

Parent Advisory Council Minutes
Laidlaw School
April 8, 2024
Start Time: 7:01 PM

Attendance: Heather Eby, Ruth Abreu, Meaghen Jensen, Tracy Enns, Jill Cesario Correia, Laura Speziali, Thomas Rempel-Ong

Executive Positions: Chair – Ruth Abreu, Vice Chair – Jill Cesario Correia, Secretary – Meaghen Jensen, Treasurer – Tracy Enns, Fundraising Coordinator – Laura Speziali & Christine Louizos, Fun Lunch Coordinator – Ashley Abbott

Vacant Positions: Treasurer (2), Fun Lunch Coordinator (1), Secretary (1), Co-Chair 2024/2025 (1), Social Media (1)

Principal's Report – Heather Eby

- a. School Update:
 - i. 287 student enrollment
 - ii. 2024-2025 school year will have same configuration of classes & classrooms as 2023-2024
- b. Feb/March Highlights:
 - i. **Library** – I love to read went public with our spotlight on the CTV Morning news. Our students were thrilled to be on TV. Our theme of “Enchanted Pages: Blazing Adventures into the Year of the Dragon” was full of activities, multicultural learning, reading challenges and more.
 - ii. **French** – Our Festival du Voyageur Day on February 28 was a huge success! The students loved all the stations and we were able to participate despite the colder weather. We hope to make this an annual event.
 - iii. **Laidlaw Athletics** – Basketball season was another celebration for Laidlaw this year, with two gr.7/8 boys basketball teams coached by Ms. Zajac and Mr. Chin and Mr. Pollock. The gr.7/8 girls had recreational practices and games with Ms. Hiraoka and Ms. McLeod and our grade 5/6 students that were keen, participated in a friendly tournament within our division. Badminton season is now underway with gr.7 and 8 students invited to play against other PT schools. New Basketball Jerseys and shorts are being ordered for the 2024-25 season!

- iv. **Intramurals** – Our new 4-8 run club continues in the mornings and lunch hours, along with intramurals for gr.3/4 and 5/6 badminton intramurals!
 - v. Another win for Laidlaw this winter was our first ever **MY Winter Activity Day** on February 22nd. Holiday Mountain hosted 45 of our Laidlaw gr.5-8 students (mostly gr.7/8), Fort Whyte winter fun had over 60 students participating and our Laidlaw Stay and Chill group enjoyed winter activities and smores here at school. We are hoping to offer this again next year!
 - vi. Our **Gr.7/8 Art/Band overnight camp at Camp Assiniboia** was sadly cancelled. We had an even 40 students sign up, so we know the interest is there. Unfortunately, we needed closer to 60 in order to afford the accommodations. We are going to review this for next year, perhaps a spring or fall event.
 - vii. R1 Hockey Academy program is still building interest. Registrations are slowly coming in.
 - viii. Report Cards went out before the break. There are still a few bugs with Edsby but the teachers are appreciating the new system, the developers of the report cards just need to iron out a few more glitches to make it perfect! Any feedback from parents is appreciated.
- c. Teacher Professional Development:
- i. April 19th is our next PD day. Our focus is on Outdoor Education, Environmental Inquiry and Land-based learning in preparation for our Walking Trail and encouraging more teachers to get their students learning outside. Our whole staff will be involved as we go off site to Fort Whyte Alive.
 - ii. Teachers are continuing to work in their Professional Learning teams on Literacy and Natural Curiosities.
 - iii. Our EY teachers are learning about Running Records in Math to support assessing students and pinpointing their areas of strength and stretches for best instructional practice.
- d. “Flex Time” Update:
- i. Our EY and MY students have combined their FLEX time these past two months to create more options for them to choose from, build relationships with older students, and develop leadership opportunities to have the older students help the younger ones.
 - ii. Plans are to continue with this program for next year. We will be doing some staff and student reflections to build on what we have developed. The proof of success is in the positive school climate and happy faces in the school.

School Plan Priorities for 2023/24:

- Environmental Inquiry: Through outdoor learning experiences, students will develop inquiry and critical thinking skills while making personal connections to the land and developing their knowledge of indigenous ways of knowing and learning.
- Numeracy: Students will increase their awareness and understanding of what numbers are. Students will connect numbers to real life experiences and increase their computational fluency, including the use of mental math and estimation.
- School Climate: Students will become more respectful and generous citizens of our school community, developing a strong sense of self awareness, social engagement, belonging and responsibility.
- Literacy: Students will learn to read through explicit and responsive teaching methods that include instruction of fluency, comprehension, vocabulary development, phonemic awareness and decoding words to improve upon their reading skills.

Meeting Agenda Topics

1. Treasurer's Report – Tracy Enns
 - a. \$39,091 in PAC Chequing account (this fund can be used for school initiatives funded by PAC such as BBQ, Staff Appreciation, Grade 8 Graduation)
 - b. \$24,082 in Lunch Supervision Program account
2. Fun Lunch – Laura Speziali
 - a. Looking into New website, Munch-a-Lunch, for next year. Website has option for credit card payent, which will need to be discussed at a later date.
3. Lunch Program –
 - a. Receipts went out for Lunch Program
 - b. Still looking for a 1 or 2 supervisors for the rest of the year
4. Fundraising –
 - a. Next fundraisers will collect funds to go towards LOFTS for classrooms. 10 x \$3,000 for each loft = ~\$30,000.
5. Miscellaneous/Questions/Concerns-
 - a. Teacher Librarian Position is safe in the division. Yay for Ms McGregor!

- b. BBQ wristbands will remain at \$5.00 thank to sponsors from Evan Duncan, Maple Leaf Constructin, Edge Dental & Imperial Properties
- c. Idea brought up by Mrs Eby to have Corn Hole as an option for an outdoor activity. Looking into costs to have her father build it.

-Next PAC Meeting: Monday May 27th