

Lansdowne Middle School

PAC Meeting Minutes

Oct 11, 2022

Present: Whitney Y (Treasurer), Craig H (Chair/President), Alissa Moore (Vice-Principal), Korina M, Tiffany F, Irene P, Ashley H, Emma M, Samantha C, Jason T, Christine S, Carlene N, Gareth R, Damian G, Stephanie N, Nicole K, Leirui S

Kick off

Call to order: 6:03 pm

Round table of introductions, starting with President and Treasurer – explained our history in the LPAC and that this is the last LPAC year for both of us. Other parents introduced themselves plus how many kids they have in each grade.

Sign up sheet circulated to record attendees + email addresses.

Discussion

If we switch the meeting to a different night can all present attend? There are 7 other parents – not at the meeting - who cannot come on Tuesday, but could attend on Wednesday. Also, is 7 pm better than 6 pm? -both times have advantages and disadvantages. Suggestion that we use an online poll to ask about best night to meet. **Table decision for future.

Administration report – Alissa M

- Parent Teacher meetings coming up, expect to make appointments online.
- Basketball teams are playing now, it is very active with multiple teams participating.
- PAC Faculty Funding request forms have been distributed today, the PAC can expect to complete funding approvals at the November meeting..
- Online PAC meetings - Alissa stated that the hybrid meeting was not so easy to organize and that the school administration prefers the in-person format.

PAC Fund raisers

2 existing (details on LMS PAC pages <https://lansdowne.sd61.bc.ca/parent-info/fundraising/>)

Soap Exchange - 1393A Hillside Ave

- Tell staff that you are part of the “clean up club” for Lansdowne middle school.
- 10% of all pre-tax purchases will be donated to the LPAC.

Cobbs Bread - 2178 Oak Bay Ave

- Tell staff that you would like fundraising proceeds to go to Lansdowne middle school.
- 5% of all pre-tax purchases will be donated to the LPAC.

Discussion

Do we want to initiate more business based fund raisers with other companies, like for Xmas wrap or family portraits? Consensus seems to be No. We need to be careful that LPAC fund raisers don't compete with Music program fund raisers. The LMPA is quite active and has a number of ongoing initiatives. We don't want to burn out our parent community.

Why doesn't the LPAC have a Facebook site? Sites are used effectively for various elementary school PACs. The site can include community Q&A, and have parents to parents communications. It is a valuable resource for sharing info with a large group of parents, and the link is easy to send out. **Irene and Carlene to action, with input from PAC and LMS admin

The Lansdowne Friday bulletin needs to have the fund raiser reminders, so that more parents will know. Also include a reminder about the one time PAC donations. **Craig to action for Oct 14

It would be nice if there were updates made to the LMS web site; content is dated and appears static, and parents do not rely on the website for up-to-date info. **Alissa to action with admin staff

If we are to pursue additional fund raisers thru the year then we need to be able to answer 'What is this fund raiser for?' Inquiring minds want to know!

Point raised that French classes are getting more funding and having more activities. (Alissa) This is based on demographics plus the French program itself. English classes could get additional support from PAC as an equity initiative, to support field trips. Parent comment that they have seen this in elementary: 1 child in English and 1 in French.

Point raised that parents can be asked if they will pay for a second child along with theirs.

Other ideas

Better to have direct student involvement. Car washes. Garage sale. Santa mall – downsides incl: needing lead organizer, storage location for assembly of items before the event.

LPAC one time donations are still the main avenue for parents.

There is currently no calendar of timeline/ events thru year, from past years.

South Park has a veggie delivery fund raiser.

General PAC discussion

What is the PAC relation to LMPA? Nothing formal, but we try to stay aware of their activities. Craig makes an effort to attend the monthly LMPA meetings, and will report details back to the PAC.

Does Library need PAC funding? No, there are 2 libraries and they receive solid support from district. (Alissa)

Next steps – Parent involvement and communications. Craig will send out email threads to different groups that have IDed specific interests to keep our momentum going.

Parent education – LPAC has held education events in past years, and can get \$250 district funding towards an event. LPAC has also shared online events with other middle school, during the quarantine. Interested parents can form a committee for the purpose of planning and hosting education events this

year. **No takers, but Craig has lists of parents who indicated interest on Volunteer forms, and will prompt directly to that group by email.

Emergency prep – Reviewed the work that Marketa accomplished at both campuses, noting that LPAC has a standing \$1000 budget per year to stage more equipment and renew expired products as needed. Interested parents can form a committee for the purpose of planning and purchasing, reviewing the containers on both campuses. Marketa left us with detailed spreadsheets of what has been staged already and ideas for further purchases. **Jason T expressed interest in this initiative and Craig has lists of parents who indicated interest on Volunteer forms. Craig will start an email thread to this group for next steps.

Budget - We reviewed how the PAC budget is spent thru the year. The main area that remains unknown is faculty requests for funding and projects. LPAC allocated a set amount that we hold for these requests and we will review and approve in the Oct and Nov meetings. Need approval by end of Nov to allow the spending to occur before Xmas break. Alissa confirmed that the funding request forms have been distributed to faculty on both campuses.

How would students bring forward a proposal for spending? Mainly through their class and teacher. Doesn't this leave out the quiet ones, could PAC be a contact for students to make a request? Could be but the contact point is really teachers or admin staff, who are on campus every day.

Discussion of spending plans – long term goals vs short term goals? Who comes up with the ideas and are there any long term savings plans for future years? No, there are none at this time, and LPAC has focused in recent years on spending the annual budget within the current year to benefit the current students. Staff meeting could provide input on long term goals for the school that the PAC could help with. Technology?

The Lansdowne area is huge, stretching out to Burnside. Lansdowne serves refugee and immigrant families that have crowded lifestyles, as well as the standard BC families. How to bridge this gap and provide support to students in families that are not involved in PAC or other initiatives?

First Lego League

Presentation by Uschi L, who has spearheaded this student club since 2013.

This year's middle school Challenge design will include 113 countries. Uschi provided a handout to parents. The topic this year is Sustainable Energy, students are to design and present a solution. FLL has a large impact on girls, inspiring them into technology careers.

PAC funds go to registration and tournament fees. Costs are \$40 per child, plus more for tournaments. Uschi explained that the club is in need of parent volunteers.

Next steps

Question about holding Oct 25 LPAC meeting – Craig feels that it would benefit the LPAC to hold this meeting, it is already scheduled and Oct 11 is a reboot of the missing Sept meeting. We will benefit from maintaining communications and momentum. But – if we are changing the night that we meet we need to do this quickly and reschedule the Oct meeting to the new night.

Facebook – Irene and Carlene

Events – Ashley, Emma and Samantha

Emergency Prep - Jason

LPAC Secretary – Pending interested party

LPAC Vice President – Pending interested party

Wrap up

Call to finish: 7:10 pm

There were a few follow up conversations between parents interested in specific initiatives.

Next meeting

Will be the week of Oct 24, night to be determined.