

Langley Christian School PAC Meeting MINUTES

Wednesday, November 09, 2022

LCS PAC follows Robert's Rules for Order. Want to add something to the agenda? Make a motion to amend the agenda before it gets adopted. Want to see a change to something? Make a motion.

Langley Christian Schools are honored to operate on the unceded traditional territories of the Matsqui, Kwantlan, Katzie & Semiahmoo First Nations

Welcome, Introductions & Prayer

Call to order at 7:03pm. Petra opened in prayer. Brief introductions of each PAC member for 2022/2023 year.

1.0 Minutes - motion to approve minutes from October 12, 2022 PAC AGM (Shawna, Vanessa)

2.0 Agenda - motion to accept agenda with no additions/deletions (Shawna, Petra)

3.0 Reports

3.1 President's Report - April Ferguson

Thank you for your patience with us as we continue to build and grow the PAC. It is a work in progress and we appreciate your involvement!

- Q and A at the sign in table

The need for more open communication was brought up at a recent PAC Executive meeting, along with a suggestion of having a Q&A box for parents to submit questions anonymously, to be discussed at the meeting. This idea will be trialed for the next few meetings.

PAC Survey - sent out via LCS on the Go and social media. Survey was sent out to try to get a better sense of what topics parents want to hear about at our PAC Meetings, PAC communication, and if childcare is a useful service for the families. Thank you to all who participated (50 people). Summary:

- Several comments about how an online option to watch from home is valued
- Low response to the childcare option
- Least known PAC communication options are: Facebook, Instagram & email.
- 95% of parents want an open forum discussion at PAC Meetings
- Communication, community building, parking lot safety, programming, spiritual growth of students are the highest rank topics parents want to hear about.
- Other Topics suggestions: Fundraising, Media usage during class, chapel frequency, more options for students that are unable to achieve high academic grades, Dress up days and better communication about spirit days, LGBTQ+
- Other communication suggestion: PAC Bulletin Board in the front of the school

- Hindrances to attending PAC Meetings: Time commitment, relevance, not feeling included by the parent body, schedule conflicts, unsure of the impact the PAC will have and if a change will happen, late start time.
- Executive Positions
 - New roles we established are the Diversity and Inclusion Parent Rep, the Diverse Learners Parent Rep and the International Parent Rep. These are evolving roles, which hopefully will help parents feel supported, cared for and included. There may be some changes/shifts made in these roles as we continue to learn and grow.
 - Changes to Diversity & Inclusion Parent Rep Position - Susan Humeniuk has withdrawn her name from the Diversity and Inclusion Role as she is a TOC at the school which is in violation of our constitution. She has met with the other committee members and brought passion and knowledge to our PAC Executive, during the brief time she was in the position.
- Volunteer Opportunities
 - Lost and Found Coordinators needed for each campus to man, throw out what needs to and sorting before donation - middle school would like PAC to take over as it has been manned by staff until this point in time.
 - Diversity & Inclusion Committee - speak to any PAC member if you're interested in participating on one of these committees. Or email. The social coordinator role is also available for someone to take over.
 - Events Committee - if interested in participating or volunteering, please email the PAC.
 - Help with staff appreciation in spring
 - Hot chocolate/candy canes for Middle/High
 - Caroling event for elementary school - Dec 7

3.2 Admin Report - Adam Woelders

Initial vision for the PAC was to have meetings like this for parents to connect socially, to discuss the life of the school and build a sense of connection and community. The idea is for the PAC to imagine what we can do together to enhance the community connection, which is one of the key aspects of the school.

Lite version of board report highlights as follows: putting large digital sign board on Fraser Highway, upgrading the digital sign boards in front of each campus to get better and more detailed communication. Middle school upgrade - in process of identifying an architect who will provide a design concept (with cost attached) to society, in order to move forward with more intentionality. Will be designing based on current property ownership, not including the property to the east. Still on track and on budget with the elementary expansion project. \$30 million

replacement, with staggered improvements to high, middle and elementary expansion. Will generate a fundraising campaign.

Family affordability grants received from the government (based on socio economic background, independent school range similar to public) provided \$51k to LCS. Cannot be used as tuition relief. Meant to be one time relief for parents experiencing difficulties due to economic pressures. Hope to provide to families who need help, in order to participate with extra curricular events or community organizations that support our students. Also received a grant for teacher wellness (applied for by Joyce Wang) which will be used to train teachers in socio emotional coaching.

Held society membership orientation and had good turnout. LCS must maintain society membership list who are eligible to vote on expenditures, initiatives and board members. Will likely have another event in the spring. Membership is at discretion of the Board. Nov 28 is next society meeting (AGM) where the annual budget will be shared.

Plans emerging for a series of parent info evenings, will partner with the PAC, to train people/teachers on social emotional wellness. Hope to announce dates soon.

Plan to have Joyce Wang to come and present to PAC. Our school recently participated in study province wide (MDI and UDI) survey. Given comparable results to other independent christian schools. LCS students are mostly healthy but there are some students who really need additional support. This was also the driving force behind having the parent info sessions on the socio emotional series.

Powerful high school retreat at Rockridge resulting in fellowship, worship and preaching, teaching and connection. There is a blog post on the LCS website for those interested. Have become more intentional about creating an authentic christian experience for students.

<https://www.langleychristian.com/equipping-for-impact-the-upward-grad-retreat/>

Two pastors from Village Church have been integrated into the chapel planning for this year. Working with high school students, but not on staff. Another blog post on this.

