explained how funds we raise go towards beautifying the school grounds, including all the flower beds, shrubs, and ongoing watering

SUPER LUNCH REPORT - CHRISTIN CHIAPETTA/HEATHER GROWER

- Booster Juice, Subway, and chips costs increased since last year, but Boston Pizza remained the same
- Ongoing focus to keep markups to a minimum
- First Superlunch is on Thursday, October 12th and will be Boston pizza (then every two weeks, alternating with Subway)
- Email will be sent on Monday with all information parents need to sign up
- Orders can be placed one term at a time and are due the Saturday before the lunch

NEW BUSINESS/ROUNDTABLE

- No new business

Next Meeting: Wednesday, October 11th, 2023

Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 7:36PM