

Sir Wilfrid Laurier CI

Minutes from Parent Council Meeting

Nov 30, 2015, 7pm, School Library

Staff: Marios Tenentes, Laurier CI Principal

Students: Emma, André

Parents: Angela Bernard (chair), Pat Tan-Sew (vice-chair), Carol Anne Riethmacher, Darrick Heyd (secretary), Ferdie Umali, John Sew, Marie-Hélène Frion, Melanie Smith, Nadia Heyd, Raatha Ravigular, Silke Miller, Tina Shaw

1) **Call to Order, Welcome, Motion to pass Oct 5th, 2015 Minutes:** 7:02 PM: Motion to pass previous minutes carried.

2) **Student Report** (S.A.C. *President:Emma; Vice-President:André*)

1. **'Torment Teacher Tuesday':** twice in NOV, teachers volunteered 'to be tormented': 1st time = pie in the face; 2nd time = be taped to the wall. Funds raised for *Me2We* – building a school in China.
2. **Remembrance Day:** student involvement.
3. November **Character Trait RESPECT:** students made & sent cards to veterans; pledged to respect school.
4. **Purple Day** – antibullying (specifically against LGBTQQ)
5. **Laurier Hoodies** on sale in foyer \$25
6. **Dance** Dec 17th, 6-9:30, Boys gym
7. **Holiday Assembly:** Dec 19th, during school
8. **Dance and Drama Showcase:** Dec 3rd, 7 PM, \$5, proceeds to initiative in the Arts
9. **Music Showcase:** Dec 10th, 7 PM, \$5, proceeds to initiative in the Arts
10. **UCC (United Cultures Club) Lunch:** Dec 11th; extended lunch; Students bring traditional meals to sell between \$3-\$5; wear traditional cultural clothing; music from different cultures.
11. **OFSSA:** *Girls Basketball* made it to OFSAA (Provincial championships in Windsor ON); came in 13th out of 900 participants!
12. **Swim Meet** at Laurier Dec 2nd, 1 PM.
13. **Winter Sports Starting:** Swimming; Badminton; boys and girls Hockey; girls Volleyball; girls indoor Soccer
14. **We Scare Hunger:** canned food drive for local food bank
15. **Character Ed:** *Respect* ends Nov 30th; *Optimism and Kindness* starts Dec; free movie Dec 11th: **Forrest Gump**. Cineplex ticket draw for those present
16. **The Laureate** (school newspaper) is going online.
17. *Parent: lack of communication between home and school.* Mr. Tenentes: due to ongoing Labour action, teachers aren't allowed to hand out letters for kids to take home.

3) **Principal's Report** – *Marios Tenentes*

1. **Laurier Weekly Agenda:** a glance at this week's highlights (next week on the back). One to teacher's mailbox to be posted by door in classroom so students can see; a "student" version is available at Student Services.
2. **Strike Actions:** No web update; at various points in the year, secretaries, custodians (this was really noticeable as the hallways were quite dirty), Education Assistants, Hall Monitors, Child and Youth Workers have been involved in the action; not all of the strike has been resolved; Teachers' Union continues with labour action: teachers do not bring down attendance so principals and VPs go pick it up; Union settled with the Province so now the Board is negotiating with the Union; despite all the labour action, we are still having a reasonably high quality student

experience; as of Dec 1st, Occasional teachers (including LTOs) not doing 'on-calls' and not covering for field trips (so far, field trips in immediate future are not cancelled but might have to cancel trips the longer this goes); NO Late Starts due to 'No meetings'.

3. **New Staff:** *Tammy Benn*, an experienced hall monitor from Borden (she already knows the students coming here due to that school's closure at the end of June. Less than 100 students will transfer here. Laurier is at 103% capacity and in 10 years, demographers expect we'll be near 92% capacity); *Ramona McLean Trentadue* is the new Office Administrator (also chair of OAs in the area); Laurier is looking for a Long-Term lifeguard during Joanne Bosley's maternity leave.
4. **P.A.R.C.:** Students are asked to pick up a letter at the office to bring home: meeting Jan 7th at Borden, 7-8:30PM.
5. **Parent: How was Commencement?** Mr Tenentes: Great! So many people came for Nov 6th; 2.5 hours long; a photographer from BrightPics came on short notice, stayed the entire evening. Photos are free in the office! Families are invited to donate to the scholarship fund when picking up a photo. NOTE: photos might not be free in the future; Teachers seem to be split 50/50 on preference for June vs November Commencement. **Chair:** was an invited guest speaker for Commencement. Overall, the dynamics, planning, music, flow of the evening were well orchestrated. The Leadership class supplied the volunteers! The principal's speech was beautiful and the Native theme was very appropriate.
6. 90% of Laurier **grads** enter College or University; 66% (2015) of the grads were Ontario Scholars; UTSC values our grads.

4) Other Business:

1. **SSON:** proposal to resubmit the 2015 SSON as is for the 2016 year was supported.
2. **Refugee Sponsorship:** last meeting we raised the idea of initiating a refugee sponsorship committee at Laurier. It was decided not to proceed. Instead, two Laurier parents formed a Community Group who will sponsor a refugee family. **Guildwood Refugee Action Committee (GRACE)** invites everyone in the Laurier community to support this community effort. Join them, be on their mailing list, follow them on Facebook, make a tax-deductible donation. gracinformation@gmail.com
3. **Discussion: parking, pick up and drop-off at the front of Laurier is dangerous:** potholes have been filled in; the real problem is congestion before 9AM and after school and sharing the road with the students; can the metal barrier be changed? All students must enter one of 3 unlocked doors (safe schools procedure); There is a crossing guard at Livingston; can the city provide another for the east side of Laurier? **Action:** Pat will contact 43 Division to see what can be done to improve traffic safety around the building.
4. **Remembrance Day Presentation:** Chair of the Parent Council attended and was touched; it was well executed and the presentations were well chosen; choir sang; closing dance was very moving; the N LC was involved; there was a focus on a native veteran whose great great grandchild attends this school. (See Francis Pegahmagabow on CBC (<http://www.cbc.ca/news/thenational/francis-pegahmagabow-canadian-war-hero-1.2426980>)).

Meeting **adjourned** at 8:35pm. Next meeting Feb 8th 2016.