September 19th 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 (regrets)

COPACS Representative: Scarlet Yum

Healthy Schools Coordinator: Heather Caul

Past President: Mike Brooks

**Guests:**

Principal Joe Grewal

Vice Principal Joan O’Leary

Mark Creswick (Morning Watch)

Terry Wong

Treana Clarke

Kelly Perry

Marlena Card

Tricia Smith

Sonja McHugh

Reet Dangerfield

Kerry Walsh

Amy Virk

Kamal Parhar

Jen Wilson

Lorelei Lew

Ahmed Ferdous

1. **Welcome and Introductions**

Everyone was welcomed by Rachel and introductions were made at 6:35.

1. **Approval of June Minutes**

June minutes were reviewed and discussed. Motion: Don M. motioned to approve the June minutes, seconded by Marlena C., voted and all in favour. Motion carried.

1. **Reports**
2. Principal’s Report
3. School Successes

* School Start-up & Organization: 366 students, up a division and about 100 families from last year.
* Welcome to new staff and new families: Many new staff members this year, including five male teachers! 16 divisions, many new students. New classes were drafted in June then revised in September with the influx of new students. Class size limits, constitution, etc. are all taken into consideration. This is why classes are not assigned immediately.
* Class Review Meetings – These meetings took place during the first week, and are helpful to the incoming teachers to gain information about their new students, and to arrange division of students and support staff.

1. Information Items

* Peacekeepers
* NID Sept. 24th
* Terry Fox Run Sept. 27th @ 10:30 am – though focus this year will be on Tour de Roc
* Student Photo Day Friday, Sept. 28th
* Tour de Rock Fundraiser & Bottle Drive – Saturday Sept. 29th. Volunteers needed. October 5th T de R riders come to school
* Student Led Assembly Monday, Oct. 1st at 12:15. Parents welcome.
* Grade 4/5 Firehall Visit October 4th
* District Appeal Process for Parents – if parent unhappy with decision school has made, they can appeal to board. Joe passed around this information to parents.
* Crowded hallways at dismissal – please keep halls clear; this is especially important should an emergency arise.
* School Planning Council - will be organizing meeting in the next few weeks, to talk about school goals.

1. Discussion Items/Other

* Welcome Back BBQ Sept. 20th 5:30-7:00 pm – good opportunity to meet teachers/parents informally. Formal meetings are coming up with early school closures in November. Recycling at BBQ – some staff members are going to be taking care of it. Joan offered to get Rachel names of teachers who will be volunteering. Bring blankets, lawn chairs, etc. to sit on at BBQ - Joe will send out reminder.
* Friends & Second Step Program – Students with anxiety are being noticed; anxiety interfering with their ability to engage in learning. This program is an opportunity for teachers to give students strategies to cope with their anxiety. Looking at different programs – staff will decide which way they want to go with this. Very useful cognitive behavioural teaching program that could benefit all children by providing them with coping strategies.
* Parking lot and parking on side roads – an issue every year. There have been complaints from neighbours about cars blocking roads. Safety for kids is the main issue. Receptive to parent input and suggestions.
* Wireless internet access – we do not have it, but are hard-wired. Joe feels it would be beneficial if we could enable wireless occasionally, in a limited way. Before going ahead with wireless installation, will have it approved by parents, teachers, PAC.

*Principal Grewal ended his report at 7:01.*

1. President’s Report

* Annual dates for LEPAC meetings – 3rd weds of every month with the exception of December, no meeting and March being the 3rd week because of Spring Break. Dates are: Oct. 17, Nov. 21, Jan. 16, Feb. 20, Mar. 27, April 17, May 15, June 19.
* Class reps – 2 needed per class, still missing a few. Volunteers?
* Different winter holiday event being considered this year; would like to explore an event that PAC could support that offered more in the way of community building and reinforcing positive values. Looking from parent/family feedback and input.
* Interested in creating a school parent-volunteer Values Statement that would provide guidance and expectation for behaviour for all parent volunteers. Rachel is looking for input on feedback on what people think is important and worthy of reinforcement in such a statement. This item will be on next month’s agenda and she is hoping to have some feedback before then.

