

Parent Advisory Council Minutes

Laidlaw School

Dec 11th, 2023

Start Time: 7:06 PM

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

Executive Positions: Chair – Ruth Abreu, Vice Chair – Jill Cesario Correia, Secretary – Meaghan 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. 279 students
 - ii. 2 New Educational Assistants (Jasmine Georgeson- full time & Solange Garson- half time kindergarten)
 - iii. Teacher are requesting new desks & LOFTS
 - iv. New Mixer is being purchased from Long & McQuade
 - v. Gym Storage room replacement postponed until winter break
 - vi. AV equipment was installed but screen was damaged in transit, so we are awaiting new screen
- b. Nov/Dec Highlights:
 - i. Classroom profile meetings were held at the beginning of November to learn more about our students and how SST can support classroom teachers. Two EAs were added to the school staff to support students in the early years.
 - ii. Teachers completed their Professional Growth plans and conversations. Lots of teachers are working on areas connected to our School Plan priorities. (Outdoor learning, indigenous education, numeracy and comprehensive literacy approaches to reading instruction)
 - iii. Our TIF grant is supporting more classrooms taking part in Momenta organized "Nature Classroom" days at the Assiniboine Forest which aligns with our Environmental inquiry school plan priority. These are half day "field trips" where the students are learning from the land and the teachers are connecting their experiences to the curriculum through inquiry, questions and hands on activities. Classrooms involved are 1/2AM, K, 3/4AB and 5/6JG

- iv. Our Indigenous Student Group(s) are also being partially funded by the grant to support our work with Mahikhan as Knowledge Keeper. They will be meeting for one-hour sessions once per month on a Thursday afternoon. Jasmine Gilchrist is working alongside Alyssa Allard to support these meetings.
 - v. **Library** - supporting schoolwide learning for Remembrance Day, lessons in digital citizenship in November, Coding in December
 - vi. **Laidlaw Athletics** – Successful 7/8 volleyball season is over which also included, gr.5/6 VB tournaments girls and boys and gr.5/6 Flag Football...December is starting Basketball season and floor hockey intramurals. Planning is in the works for a MY Winter Activity Day on February 22nd (Students will choose either downhill skiing, Fort Whyte tobogganing and snowshoeing or Frosty fun at school with cross country skiing, games and indoor crafts
 - vii. **Music** – November 10th was a beautiful Remembrance Day assembly, followed by a spectacular Winter Concert performance of “Flakes” conducted by Emma Heinrichs. Her term ends on Dec.20th with Kaylie Dangerfield returning on January 8th.
 - viii. **Community Outreach Initiatives** – Our gr.5/6 classrooms have worked on gathering old hockey equipment, Coats for Kids, cereal for Ralph Maybank school and now our Christmas Hampers. Our community's generosity continues to amaze me
- c. Teacher Professional Development:
- i. Ms. Skinner and Ms. Matthews attended a full PD Day workshop with Valdine Bjornson on “Structured Literacy” to support our work in this area at Laidlaw
 - ii. Our November 24th school PD Day was for teachers only. The morning was three sessions in rotation where EY, MY and specialists learned from our Leadership team in the areas of Numeracy assessment, Literacy with the Orton Gillingham approach and supporting all learners with Visually Rich classrooms. The afternoon was presented by Michelle Carlos and Susan Hill (divisional consultants) who shared the benefits of using AI in the classroom to support their planning and student learning.
 - iii. Part of our TIF grant was awarding the school enough substitute time and money to have five of our teachers “Foresthod Trained” which supports 5 days of training throughout the year. Amy McLeod, Alyssa Allard, Anneke Beer, Jasmine Gilchrist and Kim McGregor are the five Laidlaw teachers being trained using this grant money. Our vision and hope is to see them share their learning with any other staff that are also interested in taking their students outdoors more often in the coming years. Their first training day is December 12

- iv. December 8th was our Report Card Writing day for teachers. Laidlaw continues to be a pilot school for Edsby report cards. Charleswood has joined us with the 7/8 Practical Arts teachers, so the gr.7/8 assessments are all in one place
- d. School Plan:
We will be continuing with our school priority of “Environmental Inquiry”, “Numeracy”, “School Climate” & “Literacy”
- e. “Flex Time” Update:
Our Flex time initiative has found itself in the news!
<https://www.winnipegfreepress.com/breakingnews/2023/11/07/elementary-school-flex-time-not-wasted-say-students-teachers-and-most-parents>

Meeting Agenda Topics

1. Treasurer’s Report – Tracy Enns
 - a. \$45,885 in PAC Chequing account (this fund can be used for school initiatives funded by PAC such as BBQ, Staff Appreciation, Grade 8 Graduation)
 - b. \$23,284 in Lunch Supervision Program account
 - c. \$38,714 in PEG account.
 - d. \$23,750 in General PTESF account
2. Fun Lunch – Ruth Abreu
 - a. Some issues with late deliveries (Vendors are aware and offered some compensation)
 - b. Discussion about have a “pasta day” from boston pizza on one Monday every month
 - c. Email will be sent out this week to remind families to settle their balances on the hot lunch website
3. Lunch Program – Ruth Abreu
 - a. 2nd half payments are due
4. Fundraising –
 - a. Bake Sale was very successful (everything sold out). Total Profits: \$885.00
 - b. We Sold 95 show & save books. If we can sell the remaining 5, total profit will be \$1,250.00
 - c. No Upcoming fundraisers
 - d. Possible movie night in the Spring
 - e. 14 Microwaves were purchased for each classroom & old ones were properly disposed.

5. Miscellaneous/Questions/Concerns-

-Laidlaw wish list for PAC funds:

-9 New LOFTS (one for each class) = ~\$4,000/LOFT for a total of \$36,000

-55 New Desks (Mrs Skinner & Mrs Kyle Classroom) = ~\$400.00/Desk for a total of \$22,000.

-Laidlaw gear was distributed and we will be looking for a new company going forward due to some communication & quality issues.

-Next PAC Meeting: Jan 29th @ 7PM

Meeting Adjourned 8:18pm