**June 20th, 2012**

**LEPAC General Meeting Minutes**

Lochside Elementary Parents Advisory Committee

**LEPAC Executive Attendees:**

President: Rachel Calder

Vice President: Stephanie Kalabric

Treasurer: Don Mellings

Secretary: Robbyn Brodie

Volunteer Coordinator: Mary Brookes

COPACS Representative: Scarlet Yum

Outgoing VP: Dianne Brooks

Outgoing Secretary: Marlena Monteiro

**Guests:**

Principal Joe Grewal

Incoming School Vice-Principal Joan O’Leary

Heather Caul (Healthy Schools)

Terry Wong

Jeff Rafuse

Marie Guenther

**I. Welcome**

Everyone was welcomed by Rachel at 6:35pm.

**II. Approval of May Minutes**

May minutes were distributed, reviewed, and discussed.

Motion: Marlena M. motioned to approve the May minutes, seconded by Rachel C., voted and all in favour. Motion Carried.

**III. Reports**

1. Principal’s Report
2. School Organization 2012/2013

EAs: Some getting laid off, rehired in fall. Librarian was on medical leave, Pieter was covering for her, not sure if she will be back in the fall. ESL teacher – Henrietta – will be taking over. New staff coming, not settled yet exactly.

1. Science Venture

Thanks to PAC for support. It was very successful, and had many positive comments.

1. Tentative School Schedule 2012/2013

Still working on it. Trying to have balance of time in am and pm. Schedule changing due to two week spring break. Tentatively planned as follows:

8:40 am School Opens

11:14 Lunch

12:14 Afternoon Session

1:24 Recess

1:39 End of Recess

2:48 End of School Day

1. Service Assembly: 10 am Tuesday June 26th

To recognize volunteers who have helped out during the year, and to encourage others to do the same. This assembly helps to keep final assembly manageable.

1. Year End assembly: 9 am Thursday June 28th

Will discuss retirements and staffing changes. Goodbyes to Grade 5 students. Open to all parents. Students may leave immediately after assembly, if parents have made arrangements with teacher. Otherwise, children can stay for the full day.

1. Upcoming dates

Thurs. June 21st Fun Day 8:45 – 11:05am

Fri. June 22nd 10am COPS for CANCER/Dave Calder

5pm Family BBQ @ Lochside organized by LEPAC

Open Invitation for staff to attend

Tues. June 26th 10am Service Assembly

Weds. June 27th 10:30am Grade 5 Yearbook Signing and Luncheon ($500 PAC funds available)

PM Intermediate Swim at Commonwealth Place

Thurs. June 28th 9am Final Assembly and Last Day of School

Thurs. Aug. 30th Professional Day with staff

B. Streams of Dreams Presentation via Skype (Presenter: Louise Towell)

Streams of Dreams (SoD) is an education program for children about the impact of humans on marine life. Each child paints a fish, and these fish are arranged in a mural on a school fence. The program runs about 3 days, and on fourth day the fish are installed on the fence.

Cost is $10 per child, which covers everything except for the wooden fish. Either volunteers would need to make and prep the fish (each fish has to be cut, sanded and painted, 4 coats in total), or SoD could supply the fish at a cost of $2.50 per fish for just cut, no paint; the cost for fully prepared fish, painted and all, is $4 per fish. Presenter thought they may have enough wood ends that they could supply us with the wood. She will give us certificate for 10% off at general paint. Need approximately 2 gallons of blue and one gallon of white for preparation of fish. After that, SoD brings the decorative paint, brushes, etc. They need well-ventilated room and about 6 tables. Mr. Grewal asked if the kids were to buddy up (so a small child could paint a fish with their big buddy), would this reduce costs? Louise did not think this was a good idea, mainly because the kids love doing their own fish, big kids get big fish, little kids get little fish. SoD are a non-profit facility.

Possible Avenues for Funding: Victoria Foundation, Blue Water Grant, Art Starts are good places to get funding. Art Starts may be most promising. Over 100 schools on Vancouver Island have these murals. Island coordinator is a bird expert, would like to include birds in the mural too, if we are interested. Mary asked if the fence needs to be accessible from front and back? Yes, it is best if it is, for ease of tying on the fish. Also, its nice if it is visible for others to see. Our fence is covered by blackberries, so she suggested that we have the city come by to cut back the blackberries.

Rachel suggested that the project could be ongoing through the year and then launched on Earth day, April 22nd. Presenter said that 6 months is a comfortable time frame to complete the project.

Mr. Grewal suggested that the Stream of Dreams would fit on very well with the school’s ideals “We look after our environment” and that the educational component could easily be brought down to the level of even K’s and grade ones.

Funding: Who pays for this? $10 plus cost of fish x approximately 350 students. It was agreed that this decision will be postponed until late summer.

1. President’s Report

Rachel thanked the outgoing executive (Dianne, Mike, Jeff and Marlena)

1. Treasurers Report

$49000 is the current bank balance, with 10% of this spoken for in the rest of the year, but $**8**0k in bank for end of year. Don motioned to keep $5k in bank over summer, with balance in an interest-earning investment account. Seconded by Rachel, all in favour.

Gaming fund. We have applied again for this fund. Every year we get $20 per student head; we started off with $7000 in gaming fund from gov’t. By September we will have $ in our account from this fund.

Expenses need to be in to Don ASAP to get funds back by 29th. Missing cheques: Mabel’s Labels, magazine cheque, $20 and $58 respectively. Don has these cheques ready for deposit.

**IV. General Business**

Mary reports that no further volunteers are required for the School BBQ. Mr. Grewal commended Mary on the great job she is doing of being volunteer coordinator

Scarlett reported COPAC’s suggestion that LEPAC suggest to parents to write to their local MLA that they are not happy with the ongoing strike action. It was decided to include contact information for the MLA Lana Popham in the next LEPAC newletter.

Rachel suggested the need to organize something for the courtyard, which requires upkeep.

Seaquarium might be a well-suited program for the Thrifty’s Smile Card application, and also pairs well with the Stream of Dreams. Don suggested that we can add that to the budget discussion in the fall. Question as to whether we are renting it or buying it. The cost is $4k to set up and $1k a month to maintain.

Foster child program. Marlena is looking into this through the summer. Funds for child comes out of LEPAC budget. We have sponsored the same student for a few years now, but lately this sponsorship has not been used for educational awareness, perhaps there is a need to get the kids more involved. Movie night proceeds go toward this child.

Year end BBQ. Mr. Grewal has keys for emergency exit gate. There is water access outside near dunk tank. Mr. Grewal volunteered to set up PA system for music. Mary suggested selling bubbles and freezies at same booth. Marie volunteered to do the Limbo centre.

Don thanked Mike and Rachel for all their work (Mike not in attendance). Thanks to Dianne for all her work in the well-turned-out monthly newsletters. Thanks to Marlena for her year of service as secretary.