

**MINUTES OF ECOLE DOROTHY LYNAS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL  
PARENTS ADVISORY COUNCIL  
HELD Sept 22, 2015**

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**IN ATTENDANCE**

Cassandra Hall	Wayne Audette
Wendy Wonnenberg	Suzanne Siemens
Arlie Thompson	Lisa Reid
Karen Barnett	Tim Ireland
Megan Wheatley	Crystal Gerling
Annwen Laverin	Jason Brunelle
Shaireen Merali	Craig McMahon

**MEETING**

1. Call to Order – 7:00 pm by Craig McMahon
2. Agenda adopted
3. Chair Report:
  - Overview of the role of the PAC –
    - all parents and caregivers at DL are members of the PAC
    - all are invited to meet once per month so they can feel connected to the school, have a place to voice their ideas and get involved in decisions that affect their kids' education
4. Principal/Vice Principal's Report: Arlie Thompson & Megan Wheatley
  - we have a total of 539 students this year
  - thanks to the PAC for hosting 2 Welcome Back coffee mornings
  - the Welcome Back full school assembly welcomed new students and new staff
  - upcoming events –
    - Monday Sept 28 – Curriculum Implementation day – teachers will attend a workshop to review the new curriculum that focuses on the First Nations communities and embeds history and culture of the aboriginal people into the entire curriculum at all levels
    - Orange Shirt Day – Wed Sept 30 – District Wide event to send a message to students and staff that every child matters. This day commemorates an Aboriginal child who excitedly wore an orange shirt to a BC residential school only to be asked to remove it, put on a uniform and assimilate into a school culture that was not her own. Kathleen Patterson will lead this

day through literature in the library. Parents are encouraged to ask their children more about the importance of this day.

- Staff collaboration time is Wed Sept 30 at 2 pm. Staff will attend sessions on “teaching to diversity” where they will learn to understand and support the different needs of the various students in their classrooms.
- School Counsellor – Tim Ireland is new to Dorothy Lynas. This is his 4<sup>th</sup> year as a Counselor in the District and he now represents the Family of Schools in the Deep Cove /Seymour area.
  - Office hours are Monday and Friday all day, Tuesday/Thursday mornings
  - He encourages parents to reach out to the school based resource team for counseling support
  - He has made it into most classrooms to teach the idea that students have many different feelings each day and that when the feelings get too big they need to come talk to him about how to manage these feelings.
  - Connect Parenting Program – parents of kids age 8-12 are invited to attend free workshops that focus on how to create stronger attachments and connections with their kids. These will be held Tuesday evenings from 7:00 – 8:30 pm at Sutherland Secondary School starting mid-October for 10 weeks. Stay tuned for more information on the PAC website.
  - Feel free to contact him directly at [tireland@sd44.ca](mailto:tireland@sd44.ca)
- Teacher Reports
  - Sports – Lisa Reid
    - Basketball for Gr 7 boys and girls will start at the end of October and will run for 5 weeks
    - Cross country runs 4 Wednesdays after school starting mid-October – stay tuned for dates and details
    - Will Shynkaryk will start Floor Hockey for Gr 6 & 7’s starting mid October at lunch time
    - Chess Club – needs a parent or teacher to run the program Friday’s at lunch time. Contact [emaildlpac@gmail.com](mailto:emaildlpac@gmail.com) or [athompson@sd44.ca](mailto:athompson@sd44.ca) if you are interested.
- Parent Library – books are available for signing out (2 week borrowing period is ideal). A variety of topics are covered including divorce, behavioral issues, anxiety, etc. Please email [emaildlpac@gmail.com](mailto:emaildlpac@gmail.com) or [kpatterson@sd44.ca](mailto:kpatterson@sd44.ca) if you would like further information.
  - A “Book of the Month” will be featured in the DL online newsletter
- Karen Barnett- Traffic Committee
  - Shone Rd traffic committee has purchased 2 slow down signs to reduce speed in these areas. PAC has agreed to reimburse the costs and will be purchasing more of these to place on Indian River
  - There is a new sign on Shone Rd that reads “Watch Children” – hopefully this will deter speeders

- PAC has committed \$500 to traffic related signage
- The PAC and school need to work in tandem to present a concrete traffic plan to the District to help reduce speed and congestion
- Arlie and Craig will draft up a letter to address the need for proper crosswalks, possible lighted crosswalks and better signage
- Arlie will work on a letter that will go out to parents to address the need for motorists to change their driving behavior and be more aware of the safety issues around the school
- Craig suggested an online petition may be a good way to garner support from DL families – this can also be submitted to the District as supporting documentation for the required changes to signage, traffic patterns etc.

#### 5. PAC Committees: Spirit Events

- Welcome Back Night – Crystal Gerling has offered help create a team to plan and execute the Welcome Back Ice Cream Social this year. A big thank you to her for stepping up!
  - Arlie will check gym availability for the first 2 weeks in October
  - More details to follow on the PAC Website
  
- International Walk (iWalk) to School Week is Oct 5-9
  - Our hope is to encourage physical activity, build community and reduce the traffic around our school.
  - We would also like to encourage the students to get active and reduce their emissions by holding a friendly classroom to classroom competition.
  - The Golden Scooter (our iWalk Trophy) will be presented to the class which best increases or improves their ability to get to school actively.
  - We will note how many kids were used their bodies to move themselves to school (as opposed to getting driven)
  - Volunteers needed to:
    - help hand out tokens each morning to each child who walks, carpools, parks away from the school and walks in, takes the bus, rides a bike etc...
    - these tokens will be dropped into the container on the iWalk Poster in your students classroom.
- We encourage you to get creative and find ways to get to school! Consider carpooling, arranging to meet a group and walk in, or even parking a 5-10 minute walk away. Your school and your body will thank you for it!
- If you are available to help please email [emaildlpac@gmail.com](mailto:emaildlpac@gmail.com) or speak to your child's teacher

#### Financial Outlook – Wayne Audette, Treasurer

- Please refer to the 2015/16 budget for more details on the source of PAC funds and our expenditures. This has been posted to the PAC website under PAC Meetings and Minutes. Questions can be directed to [dlpacchair@gmail.com](mailto:dlpacchair@gmail.com)
- DL PAC finances are healthy.

- Given Fun Foods is our largest fundraiser and traditionally brings in \$20,000+ each year, Wayne suggests we don't keep more than \$30,000 cash on hand. There is no reason to keep more than that in the bank.
- There are some expenditures the school will be making soon with respect to sound systems and possible ipads for the classrooms that will help reduce the amount sitting in the bank
- Also, the DL community should be aware that the PAC Exec has controls in place to ensure responsible spending, allocation and distribution of PAC funds
- The PAC thanks Wayne, Suzanne and Arlie for their ongoing collaboration on this budget for 2015/16 and also thanks our DL families for their ongoing financial support.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:45 pm