

LEPAC Minutes

Lochside Elementary Parents Advisory Committee

October 15, 2014

Welcome and Introductions 6:30

Co-President: Mike Brooks

Past President: Rachel Calder

Treasurer: Don Mellings

Secretary: Tiffany Voorberg

Volunteer Coordinator: Mary Brookes

Co-COPAC representative: Jodi Holland

Susan Teppin

Matt Belanger

Colin Campbell

Reet Dangerfield

Guests:

Principal: Joe Grewal

Vice Principal: Joan O'Leary

Regrets:

Co-President: Stephanie Kalabric

Vice President: Judy Payne

Co-COPAC representative: Kelly Perry

Healthy Schools Coordinator: Kerry Walsh

Blenkinsop Community Association

Matt B. From the BCA announced that this association is looking for new board members and would be interested in hearing from Lochside parents who would like to be involved. Potential board members have to live within the community boundaries. Interested individuals can contact the BCA by getting in touch with Mike Brooks.

Approval of September Minutes 6:35

September minutes were reviewed. Don M. motioned to approve minutes, seconded by Jodi H., voted and all in favour. Motion carried.

Reports 6:35-6:45

- a) President: Thank you to the school for hosting the welcome back BBQ. T-shirts sales went well at this event and thank you for allowing LEPAC to have a booth to do this. Thank you to everyone involved in the popcorn sales and all of the other volunteer jobs that parents take on.
- b) Treasurer: Confirmation received of gaming funds of approx \$7500. Thrifty Foods has confirmed smile cards for this year. Everyone who has a smile card already can continue to use them.

- c) Volunteer Coordinator: Volunteer needs for the pirate party are going well. As this is a large event and we are still looking for help, if anyone who can spare 30 minutes, it will make a huge difference. We've had parent volunteers for the skip-a-thon, save-around books, backpack information packages, etc already.
- d) Healthy Schools Coordinator: The Thrifty Kids Run took place on October 12th and 19 Lochside students participated. Two Lochside families won bikes at the race. The next health schools planning meeting is scheduled for November 3rd.
- e) COPACS Rep: The COPACS meeting on October 2nd included discussion about possible future "roaming" COPACS meetings. The 2014 Fall Leadership Conference is being held in Nanaimo from November 21-23. COPACS executive is currently working on an information session regarding multi age classrooms but is also interested in understanding what other topics parents might like covered in a future parent education night. There will be a screening of the movie "The Big Picture: Rethinking Dyslexia" on October 23rd from 7-9pm at Bayside Middle School.

Principal's Report 6:45-7:08

- 1) School organization:
 - a) Multi-age classes – there are a couple more multiage classrooms than in the past, including a k-1 class. No child learn at the same rate, the role of the teacher is to work with students at their individual skill level. Over 50% of classes are multiage in the district. Research shows students learn as well or better in a multiage classroom than a straight grade class. Information will continue to be shared to educate parents and answer their questions about multi-age classrooms.
 - b) Student Placement Process – Information was shared about how decisions are made around student placement. Input is received from students, teachers and parents to make those decisions and create balanced classrooms in terms of abilities, social skills and other factors. Class lists are reviewed multiple times before students are moved into their new classes in September.
- 2) Class Profile Meetings
 - IEP meetings – Meetings begin to take place early on in the school year between teachers and staff to discuss supports needed for a diverse range of learning needs of students. Decisions are then made about how best to provide those supports for the year. Individual education plan meetings also occur with parents and students with learning needs to come up with a plan that is personal to that particular student's assessed needs.
- 3) School Safety:
 - a) Emergency Preparedness Plan – Parents Bernhard Spalteholz and Kevin Shields are helping with earthquake supplies.
 - b) Fire Drills – The fire marshall was at the school last week with students. Two fire drills have happened and a short earthquake drill occurred on October 15th. A full drill will occur in future.
 - c) Crossing Guard Training – Wed. 11:45 with Sergeant Ross
 - d) Peacekeepers – This work is underway to get peacekeepers going.

- 4) Seaquaria – Tank is now set-up and ready for stocking. This will happen later on this week. Thank you to LEPAC for providing financial support in order to have Seaquaria in the school.
- 5) Tour de Rock – Thank you to Lochside community for raising over \$3600. Kate Kristianson raised over \$600.
- 6) Welcome Back BBQ – We had great feedback from parents and teachers. There was a great turnout with 500 burgers cooked and served. Thank you to teachers and Terry Wong for his assistance organizing this event.

General Business 7:08-7:53

a) Budget Discussion and Vote 2014/15 – Budget was reviewed. Budget is close to balanced this year based on anticipated expenses and revenues. Outdoor classroom is the biggest new initiative, other expenses are largely the same as in previous years. Administration will continue to look into grant opportunities and will let LEPAC know if they have suggested grants that parents can assist in applying for. Motion made by Don Mellings, seconded by Mary Brooks. Vote passed. Thanks to Don for all of his hard work in pulling the budget together.

b) Constitutional Update – The constitution has been reviewed and a number of revisions have been made, primarily of a housekeeping nature. Other changes include an increase to \$1000 for budget approvals from \$500, requirement of Treasurer to notify executive if bank balance drops below \$5000 and addition of Directors at Large positions added to the executive. The new constitution will be sent out to parents for review and will be voted on at the next LEPAC meeting. Thank you to Judy for taking the lead in this work!

c) Calendar of events – the calendar of events was reviewed for events occurring before the holidays including movie night, holiday food drive and holiday book sale.

d) Scholastic Book Fair – scheduled for November 14, 17 and 18th. T-shirt sales will happen at the same time.

f) Pirate Pizza Party – Scheduled for October 23rd. There will be a cupcake walk and cupcake sales added this year. This is an important fundraiser, so tickets will be sold to purchase food and participate in games and the haunted courtyard. Volunteers are needed to help the night of the party for 30 minute shifts as well as volunteers for set up and break down the day before and after the party. Contact Mary if you are able to help. Thanks to Mike for all of the work organizing this event!

Next LEPAC meeting: November 19, 2014

Meeting adjourned at 7:53 pm.