1. Treasurer’s Report

* LEPAC is in a good financial position. $36,582.48 in chequing account, $788.97 in Gaming account, and $40,000 in investments.
* 2 years ago, LEPAC did major fundraising effort for playground, then government playground initiative returned $46k to LEPAC.
* Classroom budget ($100 last year) – money teachers use to support their classroom work. Don suggested $100 per classroom be approved on the spot, with potential for more money later; however, according to the constitution, it was thought this amount needs to be presented in writing prior to passing. Don motioned to put this proposal in a newsletter between now and October, hoping for approval in November . Motion seconded by Mike. Voted and all in favour. Motion carried.
* Thrifty’s Smile Card – recently the Sun Space was the project. This year the project is the Seaquarium. $3500 for initial set up, $1000 a year after that. Don motioned to have Seaquarium as the Thrifty’s Smile Card project. Seconded by Mike. All in favour. Carried.
* Last year a survey was directed to parents, asking where they thought monies should be spent. Suggestions also taken from Joe, Joan, etc., and the budget was brought forward from this. Next month’s meeting (Oct) we will be talking more about where the $ is going, and specifics will be discussed at the next meeting. Budget is presented in Oct and passed in November.

1. Volunteer Coordinator’s Report

*Mary Brookes absent tonight*

1. Healthy Schools Coordinator’s Report

* Lochside Lizards have 24 kids registered so far for TC 1.5km; that is twice the number of last year,
* Coach in Residence – Tennis BC is being considered for funding, will be considered in budget.

1. COPAC Representative’s Report

* First meeting is 24th of September. Parents welcome.

**IV. General Business**

* COPACS Executive Position Appointment – Scarlet stepped down last year, but new executive resigned. All in agreement that Scarlet is new COPAC rep.
* Math night: Trevor Calkins and the Power of Ten. He presented for parents only last year. LEPAC would like to bring him back again this year, again for parents only. $500/yr in budget for speaker series, last year we had 3 speakers. Trevor cost less than $200. October 15th 16th or 17th planned. No objections.
* Home Alone Program – safety training. $12 per child (parents to pay), $35 if same program done in rec centre. Kids only in library right after school Oct 11 or 12. Grades 4&5 only.
* Book Fair – Scholastic Nov. 15, 16, 19 in library. Parent volunteers. Funds raised for PAC - last year raised $1066 and also earned a number of free books for library.
* Halloween Event/Party – Monster Mash last year. Parents liked this event most according to survey. Oct. 26th this year, Rachel circulated form for parents to write down their name as volunteers. Mike volunteered to help Scarlet coordinate if she is going to do it. Scarlet will check her schedule. $1400 raised last year.
* Spirit Wear – trying to reduce prices this year. Online ordering a possible option. Buying in bulk is cheaper option, PAC would buy, and if too many purchased, they would be good for next year too. T-shirts only, or hoodies too? 100 needed to order to get bulk discount. Rachel suggested having belief statement on back of shirt.
* Fall Activity Schedule – movie nights, one in fall, one in spring. Money last year went into World Vision budget line. Rachel proposed Friday November 23rd for fall movie night, pending admin approval. Question around copyright to which no one knew the answer but because LEPAC does not charge for the movie we think we fall in a gray area. Donations have been accepted for the concession items.
* Walking wheeling Wednesdays: is LEPAC going to promote it? Decided yes; on September 26th we will have stickers for those who bike, music playing, and peacekeepers can help. Will arrange meeting posts for those who live too far away to bike the whole way. Kickoff of WWW will be in Monday update. Meeting posts will be announced in the update.

1. **President Rachel adjourned the meeting at 8:03pm.**

Next meeting is October 17th, 2012.