<https://www.langleychristian.com/village-partnership-impacting-high-school-chapels/>

Our libraries have gone through a revamp to remove old materials and integrate new materials. Now the classroom materials need to be gone through. Ed Committee is lead by board members and two administrators (Joyce Wang and Kevin Murchindani) - Bruce Griffen and Carissa Van Werkhoven and Matt Goddard are parents who are involved with this.

- General Discussion Forum
 - Chapel Frequency - questions on why chapel is alternating instead of weekly and separated between primary and intermediate.
Lori Carpenter's response was the following:

In terms of reasoning for this - it isn't Covid! We found, last year, when we had the primary chapels, this worked so much nicer for the younger kids. They were able to build the capacity to enjoy and attend to chapels more effectively. Overall, teachers enjoyed being able to lead for a more common aged audience. We are also a big community - the capacity of the gym is 575 and we have, roughly, 550 students plus 62 staff members and want space for parents! We've enjoyed having a variety of formats - there is chapel every week, but sometimes just primary, sometimes just intermediate, and sometimes K-5 (i.e. Remembrance Day chapel on Nov. 9). Parents are always welcome. This also allows for grade levels to have grade level community focus time. Several grade levels have an established routine of grade level devotions and worship time when they don't have chapel.

Further questions or concerns can be directed to Mrs Carpenter.

- Parent/Teacher Interviews for High School - new rhythms and routines due to hybrid schedule. In the past, there has been less than 20% engagement with parent attendance, some classes have less than 5%. If and when parents have concerns or questions teachers will make themselves available. Sharon voiced some parent concerns that the PAC had received. Parents feel it is very important that there are teacher interviews to the semestered classes, as they are condensed into 12 weeks. Adam suggested this be brought up to principals at the high school. A parent spoke up that she just found out her daughter is failing in a class and there are only two weeks less to address this. It's too late to make the necessary changes. The threshold of concern is also different for every student as well, depending on their academic abilities.

ACTION: Adam will take the feedback back to the team and then the PAC exec will follow up later to see if anything can be communicated to the High School parent community..

- Halloween Dress Up - confusion of different dress up days and then "in lieu" days. Parents wondered why students couldn't just dress up on Halloween in friendly costumes, especially because High School could dress up on the actual day, despite being the least likely to participate. Extra challenging to navigate when you have children at each campus in the same family.. Also, most of the info was communicated via social media and not LCS on the Go. In the past, there used to be dress up days on hot lunch dates in lieu of Halloween. Needs to be parameters.

- **ACTION:** Whatever the school's stance is around dressing up for Halloween or not, it, needs to be clearly communicated to all campuses.. Adam will bring to SLT meeting in one month's time.

- Parking Lot Safety - reviewed the list of concerns and understands that the biggest risk and liability is about 15 min 2x day, there is not enough parking. Great amount of liability for Southridge Church to have people parking in their lot. Trying to

reduce the risk even further by having staff fill as many of the spots as possible.

3.3 Board Development Report - Carey Bornn

Christmas is the season for giving. Every family will receive a letter, email and notice via social media reminding about giving opportunities. The annual auction will be in the spring again. Capital campaign - have started fundraising to see where people are standing. Adam has been meeting with key supporters and cultivated a feeling of philanthropy. Looking for \$10.6 million over 4 years. This is a stretch goal, families can expect to learn more in May when the campaign is officially up and running.

Would love to see more scholarships be set up for grade 12 students. Jacky Huberts would be involved in this process..

ACTION: April to meet with the school to decide where the need is highest, as the PAC has some fund allocated for this in the budget..

3.4 Treasurer's Report - Sharon Dickens

October - gains and losses update. Grossed \$5,492 with \$4,066.54 in expenses for a total gain of \$1,425.46. Also had \$55.55 in expenses for PAC refreshments and \$8 in bank charges.

- Grad Funds Update - Petra Bontkes

Reached out to Joel to see what options are available to use the money for, as everyone has paid on school cash online. There is a group of Grad Parent Liaisons who are reviewing what the money could be used for.

ACTION: Petra will confirm at a later meeting what the money was used for.

3.5 Hot Lunch Report - submitted by Karla Toews and presented by April.

Please email any questions to hotlunch@lscpac.com. Apologies to everyone around the mishap with the timing of the closure for School Cash Online - it had been a while since we had done a hot lunch cut off at night and missed the fact that it was EST.

- For this next hot lunch cut-off, we have extended it to Monday, Nov 14th at 9 am for the parents who need that extra time after the last hot lunch reminder goes out in LCS On the Go Sunday.
- For the Subway Hot Lunch, we had lots of great help - totally appreciate your willingness to volunteer your time.
- Didn't hear any negative feedback from parents/students - problems/wrong orders etc.
- Profited about \$1,400.00! This is the most profitable hot lunch in the history of LCS!!
- If anyone else wants to help with the next hot lunch, please send an email. We will need help sorting the pizzas.

4.0 Old Business - nothing to report

5.0 New Business

5.1 Courses offered during Pro D days?

- People Savers, Babysitter's, Stay Safe etc - parents seemed to really like the idea of having these options available to kids on Pro D Days. The PAC will look into scheduling some in the new year.

7.0 Adjournment

****NO December PAC Meeting. Next Meeting is Wed Jan 11th, 2023 7:00pm****