

**Parent Advisory Council Minutes**  
**Laidlaw School**  
February 5th, 2025  
6:58 Start

Attendance: Heather Eby, Jill Correia, Lindsay Egan, Meaghan Jensen, Tracy Enns, Laura Speziali, Renee Johnson, Aaron Ingram, Lindsey Cunnington

Executive Positions: Chair – Jill Correia, Vice Chair – Lindsay Egan, Secretary – Meaghan Jensen & Lindsay Penman, Treasurer – Tracy Enns, Fundraising Coordinator – Laura Speziali & Christine Louizos & Ruth Abreu, Fun Lunch Coordinator – Ashley Abbott & Laura Heshka

**Vacant Positions: Treasurer (2) & Social Media (1)**

1. Principal's Report – Heather Eby  
Discussion/Action Below:

a. Staffing Update:

- i. One of our EA2's Harry Robertson has gone to half time, we are in the process of hiring for his other half for the rest of the year.
- ii. We are excited to announce three Laidlaw babies expected for the 2025-26 school year: Ms. Young, Ms. Tomczyk and Ms. Dangerfield. They plan to complete the school year if all goes well :)

b. School Update:

- i. 276 Students
- ii. School Improvement Projects:
  1. Our 8 LOFTS have arrived. Three were installed on Jan 31<sup>st</sup>. The crew will be returning during the next PD day and during spring break to complete the installation of the final 5 LOFTs.
  2. Our kiln fan died, which has created an issue regarding the newest installation codes for school kilns. B&G team came to investigate and found a solution. We will need to permanently close off the door that leads to the outside so it acts as a wall and not an exit point. All kilns must be a minimum of 18 inches from the wall in all directions. Our kiln was not to code.

c. Dec/Jan Highlights:

- i. Our "Snowtastic" winter concert was a huge success for our K-4 students on December 10<sup>th</sup>.
- ii. The cyber security incident created a temporary wrench in school routines but our staff handled it beautifully. Things have almost returned to normal.

- iii. Spirit Week was lots of fun with our annual Pancakes and Pyjamas day as well.
- iv. Report cards were published as scheduled on December 19<sup>th</sup> with Edsby.
- v. January had staff and students digging deep into curricular outcomes with project-based learning, field trips and inquiry experiences.
- vi. Our buddy classes continue to meet approximately once per cycle for learning experiences and connection.
- vii. We've had four classes participating in Forest School with an investment in sleds, hammocks, outdoor washroom facilities and of course, loose parts for students to play, explore and learn with nature.
- viii. Ms. McGregor (our TL) had students working on computational thinking and coding with Beebots, microbits and robots in the learning commons.
- ix. We have 13 gr.5/6 Laidlaw students participating in the "Wonder of Work" program running out of Oak Park on Saturdays from Jan-March.

d. Teacher Professional Development:

- i. Our Structured Literacy PLT Professional Learning Team have had three sessions learning more about the UFLI program and how to implement decoding reading strategies to support early literacy skills. We have two small groups (K- ½ and LS) and (¾ with EAL) all lead by Christie Petersen (SST).
- ii. January 31<sup>st</sup> – All teachers attended "Powerful Thinking" literacy PD with Adrienne Gear at the CMHR with four other Pembina Trails schools.
- iii. Staff meetings continue to focus on how to "Support All Learners" with featured series of PD.

e. Laidlaw Athletics:

- i. Basketball season is in full swing – Gr.8 Boys basketball team coached by Mr. Pollock and Mr. Chin, Gr.6-8 Girls basketball team coached by Ms. McLeod and Ms. Gilchrist and Gr.6/7 Boys basketball team coached by Mr. Stupak and Ms. Skelton
- ii. Floor Hockey Intramurals for gr.5-8 mixed

f. February News

- i. I love to read month activities all month! Kick off assembly was today!
- ii. Tri-conferences on Feb.4<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>
- iii. Laidlaw's Festival du Voyageur Day on February 20<sup>th</sup> for gr.5-8.

2. Treasurer's Report – Tracy Enns

- a. \$49,070 in PAC Chequing account (this fund can be used for school initiatives funded by PAC such as BBQ, Staff Appreciation, Grade 8 Graduation)

- b. \$28,105 in Lunch Supervision Program account (this fund pays the Lunch Supervisors)
  - c. \$0 in PTESF General (paid for the LOFTS)
  - d. \$15,907.92 in PTESF grounds (total cost for the pond refurbish was \$22,806)
3. Fundraising –
  - a. Total funds raised from the holiday concert bake sale was \$1,182.00
  - b. Total funds raised from the BP gift cards (for grade 8 grad) was \$165.00
  - c. Art & Band show raffle will go ahead on May 21<sup>st</sup>. Working on Liquor & lottery permit. Agreed not to ask community for donations for the baskets
4. Grade 8 Grad – Renee Johnson
  - a. Best option for food is Sorrentos (total cost will be \$1,800.00 for 30 kids + 2 guardians per + teachers, Costco pop, water, safeway cupcakes)
  - b. March 4<sup>th</sup> bake sale for grade 8 grad to be sold at lunch hour. Grade 8 parents supplying baked goods.
  - c. Renee will be purchasing 100 Laidlaw Lions Water Bottles. 30 to be given to the grads as a gift. The rest will be stored by PAC and used at a future time.
  - d. Meaghan going to do some research for table linens (renting vs purchasing). Must be fire retardant.
5. Year end BBQ (June 13<sup>th</sup>):
  - a. New vendor Willy Dogs has been booked as well as the bouncers
  - b. Aaron contacting Wacky Doodle Dance DJ to check availability.
  - c. Email will be sent out to form committee in the near future
6. Misc/Questions/Concerns:
  - a. Staff Appreciation is the month of February. Once a week in the month of February something special is planned for the Laidlaw Staff.
  - b. Lindsay willing to build a platform that acts as a central information centre for the PAC. Possibly a google drive with folders etc to make information sharing more user friendly and accessible. This is in an effort to eliminate long email chains that get lost in our inboxes. Everyone in support of this idea and Heather going to look into it and get back to us.
7. Meeting adjourned 8:15pm. Next meeting March 5<sup>th</sup>, 2025.