

LEPAC Minutes

Lochside Elementary Parents Advisory Committee – March 15, 2017

Call to Order 6:03

Welcome & Introductions

Co-Presidents: Kelly Perry
Vice President: Nicole Whitsitt
Secretary: Tiffany Voorberg
Treasurer: Don Mellings
Volunteer Coordinator: Lynn Hood & Megan Mba
Healthy Schools Coordinators: Tina Lazaruk
COPAC Representative: Reet Dangerfield
Directors at Large: Trish Jackson & Marissa Cameron
Principal: Erika Moser
Vice Principal: Joan O'Leary
Heather Caul
Don Peterson, President Saanich Teachers Association
Regrets:
Co-President: Stephanie Kalabric
Healthy Schools Coordinator: Jodi Holland

Thank You's

Thanks to Lynn and her team for the Used Clothing Sale and to Megan and team of volunteers for Movie night. Thanks to Joan for Erika for making space for these events and helping out with them as well.

Don Peterson, President, Saanich Teachers Association

Don was here to talk about the Supreme Court decision regarding class size and composition and gave a brief history and overview of how that came about. There is now a memorandum of agreement that teachers have voted in favour of. There was \$50 million in funding, \$657,000 for our district to hire teaching staff. In terms of class sizes, kindergarten classes should be 20 students reduced from 22. Grades 1-3 will have a max of 22, grades 4-6 will have a max of 27 students, down from 30. There are also limits for multi age classes such as 25 maximum students for a multiage 4/5 class. The language also talks about class sizes to be smaller by at least 1 student based on the learning needs of that class. The result will likely be that most schools will end up adding more divisions, including 2-3 for Lochside. The Saanich School District will be hiring 40 teachers to comply with the agreement. The BCTF website has information if parents would like to read about these changes. The main takeaway for parents is that class sizes are expected to be smaller next year and there will be increases in teaching supports.

Correspondence

Nothing to report.

Approval of February Minutes 6:33

February minutes were reviewed. A motion was made by Megan to approve and seconded by Kelly. Minutes were approved.

Principal's Report 6:35

Budget Planning took place in February. At this moment, the district has about a \$1 million deficit, though this is expected to change. The district is looking at ways to generate revenues and is interested in hearing from the public about how to keep students, build enrollment and generate

revenues. There is a policy statement on the District website around raising funds.

Plans for next year and school/class configurations – this is the time of year that teachers make requests about leaves, grade changes, etc. and the school begins planning the configuration for next year. Given the changes to the class sizes, there will be changes to class space as well with some spaces being used as classrooms next year. If parents have specific questions, they are asked to speak with Erika or Joan. There will be attempts to stay as close to the same configuration as this year as possible. There will be a few more multiage classes in other grades next year. There will be at least one more kindergarten class as well. The work continues to make decisions about next year and Erika will provide updates in May and June.

Grade 5 Camp Thunderbird – Thanks to the Used Clothing Sale for raising some funds for camp! It looks like all grade 5 students will be attending and that parent chaperones will be in place as well.

Les Voyageurs – We had many activities for this french cultural week including The Maple Man, a visit from Bonhomme, beavertails, leg wrestling, etc.

School Growth Plan Day: April 28th – non instructional day for students and an opportunity for staff to work on the school goals including focus on literacy with the support of Carol Walters. LEPAC is invited to attend in the afternoon to review the goals going forward.

Indigenous Perspectives – we will continue to work on weaving indigenous perspectives into the curriculum. Regarding the new sign, brackets are going to be built for it and we are anticipating being able to mount it this spring.

Family in Need – Staff have approached asking if LEPAC can support 2 families in need of grocery vouchers. Don advised that constitutionally LEPAC is unable to provide funds outside of the school but can support students for fun lunches, field trips, emergency lunches, etc. A breakfast program might be worth considering as well as there is a growing need for that. Discussion occurred about how we can support providing food for any hungry students.

Artist in Residence – Erika has booked folk dancing for 4 days with a local French Canadian folk dancing group to work with the students during the last week of April. Some funding is being received elsewhere and LEPAC was asked to support this as well with funds already budgeted for Artist in Residence.

