February 20, 2013

**LEPAC General Meeting Minutes**

Lochside Elementary Parents Advisory Committee

**1. Welcome and Introductions 6:30**

President: Rachel Calder

Vice President: Stephanie Kalabric

Secretary: Robbyn Brodie

COPAC Representatives: Scarlett Yum and Petra d’Entremont

Healthy Schools Coordinator: Heather Caul

Past President: Mike Brooks

Guests:

Principal: Joe Grewal

Vice Principal: Joan O’Leary

Marlena Monteiro

Reet Dangerfield

**2. Approval of January Minutes 6:35**

January minuteswere reviewed and discussed. Motion: Heather C. motioned to approve minutes, seconded by Robbyn B., voted and all in favour. Motion carried.

**3. Principal’s Report 6:40-7:15**

**Reporting and Conferencing –** Teachers are in the process of writing progress reports for students. February 28th is an early dismissal day to facilitate sharing of student work and conferencing. Each teacher will communicate with parents about how this will be organized in their classrooms. Parents are always welcome to set up an appointment to inquire about student progress. Formal reports will go out during the week of March 4th to the 8th.

**Lockdown Drill** – Drill went well. Introduced to students as another drill, in conjunction with fire and earthquake drills.

**Struggling Students** – Student Services Team meeting with staff to talk about ways of support students who are experiencing difficulties in learning basic skills in reading, writing and numeracy. Many supports already in place including Learning Assistance, Reading Recovery, Supporting Early Literacy, Literacy Mentor and IEPs developed by School Based Team lead by our Integration Support Teachers. We are also using technology and support such as Lexia, CoWriter, Kurzweill and Dragon Naturally Speaking to support student learning. Question: What else can we do? How can we further support students in their classes using technology?

**Tech Plan Update** – Met with parent reps Petra d’Entremont and Rob Ashbourne and had a good discussion around updating our Lochside Technology Plan. We are in the process of creating a draft and sharing with staff and parents.

**Anti-Bullying –** On Tuesday,students watched a live presentation from the Green Thumb Theatre Company. The play titled, “Night Light” focused on anxiety, worries and bullying. Teachers will be talking about these topics in the next few days with their students. This will lead us to the Michael Bortolotto presentations for each class on Tuesday February 26th and followed by our Anti-Bullying –Pink Shirt Day on February 27th.

**School Planning Council:** Met with SPC and talked about our school goals. Preparation for our School Planning Day on April 15th**.** We are looking at developing a new three-year plan for 2013-2016.

Sock Hops – These mini dances happen a few times a year, in order to help facilitate healthy living. The dances are 15 minutes at lunchtime, and all the grades have the option to join in for a few minutes of fun and exercise. As some parents were unaware that these ‘dances’ were happening, we will include dates of any upcoming sock hop in the Monday Update.

**School Mission Statement:** We will be reviewing our mission statement with staff and parents. We would appreciate any feedback from parents on the revision of our current mission statement.

**Extra-Curricular**

Photography Club – Student teacher, Laura Gardner (Cavallin), is starting up a Photography Club on Thursday at lunch. Grades 3,4,5.

Swim Club – Mrs. Gillingham-Meets on Wednesdays & concludes with our Swim Meet on Wed. March 6th. Grades 3,4,5.

Highland Dance – Gael Forster – Mondays at lunch – group of students meet in Multi-Purpose Room. No age restriction.

Mini-Rugby – Mr. Niedjalski – starting up soon and will compete with other schools in Saanich and Victoria District.

Basketball– Ms. Seabrooke, Mr. Warrender, Mrs. McKean & Mrs. Takhar – Practise on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday with after school games against Cordova Bay and Prospect Lake. Final Jamboree will be on Friday afternoon, March 8th. Grades 4 and 5.

Red Cedar Book Club – Mrs. Miller – Close to 50 students meet on Wednesdays after lunch to read and talk about books nominated for the Red Cedar Award for Literature. Older kids.

Cross-Country – Starting up in March. Grades 4 and 5.

**School Mission Statement**

Lochside is a learning community where children and adults think, talk, work and play together. At Lochside we believe in the principles of learning and value all learners.

We understand that:

* learning requires the active participation of the student
* people learn in a variety of ways and at different rates
* learning is both an individual and a group process that takes place at different rates and different times.

At Lochside School we are respectful, act responsibly and play safely. Our learning community is built on the core values of fairness, honesty, respect, compassion, and responsibility. These values provide a strong foundation for teachers to teach and learners to learn. Students are encouraged to achieve their personal best and become self-motivated, engaged, enthusiastic and socially responsible learners.

**Questions**

• Is our mission statement relevant?

• Is it easy to remember and share?

• Do we need to make any changes to have a more accurate reflection of our school?

- inclusion

- inquiry based learning

- diversity

- technology

- personalized learning

- play based learning in the early years

• What do we need to delete/add/change?

**4. Reports 7:15-7:25**

**a)President**

Concrete picnic table – have to clear with SD if concrete is ok.

Seaquarium – we are on the waiting list.

Natural Learning Area – added stumps, will add logs around outside. Could use some beautifying and adding a few more child-sized pieces.

Hopscotch Squares – need to be repainted. Cost may be $400-$500, and it will come out of PAC budget line for sports. Motion: Heather C. motioned to approve, seconded by Robbyn B., voted and all in favour. Motion carried.

**b)Treasurer:** not in attendance

**c)Volunteer Coordinator:** not in attendance

**d)Healthy Schools Coordinator:** TC run upcoming on April 28. A reminder to parents will be in next Monday update. A couple practice runs around the school field at recess will be organized. Kids will get t-shirts with ‘Lochside Lizards’ printed on the back. Parents can also register under Lochside if they are running the 10k.

**e)COPAC Rep:** Both Allison Rees and Darren Laur have been sponsored by COPACs as speakers. LEPAC is still considering Spring speaker options.

**5. General Business 7:25-8:00**

1. **Staff Appreciation May 17th Luncheon & week**

Volunteers will need to be arranged and coordinated

1. **Movie Night with a Twist**

Volunteers needed to open school doors at 5:30 and supervise gym activity.

1. **Speaker ideas**

Darren Laur spoke and Allison Rees will speak, sponsored by COPACs.

1. **Sport supplies/coach in residence**

Hopscotch lines will be painted, coming out of the sports budget line. Coach in residence: tennis, basketball lessons, biking safety were suggested. Tennis is too costly to include all grades, so further information will be gathered regarding basketball lessons and bike instruction.

1. **Camp Thunderbird:**

Cost has increased over last five years. If the cost is too great for a family, the cost may be subsidized by LEPAC under budget line Funding Assistance and with the approval of school administration.

Meeting adjourned at 7:52.