

Parent Advisory Council Minutes
Laidlaw School
Sept 18, 2023
Start Time: 7:00 PM

Attendance: Heather Eby, Ruth Abreu, Meaghan Jensen, Tracy Enns, Laura Speziali, Amy Vokey, Renee Johnson, Thomas Rempel-Ong, Katie Young, Whitney Bay

Executive Positions: Chair – Ruth Abreu, Vice Chair – Jill Cesario Correia, Secretary – Meaghan Jensen, Treasurer – Tracy Enns, Social Media – Lacey Terwin, 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)**

Principal's Report – Heather Eby

- a. School Update:
 - i. 275 students – Class sizes range from 19-27
 - ii. 7 new staff hired – Maria Marasco (5-8 French), Janine Zajac (Phys Ed term), Jaime Page (SST Term), Emma Heinrichs (Music term), Justen Chin (Grade 7/8), Jasmine Gilchrist (Grades 5/6), Jayden Pollock (Grades 5/6),
 - iii. New Head Custodian- William Victoria
- b. Summer & September Highlights:
 - i. Electrical upgrade has been completed
 - ii. Bulletin Boards painted Black in Hallways
 - iii. New Basketball net installed at 7/8 entrance.
 - iv. Outdoor Basketball net for grade 7/8 has been purchased and will be installed over the summer
 - v. STEM lab was turned into a 5/6 classroom & Library computers removed to make room for STEM equipment (Laptops have replaced the desktop computers)
 - vi. Meet the Teacher night on Sept 13th appeared to be a big success, with a larger attendance than last year.
 - vii. Cross country running has started with over 47 students participating
 - viii. Terry Fox Run with new coloring contest to get kids more involved in fundraising is this week
 - ix. Strong beginnings also this week. Laidlaw still piloting Edsby for scheduling.
 - x. New artwork has been purchased and hung in the office

- c. School Plan:
We will be continuing with our school priority of “Environmental Inquiry” and “Numeracy”. In addition there will be a focus on School Climate & Literacy
- d. New Timetable Feature “Flex Time”:
Laidlaw has implemented a 30 minute per day “Flex time” which asks children the question “What do you need to be successful today?” It is Flexible time in the afternoon to meet their changing needs daily. Students are given a choice on how to spend this time to either recharge or use it as a creative outlet.

Meeting Agenda Topics

1. Treasurer’s Report – Tracy Enns
 - a. \$36,375 in PAC Chequing account (this fund can be used for school initiatives funded by PAC such as BBQ, Staff Appreciation, Grade 8 Graduation)
 - b. \$13,077 in Lunch Supervision Program account
 - c. \$38,891 in PEG account.
 - d. \$10,877 in PTESF General account
2. Fun Lunch – Ruth Abreu
 - a. Discussion about new platform to be used for 2024-2025 that is more user friendly (Laura getting more information on Munch-a-lunch website)
 - b. Program raised approx. \$10,000.00 last year in funds.
 - c. Discussion about needing more volunteers for Friday Fun Lunch hand out.
 - d. New Spending Limit of \$250.00 placed on Fun Lunch website.
 - e. Pizza Wednesdays to star on Oct 4th. Site to go live next week.
 - f. Parents now must have their Sept-Dec balance in ful before being able to order Fun Lunch in Jan-June,
3. Lunch Program – Ruth Abreu
 - a. Looking for more supervisors
 - b. Lunch Program Deficite is sitting at -\$1,000.00 (up from -\$5,000.00 last year)
4. School Improvements –
 - a. Plan is to go ahead with the new Audio & Video System. Quote from a few years ago was ~16K. Heather will get updated quote and then order ASAP as install may take awhile
 - b. Walking path is under way. Project MUST be completed by June 2024 or we will lose the Teachers Initiative grant money.
5. Fundraising –

- a. GROOVE-A-THON: Oct 27th (Separate committee created to plan will meet on Sept 26th @ 1PM)
- b. Winter Concert Baskets (Separate committee created to organize)

6. Miscellaneous/Questions/Concerns:

-New Laidlaw Gear is coming. Using Custom Crests and creating a new design.
More info to follow

-Request to move PAC meetings to first Wednesday of every month (voted yes)

-Ruth Brought up Bussing Safety Issue at Portsmouth/Taylor. Mrs.Eby will follow up with Transportation on this issue.

-Next PAC Meeting: Nov 1st @ 7PM