Dates of Note	
Mar. 9 th 1:48 pm Early Dismissal (Parent/Teacher Communication)	
Mar. 10 th 12:00 - 2:30 BB Jamboree @ ROMS	
Mar. 13 th -16 th Report Cards go home	
Mar. 15 th District Swim Meet @ Commonwealth Pool	
Mar. 20 th -31 st School Closure & Spring Break	
April 3 rd School Re-Opens	
April 5 th Class & Whole School Photos	
April 13 th Grade 5s ROMS	
April 14 th Good Friday (Holiday)	
April 17 th Easter Monday (Holiday)	

Reports 7:21

a) President: Nothing to report.

b) Treasurer: Don shared and reviewed the budget statement. We have brought in approx. \$24,000 in revenues so far. There was some discussion about gaming funds and what they can be used for in

future. The electronic sign will cost about \$16,000 so we are anticipating doing some targeted fundraising for this as part of the end of year BBQ.

c) Volunteer Coordinators: Thanks to Trish, Kelly and Reet for helping with movie night. Staff Appreciation is coming up and there will be a meeting this Friday at 2pm.

d) Healthy Schools Coordinators: Tina provided the following report:

BOKS (Build or Kids Success): Plan to run the program on Tuesdays and Fridays, 8 – 8:30 am, April 18 – June 16th. There will be a poster contest among the students to help promote this program. LEPAC will fund prizes for the top posters.

Please like and follow the Lochside Elementary Parents' Page on Facebook. The following people are currently able to create posts: Heather G, Tina, Jodi, Kelly, Stephanie, Nicole and Megan.

Unplug & Play: Plan to resume May 7th, from 1-3 pm at Lochside School.

TC 10k Thrifty Foods Kids Run: Sunday, April 30th. We currently have 10 people registered. Register before April 5 to get Lochside printed on the T-shirt.

Triathlon Club: For grades 3-5. 24 kids have signed up. Goal to participate in the UVic Youth Triathlon on June 11, 2017. Parent lead: Allison Spencelayh, Coach lead: Kelly Guest

World Cup Soccer: April 14-15. School with the most registrants may win \$1000. Early bird registration ends April 7th.

P.J. Naylor Presentation: Will speak about how parents can contribute to the health and well-being of all students and school staff, in the school library on April 12th at 7 pm.

e) COPACS Rep: Reet provided the following report from the COPACS meeting on March 2nd:

The government recently announced \$50 per FTE student in funding to districts to reduce pressures around resourcing classrooms for the new curriculum and back to school costs to parents. The board needs to decide how best to allocate this one time funding. In the short term if you or your executive have any initial reactions or thoughts please forward them to Reet and she will forward them for discussion at the district level.

A request from BCCPAC for suggestions on questions for the education focused All Candidate Debate they are hosting on April 4th. If you have any ideas for questions that may be of particular interest to us here in Saanich please share them with Reet before March 17th and she will forward them on.

General Business

a) LEPAC Executive Positions 2017/18 – Kelly announced that she will be stepping down next year as President as well Stephanie. We will be opening the floor for nominations at our next meeting and voting at the AGM in May. The President position will be vacant, which could be filled as Co-Presidents as well as the Secretary position. Jodi and Tina are planning to stay on as well as Megan, Lynn, Don, Reet, Trish and Marissa. An announcement will be made in the April newsletter and through LEPAC about which positions will stand and which will be vacant.

b) Tru Value Foods - Nicole was able to spend our funds at Tru Value before it closed. Thanks Nicole!

c) Grizzly fundraising update - Megan provided information about this fundraiser to consider for next year.

d) Summary of Vancouver Island Parent Conference - tabled.

e) Staff Appreciation update - meeting this Friday at 2 on the gym stage.

f) Parking lot - cones have been introduced at the entrance to the parking lot and has been causing

a back up on Royal Oak. Joan has seen an improvement in the side parking lot and will continue to observe in the front as well. Our school Constable was contacted as well.

g) Staffing 2017/18 - There are no anticipated staff retirements at this point. Erika's position will be discussed at the board as her role was considered only temporary for this school year.

h) New Business - there was some discussion about internet safety in the school. It has been discovered that image searches are not well filtered. The district pays for district wide filters running daily and hourly. If the school finds a particular site coming up that is a concern, they can request that it be blocked. Students in grades 1-3 access links put in place by the teacher. In grades 4 and 5, the students are learning about digital citizenship so it is a bit more open. Computer usage is supervised as well. Joan has researched kid safe search engines; Common Sense Media has a listing of options but there is no substitute for supervision. Reet will bring the concern up with COPACS and Erika will reach out to invite someone from the district to speak and answer questions at the April meeting. LEPAC would be interested in supporting a solution to this.

The next meeting is scheduled for April 19, 2017 at 6pm.

Meeting adjourned at 8:20 pm