

**École Intermédiaire Lansdowne Middle School
Parent Advisory Committee
Meeting
Meeting Minutes September 28, 2016**

In attendance: Sean Powell ,Paul Stevenson, Dan delVillano, Wendy Seager, Menno van Mil, Lesley Ruzi, Terri Wild, Erin Kelly, Katie Croudy-Hollott, Amanda Turner, Stella Spak, Stephen Ullom, Elisa Linuzzi, Anne Vardy, Heather MacLennan, Catrin de Groot, Janice Hawkes.

Regrets: John Walmsley

1. Acknowledgement of Territory, welcome and introductions

2. Approval of the Agenda – M/S/C

3. Counselling program at Lansdowne – Shauneen Koch

- here to support emotional and social well-being of our students in order to support their academic well-being
- most children in the school know who Shauneen is, as well as her dog Topaz (golden retriever)
- middle school people need connections, a lot of time is spent trying to figure out who you are and who you can be with, so connections are really important
- leadership development is part of what Shauneen does, trying to help out our own community and within the school
- sees her role as a liaison between students and teachers and sometimes between parents and teachers
- most common issues: anxiety is huge and is growing and growing. The constant input and stimulus for our students can be overwhelming. We need to be cognizant of how our children are filtering that information, and how we can slow down that speed of constant stimulus. Depression is another issue that is common – low level feeling tied in with anxiety and they often go together. Other issues include friendship difficulties, stress about school-work, self-esteem and confidence, and family stressors.
- We also have a youth and family counselor; her name is Shauna V.

4. Introduction from Sean Powell, principal

Sean first introduced Lise Richard who is working with Haste BC (Hub for Active School Travel - work with communities and partners across the province to connect kids, schools and communities through walking and cycling. <http://www.hastebc.org/about-haste>

The aim of the project is to decrease traffic congestions and aim to increase walking, skateboarding, cycling, walking, any active travel to school. We are connected to external bodies including ICBC and District of Sannich. The school travel projects

are a priority for the Capital Regional District, and they are open to suggestions and ideas. The project is currently in their first stage of data collection. In later October, a take-home survey will be sent home with all the children to gather information on routes of transport and what modes of transport are being used. There will also be on-site observations. Come Spring, bike rodeos and bike skill courses will happen. If you are interested in more about the program, please contact Dan.

Sean Powell, new principal

Personal introduction:

In his introduction, Sean made reference to three things he values most. 1. Relationships above all. 2. I don't believe in bad kids. 3. What really drives me is making a difference. Sean began at Rockheights, then Monterrey, Arbutus then oversees with his family to Abu Dhabi, and now here at Lansdowne.

Administration update:

Lansdowne student numbers are 554 students. Last year it was 503.

- Class sizes range from 24 to 30. We are requesting funds for another class as the elementary feeder schools are showing that the numbers are not slowing down.
- We have high levels of lead in our water at Lansdowne. Filters have been put on our taps in our bathrooms, our kitchens and our water fountains. We get less than 1mg. per litre which is considered a safe standard.
- Outdoor classrooms. Hoping to get new trees to help with providing some shade. For every tree that Saanich has removed to make room for the new bike lane along Lansdowne road they will provide us with 2 trees. Next stage will be for Ms. Kilpatrick to select trees.
- Cops for Cancer – we are at full fundraising, and we are doing really well. Next Friday, cops for cancers fundraising – head shaves. Riders will be here between 2:15 and 2:26 pm next Friday.
- Terry Fox run this Friday. Lap around the school 3 or 4 times. 1:05 assembly, 15 min. video then kids all go out, and kids get sprayed with water, followed by some great music.
- Athletics. Doing well. Thank you to all the coaches and teachers. Cross country has 60 kids, 4 soccer teams, basketball starts mid October, as well as swimming.
- Thank you to Katrin for helping out with the food program. Grade 6 immunizations ready to go October 24th - thank you to the volunteer parents.
- Constable Shannon and our liaison officer will come and talk about internet safety and social media to the students. Constable Darren Lower was suggested as a possible presenter for parents.

5. Approval of minutes from June 2016 meeting. M/S/C

6. Treasurer's report. Dan reported for John

We have 3 accounts: General account, Gaming Account, and a Donation Account

We have a general plan for spending, and we are open to change and adjustments. Please use Smile cards as that is a big source of funding for the school.

7. Election of Members at Large. We need a VCPAC rep that needs to be elected by a secret ballot. Propose we do this next month. If anyone is interested, please talk to Dan.

8. Facebook for Lansdowne . Dan would like to post information on a Facebook account as a way of communicating with parents. It would be a complimentary way of communicating what is already been communicated. PAC was in support of Dan getting it started and he will send out notification.

9. Change meeting time from 6:30pm to 8pm. All in attendance agreed.

10. Quick updates – Lego League is ongoing. Come and watch the group on Tuesdays and Wednesdays at 3pm on the stage (the room behind the gym)

11. New Business – Anne Vardy has volunteered to help with the Emporium. Families bring in gently used things to donate and the kids can buy as Christmas presents. It's a great event and we look forward to it every year.

12. Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 8:28pm

Next meeting is October 26th at 6:30pm